

Good afternoon,

America has an historic opportunity to show the world who we are and also protect our own health and economy at home. In May we sent the attached letter requesting funding for international development and humanitarian assistance. Since May, the COVID-19 crisis has ballooned and without immediate interventions and action, threatens to undo decades of developmental and humanitarian work. Therefore, because needs have grown, we are increasing our request to a minimum of \$20 billion in supplemental funding for America's global emergency humanitarian response to COVID-19.

The Interfaith Working Group of Foreign Assistance represents a broad range of 51 U.S. faith-based organizations that provide global health and development assistance to the most impoverished and vulnerable people on earth. We are seeing firsthand the devastating problems being amplified by COVID-19. Experts now predict more people will die from malnutrition due to the COVID-19 crisis than will die from the disease itself.

The best way to counter this growing crisis is to increase desperately needed services — food, water, health care and associated basic provisions — to those in greatest need around the world. To do that, emergency funding must be commiserate with the challenges we face. Therefore, as our nation's leading faith-based organizations, we strongly request a minimum of \$20 billion in supplemental funding for America's global emergency humanitarian response to COVID-19.

As a nation we will look back on this crisis like our grandparents looked back on WWII. We can look back, as they did, with pride in the lives we helped to save. Or we can look back with regret at the lives unnecessarily lost. Let's meet this challenge heroically. Let's save lives. Let's pass at least \$20 billion in emergency humanitarian assistance for America's international response to COVID-19.

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