

**OPEN LETTER FROM FAITH ORGANIZATIONS EXPRESSING SUPPORT TO PROTECT ROBUST FUNDING FOR THE
FISCAL YEAR 2022 SFOPS BILL**

April 6, 2021

The Honorable Barbara Lee
Chairwoman
House Appropriations Committee State,
Foreign Operations Subcommittee

The Honorable Sanford Bishop
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
Agriculture Subcommittee

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee State,
Foreign Operations Subcommittee

The Honorable Jeff Fortenberry
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Agriculture Subcommittee

Dear Chairpersons Lee and Bishop and Ranking Members Rogers and Fortenberry:

As members of the Interfaith Working Group on Foreign Assistance, a network of over 50 Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu and Buddhist organizations advocating for the world's most vulnerable people, we write to you during these difficult times to express our appreciation of your ongoing bipartisan support for the sustained and increased funding levels to poverty-focused International Affairs budget accounts over the last few years. Our community is committed to empowering and supporting the rights of those affected by extreme poverty, food insecurity, conflict and marginalization around the world. Additionally, we applaud the inclusion of funding for the international response to COVID-19 in both the combined FY21 Omnibus and emergency COVID-19, as well as in the American Rescue Plan Act. As COVID-19 has amplified existing inequalities around the world, including robust international humanitarian, global health and poverty-focused assistance in our response means more lives will be saved, and is critical to all our security.

We urge an increased investment in these programs to address the urgent needs of our most vulnerable neighbors. As you move forward with the FY 2022 appropriations process, we especially urge you to continue to fund critical humanitarian, peacebuilding, human rights and poverty-focused programs. These programs provide a strong return on investment to the U.S. taxpayer, because they help to create a healthier and more stable world for everyone.

Specifically, we request no less than:

- **\$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**

We also request that you fund these critical programs within the Agriculture Appropriations bill:

- **\$2 billion for Food for Peace**
- **\$264 million for McGovern-Dole, as well as \$25 million for Local and Regional Procurement**

We thank you for your leadership and your expertise that will accelerate pivotal support for these accounts, which our respective faith communities are proud to champion. U.S. global leadership will save lives and help build a world of peace and prosperity for all people, if we choose to act. We stand ready to work with you to make that vision a reality.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

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| 1. ADRA International | 14. Helping Hand for Relief and Development |
| 2. American Hindu World Service | 15. IMA World Health & Lutheran World Relief |
| 3. American Jewish World Service | 16. Islamic Relief USA |
| 4. Bread for the World | 17. Jewish Council for Public Affairs |
| 5. Buddhist Tzu Chi | 18. L.A.C.E.S. |
| 6. Christian Connections for International Health | 19. Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Washington Office |
| 7. Christian Reformed Church (CRC) Office of Social Justice (OSJ) | 20. Sojourners |
| 8. Church World Service | 21. The Episcopal Church |
| 9. Disabled Children's Fund | 22. The United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society |
| 10. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America | 23. Union for Reform Judaism |
| 11. Faiths for Safe Water | 24. United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries |
| 12. Food for the Hungry | 25. World Renew |
| 13. Friends Committee on National Legislation | |