



International Justice and Peace
3211 4th Street, NE
Washington, DC 20017
Tel. (202) 541-3160
Fax (202) 541-3339



228 West Lexington Street
Baltimore, MD 21201
Tel. (410) 625-2220
Fax (410) 685-1635

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on the Department of State,
Foreign Operations, and Related Programs
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on the Department of State,
Foreign Operations, and Related Programs
Senate U.S.
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on the Department of State,
Foreign Operations, and Related Programs
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on the Department of State,
Foreign Operations, and Related Programs U.S.
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

March 27, 2014

Dear Chairman Leahy, Chairman Granger, Ranking Member Graham and Ranking Member Lowey:

As the Catholic Church celebrates the one year anniversary of the Pontificate of Pope Francis, we join him in solidarity with those suffering in the Central African Republic, South Sudan, Syria, and the many forgotten conflicts around the globe. On behalf of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief Services, we commend you for your thoughtful decisions to fund appropriately the poverty-focused and humanitarian accounts in the fiscal year 2014 appropriations, and hope you will continue to give them priority attention in fiscal year 2015. Please find attached a list of the accounts we ask Congress to prioritize. We highlight several below.

Based on advice from our partners and CRS staff on the ground, we are deeply concerned about humanitarian funding. International Disaster Assistance, Migration and Refugee Assistance, and Food for Peace must be able to respond not only to the crises of today but also their potential escalation. And of course, should another major natural disaster occur or conflict erupt, some contingency funding is necessary. We urge that these accounts be funded at least at the levels of fiscal year 2014.

We fully support the Administration's request to increase funding for peacekeeping; \$300 million of that would fund the nascent force in Mali. The proposed Peacekeeping Response Mechanism is a creative response to ensure flexibility should crises escalate, such as the violence in the Central African Republic and South Sudan. We support this proposal. Peacekeeping operations not only help to contain violence, but also enable organizations like CRS to provide humanitarian assistance.

Finally, we request that Congress maintain fiscal year 2014 levels for the global health programs enumerated in the accompanying chart. We must continue the significant gains these accounts have made possible against the spread of certain diseases that have taken so many lives throughout history. We

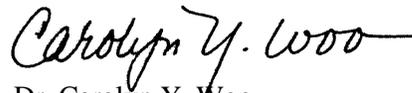
cannot afford to retreat on the progress we have made in bringing healthy lives and hope to people across the globe.

We know that appropriations decisions reflect values, and we applaud you for ensuring that the poor and vulnerable around the globe are protected. As Pope Francis said, "In all places and circumstances, Christians, with the help of their pastors, are called to hear the cry of the poor." (The Joy of the Gospel 191) It is not only the right thing to do, but these investments in people also help strengthen world solidarity in which every nation, including our own, benefits from economic growth and stability. Please let us know how we can help as you discern funding for fiscal year 2015.

Sincerely,

+ 

Most Reverend Richard E. Pates
Bishop of Des Moines
Chairman, Committee on International Justice
and Peace



Dr. Carolyn Y. Woo
President and CEO
Catholic Relief Services



International Poverty-Focused Development and Humanitarian Accounts



Account Title (\$ in thousands) (Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) funding included)	FY 14 Omnibus	FY 15 President's Request	FY 15 USCCB/ CRS rec's
<i>State, Foreign Operations Appropriations (SFOPs)</i>			
Maternal Health and Child Survival (including vaccines)	705,000	695,000	705,000
Nutrition	115,000	101,000	115,000
Vulnerable Children (orphans and displaced children)	22,000	14,500	22,000
HIV/AIDS (USAID Programs)	330,000	330,000	330,000
Malaria, Tuberculosis, and Other Infectious Diseases	1,073,500	1,001,500	1,073,500
HIV/AIDS (State Funding/PEPFAR)	5,670,000	5,370,000	5,670,000
Development Assistance (including water, education)	2,507,001	2,619,984	2,700,000
International Disaster Assistance	1,801,000	1,300,000	1,801,000
Migration and Refugee Assistance	3,055,000	1,749,355	3,055,000
Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance	50,000	50,000	50,000
Millennium Challenge Account	898,200	1,000,000	1,000,000
International Development Association	1,355,000	1,290,600	1,290,600
Contributions to International Peacekeeping Activities	1,765,519	2,518,565	2,518,565
Peacekeeping Operations	435,600	336,150	336,150
Peacekeeping Response Mechanism		150,000	150,000
Conflict Stabilization Operations	42,500	43,900	43,900
SFOPs TOTAL	19,825,320	19,327,328	20,860,715
<i>Agricultural Appropriations (Ag)</i>			
Food for Peace (Title II)	1,466,000	1,400,000	1,550,000
McGovern-Dole	185,126	185,126	200,000
Local and Regional Procurement	N/A	0	80,000
AG TOTAL	1,651,126	1,585,126	1,830,000
COMBINED TOTAL (~0.6% of budget)	21,476,446	20,912,454	22,690,715

Summary of Message to Congress and Account Description

The Church views international assistance as an essential tool to promote human life and dignity, advance solidarity with poorer nations, and enhance human security. Our FY2015 budget request is just over \$22 billion for poverty-focused development and humanitarian assistance programs that USCCB and CRS have prioritized. This assistance represents just over one-half percent (0.6%) of the federal budget, not the 20-25% many Americans believe it constitutes. We urge Congress to **preserve and strengthen funding for international poverty-focused development and humanitarian programs**.

Maternal and Child Health these programs provide proven life-saving help, such as newborn care, immunization, community treatment of pneumonia and nutrition programs that address the major killers of mothers and children in the developing world.

Nutrition helps to improve overall nutrition during the most crucial periods of life such as pregnancy and the first years of a child's life.

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

HIV/AIDS PEPFAR (USAID Funding) funding focuses on prevention, care and treatment, and the support of children affected by AIDS.

Malaria and Other Infectious Diseases funding prepares for avian flu response and helps to prevent and treat HIV, malaria, TB, and other neglected tropical diseases and pandemic diseases. This fund is critical to prevent major health outbreaks.

HIV/AIDS (State Funding) funds PEPFAR, which saves millions of lives by providing HIV prevention efforts, care for families and children affected by family members with HIV/AIDS, and anti-retroviral treatment efforts. These programs also treat malaria, immunize people, and invest in R&D.

Development Assistance programs support an array of critical development activities, including education; agriculture; water and sanitation; microfinance, including women's savings' groups; climate change; feed the future; democracy promotion and good governance.

International Disaster Assistance funds emergency health, water, shelter and nutrition efforts through the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance. It also funds disaster risk reduction, rehabilitation, transitions to development, and emergency food security.

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.

Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance programs respond to humanitarian crises in places like Mali and Syria.

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

International Development Association is part of the World Bank that helps the poorest countries through debt relief and social services grants and loans.

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.

Peacekeeping Response Mechanism, proposed in FY 2105 as a contingency fund for either peacekeeping account, this would meet a critical need.

Conflict and Stabilization Operations employs smart power to prevent conflict, respond to crises, and address the root causes of violence.

Food for Peace (Title II) provides international food assistance to address emergency needs following a drought, flood, or other shock. It also strengthens the long-term capacity of rural communities and small farmers to withstand shocks and become more self-sufficient.

McGovern-Dole provides school lunches and take-home food rations to encourage students, especially girls, to attend school.

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

Accounts in italics are subaccounts of Global Health Programs (USAID).