

September 1, 2022

Ambassador Samantha Power
Administrator
US Agency for International Development
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20523

Dear Ambassador Power:

We write to you as CEOs and senior leaders of organizations focused on global health and development, including members of the Frontline Health Workers Coalition and other organizations supportive of its mission.

Our organizations have long called for the U.S. to improve policies and increase investments in the global health workforce to put high quality and reliable health services in reach for millions of people and foster greater health system resilience in the face of emergencies.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shone a light on the important role health workers around the world play in sustaining health systems and maintaining essential services. Yet, the global health workforce is still not adequately funded, and surge capacity, safe and decent working conditions, remuneration, professional development, and opportunities to participate in decision-making are all under-resourced. This is especially the case for women health workers, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, who make up 70% of the health and care workforce and hold 90% of client-facing roles, yet occupy only 25% of senior leadership positions.

For these reasons, we were encouraged by the launch of the Biden-Harris Administration's Global Health Worker Initiative. The pillars of this Initiative are inspiring and bold. They reflect a broad understanding of the challenges faced in this area, including those faced by women health workers, and of the role that a well-supported health workforce plays in broad-based economic development. The central role of the Initiative in strengthening primary care and health system resilience is also clear.

We believe that an initiative of this importance deserves a practical and well-developed approach to funding for rapid implementation. However, the Administration's FY 23 budget request to Congress for funding this initiative was based on mandatory funding, an approach which has never been authorized for such a purpose and which Congress has deemed unworkable.

With this experience in mind, we urge you to prioritize including \$200 million to implement the initiative in your FY 24 budget submission to the Office of Management and Budget. We respectfully request that you include specific, dedicated funding for the initiative within the discretionary funding request for USAID's Global Health Bureau and ensure it is in addition to funding for other health and development programs.

A FY24 request of \$200 million would be consistent with the President's Budget request for FY23, as the first year of \$1 billion investment over five years, and with the funding proposed in the Chairman's mark of the Senate State and Foreign Operations funding bill for FY23.

The President's Global Health Worker Initiative has enormous potential, and it underpins success or failure of the Administration's broader global health priorities. The initiative could enhance US global leadership on health and development, including on equity and inclusion. Successful implementation could galvanize support for greater investment in health workers by partner countries, other leading donors and the private sector, as well as open an opportunity to collaborate with regional programs on the health workforce, such as that of the African Union and the Pan American Health Organization. But it can only reach its full potential if the Administration's promise of \$1 billion in financing over five years is realized.

We stand ready to support USAID in this initiative, and we are eager for it to come to full fruition under your leadership.

Sincerely,

Madeleine Ballard, CEO, Community Health Impact Coalition
Emily Bancroft, President, Village Reach
Sheila Davis, CEO, Partners in Health
Polly Dunford, President and CEO, IntraHealth International
Elisha Dunn-Georgiou, President and CEO, Global Health Council
Amy Finan, CEO, Sabin Vaccine Institute
Tim J. Gabel, President and CEO, RTI International
Nikolaj Gilbert, CEO, PATH
Githinji Gitahi, Global CEO, Amref Health Africa
Kristy Kade, CEO, White Ribbon Alliance
Maliha Khan, President/CEO, Women Deliver
Ernest Loevinsohn, Executive Director, Fund for Global Health
Lisha McCormick, CEO, Last Mile Health
Lauren Moore, Vice President, Global Community Impact, Johnson & Johnson
Michelle Nunn, President and CEO, CARE USA
Kelly Parsons, CEO, WaterAid America
Daniel B. Peterson, Executive Director (Interim) & CEO, Global Alliance for Surgical, Obstetric, Trauma, and Anaesthesia Care (G4 Alliance)
Lois Quam, CEO, Pathfinder
Carolyn Reynolds, Co-Founder, Pandemic Action Network
Magda Robalo, Managing Director, Women in Global Health
Friederike Roder, Vice President, Global Advocacy, Global Citizen
Todd Schafer, Executive Director, GAIA Global Health
Margaret Schuler, Senior Vice President, World Vision US
Annie Toro, Executive Director and President, What To Expect Project
Marian Wentworth, President and CEO, Management Sciences for Health
Jeff Whisenant, CEO, Resurge International

Cc:

Dafna H. Rand, Director, Office of Foreign Assistance, US Department of State
Jake Sullivan, US National Security Advisor, White House
Shalanda Young, Director, US Office of Management and Budget, White House