

February 12, 2025

Dear Senators and Representatives,

On behalf of the millions of Americans represented by our faith, humanitarian, health, education, foreign policy, development, human rights, business, labor, peace, women's advocacy, science, and environmental organizations, we strongly urge you to oppose efforts to shut down U.S. foreign assistance, including the critical work of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). These actions have included arbitrarily freezing congressionally authorized program funding, unnecessarily halting ongoing programs, firing employees or locking them out of government systems, and spreading harmful disinformation about its work. Taken together, these actions not only undermine life-saving development and humanitarian assistance, they also directly harm U.S. national security and its standing in the world.

Funding for U.S. development and diplomacy programs has long enjoyed wide bipartisan support, and we urge you to continue that tradition of American leadership.

The relatively small investments from USAID — less than 1% of the federal budget — pay significant dividends for Americans. Not only does this support prevent the conflicts and health emergencies of today from becoming the regional crises and pandemics of tomorrow, but they also protect people's lives and livelihoods so they are not forcibly displaced from their communities. The value of the return on these investments cannot be overstated.

USAID investments save lives. For example, USAID is a key implementer of the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), which alone has saved more than 25 million lives since its creation in 2003. Early childhood vaccination programs for diseases like polio and measles not only save children's lives in other countries, but they also stop these deadly diseases from spreading globally. The Famine Early Warning System (FEWS NET) and SERVIR are other examples of USAID-funded, low-cost scientific data and tracking systems that help save lives, avert hunger, and enhance economic and environmental resilience. Other USAID efforts benefit the United States in myriad ways, including protecting Americans from global challenges that cross national boundaries and fostering new market opportunities for American businesses. For example, USAID purchased \$2 billion in food from U.S. farmers last year alone.

We urge you to assert Congress's constitutional authority and duty to conduct oversight of funding, personnel, and the nation's foreign policy and to protect the vital work of USAID and other foreign assistance agencies, including programs that Congress has authorized and that government agencies must have capacity to deliver. Congress should also exercise its legal authority to carefully lead and review any proposed reorganization of foreign assistance agencies. The actions taken in the last two weeks have had immediate, real-life impacts from frozen programs, resulted in significant job losses, and spread confusion and fear. Rather than reviewing assistance to improve efficiency and accountability, the result has been increased

suffering and a greater risk of destabilizing outcomes globally that will ultimately cost the nation even more. Congress must maintain its responsibility, as the American people's elected representatives, to ensure it has the power to decide how taxpayer money is spent.

Sincerely,

ActionAid USA

Advocates for Youth

Afghan Legal Empowerment Portal

Alliance for Affordable Energy

Alliance of Nurses for Healthy  
Environments

American Association for Dental, Oral,  
and Craniofacial Research

American Hindu World Service (AHWS)

American Leadership Initiative

American Public Health Association

Amnesty International USA

Association of Nurses in AIDS Care

Association of Population Centers

AVAC

Bank Climate Advocates

Basic Education Coalition

Bread for the World

Catholics for Choice

Cause Communications

Center for American Progress

Center for Arms Control and Non-  
Proliferation

Center for Climate and Energy Solutions  
(C2ES)

Center for International Environmental  
Law (CIEL)

Center for International Policy Advocacy

Chicago Climate Youth Coalition

Childhood Education International

[CommonDefense.us](http://CommonDefense.us)

CORE Group

Council for a Livable World

Council for Global Equality

DevWorks International

Disabled Children's Fund

District 9 Zonta International

Doctors of the World USA

EdIntersect, LLC

Education Development Center (EDC)

Endangered Species Coalition

Environmental Investigation Agency

Equal Access International

Equimundo: Center for Masculinities and  
Social Justice

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Faiths for Safe Water

Fast-Track Cities Institute

Foreign Policy for America

Freedom Writers Collaborative

Friends Committee on National  
Legislation

Friends of the Global Fight

Futures Without Violence

George Mason University Center for  
Climate Change Communication

Global Campaign for Education-US

Global Citizen  
GrainPro Incorporated  
GreenFaith  
Guttmacher Institute  
Health Care Without Harm  
HIV Medicine Association  
Human Rights First  
Humanity & Inclusion  
iACT  
Inclusive Development Partners  
Indivisible Marin  
Indivisible: Narberth and Beyond  
Infectious Diseases Society of America  
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy  
InterAction  
International Association of Providers of  
AIDS Care  
International Civil Society Action  
Network (ICAN)  
International Fund for Animal Welfare  
Ipas  
Iris Group, Inc.  
J Street  
Just Futures Collaborative  
League of Conservation Voters  
Marcello Clinic  
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns  
Medical Teams International  
Mennonite Central Committee U.S.  
Mercy-USA for Aid and Development  
Mighty Earth  
MPower Change Action Fund  
MSI United States  
National Alliance for HIV Education and  
Workforce Development  
National Association of Hispanic Nurses  
National Organization for Women  
National Wildlife Federation  
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social  
Justice  
New Jewish Narrative  
Nonviolent Initiative for Democracy Inc.  
(NID)  
Nonviolent Peaceforce  
NRDC (Natural Resources Defense  
Council)  
Oil Change International  
Oxfam America  
Partners In Health  
Partnership for Policy Integrity  
People Power United  
Physicians for Human Rights  
Planned Parenthood Federation of  
America  
Plant With Purpose  
Population Association of America  
Population Connection Action Fund  
Population Institute  
Public Citizen  
RESULTS  
RFK Human Rights  
Right To Play USA  
Saferworld  
School-to-School International  
Secure Families Initiative  
Sierra Club  
SIL LEAD

Sojourners  
Solar Cookers International  
Stop TB USA  
The Borgen Project  
The Chamberlain Network  
The Financial Accountability and  
Corporate Transparency Coalition  
The Task Force for Global Health  
The Well Project  
The Women's Collective  
The Workers Circle  
Trickle Up  
Truman National Security Project

Unbounded Associates  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
Union Veterans Council, AFL-CIO  
Water for South Sudan, Inc.  
Wild Heritage  
Win Without War  
Women for Women International  
Women's Environment and Development  
Organization (WEDO)  
Women's Refugee Commission  
Zonta Club of Columbus  
Zonta District 1  
Zonta International District 12