

THE FY 2019 FOREIGN ASSISTANCE BUDGET

HEARING BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS SECOND SESSION

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THE FY 2019 FOREIGN ASSISTANCE BUDGET

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2018

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC.

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 9:30 a.m., in room 2172 Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Edward Royce (chairman of the committee) presiding.

Chairman ROYCE. All right. The committee will come to order, and this is on the fiscal year 2019 foreign assistance budget, and I think all of us on this committee certainly agree that the U.S. has to be engaged throughout the world. We have security, trade, humanitarian, and many, many other interests worldwide. U.S. development and diplomacy activities abroad protect and advance those U.S. interests.

And today we are going to hear from Ambassador Mark Green. He's a former member of this committee, as you know. Many of you worked with him. Africa was a particular interest of his when he was here. He subsequently shepherded PEPFAR into implementation, and he's here with us to review the administration's fiscal year 2019 budget request for the U.S. Agency for International Development.

This is the premier development agency worldwide, and it's your first appearance, Mark, in front of the committee. Welcome, Ambassador.

And, regrettably, the administration has proposed cutting USAID's funding by 33 percent, despite the fact that foreign aid accounts for less than 1 percent of the budget. As Secretary Mattis has said, undercutting diplomacy and development only increases the likelihood that U.S. forces will need to deploy in the first place.

Indeed, these proposed cuts would impact a number of U.S. priorities including efforts to combat terrorists, combat poachers, and human traffickers. U.S. leadership was key to stopping Ebola in West Africa and continued engagement is needed to address future health threats before those health threats could hit our shores. The U.S. also has a proud legacy of supporting electoral processes and democratic institutions, providing a lifeline to people fighting for freedom and suffering under authoritarian regimes worldwide. These efforts shouldn't be shorted, and we see proposed cuts to humanitarian assistance at a time when more than 65 million people have been displaced by conflict and famine looms in at least four countries.

Now, everyone agrees that these overseas programs can be improved. Both USAID and the Department of State need to better align U.S. assistance with our most pressing national security objectives. They also need to eliminate duplication and waste, and promote a capable workforce that's adaptable. However, I worry that this budget request will hamstring USAID's efforts on these fronts.

That said, there are some bright spots in this budget request. It supports the creation of a Development Finance Institution that could unleash the power of private sector-led growth and it would expand opportunities for U.S. investment and trade. It is a proposal with bipartisan, bicameral support that this committee will soon consider.

The budget prioritizes funding for programs that promote greater self-reliance, including helping countries mobilize their own resources for development. It emphasizes transparency as well as accountability and programming for results. The budget also gives us a glimpse into some of the much-needed organizational changes at USAID. Already, Ambassador Green has improved coordination with the Department of Defense, helping to ensure that development interests are on a level playing field with diplomacy and defense.

Just as aid can't be an entitlement for those overseas, it shouldn't be an entitlement here at home, and this includes food aid, which for too long has been treated as an entitlement for a handful of shipping companies rather than as a humanitarian program meant to save lives. I look forward to working with the administrator to ensure that Food for Peace programs are fully reformed so we can stretch our aid dollars further and so that we can save more lives.

U.S. foreign aid is a needed tool to advance vital U.S. economic interests, humanitarian ones, and security interests as well. Ambassador Green, I look forward to working with you and I look forward to working together with my committee colleagues to see that USAID remains a world-class, cutting-edge development agency.

And with that, I turn to our ranking member, Mr. Engel of New York.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Chairman, thank you for calling this hearing.

Ambassador Green, welcome to the Foreign Affairs Committee. Thank you for your leadership and service. I have no shortage of disagreements with this administration but I'll give credit where credit is due. You are a great choice to lead the U.S. Agency for International Development.

When you briefed our committee members a few weeks ago, I got a clear sense that you understand why development is so important—that the investments we make in these efforts pay huge dividends—that USAID's work advances American values, promotes economic prosperity, and improves lives around the globe.

These aren't just nice things to do, they are integral to promoting our security. Healthy and more productive societies, governments that respect the rule of law and transparency, countries that are strong fair leaders in their regions—all these help us to advance our interests around the world.

They deny our enemies the opportunities to exploit vulnerable people and find safe havens in lawless areas, because poverty and lack of opportunity create hotbeds for instability and violence.

Ambassador Green, you've been a member of this congressional body as a Member of Congress. You've been our Ambassador to Tanzania, president of the International Republican Institute, director and the United States Global Leadership Coalition, board member of the Millennium Challenge Corporation, and now you're our top official dealing with development.

You've seen up close what a difference development assistance makes. You've seen how development initiatives help countries lift themselves up, how they prevent crises and conflicts before they start, how they put within touch ends to global health pandemics like HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis.

As I said, I think you're a great pick for this job, Ambassador Green. But with a 33 percent cut to USAID's budget there is no one, I believe, who could do your job effectively.

This budget would undermine everything I mentioned earlier that contributes to our country's security and, frankly, it's just heartless.

Food for Peace zeroed out, development assistance cut by 42 percent. Humanitarian programs down by 34 percent. Basic education 53 percent—more than half. And democracy and governance programs a 41 percent cut from last year's mark.

And beyond the numbers, dangerous policies like the global gag rule are doing real harm. This medieval approach to women's health is causing clinics to close, blocking access to HIV tests, and denying women and girls basic health care from doctors and nurses they trust.

It just isn't possible to keep making progress on our international development priorities if we slash the budget by a third. This proposal represents another step in America's withdrawal from the world at a time when our leadership is needed more than ever.

Fortunately, it's been clear since the administration submitted its budget last year that there is bipartisan opposition to these drastic cuts which would undermine our role in the global stage.

There are simply too many challenges where America can make a difference—the four famines, the Rohingya crisis in Burma and Bangladesh, Venezuelan refugees fleeing to Colombia and Brazil, the ongoing horror in Syria.

These are areas where USAID's expertise is desperately needed and where this budget would hamper our ability to provide desperately needed assistance.

And as a reminder, USAID accounts for roughly ½ of 1 percent of the total Federal budget. So arguments that we cannot afford it just don't fly with me, especially after the President signed the tax bill that blows a \$1.5 trillion hole in the budget.

And finally, Ambassador, I know as well that you are proposing a lot of reforms at USAID. I just want to ensure that any changes are done to modernize American development and make it work better, not simply starting with a budget number and downsizing to fit it.

I thank you very much for consulting with our committee and I encourage you to continue the dialogue so that we can be part of

this process and I thank you again for your service and your time and the times we have met I really have a good feeling with you at the helm.

So thank you again for your service and your time today, and I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Engel.

So this morning we are pleased to welcome Ambassador Mark Green. He's a good friend. He is a former colleague of this committee.

As a matter of fact, when he served on this committee he was probably the member most engaged in the issues that we are discussing today.

This is his first appearance before our committee in his official capacity as administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development.

He has had the opportunity to meet with us previously on these issues as a committee. Mark brings to the table decades of development experience. I have great confidence in his ability to bring renewed vigor to USAID's critical work.

Prior to his appointment or just prior, Mark was the president of the International Republican Institute. He also served as U.S. Ambassador to Tanzania and he, of course, represented Wisconsin's 8th District when he served here on the committee with us.

We appreciate him being here with us today and without any objection the witness's full prepared statement will be made part of the record and members here are going to have 5 calendar days to submit any statements, questions, or any extraneous material they might have for the record.

So if you would, Mark, please summarize your remarks.
Ambassador.

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE MARK GREEN, ADMINISTRATOR, U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Ambassador GREEN. Thank you. Thank you, Chairman Royce, Ranking Member Engel, members of the committee. I appreciate this opportunity to discuss USAID's fiscal year 2019 budget request.

It is wonderful to be back in this room. As a couple of you have already noted, I served on this committee during my time in the House. Of course, back then it was called the House International Relations Committee and we were, shall we say, more of a ragtag bunch than the distinguished ladies and gentlemen that I see here before me.

But even so, today feels like I am coming home.

I'd like to begin my remarks by expressing my gratitude to Secretary Tillerson for his leadership over the past year and for his service to the nation.

I also welcome the nomination of Director Pompeo. While he and I have not have an opportunity to speak since his nomination, I very much look forward to our future in-depth discussions on how development and diplomacy can go hand in hand in advancing America's interests around the world.

In the meantime, at USAID we have urgent work to do. From the unprecedented humanitarian challenges in places like Syria

and Somalia to exciting development opportunity through expanded private sector engagement and the extension of programs like Feed the Future.

The work of our agency has never been more important. I've just returned from New York where I briefed the United Nations Security Council on the humanitarian crisis that is growing in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

That country is facing escalating violence, particularly against women and girls, that could soon spill over into surrounding nations if not adequately addressed.

I urge the Government of the DRC to hold credible and inclusive elections by the end of the year. I demanded that it protect humanitarian workers and end the crackdown on freedom of speech and assembly.

Just to its north, South Sudan is facing extreme levels of food insecurity and near-famines continue to rage in Nigeria, Yemen, Syria, Somalia, and Ethiopia.

In Yemen, 17.8 million people—the largest number in the world—are facing severe food insecurity. Since October 2016, the U.S. has provided nearly \$768 million in humanitarian assistance to help the Yemeni people.

We have urged all parties to continue to allow all humanitarian and commercial goods including fuel to enter Yemen through Hodeidah and all other points of access.

We have pushed hard for protections for civilians and aid workers who put themselves at great personal risk to assist people in need.

During my first trip as administrator, I traveled to Ethiopia, Sudan, and South Sudan where I saw how USAID is leading the world response to these complex humanitarian crises.

That trip helped shape our plans to strengthen, integrate, and streamline our humanitarian assistance, and to ensure that we leave behind a capacity to mitigate and respond.

This is reflected in the budget request before you and it's guided my conversations with fellow donors as we have encouraged them all to do more in helping to mobilize resources as well.

During my visit I saw just how much these tragedies are rooted in poor governance and, frankly, authoritarianism and corruption, which so often go hand in hand.

Last month, we announced USAID's new mission statement. It includes an explicit commitment to strengthening democratic governance abroad, a priority that I know from our conversations that all of you share.

This commitment has informed USAID's work from our creation, and under my leadership it will continue to do so. In South Sudan, I demanded the government stop obstructing humanitarian access and further ensure the safety of all humanitarian staff so that assistance can reach those who need it most when they need it most. I urged them to truly live up to the democratic ideals that they espouse.

Members of the committee, I've had a chance to discuss with many of you the rising negative influence of Russia and China in so many regions and the disturbing trend toward repressive values.

In response, our fiscal year 2019 request includes targeted investments in Europe and Eurasia that will support strong democratic institutions and vibrant civil society while countering the Kremlin's influence in the region.

In Venezuela, we will support those who are working for a free and prosperous future. We have requested robust funding for our democracy in governance programs in Venezuela that support civil society, the democratically-elected legislature, and the free flow of information there.

And in fiscal year 2019 we have requested funds to employ and implement more effective approaches to promote an ethnic and religious tolerance in Burma, including in Rakhine and Kachin States.

I am deeply concerned, as I know you are, about the lack of humanitarian access in northern Rakhine and deep interethnic tensions along with reports of horrific human rights abuses and an overall lack of real progress in dealing with the Rohingya crisis.

I'll soon be traveling to Burma and Bangladesh to see this situation first hand.

In total, the fiscal year 2019 request for USAID fully and partially managed accounts is approximately \$16.8 billion. It represents \$1.3 billion more than requested last year including \$1 billion for humanitarian assistance.

Now, we acknowledge that this budget request will not provide enough resources to meet every humanitarian need or for us to seize every international development opportunity.

In truth, no budget in recent memory would be large enough to do so. This budget request aims to balance fiscal needs here at home with our leadership role on the world stage.

We are committed to taking every prudent step to extend the reach and effectiveness of taxpayer resources, both of the strategic allocations of those resources and the redesign process.

This includes strengthening domestic resource mobilization programs so the partners can more effectively finance their own development future.

It includes taking steps to ensure that our programs and procedures are more private enterprise friendly so we can better leverage our resources, bring new ideas and partners to our work, and increase opportunity for American business.

It includes procurement reform, which we hope will make us more flexible and responsive to our implementing partners so they can extend and improve the reach of USAID-supported initiatives.

It means strengthening our ties with other agencies. For example, we are right now in the process of drafting a new global MOU with Mashav to guide our development cooperation with the Government of Israel.

We are also striving to more closely align our resources with our strategic needs and are focused on measurement and evaluation to support that alignment.

Earlier this month, Deputy Secretary of State John Sullivan wrote to us that USAID "should initiate its own hiring procedures to accommodate the agency staffing needs."

In line with that guidance, the hiring freeze has been officially lifted. Moving forward, we will use our hiring and reassignment re-

view board to seek to align workforce planning with the priorities and the plans that are outlined in this budget request.

Finally, I would like to say a word about reported incidences of sexual abuse and misconduct by aid workers that we have all read about. I've been deeply troubled by the allegations.

USAID works across the globe to protect vulnerable populations and to advance human dignity. This is a serious endeavor and it's one that comes with great responsibility. Sexual exploitation is contrary to the very core of our mission. It is abhorrent.

On March 9th, I met with representatives from InterAction, the Professional Services Council, and United Nations agencies to make clear to our partners that USAID will not tolerate sexual harassment or misconduct of any kind.

I also formed a new action alliance for preventing sexual misconduct, which is being chaired by General Counsel David Moore.

It will undertake a thorough review of our existing policies and procedures to identify and close any potential gaps while strengthening accountability and compliance in consultation with our external partners.

I assure you this is an issue I am tracking personally. Sexual abuse is a cancer that I have resolved to root out and eliminate in the development sector.

In closing, I believe that we are shaping an agency that is capable of leveraging our influence, authority, and available resources to literally transform the way that humanitarian and development assistance are provided.

Alongside the rest of the world it will help us better meet the dawning challenges that we see today. With your support and guidance we will ensure that USAID remains the world's premier international development agency and continues the important work we do each day to protect America's future, security, and prosperity.

Thank you for allowing me to speak with you and I welcome your questions, Mr. Chairman.

[The prepared statement of Ambassador Green follows:]

**“The FY2019 Foreign Assistance Budget”
Written Statement of Administrator Mark Green, U.S. Agency for International
Development
Before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs
March 21, 2018**

Introduction

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member, Members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to discuss USAID’s FY 2019 Budget Request.

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 request for USAID fully and partially managed accounts is approximately \$16.8 billion. This represents \$1.3 billion more than requested last year. It requests \$6.7 billion for global health and \$5.1 billion for economic support and development. In terms of USAID’s humanitarian assistance, it requests over \$1 billion more than last fiscal year’s request. In total, it requests approximately \$3.6 billion for International Disaster Assistance.

Meeting Priorities

Since I arrived at USAID six months ago, I had a chance to meet with many of you. We discussed many of the challenges in the world today, and you shared with me your priorities. Since then, we’ve been hard at work at USAID to try to our shared those priorities and position the Agency for its crucial role in U.S. foreign policy.

Our work has been informed by many of the travels I have undertaken, meeting our teams and partners around the world. I have traveled to Ethiopia, Sudan, and South Sudan, where I saw USAID leading the world’s response to the continuing humanitarian need in East Africa. In Ethiopia, I also saw our efforts to foster resilience to help that country withstand the future crises that very likely will come.

I have traveled to Mexico and India, where I met with our partners from both the public and private sectors. It was there that I saw glimpses of an exciting future for international development, where programs are more private-enterprise driven and our role is increasingly to use our skills, experience, and innovative know-how to help countries chart their own journeys to self-reliance and prosperity.

In Iraq and Syria, I met with some of our military leaders. Together, we toured Raqqa, and I learned more about USAID’s joint effort with the State Department and Defense Department to restore essential services to communities newly liberated from ISIS. In Switzerland, the United

Kingdom, and Germany, I met with international partners, including a senior leader from Israel's Foreign Ministry, to share some of the new innovations in programing and policy we are applying to our work in development and humanitarian assistance, and to discuss areas of future cooperation. I also took the opportunity to encourage our fellow donors to take on a greater role in helping to meet the world's growing needs.

In Germany, I met with our Mission Directors from the Middle East and Africa -- as well as their counterparts from the State Department and DOD -- to discuss how we can strengthen interagency cooperation. At the Munich Security Conference, I heard Vitali Klitschko, the Mayor of Kiev, speak about Ukraine's fight for freedom and democracy. I was reminded that we, too, were once a young nation inspired by the hope of a democratic future, but also confronted by numerous challenges as we strived to build our republic. As I listened to Klitschko, I was immensely proud of the work that USAID does to support people, all around the world, like him and the heads of the Euromaidan movement who aspire to freedom and citizen-responsive governance.

Last month, we announced USAID's new Mission Statement. It includes an explicit commitment to strengthening democratic governance abroad -- a priority that I know from our discussions you share. This commitment has informed USAID's work from our creation; and under my leadership, it will continue to do so. Our FY 2019 Request includes targeted investments in Europe and Eurasia that will support strong, democratic institutions and vibrant civil society, while countering the Kremlin's influence in the region. In Venezuela, we will support those who are working for a free and prosperous future. We have requested robust funding for our democracy and governance programs in Venezuela that support civil society, the democratically elected legislature, and a free flow of information there. And in FY 2019, we have requested funds to explore and implement more effective approaches to promoting ethnic and religious tolerance in Burma, including in Rakhine and Kachin States, and to help meet the needs of minorities in Iraq ravaged by ISIS, including those targeted because of their faith.

I have also met with people from across these United States. In these first months, I have been to New York, Texas, Delaware, Iowa, and even my home state of Wisconsin. I have met with the Chamber of Commerce Foundation and spoken with business leaders, CEOs of American firms. All of them are eager to find ways to align with and enhance USAID's work, as well as invest in the rapidly growing markets that are most often the targets of our programing. I have met with researchers from American universities who are helping us tackle devastating challenges like the Fall Armyworm in Africa. I have also met with American implementing partners -- contractors and grantees, faith-based organizations and for-profits -- to explore ways we can improve our operations.

On top of all that, I have been “traveling” internally, leading a broad agency Redesign effort through which we are re-examining nearly every aspect of our operations and structures in order to make sure we are as effective, efficient, and accountable to American taxpayers as possible.

Overview: A Fiscally Responsible Budget for Challenging Times

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member, and Members, this is the first time I have had the honor of presenting the President's Budget. However, it is not the first time we have met with your offices to review the needs we see in the humanitarian and development sectors. We have also reached out to you and your staff to discuss our growing work in conflict, post-conflict, and otherwise fragile zones. I note that this Request would fund important efforts, such as the urgent work we are undertaking to help communities newly-liberated from ISIS's evil reign by restoring essential services to places like Raqqa.

We acknowledge that this Budget Request will not provide enough resources for us to meet every humanitarian need or seize every international development opportunity. In truth, no federal budget in recent memory would be large enough to do so, and we would not suggest it wise to try to do so. We come to you with a Budget Request that aims to balance fiscal responsibility here at home with our leadership role and national security imperatives on the world stage.

Optimizing Resources and Results

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member, and Members, we are committed to taking every prudent step to extend the reach and effectiveness of our taxpayer resources. We are working closely with the Department of State to encourage other donor nations and recipient countries themselves to increase their own contributions to the overall humanitarian and development effort. This includes efforts at strengthening domestic resource mobilization programs so that partners can more effectively finance their own development in the future. We are rethinking and streamlining our humanitarian assistance. We are taking steps to ensure our programs and procedures are more private enterprise-friendly so we can better leverage our resources, bring new ideas and partners to our work, and increase opportunities for American businesses. Through procurement reform, we are striving to become more flexible, and responsive and innovative in meeting humanitarian and development objectives, so our implementing partners can extend and improve the reach of USAID-supported initiatives. We are also striving to more closely align our resources with USG strategic needs, and are focused on measurement and evaluation to support that alignment. Finally, we are using the opportunity of our Redesign to ensure that our programs are of the highest quality and fully reflective of America's key foreign policy priorities.

Encouraging Others to Do More

As the President has said, “America first does not mean America alone.” We can and do embrace opportunities to partner with others and we expect others to do their part in tackling challenges that affect us all. Working with the State Department, we are using every opportunity to push our donor partners to do more in helping to mobilize resources -- including increasing their financial contributions.

To put things in context, in 2016, the U.S. provided nearly \$34.5 billion in Official Development Assistance (ODA), almost one quarter of all ODA. In terms of humanitarian assistance, the U.S. continues to be the largest single donor. Our leadership role as a donor is a point of pride. It is part of our national character -- our readiness to stand with other countries and peoples when crisis strikes. But leadership also means leading others to do more and setting the expectation that other donors will do their fair share to advance shared priorities, while also expecting improved performance by implementing partners, including the U.N., to maximize the benefit for recipients of assistance.

We’ve recently seen a number of key allies increase their ODA contributions. For example, the Republic of Korea has contributed significant amounts to shared priorities like Power Africa, global health security, and humanitarian assistance to Syria. It has increased its aid budget by 30 percent, a feat recently matched by the United Kingdom. Germany has become one of the world’s leading humanitarian assistance donors, providing a record \$2 billion in 2017 to assist people from places like Syria, Yemen, the Sahel, and Burma. And India, which not so long ago was itself a major recipient of traditional assistance like food aid, is boosting its contributions to key initiatives. Under Prime Minister Modi, India has become the fifth-largest donor to development and reconstruction in Afghanistan.

Domestic Resource-Mobilization

Another way in which we are working to make our resources go further is through our support for domestic resource-mobilization (“DRM”) projects. Through DRM, we help strengthen the capacity of our partner nations to finance and lead their own development programs. The Budget requests \$75 million for strategically-managed DRM assistance. From the date of my nomination hearing, and nearly every day since, I have said I believe the purpose of foreign assistance must be ending its need to exist. Our assistance should be designed to empower people, communities, and government leaders on their journey to self-reliance and prosperity. These initiatives can help our partners to cut down on fraud, corruption, and abuse. They will also ensure that our investments produce sustainable results; they will ensure that our partners’ ability to respond to the needs of their citizens will not fade away as our formal government support recedes gradually.

Our DRM assistance in the nation of Georgia is a good example of what can be achieved. USAID provided DRM assistance of \$12 million to Georgia over five years. The result was an additional \$4 billion in tax revenue from 2005 to 2011. By 2017, revenue had increased by 800 percent. As part of this effort, we helped streamline Georgia's customs process and make it easier for new businesses to register. We supported efforts that created an electronic tax-filing system and fixed crippling flaws in the Georgian tax refund process. We also took steps to help them cut down on corruption -- encouraging "zero tolerance" policies, harsher punishments for violators, and new training programs.

Georgia's investment in their own development also grew. Pension and social-welfare spending increased by 700 percent. Education investment grew by 1,700 percent. Their government even introduced a crop-insurance program. In other words, through our DRM assistance, we helped an important partner accelerate its own journey to self-reliance and prosperity.

Strengthening Humanitarian Assistance

In Yemen, 17.8 million people -- the largest number in the world -- are facing severe food insecurity. In January alone, USAID's partner the World Food Programme provided critical food assistance to more than 6.8 million people. Last month, after sustained high-level diplomatic engagement by the Department of State, USAID-funded mobile cranes became operational in Yemen's biggest and most critical port. These cranes are cutting the average time it takes to unload ships by as much as half, allowing food, medicine, and other necessities to reach people in need more quickly.

Providing humanitarian assistance in places like Yemen is central to our Agency's Mission, and a clear display of American generosity. It is also dangerous work, as witnessed by the January terrorist attack on Save the Children's offices in Afghanistan, in which four of our partners were brutally murdered, or the 28 aid workers who were killed in South Sudan during 2017. Our commitment to this work is reflected by the inclusion of our international disaster assistance to help alleviate humanitarian crises in our new Mission Statement. For years, the responsibilities of the two offices leading the bulk of USAID's humanitarian assistance -- Food for Peace and the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) -- have sharply increased. While they have often coordinated, they have worked in parallel, with separate budgets, separate oversight, and different strategies. When you would visit a camp in the field, they would be together on the ground, serving the same community shoulder-to-shoulder -- one providing food, and the other tarps and blankets, often using the same partners.

Before I arrived at USAID, the Agency commissioned an assessment of our humanitarian programming, conducted by an outside firm, but led by career staff, which concluded, not

surprisingly, there were better ways to ensure the nimble, effective, and efficient delivery of our humanitarian assistance. The Request before you proposes to fund all of USAID's humanitarian assistance from one account, and imagines a day when USAID's humanitarian food and non-food functions are consolidated into a single entity within the Agency. This will ensure a seamless blend of food and non-food humanitarian USAID assistance, better serving our foreign-policy interests and people in need. In the end, we will have a shared strategy, integrated programs, and joint monitoring-and-evaluation systems that will provide greater efficiency and accountability for the American people. As part of our effort to consolidate USAID's humanitarian functions, we will also consolidate our whole-of-Agency efforts to strengthen partner resilience for improved food security. This will help break the cycle of recurrent and protracted crises, and reduce our own future humanitarian liabilities.

Strengthening Our Private-Sector Engagement

Fulfilling our responsibility to taxpayers is about much more than asking other donors to increase their contributions, helping countries to finance their own development, or streamlining our humanitarian assistance. In our case, it also means strengthening private-sector engagement through true collaborations. At USAID, we are reaching beyond contracting and grant-making. We are exploring the possibilities for co-creating and co-financing programs, tools, and initiatives with private-sector partners. We're embracing the ingenuity and the entrepreneurship that private-enterprise offers, and harnessing the efficiencies and effectiveness that private-sector competition and market forces can unlock. And this is something private-enterprise is eager to do alongside us. Additionally, we will partner closely with the proposed new U.S. Development Finance Institution, which will only succeed through strong institutional linkages with USAID, to further these efforts with financing tools, and have a whole of government approach to private sector engagement.

For example, last month, I met with the CEO of a large multinational company, and he expressed his eagerness to work with us in countries like South Africa, which, in part because of our work, are becoming more suitable for American companies to invest. This firm and others are eager to invest corporate funds in USAID-led initiatives, as well as apply entrepreneurship and enterprise-driven techniques, such as impact investing and blended-finance mechanisms, to development challenges.

Another example is the new "Smart Communities Coalition" that we helped create alongside MasterCard to modernize assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons. Traditionally, when a displaced family first arrives at a camp or settlement, humanitarian workers do their best to see that they are immediately registered and provided modest food, water, and medical attention. Residents receive services from twenty or more different humanitarian aid groups,

each of which uses their own unique method of tracking who received what service when. As you can imagine, this is a recipe for potential corruption and abuse.

Our partnership with the Smart Communities Coalition will transform this process for more than 600,000 people. Our implementing partners at the camps will harness the Internet and smart-card technology to do their jobs more efficiently, and at a lower cost. Displaced families will have better access to essential services, such as power. Just as important, in these “smart communities,” we will be better able to track our assistance, decrease fraud and abuse, and provide services more quickly and cheaply. This is the power of private-enterprise making us better at meeting our core mission.

Procurement Reform: Encouraging New Partners and New Partnerships

Yet another way in which we aim to make our precious funding go further is by using innovative procurement tools to increase competition among potential partners. In FY 2017, around 60 percent of USAID funding went to just 25 organizations. We are exploring new ways to harness new partners and ideas, and lower the “cost” and barriers to entry for potential partners as they come forward. We are encouraging entrepreneurship and ingenuity in program design, building out technical expertise in areas such as small grants, and embracing approaches that allow us to move more quickly in crafting initiatives and considering submissions.

For example, last Fall, when the Vice President announced the U.S. government’s intent to support persecuted religious minorities and other communities in Iraq, USAID was able to move from “ideas to action” by using a Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) -- a tool you have supported that can reduce lead times, allowing us to launch a competitive and collaborative research and development process rapidly to solve a specific challenge. We immediately invited the public to submit their ideas for pilot projects that would support the resettlement of ethnic and religious minorities in their ancestral homes. Within 10 weeks, we reviewed more than 100 submissions, and invited those with the best ideas to join us at a co-creation workshop. in Baghdad earlier this month. Coming out of the workshop, we will fund the most promising ideas, and, if the pilots are successful, we will consider ways in which they can be scaled up.

As another example, last Fall, I announced the world’s first Development Impact Bond (DIB) for maternal and child health-- USAID’s second overall DIB, and one of the world’s largest. Under this new model, private capital funds the initial investment, and USAID pays if, and only if, the carefully defined development goal is achieved.

In this case, we are working to strengthen maternal and newborn health care facilities in Northern India. Our partners at the UBS Optimus Foundation are raising capital from private investors to finance improvements to over 400 private health facilities. Teams at these 400

facilities will help appropriately train staff, and make life-saving equipment and medicines available. Each facility will then undergo a rigorous review process to ensure it has met the appropriate accreditation standards. If the facilities meet those standards, USAID and our matching partner, Merck for Mothers, will pay the UBS Optimus Foundation. The DIB allows us to incentivize results, and lessen taxpayer risk.

I am also working to ensure that our partners operate with the highest level of integrity and accountability. On March 9, I met with representatives from InterAction, the Professional Services Council, and United Nations agencies to make clear to our partners that USAID will not tolerate sexual harassment or misconduct of any kind. In addition, our Executive Diversity Council recently met to take up this important topic. Coming out of that meeting, I directed the Agency's senior leadership team to take mandatory sexual harassment training, and asked them to communicate to our partners the seriousness with which we take this issue. I also formed a new Action Alliance for Preventing Sexual Misconduct, chaired by General Counsel David Moore, which will undertake a thorough review of our existing policies and procedures to identify and close any potential gaps, while strengthening accountability and compliance, in consultation with our external partners.

Redesign: Building Tomorrow's USAID

Being good stewards of taxpayer resources cannot be a one-time thing, or merely a set of steps aimed at a single budget. We need to undertake experience-informed, innovation-driven reforms to optimize our structures and procedures and maximize our effectiveness.

In the coming months, we will be working to roll out Agency-wide projects through the Redesign that will help to institutionalize some of these ideas. This effort began in response to an Executive Order from the President, but, even if that had never happened, I would still have argued for the reforms we are planning. Over the last six months, I and others at USAID have met with Congressional Committees and personal offices more than 30 times to discuss our plans. Your input, and that of your staff, has been invaluable to our process, and I am deeply appreciative of your engagement and support.

The Redesign includes many of the proposals I have shared today, including procurement reform, as well as streamlining our humanitarian assistance programing. It also includes working with the Administration on cross-cutting government reorganization proposals, such as the new U.S. Development Finance Institution and the consolidation of small grants functions and expertise into USAID.

To prepare for our work on Redesign, on March 9, Deputy Secretary of State John Sullivan wrote to inform me that USAID "should initiate its own hiring processes to accommodate the Agency's staffing needs." In line with that directive, we have officially lifted our hiring freeze.

Moving forward, we will use our Hiring and Reassignment Review Board to seek to align our workforce-planning with the Administration's priorities and our plans under the Redesign.

Another example of efforts we are undertaking through the Redesign are the metrics that we are developing. If the goal of our development assistance is to help partner countries create the commitment and capacity needed to take on their own development journey, we should focus our assistance on interventions that will best help them get there. We are working on metrics that will serve as mileposts to help us understand where our partners are going, and what role we might play in their journey.

These metrics are still a work in progress, and we will continue to consult with you as we develop them, but, if we are successful, they will make our programing more effective, and our foreign policy priorities better informed. The same is true for all of the work that is taking place through the Redesign effort. All of this is in service of helping our partners help themselves. All of it is to provide the proverbial "hand-up." And all of it points towards a world where foreign assistance is no longer needed -- a world where people are self-reliant, prosperous, and capable of crafting their own bright future.

Conclusion

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member, and Members of the Committee, I believe we are shaping an Agency that is capable of leveraging our influence, authority, and available resources to advance U.S. interests, transform the way we provide humanitarian and development assistance, and, alongside the rest of the world, help meet the daunting challenges we all see today. With your support and guidance, we will ensure USAID remains the world's premier international development Agency and continues the important work we do, each day, to protect America's future security and prosperity. Thank you for allowing me to speak with you today, and I welcome your questions.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you very much, Ambassador.

I would begin with a question on food aid reform. The Trump administration is now the third successive administration to seek dramatic reforms in U.S. international food aid programming, in this case going so far as to propose eliminating funding for the inflexible Food for Peace program altogether and replacing that with a completely flexible disaster assistance program.

And I applaud their boldness in this. This isn't just about saving money if we can get the permanent fixes through this program that we are seeking. It's about saving lives, and after the super typhoon hit the Philippines, many of us on this committee, myself and Mr. Brad Sherman, Joe Wilson went with us. Steve Chabot was with us, along with three or four other members.

When we went into the Philippines immediately after that devastation and saw—in the village we were in there was only one home left standing but it took 4 weeks for U.S. food to arrive, even though it was prepositioned in Sri Lanka.

If it had not been for the alternative programs this committee had pushed for that allowed the immediate purchase of that food aid there, obviously, you would have had people without any capability for weeks of being fed.

It took 6 weeks for prepositioned U.S. food to arrive in Nepal after the earthquake in 2015. It took 16 weeks to arrive in Yemen after the food emergency started there. We just returned less than a month ago from the Arabian Peninsula up on the border with Yemen to look at the challenges there.

But fortunately, in each of these instances it was USAID that acted quickly. You tapped into other disaster assistance accounts so that you could get locally-purchased food to people in desperate need within hours instead of weeks.

And while we are fortunate to have had those disaster assistance funds available in a pinch, it is sad and it's unacceptable that our food aid could not provide food when and where it was needed most and this is why we must reform.

So we have introduced legislation to fix Food for Peace by recognizing the important contributions of American farmers with a 25 percent floor on the purchase of U.S. commodities but also adding much more flexibility to purchase local food when and where that's more efficient and these small changes would save an estimated \$300 million that could be used to reach an additional 10 million starving people.

So I understand you may not be able to comment on this legislation specifically. But is the concept consistent with what the administration is trying to achieve in its assistance programming?

Ambassador GREEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

First off, thank you for your kind words about the USAID team. We view ourselves as being operational and as nimble as we can be.

With respect to food assistance, we obviously support goals to flexibility. In terms of the particular legislation, I have not had a chance to review it and, to my knowledge, the administration has not taken a formal position on it. But we always support efforts to make our dollars go as far as they can.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you very much, Administrator.

The other question I wanted to ask was on wildlife trafficking. This committee had prioritized efforts to counter wildlife trafficking, and this has become a source of financing not just for criminal networks but for terrorist organizations, especially across Africa.

And it threatens our national security—it threatens the national security of states there. So combating this crime is as much about security as it is about saving majestic species like elephant and rhino.

But I'll give you a real-world example. For Al-Shabaab, the militants there traffic in ivory. Each one of those ivory tusks get better than 20 boxes of ammunition.

A real-world example—they went into the forest, massacred many of these elephants, trekked the ivory out, got additional ammunition, and then went into Garissa University in 2015, if you recall, when they slaughtered so many of those students. One hundred and forty of those students died but many, many were also left grievously injured from those attacks.

Now in Gabon officials busted a wildlife trafficking ring a little over a month ago. That ring was tied to Boko Haram.

So, Ambassador Green, how can we continue to address the clear national security threats posed by wildlife trafficking? We have got budgetary constraints here. Your ideas about how to move forward?

Ambassador GREEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and your own work on this regard, obviously, is well known and has made a huge difference and helped provide us with some of the tools.

So as you rightly point out, this is not simply about biodiversity, as important as that is to all of us. It is about preventing the fuel for organized crime and other nefarious elements.

Wildlife trafficking has grown into the fourth most lucrative form of transnational organized crime, and so it is a high priority for us for a number of reasons.

So as much as anything, it is enhancing the capacity of law enforcement and game park security enforcement. I think that's the first and most important thing we can do, and working with other agencies we are heavily engaged in that, trying to help build their own capacity.

Also, secondly, it's to reduce demand and build the kinds of global partnerships that your legislation has promoted, but building partnerships to restrict the demand as well.

But I am greatly appreciative that you've raised the profile of this, in particular its linkages to crime.

Chairman ROYCE. Yes. Well——

Ambassador GREEN. It's something I don't think is well understood.

Chairman ROYCE. We have passed legislation here to shut down the ivory trade, which is going to help in terms of the demand.

But we are going to have to reverse some of the cuts in these programs because if we are going to stop Al-Shabaab, if we are going to prevent Boko Haram, which both have pledged fealty to ISIS, from continuing to build their operation, we have got to reverse engines here and make sure that the programs go forward to shut that down.

Ambassador GREEN. Mr. Chairman, I look forward to working with you on this.

Chairman ROYCE. Yes. Thank you.

Mr. Engel.

Mr. ENGEL. Well, Ambassador Green, as you heard me before, I mentioned how pleased I was that you've reached out to us and have worked with us. So I want to say that again.

I want to acknowledge a veteran staffer from this committee sitting behind you, Eddy Acevedo, and I know he'll do you well. So I am happy to see him here as well.

As I've mentioned before, I've been extremely disappointed by the administration's draconian 33 percent cut to USAID and also to the entire international affairs budget.

I've heard the argument that we cannot solve all the world's problems and that we have to set priorities. The problem is that I think this proposed budget makes it impossible to achieve even our core priorities.

The real-world impact of those cuts would be absolutely devastating. Tens of thousands of people will lose access to lifesaving medicines and potentially starve to death, and we are talking about a relatively small amount of funding here.

The USAID budget, as I mentioned before, is only $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1 percent of the total Federal budget.

So, Ambassador, I know you understand that development, along with diplomacy and defense, is critical for meeting U.S. national security objectives.

How can you function with these draconian cuts? And what bothers me is that they were submitted last year. This Congress rejected it—bipartisan rejected it and we improved the amount and then the administration the second year, which is now, sends us another proposal for the same draconian cuts that we rejected as a Congress last year.

So it just doesn't make any sense to me. I know you well enough to know that you would always want to function better with more money and be well funded but how can you function with these draconian cuts?

Ambassador GREEN. Thank you, Ranking Member Engel.

Well, first off, I readily admit that this budget will not allow us to do everything we might want to do in a perfect world and it doesn't allow us to take on every opportunity that we might see.

I recognize that the President in this budget is attempting to balance the needs that he sees in security of citizens, advancing American leadership, and commit them to efficiency and effectiveness.

What I can say as administrator I believe my job is to get the resources that are generously provided to us and do the best I can to make them go as far as I can.

We are working very hard to encourage our partners around the world to do more, and I think many of them are. We are seeing increased contributions from Germany, France, in particular South Korea, and Japan.

Also, mobilizing domestic resource mobilization programs to help those countries where we are working better capture their own revenues and resources.

I think we are doing more with the private sector and engaging with private sector from the word go to make sure that our programs leverage not only their financial resources but also the partnerships that they can bring.

So my commitment to you is to go as far as I can with every single dollar that's provided.

Mr. ENGEL. Thank you.

I want to ask you a question about Venezuela. A recent Washington Post article stated that the mass exodus of Venezuelans into Colombia and other places is one of the biggest migration crises in Latin American history and compared it to the flow of Syrians into western Europe in 2015.

I introduced the Venezuelan Humanitarian Assistance and Defense of Democratic Governance Act with my good friend, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, which passed the House in December.

I was pleased to see USAID get to work on some of the items in this bill by announcing \$2.5 million in new assistance for Venezuelan refugees in Colombia yesterday.

That's, obviously, a good start but much needs to be done. So what can you tell us about what you're attempting to do in Venezuela and why has USAID not yet provided direct humanitarian aid to the Venezuelan people through credible NGOs and if you're going to do it when would you expect to do it?

Ambassador GREEN. Thank you, Mr. Engel. First off—and thanks for the legislation—you're right. Yesterday, we announced \$2.5 million in humanitarian assistance for the people of Venezuela who have left the country for Colombia and this will provide much-needed food assistance and medical support to this population, and as we all know, this is an entirely manmade humanitarian crisis.

I condemn the snap elections by Maduro. These elections will not be free, fair, and transparent, and all they will do is cause more of a migration and force more and more people.

We will continue to support human rights and civil society groups in Venezuela. The money that was announced yesterday is but a down payment and we look forward to working with you to make sure that we continue to provide the humanitarian resources that are necessary to begin to address this terrible crisis.

And as you point out, this is a crisis that's largely gone under the radar in terms of the humanitarian fallout and the forced migration and it's something that really hasn't received enough attention.

My commitment is to work with you to make sure that it does, to provide the resources we can and take every step and look at every measure we can to push this forward.

Mr. ENGEL. Thank you, and before I go, I want to just mention Syria again. It's just—particularly what's happening in Ghouta now and elsewhere, and it's just horrifying. So I hope that you can increase whatever aid we can give to the civilian population in Syria.

Ambassador GREEN. Thank you, Mr. Engel.

Mr. ENGEL. Thank you.

Chairman ROYCE. We go now to our chairman emeritus, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen of Florida.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member.

I first want to point out in the back row of the audience is 12 just outstanding individuals there. They are part of the Florida Gubernatorial Fellows Program. They are at various stages in their educational career. Some are already lawyers.

Some are applying to law school, Ph.D. candidates. Some are undergrad, and they have been assigned to different agencies in Tallahassee. But they are spending a week here so I am glad that it snowed for them.

Welcome to DC, Floridians.

But thank you, Administrator Green. It's been such a pleasure for all of us in our committee to have been working with you and many of us old timers who had the delightful experience of being a member on this committee with you and you're so accessible to Congress and we appreciate that greatly, as you know.

And the opportunities that we have had, all of the members have, to reach you, to find out what USAID is doing in every corner of the world. So thank you so much for looking out for all of us and looking out for all the vulnerable members of the world.

I don't know about the wise decisions you have made in giving important jobs in your administration. We look at Eddy Acevedo there and we think maybe your judgment is clouded at times. But—[laughter]—but you can be forgiven for a few mistakes.

Thank you for providing this humanitarian aid that you just announced yesterday—\$2.5 million for Venezuelans and Colombian communities that are hosting them. What an important and welcomed step and thank you for calling these elections that are coming up in Venezuela.

Sham elections are next month. The situation is just going to get worse, if that is possible. So thank you very much for that.

On Nicaragua, I was disappointed to see the President's budget zero out our assistance to Nicaragua. So Ranking Member Engel, Albio Sires, and I sent a letter to you yesterday urging you to work within the administration to reverse that decision.

As you know and all of us know, Nicaragua's Ortega has taken the country down the same path as Castro and Maduro, and that can't be good. So now is not the time to be retreating.

If we leave, we find ourselves in a similar situation that we are currently facing in Venezuela. Soon you'll have to announce humanitarian assistance to Nicaraguans. Oh, boy. So we hope that you can use your voice and your power within the administration to straighten that out.

And lastly, I was encouraged as you pointed out in your statement, Ambassador Green, to see USAID signed this memorandum of understanding with Israel on Power Africa. And Congressman Ted Deutch and I authored H.R. 5141.

That's the U.S.-Israel Security Assistance Act and it includes a section on USAID and Israel. We think it's sound policy that many other areas in which USAID and Israel can work together to advance mutual interests. So this is the beginning of a wonderful friendship.

So our bill calls for more agreements like Power Africa and so I wanted to ask you where else is USAID looking to work with

Israel and sign similar MOUs and leverage our cooperation with this critical strategic ally to advance their interests, our interests, everybody's interests as well.

Thank you, Ambassador.

Ambassador GREEN. Thank you.

First off, thank you for legislation and what it stands for. I had a very positive meeting recently with Ambassador Dermer and we are looking for all kinds of ways to increase our cooperation including negotiating a global MOU which will enshrine and institutionalize that cooperation.

As you know, Mashav, which is our Israeli counterpart, as they pointed out, our older brother—they are actually older than USAID is—they said that they are the older poorer brother to USAID.

But they have a particular expertise in water security and a number of particular technical skills and capacities that we'd like to tap into. It'll help us achieve our development goals I think more effectively and efficiently, also build the relationship and help them achieve some of their goals.

So I am very excited about what the possibilities are and looking forward to finalizing that MOU as soon as we can. So I think it's a great opportunity and, as you know, I think people sometimes assume it would mean it's confined in the Middle East and, of course, that's simply not true.

The work we are doing together in Africa through Power Africa, the work we'd like to do together in places like Latin America, I really see as the sky being the limit here.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Thank you so much, Ambassador.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the time.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you, Ileana.

We are going to go to Greg Meeks of New York.

Mr. MEEKS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Eddy, you do look out of place back there. [Laughter.]

Thank you, Ambassador, for being here today and I want to join—I think that one of the programs that I know we all have talked and raved about and fought for was Power Africa, and so the continued commitment from USAID in regards to Power Africa is extremely important.

And I know you've had a position of talking about private investments to help support economic development in sectors in the country.

So I want to bring to your attention another one that was established about 18 months ago between USAID and the U.S. National Association of Security Professionals called MEDA, and MEDA is a program where it exposes U.S. investors to co-investments with African counterparts in African infrastructure. It connects African investors to investment opportunities in the United States.

And so I just want to make sure that it's something that 18 months but with your limited budget, I am just hoping that we can continue to support it and if it's not on your radar please put it on your radar because it's extremely important and I think that it will help both ways. It'll help our relationship with some African countries and help here. So if it's not on, please put it on your radar.

I am the ranking member on the Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats Subcommittee and I am encouraged by the substantial at-

tention that USAID gives to countries striving to enter the EU family, especially when we are talking about Georgia and the Ukraine, and the future of these countries are defined by their pathway to the EU and I believe that by the deep comprehensive free trade agreements that we are working on.

So, in fact, I believe that that's the correct policy for our European allies and NATO and the EU, and it's the best Russia policy.

Now, the EU, they are one of the largest if not the largest donor of aid in the world, along with the United States.

So I was wondering whether or not USAID has a way to coordinate what the EU is doing with what the United States is doing so that we can make sure now we are maximizing the buck that's going into some of the areas that best need the kind of aid that USAID provides.

Ambassador GREEN. Thank you.

First off, with respect to MEDA, I will learn more about it. I'd love to follow up with you. Working with the private sector on co-investment and co-design is particularly important. Really, we want that to be the hallmark of our relationship with private enterprise.

Moving beyond traditionally simply contracting and granting, which we will continue to do, but really coming together to get some of the ideas, the new partnerships, and the new opportunities. So very important to us.

With respect to Europe and Eurasia, it's an area of particular interest to me. The work that I used to do at IRI a lot of it was in that part of the world. Countering Kremlin influence is extremely important to us and I think the best way to counter Kremlin influence is to have success in the areas around Russia.

So reinforcing good governance, fighting corruption, economic growth, diversification of energy I think is very, very important.

In terms of our coordination, I recently held a strategic dialog with my counterparts at DFID and we are looking for ways to align. I have good relationships with the EU but want to make sure that we beef that up even more.

We meet with our EU counterparts fairly often. But I think we are entering into a chapter in which the world's major aid agencies and sources really do need to be working to share knowledge, to look for partnerships, to co-design, to co-invest.

So you have my commitment to keep building on that. I think it's very important and it really is a great way of reinforcing the Euro-Atlantic alliance, which is the pivot point around which the world turns.

Mr. MEEKS. Thank you.

And let me just ask this last question as my time is about to run out. I am concerned about, especially with the cuts, and when you look at the storms that have happened, I would note there is no assistance for the post-Hurricane reconstruction in the Caribbean.

And so I am wondering whether or not there will be—and I believe that was shortsighted because we need those as allies also—but will you use existing funding to make the Caribbean countries more resilient to future natural disasters?

Ambassador GREEN. A great question.

So in response to the terrible storms—as you know, it was a convergence of storms in so many ways. We responded immediately with DOD in providing humanitarian assistance including substantial food aid that we provided.

So we did that almost immediately. In terms of longer-term reconstruction, that's something that we are working with the World Bank on, not so much that we are doing ourselves. We don't have resources for that.

But we are looking for ways to build resilience of these countries. My view has always been that as important as humanitarian assistance is, the real compassion comes with helping to build resilience of those countries and those governments to withstand future shock and to be in a position to help themselves.

It's good for them and it's certainly good for us. So we will look for ways to do what we can to build resilience in those areas.

Mr. MEEKS. Thank you.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you.

We go to Mr. Steve Chabot of Ohio.

Mr. CHABOT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and again, welcome, Administrator Green.

You had mentioned I think early on that you were here—we were sort of ragtag. I was one of those who was with you back in that time. I can assure you that we are still pretty ragtag and so things haven't changed that much.

But we appreciate you being in your position and people have commented on Eddy, and we wish you the best, Eddy. We know you're going to do a great job there as well, and all those things that were said kind of in jest is because we all—

Ambassador GREEN. How much has he paid you guys? [Laughter.]

Mr. CHABOT. That's right. Not enough. But in any event, also there was some—early on in this hearing it has been off and on, you know, some criticism of the President and the administration, even the tax bill, saying how can we cut taxes and cut this, too, et cetera?

And I would just remind folks that the tax cut bill will reinvigorate—already is—the economy, creating jobs. People that are now working can pay taxes back in.

So it isn't dollar for dollar, but a lot of that tax cut is ultimately paid for by a reinvigorated economy, job creation, and the revenues that come back into the government. And so I just want to make that point.

Mr. Connolly or anybody else that—I hear some grumbling over there.

Mr. CONNOLLY. We have heard that story before. [Laughter.]

Mr. CHABOT. Well, it just happens to be true. It was true under President Kennedy, a Democrat, President Reagan, President Bush, and now President Trump.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Would my friend yield for 1 second?

Mr. CHABOT. I am debating whether I should or not. I will—

Mr. CONNOLLY. President Reagan had to raise taxes five times to make up for the red ink.

[Crosstalk.]

Chairman ROYCE. The committee hasn't changed that much.
[Laughter.]

Mr. CONNOLLY. But believe it or not—believe it or not, we are friends.

Mr. CHABOT. So reclaiming my time. We are—we are still friends.

Chairman ROYCE. I'll give the gentleman an additional minute. But occasionally we are still ragtag around the edges a little bit, Administrator Green.

Thank you.

Mr. CHABOT. All true. But reclaiming my time. Thank you very much.

And so—and then relative to the actual cuts here, I think we ought to be also clear about this that we have a \$20 trillion debt.

Now, I think, it's went up to \$21 trillion. And so it is appropriate. I would give the administration credit for at least attempting to look at all parts of the budget and see where we can save money.

Now, they are a separate branch of government. A lot of times that budget that they send over here is referred to as dead on arrival and it is appropriate that the legislative branch—a separate branch—look at that budget and make changes and modifications, which is has here.

Now, oftentimes what we spend is CRs and omnibuses and things.

I would note that I think last time, in essence, those cuts didn't occur, at least to any considerable degree. So the funding did go out to those important programs and in all likelihood will this time as well.

So even though it's appropriate for all those that are trying to positively impact people around the world who really need the help to bring it to our attention, the reality is is that I think our Government will continue to help folks who really do need it around the world.

And I just, in my remaining time, Mark, I wanted to talk about a program. I know your staff is aware of it and I just want to elevate it in your mind.

Our colleague—my Democratic colleague, Robin Kelly, and I were the principal sponsors of legislation that was passed in the House back in October.

It's called the Protecting Girls' Access to Education Act, and in essence what it does is it allows your agency, USAID, and the State Department to prioritize access to education for the most vulnerable displaced populations around the world, especially girls who are particularly vulnerable in these conflict zones.

Places like South Sudan, Syria are modern examples right now but it happens all over there, depending on where the instability is.

And they are really vulnerable to a whole range of things if they don't get a proper education and it's unstable and they don't have any kind of skills to support themselves, they are subject to exploitation, to human trafficking, to forced child marriage, and a whole range of other things.

So I would just urge you to discuss that with your folks, make sure that you're fully up on that, and we are awaiting, as we are on so many things, Senate action.

We understand the votes are there. It's just a matter of them ultimately passing this legislation. I don't know if you have any comment that you'd like to make there.

Ambassador GREEN. Thank you, Congressman Chabot.

As you know, I began my career in development as a teacher in east Africa and so I certainly recognize what you're saying.

In so many ways a focus on women and girls is at the heart of what we do. Not only is it a matter of gender equity but it's smart development.

What we see by investing in girls and creating opportunities—economic opportunities for girls—90 percent of that money that they earn gets reinvested into communities and so there is a multiplier effect.

But also in so many ways it's smart global health. So, we have always realized that the number-one way of preventing the spread of, for example, HIV is an educated mom. I mean, it really is. So this is a high priority for us.

And then, finally, as we have discussed, what I think is the great challenge of our time is how we provide education and basic services to the displaced communities in the world.

There are 70 million people displaced in the world right now, and you have children being born in camps and settlements, growing up in camps and settlements, and someday, God willing, the gates open, the fence comes down, and they are out in the world, and how do we help them not be vulnerable to the worst kinds of exploitative forces? And education is a key part of it.

So we are looking at a wide range of ways to enhance how we are able to do that. Technology is an ally here but not a panacea. But it really is, I think, the great challenge of our time. More than any one group, I think it's that.

Mr. CHABOT. Thank you very much.

My time has expired, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman ROYCE. We go to Karen Bass of California.

Ms. BASS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member.

Let me welcome you, Ambassador Green, to this hearing and I want to associate myself with the ranking member's comments to give credit where credit is due regarding your appointment.

I appreciated working with you while you were at IRI and especially, I have always appreciated your commitment to Africa.

So I wanted to ask you about that, the concerns in the budget cuts—but in addition to that, the appointment of the Assistant Secretary.

The assistant administrator, I heard, has been withdrawn, so I don't know if a new person will be nominated, if that nomination is imminent. I am not exactly sure why they were withdrawn.

But as you can imagine, I struggle often with African Ambassadors who are confused by what our message is, what our policy is, and most notably, the situation with Tillerson last week really sends a confusing message to African countries.

The fact that he essentially gets notified right after returning from the continent of Africa—then what does that say to his trip?

So, you could comment about that. Also, I read your presentation to the Security Council on the DRC and really appreciated everything there.

But I'd like to ask you what exactly our position is. I know our position is that elections should be held by December. But what I haven't heard from us is, what about a commitment from Kabila that he not run? Because if our position is just that elections be held by December, number one, he's postponed them a number of times—number two, that doesn't say that he won't run.

And then number three, I am wondering if you think it's time for more, even perhaps sanctions, because there is legislation that we have pending in the subcommittee. But as I read about the escalating crisis daily in the DRC, I am just really concerned that it seems like we need to step up.

Ambassador GREEN. With respect to the DRC and my appearing before the U.N. Security Council, first, I am careful to stay in my lane as the USAID Administrator and not—

Ms. BASS. Oh, okay. That's true.

Ambassador GREEN. But I will say this. You saw my comments and, yes, they were pointed. What strikes me—actually, we were talking about this morning the similarities of Venezuela and DRC in the sense that you have two nations which should be contributors and donors in the world—

Ms. BASS. Right. Right.

Ambassador GREEN [continuing]. And look where they are, and they are entirely manmade—corruption, authoritarianism. In the DRC, the gender-based violence is—it's almost unimaginable what we are seeing.

At the same time, we have a regime which, according to a number of outside observers, Mr. Kabila—his family has 450 miles worth of diamond concessions and 80 of the largest companies in the country he owns, in whole or in part, which kids can't go to school, while we are seeing the violence against humanitarian workers. We lost an American last year.

Ms. BASS. Right.

Ambassador GREEN. It's as dire a situation as can possibly be. Part of what my message was to the Security Council is the humanitarian catastrophe is clear and we should all do our part. But we should not think that simply providing humanitarian assistance is either a solution—

Ms. BASS. Exactly.

Ambassador GREEN [continuing]. Or is truly compassionate. A lot more needs to go with it. And so I look forward to working with you further on this.

It is an area of great interest and concern to me and I am also worried, as we see things playing out—the violence, especially leading up to the election—we are going to continue to see Congolese fleeing and potentially destabilizing the region.

So this is an international crisis. It's not simply a matter of a bilateral crisis.

Ms. BASS. Let me get one more question in.

You mentioned gender equity and I was wondering if the programs like AWEPP that was a USAID program—if that program is

still in place and if some of the other gender-specific programs in USAID are still in place or have they been cut or eliminated?

Ambassador GREEN. So I can't answer your question and will follow up with you. What I can tell you is that our gender-focused and gender equity programs will continue if not get ramped up.

We are looking to have the gender lens being one through which basically every program flows. Again, it's sound development logic in addition to being a core value—American value. It's awfully important for achieving any of the goals we are hoping to achieve.

Ms. BASS. Thank you.

Chairman ROYCE. We will go now to Joe Wilson of South Carolina.

Mr. WILSON. And thank you, Chairman Ed Royce and Ranking Member Eliot Engel, for your leadership.

And welcome back, Ambassador, Congressman, President, Director—all the titles that you have so well deserved.

Ambassador GREEN. Usually when someone says that there is something coming after.

Mr. WILSON. Right. Right. Hey, with Joe Wilson, it's just going to be positive, okay, and so because I know Mark Green. But congratulations on your success and, truly, an indication of that is Eddy Acevedo.

We are so used to him sitting behind us and making sure that we do it semi-correctly. So we just appreciate his service and he, of course, is a key aid to Chairman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen—truly helped her become one of the most effective chairmen we have ever had for Foreign Affairs.

Now the question, and I want to thank you for your leadership here in Congress for the Millennium Challenge. What an extraordinary success story that's been.

The administration has correctly provided strong support for the people of Ukraine, most recently by agreeing to sell Ukraine Javelin missiles to defend its people and territory from the Putin aggression.

Ukraine's reform efforts are underway in many areas, especially combating corruption. What are your plans to use the extensive U.S. assistance program in Ukraine to ensure that the government fully implements the reforms its agreed to, especially concerning corruption?

Ambassador GREEN. Thank you, Congressman.

So in terms of our work with Ukraine, I think there is tremendous good will both sides of the aisle, multiple administrations, toward Ukraine and Ukraine's success.

On the other hand, I think it's also true that the window is not open forever for Ukraine. They must take on corruption, and it's a core challenge for them and something that in many ways influences their politics and citizens' perception of the government.

So it is a principal part of the work that we do. Transparency, accountability, giving them the tools, reinforcing the ability of civil society to hold people to account—all vitally important.

The people of Ukraine want to move toward the West. They look to the West for inspiration, guidance, and leadership, and a core part of that is tackling corruption.

A few weeks ago at the Munich Security Conference I had a chance to meet with Mayor Klitschko of Kiev, who I've met with before, and he talked about the priorities he has in battling corruption and that it's a slow heavy slog.

And so we have pledged to meet with him and continue to work with him to enhance those tools. So I am right with you in terms of its importance and it really is central to all of our plans in the region.

Mr. WILSON. And it's exciting that you mention the mayor. I had an opportunity to meet with him at the Munich Security Conference and also members of the Parliament of Ukraine, and it's just encouraging to see such extraordinary people and a beautiful country.

While the administration has made impressive gains to help retake territory under ISIS control, we now face significant humanitarian and stabilization challenges.

How does this request enable the United States to continue to meet the objectives of defeating, degrading, and disrupting ISIS?

Ambassador GREEN. Thank you for the question.

So in places like Raqqa, Syria that I visited some weeks back—there is a couple of parts. First off, humanitarian assistance, which we provide, but more importantly in many ways is the restoration of essential services.

I had a chance to go with General Votel of CENTCOM to Raqqa and, first off, I have to tell you the devastation I saw was almost incomprehensible.

I've never seen the extensive devastation like that anywhere in the world. As far as you can see to the horizon, buildings are leveled.

And yet, when you go to the IDP camp, which I did, Raqqans told me over and over again they want to go home. They want to move back to Raqqa.

They are home bound, and so I would ask them, what will it take for you to move back home? Water, electricity, access to meds, some basic food, some semblance of education.

And so USAID's work there—we have a very small footprint—is designed on that limited mission. Restoration of essential services so that Raqqans can go back home—that we don't leave an open space, a void. We don't cede the territory to the bad guys who will come back.

Challenges are great. I found the Raqqans inspirational.

Mr. WILSON. Well, and we find your service inspirational and what USAID does for persons in displacement camps, to see schools built in Afghanistan—I wish the American people could see more.

Thank you very much.

Ambassador GREEN. Thank you.

Chairman ROYCE. Ami Bera of California.

Mr. BERA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Ambassador Green, for your service to our country as well as the important work that you're doing at USAID.

This morning we had breakfast—a few of us had breakfast with the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and the topic was around the agricultural economy and the number of youth that are out there, particularly in Africa and sub-Saharan Africa and the potential cri-

sis if we don't find solutions for both the food insecurity there but then also this—the growing number of young people who may not have any economic opportunities.

One of the remarkable successes, and we talked about this in the past, is Feed the Future and capacity building, an interest that I think many of us on the committee share, along with yourself, is obviously we will respond to global crises with aid and so forth.

But the focus on capacity building and how we help those countries go from recipient countries to countries that actually can address their own needs.

Would you talk about some of the success of Feed the Future, the places where we can be most helpful in shifting toward capacity building and then an area where there is a large amount of moneys that the diasporas send back around the world and how we could better effectively partner with the various diaspora to utilize those funds again in a capacity-building effort?

Ambassador GREEN. Thank you.

First off, and I think I've mentioned it to some of you before, when I served as an Ambassador in Tanzania, so this is 2007, 2008, and 2009, there was no Feed the Future, and I had a country that was 83 percent rural agriculture and I have no tools whatsoever to deal with it.

So I am a big fan of Feed the Future and I think it was a great contribution by the Obama administration to our progression of developing tools—a very important part of our work.

One of the things that I think makes it particularly interesting and dynamic is the fact that it is built around private sector engagement.

So this is not simply a traditional program like other good programs but a traditional program where we are doing things, solely government grants. This is really stimulating the private sector, private investment.

We, in the U.S., of course, have a number of wonderful companies engaged in this space but also helping them to stimulate their own capacity in those countries, which have the additional benefit of creating opportunities for people in the countries themselves.

And when it comes to youth, if the greatest challenge in the world right now from a development perspective are displaced communities. Number two is the rising youth bulge, if we fail to help provide those opportunities.

The average age of a Ugandan is about 16. In Tanzania, it's 17 and going down. And so I really worry about a rising generation of underemployed, if employed, and also disconnected in the sense of not reinforcing their investment in civic institutions.

I think working on the food sector, which is the natural backbone of every economy, particularly in the developing world, it really is a way to tackle a number of these problems at the same time.

They are not going to go away anytime soon. This is a long-term generational challenge but worth every dollar that we put into it.

The Chicago Council is near and dear to my heart. Before I got this job, I actually helped develop that report that they unveiled and I thought some of their ideas are really worth looking at and trying to integrate into our work.

Mr. BERA. Excellent.

And in the brief time I have left, the second question was moneys from the diasporas that are here—that are flown back, how we could better partner with diasporas to address some of these—

Ambassador GREEN. You know, it's an area that we have simply not done as well as we need to do. I know working with my British counterparts, DFID, they actually—diaspora communities are a bigger part of the work they do and maybe because of the commonwealth. We simply have not done this as well as we need to.

So it's something that we are actively looking at, particularly Western Hemisphere the diaspora is a little closer in some ways. But I think there are all kinds of technology transfer opportunities—you know, really ways of helping everyone gain.

Our neighbors need to succeed, obviously. It's important for our security and our economy.

Mr. BERA. Great. Thank you. I'll yield.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you. We go to Ted Poe of Texas.

Mr. POE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Ambassador Green, it's good to see you. I want to reiterate what many of the members have said about your work in this entire area.

It is not a job for you. It is a calling, a cause, a passion, and you are intense about it and I think that is why members on both sides admire what you do for so long. So thank you for that.

I want to make three comments. One, it seems to me that many of the world's issues, primarily in the developing countries, centers specifically on one word and that is water, and the lack of clean water affects everything.

It affects health. It affects development. It affects crops. It affects everything, and I want to commend you on the WASH program and all of the NGOs that are working to get clean water throughout the world. And I think it's also a security issue as well.

As we know, women in Africa many times have to walk miles to get water. Those water wells are guarded by criminals and to get the water they are abused and then they have to repeat that in a couple of days as well. That's awful that we live in a society, in a world, where that happens.

The other item that I wanted to mention to you—then I have a question—I recently met with the three speakers of Parliament of Georgia, Ukraine, and Moldova. All three of those countries have portions of their nation occupied by Russian troops.

They have many things in common. They are, I believe, very concerned about which direction each of those three countries, but the three of them together, are going to move—are they going to go move back to the Russian bear or are they going to move to the West.

And I think it is not only a humanitarian issue but a political issue that the United States show support for those three countries, getting rid of the corruption and developing their nations to have more pro-democracy corrupt-free institutions. Still, as we know, they are occupied by Russian troops and probably will be for a long time.

One issue that I want to talk about, though, is Pakistan. The United States has been sending lots of money to Pakistan forever.

We do military aid. We do military sales and then we do foreign assistance.

There is \$335 million in the proposed budget for Pakistan supposedly for countering violent extremism in Pakistan. Two comments and then a question, actually.

A recent general said that the United States will probably be in Afghanistan indefinitely. That's another issue but it's troubling to me that that seems to be our policy.

The Afghan President recently said before the United Nations—and you might have been there when he said this—that the center of Taliban terrorism in Afghanistan is from Pakistan, and the problem in Pakistan is not going to be solved on terrorism until we—the world deals with the issue of Pakistan playing both sides.

Pakistan, I think, funds the Taliban that goes into Afghanistan, puts our troops in harm's way, then trots back over into Pakistan and hides. It may be true that the Pakistan nation fights the Taliban in Pakistan.

But they support the Taliban in Afghanistan. I think they are playing us, they are playing the Chinese, and yet we continue to give money.

I don't think we ought to give them a dime of foreign assistance. I even think we ought to remove them from the major non-NATO ally status that they have. But we are all concerned about their ability to have nuclear weapons, et cetera.

So if you could candidly weigh in on money that goes to Pakistan that I think is being used against American interests and Americans in Afghanistan. There would be my question.

Ambassador GREEN. Thank you.

So very quickly, I agree with the priority you place upon clean water and water security. In fact, if not for the weather, I would be speaking at a clean water event tonight at the National Geographic with Procter & Gamble in celebration of some of the work that we are doing together. Again, I think weather is going to disrupt that.

Secondly, Georgia, Ukraine, Moldova, of course, I agree, and I agree on their importance and I agree that they are countries that, first off, want to move our way and, secondly, are countries that we need to succeed and we need to help with the tools, particularly take on corruption and to reinforce democratic governance there.

With respect to Pakistan, our work is in line with the President's South Asia strategy. So as you might know, all of our approaches are under review right now and I am not quite sure where it's all going to end up, however.

I think we all recognize that a stable peaceful Pakistan that contributes to stability and good neighbor relations would definitely be in our interests. And so we are looking for ways that we might be able to reinforce that, particularly helping to tackle some of the problems in the FATA regions.

But, again, it's under in review in line with the President's directive on the South Asia strategy and we are watching and we will take part in that and we will see where it ends up and we will work with your office and let you know how that strategy is going.

Chairman ROYCE. Lois Frankel of Florida.

Ms. FRANKEL. Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you for this.

Thank you, Ambassador Green, for your being here, for your service. I agree with the generals and our chairman, who say we cannot bomb our way into peace. So I appreciate what you do.

I want to start by thanking you for addressing the sexual abuse at OXFAM, the USAID partner. Just to let you know, coincidentally, our bipartisan Women's Caucus had a hearing this week on sexual harassment, talking about our country where we have plenty of it.

The testimony was absolutely shocking how pervasive it is. I do want to tell you this. All the experts agreed that you must have leadership at the top to stop it. It's an imperative, so thank you and keep that up.

I think you have intimated and others have intimated that when women succeed the world succeeds, and, sadly, women are being abused and exploited in all parts of the world. Rape is a tool of war—child marriage, genital mutilation, human trafficking, child marriage.

I thank you for your wise comments on education. I want to stress that access to health care is also a necessity and I am in a distraught—how do I say?

I am distraught by what I see as our President's misogynist policy and back-stepping policy on women's health, which I believe is a looming disaster for women not only in this country but for all over the world—slashing international family planning assistance by half, cutting maternal health programs, expanding the inhumane global gag rule that forces health care providers to cut services for women, cutting off funding to the U.N. Population Fund.

With the global gag rule, this administration has gone further than ever, and we know that past versions have resulted in the rise in maternal deaths and unwanted pregnancy.

And so expanding this policy to all U.S. global health assistance, I mean, to—from millions to billions is going to be particularly hurtful to women and their participation in communities.

I have a couple of questions for you along these lines. We talked to Secretary Tillerson. He was in front of our committee some time ago, and we asked him to share an analysis of this new global gag policy.

We got a report. Basically, the report talked about implementation but did not get into at all the impact. And so we are looking to understand what will the impact be on terms of maternal mortality, HIV, nutrition services, with the expansion of this gag rule.

In terms of the U.N. FPA works in 150 countries to provide critical services to women including maternal care to treating survivors of sexual violence and combating harmful practices like female genital mutilation.

For example, in Jordan's largest refugee camp we have seen more than 7,500 babies have been born without a single maternal death because—in a large part because of their work.

And so my question to you on that front is are you or how are you redirecting USAID funding to make up for cutting back on the U.N. FPA?

All right. That was a mouthful. I know you can answer it.
Ambassador GREEN. Thank you. Thanks for the questions.

Let me begin, very briefly, by, again, reassuring you that sexual harassment and sexual misconduct will be something that I pay personal attention to and we are going to continue to make sure that our approach is unmistakable.

Shortly after I arrived as administrator, we sent out an executive order globally to make that clear and I spoke a couple of weeks ago to all of our mission directors and a phone call made it clear, and also called on them to bring in our implementing partners in the field mission by mission to reinforce this message. So there is no doubt or uncertainty whatsoever.

Ms. FRANKEL. And you're going to have to keep that up.

Ambassador GREEN. Absolutely. This is an ongoing process. This is not a one-off and we are going to—and we will be happy to brief you on some of the steps that are coming out of our new alliance that we are putting into place.

Secondly, you've been very passionate and were in our private discussions on the topic of family planning, and as I assured you then and reassure you today the report that you have seen was a 6-month report—the data we had as grants came up for renewal or supplementation, and the plan is for the end of this year when we will have much more information that we will, working closely with the State Department—they are the lead on this—have a more in-depth report and we will be happy to come and brief you, as we did with the first report.

Then, finally, with respect to this budget, this budget—the fiscal year 2019 request has in it \$302 million for family planning, which it did not request in the previous—in the fiscal year 2018 budget. So with protecting global life and global health in place, the new moneys have been provided.

Ms. FRANKEL. What about the work of the U.N. Population Fund?

Ambassador GREEN. Well, as you know, while we are not participating, other donors can and are.

Ms. FRANKEL. I don't think that's a satisfactory answer, but thank you for it.

Chairman ROYCE. Mr. Scott Perry of Pennsylvania.

Mr. PERRY. Thanks, Mr. Chairman.

Ambassador, we are honored by your presence today. I come at this from the sense that democracy or Western-style democracies at some level decided by the host nation is the best circumstance for long-term and sustainable development and that those type of institutions provide best for citizens' needs, decided in their countries, crucial for development.

And through the aid that we provide the United States has an opportunity to promote those effective accountable and responsible democratic institutions and that in doing so also reduces the countries' need for dependence on foreign and particularly U.S. foreign aid.

With that, and the importance of democracy and good governance, I think we both recognize the appropriate level of oversight that's necessary and promoting those things.

I want to give you two examples. One is Macedonia, or some people say Makadonia. Over the past couple of years, USAID, the mission in Macedonia, has selected the Open Society Foundation as a

major implementer and has awarded in February of last year the Open Society Foundation a \$2.54 million contract for training in civic activism, mobilization, and civic engagement.

Now, this raised concerns not only for me but members of this committee and others because there is a perceived strong belief that the Open Society Foundation has a strong political bias to the left.

And while on the surface this might be benign, it doesn't seem to me to be—should be the United States' position to choose which political party in a country governs but that they have a strong democratic institution that works for their citizens.

And at the time that they received this contract, Macedonia was facing a fairly contentious parliamentary election and our Ambassador came under scrutiny for displaying a strong leftist political bias against a legitimate party, the VMRO, and facilitated coalition negotiations between the main leftist party and the ethnic Albanian parties.

The second one is Cambodia. When Hun Sen's CPP narrowly won its victory in 2013 and then instituted a crackdown on opposition journalists and generally civic society organizations, to which on February of this year the administration was compelled to review assistance to Cambodia to ensure that taxpayer funds were not being used to support anti-democratic behavior.

Based on this view and this review, the White House announced the suspension of several Treasury, USAID, and military assistance programs which were linked directly to the crackdown on democracy.

And as you have said, and I would contend you are correct, foreign assistance dollars are precious. The people of the 4th District, which I am privileged to represent, in Pennsylvania and all across the country are due strong oversight and to make sure that their dollars are being spent wisely for the things that we believe in will help these countries do better for themselves and reduce the need for foreign assistance and, in turn, enhance our national security right here at home.

So the questions, with all that backdrop, are can you speak to the steps your agency is taking to ensure that our aid regarding democracy and good governance is promoting Western democratic values?

And to that, is there a process of selecting implementers for aid programs that has come under scrutiny under your tenureship, under your leadership?

Do you foresee any substantive changes to the metrics or considerations to select implementers in your redesign? That would be one, and then during your tenure as administrator and beyond regarding the mission in Cambodia, have there been any instances where USAID has stopped or paused aid because it immediately and adversely contradicted Western democratic values?

Ambassador GREEN. Great. Thank you.

So a couple of responses. First off, with respect to Macedonia, the contract that you're referring to was prior to my tenure.

As you may know, I am an old democracy hand and so I believe fundamentally in democratic governance and the work around democratic governance and I don't believe that sound democratic

governance means picking winners and losers and getting involved in the process.

Mr. PERRY. Sure. We are complaining about it in this country right now about foreign actors engaging in picking winners and losers in our country.

Ambassador GREEN. So it is something that I know real well. I can tell you that our new Assistant Administrator for Europe and Eurasia, Brock Bierman was just there in Macedonia, reaching out, having meetings with the government, all the political parties and partners to ensure that there is parity in our approach.

Secondly, with respect to Cambodia, first off, there are places where we have cut aid because of decisions that have been made. In the case of Cambodia, we did cut funding for certain things.

We cut moneys to the National Election Commission. Obviously, with the type of election they had, that was inappropriate.

Secondly, we cut funding to local officials who were chosen illegitimately by the policy decisions that were made.

Third, we also shifted funding to reinforce civil society and to strengthen the role of civil society to have that voice of opposition, in light of the decisions.

And so those are ways that I think it's very clear what we stand for and how we strengthen the democratic ethos.

It's very important here, I think, as, you know, we believe in democratic governance, not just governance. Authoritarians are really good at governance. Not much else, but they may be good at governance.

We all share the value of democratic citizen responsive governance and that's what we reinforce.

Mr. PERRY. Can you clarify the implementers and your metrics for choosing them? Will—

Chairman ROYCE. And maybe do that in writing.

Ambassador GREEN. Okay.

Mr. PERRY. That'll be fine. Thank you.

Chairman ROYCE. That would be fine.

Mr. PERRY. I yield, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman ROYCE. Okay. Thank you. We go to Mr. Joaquin Castro of Texas.

Mr. CASTRO. Thank you, Chairman, and thank you, Ambassador Green, for your testimony today.

Over the last few decades the character of foreign assistance has fundamentally transformed through innovation. So do you support innovation as a part of your redesign efforts at USAID?

And let me ask you specifically about the Global Development Lab within USAID tasked with driving innovation, which has generated wonderful new ideas about approaching development challenges.

Do you support the Global Development Lab and its efforts in driving innovation in foreign assistance?

Ambassador GREEN. Yes, absolutely. Innovation is one of the driving parts of our redesign effort. With respect to the Global Development Lab, again, we are not done with our redesign. We are still getting approvals and will continue to brief your staff.

We are essentially going to take the Global Development Lab in the way that it goes about its work, so investigating, testing, and

then scaling up innovations, and we hope to institutionalize that throughout much of the agency.

So that's one of the things I've learned a great deal about. Innovation has to be at the heart of what we do.

Mr. CASTRO. No, well, thank you for that.

I guess a big part of my concern is that the President's budget for fiscal year 2019 requested only \$12.5 million for the Global Development Lab in comparison to its typical funding levels at above \$100 million. Obviously, a very drastic cut in funding.

So how would this significant decrease hinder USAID's intention of driving innovation in foreign assistance?

Ambassador GREEN. Well, first off, funding for the Global Development Lab has actually gone up and down since its creation. But what we are trying to do, again, as we go through this redesign process is make sure that we capture its lessons and use it more broadly.

Secondly, the Global Development Lab is at the heart of our new approach to private sector engagement and a big part of how we are going about our business in that sense.

So, traditionally, it's the public-private partnership model which basically you craft a program and then you try to get the private sector to buy in or help.

What we are doing, largely with the help and through the Global Development Lab, is reaching out to the private sector and saying, here's a challenge we see—an opportunity that we see—we'd love your ideas.

We made it easier for them to participate and share those ideas and then with the Global Development Lab—and, again, will be expanding its work—we are able to test those ideas and put together the best ideas forward and make the funding more nimble.

So we are doing our best to take all that you're pointing to in the Global Development Lab and raise it and extend it.

Mr. CASTRO. So you're basically crowd sourcing—putting out a challenge and crowd sourcing the best ideas to solve these development—

Ambassador GREEN. I have learned so much in my travels, seeing some of the inspirational innovations in places like India. It really is quite exciting and we have talked about how do you transition in the future.

In other words, as countries advance in their development journey, at some point, like India, they don't want food aid. They are not looking for money. They are looking for help, technical assistance around these innovations and that's great.

I mean, that's a wonderful place for us to be, and using some of the lessons that we have learned here is at the core of it.

Mr. CASTRO. And the chairman and the ranking member both mentioned our concern about any kind of decrease in foreign aid at this point, particularly as China is growing more ambitious in its alliances around the world and its own development work around the world.

So what are your thoughts on American foreign assistance with a rising China out there?

Ambassador GREEN. Well, twofold. One, we recognize we will never have enough money to take on every challenge—

Mr. CASTRO. Sure.

Ambassador GREEN [continuing]. Humanitarian development. We all recognize that. But number two, what you're pointing to is very real. The rise of China, of how they do development, of the way that they tie to development long-term indebtedness that we are seeing in a number of places, lines on extractives and natural resources.

One thing that we have not, I think, as a government and, quite frankly, as a nation done well enough is making clear to the world the choices that they have.

There is the China choice, which is the sweetener money up front and then the fine print and indebtedness. What we are trying to do with our assistance is to help countries build the ability to lead themselves.

So what we want is self-reliance. We want countries to move from being recipients to partners to, hopefully, donors. That's a clear choice. That's how we are trying to orient all of our tools in our programs.

Mr. CASTRO. Thank you.

And then one last question that I'll take in writing. The situation in Venezuela has grown more dire and there are about 1.5 million people who have basically fled their homes.

In writing, the answer to the question what are we doing to assist in that situation. Thank you.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you, Mr. Castro.

We go to Dan Donovan of New York.

Mr. DONOVAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Ambassador, I just have two questions. I'll give them both to you because they may intertwine. Realizing there is always going to be disasters that are going to require our assistance throughout the globe, some of the things that we have addressed in the past in your experience, and I know you've only been there for 6 months but through your entire career, are there any of these areas that need our help have we found a solution for the people?

Are there anything that we use our efforts so that we don't have to go back and help people again because they are able to help themselves?

And the other thing I wanted to ask you, and again, this might intertwine—I know this is a hearing concerning your budget for the next fiscal year. But since we are a legislative body, is there any legislation—is there anything that you would need from this committee to help you perform your duties more expediently, more efficiently, less costly? Anything that we can help you with?

Ambassador GREEN. First off, with respect to the second question that you've asked, I will come and see you. I am sure that we will have many such suggestions and requests, and I really do seriously appreciate the offer.

First, with respect to—I guess it's progress—results. You know, where we have seen things—problems addressed, perhaps the best example I can give you from my tenure is my first visit overseas, which was to Ethiopia.

Ethiopia is a country that's going into its fourth consecutive year of drought and yet it has not fallen into full-scale famine, and part of the reason for that—we think a big part of it—is the fact that

we have worked with local business leaders and governments to strengthen their resilience to withstand future shock.

So we have livelihood programs, water technology that we share, and that's a great story. So it's the famine that hasn't occurred—knock on wood, hasn't occurred yet. We made a real difference.

Second, I take a look at the extraordinary advances that have been made in fighting malaria. The progress—the reduced mortality in Africa is incredible.

I am a malaria survivor myself and when I lived in Kenya years ago malaria was a fact of life and someone died, it seemed, every other day from malaria. And yet, through in large part the generosity of the United States, but the technical assistance and the proven technologies make enormous strides.

And so that has unleashed economic strength in many of the countries that have been afflicted by malaria for so long and given them real hope. So it's the class time that you don't lose. It's the workdays and the business setting that you don't lose because of the investments that have been made.

So there are a number of great success stories. The challenge is that the humanitarian needs that we all see right now are so daunting that I think it sometimes overwhelms in the public's mind the successes that we have seen and the progress that we have made.

But I do appreciate your offer, by the way, and we will come to you.

Mr. DONOVAN. As a follow-up, your success that you just described in Ethiopia, other successes, could they be applied elsewhere so that we help other countries, other nations from having to suffer through what they've suffered during their disasters?

Ambassador GREEN. Absolutely. Among other things, when I was Ambassador in Tanzania, when I would meet with groups in the country I would almost always begin the same way.

I'd say, look, I am not saying we have got all the answers. I am saying maybe we have made all the mistakes and you don't have to make the mistakes that we have made along the way, and share our technology and including the tough lessons we have learned the hard way.

USAID is built around learning. We are constantly learning. We are constantly doing after actions. We are constantly auditing ourselves.

We partner closely with our OIG to make sure that we are doing things the most effective efficient way we can. We take the lessons to heart and we apply them. And more broadly, as we are pulling together our new metrics to measure how countries are proceeding in their own development journey a lot of that is based upon lesson sharing from other countries.

So we are able to show a country the challenges that were taken on perhaps by a neighbor, and while it doesn't necessarily mean an absolute, just simply replicate, they are important lessons and when they are lessons from a neighbor countries are very interested. When they don't think it's simply wealthy America coming in but other similar countries that have faced tough challenges, people are willing to learn.

Everyone wants to be able to lead themselves. They believe in self-dignity and the sovereignty of leadership and that's at the core of our approach.

Mr. DONOVAN. Thank you, Mr. Ambassador, for your insight and for your service to our nation.

I yield the remainder of my time, Mr. Chairman.

Ambassador GREEN. Thank you.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you.

We go now to Mr. Ted Deutch of Florida.

Mr. DEUTCH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I thank you and Ranking Member Engel for your commitment to ensuring this committee provides appropriate oversight over the President's budget.

Thank you, Administrator Green, for being here, for the engagement you have with our committee. I know that you've spent your career committed to international development and you spoke so powerfully to your own personal experiences here today.

That is why it's so perplexing to see an international affairs budget coming from this administration that once again includes a 30 percent cut with a 33 percent cut to USAID's budget.

I can't imagine that you believe that this is helpful to our interests around the world, and I understand that our dollars are not unlimited and that we need to prioritize.

But this budget does not seem to prioritize some of the most important assistance and development projects that the U.S. has invested in for years, not because it helps people in countries around the world but because it's in our own national security interests.

A 37 percent cut to global health means programs to reduce the spread of dangerous diseases. A 34 percent cut to the humanitarian account used to address the dire humanitarian crises caused by war, famine, weather-related catastrophes.

A 40 percent cut to the Middle East where economic development, education, and governance programs are critical to stability in a volatile region and preventing those affected from turning to terror groups who can offer a paycheck and food.

We need to invest in soft power and we need to do it to complement our military power, and while we can defeat immediate threats on the battlefield, addressing the underlying concerns of terrorism is the way that we will combat terrorism in the longer term.

I am deeply concerned that these cuts won't just cause us to reduce current programming but will actually set back significant progress made over the past several decades.

I know this administration wants to emphasize burden sharing. I absolutely believe that other countries must step up to address complex crises around the world.

But given the administration's disjointed foreign policy and distancing from traditional allies combined with dramatic cuts to our own assistance budget, I am concerned that we are losing our leverage and influence to ask other countries to support our national security priorities.

I have one question for you about leverage but I want to start by going back to something you talked about earlier.

You spoke about countering the Kremlin's influence. Can you talk about your role in doing that?

Ambassador GREEN. Thank you for the question.

So my view has always been that one of the best ways to counter Kremlin influence is to build and broaden democratic governance in the surrounding region.

The best way to push back on Vladimir Putin is success in Ukraine and helping the people of Ukraine achieve the democracy and freedoms to which they aspire as a model for the region.

So that's something that's very important to me. So that's our biggest approach in what we do. Secondly, working with state and others we work on building journalist capacity and take a look at ways to counter some of the misinformation that is part of the propaganda effort that comes out of the Kremlin.

And then third, a big piece of it is energy independence. A lot of the nations in that region are held hostage in some ways by their energy dependence upon Moscow, and if we can strengthen energy independence and diversity of sources, that, I think is another way of countering the influence.

Mr. DEUTCH. So, Administrator Green, I want to thank you for those answers. I want to thank you for your testimony today, and I agree with you.

One sure way for us to lose leverage and influence with other countries is what we are discussing and what we saw here just this week.

When the President of the United States calls Vladimir Putin to congratulate him on his victory and fails in that conversation to condemn the use of nerve agents used on British soil and refuses in that conversation to talk about Russia's meddling in our own elections, it makes it harder—it reduces our leverage with our allies.

And when asked about that last November and the President said, you're not going to get in an argument—you're going to start talking about Syria and Ukraine, which he didn't do in this conversation, and then for the White House to say yesterday from the podium, we don't get to dictate how other countries operate, Administrator Green, you are a model for how we can help dictate the way other countries operate.

When you speak about targeting and responding to propaganda, when you talk about democratic governance and pushing back on Putin and Ukraine, when you talk very specifically about what we are telling South Sudan, what we are telling Venezuela, what we are telling Burma, the vitally important role that we have to play in advancing our values around the world and the White House press secretary said we don't get to dictate how other countries operate, we have to stand for our values, Administrator Green, and I wish that the White House paid closer attention to the way that you are standing up for those values and advocating our position in the world and used your efforts as a model for the way that they and the President, in particular, might choose to behave.

I yield back.

Chairman ROYCE. I'll remind members also we have a meeting afterwards at 12:30. We have a lunch. The lunch is with UNHCR High Commissioner Grandi from Italy, and he'd like to discuss Bangladesh, South Sudan, Syria, Yemen, Venezuela with the membership here.

So just a reminder at 12:30.

We go now to Ann Wagner of Missouri.

Ms. WAGNER. I thank you, Mr. Chairman, for hosting this hearing and thank you, Ambassador Green, for taking the time to be here today and certainly for your outstanding service.

My constituents and I care deeply about America's leadership in humanitarian assistance and conflict prevention and USAID's mission is very important to advancing human rights and democracy around the globe.

Ambassador, last year I introduced H.R. 3030, the Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act. This bill would authorize the Complex Crises Fund, which is currently managed by USAID's Office of Program, Policy, and Management.

I believe the fund has been useful in helping Embassies swiftly respond to conflict situations. Can you tell me how the Complex Crises dollars have been deployed in the past couple of years here?

Ambassador GREEN. Well, first off, part of what you're pointing to is that the greatest humanitarian challenges we seem to be facing today are manmade.

Ms. WAGNER. Correct.

Ambassador GREEN. And so we need to be able to respond to address those conditions that are leading to dislocation and to displacement.

So I am looking here and it says that we are estimating that the money that—for fiscal year 2018, this year's money, half of our funding will go toward six major emergencies, all conflict driven.

In terms of your specific legislation, quite frankly, I haven't had a chance to review it. I'll get back to you on it to explore further. But I really appreciate your particular attention to this because it's something that I think does go under the radar—does slide under the radar.

So what I've got here is that currently it's CAR—Central African Republic—Burkina Faso, and Burma—

Ms. WAGNER. Okay.

Ambassador GREEN [continuing]. Are the three places where it is going. But, I mean, it could certainly be used more broadly.

Ms. WAGNER. To that point, I will say that Burma is perpetuating ethnic cleansing, as we know—likely genocide of Rohingya Muslims in Rakhine State and is refusing entry to aid workers.

How has USAID been navigating its mass atrocity response in Burma, sir?

Ambassador GREEN. So to this point, a lot of it's been humanitarian assistance for those who were displaced. Our portion of the work is internally displaced.

Refugees are led by the State Department but we are working closely with them to make sure that there is assistance going to those in greatest need, and taking a look at some of the technological challenges to providing that assistance.

I was planning on going myself to see firsthand. The trip was postponed because I was not able to get to some of the areas that I would need to get to in order to have a good sense of it.

You know, obviously, at a minimum, we are calling upon Burma to provide unfettered access to the Rohingya communities so that we can take a look at the plight and see what can be done to lift

some of the suffering, and also, quite frankly, it's to begin to investigate the atrocities.

I worry about what we are seeing, as you've pointed to, and it's happening on our watch and the suffering—

Ms. WAGNER. It is, and I do believe it is—we are talking about genocide here.

Ambassador GREEN. The suffering is enormous.

Ms. WAGNER. And the suffering is enormous and aid workers are not being allowed entry.

Ambassador GREEN. Right, and that's the biggest and most important thing that we are calling upon. I mean, there is more that we need to do but unfettered immediate access is, obviously, crucial.

Ms. WAGNER. Okay. Well, shifting gears here, in January USAID announced a 5-year program to help Thailand counter human trafficking, an issue I care very deeply about.

We know that certain industries have been particularly egregious in this regard. How does USAID plan to work with Thailand to address forced labor in, specifically, the fishing and construction industries, Ambassador?

Ambassador GREEN. Well, first off is you're pointing to human trafficking is a global human rights tragedy. It's also a fundamental development challenge. And so we look at it from both perspectives.

You know, it is protection of victims, it is prosecution of perpetrators, it is prevention through awareness building, and it's also services in terms of counseling and the tremendous suffering that these individuals go through and helping them to recover.

So those are the most important steps that we do in our anti-trafficking work.

Ms. WAGNER. I have additional questions but I believe my time has expired, Mr. Chairman.

I thank you very, very much, Ambassador, for your service and attention to these issues. Thank you.

Chairman ROYCE. And I am going to have to hold everybody to 5 minutes now because Administrator Green has to leave at 12 o'clock.

Norma Torres of California.

Ms. TORRES. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for holding this hearing.

Ambassador Green, it's really great to see you. Thank you for making yourself available to come before our committee.

I truly enjoyed our meeting last week and, particularly, I really appreciate your comments and your commitment to ensuring that we continue to address and prioritize corruption in Central America and continue to work to support the work of CISG and the attorneys general in all three of the Northern Triangle countries.

A lot of great things have been said here today. Many of them—I took some notes so let me just try to go through this.

You stated simply providing humanitarian assistance is not enough. I wholeheartedly agree with you on that. DRC and Venezuela area manmade issues, right—problems.

Gender programs—I am for you, that gender programs also need to include reproductive health for the women, especially right now

when the favorite weapon of war for terrorist groups across the world is rape. So this has to be a priority, moving forward.

I am glad to hear that USAID is going to provide food and medical assistance in Colombia for the refugees there. I also want to encourage you to be focused on the TB outbreak in Venezuela, and as refugees begin to move into Colombia and Peru and some of the bordering—other bordering countries that we follow that and we continue to focus our work and ensuring that children in Venezuela are vaccinated and also children and people in these neighboring countries are also vaccinated.

We can all agree—focusing back on Central America we can all agree that a secure and prosperous Central America is in our national interest. The rule of law in these countries is essential if we are going to reduce illegal immigration and keep drugs from entering our border.

Addressing these problems at the root of the problem is a lot cheaper than dealing with the issues once it comes to our border, correct?

So that's why I just don't understand why the budget calls for a 35 percent cut to foreign assistance in Central America. I want to talk to you a little bit about Honduras.

I disagree—strongly disagree with the State Department's decision to certify Honduras right after the election and to undermine the OAS secretary general's call for new elections by recognizing Hernandez's victory.

Moving forward, I think it's important to ensure that this doesn't happen again, and I want to make sure that we focus or we put a greater focus on electoral reform.

You have the capacity of helping to bring about those types of reforms. I don't want you to leave here today without sending a clear message that your employees at USAID I highly regard them and I think that they are some of our best workers in public service at the Federal Government level.

So I put a lot of credibility behind the work that you do abroad. This is an important issue if we want to prevent another Venezuela, another Nicaragua from happening in our hemisphere.

I believe that we have many good partners in Central America with CICIH, MACCIH and the current attorneys general. The corruption in these governments is currently at its highest level and it has reached the highest points in their governments.

The last two Presidents, for example, of Guatemala are in prison and prosecutors have asked to remove the current President's immunity.

The vice minister of foreign affairs in El Salvador is involved in financing of the FARC and the associated press recently reported that there is evidence that the head of the Honduran national police may have been caught up in drug trafficking.

This is someone that went through U.S. background—U.S. background check but yet, again, he's involved in drug trafficking.

My time is up.

Chairman ROYCE. Your time is up. But we will have it put by way of a question—

Ms. TORRES. Please. Thank you.

Chairman ROYCE [continuing]. And we will go now to Tom Garrett of Virginia.

Mr. GARRETT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Ambassador Green. I want to try to go relatively quickly.

I think I've been as outspoken as anybody but I would certainly recognize the leadership of the chair and ranking member as it relates to a health foreign affairs budget that allows us to develop good relationships in the world and avert extremism and humanitarian crisis in advance.

Having said that, I also want to be a good steward of the working American's dollar. Can you speak to what you're doing to ensure that the moneys that we allocate for things like school feeding are getting to the intended recipients and do so as quickly and concisely as you can because of time? Sorry, sir.

Ambassador GREEN. Thank you. So as concisely as I can, when it comes to the delivery of assistance, we look at digital tools to make sure that we have digital oversight.

Secondly, we work closely with our Office of Inspector General to make sure that the money and mechanisms are appropriate.

Third, we often use third party auditors in the programs that we have and the money that we spend, and we conduct constant oversight.

The best way, I think, is as we pull our metrics together toward capacity building, it's monitoring the metrics and the submetrics each step of the way. That, in some ways, will be the best measure to make sure the dollars are effectively spent and make sure that we are doing things in the way that produces results.

Mr. GARRETT. Thank you, and I would hope that you would also continue to pursue innovative ways to ensure that accountability because it's tough, and I really like what you're doing and think that you're well suited for the mission and admire your work and your wife's work prior to even serving here in Congress and your work with anti-malarial efforts.

But, again, we should always be striving to make sure that the dollars get where they are intended.

It's very interesting to me the paradigms for foreign aid. Obviously, there is no doubt that the Russians intermeddle all over the world.

I would argue, and I've certainly gotten sort of confirmation of this from folks like the foreign ministers of the Baltic States who would know, that the Russian model is to undermine democracy, to make the world safe for oligarchs and dictators, right?

And the Chinese model is to shower largesse on the ruling class and the moneyed elite as well as some infrastructure money that usually benefits China in the long term.

The U.S. model, I think, is superior insofar as we try to inspire positive visions of the United States by virtue of helping working women and men across the world and creating hope because, generally, where there is hope we find a lack of extremism.

Having said that, I've articulated before that I believe the U.S. model fails when we send money to those women and men on the ground who are in autocratic and dictatorial regimes because what we do is, unintentionally, perpetuate the bad—that is, that autocratic and dictatorial regime who is more inclined to align itself

with China or Russia, by virtue of helping people on the ground, right?

And so how can we focus on getting aid to the people in the most need and building good will toward the United States and our Western allies and creating and sustaining nations who wish to be reliable partners in the global community whilst facing a paradigm of Russian intermeddling to undermine the very confidence in the sorts of governments that we work best with and a Chinese model that essentially greases the palms of those who are in power?

How do we do what we try to do and make sure that we are not essentially propping up these regimes by helping the most vulnerable and their populations, thus removing any potential pressure that might exist for change?

Ambassador GREEN. More than I'll be able to answer in the brief time.

Mr. GARRETT. You've got 1 minute and 9 seconds. [Laughter.]

Ambassador GREEN. So first off, we work through most every place through NGOs and civil society to make sure that the money doesn't simply go to governments and through agencies but instead goes—and that's a good way of helping the target.

Secondly, I think part of our ability to counter the other models that are out there is better branding and describing of what we do do.

And third, I think simply reaching out to the people, making clear that we want to help them help themselves. It's the old American ethic that we have to constantly reinforce that sometimes I think we take for granted and don't talk about nearly enough.

Mr. GARRETT. I am going to interrupt because we have 20 seconds.

So there is a marketing component in here, right?

Ambassador GREEN. Absolutely.

Mr. GARRETT. And we will do a great job with putting USAID and product—or from the people of the United States on the food bags, et cetera.

Are we working on sort of trying to expand that concept because it's really and truly—I hate this term because from whence it arises—hearts and minds game?

Ambassador GREEN. Yes, absolutely. That is a big goal of ours.

Mr. GARRETT. Thank you so much. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman ROYCE. And that was a very effective way to communicate that concept in 5 minutes.

We go to Brad Schneider of Illinois.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Thank you, and Mr. Green—Ambassador Green, thank you for being here and thank you for taking the leadership in the work you're doing.

U.S. foreign assistance programs are critical to advancing stability and growing the economies of developing countries which are vital to U.S. national interests and can help avoid costlier conflicts.

As former Defense Secretary Robert Gates noted, development contributes to stability. It contributes to better governance, and if you are able to do these things and you're able to do them in a focused and sustainable way then it may be unnecessary for us to send soldiers.

One hundred and fifty one retired generals and admirals recently sent a letter to Congress reinforcing their strong conviction that elevating and strengthening diplomacy and development alongside defense is critical to keeping America safe.

They were followed by over 1,200 veterans from all branches of the military in all 50 states who wrote to Congress calling for strong resources for diplomacy and development and to ensure that “We only send our brothers and sisters in uniform into harm’s way as a last resort.”

I’d like to insert these two letters for the record.

Thank you.

I’ve always said that the national security of the United States relies on what I refer to as a three-legged stool—diplomacy, development, and defense.

If you take away one leg of the stool you destabilize the others and our national security.

My first question for you is how do you view the roles of diplomacy and development in ensuring the national security of the United States?

Ambassador GREEN. A number of ways.

First off, we are a large part of the national security strategy that’s been published. We help to take on the conditions that can easily be exploited by extremists—part of our work in preventing violent extremism.

Secondly, we tackle conditions that could lead to global pandemics and then try to attack them at their source.

Third, in places where we have seen success on the battlefield—places like northern Iraq and in Syria, we work very closely hand in glove with DOD to help stabilize those regions, restore essential services so that they can begin to do the hard work of repairing their communities and their leadership.

We have 26 USAID staff who are at the Pentagon, the combatant commands, to make sure that we are all pulling closely, that we are each tapping each other’s capacity.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. And just because of time—so the next question is do you share Secretary Gates’ view and other leaders that investing in diplomacy and development is critical and necessary to advance our security interests?

Ambassador GREEN. I do, and it’s part of the national security strategy.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Great. Thank you.

Secretary Mattis recently said that America has two fundamental powers—the power of intimidation and the power of inspiration.

Yet, the steep budget cuts proposed for USAID, which plays such a critical role in carrying out the power of inspiration, I believe failed to recognize this philosophy.

Two thoughts here—do you agree that the best way to fight extremism and defend America’s national security is through a combination of both hard and soft power?

And does this administration’s fiscal year 2019 budget request provide adequate funding to address the challenges we face around the globe?

Ambassador GREEN. So the answer to the first part of that is yes, and to the second piece of it, it is as I've said. We will never have enough resources to take on every challenge. We will never have enough resources to exploit every opportunity.

But we think that we can stretch these dollars as far as they can go and I do think that we can continue to pursue this mission that you've laid out through a combination of working with the security community, working with the private sector, making sure that we are prioritizing the right way.

So those are the measures we are trying to take to make these dollars go as far as they can.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. I hear what you're saying, but how do we turn to other countries and say, you need to do more while, by all appearances, we are sending the message that at the same time we are trying to do less?

Ambassador GREEN. Well, I will say we are still by far the world's leader when it comes to humanitarian assistance and, secondly, the good news is, through, I think, our example and our diplomacy we are seeing other countries do more.

Germany is doing more. Japan is doing more. South Korea has recently ramped up and said that it will double its ODA level—I think they are currently 12th—by 2020. Again, I don't want to pretend as though this is going to take care of all the needs that are out there.

But I think you are seeing more and more of our allies and friends contributing to the cause.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. And I think that's important to continue to push them to do more. But I think at the same time we need to continue our leadership.

And I have just a little time and I'll submit this last question for an answer in writing. But I do want to touch on our American aid workers serving our nation throughout the globe.

They are at the front lines. I had the pleasure this year of having a USAID Foreign Service officer in my office as a fellow. It was extraordinary.

They are putting themselves out on behalf of our nation, often-times in places far afield and close to harm, and we need to make sure we give them the support they need.

And I'll submit a question for the record. Thank you.

I yield back.

Chairman ROYCE. And we go to Mr. Ted Yoho of Florida.

Mr. YOH0. Ambassador Green, thank you for being here and sitting here all this time. And I too want to commend you and ditto everything everybody else said and for taking Eddy under your tutelage, and don't let him corrupt you on these things called pokey sticks. [Laughter.]

It's a private joke between he and I, but he'll get you on those.

I want to talk to you about foreign aid. You know, we all look at it differently. It's in the eye of the beholder, and I came up here one of those ones wanting to get rid of it.

But I was ignorant then. I've become more learned now and we look at it from a humanitarian, hunger, health care, human rights, educating people—we look at it differently and we realize that we

may not like all of it but there are parts of it that are essential that we can't do without.

It's kind of like the wildlife trafficking. You know, some people want to save the animals. Other people want to prevent the trafficking and using that money for ISIS and other bad things.

And so with that, the President's budget calls for a creation of a new development finance institution that helps use more modern tools.

How will the new development finance institution support the goal of transitioning donor countries off U.S. assistance, and our whole goal is to move from aid to trade is what we want to do and get countries on that.

What's your thoughts on a new development finance institution?

Ambassador GREEN. Great. Thank you, Congressman, and thanks for championing this cause.

You know, I have called for a new DFI, whatever name we'd use, for about 10 years. I think it's an important tool in the toolbox and we have certainly seen it in other countries.

I know the administration has not yet taken a formal position on the legislation. We are in the interagency process. But I certainly support the goals, the concept.

We want to move toward private enterprise-driven development. We recognize that countries are in different places in their journey to self-reliance.

There are some that are ready for a transition. They are ready for a conversation. They want to be self-reliant. We want them to be self-reliant.

In most cases, what they are looking for is technical assistance to help them catalyze private investments. There are other countries that are a long way off and we recognize that it'll be a while before they get there.

But helping each country on their journey, which means talking about steps that, in our experience, need to be taken and also helping them by looking at metrics to prioritize those capacities that we need to help them build is all part of it.

But I think the tools of a DFI are important. I think it can help stimulate growth.

Mr. YOHO. I do too, and I think that's something that's been lacking for that transition. And as you talked in your opening statement here, U.S. development finance institutions will only succeed through strong institutional linkages with USAID.

What kind of linkages are you talking or referring to? Can you be more specific?

Ambassador GREEN. Well, as I've looked at the models that are out there, most recently what China announced, they have different models for integrating development and pulling it together.

To me, the important part of this is integration as close to the ground as you can get it because that's, obviously, where development work is done.

So it's looking at conditions on the ground, opportunities on the ground, and making sure that's integrated into, again, the DFI process in crafting investable bankable deals and transactions.

So that's where I think the linkages are probably best put. Again, there are different models to it. But as we have been I look forward to working with you on this.

Mr. YOHO. I do too, and I look forward to working with you, and the name of the act is the BUILD Act, which is Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development.

Bipartisan legislation has been introduced which would make you in your current position—I don't want to put you on the spot—as the vice chairman of the board. Would this help ensure closer ties between DFI and USAID to accomplish our nation's goals?

Ambassador GREEN. Again, the position—the administration has not yet taken a formal position. But as I've said, I believe in a DFI and I think integration is a good thing and will help us all be more effective.

Mr. YOHO. Okay. And the last thing—and you brought this up and it's been talked about, the number of refugees in the world we have not seen I don't think ever.

Seventy million refugees displaced—that's 1 percent of our world population of 7 billion, and we have got to be able to get in there and, like you said, most of these people want to go back to Raqqa—the ones you talked to.

If we don't intervene in a positive way, they are a breeding ground for ISIS. It's like one cell of a tumor left can be detrimental.

I yield back.

Chairman ROYCE. Brad Sherman of California.

Mr. SHERMAN. Administrator Green, you're engaged in what I think is the most important work our Government does. You help the poorest in the world.

You create conditions that will hopefully lead to democracy for some of the most unfree in the world, and I think dollar for dollar you do more for American national security than any other element of our foreign policy.

We spend, roughly, $\frac{1}{5}$ of 1 percent of our GDP on development aid. When you poll Americans, sometimes they think we spend 25, 50 percent of the Federal budget.

I would propose that we go to the people and say, let's spend only $\frac{1}{4}$ of 1 percent of America's GDP and that, of course, would be viewed as a limitation by most and an increase by those of us in this room.

Now, you're urging other countries to do more. You should urge America to do more and, of course, when the administration urges a one-third cut in our development budget that does not help us.

But you should urge Americans to do more because we are doing far less than other developed democracies. Sweden does 1.4 percent of their GDP, Norway 1 percent, Great Britain .7 percent. We are doing .2 percent of our GDP.

But then you should also urge those other countries to do more because they are not burdened by the national security and defense expenditures. So they can spend another 4 percent of their GDP on foreign aid. Or push it both ways.

And looking at our national security budget, we spend, roughly, 5 percent, if you factor in the cost of pensions, veterans assistance, the other things we do to reward those who put their lives on the line.

Compare that to our aid budget and, of course, as others have mentioned, you have the letter from 120 flag officers urging a robust expenditure on foreign aid.

That's just three- and four-star flag officers. If they had included two-star and one-star, it would have been a much longer signature page.

And of course, we are all familiar with what the Secretary of Defense said about the importance of spending money on your work so that we don't have to buy him more bullets.

As to particular expenditures, I think you might have been in this room up here when I've urged your predecessors to buy textbooks for elementary school, first, because where parents have to pay for those textbooks either the kids may not go to school, they may not have textbooks, or they may be sent to madrassas where the books are free.

Second, because that gives us some control over content—I am not saying that's to meet the San Francisco politically correct standards for us to print the textbook.

And finally, because in a society where we are providing free textbooks, who's going to steal the textbooks? It's a lot easier to steal other things.

As to particular regions I know you're aware that Armenia is blockaded by Turkey and Azerbaijan and deserves our aid. That Nagorno-Karabakh, now the Republic of Artsakh is beleaguered and surrounded. And that the southern part of the Republic of Georgia, the region of—and I am going to mispronounce this—Samtskhe-Javakheti, and I believe you've visited Georgia so you probably pronounce it better than I can—is an area that deserves a substantial portion of our assistance and I believe many of our colleagues have signed a letter to that effect.

I hope you would focus on Sindh in Pakistan, and the Rohingya in Burma and Bangladesh. And I do have one question, believe it or not, and that is your budget provides for a 50 percent cut in international family planning.

That's expected to lead to 3.7 million unintended pregnancies, 1.6 million additional abortions, and over 7,000 additional maternal deaths.

The budget mentions only one kind of family planning, which is fertility awareness, which the CDC has identified as the least effective method.

Can you assure us that USAID will support a robust family planning effort, which will make available to women the modern contraceptive methods that they rely on?

Ambassador GREEN. Thank you for the question. I'll respond to you in writing because I want to make sure that I am precise in what we are currently doing and what we are able to do.

Chairman ROYCE. And the time has expired.

Mr. SHERMAN. I look forward to your answer in writing and hopefully you'll also address some of the other elements that I mentioned as well.

Ambassador GREEN. Thank you.

Chairman ROYCE. We go to Adriano Espaillat from New York.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you, Administrator Green, for being here. Much has been said about the international affairs budget and that is just 1 percent of the total budget and for the USAID it's ½ of 1 percent of the Federal budget.

I would like to enter, Mr. Chairman, into the record the comments made by retired Army Chief of Staff General George W. Casey, Jr. He commented that the 30 percent proposed cut to the State Department and the USAID budget reflects a strategic and budget mismatch.

If we take our eye off the ball, China and Russia will fill that void. In fact, China is already investing, building bridges and tunnels and dams and they have a very vigorous presence in Central and South America, outflanking Taiwan and, of course, making their presence there really strong.

We have already seen them expand both their humanitarian aid and financial investment in the region, further strengthening economic relationships including with Caribbean governments.

Now, in fact, I'd like to submit to the belief that it has been our negligence in Central, South America, and the Caribbean that has created the leadership vacuum allowing governments like the Maduro regime to emerge and trample over democracy and human rights.

We, frankly, have turned our face and that has festered and it has dramatically impacted the region. The Caribbean is one of our closest allies in terms of trade and proximity. We call it a third border.

Now, while currently immigrants send back to their countries of origin over 700—I am sorry, \$574 billion in remittances.

I propose that perhaps we can take a portion of the fees and taxes that they pay on those remittances to dramatically help increase your budget at USAID because we just won't be able to compete with China and Russian, and that is, unfortunately, while addressing Caribbean diplomats in early March 2018, the director of the Pan-American Health Organization, Dr. Carissa Etienne, identified key health priorities for the Caribbean nations with respect to communicable diseases.

She stated that malaria—and you have identified—you have testified personal experience with that—tuberculosis and HIV present a significant threat to citizens in Caribbean nations.

Yet, you tell us that you don't have the tools—you don't have the moneys to really invest in Central America, South America, and the Caribbean—our neighbors, the third border—while other countries like China and Russia are making a full court press to fill that leadership vacuum.

Health experts in the region contend that Caribbean nations are ill equipped to treat public health crises that have been compounded by a historically devastating hurricane season.

We have seen how that impacted the Caribbean recently, and today—today, as we sit here, Vice President Pence will be testifying before the OAS, basically pointing his finger at Venezuela for their lack of democracy—their rogue government, while yesterday the President commended Putin in his so-called reelection.

In addition to not having moneys to help out this region, we are sending mixed messages to the region, and I think that is unfortunate.

Lasting damage to both local and regional medical infrastructure has debilitated medical professionals as they attempt to resolve health concerns.

Let me ask one question because I know my time is running out. You mentioned yesterday that you wanted to help rebuild the Caribbean countries in a more resilient way.

Can you elaborate what you meant with this and how do you propose—were you going to increase substantially USAID's budget? If you don't have—we don't have a penny to go on and we want to be the leaders of this hemisphere and we are just getting our candy eaten by other countries. It's really sad that it has come to this state of affairs.

Ambassador GREEN. Congressman, thank you, and quite frankly, thanks for your passion, and the fact that you are, I think, raising the profile of the challenge and the opportunity that is there in the Caribbean.

In the devastation, the wake of the terrible hurricanes, we did respond immediately. We mobilized immediately a disaster assistance response team, provided 185 metric tons of relief supplies, \$22 million in humanitarian assistance together with DOD.

And in fact, right now in Dominica we have a USAID-based disaster expert who is working to help enhance the capacity of the emergency operations center.

We are also working with other donors, the private sector, and the World Bank to assess the long-term reconstruction needs.

But beyond that, PAHO is a good partner of ours and we partner with them in a number of places, a number of ways. But you're exactly right. I think it's an area that I don't think receives enough attention and I would love to sit down with you, get some of your ideas—

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Thank you.

Ambassador GREEN [continuing]. See what we can do. It's an important area.

[Crosstalk.]

Chairman ROYCE. Mr. David Cicilline from Rhode Island—

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Thank you.

Chairman ROYCE [continuing]. Is next in the queue.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Thank you.

Mr. CICILLINE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Administrator. I want to associate myself with all of the remarks made by my colleagues about the importance of a robust development and assistance budget.

And I'll just say to you very directly that I see your role as not only executing a budget but being a forceful and passionate and effective voice for development and humanitarian assistance.

You are appointed by the President but you serve the American people and I hope, although I've been a little disappointed you haven't been public in your criticism of these proposed cuts.

I am hoping that within the administration you are screaming loudly about the impact that these kinds of cuts would have on our

national security and our leadership in the world, and I hope if you're not you will continue to scream loudly.

You mentioned, in response to Mr. Schneider's question, that there were commitments being made to fill in some of the gaps in funding that the administration is proposing to cut. Can you tell me what commitments you received to date from other governments to fill in funding gaps?

Ambassador GREEN. We receive, the world receives commitments at the pledging conferences around humanitarian challenges. There is one coming up. A \$1.7 billion plan has been put forward.

Mr. CICILLINE. No, I am talking about—I think you were suggesting that some of the cuts that are being proposed that somehow those programs were going to be replaced by funding from other governments.

Ambassador GREEN. Oh, if I did I am—I didn't mean to create that impression.

Mr. CICILLINE. Okay. Thank you. I—

Ambassador GREEN. We work closely with them but not quite that close.

Mr. CICILLINE. It has been reported this week that Turkey has captured the city of Afrin in northern Syria after carrying out a 2-month attack against Kurdish forces and civilians.

I am really concerned about the situation. I am attempting to get a briefing by the State Department but they apparently have other priorities and have not been able to do that or been willing to do it.

So I'd be interested from the USAID perspective, can you tell us what's happening on the ground there? Is USAID or any of our partners providing assistance? Do civilians have access to shelter and basic necessities?

This is a very, very disturbing set of events.

Ambassador GREEN. Thank you for the question.

Obviously, I share your concern. With respect to what's happening in Syria, we are limited in where we were able to work. We do not work—except for humanitarian assistance, which, as you know, we provide without reference to—solely based on need.

In terms of our development assistance and stabilization work, we are not working in Assad-held areas.

Mr. CICILLINE. So is there any humanitarian assistance going into Afrin at all or our allies or partners being allowed access into that area?

Ambassador GREEN. I'll have to get back to you on that because I am not quite sure about the security situation and our ability to be in these—

Mr. CICILLINE. I would very much appreciate that detailed briefing on this. I am attempting to raise this in every venue that I can.

Ambassador GREEN. Raqqa is where we are working currently.

Mr. CICILLINE. Next, Mr. Administrator, you spoke during your confirmation hearing last year that you renewed your commitment to LGBTI human rights work of USAID.

And given the very high levels of discrimination and violence and continued criminalization that LGBTI people face in many parts of the world, could you tell us a little bit about what—how USAID is implementing these commitments on the ground day to day?

Ambassador GREEN. Sure. I'll give you two levels of it.

First off, internally, obviously, our own workforce—inclusion and respect are core values of USAID. Made it clear the first week I was on the job and we continue to.

Secondly, marginalized communities work including, obviously, marginalized LGBTI is part of our programming, ensuring that we are inclusive in all the programming that we do.

Particularly on the democratic governance side, as I have said on many occasions, no country is a representative democracy if it isn't listening to all of its people or tapping into all of its people for the answers and solutions that it needs.

So it's a core part of our work and will continue to be.

Mr. CICILLINE. And finally, I was in Myanmar in November visiting the Rohingya population in the refugee camps in Bangladesh and then in Myanmar, and this is, as some of my colleagues have already referenced, a huge crisis.

It's a genocide. It's been described as an ethnic cleansing. This is unspeakable violence. What are we doing to help the Bangladeshis with the refugee community that has—is in their country and assist in a safe dignified return, when appropriate, back to Myanmar?

Ambassador GREEN. Sure. So first off, we have issued calls for immediate and unconditional access—humanitarian access to areas where the Rohingya currently are, whether it be on the Bangladeshi side of the border or in Burma, and that access has not been unconditional or open.

So that's the first and most important thing. We are providing humanitarian assistance. But, quite frankly, we need more information. We need to be able to get to these areas.

I'll be traveling there myself. I was supposed to go a couple of weeks ago but it was unclear because of conditions on the ground that I'd be able to and if you can't it really isn't of much good and much value.

So it's something that we are talking about every day. We are providing humanitarian assistance but we need to do much, much more than that and I share your deep, deep concerns about what is, obviously, happening—that which we can see and that which we cannot see.

Mr. CICILLINE. Thank you. I yield back.

Chairman ROYCE. Okay. We go to Tom Suozzi of New York.

Mr. SUOZZI. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Administrator for you and your team's great work. You have such an incredible portfolio that you're responsible for and it's really remarkable the work that you do. I am excited about much of your testimony here today.

I was especially excited about your efforts to go after the hybrid warfare of the Russians by building up energy companies in the Ukraine. I mean, it's just such an important thing that we need to be doing.

My question is specific to Afghanistan and Pakistan. But it really points to a general problem that we face throughout the whole of government and dealing with the rest of the world as we try and address these different problems.

The Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction has pointed out that we are still continuing to lose ground as far as the number of districts and as far as the population in Afghanistan and there is a clear military plan. There is a five-point plan the military has as far as clearing and holding different ground and they are succeeding in clearing and holding ground.

But then comes the job of reconstruction and transition and it's difficult to do in these environments because of the danger, obviously, and the terms of service and the money and the corruption and everything else that you have to deal with.

I met recently with your assistant administrator for Pakistan and Afghanistan, Mr. Huger. Is it Huger or—Huger, and it really was a fantastic meeting and I am so impressed by him and he's a very talented person—a great person to have on your team—and talked about the need to develop a comprehensive plan that is clear as to these are the limited goals that we have as far as the civilian side.

Not only for USAID, because I see that you're doing that in USAID and Mr. Huger started to talk about that plan that'll be forthcoming for us to all hear about, but also coordinating with the many other government agencies in the United States Government as well as the U.N. or our other government partners—India, for example.

I saw in your testimony that India was \$3 billion and they are only the fifth largest contributor to Afghanistan and Pakistan. I'd like you to—in your answer to my question tell me who those other partners are that are above India and contributing to Afghanistan and Pakistan, if you know.

But what are we doing—what can we do and how can we help you in helping to develop a comprehensive plan so that when India's putting in money, when the U.N. is putting in money, when our other government partners are putting in money, when the DOJ is putting in money, the DEA is putting in money, the Pentagon's putting in money, that we are all on the same page on the civilian side.

I feel that we have a very clear game plan on the military side but the civilian side is more like a list instead of a plan because we are doing all these many wonderful things but they are not in a comprehensive plan.

What can we do to encourage that comprehensive planning, certainly, for Afghanistan and Pakistan but for the rest of your agencies as well?

Ambassador GREEN. Great question.

So I could tell you first that John Huger is involved in the inter-agency with all of the other agencies as the South Asia strategy is fully developed and implemented so we are working very closely together, because you're right, you can't simply touch one piece of it. You'll never get the results that you need to see—and working with numerous partners.

I will get you a precise list. I want to make sure I get it right in terms of who those top contributors are. What I—

Mr. SUOZZI. You know, what I'd really love to see is a complete list of everybody who's putting in money outside of Afghanistan into Afghanistan.

That would be very—you know, our Government agencies as well as the other governments that are doing it—a comprehensive list. It must be hundreds of groups that are putting in money into Afghanistan.

But they are all being put in little pieces instead of into one comprehensive plan. This is our five-point plan of the things we need to encourage and this one fits into that one and this one fits into that one.

So a list of all the government agencies that are—if you can do that kind of thing. Does that list, do you think, exist?

Ambassador GREEN. We will—we will perhaps create it. We will endeavor to provide that list for you.

The work of the Indian Government in NGOs is also quite inspiring and I've seen some of it—the work that Indian cooperatives are doing to foster women's entrepreneurship in Afghanistan where they actually bring Afghan business women out, do training, experience, teach them business planning, and then bring them back in. So there are a lot of—we will pull them together—

Mr. SUOZZI. I just want to say, I know there is so many great things that USAID is doing and so many great things even the Pentagon's doing and DOJ and DEA and everybody's doing all these little things that are great or big things that are great.

It's the idea of putting them all into a comprehensive plan so that we say okay, our 5-year goal is we want to have this many power plants up and running—we are going to have this many teachers—we are going to have this many judges trained, this many prosecutors, this many poppy seeds—poppy plants eradicated, this many—so we need to have a comprehensive plan. This is from my experience as a mayor and a county executive. I just want to see it in more of a plan overall.

You're doing great work and I want to encourage you in the great work that you and your team do. Thank you.

Chairman ROYCE. We go now to Dina Titus of Nevada.

Ms. TITUS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Administrator, for giving us a few more minutes.

I have great respect for USAID. I think the work you do is amazing. I've seen some of it as a member of the House Democracy Partnership, working with our—the Democratic equivalent of that.

And that's why it distresses me so much to see these cuts. I mean, you mentioned that this year's request is \$1.3 billion more but that's really disingenuous because it still represents a drastic 33 percent cut.

In addition to some of the cuts that have been mentioned, I'd also like to point out 11 percent cut to the HIV program, 31 percent cut to the Global Fund contribution, 50 percent cut to international family planning, 51 percent cut to basic education, 72 percent cut to biodiversity programs. I think it's a travesty.

I agree with a lot of the comments that have been made about individual places but I'd like to talk about groups that could be found in all of these places that are especially vulnerable.

Mr. Cicilline mentioned the LGBT community. I'd like to follow up on that. Your answer was kind of a general some of my best friends are gay kind of answer. I'd like if you could give us some more specifics about just what you're doing, especially in light of

the fact that the State Department is now going to scale back its reporting, according to some things that we have heard on the—about the abuse of rights of LGBT individuals so in that human rights report how does that inform your policymaking and what specifically are you doing. You can send me that in writing.

But the other group I want to ask about are the disabled. The United States does an amazing job for the disabled. I think our Disability Act is just the best in the world.

But you have even recognized yourself and USAID's disability policy says that we are more effective when over 1 billion—that's about 15 percent of the world's population—who are living with some form of disability are included in our programming.

Unfortunately, this budget eliminates all the funding once again for the special protection and assistance needs of survivors program—the SPANS program.

That's the wheelchair program that we have tried to encourage the use of wheelchairs and access for wheelchairs. It's the Leahy War Victims Fund which helps with survivors of land mines and other war tragedies. It's the vaccination program that comes in the wake of war that's been eliminated because of upheaval.

Tell me what you're going to do to help the disabled and how you deal with just eliminating that program.

Ambassador GREEN. We will get you a complete list, Congresswoman. We have programs all around the world that work in this area and will continue to.

We will be happy to bring you the results in some of the programs we are doing and the places where we are doing it. It's a big part of our work.

Ms. TITUS. Well, I hope so. But I don't know how it can continue if you're going to just eliminate that program. I'll look forward to getting that list and I'll be back in touch with you because I think eliminating programs in both of these two areas for both of these population groups is a mistake.

Ambassador GREEN. I don't believe that's what we are doing.

Ms. TITUS. Okay.

Ambassador GREEN. Again, these continue to be vitally important programs to us and we have been working for years in these programs and will continue to.

Ms. TITUS. And you can do that with this kind of drastic cut in the funding?

Ambassador GREEN. My job is to make this money go as far as it possibly can. My job is to make sure that our investments are effective, looking at the metrics that we have to help countries build their capacity, take on these challenges as well, which is what they want, obviously, what we want.

Yes, these are important programs to us—important areas.

Ms. TITUS. Well, thank you, and I look forward to getting that information.

I yield back.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you, Congresswoman Titus.

Well, I wanted to just say the Office of Personnel Management had announced today that most government buildings were closed.

So I especially wanted and—because of the snowstorm that started this morning—I just wanted to thank Administrator Green for braving that snowstorm and coming here to be with us today.

This committee takes very seriously its responsibility of oversight. And so Ambassador, your commitment to transparency and accountability is especially appreciated by us.

And let me also say that from your early work spearheading PEPFAR while you were in Congress to championing democracy while you were with IRI to your efforts serving as Ambassador in Tanzania as well as your work on the Millennium Challenge, there is no question that you are the right person to lead USAID and assure that our assistance advances our values and our interests, a point that my colleague across the aisle made as well.

And so I thank you again, and this meeting stands adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 12:22 p.m., the committee was adjourned.]

A P P E N D I X

MATERIAL SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD

FULL COMMITTEE HEARING NOTICE
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6128

Edward R. Royce (R-CA), Chairman

March 21, 2018

TO: MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

You are respectfully requested to attend an OPEN hearing of the Committee on Foreign Affairs to be held in Room 2172 of the Rayburn House Office Building (and available live on the Committee website at <http://www.ForeignAffairs.house.gov>):

DATE: Wednesday, March 21, 2018

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

SUBJECT: The FY 2019 Foreign Assistance Budget

WITNESS: The Honorable Mark Green
Administrator
U.S. Agency for International Development

By Direction of the Chairman

The Committee on Foreign Affairs seeks to make its facilities accessible to persons with disabilities. If you are in need of special accommodations, please call 202/225-5021 at least four business days in advance of the event, whenever practicable. Questions with regard to special accommodations in general (including availability of Committee materials in alternative formats and assistive listening devices) may be directed to the Committee.



COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
MINUTES OF FULL COMMITTEE HEARING

Day Wednesday Date 03/21/2018 Room 2172

Starting Time 9:30 AM Ending Time 12:22 PM

Recesses 0 (____ to ____) (____ to ____) (____ to ____) (____ to ____) (____ to ____) (____ to ____)

Presiding Member(s)

Chairman Edward R. Royce

Check all of the following that apply:

Open Session ☒

Executive (closed) Session ☐

Televised ☒

Electronically Recorded (taped) ☒

Stenographic Record ☒

TITLE OF HEARING:

The FY 2019 Foreign Assistance Budget

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

See attached.

NON-COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

N/A

HEARING WITNESSES: Same as meeting notice attached? Yes ☒ No ☐

(If "no", please list below and include title, agency, department, or organization.)

STATEMENTS FOR THE RECORD: *(List any statements submitted for the record.)*

IFR - Representatives Brad Schneider and Adriano Espaillat

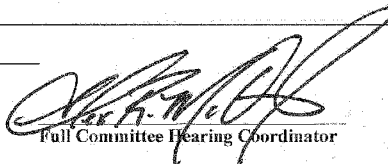
SFR - Representative Gerry Connolly

QFR - Chairman Edward R. Royce, Ranking Member Eliot Engel and Representatives Dana Rohrabacher, Brad Sherman, Gerry Connolly, David Cicilline, Ami Bera, and Brad Schneider

TIME SCHEDULED TO RECONVENE _____

or

TIME ADJOURNED 12:22 PM


Full Committee Hearing Coordinator

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

FULL COMMITTEE HEARING

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X	Dina Titus, NV
X	Norma Torres, CA
X	Brad Schneider, IL
X	Tom Suozzi, NY
X	Adriano Espaillat, NY
X	Ted Liew, CA

MATERIAL SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD BY THE HONORABLE BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER,
A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

151 Retired Three and Four-Star Generals and Admirals Oppose Cuts to the International Affairs Budget

February 11, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate

Dear Speaker Ryan, Minority Leader Pelosi, Majority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader Schumer:

We write as retired three- and four-star flag and general officers from all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces to reinforce our strong conviction that elevating and strengthening diplomacy and development alongside defense is critical to keeping America safe.

As you and your colleagues look ahead to the federal budget for Fiscal Year 2019, the world has not grown any safer since many of us wrote a similar letter to you last year. The number of people displaced by conflict and instability has grown in Yemen, Somalia, Myanmar and Venezuela, among many other places, creating even greater security challenges for our nation and our allies. Today, nearly 30 million people risk starvation in four countries where we also face the growing threat of violent extremism. And while we have seen military progress against ISIS, the question that looms is whether we are prepared to protect those battlefield gains and prevent bad actors from stepping into the void.

As Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis has said, “America’s got two fundamental powers, the power of intimidation and the power of inspiration.” Today’s crises do not have military solutions alone, yet America’s essential civilian national security agencies – the State Department, USAID, Millennium Challenge Corporation, Peace Corps and other development agencies – faced a significant cut last year. Many senior leadership positions remain unfilled, undercutting America’s global influence. We call on you to ensure our nation also has the civilian resources necessary to protect our national security, compete against our adversaries, and create opportunities around the world.

We reinforce that strategic investments in diplomacy and development – like all of U.S. investments – must be effective and accountable. Significant reforms inspired by the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the Millennium Challenge Corporation have made U.S. foreign assistance even more results-oriented, but deep budget cuts would jeopardize this important progress in recent years.

Thank you for the leadership you have shown, and we urge you again to ensure a responsible commitment of resources for the International Affairs Budget that keeps pace with the growing threats we face.

We must not undercut our nation’s ability to lead around the world in such turbulent times.

Sincerely,

Admiral Thad W. Allen, USCG (Ret.)
Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard ('06-'10)

Vice Admiral Michael L. Bowman, USN (Ret.)
Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet ('98-'00)

Admiral Frank L. Bowman, USN (Ret.)
Director, Naval Nuclear Propulsion ('96-'04)

Admiral Gregory G. Johnson, USN (Ret.)
Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe
Commander in Chief, Allied Forces Southern Europe ('01-'04)

Admiral Jerome L. Johnson, USN (Ret.)
Vice Chief of Naval Operations ('90-'92)

General Keith B. Alexander, USA (Ret.)
Director, National Security Agency ('05-'14)
Commander, U.S. Cyber Command ('10-'14)

Lt. General Edward G. Anderson III, USA (Ret.)
Vice Commander, U.S. Element, North American Aerospace Defense Command
Deputy Commander, U.S. Northern Command ('02-'04)

Lt. General Thomas L. Baptiste, USAF (Ret.)
Deputy Chairman, NATO Military Committee ('04-'07)

Lt. General Michael D. Barbero, USA (Ret.)
Director, Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization ('11-'13)

Lt. General Jared L. Bates, USA (Ret.)
Inspector General, U.S. Army ('95-'97)

Lt. General John M. (Mick) Bednarek, USA (Ret.)
Chief, Office of Security Cooperation-Iraq ('13-'15)

Lt. General Ronald R. Blanck, USA (Ret.)
Surgeon General of the United States Army ('96-'00)

Lt. General Harold Blot, USMC (Ret.)
Deputy Chief of Staff for Aviation ('94-'96)

Lt. General H. Steven Blum, USA (Ret.)
Deputy Commander, U.S. Northern Command
Vice Commander, U.S. Element, U.S. North American Aerospace Defense Command ('09-'10)

Lt. General Steven W. Boutelle, USA (Ret.)
Chief Information Officer and G6, United States Army ('03-'07)

General Charles G. Boyd, USAF (Ret.)
Deputy Commander in Chief, U.S. European Command ('92-'95)

General Bryan Doug Brown, USA (Ret.)
Commander, U.S. Special Operations Command ('03-'07)

General Arthur E. Brown, Jr., USA (Ret.)
Vice Chief of Staff of the United States Army ('87-'89)

Lt. General John H. Campbell, USAF (Ret.)
Associate Director of Central Intelligence for Military Support, Central Intelligence Agency ('00-'03)

General Bruce Carlson, USAF (Ret.)
Director, National Reconnaissance Office ('09-'12)

General George W. Casey, Jr., USA (Ret.)
Chief of Staff of the United States Army ('07-'11)

Lt. General John G. Castellaw, USMC (Ret.)
Deputy Commandant for Programs and Resources ('07-'08)

Lt. General Dennis D. Cavin, USA (Ret.)
Commander, U.S. Army Accessions Command ('02-'04)

General Peter W. Chiarelli, USA (Ret.)
Vice Chief of Staff, U.S. Army ('08-'12)

Lt. General Daniel W. Christman, USA (Ret.)
Superintendent, United States Military Academy ('96-'01)

Lt. General George R. Christmas, USMC (Ret.)
Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower and Reserve Affairs ('94-'96)

General Wesley K. Clark, USA (Ret.)
Supreme Allied Commander, Europe ('97-'00)

Admiral Vern Clark, USN (Ret.)
Chief of Naval Operations ('00-'05)

Lt. General Charles T. Cleveland, USA (Ret.)
Commanding General, U.S. Army Special Operations Command ('12-'15)

General Richard A. "Dick" Cody, USA (Ret.)
Vice Chief of Staff, United States Army ('04-'08)

General James T. Conway, USMC (Ret.)
Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps ('06-'10)

General Donald G. Cook, USAF (Ret.)
Commander, Air Education and Training Command, ('01-'05)

General John D.W. Corley, USAF (Ret.)
Commander, Air Combat Command ('07-'09)

General Bantz J. Craddock, USA (Ret.)
 Commander, U.S. European Command
 NATO Supreme Allied Commander Europe ('06-'09)

Vice Admiral Lewis W. Crenshaw, Jr., USN (Ret.)
 Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Resources, Requirements, and Assessments ('04-'07)

Lt. General John "Mark" M. Curran, USA (Ret.)
 Deputy Commanding General Futures, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command ('03-'07)

Lt. General Robert R. Dierker, USAF (Ret.)
 Deputy Commander, U.S. Pacific Command ('02-'04)

Admiral Kirkland H. Donald, USN (Ret.)
 Director, Naval Nuclear Propulsion ('04-'12)

Lt. General James M. Dubik, USA (Ret.)
 Commander, Multi National Security Transition Command and NATO Training Mission-Iraq ('07-'08)

Lt. General Kenneth E. Eickmann, USAF (Ret.)
 Commander, Aeronautical Systems Center, U.S. Air Force ('96-'98)

Admiral James O. Ellis, Jr., USN (Ret.)
 Commander, U.S. Strategic Command ('02-'04)

Vice Admiral Malcolm I. Fages, USN (Ret.)
 Deputy Chairman, NATO Military Committee ('01-'04)

Admiral William J. Fallon, USN (Ret.)
 Commander, U.S. Central Command ('07-'08)

Admiral Thomas B. Fargo, USN (Ret.)
 Commander, U.S. Pacific Command ('02-'05)

Admiral Mark P. Fitzgerald, USN (Ret.)
 Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe ('07-'10) and U.S. Naval Forces Africa ('09-'10)

General Ronald R. Fogleman, USAF (Ret.)
 Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force ('94-'97)

General Douglas M. Fraser, USAF (Ret.)
 Commander, U.S. Southern Command ('09-'12)

Lt. General Benjamin C. Freakley, USA (Ret.)
 Commander, U.S. Army Accessions Command ('07-'12)

General Carlton W. Fulford, Jr., USMC (Ret.)
 Deputy Commander in Chief, United States European Command ('00-'02)

Lt. General Robert G. Gard, Jr., USA (Ret.)
 President, National Defense University, ('77-'81)

Lt. General William B. Garrett III, USA (Ret.)
Deputy Commander, U.S. European Command ('14-'16)

Admiral Edmund P. Giambastiani, Jr., USN (Ret.)
Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff ('05-'07)

Lt. General Jerome Granrud, USA (Ret.)
Commanding General, U.S. Army Japan/LX Corps ('92-'94)

Admiral Jonathan W. Greenert, USN (Ret.)
Chief of Naval Operations ('11-'15)

Lt. General Arthur J. Gregg, USA (Ret.)
Army Deputy Chief of Staff ('79-'81)

Lt. General Wallace C. Gregson, USMC (Ret.)
Commanding General, Marine Corps Forces Pacific & Marine Corps Forces Central Command ('03-'05)

Vice Admiral Lee F. Gunn, USN (Ret.)
Inspector General, U.S. Navy ('97-'00)

General Michael W. Hagee, USMC (Ret.)
Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps ('03-'06)

Lt. General Franklin L. Hagenbeck, USA (Ret.)
Superintendent, United States Military Academy ('06-'10)

Lt. General Michael A. Hamel, USAF (Ret.)
Commander, Air Force Space and Missile Systems Center ('05-'08)

General John W. Handy, USAF (Ret.)
Commander, U.S. Transportation Command
Commander, Air Mobility Command ('01-'05)

General Richard E. Hawley, USAF (Ret.)
Commander, Air Combat Command ('96-'99)

General Michael V. Hayden, USAF (Ret.)
Director, Central Intelligence Agency ('06-'09)

Lt. General Frank G. Helmick, USA (Ret.)
Commanding General, XVIII Airborne Corps ('09-'12)

Lt. General Rhett A. Hernandez, USA (Ret.)
Commander, U.S. Army Cyber Command ('10-'13)

Lt. General Mark P. Hertling, USA (Ret.)
Commanding General, U.S. Army Europe ('11-'12)

General Paul V. Hester, USAF (Ret.)
 Commander, Pacific Air Forces,
 Air Component Commander for the U.S. Pacific Command Commander ('04-'07)

General James T. Hill, USA (Ret.)
 Commander, U.S. Southern Command ('02-'04)

Admiral James R. Hogg, USN (Ret.)
 U.S. Military Representative, NATO Military Committee ('88-'91)

Lt. General Walter S. Hogle Jr., USAF (Ret.)
 Commander, 15th Air Force ('00-'01)

Lt. General Russel Honoré, USA (Ret.)
 Commanding General, U.S. First Army ('04-'08)

Lt. General Patrick M. Hughes, USA (Ret.)
 Director, Defense Intelligence Agency ('96-'99)

Lt. General Steven A. Hummer, USMC (Ret.)
 Deputy Commander for Military Operations, U.S. Africa Command ('13-'15)

Lt. General David H. Huntoon, Jr., USA (Ret.)
 Superintendent, United States Military Academy ('10-'13)

Lt. General Kenneth W. Hunzeker, USA (Ret.)
 Commander, U.S. Army V Corps ('07-'09)

Lt. General William E. Ingram, Jr., USA (Ret.)
 Director, U.S. Army National Guard ('11-'14)

Lt. General Ronald W. Iverson, USAF (Ret.)
 Deputy Commander, US Forces Korea ('94-'97)

General James L. Jamerson, USAF (Ret.)
 Deputy Commander in Chief, U.S. European Command ('95-'98)

Lt. General Arlen D. Jameson, USAF (Ret.)
 Deputy Commander in Chief, U.S. Strategic Command ('93-'96)

General John P. Jumper, USAF (Ret.)
 Chief of Staff, U.S. Air Force ('01-'05)

Lt. General Francis H. Kearney III, USA (Ret.)
 Deputy Director for Strategic Operational Planning, National Counter-Terrorism Center ('10-'12)

Admiral Timothy J. Keating, USN (Ret.)
 Commander, U.S. Pacific Command ('07-'09)

Lt. General P. K. "Ken" Keen, USA (Ret.)
 Chief, Office of the U.S. Defense Representative to Pakistan ('11-'13)

Lt. General Richard L. Kelly, USMC (Ret.)
Deputy Commandant, Installations and Logistics ('02-'05)

Lt. General Claudia J. Kennedy, USA (Ret.)
Deputy Chief of Staff for Army Intelligence ('97-'00)

General Paul J. Kern, USA (Ret.)
Commanding General, U.S. Army Materiel Command ('01-'04)

General William F. Kernan, USA (Ret.)
Supreme Allied Commander, Atlantic
Commander in Chief, U.S. Joint Forces Command ('00-'02)

Lt. General Donald L. Kerrick, USA (Ret.)
Deputy National Security Advisor to The President of the United States ('00-'01)

General Ronald E. Keys, USAF (Ret.)
Commander, Air Combat Command ('05-'07)

Lt. General Timothy A. Kinnan, USAF (Ret.)
U.S. Military Representative, NATO Military Committee ('01-'04)

Lt. General Bruce B. Knutson, USMC (Ret.)
Commanding General, Marine Corp Combat Command ('00-'01)

Vice Admiral Albert H. Konetzni, Jr., USN (Ret.)
Deputy Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command and U.S. Atlantic Fleet ('01-'04)

General Charles Chandler Krulak, USMC (Ret.)
Commandant of the Marine Corps ('95-'99)

Lt. General William J. Lennox, Jr., USA (Ret.)
Superintendent, United States Military Academy ('01-'06)

Vice Admiral Stephen F. Loftus, USN (Ret.)
Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Logistics ('90-'94)

General Lance W. Lord, USAF (Ret.)
Commander, U. S. Air Force Space Command ('02-'06)

Admiral James M. Loy, USCG (Ret.)
Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard ('98-'02)

Lt. General Douglas E. Lute, USA (Ret.)
Special Assistant to the President
Senior Coordinator for Afghanistan and Pakistan, National Security Council, The White House ('09-'13)

General Robert Magnus, USMC (Ret.)
Assistant Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps ('05-'08)

Vice Admiral Joseph Maguire, USN (Ret.)
Deputy Director for Strategic Operational Planning, National Counterterrorism Center ('07-'10)

Lt. General Raymond V. Mason, USA (Ret.)
Deputy Chief of Staff, G-4, U.S. Army ('11-'14)

Admiral Henry H. Mauz, Jr., USN (Ret.)
Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet ('92-'94)

Lt. General Dennis McCarthy, USMC (Ret.)
Commander, Marine Forces Reserve ('01-'05)

Vice Admiral Justin D. McCarthy, SC, USN (Ret.)
Deputy Chief of Naval Operations, Fleet Readiness, and Logistics ('04-'07)

General Stanley A. McChrystal, USA (Ret.)
Commander, International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan ('09-'10)

Lt. General Frederick McCorkle, USMC (Ret.)
Deputy Commandant for Aviation, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps ('98-'01)

General David D. McKiernan, USA (Ret.)
Commander, International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan ('08-'09)

General Dan K. McNeill, USA, (Ret.)
Commander, International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan ('07-'08)

Lt. General Paul T. Mikolashek, USA (Ret.)
Inspector General, U.S. Army
Commanding General, Third U.S. Army ('00-'02)

Vice Admiral Joseph S. Mobley, USN (Ret.)
Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet ('98-'01)

General Thomas R. Morgan, USMC (Ret.)
Assistant Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps ('86-'88)

General Thomas R. Morgan, USMC (Ret.)
Assistant Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps ('86-'88)

Vice Admiral John G. Morgan, Jr. USN (Ret.)
Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Information, Plans, and Strategy ('04-'08)

Admiral Robert J. Natter, USN (Ret.)
Commander, Fleet Forces Command
Commander, U.S. Atlantic Fleet ('00-'03)

Lt. General Richard Y. Newton III, USAF (Ret.)
Assistant Vice Chief of Staff and Director, Air Staff, Headquarters U.S. Air Force ('10-'12)

NOTE: The preceding document has not been printed here in full but may be found at <http://docs.house.gov/Committee/Calendar/ByEvent.aspx?EventID=108063>

MATERIAL SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD BY THE HONORABLE BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER,
A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

**1,215 Veterans from Every Branch of the Military and All 50 States Oppose
Cuts to the International Affairs Budget**

February 12, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate

Dear Speaker Ryan, Minority Leader Pelosi, Majority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader Schumer:

We write as veterans of all branches of America's Armed Forces to share how our service in uniform has convinced us that diplomacy and development are critical tools alongside the military to keep America safe. We believe that with today's escalating global crises, America must strengthen, not weaken, our leadership around the world.

As members of the military, many of us served on the frontlines alongside America's diplomats and development professionals. We saw firsthand how our civilian forces must continue to be part and parcel of a comprehensive national security strategy. With the recent military progress against ISIS, we know that strategic investments in the State Department and USAID will be essential if we are to solidify our hard-fought gains and prevent other bad actors from filling the void.

As Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis testified, "America has two fundamental powers, the power of intimidation...America's awesome determination to defend herself, and the power of inspiration which is heavily conveyed overseas by our Department of State." Yet America's critical civilian international affairs programs saw proposals that would have drawn down our presence around the world. As you and your colleagues look ahead to the federal budget for Fiscal Year 2019, we hope you will support strong resources for America's global leadership.

Thank you for your commitment to America's safety, security, and prosperity. We ask you to stay vigilant and ensure that our country makes the commitments necessary to prevent conflict so that we only send our brothers and sisters in uniform into harm's way as a last resort.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Charles Abell, South Dakota U.S. Air Force	Russ Ames, New Mexico U.S. Army	Edgar Ashley, Michigan U.S. Marine Corps
Forrest Abernethy, Arkansas U.S. Navy	Ralph Amis, Oklahoma U.S. Air Force	Will Atkins, Maryland U.S. Air Force
Leonard Abner, West Virginia U.S. Army	Pat Amodio, Connecticut U.S. Army	Roy Atkinson, Idaho U.S. Army
Joe Abodeely, Arizona U.S. Army	Roma Amundson, Nebraska U.S. Army	Alex Augustine, District of Columbia U.S. Army
John Adair, Arkansas U.S. Army	Gary Anchustegui, Idaho U.S. Army	Duncan Aukland, Ohio U.S. Army
John Adams, Florida U.S. Army	Albert Ancia, Rhode Island U.S. Army	Ernest Austin Jr., Delaware U.S. Air Force
Manny Addo, Virginia U.S. Army	Victor Anderson, California U.S. Army	Frances Avery, Delaware U.S. Army
Richard Adkins, Michigan U.S. Army	Mark Anderson, Oregon U.S. Marine Corps	Juan Ayala, Texas U.S. Marine Corps
Tracy Adkison, Georgia U.S. Air Force	Kent Anderson, Indiana U.S. Army	Eugene Ayers, New York U.S. Army
George Akins, Arkansas U.S. Army	Joel Anderson, Kansas U.S. Marine Corps	Rod Azama, Maryland U.S. Army
Lazaro Alaniz, Michigan U.S. Army	David Anderson, District of Columbia U.S. Marine Corps	Kathryn Baarson, Arizona U.S. Marine Corps
Joseph Albert, Pennsylvania U.S. Army	Lou Annacone, Texas U.S. Air Force	Edward Babyak, Rhode Island U.S. Navy
Alvin Albert, Louisiana U.S. Air Force	Alfredo Anthony, Florida U.S. Army	Richard Bacon, New Jersey U.S. Navy
Nicholas Albicocco, Maryland U.S. Navy	Bill Aquino, Florida U.S. Army	John Badal, New Mexico U.S. Army
Luis Alcalde, Ohio U.S. Army	Terry Araman, Arizona U.S. Army	Richard J. Bailey, Jr., New Mexico U.S. Air Force
Tom Allee, Colorado U.S. Air Force	Sanford Artman, Missouri U.S. Army	John Baker, West Virginia U.S. Army
Samuel Altman, Florida U.S. Army	Stuart Ashby, Missouri U.S. Navy	Todd Baker, Oregon U.S. Navy

Dennis Bal, Michigan U.S. Army	Richard Basiliere, Vermont U.S. Navy	Pat Beekman, North Carolina U.S. Marine Corps
George Bald, New Hampshire U.S. Navy	Matthew Basista, District of Columbia U.S. Army	Charles Beels, California U.S. Army
Mike Ball, Alabama U.S. Marine Corps	Johnny Bass, North Carolina U.S. Navy	Robert Begey, Connecticut U.S. Army
Jonathan Banasihan, District of Columbia U.S. Navy	Nick Bassitt, Texas U.S. Marine Corps	Robert Behrenwald, Michigan U.S. Air Force
Paul Barbarin, California U.S. Marine Corps	Dick Batchelor, Florida U.S. Marine Corps	David Belanger, Massachusetts U.S. Army
Rye Barcott, North Carolina U.S. Marine Corps	Larry Baucom, Virginia U.S. Navy	Dave Belote, Virginia U.S. Air Force
Roger Barczi, Michigan U.S. Army	James Bauerle, Indiana U.S. Army	Robert Bender, Pennsylvania U.S. Marine Corps
Brent Barker, Washington U.S. Army	Dwight Baxter, Delaware U.S. Navy	Patrick Benjamin, Delaware U.S. Army
Rocco Barletta, New York U.S. Army	Jon Bayless, Florida U.S. Navy	Craig Bennett, Illinois U.S. Army
Joseph Barnes, Virginia U.S. Army	Olan Beams, Delaware U.S. Air Force	Bob Bennett, Missouri U.S. Army
Alicia Barnes, Maine U.S. Navy	Kathryn Beasley, Maryland U.S. Navy	Bruce Bennett, Connecticut U.S. Army
Joseph Barone, New York U.S. Army	Eric Beason, Kentucky U.S. Army	Jeffery Benoit, Georgia U.S. Army
Oliver Barrett, District of Columbia U.S. Marine Corps	David Bebeau, Michigan U.S. Marine Corps	James Bentley, Rhode Island U.S. Marine Corps
Brittany Bartges, Colorado U.S. Army	Ronald Bechtholdt, Wyoming U.S. Navy	Doug Bereuter, Nebraska U.S. Army
Julio Barthson, Texas U.S. Army	Brent Beck, Vermont U.S. Navy	Allan Berg, Florida U.S. Army
Fergus Barton, Michigan U.S. Army	George Bedard, Vermont U.S. Army	Willie Berges, Florida U.S. Air Force
Richard Barwick, Montana U.S. Air Force	Roaldn Beecroft, Oregon U.S. Army	David Berry, Oregon U.S. Army

Girard Besanceney, Ohio U.S. Army	Samuel Boone, South Carolina U.S. Army	Rita Brock-Perini, Arizona U.S. Air Force
Michael Bessler, Wyoming U.S. Navy	Lester Boots, Idaho U.S. Air Force	Matthew Brodycz, Illinois U.S. Army
Charles Bierbauer, South Carolina U.S. Army	Andrew Borene, Virginia U.S. Marine Corps	Bernie Brogan, Ohio U.S. Army
Raymond Biersner, Idaho U.S. Navy	James Boston, Oregon U.S. Navy	Ron Brosius, Iowa U.S. Army
Robert Bilcs, Arkansas U.S. Marine Corps	Anthony Bourlet, Louisiana U.S. Army	Jim Broussard, Pennsylvania U.S. Army
Armand Bilotti, Rhode Island U.S. Army	Michael Boyle, New Hampshire U.S. Navy	Edward Brown, Florida U.S. Army
Gary Birdsall, Utah U.S. Army	George Boyson, California U.S. Army	Ron Brown, New Mexico U.S. Army
Franklin Blackburn, Wyoming U.S. Navy	Butch Bracknell, Virginia U.S. Marine Corps	Harvey Brown, Oklahoma U.S. Air Force
Elizabeth Blackney, Virginia U.S. Navy	John Brackney, Colorado U.S. Army	Ralph Brown, Maryland U.S. Marine Corps
Gerald Bland, West Virginia U.S. Army	Ernest Bradley, Delaware U.S. Air Force	Sean Brown, Delaware U.S. Navy
Larry Blankenship, West Virginia U.S. Army	Robert Bradley, Vermont U.S. Navy	Bill Browne, Illinois U.S. Air Force
Timothy Blawn, Delaware U.S. Navy	Donald Bradshaw, Oregon U.S. Army	Darrell Browning, Alabama U.S. Marine Corps
David Bockel, Georgia U.S. Army	Fernando Braga, New York U.S. Army	Michael Brundage, Colorado U.S. Army
John Bonalli, Connecticut U.S. Army	Terrance Brand, New Hampshire U.S. Navy	Donald Brunelle, Vermont U.S. Army
John Bone, Virginia U.S. Army	Hershel Branson, Arkansas U.S. Army	David Bruns, Minnesota U.S. Navy
Mark Bonica, New Hampshire U.S. Army	Mike Brassaw, Florida U.S. Marine Corps	Tony Bryan, Missouri U.S. Army
George Boniface, South Carolina U.S. Army	Sam Brick, South Carolina U.S. Army Reserve	Edward Brynn, North Carolina U.S. Air Force

Danny Bubp, Ohio U.S. Marine Corps	Michael Cadice, Virginia U.S. Marine Corps	Gary Carpenter, New Hampshire U.S. Air Force
Dave Bullamore, North Carolina U.S. Marine Corps	Jason Cain, North Carolina U.S. Army	Robert Carr, California U.S. Army
Dwight Bullard, Virginia U.S. Army	John Caldwell, Virginia U.S. Army	Matthew Carver, Iowa U.S. Army
Michael Burch, New York U.S. Marine Corps	Vincent Calitri, Rhode Island U.S. Army	Steven Cash, Idaho U.S. Navy
Peter Burdette, New Hampshire U.S. Navy	Luis Cardenas Camacho, Arizona U.S. Marine Corps	Jeff Cathey, Florida U.S. Navy
Marshall Burgess, South Dakota U.S. Army	Michael Campagna, New York U.S. Army	Dan Chaison, District of Columbia U.S. Army
Josh Burgess, Virginia U.S. Air Force	James Campbell, Alabama U.S. Army	Barry Chandler, Oregon U.S. Army
Eldon Burgess, Massachusetts U.S. Navy	Ralph Campbell, Wyoming U.S. Army	Wellon Chang, Pennsylvania U.S. Army
James Burns, New Jersey U.S. Army	Hugh Campbell, Florida U.S. Air Force	Munroe Chapin, Vermont U.S. Navy
Rick Burns, Iowa U.S. Army	Christopher Campbell, Virginia U.S. Air Force	Calvin Chapman, Mississippi U.S. Army
Patrick Bush, Oregon U.S. Navy	Lindon Campbell, Florida U.S. Marine Corps	Tim Chappell, North Carolina U.S. Army
Otto A. Busher III, New Hampshire U.S. Army	Christopher Cano, Florida U.S. Air Force	Julian Chesnutt, North Carolina U.S. Air Force
Luis Bustillos, Tennessee U.S. Army	Peter Canonico, Virginia U.S. Army	Linnes Chester, Nevada U.S. Air Force
Preston Butcher, Oregon U.S. Army	Richard Cantwell, North Carolina U.S. Army	Paul Chevalier, New Hampshire U.S. Marine Corps
Scott Butterfield, Massachusetts U.S. Army	Christopher Carey, Ohio U.S. Army	Allan Childers, Florida U.S. Air Force
Darold Buzard, Wyoming U.S. Navy	Robert Carey, Louisiana U.S. Marine Corps	Quentin Childs, Iowa U.S. Army
Frederick Byers, Delaware U.S. Army	Bob Carey, Maryland U.S. Navy	Joseph Chimenti, Delaware U.S. Army

Lewis Chipola, New Hampshire U.S. Army	James Collins, Washington U.S. Arm	Jim Craig, Missouri U.S. Army
Gil Cisneros, Colorado U.S. Navy	Col. J. Quincy Collins, Jr., North Carolina U.S. Air Force	Emmett Craig, Michigan U.S. Army
Kenneth Clark, New Hampshire U.S. Air Force	Martin Conatser, Illinois U.S. Army	Lew Cramer, Utah U.S. Army
Chad Clark, Vermont U.S. Air Force	Michael Conley, West Virginia U.S. Army	John Crawford, Michigan U.S. Army
Sandra Cleary, Ohio U.S. Army	Todd Connor, Illinois U.S. Navy	William Crockcr, Arkansas U.S. Army
Ross Clemons, Florida U.S. Army	Norman Contois, Michigan U.S. Army	David Croft, Oklahoma U.S. Navy
Alden Cleveland, Idaho U.S. Marine Corps	Barry Conway, New Hampshire U.S. Air Force	Francis Crompton, Montana U.S. Marine Corps
Leonard Clough, Vermont U.S. Marine Corps	Scott Cooper, District of Columbia U.S. Marine Corps	John Cronin, New York U.S. Army
Tyrus Cobb, Nevada U.S. Army	Margaret Cope, Virginia U.S. Air Force	Charles Cross, Michigan U.S. Air Force
Bobby Cockrum, Arkansas U.S. Air Force	Antoinette Corrcia, Hawaii U.S. Army	Raymond Crouse, Arkansas U.S. Army
Jeff Coggin, Alabama U.S. Air Force	Richard Corrigan, Florida U.S. Air Force	Leo Cruz, Virginia U.S. Navy
Arthur Cohen, New Jersey U.S. Army	Donny Cossey, Arkansas U.S. Marine Corps	Wayne Culbreth, Tennessee U.S. Army
Paul Cohen, Nebraska U.S. Air Force	Marc Cottle, Utah U.S. Army	Tim Cullison, Arizona U.S. Army
Jacob Cok, Montana U.S. Army	Larry Coughlin, Utah U.S. Marine Corps	Don Culpepper, Arkansas U.S. Army
C. Murrill Colburn, Michigan U.S. Army	Rod Cox, Kansas U.S. Army	Craig Currey, South Carolina U.S. Army
Richard Collier, Vermont U.S. Air Force	Mike Crader, Colorado U.S. Air Force	Ramond Curtis, New York U.S. Army
Perry Collins, Oregon U.S. Marine Corps	Troy Craft, Florida U.S. Air Force	Andrew Cutlip, West Virginia U.S. Air Force

Joseph Dablewski, New York U.S. Air Force	Garland Delaney, Oregon U.S. Army	Melvin Dison, Arkansas U.S. Air Force
Louis Daigle, Louisiana U.S. Navy	Mathew Demers, Ohio U.S. Marine Corps	Rollin Dix, Illinois U.S. Army
Michael Dalby, Florida U.S. Air Force	Mike Denning, Kansas U.S. Marine Corps	Tony Dixon, California U.S. Army
Louis Dalise, Rhode Island U.S. Navy	Eugene Dentino, Arkansas U.S. Marine Corps	Todd Dixon, Indiana U.S. Air Force
Roger Damato, New Jersey U.S. Army	Edward Depamphilis, Delaware U.S. Army	John Dodson, New Jersey U.S. Army
Andrew Daniels, Idaho U.S. Navy	John DeReu, Illinois U.S. Army	Kevin Doiron, Louisiana U.S. Navy
Robert Darling, Virginia U.S. Navy	Robert Deshaies, Rhode Island U.S. Army	Hal Donahue, Pennsylvania U.S. Air Force
Frank Darlington, Idaho U.S. Army	Lance DeSpain, North Carolina U.S. Marine Corps	Robert Donohue, Delaware U.S. Air Force
Donald Darnell, Kentucky U.S. Navy	Keith Dewey, Colorado U.S. Marine Corps	Kirk Dooley, Indiana U.S. Marine Corps
Christopher Davis, Vermont U.S. Army	Mike Dhunjishah, South Carolina U.S. Air Force	Cristal Dorsey, Oklahoma U.S. Army
Louis Davis, Arkansas U.S. Army	Fredy Diaz, Maryland U.S. Marine Corps	James Dorsey, Minnesota U.S. Marine Corps
S. Ryan Davis, Ohio U.S. Marine Corps	Donald Dicieco, Connecticut U.S. Army	Dwight Dotterer, Michigan U.S. Air Force
J. Davisson, Indiana U.S. Army	Mike Dickerson, Florida U.S. Army	George Doty, Arkansas U.S. Air Force
Dave Day, South Carolina U.S. Army	Tim Dichl, Pennsylvania U.S. Air Force	William Downes, Colorado U.S. Marine Corps
James Deak, New Jersey U.S. Army	Dennis Dietz, Iowa U.S. Army	Kiersten Downs, Florida U.S. Air Force
Peter Debrino, Connecticut U.S. Navy	James Dignan, Ohio U.S. Air Force	Darrell Drageset, Wyoming U.S. Navy
John Dehn, Illinois U.S. Army	Brian Dinsdale, Massachusetts U.S. Air Force	Gary Drobnack, Washington U.S. Army

Alex Dubovik, Utah U.S. Air Force	Mark Eister, Georgia U.S. Army	Randall Farnsworth, Vermont U.S. Army
Michael J. Duerr, Minnesota U.S. Army	Matthew Elias, Texas U.S. Navy	Tim Farrell, Texas U.S. Air Force
Jim Duffie, Georgia U.S. Navy	Joseph Elkins, Wyoming U.S. Air Force	Robert Farris, Oregon U.S. Army
Dave Duffly, South Carolina U.S. Army	Roger Ellifritz, West Virginia U.S. Army	David Farris, Oklahoma U.S. Army
Eugene Dufrene, Louisiana U.S. Army	Kenneth Ellison, Wyoming U.S. Navy	James Favuzzi, Ohio U.S. Army Reserve
Jerry Dunagan, Arkansas U.S. Air Force	Tim Embree, District of Columbia U.S. Marine Corps	Aurelia Fedenisn, North Carolina U.S. Army
Forrest Dunbar, Alaska U.S. Army	James Emerson, Arkansas U.S. Army	Arthur Federspill, Maryland U.S. Army
Isaac Eagan, Virginia U.S. Army	John Engel, Michigan U.S. Air Force	Artegus Felder, Alabama U.S. Army
Brian Easley, Kentucky U.S. Army	Rick Erickson, Arizona U.S. Marine Corps	Robert Felderman, Iowa U.S. Army
Marjorie Eastman, Tennessee U.S. Army	Michael Erin, Illinois U.S. Army	Donald Fenn, Oregon U.S. Navy
Paul Eaton, Washington U.S. Army	Aaron Estabrook, Kansas U.S. Army	Thomas Fennoy, Maryland U.S. Marine Corps
Theresa Eckard, Illinois U.S. Air Force	Phillip Ethridge, California U.S. Air Force	Marlon Ferguson, Pennsylvania U.S. Navy
Bobby Edmon, Oklahoma U.S. Marine Corps	Megan Everett, Illinois U.S. Navy	Charles Ferillo, South Carolina U.S. Army
Mike Edwards, Arkansas U.S. Army	Edwin Exum, Illinois U.S. Navy	Matthew Fetterman, Florida U.S. Navy
Frank Edwards, Florida U.S. Marine Corps	Fred Fairbanks, Alaska U.S. Navy	Mark Fetterman, Florida U.S. Navy
David Eichhorn, New Mexico U.S. Air Force	John Fairbanks, Maryland U.S. Navy	Robert Fields, West Virginia U.S. Air Force
Steve Eisenhart, Colorado U.S. Army	Douglas Fairfield, Pennsylvania U.S. Marine Corps	Walter Filipowski Jr., Idaho U.S. Army

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MATERIAL SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD BY THE HONORABLE ADRIANO ESPAILLAT, A
REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEW YORK

4/5/2018

Defense spending rises to \$686 billion for 2019 - Washington Times

Defense spending rises to \$686 billion for 2019



Under President Trump, defense spending rose roughly 15 percent. Part of the money will go toward cutting-edge weaponry, like the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter. (U.S. Air Force) more >

By Carlo Muñoz - *The Washington Times* - Monday, February 12, 2018

Defense spending jumps significantly in the proposed 2019 Trump administration budget to \$686 billion — up roughly 15 percent from 2017.

Pentagon officials said Monday the new spending is needed to fund more than 25,000 new troops and to pay for a slew of cutting-edge weaponry — from the fifth-generation F-35 Joint Strike Fighter and new B-21 Long Range Strike bomber to Virginia-class fast attack submarines and ballistic missile interceptor systems.

4/5/2018

Defense spending rises to \$686 billion for 2019 - Washington Times

Analysts say the White House spending blueprint represents down payment on the National Defense Strategy the administration outlined last month. The president wants to shift the U.S. military's focus from protracted wars against extremist groups like al-Qaida and Islamic State toward threats posed by Russia, China and North Korea.

The Pentagon has sought a combined \$10 billion just to finance the F-35 and B-21 — next generation warplanes designed to penetrate the most advanced anti-aircraft systems fielded by “near-peer” countries like China and Russia. Officials say an additional \$7.4 billion for Virginia-class attack subs will bolster the Navy's underwater fleet, which is facing threats from a resurgent Russian submarine force.

Missile defense weapons like the AEGIS, Ground-based Midcourse Defense system and the THAAD ballistic missile defense weapon — touted as critical in deterring intercontinental missile threats from North Korea — received a total of \$4.9 billion in the administration's proposed spending increase.

Defense Department Comptroller David L. Norquist said Monday the Trump plan represents a course correction from low military spending under previous administrations. While spending by Beijing and Moscow has skyrocketed in recent years, Mr. Norquist said that in 2016, the U.S. military “was the smallest it had since before World War II.” 15 people typing

Should Congress agree with the Trump plan, he said, defense outlays will still “remain near historical lows as a share of the U.S. economy.”

“It is important to understand the hole we are climbing out of,” Mr. Norquist said.

Less money for diplomacy

Amid talk of increased military spending, officials at the State Department and USAID are wary of possible cuts, as well as the prospect of an American diplomatic core shrinking from attrition, resignations and dismissals.

The Trump budget caps State Department spending at \$39.3 billion — down from the roughly \$55 billion spent by the department in 2017. But it's unclear exactly where the department's cumulative spending will stand over the three-year period from 2017 through 2019 because of uncertainty around congressional budget negotiations.

Deputy Secretary of State John J. Sullivan told reporters Monday that the budget deal reached on Capitol Hill last week would increase overall discretionary spending by some \$300 billion over two years.

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2018/feb/12/defense-spending-rises-to-686-billion-for-2019/>

2/4

4/5/2018

Defense spending rises to \$686 billion for 2019 - Washington Times

"As part of this deal, budget caps on non-defense discretionary spending, which includes spending for State and USAID, would be increased by \$63 billion this year and \$68 billion next year," Mr. Sullivan said. "This reflects an additional \$1.5 billion for State and USAID provided specifically for humanitarian assistance and global health programs, as well as contributions to international organizations."

Secretary of State Rex W. Tillerson, however, has defended the administration's proposed cuts in both the State and USAID budgets.

The cuts, if enacted, would severely erode American "soft power" projection around the world, diplomats and defense officials warn.

Several former top military officers criticized at the notion of possible State Department cuts Monday, saying Washington risks losing its recent military gains in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere.

"Near-term cuts is not just a near-term cut, its enduring. You will always be catching up," Gen. Charles F. Wald, former deputy commander for U.S. European Command, said on a conference call with reporters.

The Pentagon's increasing dependence on allies and proxy forces to battle extremists will require a robust U.S. diplomatic presence, said retired Army Chief of Staff Gen. George W. Casey Jr. on the call. "We have a strategy and budget mismatch."

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Statement for the Record
Submitted by Mr. Connolly of Virginia

President Trump's FY 2019 international affairs budget continues the Trump Administration's unilateral retreat from U.S. global leadership through a reckless disinvestment in U.S. diplomacy and development operations. As threats to U.S. national security grow around the world, the Trump Administration's response is to retreat from our international commitments, eviscerate assistance to vulnerable populations, and cut the financial and human resources of our diplomatic corps and the federal workforce that supports U.S. foreign policy. Instead of funding an ounce of prevention for a pound of cure, President Trump boasts of fire and fury and demonstrates an almost reflexive preference for kinetic solutions to the world's most intractable problems.

The Trump Administration has failed to invest in the financial and human resources that we need to effectively implement U.S. development programs. The President's FY 2019 budget proposes to gut USAID's budget by 33 percent from FY 2017 enacted levels. This request ignores that Congress, civilian and military leadership, and the American people summarily rejected similar draconian cuts in the Administration's FY 2018 budget.

More than a year into President Trump's term, critical vacancies still plague the implementation of U.S. foreign assistance, especially at USAID. Administrator Green and Assistant Administrator for Europe and Eurasia Brock Bierman are the only Senate-confirmed appointees at the agency. No one has been nominated to fill the Deputy Administrator vacancy or seven out of nine remaining bureau leadership posts. Last year, President Trump said that his administration is not even planning to fill all the vacant positions.

Under Administrator Green's leadership, USAID has launched an internal redesign effort that seeks to end the need for foreign assistance. One of the pillars of this reform effort is moving partner countries toward "strategic transitions," or self-reliance. Working with a partner country to reduce and eventually eliminate reliance on U.S. foreign assistance should always be the goal of development programs. However, it is clear this Administration has already concluded that our investments abroad need to be gutted. Congress must ensure that Administrator Green's redesign effort is not coopted to serve this Administration's slash and burn approach to the international affairs budget. I encourage Administrator Green to consult with Members of Congress and other stakeholders to ensure that his reform efforts advance development goals and do not help justify further cuts to our foreign assistance programs.

This Committee can do its part in protecting the international affairs budget by putting forward robust reauthorization bills for the State Department and USAID. Congress has not enacted a State Department authorization bill since 2002. As a staff member on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I worked on the last comprehensive reauthorization of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961. That was in 1985. Regular enactment of these authorizing bills is a long-neglected priority, and the clarity of our mission has suffered as a result.

That is why I intend to reintroduce the Global Partnerships Act, which I began working on with former Chairman Howard Berman several years ago. This legislation strengthens the role of the USAID Administrator, codifies some of the successful reforms of USAID Forward, and empowers USAID as an independent development agency. Folding USAID into the State Department, as the Administration has reportedly considered, would be detrimental to the achievement of distinct U.S. diplomacy and development objectives.

We need an empowered, premier development agency safeguarding U.S. interests abroad. Unprecedented humanitarian crises and threats to global stability require dedicated American leadership and engagement. One does not make America great again by withdrawing from the world.

Questions for the Record from Chairman Edward R. Royce
The FY 2019 Foreign Assistance Budget
For the Honorable Mark Green
March 21, 2018

Question:

Development Finance Institution. The FY 2019 budget request proposes a consolidation of various U.S. development finance functions, such as the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) and USAID's Development Credit Authority (DCA), to create a new, standalone Development Finance Institution (DFI) with more modern and effective tools and reforms. In February, the bipartisan Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act (BUILD Act), H.R. 5105, was introduced to implement the President's budget proposal and create the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation.

How would the new development finance institution support the goal of transitioning donor countries off U.S. assistance?

Answer:

The more countries can mobilize their own domestic resources, catalyze private-sector investment, and harness the power of private enterprise for development outcomes, the better positioned they are to transition away from traditional donor assistance. The tools of the proposed Development Finance Institution (DFI) are uniquely designed to help countries do all three. Loans, loan guarantees, equity investments, and political risk insurance, when used properly to "crowd in" private commercial capital into underserved markets, reduce the need for donor grant funding while deepening local capital and financial markets, which has a multiplier effect on attracting and retaining additional private financing. These transactional tools, coupled with technical-assistance programs funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to target macroeconomic, regulatory and market reforms, can accelerate the transition of countries away from donor assistance, while moving others much further down the continuum than would have been possible solely through traditional grant funding.

Question:

What are additional ways in which linkages between the new DFI and USAID can be strengthened, while ensuring that the new entity has the appropriate flexibility and independence, given its unique mission?

Answer:

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has been working closely within the interagency to plan for close institutional and programmatic linkages between the new Development Finance Institution (DFI). The goal is to ensure that the consolidation of USAID's Development Credit Authority (DCA) program into the proposed DFI provides greater opportunities for the new organization to link directly with USAID programs and Missions.

The DFI should be able to continue DCA's demand-driven approach to transactions if USAID

Missions continue to have direct access to the transactional tools of the DFI, and can support deals with on-going technical-assistance programs on the ground. This approach would be critical to ensuring that transactions developed with DFI tools serve the U.S. Government's development strategies. While creating these critical linkages would closely align the DFI with USAID Missions, formal institutional linkages at headquarters would also be crucial, from the Board of Directors through to the staff that would be making investment decisions. Rather than constraining the DFI, the linkages would enable the DFI to access and support USAID programs and expertise in the field more easily than the Overseas Private Investment Corporation has been able to do in the past. The DFI should also have the independence and flexibility to pursue transactions outside of USAID programs with other interagency partners, or on its own.

Question:

Humanitarian Access: Humanitarian access is crucial where civilians need assistance and protection, such as in armed conflicts and during responses to natural disasters. However, this access is routinely denied or hampered by parties to a conflict for security or political reasons.

- What is the U.S. Government doing to increase access to humanitarian assistance, particularly in places like South Sudan, Yemen, and Syria?
- What is the U.S. doing to influence those who are denying or granting access?
- Does it matter what activities access is negotiated for (protection, food distributions, water and vaccines projects, etc.)?

Answer:

At the highest levels and through our diplomatic missions, the U.S. Government continues to press for full, consistent, and unfettered humanitarian access to populations in need, including in South Sudan, Burma, Yemen and Syria. Depending on the situation, key Administration leaders in Washington, D.C.; U.S. Ambassadors and staff at U.S. Embassies; or the U.S. Permanent Representatives to the United Nations (UN) at our multilateral missions in New York, Geneva, and other locations, will lead the U.S. Government's engagement directed toward governments that are restricting access, or with other influential governments or groups that can join us in applying pressure.

The context of each humanitarian situation is unique, so the U.S. Government's engagement on humanitarian issues depends on accurate situational awareness. The Administration consults regularly with implementing partners, including UN humanitarian agencies and international and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), to understand what is happening with their relief operations, especially the constraints to access they are facing. Depending on the context, the deterioration of roads and other infrastructure, armed actors, or bureaucratic impediments could be the cause of restrictions on access.

- Depending on the context, the U.S. Government will evaluate who is blocking access, and consider the right diplomatic tool to use: direct engagement with those who are restricting access, or working indirectly through influential third-party actors. The U.S. Government regularly leverages the UN Security Council and other diplomatic as well as financial support to the International Committee of the Red Cross – to hold

governments and non-state actors accountable for restricting access to those in need, and for committing violations of International Humanitarian Law. Sanctions regimes can be a useful tool as well, as in the case of South Sudan.

To give you a specific, recent example, in mid-May I traveled to Bangladesh and Burma to gain a first-hand understanding of the plight of the Rohingya. While in Burma, I pressed State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and other Government officials at the Union and State levels to remove the barriers to access that are preventing USAID partners, other humanitarian actors, and journalists from reaching parts of Rakhine State.

- Each approach to seeking greater humanitarian access is different, depending on the posture and interests of national governments and other armed actors. This means that organizations like the World Food Program, which negotiates access for food assistance hundreds of times each week, must refine their access strategy by country, region and group. There is no universal approach to access based on sector, though it is possible certain groups that negotiate access might change their strategy based on what they are delivering (i.e., food, water or vaccines). In the case of Syria, for example, the Assad regime has repeatedly blocked deliveries of essential medical supplies to besieged cities. In other countries, like South Sudan, multiple armed groups and the national government implement their own restrictions along fluid lines of control.

Question:

Iraq: The conflict with ISIS forced over 5 million Iraqis from their homes, more than half of whom have now returned. Nationwide reconstruction needs are estimated to be over \$80 billion. While the Administration has made impressive gains in helping to retake territory under ISIS control, we now face significant humanitarian and stabilization challenges. What specific examples can you cite where stabilization programs have met their objective and have been or are expected to be turned over to the Government of Iraq?

Answer:

The United States and our partners in the Global Coalition to Defeat the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) have provided assistance, through the Funding Facility for Stabilization (FFS) managed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which, according to the International Office of Migration (IOM), has enabled 3.6 million Iraqis to return home safely and voluntarily as of March 2018. However, 2.2 million Iraqis remain displaced, including hundreds of thousands of ethnic and religious minorities.

UNDP-FFS works closely with Iraqi national, Provincial and local leaders to restore essential services like electricity and water; bolster livelihoods like local businesses and markets to revive the local economy; promote reconciliation within local communities directly affected by ISIS; and build local capacity to improve local leaders' responsiveness to immediate needs.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) contributed \$75 million to the UNDP-FFS in Fiscal Year 2017, of which we directed almost \$55 million to communities composed largely of oppressed ethnic and religious minorities in the Ninewa Plains and Western Ninewa Province. Some

examples of U.S.-funded activities implemented through UNDP-FFS include the following:

- Restoration of the water network and improved access to potable water for an estimated 1.2 million residents in Mosul and the surrounding communities;
- Rehabilitation of 83 schools in Anbar Province, which employ over 2,000 personnel and have allow 18,000 students to return to class;
- Installation of a power substation at Tikrit University that allows an estimated 20,000 students to resume their classes;
- Rehabilitation of the public health center in Bartela in the Ninewa Plain, which provides an estimated 30,000 residents with health care; and
- Rehabilitation of the Khwja Kahil water-treatment plant in the Ninewa Plain, which gives an estimated 500,000 residents improved access to potable water.

Question:

Security permitting, how frequently does your staff have the chance to interact with Iraqi counterparts outside Embassy walls?

Answer:

The ability of U.S. Government staff to visit project sites in Iraq is severely limited because of security concerns. For the most part, site visits by U.S. officials are restricted to meetings or events held in Baghdad, Basrah, and Erbil; the only permitted locations outside of the U.S. Embassy and Consulates General are generally the offices of Ministries and other units of the Government of Iraq, or those of multilateral or bilateral donors. Some exceptional recent field trips by the Ambassador and visiting senior officials from Washington have included site visits, such as the February 2018 trip for U.S. Ambassador Douglas Silliman and the Deputy Special Representative of the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General, Lise Grande, to re-open Hamdaniya Hospital near Mosul; the December 2017 trip by the Counselor of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Tom Staal, to meet with Christian religious leaders and Yazidi representatives in the Ninewa Plain and Erbil; and the May 2017 trip by Ambassador Silliman and Special Presidential Envoy Brett McGurk to re-open the Al Salamiyah Water- Treatment Plant near Mosul.

USAID contracts with in-country third-party experts in monitoring and evaluation to provide added oversight for our activities in Iraq. With greater freedom of movement than direct-hire Americans, the Iraqi field monitors are able to assess projects at the site level to ensure each achieves its goals and objectives. Evaluations and assessments help U.S. managers of assistance programs identify implementation constraints, adjust programming to achieve better results, and benefit from lessons learned. In particular, USAID-funded Iraqi field monitors collect evidence to validate independently that the rehabilitation of water and electrical infrastructure, schools, and health clinics undertaken by the UN Development Programme (UNDP) are completed and benefitting returnees.

Question:

How are reconciliation programs ensuring Sunni tribes contribute to stability rather than increased tension?

Answer:

One of the conditions that made Sunni Arabs in Iraq vulnerable to recruitment by the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) was their political marginalization and exclusion from the federal government. Stabilization and governance assistance funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) can enhance the credibility of local authorities, and link humanitarian investments to the broader strategy of helping Iraqis to get back on a sustainable governance and fiscal trajectory and prevent the rise of “ISIS 2.0” – a critical element of the Coalition’s strategy to defeat ISIS.

The Fund for Stabilization (FFS) managed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has used contributions from USAID to work in Salah ad-Din, Anbar, and Ninewa Provinces, including the in cities of Tikrit, Ramadi, Fallujah and Mosul, which have large Sunni Arab populations. Our local-governance activities are also helping to implement Prime Minister Abadi’s vision for reconciliation through decentralization, which gives Iraq’s Provincial Governors and Councils direct budgets, greater control over local public-sector hiring, and a formal say over projects undertaken by Federal Ministries within their Provinces. The Iraqi Prime Minister strongly supports decentralization as a way to improve governance and stabilize the country by making certain government decisions closer, and therefore more accountable, to the Iraqi people, such as Sunni tribes. He has highlighted USAID’s decentralization assistance as critical to this initiative.

Question:

How is U.S. assistance being used to mend ties between the Iraqi Federal Government and the Kurds?

Answer:

In Fiscal Year 2017, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) provided \$29 million in economic technical assistance to the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) in addition to the humanitarian assistance Kurdish areas already receive. This technical assistance helps the KRG to identify and implement reforms, such as improving the execution of budgets and the management of payroll.

One of the most contentious issues between the KRG and the Government of Iraq (GOI) is the GOI’s requirement of a proper accounting of eligible recipients before paying the salaries, pension and social benefits of KRG employees. USAID’s technical assistance helped the KRG to introduce an Identity-Management System (IMS) to modernize the distribution of payments to individuals, while eliminating duplicate records and transfers. So far, the KRG’s use of the IMS has enabled it to remove 5,000 “ghost” employees, which has saved roughly \$3.5 million per month. Since 86 percent of the KRG’s budget goes to salaries, establishing a centralized payroll linked to the IMS is the KRG’s top priority. To date, an estimated 1,197,580 recipients have registered; of these, 481,307 KRG civil servants have had their registration reviewed and verified. Progress on this activity has enabled the KRG to fulfill portions of the GOI’s requirements, and has led to the release of a significant amount of GOI funding for KRG salaries, pensions and social benefits.

Question:

On January 17, the Department of State laid out the Administration’s policy for U.S. involvement in Syria, including stabilization initiatives in liberated areas and “targeted reconstruction.”

Can the U.S. and its partners realistically hope to destroy ISIS and support stability in the region without addressing the issue of Assad and his regime?

What benchmarks are you using to evaluate progress against the Administration's Syria Strategy?

In Syria, how much U.S. assistance is implemented through the UN versus directly programmed? Can the U.S. and its partners realistically hope to destroy ISIS and support stability in the region without addressing the issue of Assad and his regime?

Answer:

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) works closely with the Departments of State and Defense on planning and implementation of the Administration's campaign plan to defeat the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (D-ISIS). The U.S. Government (USG) is committed to a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Syria through the Geneva Process led by the United Nations (UN). The USG calls upon the Assad Regime, Russia, and Iran to fulfill UN Security Council Resolution 2254 to convene parties to engage in formal negotiations.

In areas liberated from ISIS, we have been working to restore essential services to allow for the voluntary return of internally displaced persons and refugees. The USG tracks activities undertaken, but impact will depend in the long-term by the numbers of returnees. It is important to note that stabilization programming alone—while a necessary and important component of the D-ISIS strategy—is not sufficient to address the broader governance challenges that exist in Syria and allowed ISIS to emerge in the first place. A lasting solution will ultimately require a political settlement that addresses the grievances that allowed ISIS and other extremists to flourish there.

At the program level, USAID actively monitors and evaluates the impact of our projects on an ongoing basis. USAID humanitarian assistance effectively relieves suffering of the Syria people, and our stabilization work actively engages local governing structures and communities who are taking part in their own recovery.

USAID is not currently implementing any stabilization assistance in Syria through the UN.

For humanitarian assistance, USAID provided approximately \$185 million (out of a total of \$522 million) through UN agencies for emergency food, nutrition, health, water, sanitation and other life-saving interventions in Syria in Fiscal Year 2017. This represented roughly 35 percent of USAID's humanitarian funding for Syria during the period. The Agency invested the rest through partner organizations.

Question:

What is the Administration's strategy to address banking system problems in Yemen?

Answer:

The breakdown in Yemen's economic processes and systems has significantly worsened the already-severe humanitarian crisis facing the country. The Central Bank of Yemen (CBY) has a limited ability

to perform its basic functions and address larger monetary-policy challenges. Preventing the collapse of this institution - which has served critical fiscal and budgetary functions for the Yemeni Government - is necessary to addressing the wider crisis.

With assistance from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the CBY recently completed the first step in a diagnostic assessment of its operational and technical capacity, led by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). If the assessment results in recommendations for how the international community can help restart the operational capability of the CBY, USAID will then work with the Bank's leadership, the IMF, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and other key partners on an agreement for the provision of effectively targeted technical and training support.

Question:

What is the United States doing to ensure the Saudi blockade on Yemen's Hodeidah and Saleef ports is permanently lifted for humanitarian and commercial goods?

Answer:

The Coalition has allowed commercial and humanitarian supplies into Hodeidah and Saleef ports since early December 2017, after temporarily closing Yemen's air, sea, and land points of entry on November 6, 2017. While the ports are now open, the uncertainty around the closure and continued delays have created a chilling effect on commercial shipping, which has not yet returned to pre-closure levels. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) continues to fund the United Nations (UN) Verification and Inspection Mechanism (UNVIM), which provides a neutral, transparent process for clearing and inspecting vessels that arrive in ports not controlled by the legitimate Yemeni Government, and helps facilitate the flow of essential commercial goods while restricting the flow of illicit goods. In FY17, USAID provided \$7 million towards these efforts.

The Administration continues to urge the Coalition to allow the unfettered access of food, fuel, and medicine into Yemen. Deputy Secretary of State John Sullivan and I just met for the fourth time with UN agencies and international humanitarian organizations to reinforce our commitment to delivering these messages. Relief supplies and aid workers must be allowed to move freely through all entry points, and throughout the country. Given that commercial imports account for 90 percent of Yemen's food supply, it is critical that both humanitarian and commercial goods flow into and throughout the country without restriction. While the United States remains committed to relieving the suffering of the Yemeni people, humanitarian assistance alone cannot provide a solution to this conflict, which must come through a comprehensive political agreement. We fully support the work of our colleagues at the State Department and the UN Special Envoy to Yemen toward that end.

Question:

What steps need to be taken to improve the flow of humanitarian aid to the areas of greatest need once that aid has entered Yemen?

Answer:

Even after humanitarian aid has entered Yemen, it often faces unnecessary delays before reaching its intended beneficiaries. The primary obstacles that delay aid from reaching populations of greatest

need are weak governance, physical bottlenecks, delivery of assistance across conflict lines, and the intervention of local authorities along transport routes and at aid- distribution points. All parties must allow relief supplies and aid workers to move freely through all entry points, and throughout the country.

Question:

Coordination with the U.S. Department of Defense: After more than a decade of conflict in Afghanistan and the Middle East, the U.S. has turned to foreign militaries and police to fight threats before they reach America's borders. Critics allege, however, that the management system and organizational structures that oversee U.S. engagement with allied and partner forces remain uncoordinated and ill-suited for current challenges.

Is there a security assistance sector lead within USAID? If not, who is charged with coordinating those policy issues with the State Department, DoD, and the NSC staff?

Answer:

The Center of Excellence on Democracy, Human Rights and Governance (the DRG Center) in the Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance within the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) serves as the Agency's lead on issues concerning security-sector assistance (SSA) and reform (SSR). The DRG Center and other offices in USAID have staff who are dedicated to working on the SSR portfolio, and who represent the Agency in interagency fora, including meetings convened by the National Security Council (NSC). USAID's Office of Civilian-Military Cooperation (CMC) supports the DRG Center's engagement with the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD), by connecting both organizations on technical issues, fostering enduring relationships, and ensuring the synchronization of efforts. The Bureau for Policy, Planning and Learning (PPL) and CMC work in close collaboration with other USAID stakeholders to ensure consistency of content and messaging, including on issues around SSA. USAID's team of Senior and Deputy Development Advisors (S/DDAs) embedded at five of the six DoD Geographic Combatant Commands (GCCs), U.S. Special Operations Command, and the Pentagon, provide strategic guidance on both SSA and SSR to senior civilian and military leaders, in line with the DRG Center's technical guidance. Six months ago, I asked each Mission to appoint a Mission Civil-Military Coordinator (MC2) to advise and collaborate with DoD counterparts on developing and implementing our country strategies, also in line with the DRG Center's guidance on both SSA and SSR.

Question:

What USAID office provides guidance to DoD and the State Department on monitoring and evaluation and program design for high priority, long-term security assistance recipients?

Answer:

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is not charged with providing guidance to the Departments of Defense (DoD) and State on monitoring and evaluation (M&E) or program design. Nonetheless, USAID does provide support to the interagency in developing policies and capabilities when requested, and we frequently collaborate and share tools with colleagues. In

Afghanistan, USAID has developed a comprehensive, multi-tiered monitoring system in part because U.S. Government civilian personnel are highly restricted in their movements, and their access to projects in the field is severely constrained. In past years, during the combined civilian-military surge effort in Afghanistan, the U.S. military helped facilitate transportation to project sites, which played an integral role in supporting USAID's oversight.

Information from DoD on the operating environment, when combined with program data, aids in verifying the effectiveness and validity of USAID programming in non-permissive and conflict-affected environments.

USAID's Office of Civilian-Military Cooperation (CMC), as the Agency lead for coordination with DoD, embeds Senior and Deputy Development Advisors (S/DDAs) at the Pentagon, in five of the six Geographic Combatant Commands (GCCs), and U.S. Special Operations Command, to ensure planning initiatives, which include M&E, are aligned. At the country level, the USAID Mission Civil-Military Coordinators (MC2s) facilitate communication, coordination and collaboration between USAID and DoD. Through the Country Development Cooperation Strategy and Integrated Country Strategy processes, as well as DoD's Country Campaign Plans, USAID and DoD collaborate closely on foreign-policy and national-security objectives. M&E is part of these efforts, as USAID relies heavily on data, assessments, and reports from DoD, the United Nations, the World Bank, partner countries and others.

Question:

Ukraine: The Administration has provided strong support for Ukraine, most recently by agreeing to sell Ukraine Javelin missiles to defend its people and territory from Russian aggression. However, Ukraine's reform efforts are falling short in many areas, especially combating corruption, with the IMF and other donors threatening to withhold additional funding unless repeatedly promised reforms in this crucial area are carried out.

What are your plans to use the extensive U.S. assistance program in Ukraine to ensure that the government fully implements the reforms it has agreed to, especially those concerning corruption?

Answer:

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has a robust program to support reforms in key sectors in Ukraine (e.g., justice, energy, health), and counter malign Kremlin influence and aggression. For example, in FY 17, USAID continued its support for regional investigative journalism through the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) which exposed over \$20 billion of Russian money that was laundered through Moldovan banks.

In an effort to promote greater transparency, the U.S. Government has worked to add greater conditionality to our assistance in Ukraine, terminate such assistance when it is not achieving expected results, and shift funding to areas in which the Government of Ukraine (GoU) has demonstrated legitimate commitment. Examples include the following:

- The cancellation of the USAID Customs-Reform Activity in September 2016, and the interagency U.S. Government decision not to pursue dedicated customs assistance;

- The discontinuation of assistance in energy-sector privatization in August 2017; and,
- The withdrawal of support to the National Agency for the Prevention of Corruption (NAPC).

As a result, USAID is moving away from smaller, more discrete activities in Ukraine toward larger, more-flexible activities so that, if we see a lack of political will or stalling on a certain issue, we can quickly shift to another area with greater potential for moving forward. USAID also seeks to reduce opportunities for corruption in Ukraine to improve the country's prospects for economic growth, improved governance, and integration with Europe. USAID's portfolio encompasses targeted anti-corruption projects, and we maintain anti-corruption as a cross-cutting theme throughout all of our work in the country.

USAID also regularly collaborates with other donors to consistently convey common messaging to GoU officials on adherence to conditionalities set by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and G-7 priorities, and to coordinate interventions. For example, on April 18, 2018, I met with the new Governor of the Central Bank of Ukraine, Yakiv Smolii, to reinforce the importance we place on combating corruption and fulfilling commitments to international standards for transparency and economic governance.

Question:

What are you doing to ensure a complete and effective reform of Naftogaz and the creation of a genuine energy market?

Answer:

The Ukrainian gas-market law of 2015 required the unbundling of the operations of gas- transmission systems (TSO) from the supply and production of gas, and a new TSO should become operational shortly. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) continues to support the integration of Ukrainian natural-gas, electricity, and District heating markets into European Union (EU) energy markets, and to help increase the technical capacity of Ukraine's independent energy regulator. USAID is also providing funding to ensure the new TSO has a credible, independent supervisory board.

USAID has launched a new \$90 million energy-security activity in Ukraine to promote broader energy reform and the creation of a genuine national energy market. This program will provide comprehensive support to establish competitive gas markets with regulated transmission and distribution systems, and open competition in the production and supply of natural gas. The resulting efficiencies from the establishment of competitive energy markets and generation and supply sectors, as well as regulated transmission and distribution under an independent and competent energy regulator, will make Ukraine less-dependent on energy imports from Russia.

Question:

What is USAID doing to ensure that these microcredit programs help people move out of poverty and promote broader economic goals, while also ensuring that women are included in these efforts?

Answer:

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has supported the microfinance industry for nearly 40 years, but our efforts have evolved to an approach that places greater emphasis on financial inclusion. We are now designing our work to engage a wider set of institutions in providing financial services and products, and to increase the use of digital financial services, such as mobile banking, to reach greater numbers of customers at lower cost, especially women, the extreme poor, and the most vulnerable. USAID also incorporates microenterprise-development into its activities in a number of sectors, including agriculture and health.

USAID also has been addressing financial inclusion across programming in many sectors-- from disaster assistance to food security, health, and counter-narcotics-- by supporting small savings-and-loan cooperatives for populations the multilateral financial institutions (MFIs) do not yet reach. Like our microcredit programs of the past, these financial-inclusion investments have a significant focus on women. They also emphasize access to technology, which offers a lifeline to financing, critical healthcare, opportunities for education, civic- participation, and entrepreneurship that were once out of reach for many people.

USAID also helps women enter the formal banking system by working to establish and improve credit bureaus, land tenure, movable-asset collateral systems, and digital platforms, as well as the use of financial technology with the greatest development potential. Such so-called "financial deepening" is a critical factor to achieving both financial inclusion and economic growth. On March 8, 2018, together with Advisor to the President Ivanka Trump, I launched the WomenConnect Challenge, a global call for solutions to improve women's participation in everyday life by meaningfully changing the ways women and girls access and use technology, including for financing.

Question:

Should USAID have the authority to support SMEs in addition to microenterprises?

Answer:

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) currently has the authority to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and we have increased our engagement in this area as our understanding of financial inclusion has evolved over the years. Programs for both microfinance/microenterprises and SMEs serve separate, but important, functions within the bigger agenda of providing pathways out of poverty through economic empowerment. Finance for poverty-alleviation requires economic growth and job-creation -- best achieved by working with SMEs in addition to microenterprises. Evidence shows SMEs are the key economic actors that drive job-creation, which is the primary pathway out of poverty for most of the population. By working with SMEs along the value chain, USAID can have impact at greater scale.

For instance, using standard business motivations (e.g., higher profits), USAID fosters the development of the business and agronomy knowledge of agro-dealers so they can effectively pass that knowledge to their clients -- and grow their businesses. By working through market systems in such ways, USAID can reach more smallholder farmers than we could by training individual farmers on how to use supplies they might not be even able to obtain consistently. Smallholder farmer microenterprises not only see higher yields and increased incomes, but have higher-quality products

that open up new sales channels. The best farmers will have access to the right products at the right time, and be able to hire their neighbors who would prefer not to be farmers to do value-added work such as packaging.

Question:

Women, Peace and Security Strategy: Last year Congress passed the Women, Peace and Security Act, which requires the Administration to produce an interagency strategy to increase the representation of women in negotiations to end and recover from conflict overseas.

What steps has USAID taken to strengthen efforts to include the voices of women in preventing and ending conflict?

What role has USAID played in drafting the Women, Peace, and Security Strategy?

Answer:

The Women, Peace of Security Act of 2017 (WPS) affirms that women are integral to achieving lasting peace and national security. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) invests in programming to empower and protect women and girls in countries affected by crisis, conflict, and violent extremism to improve prospects for durable peace and support countries on a path to self-reliance. In the past two years, USAID's WPS programming has supported the substantive participation of more than 70,000 women in critical peace-building processes aimed at preventing conflict or securing lasting peace following the end of violent conflict at local, national, and regional levels. In South Sudan, for example, USAID assistance is strengthening the ability of citizens and civil society to engage government constructively in key consensus-building, peace, and reconciliation processes. USAID funding to South Sudanese civil society supports the Women's Monthly Forum and the participation of women's groups in the peace process sponsored by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development. In Burma, USAID-financed activities are working to enhance women's voice and representation in the country's historic national dialogue processes aimed at establishing a lasting basis for peace.

This programming includes a rapid-response mechanism to provide resources -- including transportation and childcare -- to support the participation of women leaders in peace dialogues and related trainings, as well as small grant funds to increase women's capacity to engage on issues discussed in the peace negotiations, such as security-sector reform; federalism; and the safe, voluntary, and dignified return of internally displaced persons.

Question:

What impact would the proposed decrease in Democracy and Governance funding have on the U.S. ability to promote democracy amid political crises in Ethiopia, Kenya, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Burundi, as well as political transitions in Zimbabwe and South Africa? What programs and countries will remain key priorities for democracy and governance funding? How will this request prioritize election support and observation missions?

Answer:

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) shares the Committee's commitment to promoting democracy, human rights and governance. Democratic backsliding and political crises are concerning trends in many African countries where USAID works. We remain committed to supporting legitimate, democratic transitions across the continent, and to taking action to support new opportunities to open political and civic space.

USAID continues to work with our partners to leverage U.S. investment and ensure continued support for democracy, human rights, and governance, including through the promotion of good governance across development sectors to help guarantee progress in economic growth, health and education. Our Missions have developed close working relationships with other donors on election programs, which has led to more coordinated, co-funded activities. We will continue to seek out these opportunities and build new partnerships with international and domestic organizations to support African countries on their journey to self-reliance. We will prioritize countries and programs for democracy and governance funds that reflect U.S. national-security interests and also address local needs and the potential for programmatic impact.

For example, the leadership transition in the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia presents the best opportunity in decades for possible policy change to address the grievances that are driving social unrest in the country. If conditions allow, USAID will support democratic reforms to enhance citizen-responsive governance and respect for human rights. We have consistently and vocally advocated for space for local civil-society organizations (CSOs) to operate freely, despite the current legal restrictions on them and charitable organizations. We support legal aid services for Ethiopian CSOs and others, and also build the capacity of some local NGOs that are still able to operate. In FY 2017, USAID provided a bilateral allocation of \$4.5M to democracy, human rights, and governance (DRG) programs in Ethiopia through implementing partners such as Pact, Inc. and Justice For All – Prison Fellowship Ethiopia.

The Republic of Kenya risks democratic backsliding as the Government has sought to curtail the powers of the judiciary, media and civil society while the opposition has pursued extra-constitutional means to address its grievances following the prolonged and disputed 2017 presidential election. The recent political reconciliation between President Kenyatta and opposition leader Raila Odinga is a positive step toward healing Kenya's ethnic and political divisions, but both parties need to follow it with concrete actions. USAID programs continue to fund civil society, an independent judiciary, and a national dialogue to resolve long-standing political and economic issues. USAID will focus on strengthening Kenya's nascent devolution processes to increase the government's accountability to its citizens and address local grievances often manipulated to undermine national cohesion. In FY 2017, USAID provided \$17 million to DRG programs in Kenya through partners such as the State University of New York's Center for International Development and Act Change Transform (Act!), a Kenyan NGO.

The elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) scheduled for December 2018 would be the country's first-ever peaceful and democratic transition of power, but this goal requires the Kabila Government to take concrete steps to advance the electoral process. USAID has provided democracy, human rights, and governance funding in the DRC since 2013 to build the foundation for this transition of power, including assistance to the National Electoral Commission, civic and voter education, and political-party strengthening. In FY 2017, USAID provided \$23 million to DRG

programs in DRC through partners such as Counterpart International.

In the Republic of Burundi, where space for civil society and media is extremely limited, USAID continues to make small-scale investments in promoting the civic, political, and economic rights of Burundian citizens; advancing freedom of speech and access to information; and building consensus and social cohesion. In FY 2017, USAID provided \$3 million to DRG programs in Burundi.

The unexpected end of Robert Mugabe's 37-year tenure as President of the Republic of Zimbabwe presents an opening for Zimbabweans to realize the democratic and economic reforms they deserve. President Mnangagwa needs to produce concrete change, not merely promising statements. Thanks to advanced planning and a scenario-based strategy, USAID has quickly and successfully pivoted its programming to capitalize on new opportunities. To leverage the current opening, USAID has expanded its funding to help civil society and democratic activists promote the education and mobilization of voters and oversight of the overall electoral process. In FY 2017, USAID provided a bilateral allocation of \$14.8 million to DRG programs in Zimbabwe through partners such as the International Foundation for Electoral Systems and the Southern African Parliamentary Support Trust.

Despite its economic position, the Republic of South Africa is increasingly politically fragile, because of concerns over "state capture" by influential business interests that led to the ouster of President Jacob Zuma in 2017. South Africa's governing party, the African National Congress (ANC), recently elected new leadership, which will need to address the issues of corruption that plague the current administration. USAID strengthens democracy in South Africa through programs that use new technologies, as well as traditional platforms, to provide constructive avenues for citizens to connect with government and elected officials, while promoting social cohesion and helping to reduce violence. In FY 2017, USAID provided a \$3 million to DRG programs in South Africa.

Question:

Power Africa. The Electrify Africa Act was enacted into law in 2016, establishing the policy of the United States to promote first-time access to power and power services for at least 50,000,000 people in sub-Saharan Africa and encourage the installation of at least 20,000 additional megawatts of electrical power in sub-Saharan Africa by 2020 using a broad mix of energy options to help reduce poverty, promote sustainable development, and drive inclusive economic growth. USAID has been at the forefront of implementing the law, through its Power Africa initiative. In March, the Administration announced a strategy for "Power Africa 2.0", which includes plans to expand beyond previous targets for increased energy generation, access, distribution, and transmission.

Could you please elaborate on the expansion of targets for energy generation and access?

Please describe the economic impact of Power Africa on the continent. What have been the biggest challenges to the Power Africa initiative and how can they be overcome?

Answer:

Power Africa 2.0 will emphasize increasing access and facilitating enabling environments to unleash the potential of the 800 generation projects Power Africa is currently tracking, and ensure the gains achieved under the Electrify Africa Act are sustainable over the long-term. New generation projects

will not be able to deliver power, or have a development impact, unless transmission and distribution infrastructure are in place to provide customers with electricity.
Policy environments must enable continued private investment over the long-term.

While maintaining its transaction-driven approach, under 2.0, Power Africa will pivot to accomplish the following:

- Increase the focus on government reforms and strengthening electric utilities to improve service-delivery and mitigate investment risk;
- Strengthen advocacy for policy reforms by building coalitions with like-minded bilateral and multilateral partners;
- Identify and use new risk-mitigation tools to facilitate increased private-sector investment in the power sector;
- Expand planning support to help the private sector anticipate and respond to opportunities; and
- Increase U.S. private-sector competitiveness through targeted activities in viable markets.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) will continue to fund Power Africa's transaction advisors, and increase the program's focus on strengthening technical and managerial capacity within electric utilities. Power Africa will also work to strengthen power- procurement processes, and ensure a more-transparent, level playing field for the private sector.

Power Africa's economic impact on the African continent includes the facilitation of an increased power supply for commercial and industrial activities, improved livelihoods through the first-time provision of electricity, and the growth of local entrepreneurship and small businesses. For example, the 27 South African renewable Independent Power Projects (IPPs) signed in March 2018 with support from Power Africa are expected to generate nearly 60,000 local jobs, and over US\$ 4 billion of new investment. The Ghana Early Power gas project, which Power Africa backs through technical assistance and a loan guarantee, involves several

U.S. companies, and is expected to provide 19 percent of Ghana's electricity and generate at least \$90 million in U.S. exports. Power Africa's work in Nigeria to help distribution companies reduce their losses has helped them collectively generate US\$ 83 million in new revenues.

Question:

China Foreign Assistance: On March 13, 2018 China announced a new Agency to coordinate foreign assistance, draft policies, make grants, and supervise projects. In creating the Agency, a senior Chinese official said the move is designed "to give full play to foreign aid as a key means of major-country diplomacy," enhance its coordination and "better serve the nation's diplomatic strategy." China gives aid mainly to Africa but commercial interests are more geographically dispersed, and according to AidData, between 2000 and 2014, Chinese official finance was at \$354.3 billion. During the same period, U.S. official finance was at \$394.6 billion. Official finance includes grants, concessional loans, and non-concessional commercial loans.

Where is engagement between USAID and China headed?

Answer:

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is reviewing our strategy for engaging with the People's Republic of China to ensure alignment with the President's National Security Strategy and the National Security Council's Indo-Pacific strategic framework.

Part of USAID's approach is to highlight the clear choice between how the United States approaches development-- local capacity-building aimed at increasing self-reliance, and building the private-sector foundations for trade, investment and equitable and socially responsible growth--with how China has implemented foreign assistance to date. China tends to push illusory deals that result in untenable debt burdens and the loss of control over productive resources by host countries. As we assess and refine our strategy, we are maintaining our engagement with China on efforts that help protect the United States from national-security threats, such as pandemics.

Question:

Does China participate in international coordination meetings in foreign assistance?

Answer:

While the People's Republic of China (PRC) participates in higher-level pledging conferences convened by the United Nations, it is rare for representatives of the PRC to be present in the regular donor-coordination discussions that occur in aid-recipient countries.

Question:

What are the goals of China's assistance in Africa?

Answer:

An extension of the "One Belt, One Road Initiative," Chinese foreign assistance in Africa is a part of a global, multi-pronged strategy to advance Beijing's national-security posture, meet economic needs, and mitigate domestic challenges. High-interest, opaque lending has led to a Chinese military presence in strategic locations, such as Djibouti. At the same time, swaps of Chinese foreign assistance for extractive resources provide raw materials for China's growing manufacturing industries. Chinese infrastructure projects provide jobs for imported Chinese labor, and build a growing market for Chinese goods and services, underwritten by government export credits and risk insurance.

Question:

Do you have evidence that China is adopting internationally agreed standards for providing foreign assistance?

Answer:

The People's Republic of China is one of the largest borrowers from multilateral development banks, such as the World Bank, the International Finance Corporation, and the Asian Development Bank,

and therefore is compelled to adopt internationally agreed standards to continue to have access to these resources (used for domestic projects). However, information on China's foreign assistance is not publicly available, and no reliable official sources exist to ascertain its compliance with internationally agreed standards, nor its effectiveness or sustainability. Various stakeholders in China have expressed interest in learning from AidData's approach to collecting and analyzing Chinese Official Development Assistance.

Question:

What countries are we calling on China to contribute to, just as we do with key allies?

Answer:

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is not asking the People's Republic of China (PRC) to contribute to any particular country, but we are asking the PRC to assume greater financial responsibility, enhance transparency, and increase its share of the burden in funding multilateral institutions.



Questions for the Record from Ranking Member Eliot Engel

The FY 2019 Foreign Assistance Budget

For the Honorable Mark Green

March 21, 2018

Question:

I am concerned that the FY2019 budget says that HIV/AIDS funding will be sufficient for “maintaining all current patients on antiretroviral treatment.” Unfortunately, this budget says nothing about people who live with HIV, but do not know their status and, as such, are not yet on treatment. Will you commit that the United States will continue working to identify and treat all people living with HIV in every country served by those programs?

Answer:

The U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator at the U.S. Department of State, Ambassador Deborah Birx, M.D., leads the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) serves as a key implementer of PEPFAR in more than 50 countries through direct bilateral and regional programs, and as part of the interagency team that manages the U.S. Government’s relationship with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria.

The President’s Budget Request for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 will allow PEPFAR to implement its new 2017-2020 Strategy for working toward sustained epidemic control in 13 priority countries with the highest burden of HIV/AIDS. Furthermore, as Ambassador Birx has indicated, the Request will allow PEPFAR to ensure that patients who are currently on anti-retroviral therapy (ART) continue to receive it, by identifying efficiencies in the prevention, treatment and care of HIV/AIDS, including by making use of lower-cost drugs.

Question:

Last month, the Administration released its review of the expanded Mexico City Policy. The report claims that there have been no service disruptions due to the policy, but that is not what we’ve heard from the field and seen in the media. For example, in Mozambique, the provider AMODEFA has closed 18 youth-friendly clinics and 72 mobile clinics. In Swaziland, the provider FLAS has reduced geographic coverage from 14 towns to 4. In Botswana, BOFWA has closed one clinic and scaled back services at 7 others. What actions are USAID taking to address these gaps in services and to mitigate the negative impacts of your Mexico City Policy? How will the next Policy review evaluate these types of service disruptions?

Answer:

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) takes compliance with the Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance (PLGHA) policy very seriously, and continues to monitor implementation of the policy in its global health programs. As in the past, U.S. Government (USG) Departments and Agencies continue to reprogram to other organizations any USG global health

assistance funding they would have awarded to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that do not agree to the conditions set on the acceptance of U.S. funding under the PLGHA policy, while minimizing disruption of services.

The Department of State (State) is the lead agency in reviewing the PLGHA policy, and recognizes that the initial evaluation took place early in the policy's implementation. As a result, State will lead an additional interagency review of the implementation of the PLGHA policy in late 2018, in which USAID will participate. This further review of the policy is expected to be a more-thorough examination of the benefits, challenges, and potential impact of the policy on the ground, based on more extensive experience in implementing it.

Question:

The Administration has proposed cutting international family planning by more than 50 percent. A cut this large is expected to result in 3.76 million more unintended pregnancies, 1.59 million more abortions – most of which are provided in unsafe conditions – and 7,637 more maternal deaths. Can you explain why you are putting so many women and families at risk and how you plan to address the potential lives lost by these cuts?

Answer:

With the implementation plan for the Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance policy in place, the President's Budget Request for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 proposes \$302 million in new funding for voluntary family planning and reproductive-health investments.

Consistent with the Administration's support for international programs to empower women, United States remains the largest donor of bilateral assistance in voluntary family planning. Other donors and the governments of host countries are assuming more of the funding responsibility for family planning and reproductive health, however, which is a welcome trend. For example, at the 2017 London Summit on Family Planning, 14 donor governments pledged \$2.6 billion toward international family-planning assistance, of which \$1.25 billion is estimated to be new funding. Seventeen developing-country governments made domestic financing commitments, for a total of approximately \$3.8 billion, which marks a growing commitment by partner countries to fund their own programs.

Question:

The review of the expanded Mexico City Policy that was published last month focused on the implementation of the policy and challenges to its implementation. Will you commit to conducting an annual study on the impact of the expanded Mexico City Policy – specifically, the impact on service provision and the individuals who rely on these services?

Answer:

The Department of State (State) is the lead agency in reviewing the Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance (PLGHA) policy, and recognizes that the initial evaluation took place early in the

policy's implementation. As a result, State will lead an additional interagency review of the implementation of the PLGHA policy in late 2018, in which the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) will participate. This further review of the policy is expected to be a more-thorough examination of the benefits, challenges, and potential impact on the ground, based on more-extensive experience in implementing the policy.

Question:

Specifically, how has USAID reallocated FY17 funds that were appropriated for UNFPA (\$32.5 million)? Can you assure us that any transferred funds will be going to our existing international family planning and reproductive health programs that support access to contraceptives and work to combat child marriage, gender-based violence, and female genital mutilation?

Answer:

The Department of State has transferred \$32.5 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 funds originally allocated to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) from the International Organizations and Programs account to the Global Health Programs-U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) account, as a required by Section 7082(b) of the FY 2017 Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act (2017 SFOAA). USAID will make the FY 2017 funds available for voluntary family planning and maternal and women's health activities, subject to the regular notification procedures of the Committees on Appropriations.

Question:

Tuberculosis is now the leading global infectious disease killer, killing 1.7 million people a year, and drug resistance is growing. How can USAID continue its vital work in building capacity to finally end this disease with the cuts proposed in the budget?

Answer:

The Administration continues to prioritize combating infectious-disease threats, including tuberculosis (TB), under the Global Health Security Agenda. The President's Budget Request for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 proposes the same level of funding for efforts to eliminate TB around the world as the FY 2018 request. U.S. Government leadership is engaged in planning for the High-Level Meeting on TB at the United Nations General Assembly in September, and we will continue to encourage the governments of countries with high burdens of TB and the ability to pay to increase their political and financial commitments to fighting the disease, as well as to seek opportunities to raise matching private capital.

Question:

This September, the United Nations will hold the first ever high-level meeting on tuberculosis. How will the U.S. ensure that the final declaration by the Heads of State goes beyond rhetoric and includes a means of objectively tracking progress towards key milestones in the effort to end this disease?

Answer:

Controlling tuberculosis (TB) is an important milestone on a country's journey to self-reliance, and key to advancing the health and prosperity of its population. Since many of the countries with the highest burden of TB have the ability to increase their domestic financial investments to combat the disease, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) recognizes this year's High-Level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly as a rare opportunity to encourage Heads of State to make bold public commitments, and as a call to action for more bilateral and multilateral donors, the private sector, and affected countries to do their part to end TB. In the lead-up to the meeting, South Africa's Ministry of Health and the Prime Minister of India have already made ambitious statements on eliminating TB in their countries, with concrete deliverables. USAID is in dialogue with other countries and leaders to secure more such commitments from governments, as well as from the private sector. We are also working with the World Health Organization and other partners to develop a multi-sectoral accountability framework to measure progress towards meeting the TB 2030 goals.

Question:

I understand that there is a review of FY18 assistance to the Palestinians and perhaps Palestinian assistance more generally. What is the status of this review? What is the timeline for the completion of the review? What are the issues that are being considered in this review? In the context of Palestinian assistance, is it appropriate to condition humanitarian assistance on political progress?

Answer:

U.S. Government assistance to the Palestinians remains under review, and no decision has yet been reached. The Administration seeks to identify how to leverage all our foreign assistance to achieve our policy objectives in the region.

We have long voiced the need to seek out new voluntary funding streams and increase burden-sharing among donors, and the President is committed to ensuring that American foreign assistance serves American interests.

Question:

Hurricanes Irma and Maria devastated the Caribbean this fall. They flattened the islands of Dominica and Barbuda, and wreaked havoc through much of the region. Why was there no assistance for post-hurricane reconstruction in the Caribbean in your FY2019 budget? Will you use existing funding for reconstruction efforts and to make Caribbean countries more resilient to future natural disasters? Please provide a breakdown of how you will do so.

Answer:

In response to the devastation of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, the Offices of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) and Food for Peace (FFP) within the U.S. Agency for International

Development (USAID) and the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) provided nearly \$22 million in humanitarian assistance to respond to the hurricanes that affected Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Dominica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint-Martin, and Sint Maarten. Within that total, USAID provided more than \$6.3 million in direct assistance to Dominica, and \$100,000 to Antigua and Barbuda. USAID also airlifted critical relief supplies to both countries as soon as conditions allowed.

As part of our disaster-preparedness mandate, USAID's experts are continuing to work throughout the year to prepare for the next hurricane season by collaborating closely with governments in the Latin America and Caribbean region to make sure they have emergency and evacuation plans in place. We are also training and providing technical assistance to national disaster organizations and first responders to help build local capacity. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2017, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$35 million in funding for disaster-risk-reduction activities throughout the Hemisphere, including in the Caribbean. USAID/OFDA will continue to work with governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the region to build their ability to prepare for, and respond to, disasters in the coming years.

At this time, the U.S. Government has not committed or redirected previously appropriated funds for reconstruction in the Caribbean, nor does the President's Budget Request for FY 2019 propose explicitly designating funds for post-hurricane reconstruction. USAID continues to work with other donors, the private sector, and the World Bank to assess the long-term reconstruction needs in the region. The international community is conducting assessments, and could contribute future funding for reconstruction efforts based on the findings of these analyses.

However, the President's Budget Request for FY 2019 does include funds for the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative, which addresses crime, violence, and other illegal activities that threaten the United States by strengthening maritime border controls, countering illegal trafficking, and combating the root causes of participation in crime and violence.

In addition, USAID programs in the region are currently investing prior-year funds to advance the Caribbean 2020 Strategy, including through programs that strengthen regional resilience to emergencies and disasters in the Caribbean and serve U.S. national security and economic interests. Question:

The U.S. Strategy for Central America has had broad, bipartisan support in Congress, and I am pleased that it is finally up and running. Unfortunately, the President's immigration policies run counter to everything that USAID is doing in the subregion. On one hand, USAID is addressing the root causes of child migration in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. On the other hand, the President is planning to send TPS holders back to El Salvador and DACA recipients back to all three countries. If the President is able to move forward with his deportation policies, how would that impact your work in Central America? How, if at all, are you planning for this possibility?

Answer:

The work of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in the Northern Triangle advances the U.S. Strategy for Central America, and focuses on addressing the drivers of irregular migration and disrupting the pathways of transnational crime and illicit activity.

Since 2015, USAID has funded the International Organization for Migration in all three Northern Triangle countries to support the safe and dignified return of illegal migrants from the United States and Mexico. The total estimated cost from 2015-2023 is \$36.9 million, with \$8.5 million planned from FY 2017 funds. The majority this work has focused on addressing the immediate needs of returnees, while at the same time supporting the longer-term repatriation efforts of the host governments.

Together with host-country governments, fellow donors, and interagency partners, USAID is assessing opportunities to assist an increasing number of returnees in Central America through existing as well as expanded programming. Since December 2017, each USAID Mission in the Northern Triangle has conducted a bilateral meeting on migration planning, and

the three Missions will meet in San Salvador in early May to continue the review of ongoing programs, and assess new information on the rates of returnees to the region.

USAID is in regular contact with counterpart agencies, including the Departments of State and Homeland Security, to coordinate regarding potential programs and approaches to accommodate increased levels of repatriations in Central America, with a focus on preventing recidivism.

Question:

There have been dramatic changes in several key African countries in recent months, including the departure of Robert Mugabe in Zimbabwe, release of hundreds of political prisoners and resignation of Prime Minister Hailemariam in Ethiopia, and the 'self-inauguration' of Raila Odinga, followed by a heavy-handed government response, in Kenya. Each change presents both threats to democratic governance and, possibly, opportunities to open political space. At the same time, the Administration is requesting \$124 million for democracy and governance programming in Africa to be managed by USAID, a 59% decrease compared to FY2017. What impact would the proposed decrease in democracy and governance funding for Africa have on the U.S. ability to promote democracy amid political crises? What is USAID doing in these three countries to support domestic champions of democratic governance and promote sustainable governance reforms?

Answer:

The staff of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and I share the Committee's commitment to promoting democracy, human rights and governance. Democratic backsliding is a concerning trend in many African countries where USAID works, but supporting legitimate democratic transitions across the continent is part of our core mission, as is taking action to provide new opportunities to open political and civic space. USAID continues to work with partners to leverage U.S. investment and ensure support for democracy and citizen-responsive governance,

including the promotion of good governance to help improve progress in economic growth, health and education.

USAID plans to provide funding for the upcoming political processes in countries across Africa, including in Mali, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Nigeria, all of which are facing pivotal transitions. USAID programs work to improve the transparency and accountability of electoral institutions, and engage all stakeholders - parties, candidates, civil society, and voters - to participate in political processes and use appropriate channels to resolve disputes peacefully.

Zimbabwe

The unexpected end of Robert Mugabe's 37-year rule presents an opening for Zimbabweans to realize the democratic and economic reforms they deserve. President Mnangagwa needs to produce concrete reforms, not merely issue promising statements. Thanks to advanced planning and the scenario-based strategy developed by our Mission in Harare, USAID has quickly and successfully pivoted its programming to capitalize on new opportunities presented by the change in leadership. USAID promotes more-accountable, democratic governance by supporting active engagement by citizens that serves the interests of all Zimbabweans. Specifically, USAID has expanded its funding to civil-society and democratic activists to promote increased education and mobilization of voters, and oversight of the overall electoral process. USAID assistance also promotes an improved legal environment for a credible electoral process through locally driven advocacy and strategic litigation. In FY 2016 and FY 2017, USAID provided central and bilateral allocations of \$ 28.4M to democracy, human rights, and governance (DRG) programs in Zimbabwe.

Ethiopia

The recent leadership transition in Ethiopia presents the best opportunity in decades for possible democratic reforms to address the grievances that have been driving social unrest in the country. If conditions allow, USAID will support democratic reforms to enhance citizen- responsive governance and respect for human rights. USAID has consistently and vocally advocated for space for civil-society organizations (CSOs) to operate freely in Ethiopia, given the current government restrictions on CSOs and charitable organizations. USAID continues to fund legal aid services for Ethiopian CSOs and others, and, where possible, also builds the capacity of some local non-governmental organizations that are still able to operate. In FY 2016 and FY 2017, USAID provided a bilateral allocation of \$6.0M for DRG programming in Ethiopia.

Kenya

Kenya risks democratic backsliding, as the Kenyatta Government has sought to curtail the powers of the judiciary, media and civil society, while the opposition has pursued extra- constitutional means to address its grievances following the prolonged and disputed 2017 presidential election process. The recent political reconciliation between President Kenyatta and opposition leader Raila Odinga is a positive step toward healing Kenya's ethnic and political divisions, but both parties need to follow up with concrete actions. USAID's programs in Kenya support civil society, an independent judiciary, and a national dialogue to resolve long-standing political and economic issues. USAID will continue its focus on strengthening Kenya's nascent devolution processes, to

increase the Government's accountability to its citizens and address local grievances often manipulated to undermine national cohesion. USAID will also leverage local development opportunities to bring together county-level branches of Kenya's opposing political parties in an attempt to bridge the political divide that remains from the contentious 2017 election cycle. In FY 2016 and FY 2017, USAID provided central and bilateral allocations of \$29.1M for DRG programming in Kenya.

Question:

The U.S. is contributing significant amounts of security assistance to Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Chad, and Mauritania in support of efforts to counter terrorism and illicit trafficking in the Sahel. However, these countries are fragile—their democracies are not consolidated; many of their people live in poverty; their militaries have capacity challenges and sometimes commit human rights abuses. What are your thoughts on how development and stabilization work by USAID could better support counterterrorism efforts in the Sahel? How is USAID contributing to building community resilience and promoting good governance to ensure that these countries are stable, democratic allies?

Answer:

West Africa continues to be prone to acute shocks and chronic vulnerabilities, with varied causes: scarcity of water, extreme weather, high levels of poverty, minimal access to healthcare, poor governance, and increased conflict and violent extremism. Violent extremist organizations (VEOs), such as Boko Haram and Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), have displaced millions from their homes and communities, and reversed economic and social progress in vast swathes of the Sahel and the Lake Chad Basin. Programs funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) address these challenges, by facilitating growth, contributing to improved health, and helping countries in West Africa break out of chronic poverty. These efforts assist households and communities become more resilient and less-vulnerable to shocks and stresses, as well as less-susceptible to the influence of VEOs.

Programming to Counter Violent Extremism (CVE): USAID's CVE investments in West Africa focus on supporting national governments to prevent and thwart violence and instability, and promote resilient, functioning societies. For example, USAID's Partnerships for Peace program collaborates with West African regional institutions – such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Group of Five Sahel neighbors (G5) – to improve security, develop CVE strategies, and reduce vulnerability to conflict of at-risk communities. The project also supports networks of West African advocacy and practitioner groups to improve CVE coordination. USAID's Voices for Peace program promotes moderate figures to advance peace and tolerance in high-risk areas of the Sahel by producing and broadcasting radio and video programs in local languages on the themes of peace, tolerance, good governance, and human rights. In addition, USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives has expanded programming in the Lake Chad Basin to respond to the challenges of Boko Haram and the Islamic State-West Africa. This work addresses key drivers of extremism, including marginalization and exclusion in at-risk communities, by supporting local governments' responsiveness to their constituents, and enhancing activities by civil society to promote peace and encourage government-citizen collaboration.

Resilience Programming: USAID’s resilience investments in West Africa seek to address the underlying causes of vulnerability and risk that lead to a cycle of humanitarian crisis and response whenever a climatic or other shock occurs. For example, USAID’s Resilience in the Sahel Enhanced (RISE) initiative in Burkina Faso and Niger targets chronically vulnerable people through a combination of humanitarian and development programming. The project’s activities in agriculture, access to micro-finance, the management of natural resources and health focus on resilience-enhancing practices that have benefitted over two million people since 2013. Early-Warning of and Response to Conflict: To get ahead of crises, USAID funds ECOWARN, a project in early-warning and response that aims to improve the ability of West Africans to anticipate and mitigate conflict of all types. In addition, USAID’s Mitigating Election Violence through National Early-Warning Systems project hopes to diminish electoral violence in West African countries, by expanding and strengthening national networks that provide early warning of conflict.

Question:

The turmoil in South Sudan, which started in late 2013, has clearly required USAID to change its approach to the country, focusing more on humanitarian assistance than development. However, there are several states in South Sudan that are less affected by the conflict. What types of development programs is USAID able to continue doing in the country and how has your approach to development changed given the circumstances?

Answer:

Since South Sudan’s conflict began in December 2013, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has shifted its development assistance from traditional programs focused on improving government capacity and institution-building to meeting the basic needs of the people of South Sudan. The horrors of the conflict are now so catastrophic and widespread— nearly half the South Sudanese population needs food assistance, and atrocities, including rampant sexual violence, are occurring with total impunity—that they have gravely affected nearly all the country’s citizens.

Despite the U.S. Government’s sustained pressure on the Government of South Sudan to use public resources responsibly and provide for its people, most South Sudanese are not receiving any services from the Kiir Administration. To maximize access to basic health care, pharmaceuticals and health commodities for South Sudanese citizens, USAID works with other donors to contribute to the Health Pooled Fund, which provides essential health care in eight of South Sudan’s 10 legacy states through an agreement with the United Kingdom Department for International Development. USAID-funded programs are also increasing access to safe drinking water, providing basic sanitation services, promoting good hygiene practices, and helping prevent and respond to gender-based violence, through an agreement with the International Organization for Migration.

South Sudan has the world’s highest proportion of out-of-school children—72 percent of primary schoolers —and the lowest literacy rate, at 27 percent. After the conflict began, USAID shifted from traditional education assistance to emergency education programming to reach children and youth displaced by conflict. USAID-funded programs provide safe spaces for students to learn not only basic literacy and numeracy, but also life skills, such as preventing gender-based violence and

practicing good hygiene to avoid illness, through UNICEF. Without this assistance, decades of development potential could be lost.

To help address widespread food insecurity and livelihoods ruined by displacement and violence, USAID is investing with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization to prevent households in targeted areas from slipping into more-dire levels of food insecurity by helping them rebuild agriculture, fisheries, and livestock-production.

The flexibility of USAID's conflict-mitigation program in South Sudan (contract with AECOM, \$11.5 million in FY 2017) enables the Agency to help prevent local-level disputes from feeding into the larger national conflict by funding a broad array of grassroots and nascent local organizations involved in peace-building. These efforts include strengthening relationships between conflict-affected communities by supporting trade and other locally driven economic activities, so that community interdependence reinforces peace.

Question:

The U.S. has invested both time and money in promoting a democratic transition in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where President Joseph Kabila has overstayed his term in office. However, strengthening Congo's institutions and democratic traditions doesn't end with Kabila stepping down or an election this year. What more can USAID do to promote democracy, support political party trainings, and strengthen civil society in the years ahead?

Answer:

The electoral-support program in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) increases the participation by informed citizens in the DRC's electoral and political processes. Activities include civic and voter education, domestic observation of elections; training for political parties; and targeted technical assistance for the National Electoral Commission, La Commission Electorale Nationale Indépendante, known by its French acronym "CENI." USAID has provided \$37 million in support of these activities.

Key achievements of the program to date include the following:

Financing DRC's leading domestic observer group to deploy over 300 long-term observers to monitor the registration of voters and provide timely recommendations to CENI to improve this process; Providing quality civic and voter education to an estimated 11 million Congolese through a nationwide media program, and to 1.9 million Congolese through face-to-face community campaigns led by civil-society organizations; Helping ten political parties reform their internal management processes, develop policies more responsive to Congolese citizens, and expand the roles of women and youth within their structures; and Establishing protection networks for human-rights defenders in North Kivu, South Kivu, Kinshasa, Haut Katanga, and Kasai Oriental Provinces: 173 CSOs joined the five protection networks, and received training in how to report human-rights violations by using a secure, on-line reporting mechanism.

The networks responded to a total of 49 threats to human-rights defenders in Fiscal Year 2017, and referred victims to legal aid and emergency service- providers when appropriate.

USAID also has other democracy and governance programming in DRC, because we recognize that elections are critical, but not the only factor in fostering peace, creating an inclusive society, promoting a citizen-responsive government, and protecting human rights in DRC. Increased transparency and accountability of government are at the heart of USAID's 2015-2019 Country Development Cooperation Strategy for the DRC. All our activities work in concert to promote participation, inclusion, transparency, and accountability in national and local institutions to support the long-term transition in the DRC to self-reliance. While continuing to support our civil-society and media partners, we also look forward to forging a more-productive relationship with counterparts in a democratically elected Government of the DRC following the elections.

Question:

The FY2019 budget proposal states that an unspecified portion of \$71 million in requested USAID-Africa Regional funds will support the Power Africa initiative and targets identified under the Electrify Africa Act of 2015 (P.L. 114-121). This is the only mention of Power Africa in the aid budget request. Please clarify the Trump Administration's approach to implementing Power Africa and what changes, if any, you are seeking to the program.

Answer:

In implementing the bipartisan Electrify Africa Act, Power Africa has helped provide first-time electricity access to over 50 million people through 12 million new connections (on-grid and off-grid). Coordinated by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Power Africa remains an important Administration effort, as universal energy access is a priority in the recently released National Security Strategy.

In February 2018, I launched the Power Africa 2.0 Strategy, which maintains a transaction-driven approach to advance the goals of the Electrify Africa Act, while placing a renewed emphasis on improving enabling environments, to move from assistance towards prosperous partnership. To do this, Power Africa will place greater emphasis on promoting critical reforms to national power utilities and regulators, encouraging investment in more-robust transmission and distribution networks, and improving the business climate needed to attract or sustain private-sector engagement over the long-term. Power Africa will continue to leverage leadership, innovation and partnerships to open up opportunities for U.S. products and technology.

The President's Budget Request for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 includes a planned level of \$45.5 million at USAID for Power Africa to support these reforms and partnerships critical to the development and sustainability of the power sector on the continent. The \$45.5 million would be spread among multiple USAID Missions and Operating Units, including Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda, and regional platforms.

Question:

The USAID Rule of Law (ROL) Project in Serbia is a four-year, \$9.8 million project supporting justice sector reforms to enhance the timely delivery of justice for Serbian citizens. While I support this effort, it does not address the continued need to deal with the vast post-conflict justice issues

still confronting Serbia. The International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) prosecuted people who perpetrated crimes during the wars in Bosnia and Croatia. However, Serbian government officials, military personnel, and private citizens who committed crimes in the Kosovo War have not been brought to justice – now almost 20 years since the end of the war. How is the U.S. assistance program helping Serbia address the serious post-conflict justice issues which still overlay the troubled relations between Kosovo and Serbia? If our program does not address these issues, how will you adjust or expand it to help Serbia bring to justice those who committed war crimes and crimes against humanity during the Kosovo War?

Answer:

The U.S. Government has provided assistance through various mechanisms to support reform in Serbia's judiciary and criminal code. With assistance from the Department of Justice, Serbia adopted a new Criminal Procedural Code (CPC), which enables prosecutors to pursue any criminal activity--including war crimes.

Assistance from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) on the rule of law in Serbia focuses on improving the efficiency, effectiveness, and professionalism of the country's judiciary. This includes developing the justice sector's ability to enforce judgments, helping develop a judicial-reform strategy, supporting efforts to meet rule-of-law requirements for accession to the European Union, and streamlining the operations of courts. The resulting enhanced professionalism will help Serbia's judicial system to assert greater independence over the long term in addressing issues related to crimes committed during the conflict with Kosovo.



Question for the Record from Representative Dana Rohrabacher

The FY 2019 Foreign Assistance Budget

For the Honorable Mark Green

March 21, 2018

Question:

Good nutrition, especially during the 1,000 days between a woman's pregnancy and her child's second birthday, builds the foundation for health and well-being. USAID nutrition programs save lives and contribute to early brain development, which is vital to future economic success.

Between 2009 and 2016, stunting within USAID's nutrition priority countries decreased from 40 percent to 34 percent. More than 27 million children under age 5 were reached by nutrition interventions in 2016 alone. Despite the obvious success of these programs, the Administration has once again proposed a roughly 40 percent cut to nutrition funding within the Global Health Programs account (GHP-USAID) for FY19. This level of cut would result in 11 million children not being reached with vital nutrition interventions.

Given the tremendous potential of nutrition to improve human capital, how can we expect to expand economic opportunities and transform communities on their journeys toward self-reliance?

Answer:

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) will continue to implement effective nutrition programs to prevent the long-term effects of malnutrition, such as stunting. Funds will support evidence-based approaches to nutrition, and innovations to improve outcomes for the most-vulnerable populations. Our activities currently focus on the prevention of undernutrition through nutrition education to pregnant and breast-feeding mothers, and improving the quality and diversification of families' diets, including through fortified or bio-fortified staple foods, specialized food products, and community gardens. USAID is addressing malnutrition crises through its emergency food assistance and disaster-response activities, by using specialized foods to treat malnourished children and prevent vulnerable children and pregnant and lactating women from deteriorating further.

As USAID works to achieve our global nutrition goals, we will continue to engage our development and host-country partners, as well as the private sector, to share the burden of this immense investment. In addition, we will continue to strengthen the capacity of local organizations and leverage their investments in nutrition, with the goal of one day transitioning these countries from development assistance to self-reliance.

Questions for the Record from Representative Brad Sherman
The FY 2019 Foreign Assistance Budget
For the Honorable Mark Green
March 21, 2018

Question:

A key tool for improving our image in the world is making sure people who receive American aid know that the aid is coming from the United States. Will you commit to supporting “flag on the bag” to the maximum extent practicable?

Answer:

Branding and marking is a critical tool for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to communicate the generosity of the American people. Studies have confirmed that increased visibility of foreign aid results in a more-positive opinion of the United States by the public in other countries.

USAID supports visible branding to the maximum extent possible, and makes exceptions only in rare cases when it might pose a political, safety, or security risk to our implementing partners or our beneficiaries. In conflict-affected environments, such as Syria, Iraq, Somalia, or Yemen, USAID must carefully consider if branding would have any unintended negative reactions or consequences in the host country, especially to those whose lives we are working to save.

I have asked our Acting Deputy Administrator, David Moore, to lead an internal working group to review our branding policies and recommend any adjustments needed so we can enforce them more consistently.

Question:

Last year, the United States provided hundreds of millions of dollars in aid to Pakistan, but Sindh did not get anywhere near 23% of this aid, which is its share of Pakistan’s population. Would you support greater aid for the Sindh region of Pakistan?

Answer:

U.S. assistance programming and budget priorities in Pakistan consider a combination of factors. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) typically directs our assistance to areas where humanitarian, development, and U.S. national-security needs are greatest, and where opportunities exist for making progress on a country’s journey to self-reliance. USAID also takes into account the amount of Pakistan’s own domestic resources made available to each Province.

USAID has a robust development-assistance portfolio in Sindh Province, which in Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 totalled \$36.872 million in disbursements. Our current activities in Sindh focus on constructing transmission lines for clean-energy projects; a workforce program that targets

disadvantaged youth from some of Karachi's most-challenging neighborhoods; municipal services in Northern Sindh; community-level activities to counter violent extremism in Karachi; increasing enrollment in schools; and improving infrastructure and technical capacity for the delivery of quality health care.

USAID works closely with the Government of Sindh (GoS) to coordinate our assistance resources effectively, and to increase local financing for projects. For example, the GoS has committed additional funds to build schools in Northern Sindh to match USAID's contribution. The GoS is funding Education Management Organizations (EMOs) to run 23 schools that USAID has constructed, and is expanding the EMO model to 25 schools built with other funding sources. The GoS has budgeted \$45 million to support EMOs, train teachers, and make upgrades to schools. Similarly, in the health sector USAID is collaborating with the GoS to combine funding to enhance the health care of millions of mothers and children throughout the Province.

Additionally, USAID's nationwide programs in Pakistan facilitate development gains in key sectors, such as health and basic education, that also benefit Sindh Province.

Question:

Given the cutback in USAID programs, will the Administration continue to support USAID's American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) and their programs in Armenia?

Answer:

The grant recipients of the American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) program of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) model the best of American values, and demonstrate the latest technologies, pedagogies, and management approaches of American partners.

USAID/ASHA receives more than 200 applications each year to its Annual Program Statement, and all competitively reviewed. USAID/ASHA has a long history of supporting projects in Armenia through this process. In the last decade, we have provided \$7,000,000 in funds to support Armenian universities and healthcare institutions.

Question:

The economic cost to Armenia of the blockades by Turkey and Azerbaijan is substantial. How does the work of USAID help to offset this?

Answer:

Because Armenia's small domestic market is further compromised by two closed borders, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) supports the Government of Armenia in its efforts to advance reforms to liberalize civil aviation to make the country a more-desirable tourism destination. USAID's cultural and rural tourism activities seek to create new

opportunities for Armenia's small and medium-sized businesses to grow and generate income while furthering rural economic resiliency.

USAID further provides Armenia with assistance to develop its human-capital endowment and its ability to advance in one of the world's most-advantageous sectors – information technology. As a direct result of USAID's engagement, large multinational corporations, such as Microsoft, National Instruments, and International Business Machines, have made substantial investments in Armenia through public-private partnerships. In the energy sector, USAID supports market-liberalization and regional integration, which are fundamental to improving Armenia's investment climate, by providing investors more regulatory certainty through market rules and economies of scale consistent with Western approaches.

USAID investments in agribusiness and hospitality-management continue to bolster rural development across the country, reaching some of Armenia's most marginalized communities, through efforts to improve the financial-management and business-planning capacity and awareness of different financing and investment options among local small and medium-sized enterprises.

USAID also supports inclusive growth in Armenia through activities that develop new and sustainable value-chains, champion competitive industries with the potential to create jobs, increase access to markets and resources, and improve the playing field for innovation, investments, and businesses. With a focus on improving the business skills and trade capacity of local firms, USAID promotes Armenian competitiveness in regional and international markets, which leads to increased trade, sales, and employment.

Question:

As you know, the House passed an amendment to include de-mining funding to Nagorno Karabakh in the FY 2018 appropriations bill. What are USAID's spending plans for FY 2019 and beyond, and will you commit to fully completing de-mining in and around Nagorno Karabakh as quickly as possible?

Answer:

The United States provides demining assistance to Nagorno-Karabakh (N-K) through a project funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by HALO Trust. As of September 2017, with only 27 known active minefields remaining, HALO Trust has cleared 97.6 percent of the mined areas within the traditional N-K Autonomous Oblast. Our ultimate goal is to be able to declare traditional N-K mine-clear. More than 125,000 people have benefited from these interventions, which save lives, prevent injuries, generate local jobs, and promote economic rehabilitation. In October 2017, USAID reprogrammed approximately \$2.8 million for N-K demining, which will extend demining activities until September 2019, when USAID assistance for de-mining under the current award and partnership with HALO Trust will be complete. We remain focused on completing demining as quickly, and as thoroughly, as possible.

Question:

International family planning is an important part of USAID's mission. Can you ensure USAID will support robust family planning efforts, including efforts to provide access to modern contraceptive methods?

Answer:

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) continues to invest in robust family-planning efforts, guided by the principles of voluntarism and informed choice. With the implementation plan for the Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance policy in place, the President's Budget Request for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 restores \$302 million in funding for voluntary family planning and reproductive health investments, consistent with the Administration's support for programs to empower women. USAID works to ensure individuals and couples have a broad range of choices available to them to decide freely whether and when to have children, and receive comprehensible information on the method of their choice. USAID also supports the introduction and expansion of new and improved contraceptive technologies that meet the diverse needs of women and couples through their reproductive lives.

USAID procures, and will continue to procure and make available, a broad range of modern contraceptive methods—from methods based on fertility-awareness to short- and long-acting reversible methods to voluntary, permanent methods.



Questions for the Record from Representative Gerald Connolly

The FY 2019 Foreign Assistance Budget

For the Honorable Mark Green

March 21, 2018

Question:

One of the pillars of USAID's redesign effort is moving partner countries toward "strategic transitions," or self-reliance. Working with a partner country to reduce and eventually eliminate reliance on U.S. foreign assistance should always be the goal of development programs.

However, it is clear this Administration has already concluded that our investments abroad need to be gutted. How will you ensure that this reform effort advances development goals and does not justify further cuts to our foreign assistance programs? Which specific metrics will USAID use to measure a partner country's progress toward self-reliance?

Answer:

"Self-reliance" is the ability of countries to manage and finance their own development journeys. For countries that exhibit a high-degree of self-reliance, this simply means examining, with the rest of the U.S. Government, Congress, and the host government, how to take our partnership to the next level, and foster a strategic transition beyond the traditional donor-recipient paradigm. A strategically transitioned partnership can take a wide variety of forms, is necessarily multi-stakeholder (i.e., involves more than just the investments of one U.S. Government Department or Agency), will take place in accordance with each country's particular context, and should leave behind a binational legacy. Ultimately, this process is about identifying the right form of relationship to support a country to advance, wherever it is on its development journey.

To aid in this process, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is currently developing a set of primary metrics that will form an important part of our assessment of a country's relative level of self-reliance. On one side, the indicators will examine a country's level of open and accountable government, commitment to inclusive development, and economic policy choices, and, on the other, its overall level of capacity across government, civil society, the citizenry, and the economy. The specific metrics are still under development, but will all come from respected, independent, third-party, publicly available sources. It is also important to underscore that the metrics will only be one part of assessing self-reliance; they will augment the range of country-level analyses and related tools the Agency already uses to examine and assess its partner countries, including (for example) analyses of constraints to growth. Unlike the metrics used by the Millennium Challenge Corporation, our metrics will not determine eligibility for assistance; rather, they will provide a snapshot of a country's progress, and help us identify areas for investment in which USAID programs would be well-positioned to help accelerate local capacity and self-reliance.

Question:

The Burmese military has carried out a campaign of ethnic cleansing against the Rohingya in Rakhine State, spurring nearly 700,000 Rohingya refugees to flee across the border into

Bangladesh since August 2017. As the impending cyclone and monsoon seasons approach, more than 100,000 refugees in Bangladesh are living in makeshift camps in areas prone to flooding and landslides. How is the United States helping to prepare the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh for the upcoming cyclone and monsoon seasons and the increased risk of water-borne diseases?

Answer:

The upcoming cyclone and monsoon seasons—April through October—pose a serious risk to the Rohingya refugee population in Bangladesh. Much of the land on which the refugee camps and settlements in Cox’s Bazar District sit is steep or low-lying, and denuded of trees and vegetation, a combination that makes the area prone to both flooding and landslides. At least 210,000 individuals are living in flood- and landslide-prone areas and are at risk of loss of life, shelter, and access to life-saving services. At-risk households are in critical need of relocation to safer areas immediately.

Since I testified before your Committee, to I have met with Ambassador William Swing, the Director-General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and Filippo Grandi, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and my staff has met with Governor David Beasley, the Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP), to discuss our joint preparations for the upcoming cyclone and monsoon season in Bangladesh. Their assessments were stark, but I can tell you that the the Government of Bangladesh and the international humanitarian community, including the U.S. Government (USG), are working day and night to prepare to mitigate this impending crisis.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has been providing robust support alongside the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (State/PRM) to respond to the refugee crisis in Bangladesh. To date in FY18, the USG has provided more than \$101 million towards the response, including more than \$26 million in food assistance through USAID’s Office of Food for Peace. Anticipating the upcoming seasonal hazards, which will limit access to the Rohingya refugees, USAID and State/PRM partners are developing preparedness plans for the monsoon and cyclone seasons alongside the host government and other counterparts. USG staff have been active at various levels to help with this effort.

For example, USAID partner WFP has begun prepositioning food stocks and cooking materials in Bangladesh, mobilizing porters to carry food assistance to vulnerable and weather- affected populations in hard-to-reach areas, and planning to improve roads to distribution points. In addition, WFP procured 20 shipping containers that humanitarian organizations will use to store critical commodities in and around the camps during the cyclone and monsoon seasons. General emergency food distributions will continue throughout the upcoming months. Similarly, humanitarian actors have begun reinforcing, decommissioning or relocating essential nutrition facilities, child friendly spaces and latrines at risk of flooding and landslides in the camps in Bangladesh. The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) is also reinforcing its contingency stocks with additional hygiene and dignity kits, chlorine, soap and buckets, and has mobilized community volunteers to engage the Rohingya refugee community on cyclone- awareness, disaster-preparedness and hygiene-promotion.

USG partners are in the process of relocating vulnerable Rohingya families who living in flood-prone areas in the camps to sites deemed safe from flooding and landslides, including more than 380 families between February 20 and March 19. Given the limited land available in the settlements, UNHCR, IOM and others are coordinating with the Government of Bangladesh to identify additional safe areas for the relocation of at-risk households. USG partners are providing households with materials to strengthen and tie-down shelters, as well as working with the Bangladeshi authorities to identify more-durable shelter solutions. We are also funding efforts to map health facilities, including where trauma-care services are available to respond in the event of serious injuries. Health actors are prepositioning critical medical supplies, and training community health workers, including to deliver psychological first aid. In addition, they are preparing to adapt early-warning and response systems for infectious disease to maintain functionality through the possible loss of communication systems, as well as establishing a management system for the missing and dead if casualties occur.

In terms of education, humanitarian organizations have identified at least 244 temporary learning centers (TLCs), which serve 10,000 children, that are at high risk of damage or destruction during the monsoons. Our partners are working to close high-risk TLCs, and establish new centers in relocation areas, as well as exploring alternative ways to deliver education, such as the shared use of other community spaces, mobile learning, and radio-based teaching.

I plan to travel to Bangladesh in May to see the situation myself, inspect the preparations for the cyclone and monsoon season, and hear first-hand the stories of the Rohingya refugees.

I would be pleased to brief you and your colleagues upon my return.

Question:

In the President's FY 2019 budget request, the Trump Administration proposed moving USAID's Development Credit Authority (DCA) into a new development finance institution (DFI), to be built around the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC). How would the establishment of a new U.S. development finance institution affect USAID's ability to stimulate growth in the private sector?

Answer:


The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has been working closely within the interagency to plan for close institutional and programmatic linkages with the new Development Finance Institution (DFI). Assuming the USAID and the new DFI are successful in building sufficient linkages between the two institutions, the Agency would have access to a broader range of financing tools available through the DFI than currently available through just the Development Credit Authority (DCA) program. That would enable USAID Missions and the DFI to tie the financing tools more closely with USAID technical-assistance programs to stimulate growth in the private sector more effectively.

Question:

How will you ensure cooperation between this new DFI and USAID's programs and functions that support private sector growth, including DCA and enterprise funds?

Answer:

The goal is to ensure that the consolidation of the Development Credit Authority (DCA) program of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) into the proposed Development Finance Institution (DFI) provides greater opportunities for the new organization to link directly with USAID programs and Missions. This approach would be critical to ensuring transactions developed with DFI tools serve the U.S. Government's development strategies within targeted countries, supported by ongoing technical assistance programs on the ground funded by USAID. While creating these critical linkages would closely align the DFI with USAID Missions, formal institutional linkages at headquarters would also be crucial, from the Board of Directors through to the staff that would be making investment decisions.



Questions for the Record from Representative David Cicilline
The FY 2019 Foreign Assistance Budget
For the Honorable Mark Green
March 21, 2018

Question:

Is humanitarian assistance reaching populations who need it within the city of Afrin, or the surrounding areas, which have been captured by Turkish forces and Turkish-supported militias? Can you please give us and update as to any discussions USAID is having with Turkey and other aid partners about getting relief to civilians within this area?

Answer:

Aid agencies have limited visibility about conditions for the 50,000-70,000 people still in Afrin town. The United Nations (UN) reports that humanitarian assistance is reaching the estimated 137,000 people displaced from Afrin District, and that there are no large-scale unmet needs, despite the ongoing access challenges. The situation is fluid, however, and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) remains concerned about the lack of regular and sustained humanitarian access to Afrin.

On March 25, with U.S. Government (USG) support, a UN and Syrian Arab Red Crescent interagency convoy delivered emergency assistance to people who fled Afrin District for Tell Refaat. The convoy included medical supplies for approximately 14,480 treatments; relief commodities for 10,000 people; and emergency food assistance for 75,000 people. A UN shipment was planned to go from Turkey into Afrin between April 2 and 6, and will also contain USG-funded relief commodities and food items.

As of March 29, the UN World Food Programme (WFP), a USAID partner, had provided food assistance to approximately 150,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) from Afrin and host-community members in Tell Refaat, Nabal, Zahra, and A'zaz towns. The WFP is also prepared to provide food assistance through its cross-border operation in Turkey, should security conditions permit.

In addition to the U.S. Government-financed aid, the UN reports that a number of Turkish organizations and Syrian non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are providing emergency assistance, including food, hygiene kits, relief commodities, and health supplies, to both those who have fled Afrin and the population that remains.

USAID, the State Department, and other donors have met with the President of Turkey's Disaster and Emergency Management Authority to press for unfettered aid access, and protection and freedom of movement for IDPs. The UN also continues to negotiate with Turkish authorities for improved access to Afrin and surrounding areas in Northern Syria, and USAID supports these efforts.

Question:

Recently, the Administration has withheld partial funding for UNWRA, the UN agency which provides education, healthcare and other essential services to Palestinian refugees. Ambassador

Nikki Haley has made statements suggesting that future funding for UNWRA should be dependent upon the Palestinian Authority sitting down for negotiations with Israel. In your opinion should humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people—including USAID projects—be linked to political progress on the peace process? More generally, should humanitarian assistance be conditioned upon political developments? Could this lead to further instability?

Answer:

The Administration seeks to identify how to leverage all U.S. Government assistance to achieve its policy objectives in the region. The President is committed to ensuring that American foreign assistance serves American interests.

We will continue to work for peace, through a process we hope will offer the best outcome for both the Israeli and Palestinian peoples.

Question:

This budget requests \$75 million in economic assistance for Egypt, which includes funding for democracy and development. Egyptian President el-Sisi recently ratified Egypt's NGO law, which continues policies making it virtually impossible for independent civil society to operate in Egypt as a result of restrictive registration and funding processes. With this new law in place, what kind of economic, development, or democracy programming is even possible for U.S. assistance to support in Egypt? Do you believe that repeal of this NGO law should be a pre-requirement to the U.S. providing continued economic aid to Egypt?

Answer:

My colleagues and I at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) remain concerned about the implementation of the Egyptian law on non-governmental organizations (NGOs), which has the potential to neutralize civil society and complicate ongoing and future U.S. assistance in Egypt. We meet regularly with our Egyptian and international civil-society implementing partners to understand how the NGO law will affect their work. We are awaiting the issuance of regulations that will determine how the Egyptian Government will implement the NGO law.

I have repeatedly underscored our concerns to Egyptian officials regarding the new NGO law, most recently in a meeting with Minister of International Cooperation Dr. Sahar Nasr in April 2018. USAID will continue to advocate for the key roles NGOs play in social and economic development, and insist the Government of Egypt (GOE) maintain its commitments made under international agreements to exempt foreign assistance from taxes and certain fees, as well as facilitate the efficient implementation of USAID-funded activities.

We use a wide range of foreign-policy tools, including development assistance and diplomatic engagement, to advance U.S. interests with Egypt. Implementing partners are working successfully in Egypt across a number of sectors, including democracy and governance, economic growth, education, and health. Our programs give future generations the tools to succeed and provide opportunities for Egypt's large youth population as it enters higher education and the workforce. We also improve the productivity of agriculture and water systems, and enhance livelihoods in rural

zones where poverty and the lack of jobs, especially for youth and women, are too common.

Question:

What do you believe are the three highest priority areas that we are trying to target through our assistance in Afghanistan? If you were to do a lessons learned from our decades of assistance to Afghanistan, what would be your top three takeaways about aid delivery in a conflict environment?

Answer:

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is developing a new, five-year strategy for Afghanistan within the context of President Trump's South Asia Strategy. At its core, the new USAID Afghan development strategy will help achieve U.S. national-security interests by working with the Departments of Defense and State to strengthen the ability of the Government of Afghanistan (GoA) to be an effective counterterrorism partner for the United States. Our Afghan development strategy will focus on increasing the GoA's revenue base by enabling economic growth led by the private sector, and on strengthening service-delivery in Government-controlled areas. The objective is to reduce the GoA's reliance on donor assistance, improve the country's stability, and enhance accountability for our assistance. Our key approaches and objectives include the following:

Driving Afghanistan's economic growth by promoting private-sector efforts, with a focus on a market- and population-centered strategy, concentrated in five urban areas.

This will include promoting market linkages domestically, regionally and internationally; supporting a climate for transparent, legitimate investment in businesses to generate greater revenue for the GoA; improving trade policy; expanding export-processing; and creating jobs in targeted value chains and urban areas.

Increasing citizens' confidence in their government and incentivize the GoA's reform agenda through a performance-based conditionality model. Our strategy will support Afghan elections (including the 2019 presidential election), as well as promote channels for increasing citizens' engagement. We will also employ a more-mature, direct bilateral approach by deploying experts from various U.S. Government Departments and Agencies, such as the Department of Commerce and the U.S. Geological Survey within the Department of the Interior, to engage directly with GoA officials.

Maintain social-sector gains made over the past 16 years, by helping advance the GoA's priorities in health and education. In all our assistance efforts, we will strengthen our accountability systems, especially by using third-party monitors.

As part of formulating this new approach, USAID sought to identify key lessons learned from our engagement in Afghanistan to date. These takeaways include the following:

A complex and frequently changing operating environment like Afghanistan requires a flexible strategy with "pause and reflect" points to assess its validity and core assumptions, and adapt to uncertainty.

Given the USAID Mission's decreasing resources and the country's declining security, focusing

programming in urban and peri-urban areas within the GoA's control could be more efficacious, and enable a strategic overlap of projects and investments.

The private sector plays a pivotal role in addressing a number of trends in Afghanistan, including the country's rapid population growth, increasing unemployment, low economic growth, and continued dependence on international donors. Improving the business environment to facilitate growth and expansion will help generate revenue for the GoA and help increase the formation of businesses and the creation of jobs. Working with and empowering the private sector will continue to be a key U.S. Government focus across all

Afghan industry sectors. However, the policy and regulatory environment in Afghanistan is challenging, and any significant improvement in the business operating environment will require continuous and dedicated commitment from GoA officials. Furthermore, a key factor in establishing this partnership is the eventual political settlement of the civil conflict in the country.

Question:

The U.S. and Europe, traditionally, have been the world heavyweights of global development assistance. This Administration has proposed to slash the budgets of State and USAID. What is the USAID's strategy to coordinate efforts, where appropriate, with the European Union? The President has yet to name an Ambassador to the European Union. How has this impacted your efforts in Europe?

Answer:

The European Union is a key strategic partner of the United States, and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) coordinates very closely with its counterpart agencies of the European Commission: The Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG-DEVCO), the Directorate-General for Neighborhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG-NEAR), and the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG-ECHO). USAID holds an annual Development Dialogue with the leadership of the three Directorates-General, in addition to frequent meetings, both between leadership and at the working level. In addition, USAID Missions in the field are in close contact with the European Union (EU) Delegations in their respective countries. USAID's Europe and Eurasia Bureau has worked intensively during the last twelve months with DG- NEAR to co-create new programs that advance both American and EU strategic interests, and senior officials from the Bureau traveled to Brussels for a planning session earlier this year. Because the relationship is so broad and deep, USAID has been able to advance our work.

Questions for the Record from Representative Ami Bera
The FY 2019 Foreign Assistance Budget
For the Honorable Mark Green
March 21, 2018

Question:

My understanding is that State and USAID have 28 sub projects as part of the current redesign efforts. What are these 28 projects and what are their timelines?

Answer:

The projects the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is working on under the redesign (“Transformation”) process are at different stages, and will proceed along different time frames to full implementation. Some projects will have recommendations we can put into effect within the next few months, while others include proposed structural changes that could take two years to implement fully. We are currently consulting with Congress, our partner community, and USAID staff on the first tranche of proposed projects approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), as indicated below, and will meet all legislative requirements, including the submission of Congressional notifications. The list of projects is as follows:

Outcome 1 (Journey to Self-Reliance):

- Redefining our Relationship with Partner Countries;
- Metrics;
- Financing Self-Reliance;
- Private-Sector Engagement;
- Strategic Transitions and Post-Transition Engagement; and
- Initial Transition Countries.

Outcome 2 (Strengthen Core Capabilities):

- Elevate Humanitarian Assistance;
- Strengthen Resilience and Food Security;
- Elevate Prevention and Response to Conflict and Crises;
- Align Policy, Resources, and Evidence-Based Programming; and
- Strengthen Support for the Field.

Outcome 3 (Advance National Security):

- Improving Coordination with the Department of Defense;
- Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE); and
- Working in Non-Permissive Environments (NPE).

Outcome 4 (Empower People to Lead):

- Managing Human-Capital Talent;
- Streamline Coordinators;
- Workforce Flexibility and Mobility;
- Culture of Leadership and Accountability;

- Knowledge-Management; and
- Exploring Delivery of Human-Resource Operations;

Outcome 5 (Respect Taxpayer Investments):

- Optimizing Operational Platforms;
- Effective Partnering and Procurement Reform; and
- Resolving the Agency Audit Backlog.

Cross-cutting Agency Proposals:

- Creating a Development Finance Institution; and
- Increasing USAID's Small-Grant Capacity.

Question:

After almost a decade of transparency from bipartisan administrations detailing country-by-country allocations for foreign assistance, there will be no such information submitted by the administration as part of its FY19 budget request.

The Administration has put forth a 43% cut to development programs (both DA and ESF combined) but failed to share how various development sectors and priorities will be impacted by this and other cuts. As the administration targets specific countries to be strategically transitioned away from foreign assistance this information is absolutely critical to congressional oversight.

When will Congress have access to this information? We hope that the Administration can continue to operate in a transparent and open manner.

Are the State Department and USAID capable of submitting country-by-country allocations for topline development and security assistance accounts for the record?

If yes, we formally request that be submitted for the record.

Answer:

A country-level breakout of the President's Budget Request for foreign assistance in Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 is available online, at <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/279517.pdf>. Additional charts, also available online, cover program objectives and program areas; operating expenses of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID); global health elements; and several other key sectors, including agriculture, biodiversity, combating wildlife trafficking, countering violent extremism, democracy, basic education, higher education, and gender. These budget tables are available on the following USAID website, which also includes budget information on security assistance managed by the State Department: <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/fact-sheets/fiscal-year-fy-2019-development-and-humanitarian-assistance-budget>

Question:

Beginning in 2014, USAID was a key implementer in responding to the Ebola crisis and ensuring

that an outbreak of that size would never happen again. We appropriated over \$300M to USAID to strengthen these global health security efforts. That funding enabled USAID to expand their efforts to prevent the next outbreak from Africa, and into Asia and the Middle East, effectively enabling USAID to double its activities.

While the President's budget calls for the transfer of the remaining Emergency Reserve Fund money to USAID's Emerging Pandemic Threats account to continue some of these activities, according to global health groups, that will not be enough, and USAID will be forced to curtail its activities around the world. I'm worried about the real-world effects here. That means defunding global disease surveillance networks, fewer professionals trained in biosafety and lab diagnostics, and less capacity building.

What will the impact of that funding cut be?

And how will you ensure that globally, health security and pandemic preparedness efforts will be continued?

Answer:

The President's Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2019 proposes to redirect \$72.5 million in previously appropriated Ebola Response and Preparedness Emergency funds to Global Health Security programming to help prevent, detect, and respond to infectious-disease outbreaks and threats in countries at high risk of such events. The U.S. Agency for International Development's programs under the Global Health Security Agenda will enable the U.S. Government, in partnership with other nations, international organizations, and public and private stakeholders, to increase compliance with the International Health Regulations (2005) to detect infectious-disease threats early and prevent their spread to the United States.

Question:

USAID has a track record of helping countries like South Korea and Panama transition from development aid to deeper forms of strategic and economic partnership with the United States. These transitions worked well because the partner country was able to increasingly mobilize their own resources for development. The FY19 budget requests \$75 million for domestic resource mobilization (DRM) assistance.

- Please describe this approach to scaling up development finance in greater detail. Specifically, how do you intend to implement this request and what are the desired near and long-term outcomes?
- Like many in Congress, I'm particularly interested in the establishment of a new Development Finance Institution. What, if any, mechanisms will be put in place to ensure that development is a driving factor in the decision-making process for the new DFI?

Answer:

Domestic resource-mobilization (DRM) is a top priority for me and for the U.S. Agency for

International Development (USAID), and is an important component of our mission to end the need for foreign assistance. The ability of a country to finance and pay for its own development is a critical part of its journey to self-reliance.

USAID works with partner countries to harness public-and-private resources for development. Our objective is to strengthen tax systems, and, at the same time, ensure effective and efficient public-financial management, as well as to leverage private-sector resources to strengthen partner countries' ability to finance more of their development priorities.

Under this approach towards DRM, the Agency will encourage private-sector investments by reducing risk. The Agency hopes to steer partner countries on a continuum to mobilize more of the countries' own finances to trigger a new relationship towards their self-reliance, with a focus on transparency.

For example, the Agency will go deeper with partner countries on DRM in the Addis Tax Initiative countries (e.g., Liberia, Uganda, Ghana), and with countries where we have already initiated DRM activities, including under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. Simultaneously, we will expand our DRM footprint to those countries that are poised to embrace our support and shoulder an increasing share of their financing needs. This will allow the Agency to build the evidence base for DRM through analysis and synthesis of country experiences and rigorous monitoring and evaluation.

USAID is working closely within the interagency to plan for close institutional and programmatic linkages between the proposed new Development Finance Institution (DFI) and USAID in the BUILD Act.

This approach is critical to ensure that transactions developed with DFI tools serve U.S. Government development strategies within targeted countries, supported by ongoing technical-assistance programs on the ground provided by USAID.

Question:

Administrator Green, could you lay out what USAID is doing to engage different diasporas in a comprehensive way to advance development goals?

Answer:

In 2016, the U.S. Global Development Lab (the Lab) within the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) conducted an assessment on how and where the Agency and the broader development community engage diasporas, with the ultimate aim of expanding USAID's connections with them. The Lab reviewed a wide range of both USAID and external initiatives that target diasporas, and sought input through more than 50 interviews with our staff and partners.

In response to the review's findings, USAID created a suite of services to support increased diaspora-engagement activities across the Agency, with a focus on helping our overseas Missions increase their ability to work effectively with diaspora communities in their programming. These services included the following: 1) A Diaspora-Partnership Toolkit, an online resource for diaspora organizations that want to work with USAID; 2) An improved mechanism and methodology to analyze diaspora demographics, resources, and preferred ways to collaborate with USAID around shared interests, for USAID Missions and Bureaus that wish to engage diasporas in their programming; and 3) An All-Agency Diaspora Working Group, which supports the sharing of best and promising diaspora-engagement practices.

Question:

What specific projects are underway at USAID that include diasporas in development?

Answer:

Recent and ongoing projects at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) with a focus on diasporas in development include the following:

- The *DiaGive Bangladesh* project, a Global Development Alliance co-funded by Chevron and implemented by the Charities Aid Foundation, aims to catalyze philanthropic capital from members of the Bangladeshi diaspora back to their country of origin to strengthen civil society and support social enterprise.
- The USAID Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) *Center for International Disaster Information* also recognizes diasporas as critical to the success of international relief operations. Before a disaster response, OFDA focuses on donation-management education, which help diasporas understand how disaster responses work, become better-equipped stakeholders in disaster assistance, and plug into the international system appropriately. During a response, USAID engages diaspora communities by promoting "Cash is Best" messaging, which encourages diasporas to donate cash to vetted organizations, rather than making in-kind donations, which streamlines and simplifies relief efforts on the ground.
- USAID collaborates with the U.S. Department of State to support the International *Diaspora Engagement Alliance (IdEA)*, which seeks to harness the global connections of diaspora communities to promote sustainable development in their countries of heritage. By promoting partnerships around entrepreneurship, volunteerism, philanthropy, and innovation, the Alliance provides a platform for capacity-building, and a forum for collaboration across sectors.
- *Diaspora Landscape Analyses* conducted by the USAID Bureaus for Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean, together with USAID Missions in Nigeria, Nicaragua, and Pakistan, identify ways to engage the diaspora of these countries more deeply in our programming.
- The *Diaspora Invest Activity* advocates for an improved enabling environment for investment in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and engages Bosnian expatriate entrepreneurs to

increase their investment in the country as a means to stimulate economic development.

In addition, USAID continues to engage proactively in global and regional conversations to educate diaspora communities on how to collaborate with USAID and make an impact in development, such as hosting the Diasporas in Development forum, a one-day event on engagement with entrepreneurs, in collaboration with academia, partners, and the Department of State, and working with the African Diaspora Network to support the African Diaspora Investment Symposium, an event hosted annually in Silicon Valley.

Question:

You noted in your response to my question during the hearing that this is an area that you think USAID should do more in. Is USAID limited by any statutory or regulatory authorities in expanding its outreach and use of diasporas to advance development goals? Please state those specific limiting statutory and regulatory authorities.

Answer:

To the best of our knowledge, the U.S. Agency for International Development faces no specific statutory or regulatory limitations to expanding our outreach and engagement with diaspora communities to advance development goals.

Question:

The review of the expanded Mexico City Policy that was published last month focused on the implementation of the policy and challenges to its implementation. I'm concerned that this review didn't adequately look at the human impact the policy has.

Will you commit to conducting a study on the impact of the expanded Mexico City Policy – specifically, the impact on service provision and the individuals who rely on these services?

Will you also commit to conducting this study on an annual basis?

We cannot afford to wait for national Demographic and Health Surveys, which for many countries aren't scheduled to be conducted for several more years.

Answer:

The Department of State is the lead for reviewing the Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance (PLGHA) policy, and recognizes that the initial evaluation took place early in the policy's implementation. Former Secretary of State Tillerson announced that the Department will lead an additional interagency review of the implementation of the PLGHA policy in late 2018, in which the U.S. Agency for International Development will participate. This further review is expected

to be a more-thorough examination of the benefits, challenges, and potential impact of the PLGHA policy on the ground, based on more-extensive experience in implementing it.

Question:

UNFPA is often one of the only organizations providing quality reproductive and maternal health care in crisis settings like Yemen, Syria, or Bangladesh/Myanmar where women represent a majority of those displaced or at risk.

What is the United States doing to prevent gaps in service due to the defunding of UNFPA?

Is money previously appropriated for UNFPA going to organizations that will be able to provide the same services as UNFPA?

Can you provide me a record of where previously appropriated UNFPA funds are being disbursed?

Answer:

The U.S. Government continues to prioritize health care in emergencies, and has worked to identify other humanitarian partners and donors to take over the work the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) would have supported with U.S. Government funding.

In terms of Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 humanitarian funding, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Department of State worked with other United Nations (UN) agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that were able to expand their programming to provide maternal and neonatal health care, including emergency obstetric care, and services for survivors of gender-based violence in emergency settings. USAID was able to reprogram all funding intended for UNFPA in Iraq, Yemen, Nigeria, Somalia, Sudan, and South Sudan. The ongoing conflict inside Syria has created access constraints that made it difficult to find alternative NGO partners to implement all of the health programs inside that country previously delivered by UNFPA. Nevertheless, USAID was able to re-program some of the humanitarian funds originally intended for UNFPA in Syria to the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and an NGO partner to support protection-focused services.

Questions for the Record from Representative Brad Schneider

The FY 2019 Foreign Assistance Budget

For the Honorable Mark Green

March 21, 2018

Question:

Does this budget provide enough resources for our development professionals? If not, what else is needed?

Answer:

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) strategically leverages its resources to support our development professionals. As part of the Agency's Transformation, we have consistently sought to increase the quality of support for our talent across the world. For example, we have made significant strides in building our capability to undertake strategic and comprehensive workforce-planning, and strengthened our Foreign Service assignments process so we can place the right talent in the right place, at the right time. We are also in the process of significantly reforming our performance-management systems to keep the focus on developing our talent, rewarding excellence, and dealing with poor performance. This April, we rolled out the new performance-management system for the Foreign Service, and plan to roll out a similarly reformed system for the Civil Service next year. We also seek to ensure that we provide the necessary professional development and learning opportunities, including foreign-language training, as well as possible. In addition, given the challenges faced by our colleagues who are dedicating their lives to improving the lives of others around the world, often in dangerous situations, we have focused on improving our Staff Care program that provides well-being support for all staff.

Question:

What is USAID doing to protect American aid workers who are serving in remote areas and areas of conflict?

Answer:

As is the case for all U.S. Government civilian staff, employees of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) who are serving overseas are under the primary protection of the Chief of Mission at the relevant U.S. Embassy and his or her Regional Security Officer. USAID collaborates closely every day with both U.S. Embassies and the Bureau of Diplomatic Security at the State Department in Washington to ensure our staff receive the proper training to live and work safely in high-threat environments, including to understand the specific security context of the country in which they will operate. USAID staff deploy prepared to participate actively in maintaining their own security, by identifying threats, assessing team vulnerabilities, and communicating frequently with the security professionals who are responsible for keeping them safe.

Under the State Department's "No Double Standard" Policy, security alerts, advisories, and warnings provided to U.S. Embassy staff also go to all American Citizens registered with that Embassy. We encourage all Americans, as well as citizens of other nationalities, to register with their Embassies while living or traveling abroad. While USAID cannot dictate security standards and practices to the humanitarian community, we do require every one of our non-governmental partners (NGOs) to submit a comprehensive safety and security plan with each proposal for funding. These plans must demonstrate an in-depth analysis of the range of threats the organization and its staff could face, identify the organization's specific vulnerabilities, and outline a mitigation strategy and contingency plans to keep its staff as safe as possible.

USAID also funds a number of international organizations dedicated to the improvement of NGOs' security standards and the dissemination of professional training for NGO security officers and executives. These efforts collect global data on security incidents that affect aid workers, identify vulnerabilities and gaps across the industry, share best practices, and design and implement training to improve the security capacity of member organizations.

Question:

How are you working to ensure USAID can attract and retain the best and brightest individuals who are willing to dedicate their lives to improving the lives of others?

Answer:

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) seeks to recruit and retain the best and brightest in both the Foreign Service and Civil Service as part of our efforts to ensure our workforce reflects the diversity, skills, and dedication of the American public. Overall, we also consistently adapt our recruitment strategies to attract candidates with the skill sets required for deployment in challenging environments, and to meet the Agency's goal of working with countries to place them on a path to ending their need for foreign assistance. We also seek to provide a clear career path for both candidates and employees to understand how to create the career they desire, which increases the likelihood of retention. The annual increases over the past four years in our results in the "Best Places to Work Index" category in the Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey are indicative of the success we have achieved in these areas.

Increasing the diversity of our workforce continues to be a priority for the Agency. For example, we are committed to recruiting new Foreign Service Officers (FSOs) through the Donald M. Payne International Development Fellowship Program. As part of our outreach efforts, the Agency has assigned two SFOs to serve as "Development Diplomats in Residence" at universities in Georgia and California to recruit and encourage minority students in those regions of the country to consider careers in international development. The Agency continues to strengthen its human-capital capabilities as part of our Transformation. We have reinstated the Agency's Student-Loan Repayment Program as an important tool for recruitment and retention. Furthermore, recognizing that our FSOs (and often their families) move frequently, we have also redesigned our Foreign Service Assignment process to be more effective and efficient for the Agency and its mission, our FSOs, and their families. We expect to make more progress in improving our human-resources policies, processes, and systems as our Transformation moves