



## **Obama Budget: A Step toward More Child-Friendly Aid: A Statement regarding the Obama Administration's FY 2011 budget request to Congress**

February 2, 2010 – President Obama has submitted his budget blueprint for Fiscal Year 2011. What follows is the Global Coalition against Child Pneumonia's statement on the global health component of the budget.

"President Obama's budget increases the U.S. commitment to global health, and looks like the beginning of a more child-friendly approach to foreign assistance. It gives new priority to safeguarding the health of children in the world's poorest countries. The President's request shows U.S. leadership in the fight for global health is unwavering, even growing, during difficult economic times.

"For too long the U.S. global health budget failed to adequately address child health. President Obama's request is a good step in the right direction and more must be taken to ensure maternal and newborn and child health programs are funded at a level that reflects the need. We will work to ensure the Global Health Initiative is fully funded and focuses on child health – particularly the fight against pneumonia, the leading killer of children under 5 years of age. The leading causes of pneumonia are preventable with vaccines and treatable with low cost medicines. It is particularly important that the world's most vulnerable children have the same access to these vaccines and medicines that our children do."

Pneumonia takes the lives of more children under 5 than measles, malaria, and AIDS combined. The disease takes the life of one child every 15 seconds, and accounts for 20% of all deaths of children under the age of 5 worldwide. While pneumonia affects children and families everywhere, it has the most deadly impact in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, where 98% of child pneumonia deaths occur. It can be prevented with simple interventions, and treated with low-cost, low-tech medication and care.

The Global Coalition against Pneumonia, made up of nearly 100 influential health organizations from around the globe, marked the first annual World Pneumonia Day in November 2009. This year, World Pneumonia Day will be on November 12. We urge all world leaders, policy makers, and members of the global health community to mark this date in their calendars and make the fight against pneumonia a top priority.

### ***About The Global Coalition against Pneumonia***

*The Global Coalition against Child Pneumonia and the World Pneumonia Day Coalition, was established in April 2009. It seeks to bring focus on pneumonia as a public health issue and to prevent the millions of avoidable deaths from pneumonia that occur each year. The coalition is grounded in a network of international government, non-governmental and community-based organizations, research and academic institutions, foundations, and individuals that have united to bring much-needed attention to pneumonia among donors, policy makers, health care professionals, and the general public. Learn more at [www.worldpneumoniaday.org](http://www.worldpneumoniaday.org).*