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October 20, 2016

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Room S128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
Room H305, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Room S146A, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairs and Ranking Members:

Thank you for your steadfast support for humanitarian assistance. Without the leadership of the Appropriations Committees the US would not be able to provide lifesaving assistance to tens of millions of vulnerable people around the world. Needs are greater now more than ever across the globe, but we write to you today with deep concern about the pending humanitarian crisis in Iraq stemming from the military operation for Mosul.

Specifically, we ask you to support the inclusion of at least \$325 million in emergency funding in the FY 2017 SFOPS bill to address these enormous needs, in addition to maintaining no less than \$2.8 billion for the International Disaster Assistance (IDA), \$3.2 billion for Migration and Refugee Assistance and \$1.6 billion for Food for Peace. We also call on you to increase investments of Economic Support Funds to Iraq above the FY16 level of \$72.5 million to address long-term needs related to both sectarianism and governance throughout Iraq, issues which will be exacerbated by the Mosul offensive.

The humanitarian operation in Mosul is likely to be one of the most complex response efforts this year. Military operations along the Anbar and Mosul corridors have already forced hundreds of thousands of civilians to flee their homes in search of safety and up to 1.5 million people may be impacted once the military operation advances into Mosul itself. Massive needs are expected as a result of the displacement. When Fallujah was liberated in June, large numbers of Internally Displaced People (IDPs) were forced to live in dire conditions, without adequate food, water, or sanitation because of lack of additional humanitarian assistance before the military operation. The same will be true of Mosul unless more assistance is provided.

Of additional concern, the potential collapse of the Mosul Dam- originally built on unstable gypsum bedrock in the early 1980s- presents a serious health and safety threat for inhabitants of Mosul and other cities down the Tigris River. International experts have warned for years that the structure may crumble because of lack of maintenance. If the dam collapses, Mosul would be flooded within hours, as would areas in other cities, including the American Embassy complex in Baghdad. Securing the dam and addressing repairs is a matter of urgency once Iraqi and Coalition forces retake the city.

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David Weiss
Global Communities

Nancy E. Wilson
Relief International



In total, the U.N. estimates that \$284 million dollars for immediate aid preparedness and up to \$1.8 billion dollars are required to deal with the aftermath of the Mosul offensive. This is on top of an appeal of \$861 million for pre-existing humanitarian needs. Roughly only half of the needed funds have been received to date, leaving substantial gaps. Based on these needs, we estimate that **the US share to respond to the needs in Mosul, as well as long-term humanitarian needs throughout the country is at least at the level of an additional funding of \$325 million to key humanitarian accounts including International Disaster Assistance (IDA), Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA) and Food for Peace (FFP).**

In addition to humanitarian needs, we know that sectarian tensions in Iraq, if not addressed, can be dangerous and potentially fatal within communities. Investments in strengthening civil society and conflict reconciliation programs can help mitigate the tensions that are sure to arise when over a million people are displaced from the majority Sunni area of Mosul to majority Shi'a areas outside of the city. **To address these long needs, Congress should continue to support Economic Support Funds for Iraq with increased investments above the FY16 level of \$72.5 million**, a figure that did not take into account the impact of the Mosul offensive.

Economic Support Funds should particularly be directed toward programs that address sectarianism, assist vulnerable populations, and strengthen governance, including by promoting civil society. Programs should advance peace and reconciliation goals and build a strong foundation for the long-term stability of Iraq.

Meeting these needs for Mosul is crucial to demonstrating strong US humanitarian leadership. Long-term funding for broader needs in Iraq will also prevent help spillover effects. As always, we appreciate your attention to this very important matter. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Action Against Hunger
Adventist Development and Relief Agency
Alliance to End Hunger
CARE USA
Catholic Relief Services
EPIC: Education for Peace in Iraq Center
Handicap International
Heartland Alliance International
InterAction

International Medical Corps
The International Rescue Committee
Mercy Corps
Norwegian Refugee Council USA
Refugees International
Relief International
Save the Children
Syria Relief and Development
World Vision

Cc:

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
The Honorable Patrick Leahy
The Honorable Kay Granger
The Honorable Jerry Moran
The Honorable Jeff Merkley
The Honorable Robert Aderholt
The Honorable Sam Farr