

**OPEN LETTER FROM 24 FAITH ORGANIZATIONS THANKING CONGRESS FOR SUPPORTING  
INTERNATIONAL RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS**

March 3, 2014

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Mikulski, Chairman Rogers, Vice Chairman Shelby, and Ranking Member Lowey:

As we await the release of the President's FY2015 budget this week, we wanted to take a moment to thank you for your support of life-saving humanitarian and poverty-focused development programs within the FY14 omnibus spending package. As faith-based organizations committed to empowering the impoverished and marginalized across the world, we are grateful for many of the funding allocations provided to these accounts.

Due to your hard work and support, the FY14 budget provides over \$24.1 billion in funding for poverty-focused development assistance accounts, an increase of roughly \$800 million from FY13 enacted levels.

As you know, these investments are yielding impressive results. According to UNICEF, improvements in child nutrition have led to a 37 percent drop in stunting since 1990. And, thanks to an increase in FY14 funding for nutrition programs, the U.S. and its partners will be able to continue its strong commitment to maternal and child health, especially in the first 1,000 Days of a child's life, enormously impacting a child's ability to grow, learn and rise out of poverty.

The FY14 increase in Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA) funding will allow the U.S. to further assist those affected and displaced by conflict and crises around the world, including those in Syria, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Afghanistan. When Typhoon Haiyan devastated the Philippines in November 2013, the U.S. acted swiftly and as a result myriad forms of immediate and ongoing aid from countries around the world have

**OPEN LETTER FROM 24 FAITH ORGANIZATIONS THANKING CONGRESS FOR SUPPORTING  
INTERNATIONAL RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS**

helped communities in the Philippines cope and begin to rebuild. The increased funding for International Disaster Assistance will enable the U.S. to continue to be a compassionate first responder when unexpected disasters occur throughout the world.

In January, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared that, after three years with zero new cases of polio, India has officially eradicated the disease – a disease which crippled thousands just a decade ago. The increase in funding provided to Global Health programs in FY14 will continue critical work towards combatting and eliminating polio and other preventable diseases such as HIV/AIDS, TB, and malaria.

As communities of faith committed to promoting the human dignity of every person, we recognize that humanitarian and foreign assistance is not only a smart investment, but also the morally right action to pursue. In moving forward and addressing the FY 15 budget and appropriations process, we hope to continue to work with you to ensure these critical investments remain well funded and properly implemented in the future.

Thank you again for leadership and commitment.

Sincerely,

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) Bread for the World  | 13) Mennonite Central Committee U.S.<br>Washington Office                   |
| 2) Church World Service   | 14) International Care Ministries   |
| 3) Faiths for Safe Water  | 15) American Jewish World Service   |
| 4) Christian Connections for<br>International Health                | 16) Unitarian Universalist Service<br>Committee                             |
| 5) Children's Medical Ministries                                    | 17) Food for the Hungry   |
| 6) Universal Muslim Association of<br>America                       | 18) Maryknoll Office for Global<br>Concerns                                 |
| 7) IMA World Health   | 19) Presbyterian Church (USA), Office of<br>Public Witness                  |
| 8) Leadership Conference of Women<br>Religious                      | 20) United Methodist Imagine No<br>Malaria Campaign                         |
| 9) Office of Public Witness, Church of<br>the Brethren              | 21) Conference of Major Superiors of<br>Men (CMSM)                          |
| 10) Religious Action Center of Reform<br>Judaism                    | 22) National Council of Churches  |
| 11) United Church of Christ, Justice and<br>Witness Ministries      | 23) Franciscan Action Network   |
| 12) United Methodist Church, General<br>Board of Church and Society | 24) Office of Social Justice, Christian<br>Reformed Church in North America |

OPEN LETTER FROM 24 FAITH ORGANIZATIONS THANKING CONGRESS FOR SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS



IMA World Health



Mennonite Central Committee

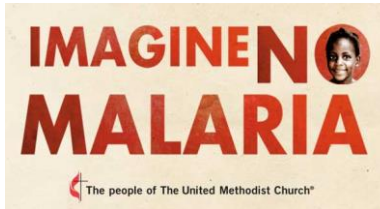


Franciscan Action Network

Transforming the World in the Spirit of St. Francis and St. Clare



fh food for the hungry



INTERNATIONAL CARE MINISTRIES

