



**FY21 Testimony for House Appropriations Subcommittee for State,  
Foreign Operations and Related Programs**

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Chairwoman Nita Lowey and Ranking Member Hal Rogers, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of robust funding for key foreign assistance accounts in FY21. I'm here on behalf of Global Citizen, an advocacy organization with 1.5million supporters in the U.S. We are the world's largest movement of action takers and impact makers dedicated to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals by ending extreme poverty by 2030. In order to achieve these ambitious global goals, we urge you to prioritize the basic education, nutrition and global health accounts by funding them as follows:

- \$975M for basic education, to include \$125M for the Global Partnership for Education and \$50M for Education Cannot Wait;
- \$40M for the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD); and
- \$900M for maternal, newborn and child health.

As you know, these funding levels would ensure the US is fully investing in some of the most critical programs that help break the cycle of poverty for the millions of people around the world who are deprived of basic human needs and services. By investing in education, nutrition and health, -- areas that contribute to boosting human capital -- we contribute to global efforts aimed at ensuring that every person has the opportunity to learn, grow, survive and thrive. And as you well know, this serves not only global humanitarian goals, but it supports United States' national security goals.

**Basic Education**

We appreciate your past support for global education and urge you to ensure that this support continues in the coming year. As you may know, worldwide, 264 million children are missing out on school — with many more in class, yet failing to learn the basics they need to succeed. From 75 million children forced out of school by conflict or crisis, to 130 million girls dropping out or not coming to class because they can't deal with their periods with dignity — there is a learning crisis, whose negative impact multiplies with the years of missed schooling.

By investing \$975M in basic education, the US can make a significant impact on boosting quality learning and literacy to ensure kids – especially girls – stay in school longer and are better



equipped to become full participants in their countries' economic life. Specifically, supporting Education Cannot Wait, a multi donor trust fund, would allow us to stand with other donors who are similarly committed to providing safe, free, quality education to the millions of children worldwide who are refugees, internally displaced or affected by conflict. Targeting a portion of our education funding in this way would enable us to help ensure that even children affected by crisis will have the opportunity to learn. We thank Congress again for renewing its support for Education Cannot Wait in FY20 and we urge you to consider increasing its FY21 contributions to \$50M.

### **Nutrition**

Nutrition is the second fundamental building block of human development yet hunger and nutrition is the only SDG on which progress is going backwards. Nearly half of all child deaths are because of malnutrition or poor nutrition. Moreover, 151 million children under the age of 5 suffer from stunting, which can be passed down by adolescent mothers. Stunted children do less well in school and earn less as adults, which often means their families and economies become locked into poverty.

The good news is that farmers hold the key to reversing this downward trend. Investing in rural farmers helps them be able to weather any storm, grow more food, create more jobs and ensure that no child goes to bed hungry. By allocating \$40M to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), we can ensure that the poorest rural farmers get the training and investments they need to make hunger a thing of the past. We urge you to increase support for IFAD as it increases the incomes and resilience of more than 100 million people through effective agricultural development.

### **Maternal, Newborn and Child Health**

Lastly, we want to thank this Committee for its enduring support for maternal, newborn and child health. The United States' contributions in this area have provided support to programs that aim to end preventable maternal and child deaths. These live-saving programs range from delivering vaccines and providing insecticide-treated bed nets to improving safe access to safe water and tackling neglected tropical diseases.

The world has made significant progress in slowing the rate of preventable maternal and child deaths, yet every year 5.4 million children under 5 years of age still die from largely preventable or treatable causes and 303,000 women still die during childbirth. We urge you to consider a funding level of \$900M for FY21 in order to expand upon our efforts to further reduce maternal and child fatalities.



In conclusion, I recognize the challenges of the current budget environment and request that funding for these accounts not come at the expense of other development accounts. As I know you understand, in the long run, these investments pay dividends because healthy, educated societies become better allies and help ensure global stability.

Thank you again for your continued support for foreign assistance and for allowing Global Citizen this opportunity to testify before you today.