

Frontline Health Workers Coalition: Best Investment for a Healthier World

United States leadership in the global health field has been critical to major progress in saving lives and fighting poverty in the last 50 years. The U.S. has catalyzed global movements that have slashed early childhood deaths by 70%, ended smallpox, put polio on the brink of eradication, and galvanized the collective belief that we can and will create an AIDS-free generation and end preventable early childhood deaths.

Central to the realization of this bold vision are the women and men on the frontlines of global health in developing countries. Unfortunately, there are far too few of these qualified frontline health workers to deliver the low-cost interventions that save lives and increase prosperity.

Frontline health workers are the backbone of effective health systems, providing direct health services where they are needed most, including remote areas beyond the reach of hospitals and clinics. Many are community health workers and midwives, though they also can include local pharmacists, nurses, and doctors who serve in community clinics. Often the first and only link to health care for children and their families, frontline health workers provide many life-saving services, including maternal and newborn care, child health services, and prevention and management of diseases like HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria.

However, these services are often not reaching those who need it most: the World Health Organization estimates a shortage of at least 1 million frontline health workers in developing countries.

America's leadership has included robust support for training frontline health workers, enabling thousands of workers to save millions of lives and providing a firm demonstration of the United States' dedication to improving lives of the world's poorest. Yet to date, these efforts have remained behind the scenes, not celebrated nor clearly prioritized across the government and to our partners around the world.



PHOTO CREDIT: IntraHealth

To help raise awareness of the vital leadership role the United States government must continue to play to address the frontline health workforce crisis, a group of U.S.-based organizations has come together to form the Frontline Health Workers Coalition (FHWC). Funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation with a secretariat housed at IntraHealth International, the FHWC advocates for greater, more strategic U.S. leadership and investment in frontline health workers in developing countries.

FHWC calls upon the United States to articulate and implement a government-wide strategy to train, equip, and support new and existing frontline health workers in developing countries. This strategy should identify specific targets to train and retain new frontline health workers to address the global shortage.

By prioritizing the critical need for qualified frontline health workers, the U.S. can further strengthen its contribution to progress in global health.

Without frontline health workers, there would be no health care for millions of children and their families in the developing world

frontline health workers coalition

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Launched in January 2012, the Frontline Health Workers Coalition (FHWC) is an alliance of United States-based organizations working together to urge greater and more strategic U.S. investment in frontline health workers in the developing world as a cost-effective way to save lives and foster a healthier, safer, and more prosperous world. Funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation with a secretariat housed at IntraHealth International, the FHWC advocates for greater, more strategic U.S. leadership and investment in frontline health workers in developing countries.

Frontline Health Workers Coalition Members *

Abt Associates	Johns Hopkins University Center for Communication Programs (JHU CCP)
Accordia Global Health Foundation	Johnson & Johnson
African Medical and Research Foundation (AMREF)	Management Sciences for Health (MSH)
American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM)	Maternova, Inc.
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN)	One Million Community Health Workers Campaign
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	Partners In Health (PIH)
Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF)	Pathfinder International
Family Care International	Population Communication
FHSSA	Population Services International (PSI)
GlaxoSmithKline (GSK)	Public Health Institute (PHI)
Global Alliance to Prevent Prematurity and Stillbirth (GAPPS)	RESULTS
Hesperian Health Guides	ReSurge International
IMA World Health	Save the Children
Initiatives Inc.	University Research Co., LLC (URC)
International Association of Providers of AIDS Care (IAPAC)	The White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood
International Children's Heart Foundation	Women Deliver
International Medical Corps (IMC)	Women's Refugee Commission (WRC)
IntraHealth International	World Vision
Jhpiego	

*As of September 2013

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