

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

Majority (202) 225-5074
Minority (202) 225-5051

January 17, 2024

Loyce Pace, M.P.H
Assistant Secretary for Global Affairs
Department of Health and Human Services
[TRANSMITTED VIA EMAIL]

Dear Ms. Pace:

Enclosed are post-hearing questions that have been directed to you and submitted to the official record for the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic hearing that was held on Wednesday, December 13, 2023 titled “Reforming the WHO: Ensuring Global Health Security and Accountability.”

To ensure a complete hearing record, please return your written response to the Committee on or before Wednesday, January 31, 2024, including each question in full as well as the name of the member. Your response should be addressed to the Committee office at 2157 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. Please also send an electronic version of your response by email to Marie Policastro, Clerk for the Select Subcommittee, at marie.policastro@mail.house.gov.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. If you need additional information or have other questions, please contact Committee on Oversight and Accountability staff at (202) 225-5074.

Sincerely,



Brad Wenstrup, D.P.M.
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Raul Ruiz, Ranking Member
Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic

**Questions for Hon. Loyce Pace
Assistant Secretary for Global Affairs
Department of Health and Human Services**

December 13, 2023: Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic hearing titled
“Reforming the WHO: Ensuring Global Health Security and Accountability”

Questions from Rep. Michael Cloud

- 1) Per the State Department’s annual report on contributions to international organizations in 2021, HHS awarded the WHO several grants for “global noncommunicable diseases prevention and health promotion.”¹ The WHO’s website lists a variety of initiatives under the heading of “noncommunicable diseases,” such as initiatives related to hypertension, heart disease, and diabetes. Within its voluntary grants to the WHO, does the U.S. specify funding for particular WHO offices, activities, or programs such as these?
 - a) Does HHS maintain records of such specifications? If so, please provide copies for the last five fiscal years.
 - b) Does HHS report this information to Congress in any form?
 - c) The WHO’s website also lists under the heading of “noncommunicable diseases” projects including reports on climate change,² advocating taxes on sugar and alcohol,³ and a program encouraging countries to eliminate the use of trans fats in food.⁴
 - i) Has HHS specified any of the funds from these grants for noncommunicable disease prevention and health promotion for any initiative or project related to climate change?
 - ii) Has HHS specified any of the funds from these grants for noncommunicable disease prevention and health promotion for any initiative or project encouraging or pressuring countries to change their laws or policies related to the regulation of food?
- 2) Has HHS specified funds for any WHO project which encourages or pressures countries to alter their laws or policies related to abortion?
 - a) Has HHS specified funds for any WHO project which encourages or pressures individuals to change their views on abortion?
 - b) Has HHS specified funds for any WHO project which attempts to discourage conscientious objection to abortion by healthcare workers or others?⁵

¹ U.S. Department of State, “U.S. Contributions to International Organizations, 2021,” <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/2021-Report-on-Contributions-to-IOs.pdf>. See pages 88, 93, 94.

² World Health Organization, “Climate change and noncommunicable diseases in small island developing states,” November 8, 2023, <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/climate-change-and-noncommunicable-diseases-in-small-island-developing-states>.

³ World Health Organization, press release, “WHO calls on countries to increase taxes on alcohol and sugary sweetened beverages,” December 5, 2023, <https://www.who.int/news/item/05-12-2023-who-calls-on-countries-to-increase-taxes-on-alcohol-and-sugary-sweetened-beverages>.

⁴ World Health Organization, press release, April 14, 2023, <https://www.who.int/news/item/14-04-2023-who-trans-fat-elimination-validation-program-is-now-open-for-country-applications>.

⁵ See World Health Organization, “Widening access to quality abortion care from the grassroots up,” September 28, 2023, <https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/widening-access-to-quality-abortion-care-from-the-grassroots-up>. See page 4 of linked report on Colombian organization Profamilia: “Based on WHO recommendations, Profamilia designed seminars, workshops and virtual courses. These activities functioned as safe spaces for health workers, based on compassion and trust, in which abortion-related questions and taboos could be

- 3) Has HHS specified funds for any WHO project which advocates particular laws or policies related to gender identity such as “legal recognition of self-determined gender identity”?⁶
 - a) Has HHS specified funds for any WHO project which encourages or pressures countries to alter their laws or policies related to legal recognition of gender identity?
 - b) Has HHS specified funds for any WHO project which encourages or pressures individuals to change their views on legal recognition of gender identity or other aspects of gender identity?
 - c) Has HHS specified funds for any WHO project which encourages or pressures countries to alter their laws or policies related to gender transition procedures such as administration of puberty blockers, hormones, or surgeries or which encourages or pressures individuals to change their views on such procedures?
- 4) Before the pandemic, out of all its voluntary contributions to the WHO, the U.S. specified less than 3% each for preventing and controlling disease outbreaks and for emergency operations.⁷ In light of the WHO’s failure to prevent and adequately respond to the Covid pandemic and its wasteful use of funds to promote initiatives unrelated to health, has HHS increased the percentage of its contributions for preventing and controlling disease outbreaks, emergency operations, and pandemic prevention?
 - a) Does HHS plan to shift more of its WHO contributions toward these purposes?
 - i) If so, by how much does HHS plan to increase the proportion of such contributions?
 - ii) If not, why not?

discussed, demystified and de-stigmatized. In this way, Profamilia managed to shape an organizational culture clearly linked to the organization’s mission to defend sexual and reproductive rights, and this helped to shift negative attitudes towards abortion and prevent conscientious objection...In its efforts to combat abortion stigma, Profamilia also identified the need to monitor and mitigate the challenges posed by external groups that oppose the provision of abortion care. Profamilia began mapping and analysing such stakeholders; built knowledge about how these groups use social networks; and incorporated risk analysis into all its activities. For abortion cases that pose considerable reputational risk, a specific risk committee at Profamilia was set up to analyse each angle of the case and identify relevant risk reduction actions accordingly.” https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/reproductive-health/abortion/ibp-story-colombia.pdf?sfvrsn=a9b18c5_7.

⁶ World Health Organization, “WHO announces the development of a guideline on the health of trans and gender diverse people,” June 28, 2023, <https://www.who.int/news/item/28-06-2023-who-announces-the-development-of-the-guideline-on-the-health-of-trans-and-gender-diverse-people>.

⁷ Daniel Victor and Christine Hauser, “What the W.H.O. Does, and How U.S. Funding Cuts Could Affect It,” *New York Times*, April 15, 2020, <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/15/health/who-world-health-organization-coronavirus.html>.