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Dear Senator:

Thank you for your ongoing, bipartisan support to mitigate global conflict, address acute humanitarian needs, and reduce global poverty, most recently demonstrated in fiscal year 2018 appropriations. U.S. goodwill reflects common values of inherent human dignity and recognition that all people deserve opportunities to reach their fullest potential to promote the common good. As you contemplate fiscal year 2019 appropriations for programs under the subcommittee's jurisdiction, **we urge you to oppose the cuts proposed in the Administration's request and to fund the poverty-reducing humanitarian, development, and migration accounts to at least fiscal year 2018 enacted levels.** (Please see the attached chart.)

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) believe that all budget decisions should consider two critical, moral questions. First, does the budget protect or threaten human life and dignity? And second, how does the budget affect 'the least of these' (Matthew 25) - the poor and marginalized among us? Since the U.S. bishops established Migration and Refugee Services (MRS) and CRS in 1920 and 1943 respectively, we have partnered with the U.S. government to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable. We have witnessed the U.S. government's leadership role in supporting communities, promoting inclusive economies, and fostering a more peaceful world. U.S. assistance is invaluable to the progress the global community has made to combat extreme poverty and global health outbreaks, and to make the world safer.

We urge Congress to sustain the international affairs budget at no less than \$59.1 billion to ensure protection of poverty-focused international assistance. This is flat funding from FY17 enacted (with supplementals), including at least \$57.4 billion for the SFOPs 302(b). We ask that funding for poverty-focused programs not come at the expense of other development, life-giving global health, and humanitarian programs that engender a safer and more prosperous world.

Today, more than 65 million people are forcibly displaced from their homes and 136 million people need humanitarian assistance. Large parts of South Sudan, Nigeria, Yemen, and Somalia remain on the brink of famine. We commend the subcommittee's actions to increase funding for humanitarian assistance in recent years and urge you to maintain appropriations to at least fiscal year 2018 enacted levels for **International Disaster Assistance (IDA) and Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA).**

A collective effort to resolve conflicts from Syria to Yemen to Burma; support peacebuilding in places such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Central African Republic, and South Sudan; and to prepare for the next crisis, disaster, or atrocity are paramount to U.S. engagement with the world. **The government's support for peacekeeping, the Atrocities Prevention Board, the Complex Crisis Fund, and the U.S. Institute of Peace are significant initiatives to manage conflict and to address the root causes of violence and migration.**

While humanitarian aid and diplomacy are critical tools in America's foreign policy toolbox, development assistance is the bedrock of U.S.-sponsored foreign aid. **When the U.S. invests in clean water and sanitation, basic education, microfinance, democracy promotion and good governance, and food security programs implemented through the Development**

Assistance account, we address the underlying causes of poverty, migration, and violence.

When we acknowledge the impact of climate shocks on those reached with development programs, and support bilateral programming and multilateral mechanisms such as the **Green Climate Fund**, we protect gains made in areas such as food security. And when there is investment in **Anti-Trafficking in Persons** programs and a common understanding of the scourge of human trafficking, we are better able to protect victims, prosecute perpetrators, and prevent “modern day slavery.”

Recent disease outbreaks remind us of the critical importance of global health programming. For example, a child under five dies every 2 minutes from **malaria** for lack of cost-effective tools such as an insecticide-treated bed net or a course of treatment. Endemic in 91 countries, malaria has a staggering economic impact, costing \$12 billion per year. Funding for **Nutrition** is another effective way to support the future of women and children worldwide. Every dollar spent on improving nutrition in the first 1,000 days of a child’s life yields a return of \$48 in better health and economic productivity. Backing for **Vulnerable Children** helps reunite children in institutional care with their families, and assists those affected by war, homelessness, or disability.

Effective and efficient development and humanitarian aid requires the partnership of the U.S. government and local partners. CRS is proud to leverage private money and to partner with long-standing local partners, especially the extensive network of Catholic institutions that enjoy the trust of local communities and understand the needs of people. Nonetheless, we appreciate the need to improve continually how we deliver and program U.S. assistance, and for reform of U.S. assistance so that investments build local capacity and allow for greater flexibility. MRS continues to work with the U.S. government, state governments, and local Catholic Charities and communities to resettle and protect refugees coming to the United States.

Thank you for your leadership to maintain these critical accounts. We urge you to protect this funding in fiscal year 2019 to at least fiscal year 2018 enacted levels, to defend human life and dignity, to uphold our values, and to benefit the common good. We leave you with words from Julek Plowy, a refugee from World War II whom CRS helped to relocate from war-torn Poland to Santa Rosa, Mexico in 1943. “[You] provided aid to us in many forms, such as clothing, food, education, toys, medical aid and also finances,” said Julek. “The most important contribution to our family during our time in Santa Rosa,” he continued, “was the full restoration of our faith in the goodness and love of God and humanity.”

Sincerely yours,



Most Reverend Timothy P. Broglio
Archbishop for the
Military Services, USA
Chair, Committee on
International Justice and Peace
United States Conference
of Catholic Bishops



Most Reverend Joe Vasquez
Bishop of Austin, Texas
Chair, Committee on Migration
United States Conference
of Catholic Bishops



Mr. Sean Callahan
President and CEO
Catholic Relief
Services



International Poverty-Reducing Development and Humanitarian Accounts



Appropriations Requests (\$ in thousands) (OCO included)	FY 17 Enacted	FY 18 Omnibus	Administration's FY 19 Request	USCCB/CRS FY 19 Request
<i>State, Foreign Operations (SFOPs)</i>	22,660,013	21,788,823	15,128,395	23,662,828
Maternal and Child Health (including GAVI)	814,500	829,500	619,600	829,500
Nutrition	125,000	125,000	78,500	125,000
Vulnerable Children (orphans and displaced children) ⁱ	23,000	23,000	-----	23,000
HIV/AIDS (USAID)	330,000	330,000	0	330,000
Malaria	755,000	755,000	674,000	755,000
Tuberculosis	241,000	261,000	178,400	261,000
Neglected Tropical Diseases	100,000	100,000	75,000	100,000
Combating Emerging Disease Outbreaks ⁱⁱ	142,500	72,550	72,500	142,500
HIV/AIDS (DOS/PEPFAR)	5,670,000	5,670,000	4,775,100	5,670,000
Development Assistance (including Water, Basic Ed) ⁱⁱⁱ	2,995,465	3,000,000	-----	3,000,000
International Disaster Assistance	4,427,786*	4,285,312	3,557,412	4,285,312
Migration and Refugee Assistance	3,359,000**	3,359,000	2,800,375	3,604,000
Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance	50,000	1,000	0	50,000
Complex Crises Fund	30,000	30,000	0	30,000
Millennium Challenge Account	905,000	905,000	800,000	905,000
Atrocities Prevention Board (ESF & INCLE)	10,000	5,750	0	10,000
Contributions to International Peacekeeping Activities	1,907,564	1,382,080	1,196,108	2,574,000
Peacekeeping Operations	659,014^	537,925	291,400	351,800
Green Climate Fund (Treasury)	0	0	0	500,000
U.S. Institute of Peace	37,884	37,884	20,000	37,884
Anti-Trafficking in Persons (DA, ESF, AEECA, INCLE) ^{iv}	77,300	78,822	-----	78,822
<i>Agricultural (Ag)</i>	1,801,626	1,923,626	0	2,106,620
Food for Peace (Title II) ^v	1,600,000	1,716,000	0	1,900,000
McGovern-Dole	201,626	207,626	0	207,626
<i>Labor, Health and Human Services (LHHS)</i>	86,125	86,125	18,500	91,125
Dept. of Labor International Labor Affairs (DOL/ILAB)	86,125	86,125	18,500	91,125
COMBINED TOTAL	24,547,764	23,798,574	15,156,895	25,861,579

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, \$300 million of which was transferred to Food for Peace Title II. 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.

ⁱ **Vulnerable Children** programs address the special needs of displaced children and orphans. The Administration's FY19 Request does not specify this account.

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.

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.

Tuberculosis programs screen, diagnose, and treat millions of people each year affected by the leading infectious disease killer globally to cure and prevent the spread of TB.

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

ⁱⁱ **Combating Emerging Disease Outbreaks** programs prevent, prepare for, and respond to unanticipated and emerging global health threats. The Administration's FY19 Request reprograms \$72.5 million from FY15 Ebola emergency appropriations. The Senate and House title this account Contagious Infectious Disease Outbreaks and Global health security and emerging health threats, respectively.

ⁱⁱⁱ **Development Assistance** programs support an array of critical development activities, including primary education; Global Food Security Act implementation; clean water and sanitation; microfinance, democracy promotion and good governance, and conflict management and mitigation. The Administration's FY19 Request combines the DA and ESF accounts into a new Economic Support and Development Fund account, and proposes \$5 billion. This reduces overall funding compared to FY17 funding levels for DA and ESF by 43%. 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 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 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.

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.

^{iv} **Combatting Trafficking in Persons** US assistance helps other nations to prevent trafficking, prosecute perpetrators, and provide assistance to victims. The Administration's FY19 request does not aggregate anti-trafficking programming from various accounts, therefore, the topline number is inconclusive.

^v **Food for Peace (Title II)** provides U.S. food aid for emergencies and funds \$350 million in long-term development programs that support nutrition and build resilience. The Administration's FY19 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. At least \$15 million should provide for local and regionally procured commodities for sustainability. The Administrations FY19 Request eliminates all funding for the program.

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