



CONGU, 2015/7 CRS MICHAEL STULMAN

## YOUTH ACTS: HEALTH

*empowering young people to act in solidarity  
with our sisters and brothers around the world*

### THE ISSUE:

HIV continues to be a major global public health issue, having claimed more than 39 million lives so far. In 2013, 1.5 million people died from HIV-related causes globally. Malaria is preventable and curable. In 2013, malaria caused an estimated 584,000 deaths, mostly among African children.

- World Health Organization

### THE CHURCH SAYS:

*“We may not always be able to reflect adequately the beauty of the Gospel, but there is one sign which we should never lack: the option for those who are least, those whom society discards.”*

- Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium (Joy of the Gospel), 2013

## as individuals & families, we can...

### Pray in Gratitude!

In the U.S., we are fortunate to have access to some of the best healthcare in the world and – most importantly – access to safe and clean environments, water, and food. Malnutrition accounts for more than 50% of all underlying health problems in children. Pray that God motivates us to action that we might work for justice for every child to live in full health and know the joys of playing, learning, living, and being loved.

### **Volunteer at a Catholic Charities Health Clinic, Serving People with HIV and AIDS!**

In 2013, UNAIDS wrote that the Church "provides support to millions of people living with HIV around the world" and that "statistics from the Vatican in 2012 indicate that Catholic Church-related organizations provide approximately a quarter of all HIV treatment, care, and support throughout the world and run more than 5,000 hospitals, 18,000 dispensaries, and 9,000 orphanages, many involved in AIDS-related activities." People living with HIV or AIDS all too often experience rejection and isolation. Compassionate and dependable volunteers can assist Catholic Charities clinics in serving people who are HIV positive and terminally ill with transportation, mentoring, home visits, and social and spiritual activities.

### **Advocate to Strengthen Poverty-Focused International Assistance!**

Go online and join Catholics Confront Global Poverty- and, with a click of a button- urge our nation's leaders to preserve and strengthen poverty-focused international assistance that saves lives! Through CCGP, you can help ensure US aid goes to support the poorest of the poor overseas through- life-saving vaccinations for children, medication to extend the lives of people with HIV and AIDS, mosquito nets to avert malaria, clean water and sanitation, shelter during catastrophic events, agricultural assistance, food, education, peacekeeping, and more. This lifesaving assistance, which makes up less than 1% of our nation's budget, is threatened by significant cuts in Congress. Act now!

[confrontglobalpoverty.org](http://confrontglobalpoverty.org)

### **Did You Know?!**

Congress generally begins its budget process once the President submits his budget. The President is required by law to submit a comprehensive federal budget on or before the first Monday in February. Soon after, periodically post stories, pictures, and your thoughts on social media about the lifesaving poverty-focused international assistance in a "Did You Know?!" series. Educate your friends! Surprise them with facts! Put a face on the debate around our national budget. Call on your friends to take action with you to save lives! For ideas, go to the Catholics Confront Global Poverty website.

[confrontglobalpoverty.org](http://confrontglobalpoverty.org)

### **GIVE the Gift of Health!**

Donate to Catholic Relief Services to improve lives around the world! Catholic Relief Services' innovative health programming brings help to poor people around the globe— food, clean water, health facilities, training for healthcare providers, education in preventive behaviors, medical treatment, and more. A gift of \$25 provides health exams for 12 children. A gift of \$30 provides mosquito nets for a family.

[gifts.crs.org](http://gifts.crs.org)



RWANDA, 2015 // CRS MICHAEL STULMAN

### **SPREAD THE WORD!**

#### **TWEET**

Invite others to learn more about global poverty and join the fight against it:

#GlobalPoverty is a disease with a cure & together we can confront it. Learn how: [confrontglobalpoverty.org](http://confrontglobalpoverty.org) @USCCB @CatholicRelief

#### **SHARE**

Share your favorite [CCGP videos](#) on Facebook!

# as a community, make an impact...

## **Create a Catholics Confront Global Poverty Sign-Up Drive!**

Educate your community about our nation's urgent obligation to preserve and strengthen poverty-focused international assistance that saves lives! Poverty-focused international assistance, which makes up less than 1% of our nation's budget, is threatened by significant cuts that some in Congress are proposing to address our budget deficit. The Church recognizes the need to reduce future unsustainable deficits. The federal budget is more than just numbers; it is also a moral document. It is a reflection of our national priorities. Our national budget must not be balanced by hurting the most vulnerable people- the poorest of the poor overseas and the victims of disaster and conflict. Engage youth to create a Catholics Confront Global Poverty sign-up drive in your community using online resources.

[confrontglobalpoverty.org](http://confrontglobalpoverty.org)

## **Observe World Malaria Day (April 25) and World AIDS Day (December 1)!**

Guide young people toward creating a World Malaria Day and World AIDS Day awareness campaigns that include bulletin/ school announcements, posting to social media, education booths, speakers, prayer services, wearing and distributing blue (malaria) and red (AIDS) ribbons, and suggested action steps for personal and communal action. Guide young people toward creating an HIV & AIDS Compassion awareness campaign in your parish or school that includes bulletin announcements, a centralized booth, speakers and action steps.

Consult the Catholic Relief Services, USCCB, Education for Justice, and United Nations websites for more ideas and resources.

### **USCCB, World AIDS Day (December 1)**

[www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/cultural-diversity/african-american/world-aids-day-cultural-diversity.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/cultural-diversity/african-american/world-aids-day-cultural-diversity.cfm)

### **United Nations, World AIDS Day (December 1)**

[www.un.org/en/events/aidsday/](http://www.un.org/en/events/aidsday/)

### **United Nations, World Malaria Day (April 25)**

[www.worldmaliaday.org/take\\_action\\_en.cfm](http://www.worldmaliaday.org/take_action_en.cfm)

## **Host a Nets for Nets Basketball Game!**

In Africa, a child dies every minute from malaria (WHO)! Malaria is a preventable disease, yet at least half a million people—most of them children—die each year for want of inexpensive long-lasting insecticide-treated nets. Contracting malaria means taking money meant for dinners and school fees and farming equipment and handing it to pharmacists for malaria medicine. It means staying home and waiting out the fever and chills and aches. It ends in lost days of work, missed school and less money earned. For just \$30, you can protect a family of 6 from malaria while they sleep! Get creative and host a “Nets for Nets” basketball game in your community to educate about the plight of the global poor and raise money for mosquito nets! Visit CRS’ website for more information and ideas.

[crs.org/health/malaria](http://crs.org/health/malaria)

## **As a community, GIVE the Gift of Health!**

Combined with community education and advocacy, consider creating a fun fundraising campaign to donate money to Catholic Relief Services to improve lives around the world! Catholic Relief Services’ innovative health programming brings help to poor people around the globe —food, clean water, health facilities, training for healthcare providers, education in preventive behaviors, medical treatment. CRS focuses on the most prevalent health

conditions in vulnerable populations, including: malnutrition, malaria, tuberculosis, HIV, and maternal health, giving priority to those most at risk: women of reproductive age, infants, and very young children. A gift of \$30 provides prenatal care throughout a mother's pregnancy. A gift of \$50 provides five infant scales to a clinic. A gift of \$150 provides 10 vaccinations- which prevent disease and decreases child mortality. A gift of \$200 provides a wheelchair to a person with a disability. For more information and resources, visit CRS's gift of hope catalog at <http://gift.crs.org>.

*Do you have ideas - for young people, families, youth groups, and faith communities - that can be added to this resource? If so, contact us at [education@crs.org](mailto:education@crs.org).*

**"I ask God to give us more politicians capable of sincere and effective dialogue aimed at healing the deepest roots - and not simply the appearances - of the evils in our world! Politics, though often denigrated, remains a lofty vocation and one of the highest forms of charity, inasmuch as it seeks the common good... It is vital that government leaders and financial leaders take heed and broaden their horizons, working to ensure that all citizens have dignified work, education and healthcare."**

*- Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium (Joy of the Gospel), 2013*



GUINEA, 2015 // CRS MICHAEL STULMAN