



# U.S. Foreign Assistance and Faith Communities: Together Saving Lives

## Interfaith Working Group on Foreign Assistance Fly-In: Budget Request FY22

As representatives of over 50 faith-based global health, development and humanitarian aid organizations, we urge Congress to accelerate life-saving gains and continue American leadership that will save lives and help build toward a more secure world for all God's children. To that end, we respectfully request the following appropriations for the International Affairs Budget (150 Account):

- \$11.44 billion for total Global Health Programs
- \$5.27 billion for International Disaster Assistance
- \$4.25 billion for Development Assistance, including \$1.203 billion for Feed the Future
- \$4.12 billion for Migration and Refugee Assistance
- \$50 million for Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance
- \$100.2 million for Democracy Fund at USAID
- \$190.5 million for Human Rights and Democracy Fund at State
- \$60 million for the Complex Crises Fund
- \$2 billion for the Green Climate Fund
- \$2 billion for Food for Peace
- \$264 million for McGovern-Dole, as well as \$25 million for Local and Regional Procurement

We remind you, not just of the historic and measurable life-saving accomplishments of U.S. foreign assistance, but the moral call to protect these programs that focus on poverty, health, development, peacebuilding and humanitarian aid. Human security remains undercut by hunger and thirst, extreme poverty and chronic poor health, a refugee crisis, and natural and man-made disasters. Preserving and increasing funding is compassionate, morally right and wisely practical. We must remain vigilant so that the large-scale progress made in poverty reduction and improved health is not ever rolled back, including now, as the coronavirus pandemic continues to ravage many regions of the world.

With regard to COVID-19: Experience teaches that the most vulnerable bear the brunt of emergencies through increased malnutrition and poverty; increased need for water and sanitation for hygiene and critical health services; and the disruption and breakdown of supply chains. The cost of meeting these needs increases due to shortages, logistics and safety protocols. For example, implementing necessary procedures to prevent COVID-19's spread makes virtually every step in delivering food assistance slower, more cumbersome and costly.

Our faith communities are in all 50 states and deeply appreciate the consistent bipartisan Congressional support shown U.S. foreign assistance; and many of our largest faith-based organizations (FBOs) are experienced U.S. government implementers. As we engage with the least and the last offering material resources, technical expertise and hope on the front lines, we are trusted by local communities and effectively working with local partners to ensure sustainability. Know that when we request steady poverty-focused development assistance federal funding and leadership, these FBOs are raising over \$5 for every public \$1 received, totaling over \$6.5 billion, most in private funds. Also significant, whether or not an FBO accepts federal dollars, all agree that U.S. government engagement provides coordination, enhances our ability to function in the field, and enables us to succeed in effectively serving others.

Our well-being as a nation is intimately connected with the well-being of our most vulnerable neighbors at home and abroad. Reducing poverty, hunger and thirst, violent conflict, and improving opportunities and economies for families in need around the world, expresses the best of our faith traditions and American values.