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CCIH Reacts to the House FY24 Allocation for Foreign Assistance Funding

[Christian Connections for International Health](#) (CCIH) is alarmed and extremely disappointed that the House Appropriations Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations is proposing to drastically reduce funding to life-saving programs. We believe this abandons the U.S. leadership role on the global stage and undermines decades of progress toward sustainable health.

Ending HIV and malaria, polio and tuberculosis are objectives that are within reach in our lifetimes, but which will be thwarted if U.S. investment and leadership wane. In addition, we know that diseases like COVID-19 and Ebola and others do not recognize borders, but only face resistance when strong health systems are in place.

Failure to sustain and expand investments in global health and other vital foreign assistance places lives at risk, undermines economic growth and inflames political instability. Our Christian values lead us to care for our neighbor and align with the life-saving power of this foreign assistance. Drastic cuts also send the signal that the U.S. no longer values the lives and dignity of people around the globe. This undermines U.S. democracy at a time when compassionate leadership is most in need.

We are also concerned about the inclusion of the expanded Mexico City Policy language. CCIH's definition of family planning is services that enable couples to determine the number and timing of pregnancies, including the voluntary use of methods for preventing pregnancy – not including abortion – harmonious with their values and religious beliefs.

CCIH strongly supports family planning programs to protect the health of mothers and babies, and are concerned the expanded Mexico City Policy language to the appropriations bill will prevent organizations from implementing life-saving family planning care, leading to an increase in maternal and child mortality.

We urge Congress to reconsider these funding allocations, and to instead support the current funding level (FY2023) as the absolute floor while also understanding the potential for additional supplemental resources may be necessary to respond to the unprecedented emergency needs that demand U.S. leadership.

Christian Connections for International Health (CCIH) is a network of Christian organizations and individuals committed to advancing health and wholeness.