



GLOBAL ACTION FOR CHILDREN

EMERGENCY PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVE FOR THE WORLD'S CHILDREN (EPIWC)

Every day 25, 205 children worldwide die from mostly preventable diseases and malnutrition. Too many others are at risk of diminished lives, unable to develop to their full potential. Still others lose critical adult protection and support as their parents or caregivers fall ill, succumb to HIV/AIDS and other killers, or neglect their responsibility as caretakers. In 2000, the U.S., along with 188 other nations, pledged to achieve the Millennium Development Goals of cutting absolute poverty in half by 2015. Urgent attention is needed by our leaders if we are to achieve these goals, which include reducing by 2/3 the mortality rate of children under 5, ensuring universal primary education and combating HIV/AIDS.

On January 20, 2009, our new President will have the opportunity to prioritize the world's children in the way they deserve with the enactment of an Emergency Presidential Initiative for the World's Children (EPIWC). Children need education, food, nutrition, shelter, protection, health care, livelihood opportunities, and psychosocial support to grow into healthy, contributing members of society. **Investing in the world's 143 million orphans and millions more vulnerable children is not only the right thing to do, it is an essential component of building a strong global economy.**

The EPIWC will finally deliver on the goals of the 2005 *Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children in Developing Countries Act* (P.L. 109-95), as well as increase funding, consolidate programming and provide oversight to other key foreign aid programs that support vulnerable children. This is not merely an effort to increase funding for these programs – implementing the same uncoordinated, business as usual programs will not create the impact that is needed. Rather, the EPIWC will establish a new high-level position of a Children's Ambassador who will answer directly to the Secretary of State or to the Secretary of a new U.S. Department of Global Development. The Children's Ambassador's job will be to ensure that the key international programs that serve vulnerable children are coordinated, monitored and evaluated, in addition to being robustly funded, thereby making the most efficient use of precious foreign aid resources and reaching the greatest number of vulnerable children with the most effective interventions.

COMPONENTS OF THE EPIWC

1. **Children's Ambassador:** The Ambassador will be tasked with strongly advocating within the administration for the prioritization of key U.S. programs that serve the world's most vulnerable children. He/she will report directly to the Secretary of State or to the new Secretary of Global Development. The office should include professional staff with expertise on children's policy issues and budget process. Cost = TBD.
2. **HIV/AIDS funding for Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVC):** OVC face a number of challenges, including finding money for school fees, food, clothing, and access to basic healthcare. Their desperation makes them more vulnerable to abuse and exploitation, ultimately making them more susceptible to contracting HIV. Effective responses to their challenges must strengthen the capacity of families and communities so that they can provide care, protection, and assistance to these children, and at minimum, meet their basic needs. The EPIWC will provide funds for the U.S. share according to UNAIDS' estimate of the global need for OVC programs from 2009-2013. Shortfall per year = \$720 million.
3. **Early Childhood Development (ECD):** Early nutrition, parenting programs and early education are fundamental building blocks for a healthy childhood and productive future. Many children under 5 years in developing countries are exposed to multiple risks, including poverty, malnutrition, poor health, and un-stimulating home environments which detrimentally affect their cognitive, motor, and social-emotional development. It is estimated that over 200 million children under 5 years are not fulfilling their developmental potential. [*The Lancet*, January 2007] These disadvantaged children are likely to do poorly in school and subsequently have low incomes, high fertility and may not be able to provide adequate care to their children, thus continuing the cycle of poverty. Investment in early childhood development saves money in long term benefits to society. Malnutrition is a medical and humanitarian emergency that accounts for 11 percent of the global burden of disease and contributes to the deaths of between 3.5-5 million children under the age of five each year. Globally, at least \$1.5 billion is needed each year to scale up UN



recommended treatment with therapeutic ready-to-use-foods (RUFs) for the 20 million children suffering from severe acute malnutrition. [MSF] Shortfall per year = \$2.5 billion [includes cost of early education in addition to nutrition].

4. **Family Strengthening Services and Child Protection:** Children develop best in safe, supportive family settings. The EPIWC includes funding for the most promising and cost-effective solutions so that the most vulnerable families receive the social services and family support they need to create a strong family. This also includes community-based monitoring to ensure children are safe from violence and exploitation, child care when parents are working, and appropriate interventions when children experience abuse. Development of family-based alternatives to orphanages, including innovative models of foster care and promotion of domestic adoption strategies are priorities in this area. Shortfall per year = \$600 million.
5. **Child Survival:** The EPIWC includes financial support for proven strategies to protect newborns and young children from major health threats including pneumonia, diarrheal dehydration, vitamin A deficiency, and malnutrition. For example, UNICEF's Accelerated Child Survival and Development Initiative, which bundles critical life-saving services and delivers them to the poorest families and communities, has shown dramatic progress in saving children's lives. The EPIWC will also support maternal health programs. Girls under 15 are 5 times more likely to die in childbirth than women in their 20s. Children whose mothers die of any cause are 3 to 10 times more likely to die within 2 years than those whose mothers survive. Funds in the EPIWC would cover the U.S. fair share of the global need for child survival and maternal health over the next five years. Shortfall per year = \$990 million.
6. **Basic Education:** Completion of a quality basic education is fundamental to a child's well-being and critically linked to a child's ability to realize his/her potential, yet more than 77 million primary-aged children have never stepped foot in a classroom. Education is key to alleviating poverty and leads to economic growth and improved health outcomes. According to the Global Campaign for Education, if all children received a complete primary education, as many as 700,000 cases of HIV could be prevented each year. Shortfall per year = \$4.2 billion.
7. **Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation:** Funds are required to coordinate, monitor and evaluate the key international programs serving vulnerable children, thereby reducing double-counting and making the best use of taxpayer resources. Pilot projects will also enable increased public private partnerships that will generate more local, long-term resources for OVC programming. Shortfall per year = \$64.5 million.

BREAK DOWN OF COSTS

Program Area	U.S. Projected Cost 2009-13	Estimated Spending 2009 -13	Shortfall/Cost of initiative 2009-13
Children's Ambassador	TBD	\$0	TBD
Orphans and Vulnerable Children	\$6.6 billion	\$3 billion	\$3.6 billion
Early Child hood Development	\$12.5 billion	TBD	\$ 12.5 billion
Family Strengthening/Permanency	\$3 billion	TBD	\$3 billion
Child Survival (and maternal health)	\$8.25 billion	\$3.3 billion	\$4.95 billion
Basic Education	\$24.75 billion	\$3.75 billion	\$21 billion
Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation	\$0.325 billion	\$0.0005 billion	\$0.3245 billion
Total Cost Over Five Years	\$55.425 billion (not including Ambassador)	\$10.0505 billion	\$45.3745 billion (not including Ambassador)
Total Cost Per Year	\$ 11.085 billion	\$2.0101 billion	\$9.0749 billion annually

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