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To: "Admiral William Fallon - Co-chair, CSIS Commission on Smart Global Health Policy" wjf@wjfallon.com

From: Lloyd Etheredge lloyd.etheredge@policyscience.net

Subject: Global health: Would a CCC component be useful?

Dear Admiral Fallon and Commissioners:

The greatest natural resource of UDCs is their young people. The CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) in the US Depression (1933-1942, three million men) was used for environmental/natural resource projects. It might be a useful model that can be used in the US strategy for rapid progress in global health.

As part of a smart global health strategy it is a "three for . . ." idea:

- 1.) An extraordinary opportunity to employ jobless youth, whose numbers are growing in UDCs in the global recession and whose alternative futures might otherwise be as recruits for political violence;
- 2.) Health projects. These will include manpower assistance to participating NGOs; also new construction (digging wells and improved sanitation; construction for clinics and hospitals); insect/mosquito control, emergency work; and other projects identified by the Commission.
- 3.) Vocational training. (This also was an important part of the CCC.)

Clean Drinking Water: An Example

I assume that your Commission will organize a fast-action plan to solve clean water problems in the world's UDCs (e.g., digging wells in rural areas). It could be worthwhile to contact Bechtel, which has abundant experience in UDC engineering projects. They might provide volunteer engineers and equipment for rapid well-drilling teams that will begin to move across the landscape of Africa. The project could be designed to leave

the participating young workers with vocational skills.

Costs

In the poorest countries there are huge (and growing) numbers of unemployed youth and (in Africa) subsistence levels of \$1/day to \$3/day. How much would it cost to feed and house, and provide a minimal wage to, 50,000 young people for three years to support the work of NGOs?.

I am deeply concerned about the potential for increasing violence in UDCs as a result of growing economic hardship. America could build an alliance with these young people - to employ them at worthwhile jobs helping their people, and to leave them with new vocational skills and experiences they can use.

Lloyd Etheredge