



Committee on International Justice and Peace

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December 11, 2017

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Chair
Senate Appropriations
Subcommittee on State, Foreign
Operations, and Related Programs
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chair
House Appropriations
Subcommittee on State, Foreign
Operations, and Related Programs
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations
Subcommittee on State, Foreign
Operations, and Related Programs
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
House Appropriations
Subcommittee on State, Foreign
Operations, and Related Programs
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Graham, Ranking Member Leahy, Chairman Rogers, Ranking Member Lowey:

Pope Francis consistently reminds the world to “hear the cry of the poor.” In this spirit, I request that you protect international poverty-reducing humanitarian and development assistance when you finalize FY 2018 appropriations. **Please see the attached chart for a list of specific funding priorities that the US Conference of Bishops and Catholic Relief Services support.** At a minimum, I ask you to appropriate the higher levels recommended by each body in order to match at least the \$22.6 billion that was enacted in FY 2017 (less than 0.5% of the budget).

It is important to protect vital investments in diplomacy and development to prevent the outbreaks of conflict and terrorism by addressing long-standing root causes. Such investments will help decrease violence in the world, save lives, and reduce the need for excessive military spending and endangerment of the lives of the members of the US Armed Forces.

We live in a world where bounty lives alongside poverty and where horrible conflicts fester in places such as Yemen, Iraq, Syria, South Sudan and Somalia. These conflicts have provoked famine and severe hunger that threaten tens of millions of lives. Fighting and crushing poverty have forced a record number of people to flee their homes and even their countries as refugees.

As a world power, the United States should continue to lead the world in providing life-saving humanitarian, refugee and migration assistance. Our country should work tirelessly to stop the violence, facilitate peacekeeping and support local political solutions that will allow conflict-ridden countries to repair government structures, the rule of law, foster integral human development and restore the social fabric torn apart by violence. Two cases in point are Colombia and the Central African Republic. The United States must maintain programs to build prosperity and sustainable peace to ensure that the historic peace deals end any chance of these countries sliding back into conflict.

Letter to Senators Graham and Leahy and Representatives Rogers and Lowey
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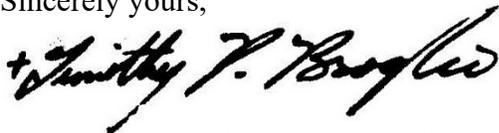
Tragically, in countries like the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi, and Zimbabwe, corrupt and predatory governments deny people's rights, distort national constitutions and democratic structures, and manipulate societal divisions to stay in power. U.S. aid can support local civil society, including faith-based groups, that can help hold government accountable. Our nation can also work with regional countries, the Africa Union, the United Nations and international donors to exert diplomatic pressure to foster and support home-grown solutions to avoid the outbreak of conflict and promote democratic rule and the respect for human rights.

Many countries in the world do enjoy relative peace and good governance, but they struggle to provide their people with basic health care, education, agricultural assistance, and small-scale business promotion. U.S. government assistance, including programs implemented by Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and others, has made substantial and positive impacts around the world.

An effective and just foreign-affairs vision is one in which the United States projects its moral leadership by promoting justice and human rights, reducing poverty, and building stable and prosperous societies.

Thank you for the generosity and leadership you have traditionally shown to hundreds of millions of people worldwide. The legacy we leave for future generations will be reflected in how we treat and serve the least of our brothers and sisters. I look forward to working with you to strengthen humanitarian and development assistance again this year.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy P. Broglio". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend Timothy P. Broglio
Chair, Committee on International Justice and Peace
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops



International Poverty-Reducing Development and Humanitarian Accounts



Appropriations Requests (\$ in thousands) (OCO included)	FY 17 Enacted	Administration FY 18 Request	USCCB/CRS FY 18 Request	House FY 18 Bill	Senate FY 18 Bill
<i>State, Foreign Operations (SFOPs)</i>	22,622,129	14,390,492	22,840,265	19,573,726	20,234,697
Maternal and Child Health (including GAVI)	814,500	749,600	814,500	814,500	829,500
Nutrition	125,000	78,500	125,000	125,000	125,000
Vulnerable Children (orphans and displaced children)	23,000	0	23,000	23,000	23,000
HIV/AIDS (USAID)	330,000	0	330,000	330,000	330,000
Malaria ⁱ	755,000	674,000	755,000	755,000	755,000
Tuberculosis ⁱⁱ	241,000	178,400	241,000	241,000	261,000
Neglected Tropical Diseases	100,000	75,000	100,000	Unknown	100,000
Pandemic Influenza and Other Emerging Threats ⁱⁱⁱ	142,500	72,500	142,500	82,500	72,500
HIV/AIDS (DOS/PEPFAR)	5,670,000	4,975,000	5,670,000	5,670,000	5,670,000
Development Assistance (including Water, Basic Ed) ^{iv}	2,995,465	0	2,995,465	2,780,971	2,890,000
International Disaster Assistance	4,427,786*	2,508,200	3,437,786	2,821,686	3,133,210
Migration and Refugee Assistance	3,359,000**	2,746,141	3,604,000	3,109,000	3,110,287
Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance	50,000	0	50,000	0	50,000
Complex Crises Fund	30,000	0	30,000	30,000	30,000
Millennium Challenge Account	905,000	800,000	905,000	800,000	905,000
Atrocities Prevention Board (ESF & INCLE)	10,000	0	25,000	0	5,750
Contributions to International Peacekeeping Activities	1,907,564	1,195,886	2,398,000	1,495,815	1,382,100
Peacekeeping Operations	659,014 [^]	301,400	609,014	460,254	497,350
Green Climate Fund (Treasury)	0	0	500,000	0	0
Anti-Trafficking in Persons (DA, ESF, AEECA, INCLE)	77,300	35,865	85,000	65,000	65,000
<i>Agricultural (Ag)</i>	1,801,626	0	1,997,626	1,585,126	1,806,620
Food for Peace (Title II) ^v	1,600,000	0	1,716,000	1,400,000	1,600,000
McGovern-Dole	201,626	0	201,626	201,626	206,620
Local and Regional Procurement	0	0	80,000	0	0
<i>Labor, Health and Human Services (LHHS)</i>	86,125	19,000	91,125	26,500	86,125
Dept. of Labor International Labor Affairs (DOL/ILAB)	86,125	19,000	91,125	26,500	86,125
COMBINED TOTAL (~0.5% of budget)	24,509,880	14,409,492	24,929,016	21,185,352	22,127,442

ⁱIDA enacted funding for 2017 includes \$616 million in emergency spending from the December 2016 CR; and \$990 million in emergency spending from the omnibus. The omnibus level is \$3.8 billion.

^{**}MRA enacted funding for 2017 includes \$300 million in emergency spending from the December 2016 CR. The omnibus level is \$3.059 billion.

[^]PKO enacted funding for 2017 includes \$50 million in emergency spending from the December 2016 CR. The omnibus level is \$609 million.

Summary of Message to Congress and Account Descriptions

The Church views international assistance as an essential tool to promote human life and dignity, advance solidarity with developing nations, and enhance human security. The USCCB and CRS prioritize the accounts below because they are most focused on saving lives and reducing poverty. This assistance is just over one-half percent of the federal budget, not the 20-25% many Americans believe it constitutes. We urge Congress to **maintain funding for international poverty-reducing development and humanitarian programs to meet urgent needs and invest in peace.**

Maternal and Child Health programs provide low-cost life-saving interventions, such as micronutrient supplementation, nutritional support, newborn care, immunization, and treatment of pneumonia and diarrheal disease – addressing the biggest killers of mothers and children in the developing world. This account also provides funding for the U.S. contribution to GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance, which purchases vaccines for children in poor countries.

Nutrition programs provide interventions such as micronutrient supplementation and growth monitoring, which combined with an adequate diet and clean water and sanitation, improves outcomes during the first critical years of a child's life.

Vulnerable Children programs address the special needs of displaced children and orphans.

HIV and AIDS PEPFAR (USAID & State Funding) funding focuses on prevention, care and treatment, and the support of children affected and infected by HIV and AIDS. Although we have principled concerns about those PEPFAR prevention activities we find inconsistent with Catholic teaching and do not implement or advocate for these activities, we support PEPFAR's overall lifesaving mission and urge robust funding for the Global Fund.

ⁱ **Malaria** programs treat, prevent, and control this deadly disease with the vision of ending preventable child and maternal deaths. The programs build government capacity to treat and prevent malaria. The Administration's FY18 request and House FY18 bill reprogram \$250 million from FY15 Ebola emergency appropriations. The Senate FY18 bill reprograms \$100 million from FY15 Ebola emergency appropriations.

ⁱⁱ **Tuberculosis** programs screen, diagnose, and treat millions of people each year affected by the leading infectious disease killer globally in order to cure and prevent the spread of TB. The Senate FY18 bill reprograms \$20 from FY16 Ebola emergency appropriations.

Neglected Tropical Diseases programs focus on scaling up integrated treatment to prevent parasitic and bacterial diseases that cause morbidity and mortality.

ⁱⁱⁱ **Pandemic Influenza and Other Emerging Threats** programs prevent, prepare for, and respond to unanticipated and emerging global health threats. The Administration's FY18 Request and House FY18 bill reprogram \$72.5 million from FY15 Ebola emergency appropriations.

^{iv} **Development Assistance** programs support an array of critical development activities, including primary education; food security; clean water and sanitation; microfinance, climate change adaptation and mitigation; democracy promotion and good governance, and conflict management and mitigation. The Administration's FY18 Request combines the DA and ESF accounts into a new Economic Support and Development Fund account, and reduces overall funding compared to preexisting funding levels for DA and ESF. The Senate and House FY18 bills do not support consolidation of accounts.

International Disaster Assistance funds emergency health, water, shelter and nutrition efforts, as well as disaster risk reduction and rehabilitation through the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA). It also supports emergency food security through the Emergency Food Security Program (EFSP).

Migration and Refugee Assistance protects refugees and internally displaced persons, helps them to repatriate when conflict ends or natural disaster responses permit, and to resettle to safe countries like the U.S. This level would fund resettlement of 75,000 refugees in the U.S.

Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance is a drawdown account used, with Presidential authority, to respond to humanitarian crises.

Complex Crisis Fund enables rapid investments to catalyze peace and mitigate conflict in the face of unforeseen crises or violence.

Millennium Challenge Account provides U.S. funding to countries with a commitment to good governance, focusing on infrastructure projects.

Atrocities Prevention Board (APB) improves collaboration, analysis and information sharing to mobilize U.S. efforts to prevent future atrocities and crises.

Contributions to International Peacekeeping Activities deploy peacekeeping troops to protect civilians in places like Sudan and Somalia.

Peacekeeping Operations finances the training and equipping of peacekeeping troops before they deploy to conflict countries and the professionalization of militia groups into formal military forces committed to protecting their people.

Green Climate Fund provides assistance to developing countries to adapt to, and mitigate, impacts of climate change.

Combatting Trafficking in Persons US assistance helps other nations to prevent trafficking, prosecute perpetrators, and provide assistance to victims.

^v **Food for Peace (Title II)** provides U.S. food aid for emergencies and funds long-term development programs that support nutrition and build resilience. The Administration's FY18 Request eliminates all funding for Food for Peace and shifts programming to IDA and Economic Support and Development Fund.

McGovern-Dole provides school lunches and take-home food rations to encourage students, especially girls, to attend school, and other school support efforts. The Administrations FY18 Request eliminates all funding for the program.

Local and Regional Purchase will provide local and regionally procured commodities for sustainability in the McGovern-Dole program.

International Labor Bureau funds programs to combat the worst forms of child labor, forced labor, and trafficking in persons.