



# U.S. Foreign Assistance

## Saving Lives and Building a Safer World for All

As a global humanitarian and development organization working in more than 90 countries around the world, CARE knows firsthand how U.S. foreign assistance programs are critical to saving millions of lives each year, addressing the root causes of poverty, increasing independence and building stronger, more resilient societies.

Foreign assistance saves and improves lives, promotes global stability and is an important tool for protecting our own peace and prosperity. CARE knows: It's the right thing to do and the smart thing to do. However, the Trump administration continues to propose drastic and disproportionate cuts - the deepest we've ever seen - to foreign assistance at a time in our history when it is needed more than ever.

The foreign assistance budget comprises roughly 1 percent of the federal budget – just one cent of every budget dollar – and delivers immeasurable benefits by alleviating suffering and decreasing poverty to create a safer and more prosperous world for everyone. Foreign assistance embodies the generosity and human dignity that Americans believe in. *It's a hand up, not a handout.*

CARE has witnessed the profound difference foreign assistance makes, especially in the lives of women and girls. For example, over the past six decades, global maternal and child mortality rates have dropped sharply, literacy rates have increased and economic opportunities have expanded. *We know this investment is worth the penny.* Simply put: Cuts to these programs will put lives and our future at risk.

### The Problem:

The world is currently facing the biggest refugee crisis in modern history, with an unprecedented 68.5 million people displaced from their homes. Millions of people in the world are at risk of famine conditions, with half of Yemen's population facing starvation – making it the largest hunger crisis in the world. Furthermore, crises in Nigeria, South Sudan and Somalia have continued, and a critical Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo threatens to spread across borders. Now is not the time for the U.S. to pull back from its critical role as a partner and leader in the global community.

While tremendous progress has been made in recent decades, 736 million people still live in extreme poverty, and millions die each year from entirely preventable causes. These factors leave entire nations trapped in poverty – creating desperate, insecure and potentially volatile situations. Without robust investments from the U.S., these statistics will worsen, lives will be lost and America will abdicate its role as a global leader and reliable partner.



Proposed cuts by the administration and some in Congress would strip America's civilian forces. Given today's global threats – ranging from ISIS to Ebola – U.S. military leaders and many members of Congress find this unfathomable. In order to be effective and dependable partners, the State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) must have the appropriate resources to keep pace with the threats and needs we face overseas.

Cuts to U.S. foreign assistance would also jeopardize emergency relief and development programs that, in collaboration with others, have helped to *cut global poverty in half since 2000*. Slashing the U.S. funding that has helped achieve these gains would put millions of lives at stake and would be in direct opposition to America's best interests and values.

### The Solution:

Challenges facing America and the world today require partnership and collaboration with global leaders, including smart investments in effective and lifesaving U.S. foreign assistance. In order to address current crises and prevent future ones, strong funding for critical U.S. foreign assistance programs is essential.

CARE knows that investments in development and humanitarian programs save lives and ultimately keep us all safer. U.S. foreign assistance, in partnership and collaboration with others, provides hope in some of the world's darkest times.

Most importantly, the U.S. saves lives by putting people on a path toward stability and independence around the world. By continuing to improve the effectiveness, accountability and transparency of U.S. foreign assistance, we can combat poverty and get assistance quickly to those who need it most.

Diplomatic and development programs will continue to represent the best investment we can make when it comes to saving lives, advancing economic prosperity and creating a safer world for us all. In extraordinary times, when U.S. leadership and reliable partnership is needed most, and lives are on the line, America doesn't step aside. America must step up.

### Next steps:

#### CARE advocates to:

Protect the foreign assistance budget in all budget negotiations and support a level of no less than \$60 billion for Fiscal Years 2020 and 2021 – on par with recent funding levels. CARE opposes deep and disproportionate cuts to lifesaving programs, particularly those that help the poorest and most vulnerable in the world.

The U.S. must support the foreign assistance budget in order to save lives, promote global peace and stability and provide a sustainable path toward stability and independence for families and communities around the world.

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