



A Global Health Initiative **FACT-SHEET**

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CDC Funding Cuts Compromise U.S. and Global Health

The President's proposed budget for fiscal year (FY) 2008 once again cuts funding for the core programs of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This proposal continues a dangerous trend that threatens the CDC's capacity to prevent and control disease. At a time when public health risks are becoming increasingly complex, a budget proposal that handicaps the world's foremost public health agency is simply unacceptable. Emerging and re-emerging epidemics such as SARS, tuberculosis (TB), and avian flu show that infectious diseases do not recognize national borders. The CDC's global disease surveillance, control, and research expertise are needed now more than ever.

We urge Congress to provide the CDC with a budget of \$10.7 billion in 2008, including \$512 million for its global health work.

Increasing the CDC's Budget

- The President's proposal to fund the CDC at \$8.8 billion in 2008 actually cuts the agency's funding by \$254 million compared to its funding for FY 2007, jeopardizing the sustainability of the CDC's core programs.
- Just to keep pace with inflation, the CDC's budget would need to grow by at least 3.7 percent – \$336 million – above the 2007 level. The combination of this \$336 million shortfall and the shortfall in the President's budget leaves the CDC with an effective budget cut of \$591 million.
- In order to be adequately prepared for both modern threats (such as pandemic influenza, infectious disease outbreaks, and bioterrorism) and existing public health challenges (such as chronic diseases and environmental hazards), the CDC must be funded at a minimum of \$10.7 billion in FY 2008, including at least \$512 million for its global health work. This \$512 million is only 4.8 percent of the \$10.7 billion that the CDC has estimated it will need in 2008.

Increasing the Focus on Global Health

- A wide range of factors reinforce the links between America's health and the world's health. For example, dramatic increases in international travel facilitate the spread of diseases and microbial agents, and changing climate patterns introduce insect-borne infections such as malaria to new geographic regions. With travel and commerce on the rise and society becoming increasingly mobile, previously held assumptions about where diseases like TB are likely to be found have been proven wrong. Protecting the health of our nation means that we must control the spread of infectious diseases on a global level.
- The public health systems in the 60 poorest countries are severely lacking: While the United States spends a total of \$6,000 per person per year on health, the poorest countries manage to invest less than \$50 per person per year. Foreign ministries of health and international organizations such as the World Health Organization therefore look to the CDC as a leader in promoting good health and controlling new outbreaks of disease.
- As the world looks to the U.S. for leadership, investments in the CDC's core global health areas have fallen short. For example, as we experience double-digit increases in the incidence of drug-resistant TB, funding for measures that control drug-resistant TB worldwide will not increase accordingly under the President's proposed budget for the CDC.

In light of these and other domestic and international challenges to global health, our investment in the CDC is clearly inadequate. Increased spending in the areas of global health promotion and research infrastructure through the CDC will ensure a healthier world and a healthier America.