



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

October 19, 2011

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman, Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Norm Dicks
Ranking Member, Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman and Ranking Member:

As you commence negotiations with the Senate on a final FY 2012 State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations, we urge you to adopt funding levels that have been proposed by the Senate. The House Appropriations bill proposed deep cuts that undermine integral human development, poverty reduction initiatives, our humanitarian response capacity and stability in the world's poorest countries and communities.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) have repeatedly acknowledged the difficult challenges that Congress faces to get the nation's financial house in order. We reiterate our support for fiscal responsibility and strongly urge you to accomplish this goal in morally responsible ways that do not disproportionately cut programs for the most vulnerable at home and abroad.

The attached table illustrates the poverty-focused development and humanitarian accounts that the USCCB and CRS fully support. The Senate proposal preserves poverty-focused funding for accounts that took an 8% cut in FY 2011. This stands in stark contrast to the additional 13% reduction in the House FY 2012 State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs appropriations bill. Some of the most severe cuts in the House bill would stymie development investments such as agricultural assistance for subsistence farmers; adaptation to climate change for vulnerable communities; and assistance to orphans and vulnerable children. They would risk increased disease by cutting medicines for people living with HIV/AIDS and vaccines for preventable diseases. Finally, they would prolong political conflict by cutting disaster assistance in places like Haiti, peacekeeping to protect innocent civilians in troubled areas such as Sudan and Congo, and support to migrants and refugees fleeing conflict or persecution in nations such as Iraq. The famine in East Africa is a grim reminder of the lives that are at stake.

Instead of these disproportionate cuts, we urge you to consider balanced adjustments across the entire federal budget, including defense, increased revenue, agricultural subsidies and fair and just entitlement reform. If the State and Foreign Operations budget must be cut, then we ask you to protect the critical poverty-focused accounts proposed in the attached table. The federal budget is a moral document that should give priority to those who are poor and vulnerable at home and abroad.

Letter to Representatives Harold Rogers and Norm Dicks
October 19, 2012
Page 2

The USCCB and CRS reiterate our commitment to work with leaders of both parties for a budget that reduces future deficits, protects poor and vulnerable people at home and abroad, advances the common good, and promotes human life and dignity. We urge the House Appropriations Committee to reject disproportionate, unwise and unjust cuts and to adopt the Senate proposed levels for State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs

Sincerely yours,



Most Reverend Howard J. Hubbard
Bishop of Albany
Chairman, Committee on International Justice and Peace



Mr. Ken Hackett
President
Catholic Relief Services

Cc: The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairman,
Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs



**POVERTY-FOCUSED DEVELOPMENT
and HUMANITARIAN ACCOUNTS
SUPPORTED BY USCCB and CRS**



<u>FUNDING ACCOUNT TITLE (\$ in thousands)</u>	<u>FY 2010¹</u>	<u>FY 2011²</u>	<u>House FY 2012³</u>	<u>House FY10-12 % Diff</u>	<u>Senate Proposed FY 2012</u>
Child Survival and Maternal Health (including vaccines)	549,000	unknown	unknown	~ -8%	595,000
Vulnerable Children (orphans and displaced children)	15,000	unknown	unknown	~ -8%	17,500
HIV/AIDS (USAID Programs)	350,000	unknown	unknown	~ -8%	350,000
Other Infectious Diseases (neglected tropical diseases)	981,000	unknown	unknown	~ -8%	1,015,000
Global Health and Child Survival (includes PEPFAR)	5,359,000	5,334,310	unknown	~ -8%	5,250,000
Development Assistance (e.g. Feed the Future, climate change)	2,520,000	2,518,950	2,068,000	-18%	2,550,000
International Disaster Assistance	1,305,000	863,270	757,652	-42%	1,000,000
Transition Initiatives (post-conflict countries)	55,000	54,890	54,890	-0%	58,500
Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA)	1,850,000	1,686,620	1,496,873	-19%	1,800,000
Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance	45,000	49,000	32,000	-29%	(in MRA)
Millennium Challenge Account (development projects)	1,105,000	898,200	898,200	-19%	898,200
P.L. 480 Title II Food for Peace	1,840,000	1,497,000	1,040,198	-43%	1,562,000
McGovern-Dole International Food for Education	209,500	199,101	180,000	-14%	188,000
Contributions to International Peacekeeping Activities	2,221,500	1,883,931	1,690,517	-24%	1,917,900
Peacekeeping Operations	331,500	304,390	304,390	-8%	292,000
International Development Association (including debt relief)	1,334,500	1,232,530	940,500	-30%	1,355,000
Debt Restructuring	60,000	49,900	unknown	-17%	15,000
TOTAL	\$ 20,131,000	-8%	-13%	-20%	18,864,100
	(about 0.6% of budget)				

¹ FY 2010 Enacted Budget including Supplemental

² FY 2011 Enacted Budget. Unknown sub-accounts flat-funded in FY 2011.

³ FY 2012 House State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee proposal. Unknown sub-accounts cut on average 8%.