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November 16, 2012

The Honorable Senator Inouye
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member, Committee on
Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Norm Dicks
Ranking Member, Committee on
Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

As you make final decisions regarding FY 2013 appropriations and strive to resolve our fiscal crisis, we urge you to protect funding for lifesaving poverty-focused international humanitarian and development programs in State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs and Agriculture appropriations. Please refer to the attached chart for a list of the accounts we ask you to prioritize. For these accounts, we strongly support the Senate figures for FY 2013 appropriations and ask that you avoid sequestration.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) appreciate the fiscal challenges facing Congress. As the Bishops pointed out in their letter of November 13 to Congress regarding future unsustainable deficits, everything must be on the table as Congress negotiates a resolution to these challenges, except we must draw a “circle of protection” around those at greatest risk, a position supported by us and our ecumenical partners. Poverty-focused international assistance protects the most vulnerable persons and families abroad, while on the domestic front we support the many social programs that extend the same circle of protection to people living in poverty in the United States.

Overseas, CRS implements the kinds of life-saving programs funded by these accounts. International Disaster Assistance and Migration and Refugee assistance funding helps people like Fatme, who fled the violence in Syria with nothing but the clothes on her back. The funds held in Food for Peace’s safe box put people like Suzy Razafindrafara on the path to food security; her rice yield increased 50% in Madagascar thanks to technical advice from CRS

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partner Caritas Antsirabe. PEPFAR funding helps to maintain life-saving successes after programs are transitioned to local leadership, which CRS successfully completed in 9 countries this spring with partners like the ecumenical team in Zambia.

Cuts to these accounts, such as the 8.2% sequestration requires, would cost lives overseas. Among other losses, it would mean:

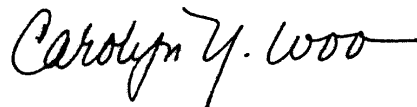
- HIV/AIDS treatment for 276,500 people will not be available, potentially leading to 63,000 more AIDS-related deaths and 124,000 more children becoming orphans;
- 3.33 million people will have reduced or denied access to lifesaving food aid; and
- 656,000 fewer children annually will have access to a quality primary school education.

In 2011, CRS used funding from these accounts to help more than 100 million beneficiaries in nearly 100 countries and contributed \$224 million in private funds. American citizens continue to give of their hard-earned dollars to alleviate suffering overseas because they believe in our responsibility to help our brothers and sisters in the human family. As their representatives, we urge you to echo that commitment and protect U.S. government poverty-focused international assistance.

Sincerely yours,

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Most Reverend Richard J. Pates
Bishop of Des Moines
Chair, Committee on International Justice and Peace
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops



Dr. Carolyn Y. Woo
President
Catholic Relief Services



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



Funding Account Title (\$ in thousands) (OCO funding included)	House Approps	Senate Approps	CR*	Sequester projection[^]
<i>State and Foreign Operations Appropriations</i>				
Maternal Health and Child Survival (incl. vaccines)	605,550	678,968	609,183	
Nutrition	95,000	122,000	95,570	overall cut to Global Health: - 670,000
Vulnerable Children (orphans and displaced children)	17,500	23,000	17,605	
HIV/AIDS (USAID Programs)	350,000	350,000	350,210	
Malaria and Other Infectious Diseases	1,035,000	1,155,000	1,039,198	
HIV/AIDS (State Funding)	5,542,860	5,550,000	5,576,117	
Development Assistance (e.g., Education, WASH)	2,519,950	3,050,000	2,535,069	-207,000
International Disaster Assistance	922,602	1,250,000	980,850	-80,000
Transition Initiatives (post-conflict countries)	56,695	59,000	57,035	-5,000
Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA)	1,690,000	2,300,000	1,886,350	-154,000
Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance	47,000	50,000	27,363	-2,000
Millennium Challenge Account (development projects)	898,200	898,200	903,589	-74,000
Contributions to International Peacekeeping Activities	1,828,182	2,006,500	1,839,151	-150,000
Peacekeeping Operations	345,000	391,000	1,335,252	-31,000
International Development Association (incl. debt relief)	1,325,000	1,408,500	1,332,950	-122,000
SFOPs TOTAL	17,278,539	19,292,168	18,585,492	-1,495,000
<i>Agricultural Appropriations</i>				
Food for Peace (Title II)	1,149,000	1,466,000	1,474,796	-120,000
McGovern-Dole	180,000	184,000	185,104	-15,000
AG TOTAL	1,329,000	1,650,000	1,659,900	-135,000
COMBINED TOTAL (~0.5% of budget)	18,607,539	20,942,168	20,245,392	-1,630,000

*Continuing resolution reflects FY 2012 figures.

[^]This is an 8.2% cut to FY12 levels; OMB figures.

Summary of Message to Congress and Account Descriptions

In a time of austerity and fiscal restraints, we need to give moral priority to programs that help the poor, both at home and abroad. We urge Congress to **preserve and strengthen funding for international poverty-focused development and humanitarian programs** that save lives and reduce poverty in the FY 2013 budget. The current food crisis in the African Sahel is a grim reminder of the lives at stake.

Maternal and Child Health 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 Programs help 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 efforts, and the support of children affected by AIDS in over 90 countries.

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. 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 research and development.

Development Assistance programs support an array of activities, including education, agriculture, water and sanitation, small enterprise, climate change, democracy promotion and good governance. These programs help promote human development and stability in poor countries.

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.

Transition Initiatives help countries in or emerging from conflict to rebuild communities and strengthen government structures; it bridges the gap between emergency relief and longer-term development.

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 Sudan and Iraq.

Millennium Challenge Account provides U.S. funding to countries with a commitment to good governance; in particular, it funds infrastructure projects.

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.

International Development Association in the World Bank provides debt relief for some of the poorest countries in the world.

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.

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