



## The CEO Corner

Friday, July 17, 2026

InterAction.org

Dear Colleague,

We are anticipating an administration announcement to withdraw support from UNHCR, one of the largest humanitarian agencies in the world charged with protecting and assisting refugees forced to flee war, violence, and persecution. InterAction has been part of a coordinated effort to prevent this outcome, working closely with Members such as Refugees International and other partners across the humanitarian community. I will keep you updated via the Signal chat as we learn more.

The House this week passed its FY 2027 National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs Appropriations spending bill, providing \$47.3 billion overall, a 6% reduction from FY 2026. While the bill includes significant cuts, it preserves key investments in humanitarian assistance, global health, and development. This is not the bill we would have written, but sustained advocacy with allies in both parties helped secure a far stronger outcome than the Administration's proposal. It is a reminder that engagement matters and will remain essential as Congress works toward a final funding package that preserves U.S. leadership in responding to global crises.

The vote also came just days after the passing of Sen. Lindsey Graham, a longtime advocate for an engaged U.S. role in the world. While many did not always agree with his positions, he was a consistent supporter of key international affairs and global health investments and understood the strategic importance of American leadership abroad.

In addition to funding levels, we are focused on ensuring money already approved is actually spent. We are encouraged to see some new awards, but the administration is still far behind the spending levels required by law. This 2027 funding bill would add more to that pipeline.

As we navigate this pivotal moment for our sector, I hope you'll join us at **InterAction Forum 2026**, Oct. 1-2 in Washington, D.C. **Registration is now open**, with early bird rates available through Aug. 15. I also encourage you to nominate deserving colleagues and partners for this year's InterAction awards.

Sincerely,

Tom

President & CEO, InterAction

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## House Approves NSRP

After several attempts over the past month, the House on Wednesday passed [H.R. 8595 - National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2027](#) (NSRP) by a vote of 217-209.

Ahead of the vote, InterAction worked to oppose several harmful amendments that would have cut funding for key accounts, defunded critical agencies, and restricted NGO operations. Most of those amendments were defeated. However, an amendment by Rep. Chip Roy was adopted that removes an exemption allowing foreign assistance to flow through NGOs in countries subject to aid restrictions, applying those restrictions equally to NGOs and foreign governments. InterAction engaged House Appropriations Committee staff on the amendment and will continue working with policymakers to address its impact during any House-Senate conference negotiations.

The House bill provides \$47.32 billion, \$2.69 billion below FY 2026 levels, a 6% reduction overall.

For the core accounts included in InterAction's Choose to Invest campaign, the bill provides:

- \$6.89 billion for National Security Investment Programs, a 1.8% increase over FY 2026.
- \$5.1 billion for International Humanitarian Assistance, \$400 million below FY 2026, a 7.4% reduction.
- \$8.88 billion for Global Health Programs, \$532 million below FY 2026, a 5.6% reduction.

In the Senate, the path forward for the FY 2027 State-Foreign Operations appropriations bill remains uncertain, as the broader appropriations process has largely stalled. InterAction will continue engaging with Senate offices and appropriators as the process moves forward.

For questions, please contact [Jeff Mettill](#).

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## Register Now for Forum 2026

Forum 2026 offers a unique opportunity to step back from day-to-day demands and engage with peers on the challenges, opportunities, and innovations shaping our sector's future.

Registration is now open for InterAction's premier annual gathering, taking place October 1–2 in Washington, D.C. Join more than 300 nonprofit leaders, practitioners, advocates, academics, and partners for two days of candid discussion, practical learning, and meaningful networking centered on this year's theme, ***Revisioning the Future: From Today's Realities to Tomorrow's Solutions***.

[Register today](#) to take advantage of Early Bird pricing through August 15 and save up to 30 percent on registration.

As we prepare for Forum, we are also seeking nominations for the InterAction Forum 2026 Humanitarian Award, Disability Inclusion Award, and Julia Taft Outstanding Leadership Award. For more information and to submit a nomination, visit the [Forum 2026 website](#).

For questions, please contact [Kim Pozniak](#).

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## NEW: Ebola Policy Paper

As the Ebola outbreak continues to evolve, InterAction has released a [new policy paper](#) examining the international response and identifying key opportunities for stronger U.S. engagement. The paper explores gaps in financing, coordination, and preparedness that can hinder outbreak response, and outlines recommendations for Congress and the Administration to support faster, more effective responses.

It also highlights the essential role NGOs play in surveillance, community engagement, risk communication, infection prevention, and frontline health service delivery—work that is often critical to stopping transmission and building trust in affected communities.

We encourage CEOs and senior leaders to review and share the paper with relevant colleagues.

As a reminder, if your organization's Ebola response activities are not yet reflected on InterAction's [Ebola response webpage](#), please contact [Tom Buttry](#) to be added.

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## InterAction Comments to Proposed OMB Grant Rule

On May 29, 2026, the Office of Management and Budget, working with more than 40 federal agencies, published a proposed rule to replace the current Uniform Guidance (2 CFR Part 200) with a new Uniform Grants Regulation. The proposal represents the most significant overhaul of federal grant administration since 2013 and stems from Executive Order 14332, "Improving Oversight of Federal Grantmaking," issued in August 2025.

During the public comment period, InterAction worked closely with Members to develop and submit a sector-wide response on July 9. The letter raised four primary concerns:

- Significant new administrative requirements that could divert resources from program delivery.
- Broad and undefined grant termination authorities, including references to activities deemed inconsistent with the "national interest" or promoting "anti-American values."
- Requirements that do not adequately reflect the realities of implementing foreign assistance programs overseas.
- Provisions that could undermine localization and locally led development efforts.

Nearly 500,000 comments were submitted on the proposed rule and must now be reviewed by OMB. At the same time, lawmakers from both parties have raised concerns about the implementation timeline, particularly OMB's proposed effective date of Oct. 1, 2026. The rule is also likely to face legal challenges.

InterAction will continue to monitor developments and provide updates. For more information, contact [Lisa Bos](#).

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## Risk Sharing Community of Practice

The Risk Sharing Community of Practice met on July 8 to review progress to date and discuss findings from the Grand Bargain's self-reporting process, which identified risk sharing as one of the areas where signatories have made meaningful advances. As preparations begin for the annual Grand Bargain meeting in October and discussions continue about the initiative's future direction, participants explored how to elevate remaining barriers to broader adoption of risk-sharing practices and identify opportunities to accelerate progress.

The group also considered practical, time-bound initiatives that could be advanced through the proposed accelerator function under the Grand Bargain's evolving structure.

To join the Risk Sharing Community of Practice or learn more, please contact [Emma Dunn](#).

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## UN Partnerships Working Group

This week, InterAction convened a meeting of the UN Partnerships Working Group co-led by World Vision and Concern US. The Working Group discussed the recent IASC Principals meeting as well as ongoing engagement with WFP ahead of the 2026 Annual Partnership Consultation. WFP has taken up the Working Group's recommendations for more co-creation of the agenda this year, and the Co-Chairs will distribute a survey to solicit Member priorities in the coming week. There is a clear commitment that all sessions will be co-led by NGOs during the consultation event, tentatively scheduled for early November.

The Working Group also discussed the recent UNHCR Briefing on the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1951 Refugee Convention, highlighting the focus on durable solutions and opportunities for civil society to influence the New Agenda for Protection and Solutions through the 2026 UNHCR Global NGO Consultations and 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary dialogues.

For more information, contact [Jule Voss](#).

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## Global Humanitarian Survey

InterAction is supporting the new **Humanitarian Information Landscape Assessment** (HILA), a global initiative designed to measure how effectively humanitarian actors access, share, and use information to make decisions in crisis settings. The findings will help identify gaps, strengthen evidence-based decision-making, and inform future investments in humanitarian information systems.

The survey takes less than 20 minutes to complete and is open to humanitarian practitioners across sectors and organization types.

We encourage you to share this opportunity with colleagues responsible for programs, humanitarian response, analysis, information management, needs assessment, coordination, and decision-making.

Learn more and participate at [hila-survey.org](https://hila-survey.org). Deadline: August 31, 2026. For questions, please contact [Emma Dunn](#).

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## Office Space Available for Rent

InterAction has premium office space available for rent at our Washington, D.C. headquarters, just steps from the Dupont South metro stop. Whether you are hosting clients or need a convenient satellite workspace, our offices offer a flexible, well-equipped option. Space is limited.

Please contact [Lawrence Smith](#) for availability and terms.

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## What We're Reading

*[“Pretty dire’: Aid workers reveal health needs in Venezuela amid recovery from earthquakes.”](#)*

By Mary Kekatos (ABC News)

*[“Humanitarians look to put the AI in aid.”](#)*

(Agence France Presse)

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