ECONOMIC & SOCIAL ISSUES

PARTNERS IN PROGRESS
THE U.S. AND THE UN IN 2020
Over the course of the last year, UN humanitarian agencies like the World Food Programme (WFP), UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), UN Population Fund (UNFPA), and others have answered the call of millions of vulnerable and persecuted people all over the globe. These efforts, have been mounted at a time when the UN humanitarian system as a whole is facing ever-increasing demands on its resources. An unprecedented 70.8 million people around the world have been driven from their homes by war, persecution, or human rights abuses, the highest level of forced displacement since the end of World War II. This is a trend that has been increasing for several years, and 2020 is expected to continue placing extraordinary strains on the UN’s already overworked network of frontline humanitarian agencies.

**YEMEN**

In Yemen, where nearly 80 percent of the population relies on humanitarian aid to survive, UN agencies have played a key role in responding to the crisis:

- WFP is working to reach 12 million people per month with food and nutritional assistance;
- UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO) continue to respond to a cholera epidemic that has sickened nearly one million people since January 2018, operating treatment facilities and vaccinating people across the country;
- The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is helping to increase domestic food production through cash transfers, provision of agricultural inputs, vaccinating livestock, and rehabilitating irrigation systems; and
- UNFPA has integrated nutrition assistance for pregnant women into its reproductive health and safe delivery services in the country.

These activities have undoubtedly saved many thousands of lives, even as the country’s brutal civil war continues to grind on.

"IF THE WORLD IS SERIOUS ABOUT SAVING LIVES, THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW."

DAVID BEASLEY

Executive Director,
World Food Programme and
Former Governor of South Carolina
November 19, 2019
More than 4.5 million people have left Venezuela since 2015 amid extreme food and medicine shortages, hyperinflation, rampant crime, and political repression. The country’s economic collapse has pushed almost 90 percent of its population below the poverty line, with more than half of families unable to meet basic food needs. Given the severity of the crisis, UN humanitarian agencies are working throughout the region:

- UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration are providing emergency shelter, distributing clean water and hygiene supplies, facilitating access to legal assistance, providing integration services including vocational training and job placement, and supporting government efforts to register displaced Venezuelans in order to better address their needs in Colombia, Brazil, and Peru; and

- WFP is working to deliver food aid to the more than one million Venezuelans who have fled to Colombia, including by partnering with the Catholic Church and civil society organizations to provide hot meals to women, children, senior citizens, and people with disabilities, distributing pre-paid cards to families which allow them to purchase food in local markets, and supporting school meals to help meet the nutritional needs of children and keep them in school.
THE SAHEL
Failed harvests due to poor rainfall, political instability, increasing violence by militant groups, and other factors have contributed to numerous cycles of severe food insecurity in the Sahel region of West Africa in recent years. In Mali, Burkina Faso, and western Niger alone, 1.8 million people are currently food insecure, and 400,000 children are severely malnourished. Overall, more than 6 million people in the affected countries need some form of humanitarian assistance. WFP has responded with emergency food and cash distributions to affected populations, school feeding initiatives that seek to keep children healthy and in school, and supplementary nutritional support to malnourished children and pregnant and nursing mothers, reaching 2.6 million people overall. UNICEF, for its part, reports that across the Sahel region and Central Africa, more than 9,000 schools have been forced to close due to the increasingly tenuous security environment. In order to address this challenge, UNICEF is working to support alternative learning opportunities, including community learning centers, radio school programs, and faith-based educational programs. The agency is also providing psychosocial support for children in the region who have been affected by violence.

PALESTINIAN REFUGEES
Established by the UN General Assembly in 1949 to assist Palestinians who were forced from their homes by the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) provides an array of critical services to Palestinian refugees in the West Bank, Gaza, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria. Perhaps most importantly, UNRWA is a critical provider of education, reaching nearly 500,000 Palestinian children with a curriculum centered on tolerance, gender equality, human rights, and non-violence. In fact, more than 50 percent of the agency’s entire budget is spent on education. To put that in perspective, if it were in the U.S., UNRWA would be the country’s third largest school system. UNRWA also provides health services to 3 million Palestinian refugees and food aid to more than 1 million people in Gaza.

Despite the U.S. decision to end funding for the agency in 2018, leaving a $360 million hole in its budget, other countries have stepped into the gap and prevented UNRWA from having to close its doors. Nevertheless, the agency’s financial prognosis remains dire, with the agency continuing to face its worst funding crisis in its 70-year history.
Thefightforhumanrightsandfundamentalfreedomsaroundtheworldhasbeenacorepartofthe
UN’smissionsinceitsinception. TheUNworkstoadvancehumanrightsthroughanumberoftools,
mechanisms, institutions, and partnerships.

UN HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE
Establishedin1993withU.S.backing, theUNHumanRightsOfficeoperates14countryand12regionaloffices, and
supports13humanrightcomponentsinpeacemissions. Thisincludesprovidingtechnicalassistance, monitoring,
andpublicreportingrelatedtohumanrightsisues. It hasaRapidResponse Unit to respond tohuman rights and
humanitarianemergenciesaroundtheworld.

UN HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS: SPECIAL PROCEDURES AND TREATY BODIES
There are over 50 UN special procedures with mandates to promote human rights around the world through
country visits, expert-level reporting, emergency communications, and supporting the work of activists on the
ground. Considered independent from the UN, special procedures do not receive a salary and are expected to
serve in their personal, expert capacity. Existing special procedure mandates whose efforts support U.S. priorities
include special rapporteurs on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, freedom of religion
and belief, freedom of expression, combating human trafficking, and protection against violence and discrimination
based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

UN human rights treaty bodies, composed of global eminent experts, track compliance with UN human rights
treaties that are ratified by national governments. In August 2019, for example, China faced scrutiny from the
Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination treaty body for its internment of ethnic Uighurs, including
pervasive violations of religious freedom. Notably, for the first time in a quarter century, no American currently holds
aseat on a UN treaty body.

UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL (UNHRC)
The UNHRC is the only global intergovernmental body created with the exclusive purpose of upholding universal
human rights. The Council’s 47 Member States pass resolutions on country-specific human rights situations, order
inquiries, and appoint independent experts. The Council’s “Universal Periodic Review” tool also evaluates the overall
human rights records of all UN members and has maintained a 100 percent participation rate from governments.

The U.S. first joined the Council in 2009, and subsequently successfully won reelection twice. During the U.S.’s
tenure as a member, UNHRC’s capacity increased and, according to the American Jewish Committee’s Jacob
Blaustein Institute, the proportion of Council resolutions dealing with Israel dropped. Nevertheless, in June 2018
the U.S. left the UNHRC, citing dissatisfaction with the Council’s treatment of Israel and membership.

Giving up its seat also forced the U.S. to outsource its flagship efforts at the Council to countries with less of a
diplomatic footprint, including initiatives on Iran and Syria. According to a study by the Council on Foreign Relations,
staying off the Council also leaves the U.S. with less diplomatic clout to pursue Council reform and other priorities
such as combating anti-Israel bias.
The record is clear that the Council produces positive outcomes for core American foreign policy objectives and values, but especially when backed by the U.S. For example:

- In September 2019, the Council voted to create a **fact-finding mission to investigate human rights abuses in Venezuela** including extrajudicial executions, enforced disappearances, arbitrary detentions, torture, and other cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment. The inquiry will report back to the Council with the goal of ensuring accountability for perpetrators of violations and justice for victims.

- In 2019, the **UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion and Belief**, whose mandate was reauthorized by the UNHRC in 2018, released a major report on combatting anti-Semitism. The report called upon governments "to acknowledge that antisemitism poses a threat to stability and security. . ." and "Expression that draws on antisemitic tropes or stereotypes, rejects the right of Israel to exist or advocates discrimination against Jewish individuals because of their religion, should be condemned."

- In 2018, the Council established the **Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM)** to lay the groundwork for accountability for war crimes in Myanmar. Headed by a U.S. citizen, the IIMM is mandated to "collect, consolidate, preserve and analyze evidence of the most serious international crimes and violations of international law committed in Myanmar." It will also assist in expediting criminal charges against alleged perpetrators.

- The most recent report of the **UN Special Rapporteur on Iran**—a position that was first established by the UNHRC in 2011 with strong U.S. backing—was released in July 2019 and noted increasing restrictions on the right to freedom of expression, the right to a fair trial, and the right to freedom of association and assembly. The Special Rapporteur also found that Christian converts risk arbitrary arrests, detention, and interrogation about their faith and have faced spurious charges. The Special Rapporteur recommended that Iran "end the criminalization of the peaceful expression of faith."

- In 2019, the Council overwhelmingly voted to renew the mandate of the **UN Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity**. Through country visits, reports to the UN, and statements, the mandate has catalyzed unprecedented global reporting on international human rights challenges facing LGBTI individuals including the criminalization of same-sex relationships, extrajudicial killings, and discrimination.
BRIEF HISTORY
Since the dawn of the Industrial Revolution, modern energy, agriculture, and industrial practices have greatly increased the level of heat-trapping gases in the atmosphere. Over 97 percent of climate scientists find that the world is warming from human activities, and it is causing impacts across the climate system that harm people, ecosystems, and economies.

The international community first agreed to address the climate issue through the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1992. This treaty committed signatories to avoiding dangerous human interference with the climate system and reducing emissions commensurate with their levels of development. President George H.W. Bush signed the treaty, and the Senate unanimously ratified it.

After years of negotiations on the implementation of the treaty—including the Kyoto Protocol in 1997 and the Copenhagen Accord in 2009—a breakthrough was achieved with the Paris Agreement in 2015. The agreement, adopted by 195 countries, commits the world to keep global average temperatures from rising more than 2°C (3.6°F) above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit temperature increases to 1.5°C (2.7°F). The goal is supported by voluntary national commitments to reduce emissions. In 2017, however, the Trump administration announced its intention to withdraw the U.S. from the Paris Agreement, and on November 4, 2019, the administration followed through with the decision, submitting a formal notice to withdraw (which will go into effect a year from the notice date).

However, Americans from across the country and in all sectors—from state and city governments to businesses, investors, civil society organizations, and citizens—have stood up to support the agreement. This includes the U.S. Climate Alliance, a bipartisan group of 25 governors, who are committed to reducing emissions in line with the goals of the agreement. Together, these states represent more than $11 trillion in GDP and represent 60 percent of the U.S. population. In 2019 alone, eight new states, including Michigan and New Mexico, joined the alliance.

SCIENTIFIC CONSENSUS
The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was created in 1988 to establish a strong scientific basis for climate change policy. The IPCC, which depends on the volunteer engagement of hundreds of climate experts from leading academic and research institutions worldwide, has released five Assessments Reports. Each report expresses increasing certainty about the human contribution to climate change and warning of the likely consequences.

In October 2018, the IPCC released “Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C,” a report that broke through headlines and created a watershed moment for society’s understanding of climate change. The report found that half a degree makes a world of difference: the impacts of climate change—from species loss to crop loss—will be far worse at 2°C warming than 1.5°C. However, to limit warming to 1.5°C, the world must cut greenhouse gas emissions in half over the next 10 years and ultimately reach net-zero emissions by 2050, requiring “rapid and far-reaching transitions” that would be “unprecedented in terms of scale.”
In 2019, the IPCC released three Special Reports that further advanced the scientific understanding of climate change: in May, IPCC released the “2019 Refinement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories,” which provides methodologies for countries managing human-caused emissions inventories; in August, the “Special Report on Climate Change” and Land revealed that human activities on land like farming and deforestation are a key cause of climate change, but land can also be part of the climate solution; and in September, the “Special Report on Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate” found that climate impacts are being felt from the poles and highest mountains to the depths of the ocean, and that some of these effects may be irreversible. The IPCC is expected to release its Sixth Assessment Report in 2021.

**UN CLIMATE NEGOTIATIONS**

Entering into force on November 4, 2016, the Paris Agreement brought all nations together for the first time under a common framework to tackle climate change. The agreement is based on national action plans, called Nationally Determined Contributions, which are to be strengthened over time every five years starting in 2020. To help developing countries deal with the impacts of climate change, the agreement also reaffirms a commitment to mobilize $100 billion each year from public and private sources.

While the adoption of the Paris Agreement was historic, progress since then has been less celebrated. Each of the past five years were the hottest on record and recent reports have found that global emissions continue to rise. 2019 saw a wave of activism in response, as millions of young people around the world, inspired by Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg, went on “climate strikes” from school to urge leaders to do more.

To create a springboard for more ambitious climate action, Guterres convened heads of state at the Climate Action Summit at UN headquarters in September 2019, ahead of the 2020 deadline. While the summit resulted in new commitments from 70 countries, as well as major announcements from investors and companies, these were not enough to meet the challenge and must be followed with more action. The 25th UN Climate Change Conference, held in Madrid, Spain in December 2019, also revealed a lack of resolve from major emitters as negotiations failed to finalize key rules for the Paris Agreement.

Countries, businesses, civil society, investors, local leaders, and more will convene in Glasgow, UK for the 26th UN Climate Change Conference in 2020, where countries are expected to formally raise their national targets in line with the 1.5°C goal. Whether or not major economies step up is key, as just 20 countries are responsible for approximately 80 percent of global emissions.
Global Health

Over the last 75 years, the health and welfare of people around the world has been at the core of the UN’s work. Key UN agencies such as the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), UN Population Fund (UNFPA), UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), UN Development Programme (UNDP), and World Health Organization (WHO) have long partnered with NGOs, faith-based organizations, and governments, and as a result people around the world are living longer, more prosperous lives. Discussed in additional detail below are several areas where the U.S. and UN work together on global health issues.

» Children’s Health

The U.S. has been a key contributor to UNICEF for over 70 years, and in 2018 alone, the agency procured 2.3 billion doses of vaccines for 99 countries, helping to protect 45 percent of the world’s children under the age of five. Childhood vaccination is one of the most successful medical interventions in the last 70 years, responsible for saving the lives of 2.5 million children each year.

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, was launched in 2001 as an innovative public-private partnership to fund the purchase and delivery of life-saving vaccines for children in the world’s poorest countries, bringing together developed and developing countries, UNICEF, WHO, and the World Bank. The U.S. is Gavi’s third largest donor, contributing more than $2.4 billion over the last twenty years. Funding Gavi at $290 million in Fiscal Year 2021 will allow it to immunize 300 million kids between 2021 and 2025, saving an additional 7-8 million lives. Over this same time period, Gavi’s work will generate economic benefits totaling $80-100 billion.

» Polio

Thanks to the tireless efforts of health workers, local governments, UN agencies like UNICEF and WHO, and the coordination of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, polio has been cornered in just a few areas of the world. The U.S. is the largest government donor to global polio eradication efforts and has been vital to supporting the work of UNICEF and WHO in reducing polio by 99.9 percent, from 350,000 wild poliovirus cases a year in 1988 to 156 in 2019. If we fail to eradicate polio, within a decade we could see a resurgence of as many as 200,000 new cases each year, at a cost of billions of dollars to national governments.

» Combating Epidemics

In today’s globalized world, diseases can circle the globe in as little as 36 hours. The best way to prevent the spread of infectious disease is to stop it at its source, before it becomes costly and difficult to contain. The UN system is well-positioned with the international credibility, convening
power, and organizational mechanisms to facilitate and coordinate health work on a global scale in a way that amplifies the work of U.S. agencies like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Together, multilateral and bilateral cooperation strengthens global capacity to better detect, prevent, or respond to fast-moving pandemics and infectious diseases.

Currently, parts of eastern Congo are grappling with the second-largest Ebola outbreak in history, with more than 3,400 cases and 2,200 deaths since August 2018. The situation is complicated by the fact that it is occurring in an active conflict zone, and has witnessed numerous attacks on health workers by armed groups operating in the region. Nevertheless, the WHO is playing a key role in the international response, aiding contact tracing efforts to prevent the spread of the virus, helping to vaccinate more than 260,000 people in the outbreak zone, and supporting Ebola treatment centers with medical supplies and other critical services. UNICEF is involved in these efforts as well, working to provide clean water, hygiene, and sanitation services to encourage infection prevention and control.

WHO is also playing a leading role in coordinating the international response to the Coronavirus outbreak in China, in close partnership with and in support of countries looking to prepare for, detect, and respond to the disease.

WOMEN'S HEALTH

The U.S. has long been a leader in international reproductive health and family planning (IRH/FP) efforts and is the largest global donor to IRH/FP on a bipartisan basis. Congress has provided bilateral IRH/FP funding, as well as funding for UNFPA, which was originally formed over 50 years ago under the leadership of President George H.W. Bush, then the U.S. Ambassador to the UN. On the ground, our bilateral programs and multilateral contributions have empowered women, saved lives, and strengthened families.

USAID's Family Planning Program ensures 24.3 million women and couples have access to contraceptive services and supplies which prevents 14,700 maternal deaths and 7.2 million unintended pregnancies. For every dollar the U.S. invests in IRH/FP, $6 is saved. UNFPA provides more than 38 million people around the world access to sexual and reproductive health services and gender-based violence counseling, among other programs.

UNFPA takes a human rights-based approach to ensure that we live in a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled. In 150 countries around the world, UNFPA works to provide contraceptive access, end gender-based violence, and end female genital mutilation. UNFPA also works to ensure that reproductive health is integrated into the response to humanitarian emergencies. For example, the organization provided maternal care, including equipment and medicines for safe deliveries, emergency obstetric care, and support to address post-partum complications that arise in mothers and newborns, to the people of Mosul, Iraq, and “dignity kits,” which include hygiene products and other important supplies for women, to Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

While the world has made important progress on women's health over the years, significant challenges remain. In addition to historic levels of humanitarian need, there are currently 214 million women who lack access to modern contraception. If we were to reach this unmet need worldwide, we would see 67 million fewer unintended pregnancies, 36 million fewer induced abortions, and 76,000 fewer maternal deaths each year.

The U.S. currently does not fund UNFPA and limits who can receive funding through bilateral family planning programs.
In 2015, all 193 UN Member States came together to build a successor to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), eight ambitious targets to eradicate extreme poverty and improve health, well-being, and equality worldwide. With input from governments, the private sector, NGOs, and citizens, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (also known as the SDGs or Global Goals) were adopted unanimously to tackle the structural hurdles to ending extreme poverty. The goals target a full set of development challenges, including promoting good governance, ending preventable diseases like HIV/AIDS and malaria and maternal deaths, improving access to education, food, and sanitation, and ensuring gender equality.

The goals are meant to guide global development policy through 2030. Over the last five years, we have witnessed important progress on a number of these targets, including:

- The mortality rate of children under the age of 5 fell to 39 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2017, a 6.7 percent reduction from 42 deaths in 2015;
- In 2000, 28 percent of people had access to sanitation services, rising to 43 percent in 2015 and to 45 percent in 2017;
- In 2018, 81 percent of births took place with the assistance of a skilled birth attendant, a significant improvement from 69 percent in 2012; and
- Between 2010 and 2017, participation rates in early childhood education have increased to 69 percent.
UN Secretary-General António Guterres has termed the next ten years the Decade of Action, asking all countries and partners to accelerate action to achieve the SDGs.

**U.S. LEADERSHIP; NOT U.S. LAW**

While the Global Goals reflect a consensus among all Member States, they carry a strong U.S. imprint. During negotiations, the U.S. government engaged robustly in member state consultations, and U.S. grassroots and civil society organizations worked to feed their own ideas into the process. The resulting Global Goals broadly reflect many U.S. foreign policy and development priorities that have been championed by both Democrats and Republicans over the years. These include alleviating extreme poverty and hunger, ensuring access to safe drinking water and education, combating infectious disease, empowering women and girls, and promoting employment and economic growth. Moreover, by seeking to promote the rule of law, fight human trafficking, increase government transparency, address corruption, and support universal human rights, the Global Goals also focus much-needed attention on governance-related issues, another longstanding priority of U.S. foreign assistance programs.

**PARTNERING WITH BUSINESSES, CIVIL SOCIETY, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO END POVERTY**

The business community was deeply immersed in the negotiations around the goals and has come out strongly in support of them. Through the UN Global Compact, more than 10,000 businesses worldwide have made pledges to help achieve the SDGs. In the U.S. alone, almost 600 companies have joined this initiative, including General Electric, Nike, Cisco Systems, and General Motors. In addition, more than 4,000 non-governmental organizations, cities, and other organizations have made pledges, including the city of Milwaukee, Catholic Relief Services and the International Rescue Committee.
The evolution from the MDGs to the SDGs can be most clearly seen in the goals and targets themselves. While the MDGs were a watershed set of time-bound and specific goals for development, the universal framework of the SDGs are built on system-wide approaches. Rather than look at achievement of any single goal, the SDGs look at issues that cross goals.

- **Ensure Healthy Lives and Promote Well-Being for All at All Ages**
  One of the biggest successes of the MDGs was driving down the incidences of HIV/AIDS, malaria, and deaths from childhood preventable diseases. While the SDGs do have targets for AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, as well as other non-communicable diseases, there was a recognition that people must have access to health coverage to prevent the next pandemic, strengthen economies, and ensure a world without extreme poverty. The World Health Organization is taking the lead in working with countries to strengthen their health systems to provide universal health coverage and access to quality health services without the risk of financial hardships. Debates are ongoing in countries about how to provide care and what services should be included, but there is no disputing that strong health systems are integral to a healthier world.

- **Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls**
  While a stand-alone goal on gender empowerment existed in the MDGs, Members States, the UN and civil society wanted to more closely link it to other goals. Looking at gender equality, UN Women is measuring how gender equality affects each goal. For instance, women are over-represented in slums in 70 percent of countries where data is available. Reaching Goal 11, Make Cities and Human Settlements Inclusive, Safe, Resilient, and Sustainable, means we must address the underlying issues causing women to be disproportionately represented in slums. Reaching Goal 4, Ensure Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education and Promote Lifelong Learning Opportunities for All, means we must address the issues that are keeping 15 million girls of primary school age out of the classroom versus 10 million boys.

- **Promote Just, Peaceful, and Inclusive Societies**
  For many, access to the justice system and other services have been hurdles to ending extreme poverty. Corruption and unstable societies may keep ruling figures in power but undermine the ability of all citizens to prosper. The U.S. was critical in negotiating Goal 16 because without equal access to all government services and systems, growth will never be achievable or sustainable.
HURDLES TO ENDING EXTREME POVERTY AND THE WAY FORWARD

Humanitarian crises, both manmade and natural, have halted some of the momentum from the MDGs. For example, with regards to Goal 2, which calls for ending hunger, improving nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture, a 2018 UN progress report found that following a prolonged decline, the number of undernourished people worldwide had actually increased from 777 million in 2015 to more than 815 million the following year, due largely to armed conflicts in Yemen, South Sudan, Nigeria, and other countries, as well as droughts and natural disasters connected to climate change. In addition, nearly 2.3 billion people continue to lack access to basic sanitation services, more than 90 percent of people in the world’s cities breathe polluted air, the youth unemployment rate is three times higher than for adults, and the gender pay gap remains pervasive, with men earning on average 12.5 percent more than women according to data from 45 countries.

Given the voluntary nature of the SDGs, perhaps gaps in implementation are to be expected. Indeed, neither the MDGs nor the Global Goals imposed any legally-binding obligations on Member States. Instead, they provide the international community with a detailed roadmap for achieving progress on a full range of measures related to the well-being of humanity and the planet. The fact that 193 Member States were even able to agree on such a common set of objectives—many of which carry more than a hint of U.S. influence—at all, is itself an achievement. Moving forward, it will be incumbent upon the U.S. to remain engaged and use its position of global leadership to help ensure that these lofty, but achievable, standards become more than mere words.
IMPACT OF THE UNITED NATIONS OVER THE PAST 75 YEARS

Throughout the past seven decades, the UN has:

- Delivered more than 70 million metric tons of food to people in humanitarian emergencies
- Helped more than 50 million refugees successfully restart their lives
- Operated 71 peacekeeping and observer missions
- Provided over 100 countries with electoral assistance
- Supported efforts to lift more than 1 billion people out of poverty
- Procured vaccines for 860 million children
- Cleared landmines in some 30 countries or territories
- Promoted human rights through 80 treaties and declarations

And through all of the good that the UN does, it is a resoundingly good bargain for the U.S.:

- **0.2%**
  - Funding for the UN amounts to 0.2% of the total FY’20 federal budget
- **$10 BILLION**
  - U.S. companies have been awarded more than ten billion dollars in contracts with the UN since 2010