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June 1, 2021

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on International Justice and Peace, Committee on Migration, and Catholic Relief Services (CRS), **we write to urge Congress to increase international poverty-reducing humanitarian and development assistance under the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs in Fiscal Year 2022 appropriations to at least the levels indicated in the attached chart.** We applaud Congress for maintaining strong bipartisan support for these accounts, but the human and societal needs call us to forge a deeper commitment to resources and tools that can tackle the urgent crises of our times and allow every person to reach their God-given human potential.

Each year, USCCB and CRS assess the federal budget on how it supports the life and dignity of the human person. As we evaluate budget priorities, we are reminded of Pope Francis' recent Encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*, where he wrote, "What we need in fact are states and civil institutions that are present and active, that look beyond the free and efficient working of certain economic, political or ideological systems, and are primarily concerned with individuals and the common good." The pandemic has shown our society and our world that we have to demonstrate greater solidarity and support to the common good of all our neighbors near and far.

We write to you at a time when climate change, conflict, forced displacement, the pandemic, and its secondary impacts disproportionately impact and threaten the poorest and most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters. Bipartisan support for our nation's response to the challenges of global poverty has protected foreign assistance funding for years. We urge Congress now to act boldly and courageously to support human life and dignity, care for our common home, advance peace, and justice, and eliminate the worst aspects of poverty.

Strong Fiscal Year 2022 appropriations will be essential to ensure a sustainable recovery from the pandemic and to defend against further development and humanitarian backsliding. This starts with supporting strong health systems and programs such as those that treat, prevent, and control malaria; support HIV and AIDS efforts to achieve epidemic control; and promote safe, nurturing family care for vulnerable children and reduce violence against children. We urge Congress to support **lifesaving Global Health accounts**, especially the **Vulnerable Children** account which supports the world's most marginalized children.

The health and wellbeing of each person will also depend on how we care for the environment and our common home. Droughts in Africa, severe storms in Asia, and failing coffee plants in Central America are just a few examples of the terrible impact climate change has on communities. Without immediate action to counteract the causes of climate change, we expect to experience stronger and more regular climate events that disproportionately impact and displace poor and vulnerable communities. We recommend Congress provide robust funding to the **Green Climate Fund** and to consider other bilateral and multilateral programs to address climate change adaptation and mitigation.

While climate change and natural disasters uproot families, conflict remains the largest driver of forced displacement and creates the largest need for humanitarian aid. More than 80 million people

are displaced from their homes, most due to conflict, persecution, or instability. The United States has been a global leader in ensuring lifesaving humanitarian assistance and protection to people in need. Unfortunately, the number of people in need is growing. We urge Congress to increase allocations to **International Disaster Assistance, Migration and Refugee Assistance, and Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance**. While we cannot forget the moral obligation to provide lifesaving assistance and protection, these social, economic, and political crises require more than humanitarian aid. We must leverage diplomatic, peacebuilding, and development resources and tools to prevent conflict, address the root causes of human suffering, and promote justice and good governance. We recommend Congress increase investments in the **Complex Crisis Fund** and provide strong funding for **peacekeeping, atrocities prevention, and the U.S. Institute of Peace**.

Peace and justice also require systems and structures that offer opportunities for individuals, families, and communities to thrive. Pope Francis reminds us though that “Some economic rules have proved effective for growth, but not for integral human development.” Inequality and lack of economic opportunity continue to plague communities across the globe, including here in the United States. We frequently exclude from development efforts those without access to nutritious food, clean water and sanitation, basic education, and health and social services. We acknowledge and appreciate recent increases to Development Assistance, but to achieve long-term human development needs, we need to evaluate where and how we can do more. We strongly recommend Congress increase appropriations to **Development Assistance and Economic Support Funds** that achieve the goal of poverty reduction and integral human development.

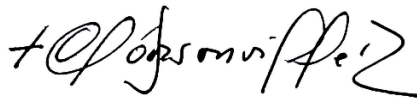
We have grave concerns about providing taxpayer funding for activities inconsistent with the Catholic faith and basic human rights. Therefore, we strongly urge Congress to maintain the Helms Amendment in the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs appropriations bill. The USCCB will oppose any bill that expands taxpayer funding of abortion, including any appropriations bill.

We thank Congress for the ongoing support for international poverty-reducing humanitarian and development assistance and look forward to conversations with you and your staff on how we can work together to advance peace, justice, and the common good.

Sincerely,



Most Reverend David J. Malloy
Bishop of Rockville
Chairman of the Committee on
International Justice and Peace



Most Reverend Mario E. Dorsonville
Aux. Bishop of Washington, DC
Chairman of the Committee on
Migration



Mr. Sean M. Callahan
President
Catholic Relief
Services

Attachment: Table of Accounts



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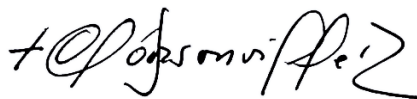
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International Poverty-Reducing Development and Humanitarian Accounts



Appropriations Accounts (\$ in thousands) (OCO included)	FY 19 Enacted	FY 20 Enacted*	FY 21 Enacted**	USCCB/CRS FY 22 Request
<i>State, Foreign Operations (SFOPs)</i>	22,217,116	22,831,693	22,987,035	24,441,831
Maternal and Child Health (including GAVI)	835,000	851,000	855,000	865,000
Nutrition	145,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
Vulnerable Children (orphans and displaced children)	24,000	25,000	25,000	35,000
HIV/AIDS (USAID)	330,000	330,000	330,000	330,000
Malaria	755,000	770,000	770,000	785,000
Tuberculosis	302,000	310,000	319,000	325,000
Neglected Tropical Diseases	102,500	102,500	102,500	102,500
Global Health Security	100,000	100,000	190,000	190,000
PEPFAR (including Global Fund)	5,720,000	5,930,000	5,930,000	5,930,000
Development Assistance (including Water, Basic Ed)	3,000,000	3,400,000	3,500,000	3,800,000
International Disaster Assistance	4,385,312	4,395,362	4,395,362	4,520,000
Migration and Refugee Assistance	3,432,000	3,432,000	3,432,000	3,981,331
Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance	1,000	100	100	1,000
Complex Crises Fund	30,000	30,000	30,000	50,000
Millennium Challenge Account	905,000	905,000	912,000	912,000
Atrocities Prevention Board (ESF & INCLE)	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Contributions for International Peacekeeping Activities	1,551,000	1,526,383	1,456,314	1,681,000
Peacekeeping Operations	488,670	457,348	440,759	435,000
Green Climate Fund (Treasury)	0	0	0	1,200,000
U.S. Institute of Peace	38,634	45,000	45,000	45,000
Anti-Trafficking in Persons (DA, ESF, AEECA, INCLE)	67,000	67,000	99,000	99,000
<i>Agricultural (Ag)</i>	1,926,255	1,945,000	1,970,000	2,235,000
Title II Food for Peace	1,716,000	1,725,000	1,740,000	2,000,000
McGovern-Dole	210,255	220,000	230,000	235,000
<i>Labor, Health and Human Services (LHHS)</i>	86,125	96,000	96,125	96,125
Bureau of International Labor Affairs (DOL/ILAB)	86,125	96,000	96,125	96,125
COMBINED TOTAL	24,229,496	24,872,693	25,053,160	27,772,956

* COVID-19 Legislation appropriated \$435M to GH-USAID, \$558M to IDA, \$350M to MRA, and \$250M to ESF. **COVID-19 Legislation appropriated \$4B to GAVI, \$500M for MRA, \$8.675B for ESF, and \$800M for FFP.

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 low and middle-income 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. We urge Congress to **fund international poverty-reducing development and humanitarian programs to alleviate suffering 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. Programs such as these have helped reduce the number of preventable child deaths worldwide from 12.6 million in 1990 to 5.3 million today.

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. Malnutrition is the underlying cause of 45 percent of preventable child deaths.

Vulnerable Children funding promotes family care for vulnerable children and seeks to reduce violence against children.

HIV and AIDS PEPFAR (USAID & State Funding) supports HIV and AIDS efforts in 50 countries to achieve epidemic control. Ten percent of PEPFAR funding focuses on mitigating the negative impact of HIV on orphans and vulnerable children affected and infected by HIV and AIDS. Also included is funding for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria which works to prevent, treat and care for people with HIV, TB and Malaria and build health systems. The Global Fund is working in over 100 countries and has saved 32 million lives. 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.

Malaria programs treat, prevent, and control this deadly disease which is one of the biggest killers of children under five worldwide.

Tuberculosis programs screen, diagnose, and treat millions of people each year. TB is the leading infectious killer globally.

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

Global Health Security programs prevent, prepare for, and respond to unanticipated and emerging global health threats.

Development Assistance programs support an array of critical development activities, including basic education; Global Food Security Act implementation; clean water and sanitation; microfinance, democracy promotion and good governance, and conflict management and mitigation.

International Disaster Assistance funds emergency health, water, shelter and nutrition efforts, as well as disaster risk reduction and rehabilitation through the Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA). It also supports cash and voucher-based emergency food security programming via 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 supports resettlement to safe countries like the U.S. This level would fund the admission process for 125,000 refugees to the U.S.

Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance is a drawdown account used, with Presidential authority, to respond to humanitarian crises. ERMA is currently capped at \$100 million.

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. Based on UN assessed rates of contribution, the U.S. is currently in arrears estimated at more than \$1.12 billion.

Peacekeeping Operations finances the training and equipping of peacekeeping troops and the professionalization of militia groups committed to protecting their people. The U.S. is currently in arrears estimated at \$90 million.

Green Climate Fund provides assistance to developing countries to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change. In addition to the Green Climate Fund, other multilateral and bilateral programs to address climate change adaptation and mitigation should be considered.

U.S. Institute of Peace works to prevent, reduce, and resolve armed conflict around the world by providing analysis, education, and resources to those working for peace.

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

Title II Food for Peace provides U.S. food aid for emergencies and funds \$350 million in long-term development programs that support nutrition and build resilience.

McGovern-Dole provides school lunches and take-home food rations to encourage students, especially girls, to attend school, and other school support efforts. At least \$15 million should provide for local and regionally procured commodities for sustainability.

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