

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, end preventable maternal and child deaths, and ensure global health security.

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, Ebola, tuberculosis, malaria, and Zika.

However, these services are often not reaching those who need it most: more than 400 million people worldwide still lack access to all the essential health services that trained and supported frontline health workers can provide.

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, these efforts have often been 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). Supported by member contributions with a secretariat supported by 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 or action plan 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 gaps in access to care.

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

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. Supported by member contributions with a secretariat supported by 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	Medtronic Global Health Foundation
American International Health Alliance	mPowering Frontline Health Workers
American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM)	ONE Campaign
Amref Health Africa	One Million Community Health Workers Campaign
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	Pathfinder International
CARE	Population Communication
Chemonics	Population Services International (PSI)
Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF)	RESULTS
GlaxoSmithKline	ReSurge International
Global Alliance to Prevent Prematurity and Stillbirth (GAPPS)	Save the Children
Global Health Council (GHC)	THEnet
ICAP at Columbia University	University Research Co., LLC
IMA World Health	The White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood (WRA)
International Medical Corps (IMC)	Women Deliver
IntraHealth International	World Vision
Jhpiego	
JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. (JSI)	
Johnson & Johnson	
Management Sciences for Health (MSH)	

*As of September 2016

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