



## Volunteer Toolkit: Winter 2019

# Support for Lifesaving Development Programs

### THE ISSUE

We want 2019 to be remembered as the year extreme poverty was put on the defensive, but getting there will require world leaders to match bold ideas with strong leadership and action.

Over a billion people have escaped extreme poverty in the past three decades. While this is one of the best examples of global cooperation in the past century, our work is far from over. More than 700 million people, half of whom live in sub-Saharan Africa, still live on less than \$1.90 per day. The only way we will continue to make progress on these numbers is with the United States playing a central role. With this goal mind, **we are writing to Members of Congress asking them to fully fund the international affairs budget for FY 2020.**

### THE CAMPAIGN ASK

U.S. development assistance has helped save millions of lives from preventable diseases and built brighter futures by increasing access to education, providing new agricultural tools, and spurring economic development. This is a proud American legacy—one that spans both Republican and Democratic Congresses and administrations.

However, the current political climate is threatening funding for development assistance and risking our hard-earned progress. Cutting assistance would have severe consequences, and given the outsized impact this small portion of the budget provides, it is one of the most efficient and effective ways that U.S. tax dollars are spent. Helping developing countries pull themselves out of poverty not only reflects the best of American values but is also a strategic investment in our own economic and national security interests.

For the first several weeks of 2019, we'll be writing to our Members of Congress asking them to support fully funding the international affairs budget.



## CAMPAIGN TACTICS

- **Tabling at an Event** — Use the sample letters at the bottom of the toolkit to generate handwritten letters to your Senators and Representative. If you are tabling at a large event and need a way for people to write a quick message to their Member, you can order budget postcards through the [Event Registration Form](#).
- **Host a Film Screening** — Film screenings can be a low-bar way to not only get attendees to an event but also to connect something as broad and ambiguous as a budget to the. You can host [The Price of Free](#) or [Zaza Rising](#) on your campus or in your district and ask attendees to write a letter in support of a fully funded development assistance budget. If you are interested in hosting a film, let your Campus Manager know.
- **Classroom/Breakroom Presentation** — If you're an educator or a student on a college campus, a classroom presentation can be a great way to collect letters. Reach out to a professor or administrator with the goal of doing a 5 minute presentation on the foreign aid budget. After the presentation is over, ask the students to write a letter in support of a fully funded development assistance budget. Use this same tactic at work; ask if you can conduct a brief "Lunch and Learn" session at work.
- **Valentine's Day of Action!** — Show your love for life-saving programs! Hand out valentines (and candy!) in exchange for your friends or peers writing a card. This can be in class, at a tabling event, or even amongst your friends over lunch or coffee.

## RESOURCES

1. **Event & Reporting Tools** —
  - [Question Form](#) — If you come across anyone at an event who has a question you cannot answer, have them fill one of these out and send it to ONE Headquarters.



➤ [Event Data Reporting Form](#) — As you collect catalytic actions or complete a tabling event, report your event/actions [HERE](#), and be sure to attach a [completed spreadsheet](#) with the contact info of those who took action.

2. **Messaging** — You can find a select group of talking points below and in-depth talking points [here](#).

3. **Catalytic Action Resources** —

➤ **Sample Handwritten Letter** — See below

➤ **Budget Constituent Cards** – Request budget cards by using [this form](#) and we'll mail you pre-printed, fold-out postcards you can use to get people to write handwritten messages to Congress.

## TALKING POINTS

- By 2030, nearly 90 percent of the world's poorest people will be living in Africa. Cutting funding from life-saving U.S. assistance programs will only make this situation worse.
- Over the years, U.S. development assistance has saved millions of lives from preventable diseases and brought people out of poverty, allowing them to build brighter futures by providing access to education, agricultural tools and increasing economic growth. For example: PEPFAR (the U.S. government's signature HIV/AIDS program) has supported life-saving treatment for more than 14.6 million people.
- Feed the Future (the U.S. government's signature food security program) has helped 23.4 million people move above the poverty line, and helped ensure that 5.2 million families no longer suffer from hunger.
- Power Africa (the U.S. Government's program to increase electricity access in sub-Saharan Africa) has helped create 12.5 million new electrical connections benefitting more than 57 million more people.

## SAMPLE LETTER

*Dear Senator/Representative [NAME],*

*I'm writing to urge you to support the international affairs budget.*



*For roughly 1% of the U.S. federal budget, foreign assistance supports life-saving development programs that help to lift the world's poorest out of extreme poverty.*

*I care about this because [INSERT PERSONAL REASON WHY YOU CARE].*

*U.S. foreign aid is a proven investment in our nation's security, supports jobs here in America, and saves lives. Please fully support the international affairs budget. Thank you for your support!*

*[NAME]*

*[EMAIL]*

*[PHONE NUMBER]*

*[ADDRESS]*