

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH



Each year, USAID interventions help save the lives of more than six million children under the age of 5 and reduce maternal deaths from pregnancy-related causes. These initiatives range from prenatal care and preventing maternal deaths during childbirth, to pediatric immunizations and other child-survival interventions.

Maternal and child health (MCH) funding supports cost-effective interventions. This includes support for vaccines and nutritional supplements and training of health workers on basic prevention, treatment, and management of threats such as malaria, diarrhea, pneumonia, prematurity and stillbirth, birth complications, and all forms of malnutrition. Scaling up these programs is necessary to end child and maternal mortality. MCH funding also supports the research and development, introduction, and scale-up of new tools and solutions needed to improve maternal and child health. MCH funding fulfills U.S. commitments to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative and to Gavi – the Vaccine Alliance, to increase access to new and underutilized vaccines for developing countries.

In order to continue this critical work to save the lives of mothers and children, we request the following:

- *\$900 million in funding for the MCH account.*

For more information, please contact World Vision's Director of Government Relations, Lisa Bos, at lbos@worldvision.org

300 I Street
Washington DC, 20002 USA



INTRODUCTION

In the face of growing global challenges, the International Affairs Budget has sustained significant cuts in recent years. Total spending for the International Affairs Budget has dropped 12 percent since FY2010 and non-war related base programs have been cut nearly 30 percent in the same period of time when adjusted for inflation. With so many crises facing the world, the need for U.S. leadership is greater than ever. Our country cannot afford further cuts to these programs. U.S. development and humanitarian programs save lives, cure disease, and foster democratic values. Leveraged with significant private charitable donations to organizations like World Vision, these programs reinforce the values and compassion of the United States.

As one of the world's largest humanitarian and development organizations, and as an organization driven by our faith, we are called to serve the people in greatest need around the world, to relieve their suffering and to promote the transformation of their condition of life. As Christians we seek to uphold, restore, and honor the dignity and value of every human being. We join many of our nongovernmental organization (NGO) colleagues in support of critical poverty-focused development accounts and of strong overall funding for the International Affairs Budget. In addition, we call your attention to the following priorities that are of particular interest to World Vision for FY2018.

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AND THE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS BUDGET



Development and humanitarian engagement through the International Affairs Budget is critical to U.S. national and economic interests. U.S. foreign assistance programs promote economic growth and stability and build trade partners and new consumers around the world for U.S. companies. Communities are provided with opportunities for livelihood at the community level to build self-reliance and reduce the need for U.S. assistance. These programs also bolster strategic partners and alliances, help combat extremism and instability, and improve governance. They respond to global

challenges that often have greater consequences if we fail to act.

But these programs not only support U.S. interests – they also support American values and are quite simply, the right thing to do. The United States has long been a beacon of hope and opportunity for those suffering from disease, tyranny, poverty, and conflict. Where there is devastation, suffering, and dying, you will see U.S. churches, doctors, NGOs, and others alongside partners from around the world, including governments. The leadership of the United States government has long been bipartisan, and it is critical that it continue through strong funding for the International Affairs Budget.

HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF



We are on track to see worldwide forced displacement exceed 65 million for the first time. One in every 113 people today is someone who has been forced to flee their home. Syria's war remains the single largest generator of new refugees and continued mass displacement. The Syria crisis has produced 4.9 million refugees and nearly eight million people who are internally displaced in Syria.

We ask for the following on behalf of those affected by the crisis in Syria as well as others impacted by conflict, natural disasters, and other humanitarian crises:

- ***Fund the International Disaster Relief Account (IDA) at \$3.2 billion;***
- ***Maintain full funding for the Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA) account at \$3.6 billion;***
- ***\$100 million for the Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance (ERMA) fund.***

The U.S. should also prioritize programming for child protection, psychosocial support, and increased capacity of schools serving Syrian children in Syria and in host countries. Not addressing emotional impact and stress children have experienced over the course of the conflict could lead to a generation of children experiencing long-term mental, social, and economic problems.

CHILD PROTECTION



It takes a comprehensive, system-strengthening approach to prevent and respond to abuse, neglect, exploitation, and all other forms of violence against children. The U.S. has established itself as a global leader in child protection programming in partnership with other nations and civil society organizations that work to provide a safety-net for all at-risk and vulnerable children. U.S. diplomatic and programmatic assistance plays a vital role in tackling issues like child trafficking, exploitative and forced child labor, protecting children and youth in situations of armed conflict, exploitation of

boys and girls for sexual purposes, and prevention of gang violence among youth.

In December 2012, the U.S. government launched the Action Plan for Children in Adversity to bring these efforts together in a coordinated, comprehensive, effective, and measurable approach towards three objectives: 1) children meet their developmental milestones; 2) children are in appropriate, protective, and permanent family care; and 3) children are protected from abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence.

In order to ensure the continued leadership and influence of the U.S. in the protection of children around the world, we request the following:

- ***\$25 million for the Displaced Children and Orphans Fund—the Displaced Children and Orphans Fund supports the care and protection of vulnerable children around the globe, particularly those who have been separated from their families or are at risk of separation;***
- ***\$103.5 million for the Department of Labor – International Labor Affairs Bureau (ILAB) for administration and grants. ILAB reports on products produced through forced or child labor and also funds targeted programs that prevent and reduce the use of child labor.***

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION



In considering the projected global food security and nutrition needs in the coming year, World Vision U.S. remains strongly supportive of the Food for Peace Title II program. As the largest U.S. government food aid program, Food for Peace Title II has reached more than three billion people with life-saving food assistance while also providing funding for non-emergency development programs that focus on the underlying causes of chronic hunger and malnutrition. These investments have improved agricultural production, connected farmers to local markets, and built resilience to

droughts and man-made disasters.

For these reasons, we ask for the following:

- ***\$1.875 billion for overall Food for Peace/Title II funding, including at least \$375 million in funding for non-emergency development programs – a small increase over the minimum level of \$350 million required by the Farm Bill.***