



GLOBAL ACTION FOR CHILDREN



November 17, 2008

Dear Friends:

We are pleased to write to you today to introduce the Emergency Presidential Initiative for the World's Children (EPIWC) and to invite you to join us in this momentous effort. As fellow advocates you know all too well that there are over 1.1 billion people in the world who live on less than a dollar a day and that 25, 205 children die each day from mostly preventable causes and malnutrition. Investing in the world's 143 million orphans and millions more vulnerable children so that they have education, food, and nutrition is the right thing to do and is also essential to building a strong global economy.

The United States pledged to contribute its fair share to achieving the Millennium Development Goals of cutting absolute poverty in half by 2015. The U.S. also made a specific promise to support orphans and vulnerable children with the 2005 enactment of the *Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children in Developing Countries Act* (Public Law 109-95), which authorized the first ever comprehensive strategy to address the challenges faced by the world's orphans and vulnerable children. Unfortunately, due to a lack of funding and lack of political will, these promises have still not been fully honored by our country and vulnerable children worldwide have been left waiting. During these times of global financial stress, these programs that protect children are needed more than ever.

President-Elect Obama will take office on January 20, 2009 and will have the opportunity to turn the page on our nation's broken promises to the world's children with the enactment of the EPIWC within his first 100 days of office. The EPIWC will finally deliver on the goals of P.L. 109-95, as well as increase funding, consolidate programming, and maximize the impact of other key foreign aid programs that support vulnerable children such as Child Survival programs, Early Childhood Development and Nutrition programs, and Basic Education programs. The EPIWC will be headed by a high-level 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.

We hope you will join us on behalf of the world's children by endorsing the EPIWC and signing onto a letter asking President-Elect Obama to initiate an Emergency Initiative for the World's Children. Attached please find the organizational sign-on letter. Please circulate widely and contact Leila Nimatallah, GAC Policy Director, at 202- 589-0808, extension 223 with questions or to endorse.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to working with you to make a difference for orphans and other vulnerable children around the world.

Sincerely,



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Global Action for Children

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Executive Director
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