

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 3988
OFFERED BY MR. DEUTCH OF FLORIDA**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Mental Health in
3 International Development and Humanitarian Settings
4 Act” or the “MINDS Act”.

5 SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.

6 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

7 (1) According to the World Health Organiza-
8 tion (WHO), an estimated 1,000,000,000 individuals
9 worldwide have a mental health or substance use
10 disorder, and The Lancet estimates that nearly
11 130,000,000 additional cases of major depressive
12 and anxiety disorders globally in 2020 resulted from
13 the COVID-19 pandemic.

14 (2) According to WHO, depression is among
15 the primary causes of illness and disability in adoles-
16 cents. One-half of mental health disorders emerge by
17 age 14, and 14 percent of children and adolescents
18 worldwide experience mental health conditions, the

1 majority of whom do not seek care, receive care, or
2 have access to care.

3 (3) According to the United Nations, more than
4 1 out of every 5 individuals in conflict-affected areas
5 has a mental health disorder. Roughly
6 1,500,000,000, or 2 out of every 3 of the world's
7 children under 18 years of age live in countries af-
8 fected by conflict, and more than 1 out of every 6
9 children live in conflict zones. A greater number of
10 children live in areas affected by armed conflict and
11 war now than at any other point this century. The
12 mental health burden in conflict-affected contexts is
13 twice the global average.

14 (4) According to the World Health Organiza-
15 tion, risk factors that increase susceptibility to men-
16 tal health disorders include poverty and hunger,
17 chronic health conditions, trauma or maltreatment,
18 social exclusion and discrimination, and exposure to
19 and displacement by war or conflict. These risk fac-
20 tors, along with demographic risk factors, manifest
21 at all stages in life. Preliminary research already il-
22 lustrates that the COVID-19 pandemic has in-
23 creased communities', families', and individuals' risk
24 factors for multiple types of adversity and com-
25 pounded preexisting conditions and vulnerabilities.

1 (5) According to a Lancet Commission report,
2 allocations for mental health have never risen above
3 1 percent of health-related global development as-
4 sistance. Estimates indicate that child and adoles-
5 cent mental health receives just 0.1 percent of
6 health-related global development assistance.

7 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
8 gress that—

9 (1) helping to ensure that individuals have the
10 opportunity to thrive and reach their fullest poten-
11 tial is a critical component of effective and sustain-
12 able international development efforts;

13 (2) mental health is integral and essential to
14 overall health outcomes and other development ob-
15 jectives;

16 (3) mental health is an issue of critical and
17 growing importance for United States development
18 and humanitarian assistance programs that requires
19 coordinated efforts to ensure that programming
20 funded by the United States Government is evi-
21 dence-based, culturally competent, and trauma-in-
22 formed;

23 (4) the relevant United States Government de-
24 velopment and humanitarian assistance strategies

1 should include a mental health and psychosocial sup-
2 port component;

3 (5) the redesign of the United States Agency
4 for International Development reflects the nexus be-
5 tween humanitarian and development interventions
6 and should be applied to all mental health and psy-
7 chosocial support efforts of United States develop-
8 ment and humanitarian assistance programs; and

9 (6) ongoing efforts to improve social service
10 workforce development and local capacity building
11 are essential to expanding mental health and psycho-
12 social support activities across all United States de-
13 velopment and humanitarian assistance programs.

14 **SEC. 3. COORDINATOR FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHO-**
15 **SOCIAL SUPPORT.**

16 Section 135 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961
17 (22 U.S.C. 2152f) is amended—

18 (1) by redesignating subsection (f) as sub-
19 section (g); and

20 (2) by inserting after subsection (e) the fol-
21 lowing:

22 “(f) COORDINATOR FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND PSY-
23 CHOSOCIAL SUPPORT.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the
25 United States Agency for International Develop-

1 ment, in consultation with the Secretary of State, is
2 authorized to designate a Mental Health and Psy-
3 chosocial Support Coordinator (referred to in this
4 section as the ‘MHPSS Coordinator’).

5 “(2) SPECIFIC DUTIES.—The duties of the
6 MHPSS Coordinator shall include—

7 “(A) establishing and chairing the Mental
8 Health and Psychosocial Support Working
9 Group authorized under section 4 of the Mental
10 Health in International Development and Hu-
11 manitarian Settings Act;

12 “(B) guiding, overseeing, and directing
13 mental health and psychosocial support pro-
14 gramming and integration across United States
15 development and humanitarian assistance pro-
16 grams;

17 “(C) serving as the main point of contact
18 on mental health and psychosocial support in
19 the Bureau for Global Health, Bureau for Hu-
20 manitarian Assistance, regional bureaus, the
21 Office of Education, the Inclusive Development
22 Hub in the Bureau of Development, Democ-
23 racy, and Innovation, and other bureaus as ap-
24 propriate, the President’s Emergency Plan for

1 AIDS Relief, and other interagency or presi-
2 dential initiatives;

3 “(D) promoting best practices, coordina-
4 tion, and reporting in mental health and psy-
5 chosocial support programming across United
6 States development and humanitarian assist-
7 ance programs;

8 “(E) providing direction, guidance, and
9 oversight on the integration of mental health
10 and psychosocial support in United States de-
11 velopment and humanitarian assistance pro-
12 grams; and

13 “(F) participating in the Advancing Pro-
14 tection and Care for Children in Adversity
15 Interagency Working Group.

16 “(3) FOCUS POPULATIONS.—The MHPSS Co-
17 ordinator should, as appropriate, prioritize popu-
18 lations with increased risk factors for developing
19 mental health disorders, including—

20 “(A) adult caretakers and children, as well
21 as families and adults who are long-term care-
22 takers;

23 “(B) children and others who are sepa-
24 rated from a family unit; and

1 “(C) other specific populations in need of
2 mental health and psychosocial support, such as
3 crisis affected communities, displaced popu-
4 lations, gender-based violence survivors, and in-
5 dividuals and households coping with the con-
6 sequences of diseases, such as Ebola, HIV/
7 AIDS, and COVID–19.”.

8 **SEC. 4. MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT**
9 **WORKING GROUP.**

10 The Administrator, in cooperation with the Mental
11 Health and Psychosocial Support Coordinator (designated
12 pursuant to subsection (f) of section 135 of the Foreign
13 Assistance Act of 1961, as added by section 3), shall es-
14 tablish the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
15 Working Group, which shall include senior representatives
16 from the relevant USAID bureaus, the Department of
17 State, and other Federal departments and agencies, as ap-
18 propriate, to ensure continuity and integration of mental
19 health and psychosocial support across United States de-
20 velopment and humanitarian assistance programs.

21 **SEC. 5. INTEGRATION OF MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHO-**
22 **SOCIAL SUPPORT.**

23 (a) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the
24 United States to integrate mental health and psychosocial

1 support across all relevant United States development and
2 humanitarian assistance programs.

3 (b) IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY.—The Adminis-
4 trator and the Secretary of State should—

5 (1) require all USAID and Department of State
6 regional bureaus and missions to advance the policy
7 described in subsection (a) through relevant develop-
8 ment and humanitarian assistance efforts, including
9 by building local capacity to inform, design and im-
10 plement mental health and psychosocial support pro-
11 gramming;

12 (2) ensure that all USAID and Department of
13 State mental health and psychosocial support pro-
14 gramming—

15 (A) is evidence-based and culturally com-
16 petent;

17 (B) responds to all types of childhood ad-
18 versity; and

19 (C) includes trauma-specific interventions
20 in accordance with the recognized principles of
21 a trauma-informed approach, whenever applica-
22 ble; and

23 (3) integrate the principles of Advancing Pro-
24 tection and Care for Children in Adversity Strategy.

1 **SEC. 6. CONSULTATION AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

2 (a) CONSULTATION.—Not later than 180 days after
3 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator,
4 in coordination with the Secretary of State, shall consult
5 with the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of
6 Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations
7 of the Senate regarding—

8 (1) the progress made in carrying out section
9 5(b); and

10 (2) any barriers preventing the full integration
11 of the strategy referred to in section 5(b)(3).

12 (b) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date
13 of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for
14 5 fiscal years, the Administrator and the Secretary of
15 State, in consultation with the Mental Health and Psycho-
16 social Support Coordinator (designated pursuant to sub-
17 section (f) of section 135 of the Foreign Assistance Act
18 of 1961, as added by section 3) and the Director of the
19 Office of Management and Budget, as necessary and ap-
20 propriate, shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Af-
21 fairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee
22 on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report on—

23 (1) the amount of funding under United States
24 development and humanitarian assistance programs
25 obligated and expended during the most recently

1 concluded fiscal year on mental health and psycho-
2 social support programming;

3 (2) how USAID and the Department of State
4 are working to integrate mental health and psycho-
5 social programming, including child-specific pro-
6 gramming, into their development and humanitarian
7 assistance programs across relevant sectors, includ-
8 ing health, education, nutrition, and protection;

9 (3) the metrics of success of the Advancing
10 Protection and Care for Children in Adversity Strat-
11 egy and progress made towards achieving broader
12 mental health outcomes;

13 (4) where trauma-specific strategies are being
14 implemented, and how best practices for trauma-in-
15 formed programming are being shared across pro-
16 grams;

17 (5) barriers preventing full integration of child
18 mental health and psychosocial support into pro-
19 grams for children and youth and recommendations
20 for modifications or expansion;

21 (6) barriers to the expansion of mental health
22 and psychosocial support programming in conflict
23 and humanitarian settings and how such barriers
24 are being addressed;

1 (7) the impact of the COVID–19 pandemic on
2 mental health and psychosocial support program-
3 ming; and

4 (8) funding data, including a list of programs
5 to which USAID and the Department of State have
6 obligated funds during the most recently concluded
7 fiscal year to improve access to, and the quality of,
8 mental health and psychosocial support program-
9 ming in development and humanitarian contexts.

10 **SEC. 7. SUNSET.**

11 This Act, and the amendments made by this Act,
12 shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date
13 of the enactment of this Act.

14 **SEC. 8. DEFINITIONS.**

15 In this Act:

16 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
17 trator” means the Administrator of USAID.

18 (2) USAID.—The term “USAID” means the
19 United States Agency for International Develop-
20 ment.

 Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to enhance
 mental health and psychosocial support within United
 States development and humanitarian assistance pro-
 grams.”.

