

October 13, 2020

Dear Senators,

We write as member organizations of the Interfaith Working Group on Foreign Assistance (IWGFA), a network of over 50 Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, and Hindu organizations that advocate for humanitarian, health, human rights, and poverty-focused foreign assistance funding.

In an interconnected world, the COVID-19 threat cannot be managed domestically unless it is also addressed globally. We know passing this supplemental budget has been difficult and we thank Congress for its bipartisan support for funding critical foreign assistance. However, by not aggressively funding the international response, Congress has left Americans vulnerable to the pandemic in several fundamental ways:

- **Health** – COVID-19 is a global reality, no one is spared. The U.S. cannot fully contain the virus domestically if it is not under control globally.
- **Economic** – Substantial U.S. investments and successes in eradicating extreme poverty around the world are being reversed by the pandemic. The U.S. economy, exports and jobs cannot recover independent of the global economy.
- **Security** - COVID-19 is increasing uncertainty around the world, with instability, violence and displacement on the rise. These worsening conditions create opportunities for oppression and violent extremism to take hold which calls for a humanitarian, not militarized, response.

**We urgently request the Senate to show leadership by increasing the U.S. commitment to the global emergency response to COVID-19. We request an increase from the House’s \$9 billion in the updated Heroes Act, to the \$20 billion urged by the humanitarian sector as necessary.**

Two weeks ago, we hit a sobering milestone, over one million lives lost globally due to COVID-19. The time to address the COVID-19 crisis on a global scale is overdue. The United States must demonstrate the generosity that so many of our faith traditions call us to, during this unprecedented global emergency.

Respectfully yours,

- Adventist Development and Relief Agency
- American Jewish World Service
- Bread for the World
- Church World Service
- Disabled Children's Fund
- Faith in Foreign Assistance
- Faiths for Safe Water
- Food for the Hungry
- Friends Committee on National Legislation
- Islamic Relief USA
- Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
- Mennonite Central Committee, U.S. Washington Office
- ONE Campaign
- Presbyterian Church (USA)
- United Church of Christ
- World Relief