

# Global AIDS Alliance

## Fall 2005–Winter 2006 Update

### A Message from GAA's Executive Director

Since our founding in 2001, the Global AIDS Alliance has sought to hasten the end of the global AIDS crisis, and we are now focused on achieving three major goals: (1) universal access to safe, effective, and affordable HIV/AIDS treatment; (2) a comprehensive, science-based HIV prevention strategy that includes access to basic education; and (3) a comprehensive social safety net for orphans and vulnerable children. Mobilizing citizen action is key to achieving these goals, and I'm often inspired by the words of James Grant, former head of UNICEF, who said, "It is the political will of the people that makes and sustains the political will of governments." I've seen these words become reality many times—most recently as thousands of citizen activists in GAA's network took action to support increased contributions to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, and a new U.S. initiative to support orphans and vulnerable children.



*GAA's Honorary Chairperson Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Board Chair Rev. Mpho Tutu, and Executive Director Paul Zeitz.*

Mobilizing the faith-based community is central to GAA's work, and I'm delighted to announce that Archbishop Desmond Tutu has generously agreed to serve as GAA's Honorary Chairperson. Since winning the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984 for his leadership in ending South Africa's racist apartheid regime, Archbishop Tutu has become increasingly involved in the fight against HIV/AIDS and has actively supported the Global AIDS Alliance. When we met recently to discuss GAA's work, he praised the critical role that activists from the global North, and the U.S. in particular, played in the fight against apartheid, and encouraged us to bring the same energy and commitment to the fight against HIV/AIDS.

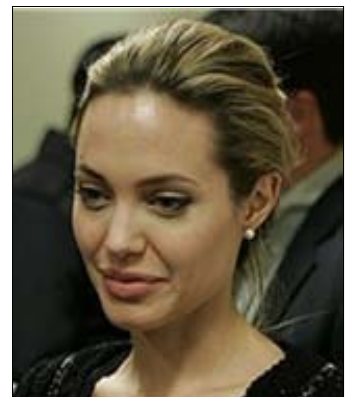
In closing, I'd like to thank you for taking the time to learn more about our work. It's the support of individuals like you that enables all of us here at the Global AIDS Alliance to sustain our own commitment to ending the global AIDS crisis, and I hope you'll join our struggle for justice in solidarity with the millions of people affected by HIV/AIDS worldwide.

Peace,

*Paul Zeitz*

### Mobilizing Action for Orphans and Vulnerable Children

Thanks in large part to advocacy by GAA and its partners in the Global Action for Children coalition, Congress recently passed the Assistance for Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Developing Countries Act. This landmark legislation includes provisions to enhance local capacity to provide essential care and support for orphans and vulnerable children, including psychosocial support and food and nutrition; expand access to basic education through the elimination of school fees; provide basic health care, including treatment for children with HIV/AIDS; and protect the inheritance rights of children. It also establishes the position of Special Advisor for Orphans and Vulnerable Children to better coordinate and provide assistance in support of OVC programs. The bill was signed into law by President Bush on November 8, and on November 18, GAA and Global Action for Children



co-hosted a press conference on Capitol Hill that featured Oscar-winning actress Angelina Jolie, who recently adopted an Ethiopian child who was orphaned by AIDS. Ms. Jolie called on lawmakers to fully fund the new legislation and also urged the elimination of school fees. For details, please visit <http://www.globalaidsalliance.org/press111805.cfm>.

On a related front, GAA issued an advocacy brief calling on the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria to focus its Round 6 grants in 2006 on orphans and vulnerable children. Titled "Remember the Children," the brief makes a strong case that the Global Fund is well positioned to play a leadership role in accelerating financial and material assistance that will enable affected countries and communities to support millions of orphans and vulnerable children now and in the years ahead. To read GAA's brief, please visit [http://www.globalaidsalliance.org/Remember\\_the\\_Children.cfm](http://www.globalaidsalliance.org/Remember_the_Children.cfm).

### **School Fees Elimination Essential to Fighting AIDS**

Some estimates suggest that if all children received a primary education, as many as 700,000 cases of HIV could be prevented each year, and GAA is actively supporting efforts to accelerate universal basic education and eliminate school fees that prevent millions of children in poor countries from ever seeing the inside of a classroom. We worked closely with allies such as the Global Campaign for Education to secure the inclusion of school fees elimination on the agenda for the July 2005 G8 Summit, and in the Blair Commission for Africa's report, "Our Common Interest." Also this summer, GAA Policy Director David Gartner conducted a study mission in Tanzania and Kenya to evaluate recent education reform initiatives, and we continue to work with key stakeholders to define a policy agenda for expanding access to basic education, including accelerating a multilateral initiative to abolish school fees and expanding and reforming the Fast Track Initiative. GAA's advocacy brief on the need to accelerate universal basic education is posted online at [http://www.globalaidsalliance.org/advocacy\\_brief\\_education\\_and\\_AIDS.cfm](http://www.globalaidsalliance.org/advocacy_brief_education_and_AIDS.cfm).



### **Bush Initiative Falls Short on Education and AIDS**

In the lead up to the G8 summit, GAA issued an assessment of contributions to global health and education initiatives, comparing White House spending proposals with the documented global need for additional resources. And in response to a White House initiative announced just days before the summit, we hosted a press briefing that highlighted the administration's failure to commit significant new resources to eliminating school fees or fighting disease, and its lack of support for effective multilateral programs. The briefing featured experts on basic education, malaria, and HIV/AIDS, and generated coverage in the Boston Globe, Los Angeles Times, New York Times, USA Today, Washington Post, and elsewhere. For more on GAA's briefing, please visit [http://www.globalaidsalliance.org/063005\\_press\\_briefing.cfm](http://www.globalaidsalliance.org/063005_press_briefing.cfm). For details on current U.S. spending on global health, education, and child survival programs, please visit [http://www.globalaidsalliance.org/comparison\\_charts.cfm](http://www.globalaidsalliance.org/comparison_charts.cfm).

### **Treat the Children**

There are now 2.3 million children under the age of 15 living with HIV/AIDS, and roughly 700,000 children are infected each year. But few children in developing countries have access to the antiretroviral medications (ARVs) that can slow the progression of HIV disease. In fact, most children with HIV/AIDS die undiagnosed before their second birthday. In July, GAA issued a series of recommendations for accelerating treatment access for the roughly 660,000 children in urgent need of lifesaving ARVs, with the goal of ensuring that at least 15% of all people receiving AIDS treatment are children. We are also calling on the Global Fund to focus its next round of grants (Round #6) on pediatric treatment. GAA's "Treat the Children" advocacy brief is available online at [http://www.globalaidsalliance.org/Treat\\_the\\_Children.cfm](http://www.globalaidsalliance.org/Treat_the_Children.cfm).



## **Show Us the Money**

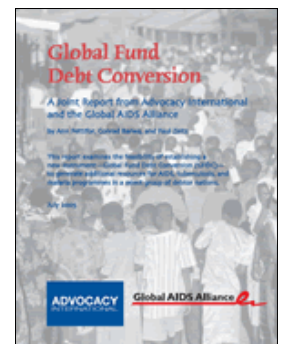
Persuading decision-makers to commit the funding needed to respond effectively to global AIDS remains one of GAA's top priorities. In particular, we continue to advocate for a fair-share contribution to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria. Earlier this year, we helped win passage of a budget amendment introduced by Senators Durbin (D-IL) and Santorum (R-PA) that allowed for an extra \$100 million in the 2006 U.S. contribution to the Global Fund. At the Global Fund replenishment meetings in September, we joined forces with allies such as the Make Poverty History campaign to focus attention on the U.S. government's failure to meet its own target of contributing one-third of the Fund's needs. And in October, GAA Communications Director David Bryden and Board member Milly Katana traveled to Tennessee to ask supporters to request emergency Congressional action to address the large shortfall in the U.S. contribution to the Global Fund.

## **Accelerating Universal Treatment Access**

GAA helped persuade G8 leaders to resist U.S. pressure to backtrack on existing commitments to expand treatment access—a victory that resulted in the G8 communiqué's endorsing the goal of ensuring universal treatment access by 2010. We co-hosted a press teleconference to focus attention on how the Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) will undermine access to affordable generic medicines, and helped mobilize significant bipartisan Congressional opposition to CAFTA. For details, please visit [http://www.globalaidsalliance.org/072105\\_press\\_briefing.cfm](http://www.globalaidsalliance.org/072105_press_briefing.cfm). And GAA continues to support the Stop HIV/AIDS in India campaign's efforts to ensure that recent amendments to the Indian Patent Act do not undermine production of affordable generic medications. To learn more about this campaign, please visit <http://shai.aidindia.dyndns.org>.

## **Dropping the Debt to Fight AIDS**

In July, GAA and Advocacy International published a feasibility study on Global Fund Debt Conversion, an innovative new financing mechanism that could generate millions of dollars to support the Global Fund's efforts to scale up HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria programs in poor countries. The report has been endorsed by both the Global Fund and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), and we are now working with these and other partners to achieve pilot implementation of Global Fund Debt Conversion. To learn more or download the report, please visit [http://www.globalaidsalliance.org/Global\\_Fund\\_Debt\\_Conversion.cfm](http://www.globalaidsalliance.org/Global_Fund_Debt_Conversion.cfm).



## **Keeping An Eye on PEPFAR**

GAA is committed to ensuring that the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) advances a comprehensive HIV prevention strategy that includes condom distribution; accelerates progress toward universal treatment access, including making generic AIDS medications available; and meets high standards for transparency and accountability. We are also tracking PEPFAR's investments in programs for orphans and vulnerable children. For up-to-date news and analysis of PEPFAR, please visit the new "PEPFAR Monitor" section of GAA's website at [http://www.globalaidsalliance.org/PEPFAR\\_Monitor.cfm](http://www.globalaidsalliance.org/PEPFAR_Monitor.cfm).

## **Mobilizing Grassroots Activism**

In May, GAA hosted a two-day advocacy training conference in Stony Point, New York, to help build a network of local activists who can mobilize grassroots support for improved global AIDS policies and increased funding. Funded through a generous grant from the John M. Lloyd Foundation, the conference has already translated into action. For example, Mary Frost published an op-ed in the Biloxi Sun Herald calling for an increased U.S. contribution to global AIDS programs. And Ron Brabson reached out to journalists in Knoxville, Tennessee, and began working with a local coordinator of the Campaign to End AIDS. In addition, last March GAA partnered with Physicians for Human Rights and RESULTS to conduct a speaker tour of Southern and Central California universities around HIV/AIDS and girls education.

### Join GAA's Action Network

Concerned individuals like you play a critical role in persuading decision-makers to implement responsible, compassionate AIDS policies—and to ensure that those policies are fully funded. It takes just a minute to join GAA's Action Alert Network. You'll receive periodic emails with the latest global AIDS news and special alerts when we need you to contact your legislators. And, of course, you can unsubscribe at any time. Please help us win the fight against AIDS. To register for GAA's Action Network, please visit <http://www.globalaidsalliance.org/getinvolved.cfm>.



### GAA Selected as One of D.C. Area's Best Small Charities

GAA is featured in the 2005 Catalogue for Philanthropy, which profiles 75 outstanding Washington, D.C.-area nonprofits with budgets below \$2 million, and seeks to encourage individuals and families to participate in charitable giving. GAA was selected from among 250 candidates, and all applications were reviewed by 50 professional grantmakers and leaders at local foundations and charitable organizations. Catalogue organizers described the selection process this way: "Charities were selected for excellence, innovation, and cost-effectiveness—and for what they can teach us about the extraordinary ways that philanthropy works. These are certainly among the best small charities in the Washington region." For details, please visit [http://www.globalaidsalliance.org/Catalogue\\_for\\_Philanthropy.cfm](http://www.globalaidsalliance.org/Catalogue_for_Philanthropy.cfm).

### Our heartfelt thanks go to ...

The Global AIDS Alliance thanks the following for their recent grants in support of our work: The Morton K. & Jane Blaustein Foundation, Children's Investment Fund Foundation, Dorothy Ann Foundation, William & Flora Hewlett Foundation, MAC AIDS Fund, Moriah Fund, and United Nations Foundation. We are also deeply grateful to the many individuals whose contributions sustain our work. Finally, we'd like to acknowledge GAA's spring and summer interns and fellows: Vince DeGennaro, Menaka Kalaskar, Juniette Maina, Arpana Pandey, and Zakiya Pierre.

### A Change of Address and Staff Additions

The Global AIDS Alliance has relocated to 1413 K Street, NW, 4th Floor, Washington, DC 20005. Our new phone and fax numbers are (202) 789-0432 and (202) 789-0715, respectively. We are very grateful to the United Nations Foundation for allowing us to share their office space for the past two and a half years, and for underwriting the costs of GAA's relocation. In addition, the Global AIDS Alliance is pleased to welcome two new staff members: Lisa Schechtman is GAA's first-ever Policy and Grassroots Associate, and Christian Doucette is our new Administrator.

**The mission of the Global AIDS Alliance (GAA) is to galvanize the political will and financial resources needed to slow and ultimately stop the global AIDS crisis, and to reduce its impacts on poor countries that have been hardest hit by the pandemic. Founded in 2001, we combine media outreach and public education with targeted coalition-building and grassroots mobilization to raise awareness and inspire activism in support of advocacy to persuade U.S. policymakers and other stakeholders to mount a comprehensive response to the global AIDS crisis.**

To make a secure online donation to the Global AIDS Alliance, please visit [http://www.globalaidsalliance.org/cd\\_How\\_to\\_Donate.cfm](http://www.globalaidsalliance.org/cd_How_to_Donate.cfm).

To provide feedback on this e-newsletter or to suggest other topics you'd like to see covered in future issues, please email [clemp@globalaidsalliance.org](mailto:clemp@globalaidsalliance.org).