INTERFAITH WORKING GROUP
ON FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

November 16, 2026

The Honorable Susan Collins
S-128, The Capitol
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-6025

The Honorable Patty Murray
Room S-128, The Capitol
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
H-307, The Capitol
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
1036 Longworth House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairs and Ranking Members:

On behalf of the Interfaith Working Group on Foreign Assistance (IWGFA), a coalition composed of churches and faith-based organizations engaged in human rights, international development, peacebuilding, and humanitarian work, **we urge you to protect critical U.S. support for poverty-focused development assistance, global hunger, and global health in a final Fiscal Year 2027 appropriations package.** Fiscal Year 2027 is a critical opportunity wherein, with the right action, the world can reverse rising hunger, malnutrition, and global health crises, and growing humanitarian needs amid ongoing global challenges. The United States has led the global response in assistance for the world's most vulnerable people for decades. Congress should act to protect this legacy and reaffirm its commitment to poverty-focused foreign assistance and ensuring sustained investments in programs that save lives, strengthen communities, and promote global stability.

As the December 11 funding deadline draws near, we urge Congress to continue to work across the aisle to ensure the needs of the world's most vulnerable are met through U.S. international assistance. The IWGFA urges both chambers to come together to prioritize funding for the programs that fight hunger and malnutrition and strengthen global health. These programs make up less than one percent of the federal budget and deliver a strong return to the U.S. taxpayer.

On food security and nutrition, we request $1.619 billion for Food for Peace Title II and $240 million for the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program. With the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) implementing both programs, we encourage




continued coordination between USDA and the U.S. Department of State to identify, and increase the number of priority countries.

We also urge funding for the accounts that build stability and help communities withstand crises: $6.8 billion for National Security Investment Programs, $205 million for the Human Rights and Democracy Fund, and $5.4 billion for the International Humanitarian Assistance fund. Disasters cost the agriculture sector nearly $99 billion a year, and every $1 spent on disaster risk reduction saves $15 in recovery costs. Taken together, these accounts promote a healthier, more prosperous, and more stable world while advancing U.S. interests.

For global health, we urge Congress to fund Global Health Programs at $9.4 billion, in line with FY26 . Global Health programs combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, and polio, advance global health security, and strengthen maternal and child health. Within this total, we request $5.4 billion for HIV/AIDS (PEPFAR). Since 2003, the U.S. has invested $110 billion in PEPFAR, saving 26 million lives and enabling 7.8 million babies to be born HIV-free, with prevention and treatment services in 55 countries. We also request $165 million for Nutrition in Global Health Programs, which could prevent stunting in more than 34,000 children, cure more than 185,000 women of anemia, support 110,000 mothers to breastfeed, and provide lifesaving treatment to 61,000 children experiencing wasting.

Any cuts to these accounts or additional challenges placed in the way of the most vulnerable people receiving these funds will not only substantially harm those most in need of aid, but also reduce American influence globally. As faith-based organizations we stand in solidarity with vulnerable and marginalized populations. We strive to build peace and prosperity through direct service ministries and joint advocacy on U.S. policy and programs related to poverty-focused development assistance, humanitarian aid, and crisis prevention. May God give us all wisdom and guidance at this critical juncture.

Sincerely,

Alliance to End Hunger
American Jewish World Service
Bread for the World
Church World Service
Disabled Children's Fund
Helping Hands for Relief and Development
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
Presbyterian Church (USA), Office of Public Witness
United Church of Christ
Sojourners