



October 22, 2019

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Vice Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Shelby, Vice Chairman Leahy, Chairwoman Lowey, and Ranking Member Granger:

Thank you for your continued leadership in poverty-focused development and humanitarian assistance. Your leadership saves lives, alleviates suffering, and furthers American values and ideals.

We are writing to urge you to adopt the House passed level of \$56.381 billion as the conference allocation for the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs bill for FY 2020. Funding at this level will serve as a strong building block for future years and is essential for addressing development, global health, and humanitarian challenges. As organizations working to eliminate extreme poverty, mitigate disease, conserve biodiversity, and support good governance around the world, we understand the value of U.S. foreign assistance. We know that these funds are critical to improve humanitarian, development, environment, and health outcomes in the world's most marginalized and vulnerable communities.

U.S. leadership and investment have had an instrumental impact around the globe, creating healthier, safer, and more stable societies. Over the last 30 years, U.S. assistance has contributed to more than halving the number of preventable under-five child deaths and significantly decreased the number of people living in poverty and the number of children and adolescents out of school. Some diseases, like polio, have nearly been eradicated. Eighty-seven percent of the world's population today have access to safe, affordable and sustainable drinking water, and sixty-one percent have access to improved sanitation. In the past five years alone, USAID programming has ended hunger for 1.7 million additional households. These results demonstrate that U.S. foreign assistance matters and is consistent with the values and generosity of the American people.

We are grateful for your strong leadership and support of the international affairs budget and look forward to working with you on finalizing the FY 2020 budget.

Sincerely,

The undersigned organizations



Action Against Hunger
Alliance for Peacebuilding
American Jewish World Service
Basic Education Coalition
Better World Campaign
Bread for the World
CARE USA
ChildFund International
Church World Service
Feed the Children
Food for the Hungry
Global Communities
Global Health Council
Global Water 2020
Habitat for Humanity International
Helping Hand for Relief and Development
HIAS
Humentum
IHC Global
InterAction
International Rescue Committee
Islamic Relief USA
Jesuit Refugee Service/USA
MAG America
Mercy Corps
Mercy-USA for Aid and Development
National Cooperative Business Association CLUSA
ONE
Oxfam America
PATH
Save the Children
Solidarity Center
SPOON

The Nature Conservancy
United Nations Association of the USA
World Food Program USA
World Learning
World Vision
Zakat Foundation of America

cc: Chairman Lindsey Graham, Ranking Member Harold Rogers