



Background Document

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S WORDS REPRESENT A POSITIVE SHIFT IN U.S. APPROACH TO GLOBAL SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT BUT WITHOUT BUDGET TO BACK IT UP, IT'S JUST RHETORIC.

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Problem:

President Obama's policy proposals reflect a genuine improvement in the U.S. approach to global security and development. But policy without a budget is no policy at all. Without funding for implementation, all the rhetoric is just pretty words. As long as there is a gap between discourse and dollars, the disparity between need and investment in global development initiatives will persist, exacerbating destabilization. **The result: a devastating impact on countless lives around the world and national security here at home.**

Solution:

The US already aggressively employs *Defense* and *Diplomacy* to achieve national security. President Obama must commitment to fully fund and deploy *Development* to other countries to promote stability and those regions.

Fully funding and supporting robust U.S. foreign development assistance is an important aspect of national security.

- Providing access to medicines and strengthening health systems helps countries and communities become stable has a much farther and effective reach than almost any other investment.
- -"HIV doesn't just destroy immune systems; it also undermines the social, economic and political systems that underpin entire nations and regions" said Secretary of State Colin Powell in 2002. This would set the stage for instability in countries hard hit by AIDS

The national budget is not only a document that lays out our countries priorities; it is also a reflection of our moral compass. The evidence of this lies in the potential created by smart and commensurate investments in health care, global education, nutrition, and poverty reduction strategies which have a longer sustainable and lasting impact than prioritizing costly investments in our national military. **President Obama's rhetoric reflects a true shift in how the US approaches national security, but his proposed budget is an extension of an old model.**

- During his Presidential Campaign, President Obama signed a pledge to provide at least \$50 billion by 2013 to bilateral HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria programs, which would ensure that Lantos-Hyde is fully funded and that PEPFAR is able to meet the ambitious targets to which it is accountable. Yet, since President Obama has taken office, PEPFAR has been effectively flat-funded, making it impossible to provide the new health care workers, higher proportion of treatment for people in need, and improved and expanded prevention services promised by the Administration.
- Approximately 80% of President Obama's proposed Global Health Initiative's (GHI) budget has merely been shuffled amongst existing programs and are not a new investment.

The proposed budget leaves behind children, mothers, families and orphans the world over.

- Of the 9.7 million children who die each year due to poverty, illness and malnutrition, AIDS is the biggest single cause of death among children under 5. It threatens to reverse years of hard-earned progress in reducing child mortality. This number will escalate if we don't match investment to need.
- Nearly 50% of new HIV infections are among women. AIDS is the leading cause of death of women of reproductive age in low and middle-income countries where women lack access to prevention, treatment and care.

There is no time to waste: every minute wasted is a missed opportunity to save a life and make the world more secure.

- During the first 60 minutes of President Obama's State of the Union Speech more than 300 people were newly infected with AIDS and more than 200 people died because they could not get lifesaving treatment.