

# AID DELIVERS

Foreign Assistance in  
the 116th Congress







For further information and to answer any questions contact:

**Kevin Rachlin | Director, Public Policy and Government Affairs**

[policy@interaction.org](mailto:policy@interaction.org)

202-667-8227

*Cover Photo: Miguel Sampler. This page, photo by Supriya Biswas*



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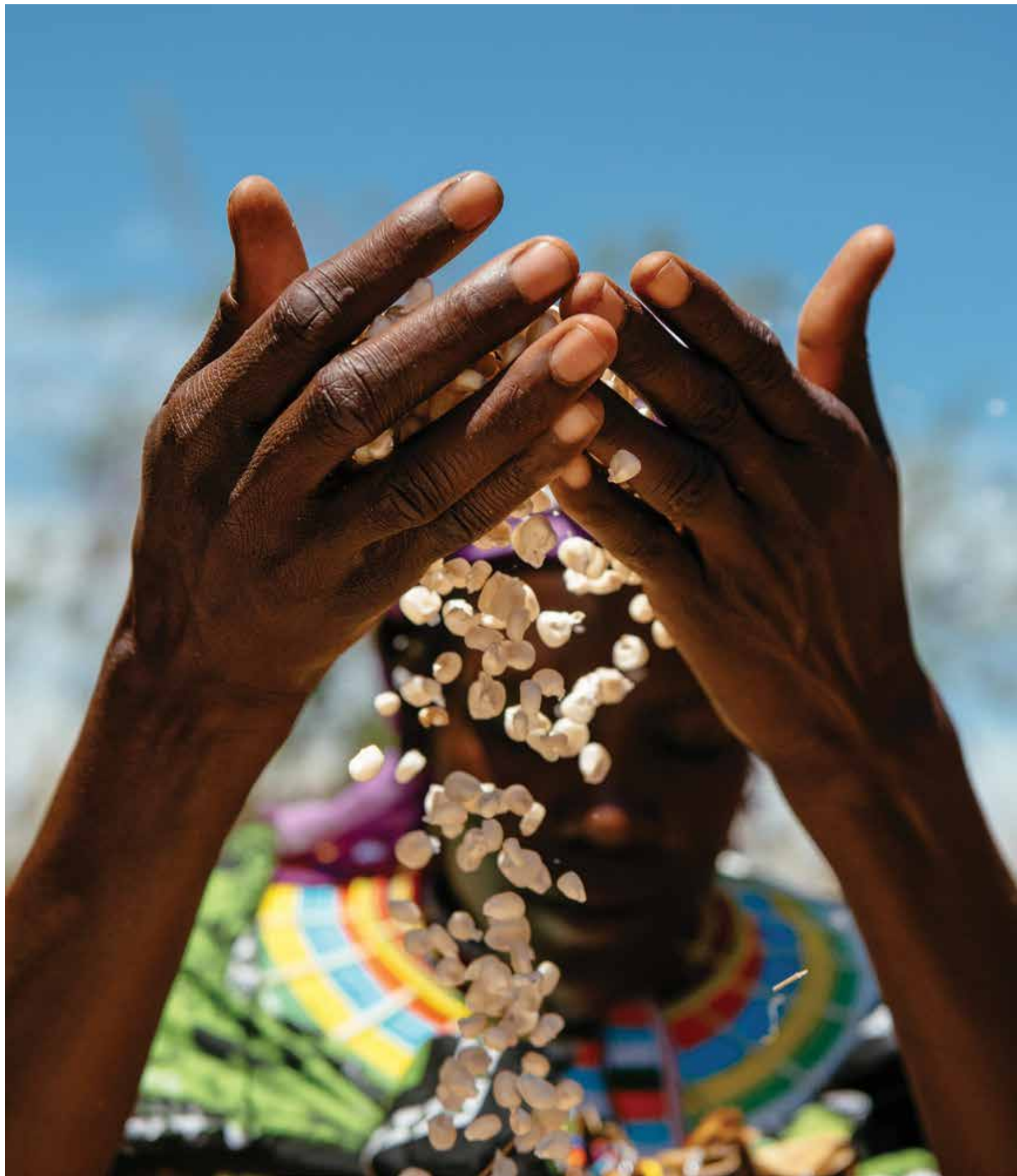
## Foreign Assistance in the 116th Congress



### Who Is InterAction?

InterAction is the largest alliance of U.S.-based international nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) working to eliminate extreme poverty, strengthen human rights and citizen participation, safeguard a sustainable planet, promote peace, and ensure dignity for all people. InterAction serves as a convener and NGO community thought leader, working to mobilize our 200-plus members to collectively advocate for policies and solutions that advance the lives of people in the poorest and most marginalized conditions. Our members mobilize an estimated \$15 billion of private funding from American citizens and implement development and humanitarian programs in nearly every country around the globe.

Learn more about **InterAction** at [www.InterAction.org](http://www.InterAction.org) and join us in making the world a more peaceful, just, and prosperous place – together.



# AID DELIVERS

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# INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT 101

International development programs bring knowledge and resources to help communities and governments around the world as they work to end extreme poverty; support the advancement of human rights; and promote resilient, democratic societies while advancing global security and prosperity.

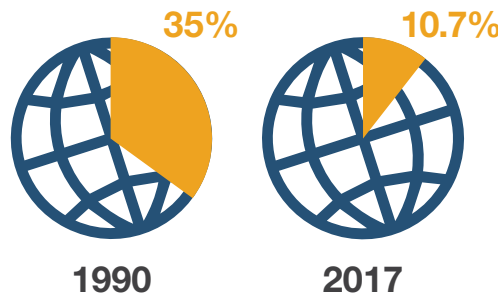
# International Development Works

Around the world, amazing progress in development is being made. More than 1 billion people have been lifted out of extreme poverty since 1990, with major gains made in health, education, and other areas that contribute to human well-being.<sup>1</sup> While the world still faces considerable challenges, including inequality, conflict, and climate change, quality of life around the world is improving.

## State of global poverty is at an all-time low

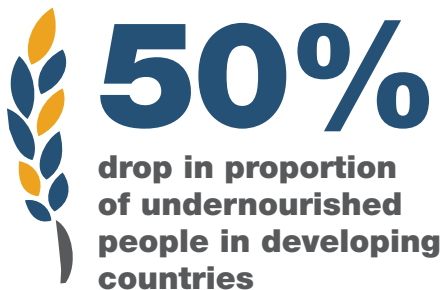
In 1990, about 35% of the global population lived in poverty; by 2013 that number was cut by more than half and had decreased to 10.7%. From 1990 to 2017, 1.1 billion people were lifted out of extreme poverty.<sup>2</sup>

Percent of Global Population Living in Poverty



## Hunger has been cut in half

From 1990 to 2016, there was a 50% drop in the proportion of undernourished people in developing countries, from 23.3% to 12.9%.<sup>5</sup>



## Clean water is increasingly available

In 2015, 5.2 billion people used safe drinking-water services. Some 2.6 billion people have gained access to improved drinking water since 1990.<sup>7</sup>



## Communities are healthier

Polio cases have decreased worldwide by over 99% since 1988, with only 22 reported cases in 2017.<sup>3</sup> PEPFAR is saving 14 million people with antiretroviral treatment (ART) as of March 2018, and nearly 2.2 million babies that would otherwise have been infected were born HIV-free.<sup>4</sup>



## More children have access to education

Enrollment in primary education in developing regions reached 91% in 2015, up from 83% in 2000.<sup>6</sup>



## Cultivating democracy as a driver

Almost 40% of the world's population lived in a free country in 2017. This, however, leaves approximately 60% of the global population living in countries that are partly or not free.<sup>8</sup>





# International Development 101

## (continued)



### How does the world work together to make development progress?

The U.S. has a long bipartisan history of working with and within the international system to advance evidence-based development priorities and solutions. American leadership and engagement in multilateral organizations and other international organizations is crucial and helps drive development successes.

Since 2015, international development has been shaped by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a 15-year agenda divided into 17 different goals that provide a shared blueprint for tackling development challenges and advancing human rights, has driven international development.<sup>9</sup> The U.S. was a key driver in the creation of the SDGs, which were developed and adopted by all 193 member countries in the United Nations (UN). The SDGs build on the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) established in 2000 to “combat poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation, and discrimination against women.”<sup>10</sup> The SDGs currently guide international development investments and track progress and effectiveness through an intersectional set of indicators.

Around the world, country governments, NGOs, civil society organizations, and donors are working in coordination to meet the SDGs by 2030.

#### The UN characterizes the SDGs in five key categories:<sup>11</sup>

- **People:** We are determined to end poverty and hunger, in all their forms and dimensions, and to ensure that all human beings can fulfill their potential with dignity, equality, and a healthy environment.
- **Planet:** We are determined to protect the planet from degradation, including through sustainable consumption and production, sustainable management of its natural resources, and urgent action on climate change, so that it can support the needs of present and future generations.
- **Prosperity:** We are determined to ensure that all human beings can enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives and that economic, social, and technological progress occurs in harmony with nature.
- **Peace:** We are determined to foster peaceful, just, and inclusive societies that are free from fear and violence. There can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development.
- **Partnership:** We are determined to mobilize the means required to implement this agenda through a revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, based on a spirit of strengthened global solidarity, focused in particular on the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable and with the participation of all countries, all stakeholders, and all people. The interlinkages and integrated nature of the sustainable development goals are of crucial importance in ensuring that the purpose of the new agenda is realized.

### What work remains to be done?

Despite encouraging progress, many global challenges have been improved by development efforts, the need for assistance continues.

- **Millions of children still die from preventable and treatable diseases.** 5.6 million children still die each year of preventable and treatable diseases. Up to 45% of deaths occurring among children under 5 are due in part to malnutrition.<sup>12</sup>
- **Conflict and environmental shocks present new challenges for communities.** The number of extreme climate-related disasters, including extreme heat, droughts, floods and storms, has doubled since the early 1990s. These harm agricultural productivity contributing to shortfalls in food availability, leading to food price hikes and income losses.<sup>13</sup>
- **Economic growth is unequal.** Half of all people living on less than \$1.90 a day live in sub-Saharan Africa.<sup>14</sup> If women farmers had the same access to financial resources as men, the number of hungry in the world could be reduced by up to 150 million.<sup>15</sup>
- **The number of hungry people is rising for the first time in a decade.** In 2017, 821 million people were estimated to suffer from hunger – up from 777 million in 2015.<sup>16</sup>
- **Rapid population growth threatens past progress.** The world’s population continues to grow; the population of Africa is on track to doubling by 2050, compounding strains on health care, labor markets, and agriculture, among others.<sup>17</sup>
- **Millions continue to lack access to lifesaving health care.** Over 14 million people living with HIV still do not have access to antiretroviral therapy, and 1.8 million people became newly infected with HIV in 2017. Less than half of 2.1 million children living with HIV have access to lifesaving antiretroviral drugs.<sup>18</sup>
- **Rural and urban communities face different access challenges to reach development goals.** Four billion people have no access to electricity worldwide – most of whom live in rural areas of the developing world.<sup>19</sup> The overall growth of the world’s population could add another 2.5 billion people to urban areas by 2050, with close to 90% of this increase taking place in Asia and Africa.<sup>20</sup>

To address current and upcoming challenges, the international community of partners in development must support growth of much-needed technologies, knowledge, and policies in places where they’re needed most.



Photo by Arez Ghaderi



## Who contributes to international development programs?

Effective development programs are driven by local country ownership and partnership and support a country's capacity and commitment to solve their own development challenge. Development does not take place unless local ownership exists.

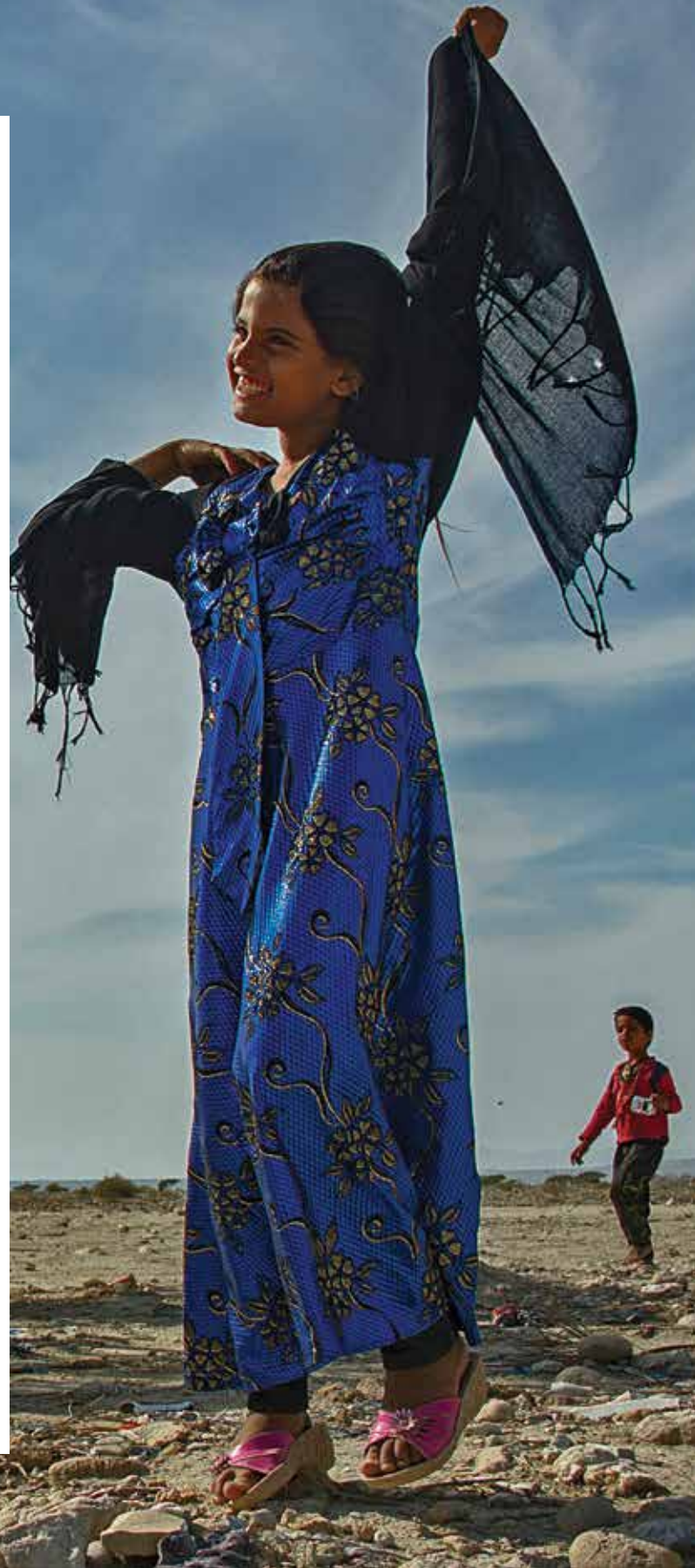
Resources for international development programs come in all forms and demonstrate the wide diversity of people committed to and investing in ending global poverty.

Key contributors include:

- local and international NGOs
- local country governments
- multilateral organizations
- donor country governments
- local and international businesses
- universities and research institutions
- private foundations
- individuals

These contributions to international development programs help to combat global poverty and support the development of peaceful and sustainable societies.

The implementation of international development programs falls predominantly to local and international NGOs and faith-based organizations working at the country and subnational level, often in conjunction with local governments. In recent years, the international private sector has emerged as a key complement to other sources of development assistance helping accelerate development growth and achieve greater impact and scale. Recognizing that developing economies represent many of the fastest growing markets, customer bases and workforces, a growing number of private sector actors — including U.S. and global corporations, local businesses based in developing countries, financial institutions, impact investors and entrepreneurs — are proactively seeking opportunities to drive growth and profitability while delivering impact in the communities and countries where they operate.



# **HUMANITARIAN ACTION 101**

Humanitarian responses assist people affected by disasters due to natural hazards or armed conflict, and seek to enhance the safeguarding of their rights. NGOs are guided by the humanitarian imperative to save lives and reduce human suffering wherever it happens.



# State of Humanitarian Action

## An ever-growing number of global crises have resulted in:

- 134.1 million people in need of humanitarian assistance<sup>21</sup>
- 68.5 million have been forcibly displaced<sup>22</sup>
- 83 million require emergency food assistance<sup>23</sup>

While these numbers are staggering and difficult to fully comprehend, one must remember that individual human lives are behind the statistics, individual men, women, and children torn away from their daily existences by conflict or natural disasters they have no control over. Despite the increased needs of these vulnerable people, who lack the basics for survival (food, water, shelter, medical attention), resources devoted to global humanitarian responses remain wildly insufficient, the gap approaching \$10 billion each year.<sup>24</sup>

Along with short term responses, humanitarian action also encompasses longer-term challenges to survival such as means to protect from violence, recurring natural disasters or prolonged conflicts and population displacements.

Most international large-scale humanitarian responses now focus on the needs of affected populations in conflict; crises that tend to last for years or decades and require political solutions. Responses to natural disasters require less and less support and assistance from international organizations as the capacities and response systems are now effective in most disaster prone countries and regions.

## The Humanitarian Sector

The humanitarian sector, from its voluntary roots, has in the past 30 years dramatically professionalized, defining stringent technical, operational, and financial standards to be as effective and accountable as possible to the beneficiaries of its programs as well as to its funders. The humanitarian sector is employing an estimated 570,000 people globally, overwhelmingly originating from the countries that are experiencing conflicts and disasters.

## Humanitarian Principles<sup>25</sup>

Humanitarian organizations, in order to reach the civilians who do not have access to basic goods and services necessary for their survival, abide by four commonly agreed upon and ratified humanitarian principles:



### HUMANITY

Human suffering must be addressed wherever it is found.



### NEUTRALITY

Humanitarian actors must not take sides in hostilities or engage in controversies of a political, racial, religious, or ideological nature.



### IMPARTIALITY

Humanitarian action must be carried out based on need alone, giving priority to the most urgent cases of distress and making no distinctions based on nationality, race, gender, religious belief, class, or political opinions.



### INDEPENDENCE

Humanitarian action must be autonomous from the political, economic, military, or other objectives that any actor where humanitarian action is being implemented.

Adherence to these principles help ensure the impartiality of humanitarian efforts and ensure that humanitarians are able to reach those in greatest need.

# Humanitarian Action 101

(continued)



Photo by Laura Eldon/Oxfam



## The Global Humanitarian System

To facilitate predictable, effective, timely, and coordinated responses to humanitarian crises, United Nations agencies and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) work together at the local and global level.

### Key components of the global humanitarian system:

- **Inter-Agency Steering Committee (IASC)** – The primary mechanism for inter-agency coordination of humanitarian assistance globally. It is composed of various lead UN agencies (such as the Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the High Commissioner for Refugees, the World Food Program, and others), and consortia of international NGOs (including InterAction).
- **The cluster system** – A means of assuring that all responding agencies align strategies, identify gaps in coverage at the technical sector level (health, nutrition or protection, for instance).

## Challenges in Humanitarian Response

While subsequent papers cover specific issues impacting humanitarian action in greater depth, there are key topline issues that should be highlighted.

- **Restrictions on humanitarian access** – Affected populations' access to services is essential to an effective humanitarian response. However, host governments, nonstate groups, and even donor governments are increasingly hampering humanitarian actors' ability to access people in need through unnecessary regulations, restrictions, and compliance requirements. Additionally, restrictions on populations' freedom of movement and security concerns further hinder peoples' ability to receive assistance.
- **Disregard for international norms** – Parties to conflict and other actors have shown increasing disregard for humanitarian principles and international humanitarian law. This results in physical attacks on humanitarian actors and civilians, direct attacks upon civilian infrastructure used to facilitate humanitarian response, and physical denial of access to vulnerable populations among other concerns.
- **Funding gap** – The gap between humanitarian needs and funding to meet those needs is an ongoing problem, but one that has grown more pronounced in the last decade.
- **Connectivity with preparedness and recovery** – While constrained by the above factors, humanitarian response is also hampered by insufficient preparation for cyclical or man-made crises and for connecting with development actors after the early recovery.



# **U.S. FOREIGN ASSISTANCE 101**

Foreign assistance is aid given by the U.S. government to support global peace, security, and development efforts, and to provide humanitarian relief during times of crisis. Foreign assistance promotes American leadership and is a strategic, economic, and moral imperative for the United States.



# U.S. Foreign Assistance Drives Progress

U.S. investments in antipoverty programs have yielded huge dividends. U.S. foreign assistance programs have a history of bipartisan action and leadership. Programs are data-driven, cost effective, transparent, inclusive and accountable to the American people. At approximately 1% of the federal budget, foreign assistance can continue to make an enormous difference in saving lives, protecting children, improving health, and helping families and communities become self-reliant.<sup>26</sup>

**U.S. leadership and investments impact people around the world, creating healthier, safer, and more stable communities. U.S. investments:**

- Save lives and reaffirm the rights of individuals.
- Make communities and our planet more resilient to shocks and stressors.
- Mitigate crises and reduce the need for emergency humanitarian action.
- Increase global prosperity and help to expand markets, supporting U.S. economic interests.

Over the last 30 years, U.S. assistance has contributed to cutting in half the number of preventable deaths of children under 5,<sup>27</sup> the number of people living in poverty, and the number of children and adolescents out of school. USAID programming has lifted 23.4 million people in rural communities and mobilized up to \$2.3 billion in private financing for more than 100,000 entrepreneurs. Such results show that U.S. government engagement matters and is consistent with the values and generosity of the American people.

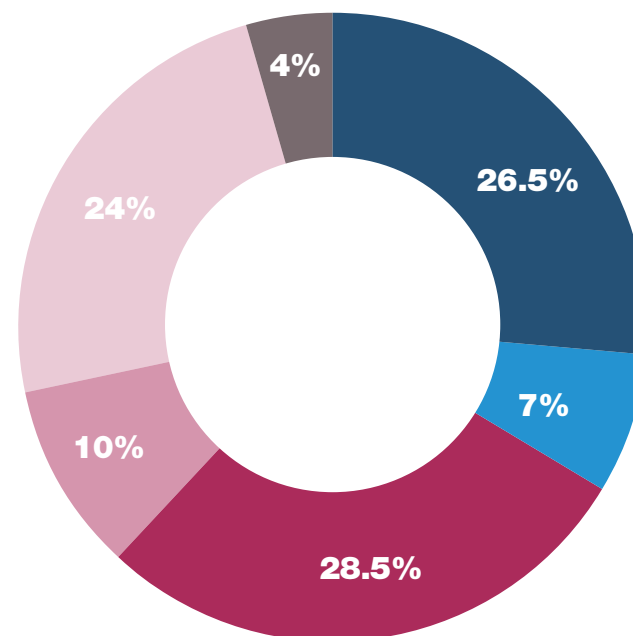
## AMERICAN CITIZENS ARE INVESTED IN FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

The American public's strong support for foreign assistance is consistently evident in polling data. However, the public thinks our official assistance is vastly higher than it is. In a recent poll, the median estimate of foreign aid's share of the federal budget was 25% while the median preferred level was 10%. The actual level is approximately 1%, only one-tenth of the public's median preference level.<sup>28</sup>

On practical grounds, our foreign assistance helps develop and open economies around the world; 11 of America's top 15 trading partners were once recipients of foreign aid.<sup>29</sup> Most Americans agree that assisting those affected by disasters and supporting those pulling themselves out of poverty stem directly from American values, regardless of other U.S. contributions.

## U.S. Foreign Assistance Account Funding by Objective

**FY2017 Actual - \$38,463,302,000**



\* Categories of assistance as defined in the Congressional Budget Justification: Department of State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs FY19



# U.S. Foreign Assistance 101

(continued)



## A Brief History of U.S. Foreign Assistance

The first major U.S. aid program took place shortly after World War II. Spearheaded by Secretary of State George Marshall, this program provided significant aid to Europe after the war to assist in rebuilding the infrastructure, stabilizing the region, and strengthening the economy. This led to the creation of several additional foreign assistance programs, culminating in the enactment of the Foreign Assistance Act, signed by President Kennedy, and the creation of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). USAID became the first U.S. agency to primarily focus was long-term global development, including economic and social progress.

Over the past several decades, U.S. international development assistance has undergone many iterations and shifts in priorities to make development programs more effective and efficient and to reach more communities. Today, USAID has missions in over 100 countries to support country partners in becoming self-reliant and capable of leading their own development journeys.<sup>31</sup>

Photo by Geoff Olivier Bugbee



## U.S. Support for Humanitarian Assistance

With the generous support of Congress, the U.S. government is the world's largest single donor for humanitarian response. While the U.S. government itself rarely provides direct humanitarian assistance, key U.S. personnel assure taxpayer accountability, make policy decisions in Washington, D.C., and help implementing partners through embassies, USAID missions and field coordination teams.

Humanitarian needs are increasingly a result of a changing climate and/or conflict. Conflict prompts more interaction between humanitarian actors and parties to conflict – including the United States military. It is vitally important for the sake of principled and effective response in conflict settings to avoid any appearance of implementing partners supporting or receiving direct support from any military. However, humanitarian and military actors do need to acknowledge shared space, and may sometimes be driven together during a sudden onset emergency. In order to define and facilitate such coordination, InterAction worked with the U.S. military and the U.S. Institute for Peace (USIP) to develop guidelines to address how the US military and US non-governmental organizations should behave towards each other in non-permissive environments like those in Iraq and Afghanistan.<sup>30</sup>

## Partners in Action: U.S. Government Agencies and Nongovernmental Organizations

Countless international and local NGOs, civil society organizations (CSOs), and faith-based organizations are devoted to solving international development challenges. U.S.-based international NGOs are key partners and implementers of U.S. development and humanitarian programs. International NGOs and CSOs are also pivotal connectors to local communities.

Several U.S. government agencies play key roles in U.S. foreign assistance, reflecting the multifaceted impact and investment of U.S. international and development programs. Guided by strategic direction from USAID and the Department of State (DoS), each agency contributes its expertise to the spectrum of international development and humanitarian programs to ensure U.S. foreign assistance is effective and efficient.

The U.S. government directs development support through agencies that often use NGOs' capacities to implement programs abroad. U.S. foreign assistance works across many agencies, from the Centers for Disease Control to the Department of Defense (DoD), to implement its goals in specific ways. This coalition allows the United States to address the full spectrum of development and humanitarian needs.

### PRIMARY U.S. FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AGENCIES INCLUDE:

#### U.S. Agency for International Development

- USAID's mission promotes democratic values abroad and advances a free, peaceful, and prosperous world.
- In-country missions manage partnerships with organizations and act as de facto diplomats for democracy abroad.

#### U.S. Department of State

- The Office of U.S. Foreign Assistance Resources (F), established in 2006, leads the coordination of U.S. foreign assistance.
- It advances U.S. national interest and development objectives by coordinating policy, planning, and performance management efforts; promoting evidence-informed decision making; and providing strategic direction for the DoS and USAID foreign assistance resources.

#### Millennium Challenge Corporation

- MCC provides time-limited grants to allow partner governments to refine and implement their own development solutions in alignment with the new SDGs.
- MCC works to fund programs so countries can cement good policies and governmental reach.

#### U.S. Department of Treasury

- The Department of Treasury supports global development progress as well as U.S. national security and economic interests overseas by promoting strong financial sector stability and governance in developing countries.
- Through Treasury, the U.S. also exercises leadership in international financial institutions such as the World Bank, and other regional development banks.

#### U.S. Development Finance Corporation

- Created by the passage of the BUILD Act in 2018, the U.S. DFC consolidates the Development Credit Authority (DCA) from USAID and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) to better equip the U.S. government with development finance tools to catalyze market-based, private-sector development, spur economic growth in less-developed countries, and advance the foreign-policy interests of the United States.

# IMPACT OF U.S. LEADERSHIP AND INVESTMENTS IN FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

U.S. foreign assistance programs have a history of bipartisan action and are inclusive, data-driven, transparent, and accountable to the American people.



## CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

**80%**

of the countries in which USAID works are fragile and conflict-affected. U.S. government funds upward of

**\$750 million**

annually to directly and indirectly address violent conflict abroad.



## DEMOCRACY, RIGHTS, AND GOVERNANCE

Since 2011, USAID's Human Rights Grants Program has addressed the most urgent Human Rights challenges in

**89**

different countries.<sup>32</sup>



## BASIC EDUCATION

From 2011-2017, USAID education programs have reached over

**109 million learners** in more than 50 countries,

including **22.6 million children living in conflict** or crisis settings.<sup>33</sup>



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

USAID has mobilized up to

**\$2.3 billion**

in private financing for more than

**100,000 entrepreneurs**

around the world over the past 12 years, through USAID's Development Credit Authority.<sup>34</sup>



## FOOD SECURITY, AGRICULTURE, AND NUTRITION

Since 2011, the Feed the Future Initiative has lifted

**23.4 million people**

in rural communities out of poverty.<sup>35</sup>

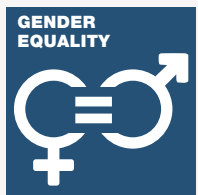


## CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

In Kenya **USAID** investments in natural resource management have helped to put

**6 million hectares**

(roughly the size of West Virginia) under improved management practices, making the area more resilient in the face of drought.<sup>38</sup>



## GENDER EQUALITY

Currently, **USAID** has gender programs in

**80 countries.**

In Afghanistan, **USAID** works to strengthen women's participation civil society, helps women gain business and management skills, and fosters women's increased participation in government.<sup>36</sup>



## WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE

From 2009-2017,

**37.3 million people received**

sustainable access to an improved water supply, and

**24.1 million people received**

improved access to sanitation facilities.<sup>39</sup>



## GLOBAL HEALTH

As of March 2018, PEPFAR had supported lifesaving treatment for 14 million people, prevented

**2.2 million children**

from being born with HIV, and trained nearly

**250,000 new health workers**

in HIV and other essential services.<sup>37</sup>



# HOW IS U.S. FOREIGN ASSISTANCE FUNDED?

## LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

The authority for funding foreign assistance comes from the **Foreign Assistance Act of 1961**, which “promote[s] the foreign policy, security, and general welfare of the United States by assisting peoples of the world in their efforts toward economic development and internal and external security, and for other purposes.”<sup>40</sup> The Foreign Assistance Act has been amended multiple times since initial passage but never fully reauthorized.



## U.S. GOVERNMENT BUDGET OVERVIEW

The government goes through the budget process annually to determine discretionary spending levels (32% of the overall U.S. federal budget).

The latest spending levels show that the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Bill, which funds most of humanitarian and development accounts, **represents approximately 1% of the entire budget.**<sup>41</sup>



## KEY FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACCOUNTS



### International Development

The primary development accounts are **Development Assistance** and the **Economic Support Fund**. These accounts fund Food Security and Agricultural Development, Democracy Programs, Environmental Programs, and Basic Education across the globe, together totaling **\$7 billion.**<sup>42</sup>



### Humanitarian Assistance

The U.S. government provides humanitarian assistance primarily through three accounts, which together total **\$7.6 billion: International Disaster Assistance, Migration and Refugee Assistance, and Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance.**<sup>43</sup>



### International Organizations and Programs

The **International Organizations and Programs (IO&P)** account provides voluntary contributions to international organizations that advance U.S. strategic goals across a broad spectrum of critical development, humanitarian, and scientific activities.



### Global Health

The U.S. provides **\$8.7 billion** in global health funding for maternal and child health, nutrition, family planning, and vaccines, as well as for prevention and treatment for HIV, malaria, and tuberculosis.<sup>44</sup>

## HOW U.S. FUNDING IS DELIVERED TO PROGRAMS

Guided by directives from Congress, government agencies and departments set policy and implement programs. Most of these agencies and organizations deliver the funds to beneficiaries on the ground through implementing partners, such as NGOs in the InterAction community, in the form of grants, cooperative agreements, and/or contracts.

# U.S. GOVERNMENT FUNDING PROCESS

## The Executive Branch<sup>58</sup>

Agencies and OMB develop budget justifications for the entire U.S. government.

- The budget development process can begin more than two years in advance of enactment.
- Each year, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) creates general guidelines for the budgeting process of each agency. The agencies will develop their budgets based on those guidelines and their needs, submitting the resulting budget request to OMB.
- OMB develops and publishes the President's Budget Request for Congress after internal review.

## The Legislative Branch

Congress appropriates funding through 12 appropriations bills each fiscal year.

### Appropriations Authority

- Congress has the constitutional power to appropriate money for the federal government.
- Appropriations subcommittees will put together 12 appropriations bills that fund the operations and programs of the U.S. government.
- Currently, foreign assistance funding comes from three different appropriations bills: The State and Foreign Operations Bill (SFOPs), the Agriculture Appropriations Bill, and the Labor, Health and Human Services Bill.

### The Congressional Budget Process

- The Congressional Appropriations Process begins after the release of the President's Budget Request. Congress then holds hearings on topics of interest to the drafting of the appropriations bills.
- The regular appropriations process is supposed to end on September 30 of the previous fiscal year with the enactment of the 12 appropriation bills the appropriations bill; recently, however, the government has been operating on continuing resolutions and enacting final legislation in February or March of the year for which they are appropriating funds.
- Recently, the process has been significantly delayed, often with no agreement reached until February or March. The process that is supposed to take a few months instead takes more than a year.

## Foreign Assistance Allocation Process

Congress and Executive Agencies work together to allocate appropriated funds.

- After enactment, the Foreign Assistance Act and the SFOPs bill require DoS/USAID to develop and submit certain plans and notifications to Congress for some programs.
- The agencies present plans and notifications to Congress.
- Upon completion, funds then undergo a procurement process – a process that identifies ways for the agencies to disburse and spend money.
- This entire process, from enactment to spending, can take up to two years.

## Regular Appropriations Process

### STEP 1

Appropriations subcommittees of both chambers draft and vote on the bill.

### STEP 2

Appropriations committees of both chambers vote on the bill.

### STEP 3

**STEP 3.** Full House and Senate floor discussion and vote on the bill.

### STEP 4

**STEP 4.** Conference by both chambers to reach an agreement on the bill.

### STEP 5

**STEP 5.** Becomes public law after the President signs the bill.

## FUNDING CHALLENGES FOR U.S. FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

**The growing need.** U.S. foreign assistance resources have not kept pace with the growing global need.

**The uncertain process.** The long and complex funding processes prevent beneficiaries from obtaining the best development and humanitarian assistance available.

**The threat of rescissions.** The threat of rescissions for humanitarian and development funds limits or reduces the scale and scope of beneficiaries that depend on the U.S.' help to survive.

# THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE MAP

## Key Congressional Committees engaged in U.S. Foreign Assistance

**Several congressional committees have oversight over U.S. foreign assistance, some with overarching jurisdiction and some with program specific jurisdiction.** Congress also established dozens of member caucuses to develop policy or raise awareness on specific issues, including, the Effective Foreign Assistance Caucus, the Hunger Caucus, the International Basic Education Caucus and the Tuberculosis Elimination Caucus, as well as, several regional or country specific caucuses.

**Key congressional committees include:**

## United States Senate<sup>45</sup>

### SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

The Senate Appropriations Committee and its 12 subcommittees are responsible for legislation that allocates federal funds to the numerous government agencies, departments, and organizations on an annual basis.

Appropriations are generally limited to the levels set by the budget resolution, drafted by the Senate Committee on the Budget. Each subcommittee is responsible for reviewing the President's budget request, hearing testimony from officials, and drafting spending plans for the coming fiscal year.

#### Key Subcommittee:

**State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs (SFOPs)** – SFOPs has jurisdiction over agencies relating to DoS and other foreign policy spending initiatives. These include DoS, USAID, peacekeeping operations, poverty-focused and humanitarian assistance accounts, and global health programs.

### SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations and its seven subcommittees are responsible for developing and influencing U.S. foreign policy.

The committee holds jurisdiction over treaties, diplomatic nominations, and other foreign policy legislation, shaping U.S. foreign policy. Specifically, the committee is responsible for overseeing (but not administering) foreign aid programs as well as arms sales; training for national allies and multilateral banks; and reviewing matters relating to U.S. national security policy, foreign policy, and international economic policy.

#### Subcommittees:

- Near East, South Asia, Central Asia, and Counterterrorism
- Europe and Regional Security Cooperation
- Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime, Civilian Security, Democracy, Human Rights, and Global Women's Issues
- Africa and Global Health Policy
- East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy
- Multilateral International Development, Multilateral Institutions, and International Economic Energy and Environmental Policy
- DoS and USAID Management, International Operations, and Bilateral International Development

### SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

The Budget Committee, created by the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, is responsible for drafting plans for Congress and monitoring and enforcing rules surrounding spending, revenue, and the federal budget. The committee's principal responsibility is to develop a concurrent resolution on the budget to serve as the framework for congressional action on spending, revenue, and its debt-limit legislation.





## United States House of Representatives<sup>46</sup>

### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

The House Appropriations Committee and 12 subcommittees are responsible for legislation that allocates federal funds to the numerous government agencies, departments, and organizations on an annual basis. Appropriations are generally limited to the levels set by the House Committee on the Budget's draft budget resolution. Each subcommittee is responsible for reviewing the President's budget request, hearing testimony from officials, and drafting spending plans for the coming fiscal year.

#### Key Subcommittee:

**State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs (SFOPs)** – SFOPs has jurisdiction over agencies relating to DoS and other foreign policy spending initiatives. These include DoS, USAID, peacekeeping operations, poverty-focused and humanitarian assistance accounts, and global health programs.

### HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The House Foreign Affairs Committee and its six subcommittees are responsible for developing and influencing U.S. foreign policy. The committee holds jurisdiction over foreign policy legislation. Specifically, the committee is responsible for overseeing (but not administering) foreign aid programs as well as arms sales; training for national allies and multilateral banks; and reviewing matters relating to U.S. national security policy, foreign policy, and international economic policy.

#### Subcommittees:

- Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations
- Asia and the Pacific
- Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats
- Middle East and North Africa
- Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade
- Western Hemisphere

### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

The Budget Committee, created by the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, is responsible for drafting plans for Congress and monitoring and enforcing rules surrounding spending, revenue, and the federal budget. The committee's principal responsibility is to develop a concurrent resolution on the budget to serve as the framework for congressional action on spending, revenue, and its debt-limit legislation.

# WHO IS AT THE TABLE?

The U.S. government is just one of many actors combating global poverty and contributing to international development and humanitarian successes. Other key partners and actors, from other countries, to the United Nations (UN), to foundations, to private investments, to U.S.-based NGOs, administer international development and humanitarian assistance programs. U.S. government investments often act as a catalyst for additional investment and help to guide global priorities.

## Local Country Governments

Country ownership is routinely highlighted as a key principle of good development practice. Country ownership is the full and effective participation of a country's population through legislative bodies, civil society, private sector and local, regional and national government in conceptualizing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating development policies, programs and processes. This allows for better targeting of resources, strengthened accountability among the various stakeholders, and increased sustainability and success. By empowering and supporting governments and citizens to plan, finance, and implement solutions to solve its own development challenges, NGOs, partnering agencies, etc. help countries on the path to become self-reliant.

## Local Civil Society

Civil society organizations (CSOs) are the third sector of society, alongside government and business. They comprise community groups, the press, NGOs, labor unions, indigenous groups, faith-based organizations, professional associations, and organizations that work in the interests of citizens. CSOs play a vital voice in enabling people to claim their rights, in promoting rights-based approaches, in shaping development policies and partnerships, and in overseeing their implementation, operating as a valuable check for government and business through partnership and engagement.

## International and Multilateral Organizations

The roots of modern multilateral organizations go back to the creation of the UN in 1945, after World War II. Additionally, the immediate postwar years witnessed the creation of a system of multilateral financial institutions to rebuild the global economic order devastated by the Great Depression and World War II. These institutions include the World Bank Group, the International Monetary Fund, and what became the World Trade Organization. The Cold War years brought about the formation of multiple regional development banks – the African, Asian, and Inter-American Development Banks – to provide specialized lending and technical assistance. Today, multilateral organizations have evolved to work on every continent and in every sector.

There are dozens of multilateral organizations, each with its own size and scope, and each created to tackle some specific set of international issues. Multilateral organizations are important elements of global development and humanitarian response. Multilateral organizations play an important role in the social and economic programs of developing and transitioning countries.<sup>47</sup>

### THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

The United Nations is a primary actor in nearly all development and humanitarian spaces and mobilizes the UN member states and the broader international community to collectively combat global poverty and conflict and promote human rights. The UN system is made up of the UN itself and dozens of affiliated programs, funds, and specialized agencies, all with their own membership, leadership, and budget. The UN works across the globe to maintain international peace and security, protect human rights, deliver humanitarian aid, promote sustainable development, and uphold international law.

Since 2015, the UN programming and investments have been driven by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a 15-year plan divided into 17 different goals that provide a shared blueprint on how to tackle development challenges. The SDGs currently guide international development investments and track progress and effectiveness through a intersectional set of indicator.<sup>48</sup>

## INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (IMF)

The IMF comprises 189 countries and works to foster global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, promote high employment and sustainable economic growth, and reduce poverty around the world. The IMF's primary purpose is to ensure the stability of the international monetary system.<sup>49</sup>

## WORLD BANK

The World Bank fights poverty through grants, loans, and technical assistance provided to low- and middle-income countries. Governed by 189 member countries, the Bank is one of the world's largest sources of funding and knowledge for developing countries. Its five institutions share a commitment to reducing poverty, increasing shared prosperity, and promoting sustainable development.<sup>50</sup>

## GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA

The Global Fund is an international public-private partnership designed to accelerate efforts to end the AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria epidemics. The Global Fund works with national governments, civil society, the private sector, and those affected by HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria to fund targeted efforts to end the epidemics. Since 2002, the Global Fund partnership has saved 27 million lives and has maintained strong U.S. bipartisan support for its efficient and collaborative work with the U.S. bilateral programs, its ability to leverage domestic resources and donor investments in global health, protect U.S. health security, and spur economic growth.<sup>51</sup>

## Donor Countries

The U.S. is not the only country that invests in international development programs. In fact, according to an Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) report, in 2017, the 30 countries of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) contributed a total of \$146.6 billion in official development assistance to poorer countries. The United States, Germany, the United Kingdom, Japan, and France give the largest dollar amounts. In comparison, Sweden, Luxembourg, Norway, and Denmark's contributions represented the largest percentage of their gross national income.<sup>52</sup>

China is another key development player. China has long contributed to international development through foreign assistance mechanisms primarily intended for commercial access and market expansion. As a result, almost half of China's aid was spent on infrastructure sectors including energy generation and supply, transportation, storage and communication. In 2018, China announced the creation of the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA), which will centralize and eventually expand China's international development efforts.<sup>53</sup>

## The Private Sector

In recent years, engagement with the international private sector has emerged as a key complement to other sources of development assistance to help accelerate economic growth and achieve greater impact and scale.<sup>54</sup> Recognizing that developing economies represent many of the fastest growing markets, customer bases and workforces, a growing number of private sector actors — including U.S. and global corporations, local businesses based in developing countries, financial institutions, impact investors and entrepreneurs — are proactively seeking opportunities to drive growth and profitability while delivering impact in the communities and countries where they operate.

Each private sector actor engages in development differently, some are involved in advancing the development agenda through their bottom line and others via corporate social responsibility. The U.S. has infrastructure abroad to support and promote U.S. private sector engagement in development. This infrastructure will be further enhanced by the new U.S. Development Finance Corporation that was authorized in 2018.<sup>55</sup>

Private foundations also play a vital role in international development programs as key funders for program implementation and international advocacy. Private foundations play an increasingly prominent role in the scale of their giving and in their ability to set the agenda for international development. Examples of some of the largest U.S. private foundations working to support developments include: The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Open Society Foundations, Ford Foundation, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and United Nations Foundation.<sup>56</sup>



## WHO IS AT THE TABLE? (continued)

### U.S. Based International NGOs<sup>57</sup>

U.S. based international NGOs play a critical role in implementation of development and humanitarian programs, shaping of international development policy, and serving as a connector for the American people.

InterAction is the largest alliance of U.S.-based international nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) working to eliminate extreme poverty, strengthen human rights and citizen participation, safeguard a sustainable planet, promote peace, and ensure dignity for all people. InterAction serves as a convener and NGO community thought leader, working to mobilize our 200-plus members to collectively advocate for policies and solutions that advance the lives of people in the poorest and most marginalized conditions. Our members mobilize an estimated \$15 billion of private funding from American citizens and implement development and humanitarian programs in nearly every country around the globe.

#### INTERACTION'S WORK

##### Access to Learning and Information

- InterAction's field mission reports, white papers, and other publications provide timely updates on current issues.
- Our annual InterAction Forum, CEO Retreat, and over 800 meetings each year bring together members, outside experts, government officials, and other stakeholders on numerous issues.
- Adhering to InterAction's standards gives member agencies widely recognized legitimacy in the vital areas of governance, financial management, and program performance.

##### Increased Exposure

- We amplify the voice of the sector and complement member efforts with traditional and social media strategies, press referrals, and online tactics.
- The members-only InterAction NGO Aid Map provides an at-a-glance mapping of who is doing what, where, around the globe.

##### Ability to Influence Government

- We open doors and access to top-level government officials and disseminate timely information on legislative, policy, and budgetary issues that impact the community.

##### Leading Change

- InterAction works to address bold issues including international humanitarian law; prevention of sexual abuse; and gender-based violence, risk, and disinformation.
- Our NGO Futures Initiative convenes leaders to adapt to the rapidly changing political, environmental, technological, and economic sector shifts.

##### Engaging in Global Processes

- InterAction represents NGO perspectives through our active engagement in the United Nations Inter-Agency Standing Committee.
- InterAction has taken the lead on NGO engagement through our role on the Grand Bargain facilitation team for more effective information sharing and collective positioning.

#### INTERACTION'S MEMBERS

Our members work around the world, united by the commitment to working with the world's poor and vulnerable and a belief that we can make the world a more peaceful, just, and prosperous place – together. Our members' activities mobilize an estimated \$15 billion of private funding thanks to generous contributions from the American people.

InterAction membership represents the diversity of the American people. Our members include all types of organizations, big and small, faith-based/founded and secular, multisectoral and sector-specific, each with diverse perspectives and approaches to tackling international and humanitarian development challenges. But all members embody a philosophy that reflects InterAction's values of partnership, humanitarianism, sustainable development, justice, diversity, ethical practice, and gender equality, and are required to follow a rigorous set of operational standards that are designed to ensure that programs are effective and efficient.

**200+**  
**1.5**  
**More than 60,000**

**InterAction member NGOs are supported by \$15 billion of private contributions.**

**million volunteers**

**Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and Buddhist congregation and faith communities.**

#### HOW INTERACTION ENGAGES WITH U.S. CONGRESS AND THE ADMINISTRATION:

InterAction advocates for the policy priorities of its members, primarily with the Legislative and Executive Branch of the U.S. Government, but also with partners, think tanks, and the private sector. We work to coordinate the policy positions of InterAction members, as well as the community's outreach efforts, to maximize the effectiveness of NGOs in influencing the U.S. government's policy decisions and budget priorities. InterAction's advocacy focuses on funding poverty-focused development programs and humanitarian relief, while also engaging on issues such as foreign assistance reform; democracy, rights, and governance; global health; food security and nutrition; water and sanitation; and humanitarian access.

# InterAction Member Organizations (as of December 2018)

1,000 Days	CORE Group	Charities (IOCC)	Solidarity Center
ACDI/VOCA	Creative Learning	International Relief Teams	SPOON
Action Against Hunger USA	Cross International	International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Syrian American Medical Society Foundation
Adventist Development and Relief Agency International (ADRA)	Doctors of the World USA	International Social Service — United States of America Branch, Inc.	Syria Relief and Development
African Methodist Episcopal Service and Development Agency (AME-SADA)	Embrace Relief	International Youth Foundation	Team Rubicon Global
Aga Khan Foundation USA	Engineers Without Borders USA	IntraHealth International, Inc.	Trickle Up Program
Airlink	Episcopal Relief & Development	Islamic Medical Association of North America	Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
Alliance for International Medical Action (ALIMA USA)	Ethiopian Community Development Council	Islamic Relief USA	United Methodist Committee on Relief
All Hands and Hearts - Smart Response	Feed the Children	Jesuit Refugee Service/USA	united Mission for Relief and Development
Alliance for Peacebuilding	Food for the Hungry	Jhpiego – an affiliate of The Johns Hopkins University	U.S. Climate Action Network (USCAN)
Alliance to End Hunger	Friends of ACTED	Keystone Human Services International	U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants
American Jewish World Service	Friends of the Global Fight	Life for Relief and Development	U.S. Fund for UNICEF
American Red Cross International Services	FXB USA	Lutheran World Relief	USA for UNHCR
American Refugee Committee	Giving Children Hope	MAG America	Village Enterprise
American Relief Agency for the Horn of Africa (ARAHA)	Global Communities	Management Sciences for Health (MSH)	WaterAid America
AmeriCares	Global Health Council	Medical Care Development	Water for South Sudan
AmericasRelief Team	Global Impact	MedShare International	WEEMA International
Amref Health Africa, INC.	Global Links	Mennonite Central Committee U.S.	WellShare International
Ananda Marga Universal Relief Team (AMURT & AMURTEL)	Good Neighbors	Mercy Corps	Women for Women International
Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs (ANDE)	Habitat for Humanity International	Mercy-USA for Aid and Development	Women's Refugee Commission, Inc.
Association of Volunteers in International Service, USA (AVSI-USA)	Headwaters Relief Organization	Mercy Without Limits	World Bicycle Relief
Asylum Access	Healey International Relief Foundation	Mobility International USA	World Concern
Bank Information Center	Heart to Heart International	National Association of Social Workers	World Connect
Baptist World Alliance	Heartland Alliance	The Nature Conservancy	World Food Program USA
Basic Education Coalition (BEC)	Heifer International	NCBA CLUSA	World Hope International
Bethany Christian Services Global, LLC	Helen Keller International	Near East Foundation	World Institute on Disability
Better World Fund	HelpAge USA	Norwegian Refugee Council USA	World Justice Project
BOMA Project	Helping Hand for Relief and Development	ONE	World Learning
BRAC USA	Helvetas USA	Operation USA	World Rehabilitation Fund
Bread for the World	HIAS	Oxfam America	World Renew
Bread for the World Institute	Himalayan Cataract Project	PATH	World Vision
Bridge of Life	Holt International Children's Services	PCI	Worldwide Orphans Foundation
Brother's Brother Foundation	Humentum	Perkins International	Zakat Foundation of America
Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation	The Hunger Project	Physicians for Peace	
Build Change	IHC Global Coalition for Inclusive Housing and Sustainable Cities	Plan International USA	
Cadasta Foundation	iMMAP	Planet Aid	<b>ASSOCIATE MEMBERS</b>
CARE	INMED Partnerships for Children	Plant with Purpose	American Relief Coalition for Syria
Catholic Relief Services	Interchurch Medical Assistance, Inc. (IMA World Health)	Population Communication	Center for Justice and Peacebuilding, Eastern Mennonite University
CDA Collaborative Learning Projects	International Budget Partnership	Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Hunger Program	Crown Agents Foundation
Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC)	International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC)	Project C.U.R.E.	GBG Foundation
Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE)	International Center for Not-for-Profit Law	Project Hope	Institute of International Humanitarian Affairs, Fordham University
Child Aid	International Center for Research on Women (ICRW)	Refugees International	International Development, Community, and Environment Dept., Clark University
ChildFund International	International Emergency and Development Aid (IEDA Relief)	Relief International	Public Interest Registry (PIR)
Church World Service	International Eye Foundation USA	RESULTS	RTI International
Coalition for Integrity	International Lifeline Fund	ReSurge International	The Notre Dame Initiative for Global Development (NDIGD)
Combat Blindness International	International Medical Corps	Rise Against Hunger	Transnational NGO Initiative of the Moynihan Institute of Global Affairs at Maxwell School of Syracuse University
CONCERN Worldwide U.S., Inc.	International Medical Health Organization (IMHO)	Save the Children	War Child Canada
Congressional Hunger Center	International Orthodox Christian	Seva Foundation	
		Society for International Development (SID)	
		Solar Cookers International	



# KEY DEVELOPMENT SECTORS







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# CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

*Around the world, people are experiencing both the subtle and stark effects of climate change. Gradually shifting weather patterns, rising sea levels, and more extreme weather events are all clear and devastating evidence of a rapidly changing climate. Climate change threatens our ability to ensure global food security, eradicate poverty, and achieve sustainable development.<sup>59</sup>*

*U.S. efforts to support other countries' natural resource management, as well as prevention of and adaptation to climate change, are critical to ensuring adequate food and water supply, sustainable economic growth, and good governance worldwide. These investments promote resilience to environmental shocks and stressors, and enhance the capacities of local and national economies to develop foreign markets for American goods, contributing to U.S. economic objectives. Effective management of these natural resources reduces conflict, contributing to U.S. national security objectives.<sup>60</sup>*



## Why the United States Should Support Climate and Natural Resource Management:

- **Climate change threatens human life and global ecosystems.** In October 2018 the IPPCC issued a special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C above preindustrial levels. It states that global warming is likely to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052 if it continues to increase at the current rate. This warming will lead to irreversible changes in major ecosystems and the planetary climate system.<sup>61</sup>
- **Conserving natural resources helps meet the world's growing needs.** Global demand for food and water is expected to double in the next 30 years. Climate change has both direct and indirect effects on agricultural productivity including changing rainfall patterns, drought, flooding, and the geographical redistribution of pests and diseases.<sup>62</sup>
- **Conflict can arise when natural resources are not equitably managed.** Forty percent of intrastate conflicts within the past 60 years have been strongly linked to natural resources and competition over natural resources. Food crises and shortages also contribute to a rise in displacement, fueling the global refugee and migrant crisis.<sup>63</sup>
- **Weak management of natural resources overseas costs American businesses and affects American consumers.** Illegal logging in foreign countries costs the U.S. timber industry more than \$1 billion annually.<sup>64</sup> The U.S. imports 86% of its seafood; the U.S. government's support to other countries helps ensure that U.S. consumers can choose high-quality seafood for years to come.<sup>65</sup>
- **American dollars motivate our partners to pitch in and cause a multiplier effect.** The U.S. government has consistently been able to leverage 10 to 40 times the amount of money it invests in conservation and natural resource management from other donors.
- **Climate change disproportionately impacts the world's most vulnerable.** About three in four poor people live in rural areas, where they depend on natural resources for their livelihoods. Decreased water access, limited food sources, and increased competition for resources are often a matter of life and death.<sup>66</sup>

## Examples of Current U.S. Programs Addressing Climate Change and Natural Resource Management:

### GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

With over 4,000 projects in 170 countries, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) is the largest single financier of conservation in the world, providing grants in developing countries to protect biodiversity and critical habitats and invest in sustainable management of freshwater, forests, fisheries, agricultural areas, and other natural capital.<sup>67</sup>

### ADAPTATION, CLEAN ENERGY, SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES

Adaptation, clean energy, and sustainable landscape bilateral assistance programs help economically vulnerable communities gain access to secure electricity, prepare for natural disasters, and protect threatened forests and farmlands.<sup>68</sup>

### BIODIVERSITY PROGRAMS

USAID biodiversity programs ensure the livelihoods of millions of people who directly depend on natural resources for their survival and economic growth.<sup>69</sup>

### GREEN CLIMATE FUND

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) was established in 2010 by the global community to assist developing countries in reducing carbon emissions and increasing resilience to climate change.<sup>70</sup>

## Key Legislation and U.S. Government Policies

### UN Paris Climate Agreement

At the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP) in Paris in December 2015, Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) reached a landmark agreement to address climate change by accelerating the actions and investments need to globally reduce carbon to a sustainable amount – a key driving factor in a changing climate. In June 2017, President Trump announced that the U.S. would be pulling out of this historic agreement. The State Department has still been present at subsequent COPs, yet high level leadership is sorely lacking.<sup>71</sup>

# CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

*Violent conflict is “the large-scale outbreak of violence that occurs when groups in a society struggle for power and resources in the absence of structures to support peaceful conflict management.” Conflict is complex, multicausal, and multilayered, and changes over time. Conflict is often the result of fragility – “the failure to forge a minimally inclusive, legitimate, and accountable compact between the state and its society.” The symptoms of fragility can take many forms: civil wars between a government and an armed group, interstate conflict between two governments, one-sided violence that targets a specific ethnic or religious group, or killings at the hands of transnational criminal networks.<sup>72</sup>*

## Why the United States Invests in Addressing Violent Conflict:

- **Violent conflict costs the global economy \$14.76 trillion per year.** Conflict generates significant losses for domestic businesses and discourages foreign investment.<sup>73</sup>
- **Breeds threats such as terrorism, violent extremism, and mass atrocities (genocide).** These tragedies happen almost exclusively in the context of ongoing violent conflict.
- **Kills an estimated 600,000 people per year worldwide.** The vast majority of deaths from violence are innocent civilians in low- to middle-income countries; this leads to migration and displacement.<sup>74</sup>
- **It is currently the leading cause behind the forced displacement of 68.5 million people and the world’s humanitarian needs.** Without investing in ending the violence that generates these needs, costs may continue to rise.<sup>75</sup>
- **The U.S. government invests to protect decades of development gains and U.S. taxpayer dollars.** The majority of countries where USAID implements programs are fragile or vulnerable to conflict. Conflict both causes and is caused by poverty. It negatively impacts food security, access to clean water, education, gender equality, and overall economic growth; on average, GDP growth decreases between 2.5% and 5.2% during conflict.<sup>76</sup>
- **Hurts future generations.** Violent conflict makes children and youth more vulnerable to recruitment into armed forces, child marriage, trafficking, and exploitation. In conflicts around the world, children have become frontline targets, are used as human shields, killed, maimed, and recruited to fight.

## Examples of Current U.S. Programs to Address Violent Conflict:

### U.S. INSTITUTE OF PEACE (USIP)

USIP promotes national security and global stability by reducing violent conflicts in dozens of countries. It builds the capacity of the U.S. military, diplomatic, and development communities to combat extremism and stabilize war-torn countries.<sup>77</sup>

### COMPLEX CRISES FUND (CCF)

Implemented by USAID, CCF funding enables short-term, timely investments to rapidly catalyze peace and mitigate conflict in advance or in the face of unforeseen crises or violence. CCF funding has averted or responded to costly humanitarian crises arising from violent conflict or mass atrocities in 19 countries.<sup>78</sup>

### CONFLICT AND STABILIZATION OPERATIONS

Run by DoS, these programs and diplomatic initiatives prevent, mitigate, and respond to violent conflict. They include encouraging fighters leave from armed groups, empowering youth preventing mass atrocities and violence often associated with elections, and supporting peace processes. InterAction participates in the Stabilization Advisory Council, to advise on shared efforts around conflict prevention and stabilization.<sup>79</sup>

### ATROCITIES PREVENTION

The Atrocities Prevention Board (APB) is an interagency, undersecretary-level body that reviews country cases where genocide or mass atrocities might be imminent, seeking to better prioritize and effectively coordinate U.S. assistance and diplomatic weight to prevent and respond.<sup>80</sup>



## Key Legislation and U.S. Government Policies

### Global Fragility and Violence Reduction Act

*Passed the House in 115th Congress and at printing was hotlined in the Senate*

A bill to reduce global fragility and violence by improving the capacity of the United States to reduce and address the causes of violence, instability, and fragility.

### Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act

*Passed the House in 115th Congress*

A bill to help prevent acts of genocide and other atrocity crimes, which threaten national and international security, by enhancing U.S. government capacities to prevent, mitigate, and respond to such crises.

### 2018 Stabilization Assistance Review

An interagency review developed by the DoD, DoS, and USAID that outlines the ways in which the U.S. can more effectively leverage diplomatic engagements, defense, and foreign assistance to support stabilization in conflict-affected areas.<sup>81</sup>



Photo by Jonathan Torgovnik



# DEMOCRACY, RIGHTS, AND GOVERNMENT

*U.S. investments in Democracy, Rights, and Governance (DRG) expand space for vibrant civil societies and independent media; strengthen political and government institutions to be responsive to citizens' needs; promote transparency and accountability; strengthen the rule of law; foster equitable economic growth; promote tolerance and inclusiveness; protect human and labor rights; and support credible elections.<sup>82</sup>*

## Why the United States Invests in Democracy, Rights, and Governance Programs:

- **American Values.** The American people support democracy. In a June 2018 report released by the Democracy Project, “71% of respondents favor the U.S. government taking steps to support democracy and human rights in other countries.” The report also highlights that 78% of Americans either want sector support to increase or remain at current levels.<sup>83</sup>
- **U.S. National Interests.** As stated in the December 2017 National Security Strategy, “America’s commitment to liberty, democracy, and the rule of law serves as an inspiration for those living under tyranny.” Foreign assistance for DRG programming helps like-minded partners emerge economically and politically and leads to strong economic and security partnerships with the U.S..<sup>84</sup>
- **Promoting Civil Society.** Civil society comprises community groups, NGOs, labor unions, indigenous groups, faith-based organizations, professional associations, and organizations that work in the interests of citizens. Civil society serves as a valuable check and balance for government and corporate entities through engagement and partnership.<sup>85</sup>
- **Ending Extreme Poverty and Promoting Economic Prosperity.** Effective governance and accountable institutions are the foundation for U.S. assistance efforts to end extreme poverty and promote prosperity. The integration of human rights and civil liberties into development policy creates stronger communities and more opportunities that mitigate social tension and inequality.<sup>86</sup>

## Examples of Current U.S. Programs for Democracy, Rights, and Governance:<sup>87</sup>

### TECHNICAL ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE

U.S. assistance supports fair, inclusive, and transparent elections. For example, U.S.-based NGOs are implementing programs in Libya to support municipal elections by assisting with voter education, voter registration, and activities to promote the inclusion of women, youth, and people with disabilities.

### STRENGTHENING RULE OF LAW

Good governance provides for increased economic opportunity, promotes stable societies, and is responsive to citizen needs. Current U.S. support in the Philippines seeks to combat corruption, advance human rights, and expand access to justice.

### ACCESS TO INFORMATION

In today’s connected society, social platforms provide opportunity for increased social discourse but also an opportunity for agitators to undermine democratic processes and spread misinformation. U.S. support within vulnerable populations, such as refugees in Myanmar, work to provide access to trusted information provided by fellow citizens that encourage transparency and participation.

### PROMOTION OF RIGHTS

U.S. assistance seeks to make the same fundamental freedoms that Americans enjoy more accessible to everyone. This includes freedoms of speech and religion and basic human rights. For example, in Bangladesh, U.S. assistance helps workers in the garment industry promote safe and efficient working conditions with the goal of building trusted relationships between workers and management.

### ANTICORRUPTION

Corruption destabilizes economies and communities while often restricting benefits to a select few. The U.S. supports programs aimed at reducing corruption so that government services and economic and social benefits can reach more people. For example, to reduce corruption in Thailand, an antibribery initiative was developed in which businesses pledge not to pay or accept bribes.



Key Legislation and U.S. Government Policies

**Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act**  
*Enacted 2017*  
 The Global Magnitsky Act, named after Russian Sergei Magnitsky, an anticorruption advocate who was tortured and killed while in custody, entered into law via the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017. The Act targets those who support or are responsible for gross human rights violations with U.S. sanctions. In October 2018, a bipartisan group of 22 U.S. Senators recommended that the perpetrators of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi’s death be punished under the Act.<sup>88</sup>

Photo by Deborah Espinosa





Photo by Debashis Mukherjee





# BASIC EDUCATION

*U.S. international basic education programs provide opportunities for children by focusing on increasing equitable access to quality education, advancing learning outcomes, improving early grade reading, and providing young people with relevant skills for future employment.<sup>89</sup>*

## Why the United States Invests in International Basic Education:

- **Education is critical to poverty alleviation, social stability, and participatory democracy.** USAID's programs provide students with safe and equitable access to quality education so that children develop the necessary skills to be part of the global work force. From 2011-2017, USAID reached over 109 million learners in more than 50 countries, including 22.6 million children living in conflict or crisis settings.<sup>90</sup>
- **We've made great progress toward the goal of having all children in school and learning.** Since 2000, the total number of out-of-school children and youth has dropped by over 111 million and global primary school enrollment has grown to 91%.<sup>91</sup>
- **However, we have more work to do.** 262 million children and youth are still not in school and millions more are failing to acquire basic reading, writing, and numeracy skills. Nearly 50 million children have been displaced from their homes and refugee children and adolescents are five times more likely to be out of school than their nonrefugee peers.<sup>92</sup>
- **Education equips children and young people with the skills needed to participate in the 21st century work force.** Studies have shown that each additional year of education can lead to a 10% increase in income<sup>93</sup> and if all children left school with basic reading skills there would be a 12% reduction in world poverty. Higher levels of education are also related to lower maternal and child mortality rates and girls with secondary schooling are up to six times less likely to marry as children.<sup>94</sup>

## Examples of Current U.S. Basic Education Programs:

### USAID'S BASIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS

USAID partners with other U.S. government agencies, donors, country governments, multilateral agencies, civil society, and the private sector to ensure equitable access to inclusive, quality education for all – especially the most marginalized and vulnerable.<sup>95</sup>

### MCGOVERN-DOLE FOOD FOR EDUCATION PROGRAM

The McGovern-Dole Food for Education Program supports education, child development, and food security in low-income, food-deficit countries around the globe by providing U.S. agricultural commodities, as well as financial and technical assistance, to support school feeding and maternal and child nutrition projects.<sup>96</sup>

## Key Legislation or Government Policies

### Keeping Girls in School Act

The Keeping Girls in School Act (KGISA) will prioritize education for adolescent girls and instruct USAID to address the specific barriers that adolescent girls face in continuing their secondary education. KGISA also codifies the Global Strategy to Empower Adolescent Girls into law and requires successive five-year renewals of the strategy.<sup>97</sup>

### Protecting Girls' Access to Education Act

The Protecting Girls' Access to Education Act promotes girls' education in conflict settings. The act encourages DoS and USAID to increase access to educational, economic, and entrepreneurial opportunities for displaced children, especially girls.<sup>98</sup>

### The U.S. Government Strategy on International Basic Education 2019-2023

The Strategy presents an opportunity to advance global diplomatic and development leadership on pressing international education challenges, as called for in the Reinforcing Education Accountability in Development (READ) Act. The goal of the Strategy is to achieve a world where education systems in partner countries enable all individuals to acquire the education and skills needed to be productive members of society.<sup>99</sup>

### USAID Education Policy

In November 2018, USAID released a new education policy that prioritizes locally responsive and country-driven education program design in order to reach vulnerable and marginalized populations with education interventions.<sup>100</sup>





## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

*Economic development involves strengthening policies, markets, and communication across the globe. It creates the opportunities impoverished households need to raise their living standards. When vulnerable people become financially stable, their children go to school more, they are able to save for unexpected costs, and their countries are better able to provide basic goods and services.<sup>101</sup>*

*U.S. economic growth programs help build new markets for the United States by expanding trade and supporting the emergence of middle-class consumers that can buy U.S. goods and services. Investments stem from the belief that stable economies are less vulnerable to crises, terrorist activities, and international crime.*





## Why the United States Invests in Economic Development:

- **More than 1 billion people have lifted themselves from extreme poverty since 1990.**<sup>102</sup>
- **Rural and small-holder farmers can grow better foods.** Farmers who are financially able to buy fertilizers, pesticides, and next year's seed can provide healthier, more nutritious foods to themselves and their community.<sup>103</sup>
- **Economic growth is essential for better governments.** When governments can afford goods and services, from energy to police, effective policies can be implemented.
- **Small businesses keep communities together.** When street vendors, taxi drivers, and small-business owners support each other, communities are better able to weather market shocks and enter the global economy.
- **Markets around the world help U.S. business.** From manufacture to retail, investing in global economies keeps U.S. businesses growing, bringing the investment back home.<sup>104</sup>
- **Economically engaged youth foster economic growth and social stability.** Studies show that as much as a third of Asia's economic growth "miracle" over the 1970s-1990s can be attributed to a surge in productivity stemming from population shifts that created a larger workforce of young people who were suitably educated and trained to be absorbed by the market.<sup>105</sup>

## Examples of Current U.S. Economic Development Programs:

### MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION (MCC)

MCC provides time-limited grants to allow partner governments to refine and implement their own development solutions in alignment with the new Sustainable Development Goals. MCC also works to fund programs so countries can cement good policies and governmental reach.<sup>106</sup>

### OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION (OPIC)

The Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) is a self-sustaining U.S. government agency that helps American businesses invest in emerging markets, providing businesses with the tools to manage the risks associated with foreign direct investment; fosters economic development in emerging market countries; and advances U.S. foreign policy and national security priorities.<sup>107</sup>

### POWER AFRICA

Power Africa is a USAID initiative that brings together technical and legal experts, the private sector, and governments from around the world to work in partnership to increase the number of people with access to power.<sup>108</sup>

### DOMESTIC RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

To support the effective mobilization of domestic resources, USAID works closely with other U.S. government agencies and other development partners to help governments and their revenue agencies to expand their tax bases, reduce tax evasion, and tap new and underutilized sources of taxation.<sup>109</sup>

## Key Legislation or Government Policies

### The BUILD Act of 2018

*Enacted 2018*

The BUILD Act will leverage U.S. government capabilities to back small businesses and organizations who work in developing, fragile, and emerging markets. This act creates a Development Finance Corporation (DFC) to mitigate risky investments by merging existing private investing partners into one corporation. The DFC provides beneficiaries with increased opportunity to partner with the U.S., a more stable, mutually beneficial, and ethical investment compared with alternative resources provided by China and Russia.<sup>110</sup>

### The Women's Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment Act of 2018

*Passed the House in the 115th Congress and at time of printing it was hotlined in the Senate*

The WEE Act is a bipartisan bill that prioritizes women's economic empowerment and highlights the financial tools, resources, and rights necessary for women to advance. By highlighting critical barriers to women's economic empowerment, the bill brings attention and government resources to the advancement of women as they start and grow businesses, expand their earnings and savings, and bring greater prosperity to themselves, their households, and their communities.<sup>111</sup>



# FOOD SECURITY, AGRICULTURE, AND NUTRITION

*While we have made progress on hunger, there is still great need around the world for food security assistance. After nearly a decade of decline, world hunger has been on the rise since 2015.<sup>112</sup> The world's population is expected to grow from the current 7 billion to 9.2 billion by 2050.<sup>113</sup>*

*Strategic U.S. investments in food security, agricultural research and development, and nutrition are effective ways to build resilience that reduces vulnerability to food shocks and stresses and addresses chronic poverty and hunger. U.S. global food security programs provide safety nets for the most food-insecure populations, improve nutrition globally, and equip people with the knowledge and tools to feed themselves.<sup>114</sup>*

## Why the United States Invests in Global Food Security:

- **The number of hungry people is rising for the first time in a decade.** In 2017, 821 million people were estimated to suffer from hunger – up from 777 million in 2015.<sup>115</sup>
- **Food insecurity is both a cause and consequence of conflict.** Conflict often reduces food availability and access when agricultural production and markets are disrupted, and as recent history has taught us, food insecurity can trigger an array of responses, from food riots to revolution.<sup>116</sup>
- **Malnutrition hurts generational growth.** Globally, at least 17 million children suffer from severe acute malnutrition (SAM), resulting in between 1 and 2 million preventable child deaths each year, and undernutrition is the underlying cause of nearly half of child deaths. These children cannot learn efficiently, suffer permanent employment setbacks, and face high risks for fatal disease.<sup>117</sup>
- **Investment avoids future expenses.** Every dollar invested in creating crisis-resilient markets saves \$3 in unneeded humanitarian aid during future crises.<sup>118</sup>
- **Food security investments strengthen markets and spur economic growth.** Since 2011, the U.S. Feed the Future Initiative has generated \$10.5 billion in new agricultural sales and farmers have unlocked \$3.3 billion in agriculture and rural loans.<sup>119</sup>

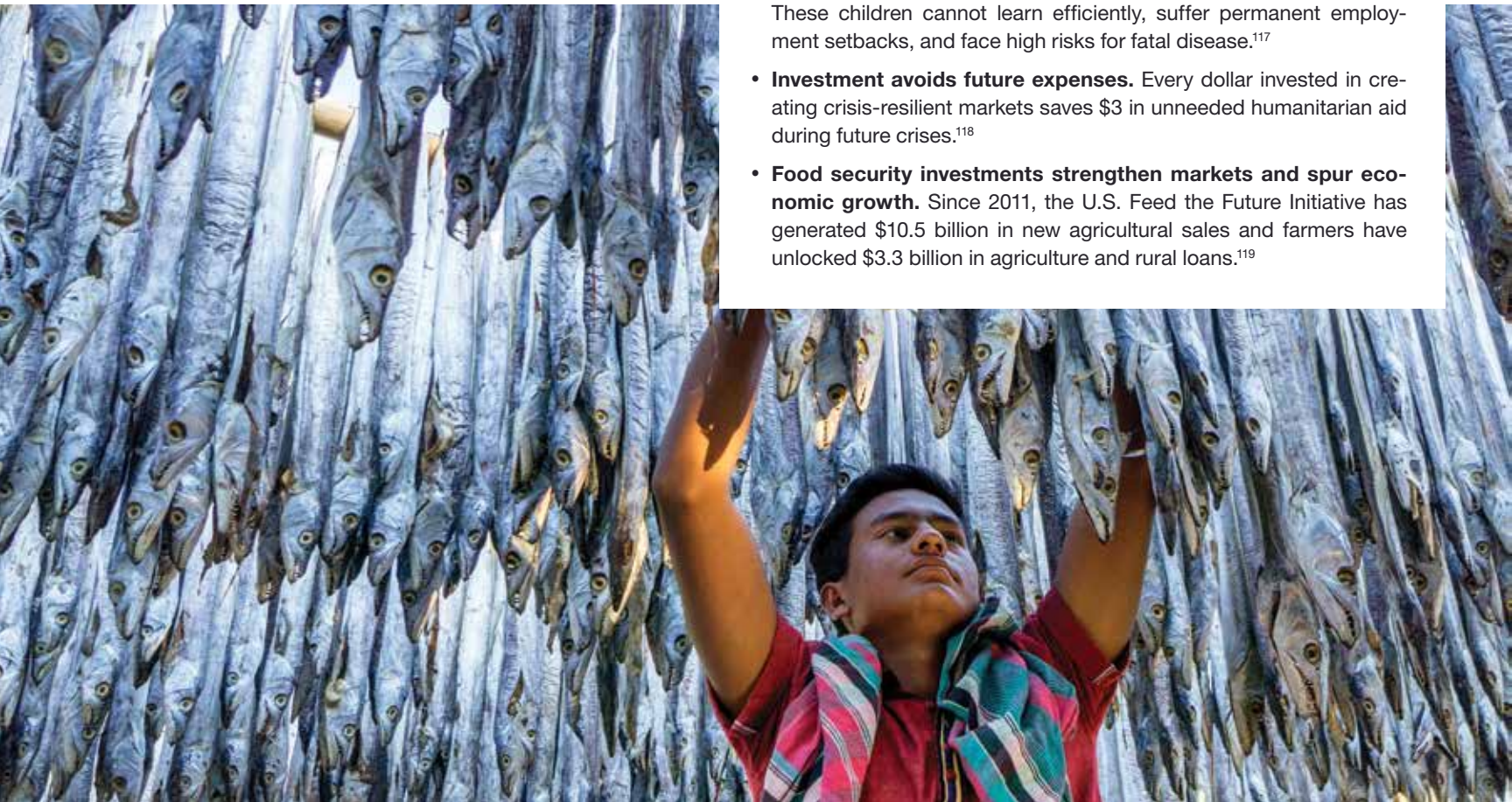


Photo by Sohail Parvezhaque





## Examples of Current U.S. Food Security Programs:

### FEED THE FUTURE

Feed the Future is an interagency, “whole of government” initiative guided by the congressionally mandated U.S. Global Food Security Strategy that works hand-in-hand with partner countries to develop their agriculture sectors and break the vicious cycle of poverty and hunger. Focused in 12 target countries, these programs help people feed themselves and create important opportunities for a new generation of young people, while building a more stable world.<sup>120</sup>

### FOOD FOR PEACE

Supporting the world’s most vulnerable populations, Food for Peace administers emergency and development programs, delivering in-kind food donations, vouchers, and cash-based assistance to countries in need.<sup>121</sup>

### FOOD FOR PROGRESS

Food for Progress brings U.S.-grown commodities to be sold in local developing markets. Proceeds then fund agricultural, economic, or infrastructure development projects.<sup>122</sup>

### MCGOVERN-DOLE FOOD FOR EDUCATION PROGRAM

McGovern-Dole helps to support education, child development, and food security in low-income, food-deficit countries around the globe by providing U.S. agricultural commodities, as well as financial and technical assistance, to support school feeding and maternal and child nutrition projects.<sup>123</sup>

### USDA LOCAL AND REGIONAL PROCUREMENT PROGRAM

Often connected to McGovern-Dole Food for Education Programs, Local and Regional Procurement (LRP) complements existing U.S. government food assistance programs by using domestic food products to distribute food assistance more quickly and establish local product markers.<sup>124</sup>

### FOUNDATION FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE RESEARCH

The Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR) is a nonprofit organization established by the 2014 Farm Bill. FFAR creates public-private partnerships to fill gaps, increase investments, and propel innovation in food and agriculture research. The FFAR model is already a success, generating \$1.3 dollars for every tax dollar spent on innovative research. FFAR’s research produces thriving farms in a sustainable manner to increase nutrition and health for the world’s growing population.<sup>125</sup>



## Key Legislation or Government Policies

### Farm Bill

*Last Authorized 2018*

Though typically associated with U.S.-based initiatives, the Farm Bill authorizes funding for U.S. agricultural programs worldwide. It authorizes USDA and USAID to distribute U.S. goods and innovation to those who need it through the Food for Peace program and Food for Education program. It also establishes the regulations and guidelines for transporting and distributing U.S. commodities abroad.<sup>126</sup>

### U.S. Global Food Security Strategy

*2017-2021*

Authorized by the Global Food Security Act, the U.S. Global Food Security Strategy guides the implementation of the Global Food Security Act through a USAID-headed interagency initiative called Feed the Future. This program works to better establish markets in 12 target countries through improved techniques, crops, and transport as well as to combat hunger by building community resilience, enhancing nutrition, and improving water management.<sup>127</sup>

*Photo by Sohail Parvezhaque*

# GENDER EQUALITY

*Gender inequality is a root cause of many barriers to sustainable development around the world. Women, girls, and LGBTI individuals are disproportionately affected by systemic and severe discrimination that cuts across all thematic areas and development sectors. Simply working with women to find solutions and empower women is not enough. Effective gender equality strategies address social and cultural norms and institutions that reinforce gender inequalities, as well as advocating for and fostering legislation and policies that promote gender equality and nondiscrimination. Creating true and lasting change depends on working with and engaging men and women, families, faith communities, and societies to overcome gender inequality.<sup>128</sup>*

## Why the United States Invests in Gender Equality:

- **In the world's poorest communities, girls and women bear the brunt of poverty.** Every day, approximately 830 women die from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth. 99% of all maternal deaths occur in developing countries.<sup>129</sup>
- **Education improves girls' lives and their community.** For each additional year girls enroll in school, their yearly income increases, their future children will be healthier, and they are less likely to be married as a child.<sup>130</sup> And yet, around the world more than 130 million girls are out of school today, including 98 million girls who are missing out entirely on secondary school.<sup>131</sup>
- **Economies are stronger when women are included.** Women account for one-half of the potential human capital in any economy. Investment in gender equality has a high rate of return. If the income gap between men and women was fully bridged, \$28 trillion could be added to the global GDP in 2025.<sup>132</sup> Countries with greater gender equality are more prosperous and competitive.<sup>133</sup>
- **Gender-based violence is unconscionably high.** The WHO estimates that 150 million girls and 73 million boys under 18 are subject to sexual violence annually.<sup>134</sup> One in three women will experience gender-based violence in her lifetime. The consequences for this violence are more than personal: domestic violence detracts 5.2% of the global GDP each year.<sup>135</sup>
- **Child marriage limits girls' future.** Approximately 650 million girls and women alive today were married before their 18th birthday. Without concerted action, 150 million more girls will be married by 2030. Child marriage denies girls their education, negatively impacting their health and long-term prospects, while also increasing the likelihood that they will experience intimate partner abuse and sexual violence.<sup>136</sup>

## Examples of Current U.S. Government Gender Programs:

### USAID GENDER EQUALITY & WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMS

The Office of Gender Equality & Women's Empowerment oversees agencywide gender equality policies and strategies, that work to reform budgeting and reporting requirements to better capture gender equality results, create incentive funds to promote women's leadership, reduce gender-based violence, and accelerate investments in women peacebuilders, parliamentarians, agricultural producers, and owners of small and medium enterprises.<sup>137</sup>

### DEPARTMENT OF STATE GLOBAL WOMEN'S PROGRAMS

The Office of Global Women's Issues is centered around gender equality, including programs to combat gender-based violence, promote women's economic empowerment and women's participation in peace and security, and support adolescent girls.<sup>138</sup>

## Key Legislation or Government Policies

### The Women's Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment Act of 2018

*Passed the House in the 115th Congress and at time of printing was hotlined in the Senate*

The WEE Act is a bipartisan bill that prioritizes women's economic empowerment and highlights the financial tools, resources, and rights necessary for women to advance. By highlighting critical barriers to women's economic empowerment, the bill brings attention and government resources to the advancement of women as they start and grow businesses, expand their earnings and savings, and bring greater prosperity to themselves, their households, and their communities.<sup>139</sup>

### U.S. Strategy to Empower Adolescent Girls

The U.S. Strategy to Empower Adolescent Girls was launched in 2016 to bring awareness, expertise, and good policies around girls' empowerment to the U.S. DoS, USAID, the Peace Corps, and the Millennium Challenge Corporation. This global agenda aims to give girls around the world the tools they need to become the leaders of the next generation.<sup>140</sup>

### USAID Gender Equality and Female Empowerment Policy

Since 2013, the Gender Equality and Female Empowerment Policy has guided all USAID projects to reduce economic, social, political, and culture gender disparities, reduce gender-based violence, and increase women's capabilities and ability to make critical decisions for themselves. This overarching policy allows USAID to prioritize women everywhere it reaches.<sup>141</sup>



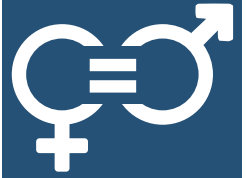


Photo by Ashley Peterson



## GLOBAL HEALTH

*U.S. global health is primarily funded through the DoS and USAID, but global health programs are also at HHS, including CDC and NIH. These investments help slow the spread of infectious diseases, address health emergencies, prevent malnutrition, and support initiatives such as the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) and President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). In addition, investments in maternal and child health; nutrition; family planning; and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) have halved preventable child deaths and reduced maternal mortality. U.S. investments not only save lives but also contribute to improving the economic growth and stability of partner nations.<sup>142</sup>*



Photo by Omar Abdullah



## Why the United States Invests in Global Health:

- **To stop the spread and frequency of disease outbreaks and other global health threats.** Through its leadership in global health security activities, the U.S. helps to build the capacity of countries to prevent, detect, and respond to local outbreaks before they become pandemics.<sup>143</sup>
- **To promote R&D for new technologies and tools.** Investments in R&D catalyze research and advance products during every stage – from discovery to market. Past investments have resulted in ARTs, insecticide-treated bed nets, and new vaccines.<sup>144</sup>
- **Leveraging U.S. dollars.** U.S. contributions to “Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance”<sup>145</sup> and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria leverage additional donor support and are helping to end preventable child deaths and fight infectious diseases.<sup>146</sup> Additionally, both organizations require cofinancing from recipient countries, providing additional resources for prevention and treatment of the world’s biggest disease killers.<sup>147</sup>
- **To strengthen health systems, in partnership with country governments, to provide quality, essential health services to every community.** These investments also help to train and deploy essential frontline health workers who provide preventive and treatment care, medical information, and counseling. Strong health systems also reduce poverty; support economic growth; address evolving disease burdens, such as the rise of non-communicable diseases; and ensure sustainability and self-reliance in public health.<sup>148</sup>

## Examples of Current U.S. Government Global Health Programs:

### USAID’S MATERNAL AND CHILD SURVIVAL PROGRAM

This flagship program supports the U.S. goal of ending preventable child and maternal deaths globally. USAID and its partners work in 27 high-priority countries to support high-quality maternal, newborn, and child health programs that integrate nutrition, reproductive health, malaria, WASH, and HIV/AIDS interventions. In 2014, the U.S. government put forward the goal of saving 15 million children’s lives and 600,000 women’s lives by 2020. U.S. progress toward that goal has been reported on annually in USAID’s Acting on the Call report.<sup>149</sup>

### USAID’S FAMILY PLANNING AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH PROGRAM

USAID serves as the largest bilateral donor for family planning, and has for over 50 years. More than 214 million women who want to avoid or delay pregnancy have an unmet need for family planning. USAID’s programs advance individual’s rights to choose their own family size, protects women and children’s health, improves opportunities for education and economic participation, and reduces poverty. In addition to saving lives, family planning and reproductive health programs are cost effective, saving \$6 for every \$1 invested.<sup>150</sup>

### GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY PROGRAMS AT USAID AND CDC

USAID and CDC support the work of the Global Health Security Agenda, an alliance supported by over 60 countries as well as international organizations and NGO stakeholders. The GHSA has developed and implemented the first-ever set of global metrics for health security and national roadmaps for pandemic preparedness in at-risk countries.<sup>151</sup>

### USAID’S TUBERCULOSIS PROGRAM

Tuberculosis (TB), an airborne disease, is the biggest killer among infectious disease agents, killing about 4,900 people each day. Since 2000, in the USAID TB Program’s 22 priority countries, the rate of new TB cases has fallen 22%, and the program has achieved a 49% reduction in TB-related deaths. USAID’s new TB business model, the “Global Accelerator to End Tuberculosis,” will catalyze investments across multiple countries and sectors to end the epidemic while building self-reliance.<sup>152</sup>

### USAID’S NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES PROGRAM

Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) are a group of infectious diseases that cause devastating and debilitating illness for more than a billion people, mostly poor and rural populations. Since 2006, 2.3 billion treatments have been distributed through the USAID NTD program. These investments have led to significant progress: in USAID-supported countries, 253 million people are no longer at risk for lymphatic filariasis, 102.4 million people are no longer at risk for trachoma, and 3 million people are no longer at risk for onchocerciasis.<sup>153</sup>

## Key Legislation or Government Policies

### PEPFAR REAUTHORIZATION

#### *Last Authorized 2018*

Since its inception in 2003, PEPFAR has received strong bipartisan support in Congress and through administrations, and it has been reauthorized twice with significant majorities. Through PEPFAR, the U.S. has supported a world safer and more secure from infectious disease threats, supporting more than 14 million people with lifesaving ART.<sup>154</sup>



# WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE

*Safe water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) are essential for global health, economic development, and food security. Currently, 2.1 billion people live without access to safe drinking water and 4.5 billion people are without access to adequate sanitation.<sup>155</sup> Every day 1,300 children under 5 die from preventable diarrheal diseases, including cholera, caused by contaminated water and poor sanitation.<sup>156</sup> Meeting these challenges would significantly decrease morbidity and mortality, improve economic productivity, and prevent instability and conflict. Without investments in water and sanitation services, governance, and capacity building, countries will not succeed in their journey to self-reliance. Effective U.S. Government WASH programming provides greater access to safe water and sanitation, reduces water-related disease, decreases food insecurity, and combats transboundary conflict – saving and improving the lives of millions.<sup>157</sup>*

## Why the United States Government Invests in WASH:

- **WASH saves lives.** As many as 842,000 deaths from diarrheal diseases each year could be prevented by improved water, sanitation, and hygiene.<sup>158</sup>
- **WASH supports quality health care.** Fewer than 10% of health care facilities in developing countries have basic WASH services. Without basic WASH services, health care workers are particularly at risk for outbreaks of Ebola and many other infectious diseases.<sup>159</sup>
- **Water security empowers women and girls.** Globally, the burden of inadequate water access falls on women and girls who already spend 200 million hours every day collecting water. In Asia and Africa, women walk an average of 3.7 miles per day to collect water.<sup>160</sup>
- **U.S. leadership has helped make the world more water-secure.** Between 2008 and 2016, U.S. foreign aid programs helped to extend improved drinking water services to 37 million people and improved sanitation services to 24 million people.<sup>161</sup>

## Examples of Current U.S. Programs Addressing WASH:

### USAID'S STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS IN SANITATION<sup>162</sup>

Sanitation continues to be a top priority for USAID, as reflected in the Water and Development Plan in support of the 2017 U.S. Global Water Strategy. Sanitation directly affects water quality and hygiene practices, which is why larger WASH programs integrate many sanitation-focused activities. For example, USAID, through its partnership with Save the Children, is providing latrines in schools that include menstrual hygiene management facilities and are accessible for students with disabilities.

### Key Legislation or Government Policies

#### Senator Paul Simon Water for The World Act of 2014<sup>163</sup>

*Enacted 2014*

In 2005, the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act was signed into law, making WASH a U.S. foreign policy priority. The Water for the World Act of 2014 builds on the Water for the Poor Act of 2005, prioritizing countries with the greatest need and opportunity and creates improved coordination between U.S. government agencies to address WASH challenges. Through the creation of a U.S. Government Global Water Strategy, it increases integration of water with other key development interventions for maternal and child health, economic development, food security, and nutrition and improves long-term monitoring and evaluation and encourages increased leveraging of nonfederal partnerships and funding.

#### The U.S. Government Global Water Strategy (2017-2027)<sup>164</sup>

The interagency strategy envisions a water-secure world, where people and nations have the water they need to be healthy, prosperous, and resilient. The strategy aims to provide sustainable safe drinking water to 15 million additional people and sustainable sanitation to 8 million more people. To advance the Strategy, the U.S. government is working with partner countries and key stakeholders to achieve four interrelated objectives:

- Increase access to sustainable safe drinking water and sanitation services and promote key hygiene behaviors;
- Protect freshwater resources;
- Promote cooperation on shared waters; and
- Strengthen water governance and financing.





Photo by Maggie Andresen





# OTOPICS

**for Consideration by  
the 116th Congress**





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# CONFLICT AND HUMANITARIAN PROTECTION



*Photo by Anonymous*

# COUNTRIES IN CONFLICT

Over the past decade, an unprecedented number of global humanitarian crises have emerged or intensified, resulting in 131.7 million people in need of humanitarian assistance.<sup>165</sup> This figure includes 68.5 million people who have been forcibly displaced, including 25.4 million refugees and the largest driver of this increased need is protracted armed conflict, including mass displacement and gender-based violence, on top of continued response to catastrophic natural disasters, which have been complicated by the effects of climate change.<sup>166</sup> Women, youth, and children are disproportionately impacted by conflict and crises, and deserve additional programmatic and policy consideration. Ongoing threats also include the threat of famine in South Sudan and Yemen, as well as the potential for disease outbreaks, such as Ebola.

## Key Crises

- **Afghanistan:** 6.5 million people in need; approaching 40 years of continuous conflict.<sup>167</sup>
- **Bangladesh:** Hosting approximately 900,000 refugees.<sup>168</sup>
- **Central African Republic:** 2.9 million people in need; historically one of the least funded humanitarian response efforts.<sup>169</sup>
- **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC):** 13.1 million people in need; 1.9 million people have been displaced since January 2017.<sup>170</sup>
- **Ethiopia:** Over 1 million people have been forcibly displaced in 2018.<sup>171</sup>
- **Iraq:** 8.7 million people in need.<sup>172</sup>
- **Myanmar:** 863,000 people in need; not inclusive of approximately 900,000 Burmese refugees in Bangladesh.<sup>173</sup>
- **Nigeria:** 7.7 million people in need.<sup>174</sup>
- **Somalia:** 5.4 million people in need.<sup>175</sup>
- **South Sudan:** 7 million people facing severe food insecurity; 4.2 million people displaced since the conflict began in 2013.<sup>176</sup>
- **Sudan:** 5.5 million people in need.<sup>177</sup>
- **Syria:** 13 million people in need; civilians and humanitarians have been targeted throughout the conflict.<sup>178</sup>
- **Syria (regional response):** 5.3 million Syrian refugees in the region; fleeing Syrians have increasingly unable to find refuge in neighboring countries.<sup>179</sup>
- **Venezuela:** Over 1.5 million people have fled the country since 2014; the government has refused humanitarian aid, downplaying the severity of the crisis.<sup>180</sup>
- **West Bank and Gaza:** 2.5 million people in need; the U.S. government withheld over \$500 million in appropriated funding for bilateral assistance and Palestinian refugees in 2018.<sup>181</sup>
- **Yemen:** 22.2 million people in need, including 17.8 million who are food-insecure;<sup>182</sup> Congress enacted certification requirements on Saudi and Emirati military conduct in section 1209 of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY19.<sup>183</sup>

## InterAction Crisis Working Groups and Field Missions<sup>184</sup>

InterAction supports international NGOs in the field, our membership, and policymakers through regular humanitarian field missions and country and regional working groups. In recent years, InterAction has conducted field missions all over the world including multiple missions to:

- Colombia
- Iraq
- Jordan
- Myanmar
- Nigeria
- South Sudan
- Syria

Active crisis response InterAction working groups include:

- Africa Great Lakes
- Horn of Africa
- Iraq
- Lake Chad Basin (Nigeria, Chad, Niger, Cameroon)
- Myanmar / Bangladesh
- Sudan / South Sudan
- Syria
- Venezuela
- West Bank / Gaza
- Yemen

## Resources for Congressional Staff

- **Reliefweb** The leading humanitarian information source on global crises and disasters. It is a specialized digital service of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).<sup>185</sup>
- **FEWS Net** The Famine Early Warning Systems (FEWS) Network is a leading provider of early warning and analysis on food insecurity. Created by USAID in 1985 to help decision makers plan for humanitarian crises, FEWS Net provides evidence-based analysis on some 34 countries. Implementing team members include NASA, NOAA, USDA, and USGS, along with Chemonics International Inc. and Kimetrica.<sup>186</sup>
- **UNOCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS)** FTS aims to present a complete picture of all international humanitarian funding flows. Since 1992, it has collected reports on humanitarian funding flows submitted by government donors, UN-administered funds, UN agencies, NGOs, and other humanitarian actors and partners, including the private sector.<sup>187</sup>



# REFUGEES AND FORCED DISPLACEMENT

*There are currently 68.5 million people who have been forcibly displaced worldwide, this number includes 25.4 million refugees, 40 million internally displaced people, and 3.1 million asylum-seekers.<sup>188</sup> The number of refugees has increased 63% since 2008. In 2017, 16.2 million people were newly displaced.<sup>189</sup> The length of displacement has also increased, with refugees displaced for an average of 26 years. While many developed countries have refugee resettlement programs, 85% of refugees are still hosted in developing countries. There have been massive increases in forced displacement in the past two years in or from the DRC, Ethiopia, Myanmar, South Sudan, Syria, and Venezuela.*

## Global Refugee Compact

Recognizing the sharp increase in refugee flows worldwide and the need for more comprehensive international action to address them, the United Nations held a Summit on the topic in 2016. All 193 member states adopted the “New York Declaration” on Refugees and Migrants at the Summit, committing themselves to working together to protect the rights of refugees, supporting countries hosting large numbers of them, assisting refugees in becoming more self-reliant and facilitating a comprehensive refugee response, including through resettlement to third countries.<sup>190</sup>

The Declaration also called for the development of a Global Compact on Refugees in 2018 to outline more specifically how these goals would be reached. The U.S. government was directly involved in discussions shaping the Compact drafts and InterAction members provided thinking on its components based on their frontline experience assisting refugees. On December 17, 2018 the UN General Assembly affirmed the compact, setting a road-map for greater global action on and responsibility for meeting the needs of refugees globally, including on the U.S.’ part. The U.S.’s continued endorsement of the compact sends a strong message of support to low-and middle-income refugee-hosting countries that host 85% of the world’s refugees.

## Issues for Incoming Congress

### DETENTION OF ASYLUM SEEKERS

The United States has witnessed a 569% increase in asylum seekers over the course of the past decade, largely stemming from violence and persecution in Central America.<sup>191</sup> Unfortunately, instead of addressing this crisis in a way that respects the legal status and rights of asylum seekers, the United States has taken to detaining and prosecuting asylum seekers, including an extended period of separating children from families. In June 2018, 92 InterAction member CEOs signed a letter to Congress urging immediate and decisive action to end this policy.<sup>192</sup>

The trauma caused to children and families seeking refuge in our nation by these policies will have ramifications for generations to come.

### REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

Resettlement of refugees into a third country is often a necessary humanitarian intervention for particularly vulnerable people. The United States has long been the global leader in resettlement of refugees, having resettled roughly 3 million refugees since 1980. However, despite the increasing number of refugees worldwide, the number of refugees admitted into the United States has dropped dramatically in the past two years. The stated reason is the need for increased screening for terrorists, despite the fact that the U.S. refugee admissions process already includes thorough security screening, and that no one admitted to the United States through the current refugee admissions program has ever killed an American in an act of terrorism.

To maintain the U.S.’ proud history of providing asylum to the most vulnerable refugees and to show solidarity to countries hosting large number of refugees, it is recommended that the U.S. renew and prioritize safe and responsible efforts to resettle vulnerable people.

## Resources for Congressional Staff

- **Forced Displacement blog.** *The World Bank.* A blog maintained by the World Bank where subject matter experts weigh in on issues and developments pertaining to forced displacement.<sup>193</sup>
- **Global Report on Internal Displacement 2018.** *International Displacement Monitoring Centre, 2018.* Annual report of figures and trends driving forced displacement in the past year.<sup>194</sup>
- **Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2017.** *UNHCR, 2018.* Annual update of global figures and analysis of forced displacement.<sup>195</sup>
- **Solutions with Rights: Pursuing a Framework That Offers Expanded Solutions for Refugees While Respecting Their Human Rights.** *InterAction, 2018.* Policy paper highlighting essential elements for inclusion in the Global Compact on Refugees.<sup>196</sup>

# ADVANCING CONFLICT PREVENTION

## What is Conflict Prevention?

*Given the devastation that violent conflict generates, there is a huge need to prevent it before it even begins. The U.S. government and its partners have early warning systems and predictive analyses capable of determining where, when, and how the next conflict might break out. Drawing on this early warning expertise, conflict prevention refers to all the bespoke activities and operations used in a particular place to address underlying grievances, power dynamics, and fragility that are known to cause outbreaks of destabilizing violence. It also works to prevent a relapse back into violent conflict once it has happened.*

*Conflict prevention can both de-escalate a triggering situation in the short term and build the resilience of a society to be able to manage stress in the long term. Examples of stressors include economic recessions, growth of an armed group or extremist faction, extreme weather events, and rise of an authoritarian regime. Building resilience to these shocks and stressors is a long-term endeavor that requires consistent engagement, political will, and dedication to development goals that make societies stronger over time. It also requires peacebuilding efforts that increase trust at all levels of society, as well as efforts to improve justice in countries.*

## Why Should the United States Government Prevent Violent Conflict?

Prevention saves money. Preventing violent conflict costs on average one-tenth the amount of money it costs to help a country recover after a conflict has happened.<sup>197</sup> U.S. taxpayer dollars go 10 times as far in conflict prevention as they do in postconflict reconstruction.<sup>198</sup> The international community, including the United States, could save at least \$1.2 billion per year in postconflict humanitarian assistance and peacekeeping interventions if it engaged in even somewhat effective prevention efforts.<sup>199</sup> According to the 2018 Pathways for Peace Report, “Even in the most pessimistic scenario in which interventions are expensive and minimally effective, the average net savings if conflict is prevented worldwide is close to \$5 billion per year.”<sup>200</sup>

Prevention keeps American troops out of foreign wars. Deploying civilians from agencies such as USAID and the U.S. DoS to address issues before they flare into violence preserves the lives of American military servicewomen and men and prevents the U.S. from being the world’s “police.”

## Challenges to Preventing Conflict

There is little political incentive to act before a crisis occurs. How can you say that your investments prevented conflict? In fact, it is possible to demonstrate this by sharing that a society has strengthened in the ways that we know prevent conflict.

Inflexible funding also poses challenges. Long appropriations cycles and inflexible accounting prevent officials on the ground from deploying programs to respond to rapidly changing conflict dynamics. Officials use “workarounds” divorced from typical funding cycles to disburse much-needed funding to address crises, resulting in a funding stream that reflects patchwork of authorities and appropriations accounts spanning several agencies with different mandates, equities, interests, tools, and capabilities.

## How is the United States Government Improving its Ability to Prevent Conflict?

As part of its Transformation agenda, USAID is establishing an elevated Center for the Prevention of Conflict and Violence within the proposed Bureau of Conflict Prevention and Stabilization. USAID is also exploring ways to integrate an understanding of conflict into other development work to reduce program disruptions that result from conflict and ensure that U.S. programs do no harm as dynamics change.

In December 2018, the bipartisan Global Fragility and Violence Reduction Act. This bill, will require the Administration to develop an inter-agency strategy to prevent violence in fragile states. By establishing a new process to identify the causes of conflict and reallocating resources to address them, this legislation will help prevent violence more effectively and reduce its enormous cost on families and communities.

## Resources for Congressional Staff

- **Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict.** *World Bank and UN, 2017.* Evidence on how conflict prevention works, its cost savings, and why it’s important.<sup>201</sup>
- **Peace Works: America’s Unifying Role in A Turbulent World.** *Rick Barton, April 2018.* Makes the case for American leadership in conflict prevention and mitigation in areas of U.S. national interest.<sup>202</sup>
- **Building The Middle - Global Cooperation at the Frontier: Innovative Finance in Fragile Contexts.** *InterAction, January 2019.* A brief that argues for increased and improved private sector investment in fragile contexts that stimulates sustainable development.<sup>203</sup>



# PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS IN CONFLICT

*The scale and severity of human suffering in armed conflicts worldwide continues to grow at an alarming pace, as conflicts have forced more than 60 million people from their homes, resulting in the greatest population displacement since World War II.<sup>204</sup> Civilian deaths from explosive weapons have increased by 165% since 2011, with 2017 being the most dangerous year for civilians according to some monitors.<sup>205</sup> Conflict in densely populated areas exacerbates risks to civilians and disrupts livelihoods, education, health systems, and critical infrastructure, creating conditions for severe food insecurity and the spread of deadly disease.*

*Both state and nonstate parties to conflict demonstrate a failure to distinguish between military objectives and civilians and civilian objects and a failure to take all feasible precautions in the conduct of hostilities. Much of the harm civilians experience in conflict is indiscriminate, foreseeable, and preventable. This is precisely what international humanitarian law, also known as the law of armed conflict, is for: to limit the effects of armed conflict on people.*

## What Can be Done to Better Protect Civilians?

### INCREASE U.S. MILITARY TRANSPARENCY FOR CIVILIAN CASUALTIES

To enhance U.S. government transparency regarding civilian casualties from U.S. government or U.S.-led coalition operations, we recommend that the United States:

- Mandate monthly, publicly releasable estimates of civilian casualties caused by U.S. operations and by U.S.-led coalition partners;
- Expand the existing annual report that provides information about U.S. military strikes and combatant and noncombatant deaths resulting from operations to include U.S.-led coalition operations and damage to civilian infrastructure; and
- Authorize resources to bolster the capacity of the military to investigate allegations of civilian harm.

### ENHANCE CIVILIAN HARM MITIGATION IN U.S. MILITARY OPERATIONS

The Secretaries of Defense and State should assure staffing to adequately support the protection of civilians, particularly to support the new senior DoD official responsible for civilian casualty policy. We recommend that Congress:

- Call for a report and analysis of staffing pertaining to the protection of civilians in relation to military operations and building partner capacity; and
- Call for an assessment report on civilian harm related to anti-ISIS coalition operations and how to improve civilian harm mitigation measures.

### IMPROVE THE CONDUCT OF PARTNER FORCES

DoD and DoS should further the plan to professionalize partner forces, putting civilian protection at the forefront. We recommend that the United States:

- Call for an independent review of partner-force civilian harm mitigation efforts; and
- Authorize specific resources to enhance the ability of DIILS, DIRI, and IMET to implement institution-building programs and recruit appropriate staff.

### CONDITION ARMS SALES ON COMPLIANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW (IHL)

We recommend that the United States:

- Prohibit the sale, license, or export of defense articles or services to foreign security services until it is certified that the recipient has not engaged in violations of IHL or human rights;
- Require the Secretaries of Defense and State to publicly certify conditions tied to the sale, license, or export of defense articles or defense services, including building capacities of recipients to comply with IHL and mitigate civilian harm; and
- Suspend sales, licensing, or export based on credible information that the recipient has or is committing violations, violates the end-user agreement, or fails to provide appropriate information thereto.

## Resources for Congressional Staff

- **Protecting Humanity in War: Recommendations for Congressional Action.** *InterAction*, 2017. Topline recommendations for Congress to enhance U.S. policy to protect civilians in armed conflict.<sup>206</sup>
- **The Protection of Civilians in U.S. Partnered Operations.** *InterAction, CSIS, and CIVIC*, 2018. An examination of the consequences and policy issues of the United States' increased use partner forces to achieve common security objectives upon the protection of civilians.<sup>207</sup>
- **Protection of Civilians in Mosul: Identifying Lessons for Contingency Planning.** *InterAction and CIVIC*, 2017. A report of a roundtable review that included Iraqi embassy officials, US policymakers and military officials, and humanitarian actors to inform civilian protection efforts.<sup>208</sup>
- **International Humanitarian Law: Answers to your Questions.** *International Committee of the Red Cross*, 2015. An introduction to international humanitarian law, including the origins, development, and modern-day application of IHL.<sup>209</sup>

# DISASTER- AND CLIMATE-RELATED DISPLACEMENT AND MIGRATION

*More extreme weather and other adverse effects linked to climate change are increasingly affecting displacement and migration and undermining human security. Upward of 20 million people each year on average are displaced by floods, hurricanes, cyclones, droughts, and other weather-related disasters. Meanwhile, environmental degradation and slow-onset changes such as coastal erosion and sea-level rise are increasingly forcing significant numbers of people from their homes.<sup>210</sup> Disproportionately affected are disadvantaged and vulnerable populations, indigenous peoples, and local communities dependent on agriculture or coastal livelihoods to survive. Least-developed, fragile, and conflict-ridden countries face the greatest challenges in adapting and responding to disasters and other climate-related shocks.*

## Disaster Risk Reduction

The United States continues to respond generously when disasters strike and is a lead donor in emergency response funding for humanitarian crises brought on by natural hazards. Nonetheless, more investments are needed in disaster risk reduction and specifically, in measures to minimize vulnerability and exposure, and avert disaster-related displacement. In addition, more focus is needed on ensuring that the affected households are supported to recover in the wake of disasters and are not left more vulnerable to the next crisis. Investments in disaster preparedness and programs that build the resilience of vulnerable communities to weather- and climate-related shocks are necessary not only to save lives and minimize forced displacement and migration but also to safeguard hard-won development gains.

## Building the Resilience of Vulnerable Communities

USAID's focus on building the resilience of vulnerable communities in parts of the globe subject to recurrent crises and climate-related shocks, such as the Horn of Africa and the Sahel region of West Africa is highly welcome. However, given the anticipated increase in the frequency and force of climate-related shocks and stresses in the future, resilience interventions will need to be significantly scaled up to stay ahead of these trends. Programs such as the World Bank's Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) in Ethiopia have proved effective in con-

taining the humanitarian caseload during droughts and food crises but have yet to reverse the overall trend of increased numbers of people in need of emergency assistance.

## Enhancing International Cooperation to Address Those Uprooted by Disasters and Climate Change: The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration

While disasters and climate change effects - either alone or in combination with other factors - threaten to increasingly drive international migration, people who cross international borders in these contexts are not entitled to international protection under the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol. Enhanced international cooperation is needed to address the gaps in the international law and policy frameworks for protecting people uprooted in the context of disasters and climate change.

The final draft of the UN Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration, which governments will adopt in December 2018, presents an important opportunity to facilitate international cooperation among governments to both address disasters and climate change as drivers of migration, and to enhance pathways for safe and legal migration for those uprooted in these contexts. While the United States did not join the intergovernmental process to develop the GCM, members of Congress are encouraged to support its implementation and the nonbinding commitments and measures therein to ensure that migration occurs in a safe, orderly, and legal manner.

## Resources for Congressional Staff

- **Groundswell: Preparing for Internal Climate Migration.** *World Bank Group*, 2018. Study of climate change impacts on internal displacement globally concludes that by 2050, 143 million people likely to be forced to move due to the adverse effects of climate change.
- **Ensuring that the Global Compacts on Refugees and Migrants Deliver.** *Refugees International*, 2018. Issues brief outlining the key achievements and challenges for the UN Global Compact on Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration.
- **Words into Action Guidelines - Disaster displacement: How to reduce risk, address impacts and strengthen resilience.** *UNISDR*, 2018. Guidelines for implementing target E (displacement) of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.



# ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

*Children deserve a world where they are safe, protected, and empowered. For millions of children around the world, this is not the case. A child dies of every five minutes as a result of violence.<sup>211</sup> Annually, more than 1 billion children worldwide are exposed to violence in their homes, schools and communities.<sup>212</sup> In schools, 246 million boys and girls experience gender-based violence, with girls at a higher risk of sexual violence, harassment and exploitation.<sup>213</sup> Nearly one in three adolescent girls aged 15 to 19 have been victims of violence.<sup>214</sup>*

## Societies Suffer When Children Suffer

### PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF VIOLENCE

Beyond the unnecessary hurt and pain it causes to children themselves, violence undermines children's sense of self-worth, hindering their short- and long-term health as well as the development of individuals and communities.

- **Trauma and injury response:** Exposure to traumatic experiences can produce toxic stress. This can alter the structure and functioning of the brain during the formative early years and impede emotional intelligence.
- **Underdeveloped brains and organs:** Exposure to violence keeps children's brains and other organs from developing properly.
- **More likely to develop heart disease, lung disease, and other diseases:** Continued exposure to violence, and the stress that accompanies it, makes children more likely to develop heart disease, diabetes, lung disease, and other injuries.

### CYCLES OF VIOLENCE

Children and youth exposed to violence are more likely to become violent adults and continue harming country health, communities, and individual relationships.

## Violence at School Erodes Potential

To fully realize their potential, children need a safe, nurturing, and inclusive environment in which to grow, learn, thrive, and succeed. Yet for many students all over the world, the presence or threat of violence at school compromises their ability to fully benefit from educational opportunities. In 2016 alone, close to 500 attacks or threats of attacks on schools were documented or verified in 18 conflict-affected countries or areas.<sup>215</sup> Worldwide, close to 130 million (slightly more than one in three) students between the ages of 13 and 15 experience bullying. This is particularly true for students that identify as part of the LGBTI community.

## Economies Hurt When Children Hurt

The largest cost to the economy is the impact of physical, psychological, and sexual violence against children at around \$7 trillion annually. Around 1 in 10 children worldwide are child laborers: the lost opportunities in school, and on-the-job and other related injuries, amount to \$97 million annually.<sup>216</sup>

Children involved in armies/militias lose valuable education, experience psychological trauma, and may suffer injuries. Combined, this amounts to \$144 million annually.<sup>217</sup>

## Ending Violence Against Children is Smart Investing

Protecting children creates more stable environments and cements the impacts other development initiatives. Effective protection policies keep families and communities from exerting extra effort to care for their children. When there are proper guards for children, the impact of witnessing and experiencing violence can be mitigated. Protecting children from violence helps communities remember their most vulnerable members and breaks the cycle of violence that starts when children are young.

## Girls are Disproportionately Impacted by Violence

Violence against girls and women has a terrible impact on the lives of all children – on girls who suffer from attacks, on girls and boys who must cope with the effects of violence. Forms of gendered violence include rape, domestic violence, acid burning, dowry deaths, so-called honor killings, human trafficking, and other harmful practices.

- In 38 low- and middle-income countries, close to 17 million adult women report having experienced forced sex in childhood.<sup>218</sup>
- Women and girls together account for 71% of human trafficking victims; nearly three out of every four trafficked women and girls are trafficked for sexual exploitation.<sup>219</sup>



## Resources for Congressional Staff

### INSPIRE Strategies<sup>220</sup>

In 2016, 10 development organizations, including USAID, the CDC, and PEPFAR, launched the INSPIRE package of evidence-based strategies to end violence against children. These seven strategies target households, communities, and institutions to prevent and better respond to childhood violence and give countries, communities, and other stakeholders a place to begin targeting multiple root causes of violence against children.

**I**mplementation and enforcement of laws

**N**orms and values

**S**afe environments

**P**arent and caregiver support

**I**ncome and economic strengthening

**R**esponse and support services

**E**ducation and life skills



*Photo by Daniel White*



# CLOSING SPACE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY



*Photo by Illas Leiden*

# FOREIGN AGENTS REGISTRATION ACT

*The Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA) is a 1938 U.S. law designed to limit the influence of foreign governments and foreign “propaganda” in the United States. The law requires “agents,” or those promoting the interests of a foreign power or “foreign principal,” to disclose such relationships and any activities or funding related to promoting said interests.<sup>221</sup> Since the end of the Cold War, the U.S. government has rarely enforced FARA. The 2016 elections and accusations of Russian meddling has renewed policymakers’ attention toward FARA as a means to counter disinformation and illicit intervention by foreign nationals in election processes. During the 115th Congress, legislators introduced over a dozen bills seeking to increase enforcement of the Act and capacity to investigate potential violations.<sup>222</sup>*

## What are the Impacts on Nonprofits?

As written, FARA is unsuitable for our contemporary world – a world in which global interconnectivity is increasing and the roles of state and nonstate actors are blurring. FARA’s broad definition of “foreign principal” currently includes not just foreign governments, but foreign individuals, foundations, nonprofits, companies, or other entities. Under the Act, one can become an “agent” of a foreign principal not just by acting under a foreign principal’s “direction or control,” but simply at their “request.” Such broad language could, in theory, require nonprofits delivering assistance to register as foreign agents with the U.S. government if they are funded in part by a foreign foundation or government, or their headquarters is based abroad. Many operate as neutral actors, including in war torn and repressive environments, and relationships with foreign actors are commonplace. For safety and security reasons, nonprofits maintain neutrality so they have access to those in need. Registering as a foreign agent in the U.S. or elsewhere removes this neutrality and could enable hostile actors to target nonprofits, which would put their staff at unnecessary risk.

During the 115th Congress, some members of Congress targeted nonprofits for their legitimate overseas advocacy FARA’s and its loose definitions.<sup>223</sup> They arguably targeted these nonprofits, in part, because these nonprofits had different political views. Overseas, repressive regimes have legitimated the restrictive laws they use to crackdown on civil society pointing to FARA in the U.S.

## What Can We Do?

Support for civil society is increasingly important as we recognize that nonstate actors have gained a significant presence on the world stage in recent decades. We encourage Congress to hold hearings, allow for debate, and engage nonprofit stakeholders as we believe that any con-

gressional pursuit to reform FARA, including increased enforcement, should be comprehensive and modernize the law to reflect an interconnected world where funding, ideas, assistance, and cooperation aren’t defined, contained, or restricted by borders.

In particular, many implementing partners feel that FARA should be modernized so that it:

- better recognizes the existence of international relationships among nonstate actors, including providing exemptions for those organizations from registering as foreign “agents” in the U.S. who work with support from foreigners for development and humanitarian assistance;
- encourages relationships between nonprofits and foreign government support for a nonprofit’s independent activity; and
- upholds and supports constitutional freedoms such as freedom of speech and the right to petition while protecting nonprofits from those who would use the Act to prosecute nonprofits, expel them from countries, or otherwise undermine their ability to carry out their work.

## Key Legislation and Reports:

### Foreign Influence Transparency Act

Legislation introduced in 2018 that seeks to limit current exemptions for registration from the Foreign Agents Registration Act.<sup>224</sup>

### Repelling Encroachment by Foreigners into U.S. Elections (REFUSE) Act

Legislation introduced in 2018 that seeks to reform the procedures for the registration of agents of foreign principals under the FARA.<sup>225</sup>

### Disclosing Foreign Influence Act

Legislation introduced in 2017 that seeks to promote greater transparency in the registration and increase investigative powers for the Attorney General.<sup>226</sup>

### Audit of the National Security Division’s Enforcement and Administration of the Foreign Agents Registration Act

Examines shortcomings and limitations inhibiting investigation and enforcement of FARA by the U.S. Department of Justice.<sup>227</sup>

## Resources for Congressional Staff

- **An Open Letter to Congress Concerning Foreign Agents Registration Act.** *InterAction, April 2018.* A letter signed by 45 InterAction members and partners highlighting concerns with FARA.<sup>228</sup>
- **The Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA): A Legal Overview.** *Congressional Research Service, December 2017.* A comprehensive background on law including definitions of terms and registration requirements.<sup>229</sup>
- **Foreign Lobbying Overhauls Stall as Manafort Goes to Trial.** *Roll Call, July 2018.* An article highlighting the need for comprehensive reform to avoid continued politicization of the law.<sup>230</sup>



# DERISKING POLICY AND FINANCIAL ACCESS ISSUES

*The U.S. sanctions regime has been cited as one of several factors contributing to bank derisking, the practice of financial institutions limiting or ending their relationships with customers due to perceived risk of antimoney laundering and combating the financing of terror (AML/CTF). The trend has well-documented, widespread effects on all stakeholders, including two-thirds of U.S. nonprofit organizations (NPOs) that operate internationally, according to research published in 2017. Whether it is U.S. banks closing accounts of clients they perceive as high-risk, or the decline in correspondent bank relationships making it more and more difficult to send international wire transfers, many NPOs cannot fund vital programs overseas that alleviate human suffering and build resilience against terrorism.*

## What is Derisking?

As an unintended consequence of heightened counterterrorism measures after 9/11, as well as the impact of the 2008 global financial crisis, banks confronted a far tougher enforcement and regulatory environment, both domestically and internationally. This, in turn, diminished banks' appetite for risk and led to a tendency to avoid rather than proportionally manage it. Further compounded by the fear of increasingly stringent fines, loss of banking licenses, and reputational damage, banks took measures to minimize their risk exposure by excluding categories of customers deemed high risk: a practice termed "derisking." This practice disproportionately affected certain sectors including money service businesses, embassies, correspondent banks, charities, and NGOs).

## What are the Impacts on Nonprofits?

Nonprofit organizations have found themselves increasingly impacted by derisking practices, often intensified by their limited profitability for banks. The most often cited challenges include delayed or frozen wire transfers, increased transfer costs, account refusals or closures, and increased disclosure requirements. To address these obstacles, NPOs are having to develop a range of strategies to ensure continuation of their programs including increased operating budgets to fund additional compliance staff, due diligence tools, staff screening, legal expenses, and licensing requirements. The use of alternative financial channels, beyond the formal banking system, has become more prevalent. These channels often prove to be higher-risk, less transparent, more expensive, and less well regulated. In some cases, the impacts of derisking have led to the complete closure of programs in high-risk areas as NPOs have found themselves unable to pay staff salaries, suppliers, and program services.

## Combating Derisking?

InterAction's Together Project has worked with NGO members of the nonprofit community to address ongoing challenges related to derisking and debanking since 2017.

Governments, regulators, financial institutions, and NPOs need be able to proportionally manage and share the risk. All stakeholders must engage in action-based dialogue to ensure reciprocal education and accountability for their role and responsibility in delivering humanitarian assistance. This includes AML/CTF procedures and legislation; challenges facing NPOs and their risk management strategies; as well as standardization of banking procedures and information requests.

Solutions require a balance between the dual objectives of effectively reducing the financing of terrorism and facilitating vital humanitarian support to fragile and broken states. Balancing these aims will ensure that the U.S. government is able to fulfill its commitment to get humanitarian assistance to its intended purpose in poor communities around the world.

## Key Pending Legislation

### Financial Institutions Examination Fairness and Reform Act

*Amends the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council Act of 1978 to improve the examination of depository institutions.*<sup>231</sup>

### Counterterrorism and Illicit Finance Act

*Updates dollar amount thresholds for certain currency transaction reports and suspicious activity reports to improve the sharing of suspicious activity reports within a financial group, and for other purposes.*<sup>232</sup>

### Treasury's Role in Coordinating AML/CTF Policy

*Requires the treasury to take a more prominent role in coordinating AML/CTF policy and examinations across the government, and for other purposes.*<sup>233</sup>

## Resources for Congressional Staff

- **Humanitarian Assistance: USAID Should Improve Information Collection and Communication to Help Mitigate Implementers' Banking Challenges.** *U.S. Government Accountability Office, September 2018.*<sup>234</sup>
- **Study and Report: Financial Access for U.S. Nonprofits.** *Charity & Security Network, February 2017.*<sup>235</sup>
- **Read-out: Stakeholder Dialogue on De-risking, Supporting Financial Access for Humanitarian Organizations and Charities.** *The World Bank and ACAMS, January 2017.*

# DISINFORMATION

## What is Disinformation?<sup>236</sup>

In recent years, international NGOs and civil society have been under attack as adversaries exploit vulnerabilities of the Internet and social media to perpetuate online attacks and campaigns that spread false information. Disinformation, or false information intended to mislead an audience, has the potential to change public opinion, amplify an issue and change the outcome of political events. These disinformation attacks are designed to intentionally sow division and confusion, disparage targeted organizations and their leaders, and promote inaccurate views about the communities they support. From Muslim-based foundations in the U.S. to humanitarian assistance organizations assisting refugees in Europe, disinformation campaigns have visibly burdened the operation of NGOs and put beneficiary communities in harm's way.

## The Impact of Disinformation Campaigns

The impact disinformation campaigns have on civil society and international NGOs is stark. In politics, candidates and parties have suffered from large-scale disinformation attacks. There is clear evidence that false pages and ads promoting politically divisive content on Facebook, for example, affected public attitudes around the 2016 U.S. elections.

State and nonstate actors use disinformation to disparage international organizations working in their countries and to assert claims against these organizations without substantial evidence.

### DISINFORMATION EXAMPLE: THE WHITE HELMETS

While the volunteer first responders known as the White Helmets have gained international attention for their search and rescue operations in the Syrian civil war, they have become the target of a heavy disinformation campaign intending to sow confusion about the conflict in Syria. Disinformation agents leveraged a network of news sites such as RT and Sputnik News, and published several articles characterizing the White Helmets as a terrorist organization with access to chemical weapons. The claims were amplified on social media, with RT-affiliated reporters sharing the fake news content with their followers, who in turn shared the content throughout their networks. This fueled doubts in people's minds about the motivations of the White Helmets. Russia-backed disinformation campaigns against the White Helmets not only distracted attention away from the aftermath of airstrikes, they also worked to justify Russia's role in backing President Assad in the conflict. Nearly 300 White Helmets left Syria in 2018 due to the safety and security risk that was created, in part, by the disinformation campaign against them.

## Combating Disinformation

Developing and deploying strategies for anticipating disinformation strategies and techniques used by states and nonstate actors is an evolving area of practice. The U.S. government and international NGOs will need to support their staff to develop dynamic ways to identify and respond to disinformation and move from ad hoc response systems to more streamlined workflows around handling disinformation. These strategies include identifying your risk to disinformation and creating plans to mitigate disinformation risk.

## Resources for Congressional Staff

**Disinformation Toolkit.** *InterAction*, 2018. The toolkit captures insights from on-the-ground experience responding to disinformation attacks and provides practical tips for how organization leaders, as well as communications and security experts, can increase their preparedness.



Photo by Jennifer Morgan



# CHALLENGES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

*Human rights defenders are people who, either individually or as a group, act to promote or protect human rights in some of the most dangerous and insecure conditions around the world. Often focusing on rights at the local or national level, human rights defenders advocate for the basic human dignity of individuals in the communities in which they work, through the advancement of civil, political, economic, and social rights. As a result, human rights defenders play a critical role in holding governments and nonstate actors accountable to human rights norms and creating an enabling environment for their achievement.*

*The international community recognized the importance of human rights defenders for over two decades with the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.<sup>237</sup> Congress can take a strong role in reasserting the fundamental rights of human rights defenders, including association, expression, and peaceful assembly.*

## What are the Challenges Human Rights Defenders Face?

The current global context – characterized by increasingly repressive regimes and rising threats to human rights – has spurred attacks against human rights defenders.

### **Human rights defenders are met with violence and impunity.**

In 2017 alone, Front Line Defenders, an organization dedicated to protecting human rights defenders, reported the murders of 312 defenders in 27 countries, with an estimated 67% of those killed involved in land, water, and climate justice advocacy.<sup>238</sup> Eighty percent of these murders occurred in four countries – Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, and the Philippines – that face chronic insecurity and operate under systems of impunity. Impunity, found in many countries, fails to provide justice to victims and erodes human rights.

### **Human rights defenders are facing heightened criminalization for their work.**

Today, regimes enact legislation that is used to target human rights defenders, such as limiting places for assembly or enacting broadly defined antiterrorism legislation. The criminalization of human rights defenders often results in extended periods of arbitrary detention, restrictions on foreign funding to human rights organizations, and further harassment and marginalization in their societies.

## How Do You Protect Human Rights Defenders?

### **Imposing sanctions against perpetrations of human rights violations can support defenders.**

The Global Magnitsky Act, in coordination with the DoS and Treasury Department, freezes the U.S. assets and visas of these individuals. Members of Congress, NGOs, DoS, and foreign governments can provide evidence for cases documenting abuses.

### **Supporting a robust foreign assistance package that recognizes human rights violations and human rights champions will increase the capacities of human rights defenders.**

Restricting military aid to countries that commit human rights abuses may be considered to assist human rights defenders. At the same time, ensuring robust funding for programs that support human rights – such as the National Endowment for Democracy; global health accounts; and the Bureau of Democracy, Rights, and Labor – can bolster the work of human rights advocates. Funding could also be programmed for good governance and strengthening transparent institutions that support human rights defenders where they work abroad.

## Resources for Congressional Staff

- **Annual Report on Human Rights Defenders at Risk in 2017.** *Frontline Defenders, January 2018.* Report that details the physical attacks, threats, harassment, and smear campaigns used by actors to prevent the work of HRDs across the world.<sup>239</sup>
- **Human Rights Defenders Are A Cornerstone of Sustainable Development.** *Defenders in Development Campaign, November 2018.* Letter to Secretary Pompeo and Secretary Mnuchin on incorporating protections for human rights defenders in development interventions.<sup>240</sup>





Photo by Khalid Rayhan Shawan



# FOREIGN ASSISTANCE REFORM



Photo by Amitava Chandra

# REFORMING HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

*As the world faces unprecedented humanitarian need and the U.S. government reforms its foreign institutions and practices, InterAction, with advice and input from its members, has identified key areas where U.S. humanitarian assistance could achieve better outcomes. A series of reforms have improved the global humanitarian system over the past decade, including the Grand Bargain: A Shared Commitment to Better Serve People in Need, a series of commitments to improve humanitarian action that the U.S. helped negotiate and to which it is a signatory party. These commitments – if fulfilled by all parties – stand to yield \$1 billion in improved efficiency and effectiveness.<sup>241</sup>*

*Any financial gains achieved by implementing these recommendations should be channeled back into humanitarian activities to help meet the \$11 billion gap in global humanitarian needs and to leverage similar commitments from other donors.<sup>242</sup>*

## Actions to Date

U.S. government reforms to date have focused upon structural organization of U.S. government agencies and increased burden sharing among international donors. While such changes mark a welcome first step, they must lead to additional reforms that have a greater impact on how assistance is delivered in the field. Additionally, efforts to increase funding from international donors must not become an excuse to withdraw U.S. support to vulnerable populations, particularly considering the massive global gap between humanitarian needs and funding.

To date, the United States has begun to institute the following reforms:

- **Creation of the Humanitarian Assistance Steering Council:** Announced by Secretary Pompeo in November 2018, the Steering Council is a new senior-level mechanism for coordinating and overseeing U.S. humanitarian assistance, currently co-chaired by the Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights and the Assistant Administrator of USAID for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance, with representation from other bureaus and offices at State and USAID.
- **Elevation of USAID's Humanitarian Offices into a Bureau:** The President proposed this structural reform to Congress in August 2018. It would merge the existing offices of Foreign Disaster Assistance and Food for Peace into a Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance
- **New Approach to Relief:** This is a series of near-term reforms to address priorities that the State Department laid out in the FY19 Congressional Budget Justification, including increased burden sharing,

advancing reform at the UN and other implementing partners, and improved internal coherence within the U.S. government.

- **Amplifying U.S. Global Leadership by Optimizing Humanitarian Assistance:** The President will propose this series of reforms in his FY2020 budget, looking to capitalize on the shorter-term approach laid out above. The ambition is to spark broader, more fundamental change in the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

## Issues for Incoming Congress

While the reforms proposed to date have helped push key areas of shared priority between the administration and NGO community, changes to humanitarian assistance have yet to make an impact in the field or fulfill U.S. commitments to the Grand Bargain.<sup>243</sup> The following series of reforms, if pushed by Congress, may help spur reform discussions beyond structural and burden-sharing issues and into tangible outcomes that would benefit vulnerable populations around the world. Such potential changes could include:

- Adoption of a needs-based approach to humanitarian assistance that addresses vulnerable populations regardless of their status as refugees, IDPs, or host communities;
- Better understanding of costs through increased transparency and timely, harmonized, open high-quality data on humanitarian funding;
- Support for national and local actors through greater flexibility in funding mechanisms and increased institutional and programmatic investments in these responders;
- Greater adoption of evidence-informed approaches and modalities, such as market-based tools to be as effective and responsive as possible to the needs of affected populations;
- Greater efficiencies through decreased reliance on pass-through funding mechanisms and improved partnership agreements;
- Completion of multiyear planning and issue of multiyear funding awards that provide predictable funding for partners operating in protracted crises;
- More timely response and better value per dollar during sudden onset emergencies through use of preapproved partners and establishment of vehicles for streamlined distribution of directed funding;
- Harmonized and simplified humanitarian application and reporting mechanisms across U.S. agencies and, where applicable, other donor governments; and
- Better addressing the root causes and the long-term nature of fragility and protracted displacement by emphasizing the resilience of critical service delivery systems.

## Resources for Congressional Staff

**U.S. Government Humanitarian Reform Outcomes.** *InterAction 2018.* Key recommendations for improvements to U.S. humanitarian assistance in terms of efficiency, quality, and effectiveness in addressing modern humanitarian challenges. Recommendations are particularly focused on better outcomes for disaster and conflict-affected people.<sup>244</sup>



# DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

*The UN estimates that it will cost \$3.9 trillion per year to achieve the SDGs in developing countries. Yet, current levels of public and private investment in these countries totals \$1.4 trillion annually, which means that \$2.5 trillion in additional investment is required to achieve the SDGs by 2030. In recent years, development finance has emerged as a key complement to official development assistance to tackle global poverty and close this \$2.5 trillion annual funding gap.*<sup>245</sup>

## What is Development Finance?

Development finance, broadly defined, is the use of public sector funds to facilitate private-sector investment in countries where the commercial or political risks are too high to attract private investment. Development finance mechanisms offer the opportunity to tap into more than \$200 trillion in private capital invested in global financial markets, and to do so in more efficient and scalable ways. Development finance leverages the private sector as a means of fighting global poverty while advancing U.S. national security interests and enabling American businesses and entrepreneurs to capitalize on opportunities in developing countries.

**Domestic Resource Mobilization (DRM)** — the process through which countries raise and spend their own funds to provide for their people — is the long-term path to sustainable development finance. DRM not only provides governments with the funds needed to alleviate poverty and deliver public services, but is also a critical step on the path out of aid dependence. The U.S. government is committed to substantially increase DRM spending to strengthen tax systems, mobilize public revenues, and take greater leadership in financing their own development. USAID currently spends approximately \$20 million per year on DRM assistance in over 15 countries.<sup>246</sup>

## Key Legislation

### The BUILD Act of 2018<sup>247</sup>

Signed into law in 2018, The BUILD Act will leverage U.S. government capabilities to back small businesses and organizations who work in developing, fragile, and emerging markets. This act creates a Development Finance Corporation to mitigate risky investments by merging existing private investing partners into one corporation. The Development Finance Corporation provides beneficiaries with increased opportunity to partner with the U.S., a more stable, mutually beneficial, and ethical investment compared with such alternatives as China and Russia. In the 116th Congress it will be important to track the implementation of this new and influential law.

## Current U.S. Development Finance Programs and Agencies:

### OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION (OPIC)

Mobilizes private capital in emerging and frontier economies to address development challenges and to advance U.S. foreign policy objectives.<sup>248</sup>

### USAID DEVELOPMENT CREDIT AUTHORITY (DCA)

Provides partial risk guarantees to unlock private financing in support of U.S. development priorities.<sup>249</sup>

### U.S. TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (USTDA)

Promotes private-sector-based development through small-scale financing for feasibility studies and technical assistance programs.<sup>250</sup>

### USAID OFFICE OF PRIVATE CAPITAL AND MICROENTERPRISE

Mobilizes private capital by facilitating partnerships and by deploying a combination of grant funding and advisory or technical support.<sup>251</sup>

### DOMESTIC RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

To support the effective mobilization of domestic resources, USAID works closely with other U.S. government agencies and other development partners to help governments and their revenue agencies to expand their tax bases, reduce tax evasion, and tap new and underutilized sources of taxation.<sup>252</sup>

## Resources for Congressional Staff

- **Innovative Finance: Mobilizing Capital for Maximum Impact.** *Knowledge@Wharton, August 2016.* This report describes innovative finance and the various forms it has taken, identifies the barriers to private sector participation, and offers recommendations for fostering greater innovative financing options.<sup>253</sup>
- **Innovative Financing for Development: Scalable Business Models that Produce Economic, Social, and Environmental Outcomes.** *Dalberg Global Development Advisors, September 2014.* This report provides an overview of innovative financing, explains how it creates value, and outlines the associated opportunities and constraints.<sup>254</sup>
- **Development finance: Filling today's funding gap.** *George Ingram and Robert A. Mosbacher, Jr., The Brookings Institution, July 2018.* This brief explains how development finance institutions and multi-lateral development banks can facilitate private sector investment to fight poverty, and goes on to describe the 2018 BUILD Act and how it can be used to this end.<sup>255</sup>
- **Principles of Public Sector Domestic Resource Mobilization in Developing Countries.** *Modernizing Foreign Assistance Network, April 2018.* Guiding principles for how the U.S. government can effectively assist partner governments in mobilizing domestic public revenues for development.<sup>256</sup>

# IMPROVING INTERNATIONAL FOOD ASSISTANCE

*In the face of immense global needs for humanitarian assistance, emergency food response, nutrition, and safety net programs must be better integrated and coordinated with development assistance to create a full spectrum of programs needed to tackle hunger, especially as the delivery of development assistance expands in fragile environments.*

## What is U.S. Humanitarian and Development Food Assistance?

Following World War II, the U.S. launched the Food for Peace Title II food aid program to combat world hunger by shipping surplus U.S. grain overseas. Since then, U.S. food aid has been critical in saving lives and addressing chronic poverty and malnutrition. More recently, the Emergency Food Security Program (EFSP) has allowed the U.S. to compliment humanitarian in-kind food donations with market-based tools, including mobile money, vouchers, etc. Food for Peace also provides funding for nonemergency development programs that utilizes a multisectoral approach — inclusive of key areas resilience, nutrition, and livelihoods — that puts whole communities on a sustainable path toward self-reliance.<sup>257</sup>

Both Title II emergency and development programming and EFSP are implemented through the Office of Food for Peace, and these programs have helped more than 3 billion hungry people in more than 150 countries. In FY2017, Office of Food for Peace programs reached 70 million people in 53 countries with lifesaving food assistance. These efforts are helping to address urgent humanitarian need in places such as Syria and South Sudan. Whereas, development programming bridges the gap between conflict and stability by addressing the root causes of food insecurity.<sup>258</sup>

Now, 60 years after Title II was launched, it's time to update U.S. food assistance to ensure that it is as efficient and effective as possible.

## What Can be Improved Within the Current Food Assistance Program?

Under current law, Title II food aid must be purchased in the U.S. and at least half of it must be transported on U.S. flag vessels. This standard is outdated and can be an inefficient means of getting aid to people in need.

According to the U.S. government's own watchdog agency, GAO, buying and transporting food from the United States can take four to six months to reach its destination. During sudden emergencies, such as

Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, people in need often cannot afford to wait months for assistance to arrive. Moreover, high transportation and shipping costs result in less funding being available to purchase food.

As U.S. programs improve international food assistance using a mix of market-based tools (commodities, vouchers, local food purchases, etc.), Congress can play a role in making sure the right tools are available to respond to each context.

## How Can Food Assistance be Improved to Reach More People?

- Protect the integrity of food assistance programs, ensuring they reach the populations we are trying to serve and have maximum impact on improving lives
- Improve the management and coordination of the food assistance programs, including streamlined reporting requirements, encouragement of shared learning, and greater ease in programming multiple funding streams. Additionally, give USAID authority to harmonize regulations and practices between Emergency Food Security Program and Food for Peace Title II emergency programs, with the goal of being able to use resources from either program in one award and making it easier for these two programs to work together.
- Limit negative impacts from shipping requirements that can slow an emergency response or increase the cost of the transportation, resulting in less food assistance making it to those who are hungry.
- Reduce the need to fund program activities using monetization.
- Continue authorization of LRP, which complements existing U.S. government food assistance programs, especially the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program, which supports school feeding and maternal and child nutrition projects around the world.

## Resources for Congressional Staff

- **Food for Peace 2017 Year in Review.** *USAID, June 2018.* This Year-in-Review Annual Report includes spotlights key responses in both emergency food assistance – driven by conflict, natural disasters and helping refugee populations – and longer-term food security programs.<sup>259</sup>
- **Food for Peace Food Assistance Overview.** *USAID, October 2018.* A quick brief on the mission, operations, and impact of Food for Peace food assistance programs.<sup>260</sup>
- **U.S. International Food Assistance Funding Fact Sheet.** *USAID, November 2017.* A quick brief on the funding authority and accounts for international food assistance programs.<sup>261</sup>



# USAID TRANSFORMATION



*Photo by Tommy Trenchard*

# STRENGTHENING CORE CAPABILITIES

*In April 2018, as a part of the broader USAID Transformation effort, USAID unveiled a proposed new structure for its bureaus and offices. These proposals were consolidated into nine Congressional Notifications that have been sent to Congress for further review and approval in September 2018.*

*These shifts were designed to strengthen existing areas of USAID's work, streamline reporting to the USAID Administrator, and prepare USAID for the development and humanitarian demands of the future.*

## THE PROPOSALS INCLUDED:

- Five new consolidated bureaus:
  - The Bureau for Policy, Resources, and Performance (PRP)
  - The Bureau for Development, Democracy, and Innovation (DDI)
  - The Bureau for Resilience and Food Security (RFS)
  - The Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA)
  - The Bureau for Conflict Prevention and Stabilization (CPS)
- Relocation of the Afghanistan and Pakistan Bureau to within the Asia Bureau
- A refocused Management Bureau
- Streamlined coordinator positions throughout the agency
- A restructuring of front office positions and reporting lines to the Administrator

Most of the Regional Bureaus and the Bureau for Global Health remain relatively the same. The shifts to the front office would create two new Associate Administrators who would report directly to the Administrator and oversee several of the new bureaus. The Associate Administrator for Relief, Resilience, and Response (R3) would oversee the RFS, HA, and CPS Bureaus and the Associate Administrator for Strategy and Operations would oversee the PRP, Legislative and Public Affairs, and Management Bureaus. Other Bureaus, including DDI, will continue to report to the Administrator.

## IMPACT OF STRUCTURAL CHANGES TO USAID AND PROGRAMMATIC CHALLENGES

The proposed structural shifts have the potential to change how USAID engages with Congress, the NGO sector, and others. These structural shifts will help to modernize USAID to better address humanitarian and development challenges, there are a few aspects of the proposals that merit further questions. More broadly, although USAID Transformation is intended to increase efficiency while achieving better results, implementing Transformation as part of a broader drive to cut foreign assistance budgets would be detrimental to USAID and its core mission.

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS OR QUESTIONS FURTHER CONSULTATION

- **The new PRP Bureau structurally reinforces strategy-budget alignment.** By bringing the responsibilities for strategy and budgeting closer together, the PRP Bureau could help to better align country strategies and budget allocations so that the former shapes the latter rather than the other way around.
- **Can the DDI Bureau work to make development programming more effective and efficient?** This reform will result in the consolidation within one bureau of many different sectoral areas and cross-cutting priorities. That alone will prove a daunting management challenge, but notably, other very significant sectors and priorities will continue to exist apart from DDI, raising challenges for the model. There is also a risk that running many more decisions through a centralized DDI Bureau could have an unintended effect – bottlenecks in the process of program planning.
- **More clarification is needed on the management, function, and engagement of cross-cutting organizational structures, such as those held in RFS and DDI.** Little is known about the leadership and governance of the proposed Centers, Hubs, and Leadership Councils.
- **Creation of the HA Bureau elevates USAID's humanitarian functions and leadership and works to streamline all forms of assistance.** This shift also allows the agency to speak in greater unity on humanitarian issues and ensure higher-level international representation for the U.S. government.
- **The CPS Bureau prioritizes, elevates, and better coordinates conflict prevention within USAID and the interagency,** however work is still needed to ensure nonelites in country civil society organizations have a key role in procuring, designing, implementing, and evaluating conflict prevention and stabilization work.

## Resources for Congressional Staff

- **NGO Community Response to USAID Transformation: Strengthening Core Capabilities through USAID Structural Changes.** *InterAction, September 2018.* InterAction member response to proposed structural changes at USAID and the potential impacts to programs.<sup>262</sup>
- **Principles for Effective Assistance.** *Modernizing Foreign Assistance Network. September 2017.* A set of effectiveness principles to guide foreign aid reform. The principles were endorsed by more than 170 organizations and individuals.<sup>263</sup>



# JOURNEY TO SELF-RELIANCE

*USAID is currently in the process of reorienting their relationships with partner countries, with the goal of ultimately adjusting programming to center around the “Journey to Self-Reliance.” USAID has defined self-reliance as a country’s ability to plan, finance, and implement solutions to solve its own development challenges.*

*USAID’s first step in this assessment of partner countries is the development of Country Roadmaps for all low- and middle-income countries around the world. Launched in October 2018, Country Roadmaps track countries along 17 metrics to assess the country’s capacity and commitment to self-reliance and to understand how their capacity and commitment track to other low- and middle-income countries. USAID is also currently assessing what it means to be self-reliant within a development sector and how self-reliance in one area of development can influence the overall country’s self-reliance.<sup>264</sup>*

## THROUGH THE JOURNEY TO SELF-RELIANCE, USAID WORKS TO:

- Establish clear and objective metrics that will allow USAID to track host-country progress and inform development strategies;
- Strengthen USAID’s private sector engagement and innovative financing approaches to achieve greater results in the field;
- Partner with governments to develop effective, transparent, and accountable systems to better mobilize domestic resources that allow them to finance self-reliance;
- Ensure our country relationships are firmly rooted around advancing self-reliance; and
- Develop a thoughtful and purposeful approach for transitioning to new partnership models when countries achieve advanced levels of self-reliance.

**The idea of country or program transition is not new.** The NGO community has often had to transition programs and resources out of communities or countries.

InterAction compiled the lessons learned from our members during these transitions in a paper called “Lessons from Civil Society and Operational NGOs on Strategic Country Transitions for U.S. Development Assistance.”<sup>265</sup>

**The primary lesson found was that effective transitions take time and must be coordinated inclusively well in advance.** Through experience and practice, NGOs have learned to manage transitions by working within communities, planning for challenges, building capacity, and implementing programs across sectors in ways that institutionalize

positive social change. Another common thread is the need for development programs to consistently improve the social contract between citizens and their governments, with the goal of creating conditions where foreign assistance is no longer necessary.

In contrast, transitions not executed strategically are detrimental to U.S. interests and investments and devastating to local developmental progress. Quick dismantling of assistance can leave people and regions worse off than before, dilute trust between local partners and government actors, and leave communities vulnerable to shocks. Regardless of any pressures to reduce foreign assistance, country transitions are only strategic when they uphold the primary principles of good development practices.

## OVERVIEW OF OPERATIONAL LESSONS LEARNED

- Community mobilization and government capacity building requires effort from the start.
- Within the continuum of U.S. government foreign assistance, development actors and U.S. agencies should play to their strengths.
- Development gains should be institutionalized in local systems and across sectors to foster lasting impact.
- Development actors should support host communities in generating political will and know when and how to “let go before they go.”
- Focused solutions for regional inequality and vulnerable populations are necessary to advance countrywide successes.
- Clearly articulated financing strategies focused on building local capacity and next steps are essential to protect programmatic investments and development progress.
- Transition plans should both ensure that governments can provide basic services to their people and build local resilience to protect vulnerable citizens from shocks.
- In the event of political crises and violence in middle-income states, avoid knee-jerk impulses to withdraw development assistance.
- Celebrations of progress cultivate further successes and motivate local advocates.
- Continuous learning must support transitions, with ex-post evaluations built in from the start.

## Resources for Congressional Staff

- **Lessons From Civil Society and Operational NGOs on Strategic Country Transitions for U.S. Development Assistance.** *InterAction, December 2017.* Ten operational lessons learned by NGOs on how to effectively and strategically transition assistance out of countries.<sup>266</sup>
- **Strategic Transition Principles.** *Modernizing Foreign Assistance Network.* Key principles to guide country transitions from aid to partnerships; endorsed by more than 100 organizations and individuals.<sup>267</sup>
- **USAID Transition Case Studies: Panama and Costa Rica.** *Modernizing Foreign Assistance Network, 2018.* Country case studies outlining the process and set of circumstances that led Panama and Costa Rica to successfully transition from aid.<sup>268</sup>

# EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS

*U.S.-based NGOs engage communities across the globe to build prosperity and help people rise from poverty. NGOs are at the forefront of providing humanitarian and development assistance to those in need. They are mission-driven nonprofits and their incentives are to save lives and provide for better livelihoods. NGOs have built historic relationships with local partners and have unique perspectives and expertise that have a positive impact.<sup>269</sup>*

## HOW USAID CAN HELP STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS WITH NGOS

- Maximize the relationship between U.S.-based NGOs and USAID, so that more resources go to those in need in the best way possible and that NGOs have an inclusive role in partnering with USAID in determining assistance priorities and application of effective practices.
- Alleviate the obstacles and burdens faced by USAID staff and implementing partners.
- Create a climate of success for civil society, including the promotion of lasting relationships between U.S.-based NGOs and local civil society partners, especially when assistance efforts are self-led and where government and civil society partners are accountable.

## THE ROLE OF CONGRESS

Many aspects of USAID's Transformation require legislative changes, including new authorization for aspects of the realignment. Through oversight hearings, stakeholder meetings, and legislative markups, Congress can ensure USAID's Transformation is successful and meets the needs both USAID and the NGO community seek.

## Key Policy Recommendations

### Establish NGOs and Civil Society as Preferred Assistance Providers

Policymakers should recognize NGOs as more than vendors that provide services, but as preferred providers with valuable relationships that transcend borders and connect values across cultures. U.S.-based NGOs bring special contributions that often include their own critical funding, established local networks, assistance expertise, and involved and caring U.S. constituencies.

### Support timely budgets and reject administration undercutting and rescissions

Budget uncertainty – brought on by presidential budget requests that are demonstrably lower than global need and impede Congress' ability to pass timely appropriations legislation – has real-world consequences. Without guaranteed funding for the life of a project, partners often shy away from full engagement with U.S. government agencies.

### Adequately fund USAID Operating Expenses

USAID has made great strides since the 1990s, when USAID staffing was at its lowest. Multiple administrations have worked to bolster staff capabilities and Congress has incrementally raised funding for USAID's operating expenses and Capital Investment Fund. However, as USAID's role in foreign policy has grown, its staff capacity has not kept pace with the challenge. Congress can help reverse this trend with a demonstrable increase of funding for USAID Operating Expenses.

### Authorize more viable mechanisms for NGOs to cofinance assistance with government agencies

Private contributions to all U.S. NGOs – including Private-Voluntary Organizations (PVO) – total \$15.4 billion annually. U.S. leadership provided through official development assistance provides leverage and sector cohesion, and acts as a force multiplier as foundations and corporations, which donate \$4.7 and \$11.3 billion respectively, join PVOs in following the priorities and activities set by the U.S. government. The U.S. needs greater political leadership to help overcome funding gaps and to create better mechanisms that allow U.S. NGOs and civil society more opportunity to participate.

### Lessen the Regulatory and Compliance Burden

The U.S. government has established bureaucratic compliance regulations and regulatory restrictions, emplacing them under antiterror and transparency laws. While the intent of antiterror and transparency laws are widely supported by the NGO community, the restrictions and regulations place an undue burden on nonprofits and divert funding and support away from programming and beneficiaries. Broad rules against foreign terrorist financing entangle legitimate humanitarian and development assistance and hinder the delivery of lifesaving assistance.

### Empower USAID "Centers"

As part of its Transformation, USAID is expanding its use of Centers that focus on development sectors such as Democracy, Rights, and Governance; innovation, technology, and research; and education among others. Centers unite technical capacity and development expertise between offices, missions, and bureaus, to encourage greater collaboration. Currently, the use of Centers is at the discretion of USAID staff. Without clear guidelines, Centers may be underused. Congress, through oversight and its legislative authority, has a substantial role and say in how USAID uses its Centers.

## Resources for Congressional Staff

- **Lesson from Civil Society and Operational NGOs: Encouraging Closer Collaboration and More Effective Partnerships with USAID.** *InterAction, July 2018.* Recommendations from InterAction to USAID based on member and partner insight on their work with the agency.<sup>270</sup>
- **Index of Global Philanthropy and Remittances 2016.** *Hudson Institute, February 2017.* A report that details the sources and magnitude of private giving to the developing world.<sup>271</sup>



# Abbreviations

<b>FARA</b>	Foreign Agent Registration Act	<b>OCHA</b>	UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
<b>BUILD Act</b>	The Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act	<b>OECD</b>	The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
<b>CCF</b>	Complex Crisis Fund	<b>OPIC</b>	Overseas Private Investment Corporations
<b>CPS</b>	The Bureau for Conflict Prevention and Stabilization, USAID	<b>PEPFAR</b>	The U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
<b>CSHGP</b>	USAID'S Child Survival and Health Grants Program	<b>PRM</b>	Bureau for Population Refugees and Migration, State
<b>CSOs</b>	Civil Society Organizations	<b>PRP</b>	The Bureau for Policy, Resources, and Performance, USAID
<b>DSC</b>	The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee	<b>PVO</b>	Private-Voluntary Organizations
<b>DDI</b>	The Bureau for Development, Democracy, and Innovation, USAID	<b>R3</b>	Relief, Resilience, and Response
<b>DFC</b>	The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee	<b>READ Act</b>	The Reinforcing Education Accountability in Development Act
<b>DoD</b>	Department of Defense	<b>RFS</b>	The Bureau for Resilience and Food Security, USAID
<b>DoS</b>	Department of State	<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>DRG</b>	Democracy, Rights, and Governance	<b>SFOPs</b>	State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee
<b>F</b>	Office of U.S. Foreign Assistance Resources, Department of State	<b>SFRC</b>	The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
<b>FEWS Net</b>	The Famine Early Warning Systems Network	<b>U.S.</b>	United States
<b>GCF</b>	The Green Climate Fund	<b>UN</b>	The United Nations
<b>GEF</b>	The Global Environment Facility	<b>USAID</b>	U.S. Agency for International Development
<b>GFSA</b>	The Global Food Security Act	<b>USIP</b>	U.S. Institute of Peace
<b>GHSA</b>	The Global Health Security Agenda	<b>WASH</b>	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
<b>BHA</b>	The Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance, USAID	<b>WEE Act</b>	The Women's Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment Act of 2018
<b>HFAC</b>	The House Foreign Affairs Committee	<b>WTO</b>	The World Trade Organization
<b>IASC</b>	Inter-Agency Standing Committee		
<b>IMF</b>	International Monetary Fund		
<b>MDGs</b>	Millennium Development Goals		
<b>NGOs</b>	Nongovernmental Organizations		
<b>NPOs</b>	Nonprofit Organizations		
<b>NTDS</b>	Neglected Tropical Diseases Program		

# Endnotes

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GOAL 3: Good Health and Well-being  
GOAL 4: Quality Education  
GOAL 5: Gender Equality  
GOAL 6: Clean Water and Sanitation  
GOAL 7: Affordable and Clean Energy  
GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth  
GOAL 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure  
GOAL 10: Reduced Inequality  
GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities  
GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production  
GOAL 13: Climate Action  
GOAL 14: Life Below Water  
GOAL 15: Life on Land  
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