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**RE:** RESULTS FROM A NATIONWIDE POLL ON INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE.

To support our issues advocacy and grassroots outreach, InterAction commissioned Zogby International in March 2006 to conduct a nationwide survey of 1000 registered, likely voters on their views of U.S. foreign Policy and our relations with the world.

The results are very encouraging. Despite other domestic concerns, the majority of Americans *still* support us and value the work we do. Foreign assistance remains a basic core value to the American public, and international humanitarian and development organizations continue to enjoy the public trust as the true harbingers of effective assistance to the world's poorest.

The following is a synopsis of the poll results:

### **Findings Summary**

- The overwhelming majority of respondents (83%) say they support US humanitarian and development assistance to other countries. A majority in every sub-group supports US humanitarian assistance, including 86% of Republicans, and 80% of Democrats. However, as age increases, support for US humanitarian and development assistance decreases, from 87% of those under 30 to 75% of those 65 and older.
- Nearly nine in ten (87%) of respondents believe the US should give foreign assistance in the event of an emergency like drought, famine, flood, or other natural disaster. 69% of respondents think our government should give assistance to reduce poverty, provide education, among other general humanitarian projects.
- The vast majority (72%) of respondents believe that assistance or aid should be given to US-based humanitarian organizations doing work in a given country to distribute, while 13% like the idea of giving the money to American businesses doing business in the country.

- ***More than half (54%) believe that the US is best served in the long-term by reducing poverty around the world.***
  - A majority of respondents in the east, west, and midwest are more likely to say reducing poverty is more beneficial to the US in the long run, while southerners are more closely divided with 49% saying reducing poverty is better and 45% saying ensuring friendly governments is best.
  - Whites (52%) and African Americans (67%) think reducing poverty around the world is better for the US, while 53% of Hispanics think ensuring friendly government is better for this country. Democrats (59%) believe that reducing poverty is better for the US, while 49% of Republicans think it is better to ensure that there are friendly governments.
  - A majority in every age group believe the US is better served to eliminate poverty around the world, as are both men (53%) and women (55%).
- By more than two to one (67%), respondents say they trust charitable organizations to use aid money for the purpose it was intended over those who say they do not trust them (31%). Two percent are not sure.
- ***By more than five to one (83% to 16%), respondents agree effective foreign assistance can be successful in improving America's image abroad and make the country safer; (46%) strongly agree.***

***Please contact Nasserie Carew at 202-667-8227 ext 141 for survey methodology.***