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## **PRESIDENT OBAMA; FULFIL YOUR CAMPAIGN PROMISE TO FUND GLOBAL HEALTH AT THIS TIME OF GLOBAL ECONOMY DOWN TURN!**

*No compromise on life of poor world citizen, Say Activists from Tanzania AIDS Forum.*

**Dar Es Salaam:** — Just few weeks after the World Bank published its report on **averting a human crisis during the global downturn** in advance of IMF/WB spring meetings, President Obama on May 7<sup>th</sup> released his five year \$3.55 trillion budget for bilateral AIDS programs (PEPFAR). For financial year 2010, President Obama requested 5 billion which falls short of his campaign promise by \$1 billion, where he committed to expand PEPFAR by \$1 billion each year. President Obama was also expected to pay 2.7 billion to Global Fund which supports the lives of hundreds of thousands of poor people, but has only committed 900 million for FY 2010 resulting in a shortfall of 1.8 Billion. This has happened when Global Fund is short of funding by \$4-5 billion. By end of 2008, Global Fund had 2 million people on ARVs, 4.6 million on TB treatment and 70 million with insect treated nets for Malaria.

When President Obama is funding less to global health, the World Bank in its report averting a human crisis projects that up to 1.7 million people in Africa, Eastern Europe, Caribbean and Asia are at risk of ARVs treatment interruption due to the global financial downturn. According to the report, Tanzania's government has announced a 25% budget cut for its HIV and AIDS program. Kenya and southern Sudan anticipate general health budget reductions. 34 countries representing 75% of people living with HIV reported expecting their prevention programs to be affected; In South Africa for example, private sector prevention programs are expected to be cut, further increasing likelihood of more people being infected.

As a result of above, Global AIDS Alliance from Washington DC ([http://www.globalaidsalliance.org/page/-/PDFs/Broken\\_Promises\\_Factsheet\\_May\\_2009.pdf](http://www.globalaidsalliance.org/page/-/PDFs/Broken_Promises_Factsheet_May_2009.pdf)) already estimates that:

- 1 million people around the world will not receive ARVs,
- 2.9 million women will not receive prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV services
- 27 million people will not access sexual transmitted disease services
- 1.9 million orphans and vulnerable children will not receive care and support

Information from CSO HIV budget analysis for year 2008/9 show that HIV budget in Tanzania has fallen in this financial year 2008/9 as compared with that of 2007/8 by 9% in total; both the government and PEPFAR budgets decreased. While this is happening, the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare's strategic plan ending in 2012 has a target to increase coverage for pregnant mothers on ARV s from the current rate of 12% to 80%. It also envisages increasing ART coverage from 19.4% and 12.8% of adults and children respectively to 60% of all eligible by 2012. To achieve the 2012 targets, the health sector of Tanzania alone is would require up to US\$2,287 million, however it is anticipated to collect US\$1,470 resulting in a budget deficit of \$817.

**We call upon President Obama and his congress through the Tanzania American Ambassador to step annual funding levels to rescue more people, rather than flat funding global health programs which will erode gains that have been achieved in last few years.**

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Tanzania AIDS Forum is an umbrella network for AIDS service organization with current membership of 40 members in ten regions of Tanzania. It works to ensure CSO policy engagement, learning and sharing and capacity building to members.

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