

Africa Health subscription information

There is a three-tier price structure:

1. For African-based readers see below for details.
2. For UK and EU-based readers £83 (airmail postage included).
3. For readers in all other countries £119 or US\$155 (airmail postage included).

Subscribe locally

Healthcare professionals within Africa can subscribe to *Africa Health* for just £40 per annum. Copies will be sent by airmail from the UK. Payment can either be made by transfer (Western Union is OK) to our UK office with payments made out to FSG Communications Ltd (and email advice to: editor@fsg.co.uk), OR you can pay the equivalent of £30 in local currency to the offices below. Please note, copies of the journal will be posted to you from the office you pay to.

- **Ghana** To: PMB Accra North, Accra, Ghana. Cheques payable to: Knowledge Innovations. Queries to: Mr Kwami Ahiabenu II +233 244 319181
Email: kwami@penplusbytes.org
- **Kenya** To: Africa Health, c/o Phillips Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Power Technics Complex, Mombasa Road, P O Box 46662-00100, Nairobi, Kenya.
Email: ppl@phillipspharma.com
Cheques payable to: Phillips Pharmaceuticals Ltd
- **Nigeria** To: Africa Health, PO Box 7247, Lagos, Nigeria.
Queries to: Dr A P Balogun +234 809 999 9256.
Cheques payable to: Afrocet Nigeria Ltd.
Email: balo@afrocet.com
- **Tanzania** To: Africa Health, c/o APHFTA, 55/644 Lumumba Street P O Box 13234
Tel: +255 22 2184667/2184508.
Email: ogillo@yahoo.com.
Cheques payable to APHFTA.
- **Zimbabwe** To: Africa Health, c/o USK International Ltd, P O Box 4891, Harare, Zimbabwe. Email: usk@ecoweb.co.zw. Cheques payable to: USK International Ltd.

Hold on to your hats

So, the Donald has won the race to the White House, and Africa awaits to hear whether the early portents of a slashing of aid assistance come to be, or whether a more conciliatory President emerges once he's got his feet firmly under the table and is no longer on the soapbox making populist appeals to voters.

The stakes are high for Africa. If Trump is to get his defence spending up to his intended US\$54 billion, then it goes without saying that the axe is going to be swinging wildly pretty well everywhere else in Government. In gross terms, the USA's foreign aid programme is the highest in the world at just over \$50 billion. Almost a third of this goes on humanitarian assistance, responding to urgent need; but the rest is specifically targeted to specific causes. Perhaps the highest profile in Africa is the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) which has distributed over \$70 billion, mostly in Africa since its launch in 2004. Early White House briefings seem to indicate that this programme might survive, but it will be unlikely to scale further. In perspective, when PEPFAR started there were 50 000 African's on anti retrovirals. Currently the figure is in excess of 11 million.

But while the stakes are high for many groups in Africa, it might be even higher for many international organisations. Trump's team have been open about their antipathy to many of the UN organisations who receive about a fifth of their funding from the USA. US legislators have long complained about 'disproportionate' funding from the USA to these organisations. Talk of cuts as high

as 40% in this funding is currently being considered. The effect on organisations such as the World Health Organization could be catastrophic.

And then there is the 'Global gag rule' invented by Ronald Reagan and reinstated by Donald Trump in his first week in office. This prevents any Federal money from going to any external organisation involved in performing abortions or even just giving such advice to young girls who find themselves pregnant. It goes against all the evidence showing that strengthened women's rights and access to compassionate health services is a vehicle for development.

So strange times, and maybe difficult times. Africa's economic woes do not need a further battering from an unexpected quarter.

And yet one interesting fact which has surprised me. Whilst the USA is the biggest contributor to international aid, it is actually one of the least generous countries in relative terms. Its foreign aid spending equates to just 0.17% of gross national income, while the figure that many donor countries are aiming for is 0.7%. A salutary statistic which underlines why the USA is the global leader and why its direction of travel is so important to everyone else.



Bryan Pearson
(bryan@fsg.co.uk)

Do more, feel better, live longer



GlaxoSmithKline, one of the world's leading research-based pharmaceutical and healthcare companies, is committed to improving the quality of human life by enabling people to do more, feel better and live longer.

The company researches, develops, manufactures and markets medicines and vaccines to prevent and treat most of the world's major diseases.

We are committed to the responsible management of ethical, social and environmental concerns and, in particular, to playing a leading role in supporting healthcare in the developing world.

