The World Without PEPFAR

PEPFAR—the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief—was launched under President George W. Bush in 2003. At the time, global investment in HIV programs in developing countries was practically non-existent. The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria was launched in 2002 with funding levels wholly inadequate to address the crisis. Public sector treatment programs had not even begun in most African countries as the medications necessary were too expensive and unavailable and there was limited evidence that the infrastructure or human resource capacity necessary to deliver treatment programs was adequate. PEPFAR—by making billions of dollars available for HIV programs in developing countries—unlocked the ability to deliver programs and fundamentally changed the course of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and the world more broadly.

Absent this enormously successful program, the world would be a remarkably different place:

**INDIVIDUAL OUTCOMES**

- **Upwards of 13 million** people die of AIDS-related causes, and life expectancy declines to **less than 40 years** in the hardest hit countries in sub-Saharan Africa.
- **11.5 million** fewer people have access to treatment. Limited access to treatment undermines testing efforts.
- Prevention of mother-to-child transmission programs are never properly scaled up. **50% of children** born with HIV and left untreated die before their 2nd birthday.

**INFRASTRUCTURE OUTCOMES**

- Without the economies of scale realized by PEPFAR, the price of drugs and diagnostic tests is **not significantly reduced**.
- HIV treatment is one of the best interventions for preventing new TB infections; without HIV programs scaled up through PEPFAR, **TB rates skyrocket**.
- Public health systems are at **breaking point** trying to provide palliative care and treat opportunistic infections in the absence of antiretroviral therapy.

**STABILITY & CREDIBILITY OUTCOMES**

- Unable to sustainably develop human capital or to attract critical foreign investment, many African economies face a **catastrophic downward spiral**.
- U.S. credibility as a leader on global health and human rights is **permanently diminished** for its failure to address the global health crisis of the century.
- Political instability in sub-Saharan African nations grows significantly, **increasing the likelihood of conflicts** affecting U.S. security interests.