

October 22, 2019

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

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

cc: Chairman Lindsey Graham, Ranking Member Harold Rogers

The Nature Conservancy

United Nations Association of the USA

World Food Program USA

World Learning

World Vision

Zakat Foundation of America