

**THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND USAID FY 2018
AFRICA BUDGET**

HEARING

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AFRICA, GLOBAL HEALTH,
GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS, AND
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

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CONTENTS

	Page
WITNESSES	
The Honorable Donald Yamamoto, Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of African Affairs, U.S. Department of State	4
Ms. Cheryl Anderson, Acting Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Africa, U.S. Agency for International Development	12
LETTERS, STATEMENTS, ETC., SUBMITTED FOR THE HEARING	
The Honorable Donald Yamamoto: Prepared statement	7
Ms. Cheryl Anderson: Prepared statement	15
APPENDIX	
Hearing notice	38
Hearing minutes	39
Written responses from the Honorable Donald Yamamoto to questions submitted for the record by:	
The Honorable Christopher H. Smith, a Representative in Congress from the State of New Jersey, and chairman, Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations	40
The Honorable Ami Bera, a Representative in Congress from the State of California	52
Written responses from Ms. Cheryl Anderson to questions submitted for the record by:	
The Honorable Christopher H. Smith	57
The Honorable Ami Bera	66

THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND USAID FY 2018 AFRICA BUDGET

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2017

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AFRICA, GLOBAL HEALTH,
GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS, AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 2:00 p.m., in room 2200 Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Christopher H. Smith (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Mr. SMITH. The subcommittee will come to order and good afternoon to everybody. Thank you for being here.

I really deeply appreciate our two distinguished witnesses who are here today to give us an inside look at the budget as it relates to Africa and where the challenges are and where funding will potentially increase.

As you know, the appropriations budget that has passed the House clearly indicates that there were some differences of opinion as to how much and where we should be spending that money. And I think we have come to a consensus, at least on the Republican side, that extraordinary, important programs like PEPFAR, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, a number of the refugee programs, and a whole lot of other programs that deal with infectious diseases like tuberculosis need to be funded in a very robust way in order to save lives and to mitigate dangers, especially to women and children.

We also have a very strong commitment on this committee and from our leaders from the State Department ensuring that refugees in a world where we have more refugees and IDPs perhaps than ever before, and disproportionately in sub-Saharan Africa, that we ensure that the resourcing is there from food to medicine to shelter.

Just recently, in June, Ranking Member Karen Bass and I did visit some of the refugee camps including Bidi Bidi Camp and had a very important take away that our food security, that money that we were providing for food and medicine was being used very efficiently and compassionately. We also saw it in the IDP camps especially in Unity State in South Sudan where again because of the generosity of the American people, people were getting adequate food and shelter and medicine.

Obviously, this commingles and works synergistically with the United Nations' efforts, particularly in camps that are run by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

(UNHCR), so I think that partnership, as in the past, as in the present, and looking into the future, bodes well for doing everything humanly possible to assist.

There are always concerns about budget cuts. I think they are in the process of being mitigated by congressional action and that is a good thing in my opinion. Because again, for the weakest and most vulnerable among us, particularly refugees, particularly women and small children in dire situations where famine and other disasters are wreaking havoc on them, it is important to ensure that we get those resources to them in a timely fashion again to ensure survival and hopefully prospering.

Finally, one of the programs I consider to be among the greatest ever conceived is the first 1,000 days from conception to the second birthday where through adequate food security, children and mothers are made healthier. If ever there was a program that boosts immunity, ensures that mother and baby are healthier and can thrive, it thwarts the whole idea of stunting. In countries where there has been embrace of this important first 1,000 days of life, and it is part of, obviously, the fabric of the Global Food Security Act which I was the House sponsor of, and worked very closely with Dr. Shah, previously with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). And I have been with Ambassador Green, the new USAID Administrator, is a wonderful man to take the helm of USAID. As our former Ambassador to Tanzania, also he worked for IRI, so he gets the democracy piece, but also sat on this committee, my committee, years ago.

And to have him in such a prominent and gatekeeper position and Cheryl Anderson, I am sure you will agree, he is a man with tremendous competence and compassion who will make a huge difference at USAID. And so we are certainly grateful that he is at the helm.

I would like to yield to my good friend and colleague, Ms. Bass.

Ms. BASS. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. I want to welcome the Acting Assistant Secretary Donald Yamamoto and Acting Assistant Administrator Cheryl Anderson and thank you both for joining us today.

One of the things I always appreciate about this committee is the fact that so much of our work is on a bipartisan basis and especially as it relates to the continent of Africa. As I was walking in, I heard the chairman describe our trip to Uganda and to South Sudan and I certainly going to ask you about that in the Q and A.

But we all know that there is a direct correlation between our budget and our foreign policy priorities which is why, of course, the budget has caused a great deal of concern when we saw the initial fiscal year 2018 budget request that called for a nearly 30 percent cut to the State Department and USAID.

And I know that the administration is concerned about security and counterterrorism. And to me, when I look at USAID and the State Department, you know, we can make a choice. We can try to deal with security in addition through the military, but also through diplomacy and through development, or we can just fund the military. And so that really concerns me. And it makes me feel that the fiscal year 2018 budget is extremely short sighted.

I am also concerned about the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), and I didn't—and perhaps you can answer this in the Q and A, but I didn't see support for trade hubs and some of the other supportive programs. Maybe I am just missing the details, but in the CRS document, I don't see that.

President Bush established PEPFAR and we know that PEPFAR has done so much to reduce HIV and AIDS on the continent. I am glad that that funding has continued. But I am concerned about the elimination of the African Development Bank and Foundation. And again, I think that the overall approach is short sighted. It is like they picked and chose, but maybe didn't understand what the programs were. At least I am hoping that that is the case. I am hoping that it can be rectified.

I was glad that the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI), Power Africa, and Feed the Future is still in the budget, but the question is at what level. And the restructuring that collapses a bunch of programs together certainly causes concern for me. I don't exactly know how that is going to work, if that reorganization has actually take place or if it is a proposal or what.

And I will leave it at that and I know we will get into a rich exchange during the Q and A.

Mr. SMITH. Thank you, Ms. Bass. Mr. Donovan.

Mr. DONOVAN. I will yield, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. SUOZZI. I will yield, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. SMITH. Thank you. I would like to now introduce our very two distinguished witnesses and welcome back both of these great leaders.

Beginning with Donald Yamamoto, Ambassador Yamamoto, he served as U.S. Ambassador to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia from November 2006 to July 2009. He also served as Deputy Assistant Secretary to the Bureau of African Affairs from 2003 to 2006 where he was responsible for coordinating U.S. policy toward over 20 countries in East and Central Africa. He served as U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Djibouti from 2000 to 2003 and was Deputy Director of the East African Affairs from 1998 to 2000.

He entered the Foreign Service in 1980—same year I got elected to Congress I would note parenthetically. Former assignments include U.S. Embassy of Beijing as Ambassador's staff aide and Human Rights Officer, during the Tiananmen Square demonstrations and massacre in 1989. In Japan, he was Principal Officer at a consulate; in Eritrea, as Charge d'Affaires of the U.S. Embassy in Asmara in the Horn of Africa. He attended the National War College in 1996 for senior training and received a Congressional Fellowship in 1991.

Ambassador Yamamoto was a graduate of Columbia College and did graduate studies in Columbia, receiving a Master's Degree in International Affairs. He studied Chinese, Japanese, Arabic, and French. During his Foreign Service career, he received four individual Superior Honor awards, two group awards, and the 2006 Robert Frasure Memorial Award for advancing conflict resolution in Africa.

Next we will be hearing from Cheryl Anderson who is the Acting Assistant Administrator for the Bureau for Africa at USAID. She joined the Bureau as Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator in Oc-

tober 2016. Before joining the Africa Bureau, she served as the Mission Director for USAID, Southern Africa from August 2013. And prior to that, she was Mission Director in Ghana and the East Africa Regional Mission.

Ms. Anderson has over 20 years of development experience, mostly in Africa. Her experience in Africa began in Ghana as a Peace Corps volunteer. Since joining USAID as a Foreign Service Officer in 1988, she has worked in USAID missions in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Sudan, and East Africa. She served as the Deputy Director in the East Asia Office in USAID headquarters in Washington, DC, and worked as a program manager for Healthlink Worldwide, a U.K.-based NGO.

She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in International Relations from Colgate University in Hamilton, New York, and a Master of Science in International Development Management from American University right here in Washington, DC.

Two very experienced and dedicated public servants and leaders. I would like to now yield to Ambassador Yamamoto.

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE DONALD YAMAMOTO, ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY, BUREAU OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Ambassador YAMAMOTO. I submit my long form for the record.

Mr. SMITH. Without objection, your formal statements, both of you, and an attachments will be made a part of the record.

Ambassador YAMAMOTO. I want to thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, for the great work you have done on the Africa issue. And Madam Congresswoman, thank you very much for the letter to the Secretary of State on your concerns on the budget. And I hope we can address those concerns.

I also want to highlight a couple of points before I start my short form and that is Secretary Tillerson, during his comments before the Foreign Relations Committee on June 14th, noted that we have a very tight budget and that a lot of difficult, challenging decisions have to be made, but it aligns with the administration's objective of making America's security our top priority.

So in that regard, Mr. Chairman, and Madam Congresswoman, I would like to say that we appreciate the role of this committee and subcommittee play in helping the America people understand why foreign affairs matters to them. Advancing the values and interests of our country, promoting stability in the world does matter to our citizens whether it results in jobs, in economic opportunities, connections between communities or the safety and security we aim to achieve.

For far too long, images of poverty and insecurity have dominated the American perspective on Africa. Yes, these exist in Africa, and I would be remiss today if I did not express my very deep concern about the continued violence and fighting in places such as South Sudan, the Central African Republic, as well as the atrocities committed by Boko Haram and ISIS-West Africa against innocent civilians of all faiths in Nigeria and across the borders of neighboring states. These challenges are certainly not the whole story of what is happening on the continent, however. Countering the scourge of terrorism and resolving conflict represent just a

small part of what our partnerships on the continent aim to address and to achieve.

As we consider the purpose and nature of our relationship with Africa, it is important to note two things. The first is Africa's emergence as a point of global interest and strategic convergence. What happens on the continent over the next several years will help shape the world's economy, security, and well-being. Africa is emerging as a bridge from the Indo-Pacific region with the larger Atlantic community, while also connecting directly to Europe and the Middle East.

Second, Africa is a continent of friends and partners to the United States. With the African Union as the standard bearer, the vast majority of African states share our commitment to free markets, equitable trade, democracy, the rule of law, secure borders, and effective responses to global terrorist threats.

Active engagement in sub-Saharan Africa advances U.S. strategic interests. Our close collaboration with the interagency community centers on a set of jointly agreed-upon priorities for Africa. Together, we remain committed to: First, increasing economic growth and investment; second, advancing peace and security; third, countering the scourge of terrorism; and four, promoting democracy, human rights, and good governance.

The fiscal year 2018 foreign assistance budget request for Africa incorporates input from chiefs of missions at each sub-Saharan Africa post in response to these over-arching policy goals and reflects an integrated approach from meeting the diplomatic security development challenges in each country.

The African Bureaus at both State and USAID worked hard and hand-in-hand throughout all phases of the budget development process. The President's \$5.2 billion fiscal year 2018 foreign assistance request for Africa supports the administration's focus on economic and development assistance to countries of a greater strategic importance to the United States such as those critical to advancing U.S. national security objectives. Difficult tradeoffs were made as we worked to streamline efforts to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of U.S. taxpayer dollars. Focusing our efforts allows us to advance our most important policy goals in national security interests.

The fiscal year 2018 request addresses key priorities in Africa, including promoting U.S. national security interests by seeking to assist partner nations to defeat ISIS branches and affiliates and other terrorist organization threats and networks in Mali and the Sahel, Nigeria, the Lake Chad Basin, Somalia, the Horn of Africa, and elsewhere. The request also seeks to assert U.S. leadership and influence by prioritizing funding for countries recovering from or facing violent conflict to prevent them from becoming safe-havens for terrorism and extremism.

The fiscal year 2018 request also supports efforts to prevent global pandemics through robust funding for health programs, including the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, or PEPFAR, in order to control epidemics and diseases in key countries, and preventing their spread to the United States. With the transfer of Ebola funding, the budget request also maintains funding for malaria programs. African governments are increasingly acting to ad-

dress HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases, as we continue to encourage these efforts.

The fiscal year 2018 request aims to foster economic opportunities on the continent by bolstering good governance and education programs in Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, among others, that create a positive enabling environment for U.S. businesses. It will also provide sufficient resources to continue to partner with and provide assistance to key allies in sub-Saharan Africa in a manner that protects Americans and American interests, advances bilateral and regional partnerships, opens new markets for U.S. businesses, and promotes American values abroad.

Many of the biggest security threats that the United States faces including terrorism, pandemics, transnational organized crime are incubated and thrive in weak, failing, and failed states. Recognizing the foundation and importance of democracy, human rights, and good governance to Africa's future and to U.S. foreign policy objectives on the continent. We will continue to encourage the development of effective justice sector institutions, strong legislatures, robust civil societies, and independent judiciaries, media, and elections-related bodies, all of which are to improve transparency through advancing human rights violations by abusive governments so that corruption and failure to deliver these basic services and lack of transparency do not create vulnerabilities to violent extremism in unstable regions, threatening the United States and its allies.

Across the board, we are striving to move beyond outdated models for aid and focus on the objectives that link us as partners with the private sector, African governments, local non-governmental organizations, civil society, and citizens. This must be the way forward in terms of budget realities and in recognition of how our relationship with African partners have progressed.

As we continue to streamline our approach to ensure efficiencies and effectiveness of U.S. taxpayer dollars, we will continue to prioritize resources to align with the administration's foreign policy objectives, focusing our efforts and coordinating closely with donors that will allow us to continue to advance our most important policy goals.

And a final point, I want to emphasize that the way we have prioritized our budgeting for key, crucial areas remains proportional to what we have done in the past several years.

Thank you very much. I welcome your questions.

[The prepared statement of Ambassador Yamamoto follows:]

Statement by Acting Assistant Secretary Donald Yamamoto
FY 2018 Budget Request
House Foreign Affairs Committee
Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and
International Organizations

Wednesday, October 11, 2017, 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Bass, and Members of the Committee, thank you for inviting us to appear before you today to discuss the Administration's FY 2018 foreign assistance budget request and to provide further detail on U.S. assistance to sub-Saharan Africa. I am pleased to be joined by my colleague, Cheryl Anderson, Acting Assistant Administrator for the U.S. Agency for International Development's Bureau for Africa.

We deeply appreciate the role this Committee and Subcommittee play in helping the American people understand why foreign affairs matter to them. Advancing the values and interests of our country and promoting stability in the world does matter to our citizens, whether it results in jobs and economic opportunity, connections between communities, or the safety and security we aim to achieve.

For far too long, images of poverty and insecurity have dominated the American perspective on Africa. Yes, these exist in Africa, and I would be remiss today if I did not express my very deep concern about the continued violence and fighting in places such as South Sudan and the Central African Republic, as well as the atrocities committed by Boko Haram and ISIS-West Africa against innocent civilians of all faiths in Nigeria and across borders of neighboring states. These challenges are certainly not the whole story of what is happening on the continent, however. Countering the scourge of terrorism and resolving conflict represent just a small part of what our partnerships on the continent aim to address and to achieve.

As we consider the purpose and nature of our relationship with Africa, it is important to note two things. The first is Africa's emergence as a point of global interest and strategic convergence. What happens on the continent over the next several years will shape the world's economy, security, and well-being. Africa is emerging as a bridge from the Indo-Pacific region to the larger Atlantic community, while also connecting directly to Europe and the Middle East.

Second, as far as the United States is concerned, Africa is already a continent of friends and partners. With the African Union as the standard bearer, the vast majority of African states share our commitment to free markets, equitable trade, democracy and the rule of law, secure borders, and effective responses to global terrorist threats.

Active engagement in sub-Saharan Africa advances U.S. strategic interests. Our close collaboration with the interagency community centers on a set of jointly agreed-upon priorities for Africa. Together we remain committed to:

- Increasing economic growth and investment;
- Advancing peace and security;
- Countering the scourge of terrorism; and
- Promoting democracy, human rights and good governance.

In our efforts to advance peace and security, we are committed to working closely with Africans to address terrorist and other transnational challenges such as maritime safety and security, narcotics and wildlife trafficking, and trafficking in persons.

The President's \$5.2 billion FY 2018 foreign assistance request for Africa reflects the Administration's focus on economic and development assistance to countries of the greatest strategic importance to the United States, such as those critical to advancing U.S. national security objectives. As we worked to streamline efforts to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of U.S. taxpayer dollars, we had to make some difficult tradeoffs.

Working within the Administration's resource guidelines, the Africa Bureaus at both State and USAID worked hand-in-hand on the budget development process in order to mitigate the impact of reductions in development funding on our national interests and policy objectives on the continent.

The FY 2018 request thus addresses key priorities in Africa, including promoting U.S. national security interests by seeking to assist partner nations to defeat ISIS branches and affiliates and other terrorist organization threats and networks in Mali and the Sahel, Nigeria and the Lake Chad Basin, Somalia and the Horn of Africa, and elsewhere. The request also seeks to assert U.S. leadership and influence by prioritizing funding for countries recovering from or facing violent conflict to prevent them from becoming safe-havens for terrorism and extremism.

Transnational threats, such as terrorism and crime, state fragility, and conflict, make the promotion of peace and security a critical priority for the United States in Africa. In Somalia, despite overall funding reductions, we seek to target our assistance to bolster the effectiveness of AMISOM, the African Union Mission in Somalia, and the Somalia National Security Forces to drive out al-Shabaab and support further efforts to strengthen the Somali state. In the Lake Chad Basin, our assistance is helping the regional coalition defeat Boko Haram and ISIS-West Africa with support for military and civilian security operations, humanitarian support, and a defectors' strategy.

In Mali and the Sahel, we have a multifaceted approach to support the peace process, bring stability, and drive out terrorists. We support French military counterterrorism operations with logistical and other assistance; we are providing support to the regional states in the G-5 Sahel framework; and we are sustaining MINUSMA so that it can fulfill its role to support Mali's government. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan, the budget request supports mitigation of regional crises; provides monitoring teams, advisors, training, logistical support, infrastructure enhancements, and equipment; and supports security sector reform.

The FY 2018 request also supports efforts to prevent global pandemics by protecting funding for health programs, including the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, or PEPFAR, in order to control epidemics and diseases in key countries, and prevent their spread to the United States. The request provides sufficient resources to maintain all current patients on HIV/AIDS treatment under PEPFAR in more than 50 countries globally. In Africa, PEPFAR will continue to ensure access to HIV/AIDS services, including for the most vulnerable and at-risk groups, and will target resources to advance the U.S. government's strategy through focused investment in 12 high-burden countries that have the potential to achieve epidemic control by 2020. With the transfer of Ebola funding, the budget request also maintains funding for malaria programs. Additionally, African governments are increasingly acting to address HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases, and we continue to encourage their efforts.

The FY 2018 request aims to foster economic opportunities on the continent by supporting good governance and education programs in Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda, among others, that create a positive enabling environment for U.S. businesses. It will also provide sufficient resources to continue to partner with, and provide assistance to, key allies in sub-Saharan Africa in a manner that protects

Americans and American interests, advances bilateral and regional partnerships, opens new markets for U.S. businesses, and promotes American values abroad.

While the African continent as a whole has made important gains in democracy and institution building, those gains are fragile. Many of the biggest security threats the United States faces – including terrorism, pandemics, and transnational organized crime – are incubated and thrive in weak, failing, and failed states. Democracy, human rights, and good governance is vital to Africa's stability and future. In order to achieve U.S. foreign policy objectives on the continent, it is important to foster strong democratic institutions. Some of the most chronic and deadly conflicts originate from the comprehensive denial of civilian participation in their own government. Therefore, we will continue to encourage the development of effective justice sector institutions, strong legislatures, robust civil societies, and independent judiciaries, media, and elections-related bodies, all of which are important to a healthy democracy. We will also work to combat corruption and improve transparency while addressing human rights violations by abusive governments. All of these efforts will help counter political fragility and support stronger and more effective governance so that corruption, failure to deliver basic services, and lack of transparency do not create vulnerabilities to violent-extremism in unstable regions, threatening the United States and its allies.

The request continues to provide support, at a reduced level, for all three components of the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI): the Mandela Washington Fellowship, the YALI Regional Leadership Centers, and the YALI Network. We will focus on developing the relationships that YALI has fostered, while enabling a smaller number of Mandela Washington Fellows to travel to the United States for YALI's flagship exchange program. The private sector has shown interest in supporting the goals of YALI, and we will continue to encourage its support and leverage private sector funding.

The budget request also continues support, at reduced levels, for Power Africa. The United States will continue to work with host governments and communities to develop public-private partnerships that promote the most appropriate and financially sound energy solutions for each country, while simultaneously creating economic opportunities in the United States. To date, Power Africa has more than 130 private sector partners, in addition to the governments of Sweden, Norway, Canada, the United Kingdom, Japan, and France, as well as the European Union.

Across the board, we are striving to move beyond outdated models for aid and focus on the objectives that link us as partners with the private sector, African

governments, local non-governmental organizations, civil society, and citizens. We continue to use our resources and programming to leverage more contributions from host nations and other donors. This must be the way forward in terms of budget realities and in recognition of how our relationships with African partners have progressed.

As we work to streamline our approach, to ensure efficiency and effectiveness of U.S. taxpayer dollars, we will continue to prioritize resources to align with the Administration's foreign policy objective. Focusing our efforts and coordinating closely with other donors will allow us to continue to advance our most important policy goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I look forward to your views and questions

Mr. SMITH. Ambassador, thank you very much.
Ms. Anderson.

**STATEMENT OF MS. CHERYL ANDERSON, ACTING ASSISTANT
ADMINISTRATOR, BUREAU FOR AFRICA, U.S. AGENCY FOR
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Ms. ANDERSON. Good afternoon members of the subcommittee. Thank you for inviting me to speak with you today about the United States' investments in sub-Saharan Africa. It is an honor and a pleasure to have the opportunity to discuss the U.S. Agency for International Development's programs on the continent.

United States assistance is having a transformative impact in sub-Saharan Africa. Between 2000 and 2015, the percentage of Africans living in extreme poverty has declined from 57 to 41 percent. Under-5 mortality rates have declined from 154 per 1,000 births in 2000 to 74 children per 1,000 in 2015. And African school primary enrollment rates have increased from 61 percent in 2000 to 79 percent in 2014.

These dramatic changes were the result of sustained efforts by African governments, with essential support from bilateral and multilateral development partners, foundations, and non-governmental organizations. Throughout USAID's history, we have confronted some of the world's greatest development challenges, and along with our partners, we have demonstrated that our work can and does have a measurable impact. Even so, every program should look forward to the day when it can end. So every USAID mission must continuously evaluate how each program dollar moves a country closer to that day.

These development efforts reap dividends not just for Africa, but also for the United States. Administrator Green has stressed that the United States will not turn its back on those in need.

Where can we make a real difference? That question drives everything we do. USAID has become more selective in how we choose the countries and sectors where we will invest our resources.

The total fiscal year 2018 budget request for Africa is \$5.2 billion. Roughly \$3.7 billion or 70 percent of the request represents the top 10 country programs. In fiscal year 2018, our resources are allocated based on the four over-arching policy priorities laid out in the President's Budget Blueprint. First, advance U.S. national security interests in Africa through programs that support partners in the fight against terrorism, advance peace and security, and promote good governance. Second, ensure programming asserts U.S. leadership and influence. Third, design programs that foster economic opportunities and spur mutually beneficial trade and investment arrangements for both the American people and our African partners. Lastly, we underscore all these efforts with a relentless focus on efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability to the American taxpayer.

Many of the biggest external security threats the United States faces, including terrorism and pandemics, are incubated and thrive in weak, failing, and failed states. The fiscal year 2018 budget request supports our continued effort to counter violent extremism and support conflict prevention and mitigation on the continent.

For example, in Somalia, USAID activities support the country's transition from decades of state failure to a more stable, democratic ally in the volatile Horn of Africa region. USAID's programs challenge extremist ideology and disrupt tactics of Islamic State militants and al-Shabaab. Since 2011, USAID investments have fostered stabilization in more than 40 percent of districts in south central Somalia that were retaken from al-Shabaab by creating 6,300 new jobs and providing education services for more than 21,000 secondary school students.

For more than 55 years, USAID programs have saved and improved lives around the world, advanced American values, increased global stability, and driven economic growth in emerging markets.

Of the fiscal year 2018 request for Africa, approximately 80 percent is allocated to global health programs. These programs support control of the HIV and AIDS epidemic, prevent child and maternal deaths, and combat infectious disease threats. They are hallmarks of U.S. leadership in the world. However, responding to global challenges is a shared responsibility that cannot be met by one nation alone.

Although Africa still struggles with development challenges, the region has experienced rapid economic growth and significant poverty reduction, with a number of African countries now among the top fastest-growing economies in the world.

Increasingly, foreign direct investment is driving growth in Africa, and U.S. assistance is being outpaced by private investment. Through Power Africa, a U.S. Government initiative, the private sector has invested \$14 billion in 57 projects at a relatively minimal cost to the U.S. taxpayer.

Through the USAID Regional Trade and Investment Hubs in Ghana, Kenya, and South Africa, we reduce barriers to trade and investment, and foster linkages between U.S. and African firms. In close cooperation with African countries, USAID facilitates trade and also reduces its time and cost.

We have also prioritized programs that promote entrepreneurship, help build capacity in local institutions to support free markets, fight corruption, and unlock opportunities to formalize the huge informal economy. Our investments also help to empower women and youth to advance economically, ensuring inclusive economic growth.

We intend to uphold the administration's commitment to ensure effectiveness and accountability to the U.S. taxpayer. Rigorous monitoring and evaluation help to ensure the effectiveness of USAID's programs. That being said, not everything we do always turns out the way we plan, so we will continue to manage our risks well, learn from experience, and correct course where necessary.

In conclusion, the United States has a continued commitment to a partnership with African governments, partners, and other donors grounded in mutual responsibility and respect. USAID has a very real role in safeguarding the United States' national security and economic opportunities. As we continue to work with our partners toward our shared goals over the coming months, I look forward to a continued conversation on USAID's work in Africa.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Bass, and members of the subcommittee. I look forward to responding to your questions.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Anderson follows:]

**Testimony of U.S. Agency for International Development
Acting Assistant Administrator for Africa, Cheryl L. Anderson
before the House Foreign Affairs Committee
Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International
Organizations
October 11, 2017**

“Sub-Saharan Africa Budget Priorities FY 2018”

Good afternoon members of the subcommittee. Thank you for inviting me to speak with you today about United States investments in sub-Saharan Africa. It is an honor and pleasure to have the opportunity to discuss the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) programs on the continent.

United States assistance is having a transformative impact in sub-Saharan Africa. Between 2000 and 2015, the percentage of Africans living in extreme poverty has declined from 57 to 41 percent; under-5 mortality rates have declined from 154 per 1,000 births to 74 children per thousand in 2015; and African school primary enrollment rates have increased from 61 percent in 2000 to 79 percent in 2014.

These dramatic changes were the result of sustained efforts by African governments, with essential support from aid donors, foundations, and non-governmental organizations. Throughout USAID’s history, we have confronted some of the world’s greatest development challenges, and along with our partners, we have demonstrated that our work can and does have a measurable impact. Even so, every program should look forward to the day when it can end. So every USAID mission must continuously evaluate how each program dollar moves a country closer to that day.

These development efforts reap dividends not just for Africa but also for the United States. Disease and conflict know no borders. Undeveloped markets can limit the potential for global economic growth. As the United States supports the development of African businesses, it fuels the kind of job creation that gives rise to real economic growth and political stability. The result? Creation of growing markets with increased economic opportunities for American firms and American workers.

Administrator Green has stressed that the United States will not turn its back on those in need. The American people have demonstrated their overwhelming commitment to help those in crisis as seen through outpourings of donations after the hurricanes in the Caribbean, the earthquake in Mexico, and other recent disasters. Assistance is an American value – it’s part of our culture and who we are.

Where can we make a real difference? That question drives everything we do. USAID has become more selective in how we choose the countries and sectors where we will invest our resources.

The total fiscal year (FY) 2018 budget request for Africa is \$5.2 billion. Roughly \$3.7 billion or 70 percent of the request represent the top 10 country programs. In FY 2018, our resources are

allocated based on the four overarching policy priorities laid out in the President's Budget Blueprint. First, advance U.S. national security interests in Africa through programs that support partners in the fight against terrorism, advance peace and security, and promote good governance. Second, ensure programming asserts U.S. leadership and influence. Third, design programs that foster economic opportunities and spur mutually beneficial trade and investment arrangements for both the American people and our African partners. Lastly, we underscore all these efforts with a relentless focus on efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability to the American taxpayer. This funding is complemented by our humanitarian assistance provided through USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance and the Office of Food for Peace, which are responding to critical emergency needs across the continent.

Advance U.S. National Security Interests and Leadership in Africa

Many of the biggest external security threats the United States faces — including terrorism and pandemics — are incubated and thrive in weak, failing, and failed states. The FY18 budget request supports our continued effort to counter violent extremism and support conflict prevention and mitigation on the continent. These efforts are supported by policy and the program activities of the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership and the Partnership for Regional East Africa Counterterrorism. Such programs build African partner capacity to deny terrorists safe havens and address underlying conditions that can contribute to the spread of violent extremism.

For example in Somalia, USAID activities support the country's transition from decades of state failure to a more stable, democratic ally in the volatile Horn of Africa region. USAID's programs challenge extremist ideology and disrupt tactics of Islamic State militants and al-Shabaab. Our programming also contributes to effective governance, credible political processes, transparency, and improvements in livelihoods that build community and government resilience. Since 2011, USAID investments have fostered stabilization in more than 40 percent of districts in south-central Somalia that were retaken from al-Shabaab, created 6,300 new jobs and provided education services for more than 21,000 secondary school students.

In Nigeria, when democracy faced a critical test during the 2015 presidential elections, USAID played a vital role in ensuring credible and peaceful elections. This resulted in the country's first peaceful democratic transfer of power from one party to another. At the same time, in northeast Nigeria, West Africa ISIS and Boko Haram continue to drive displacement, violence, and instability. Regional disparities in economic development between the northeast and rest of the country were a major factor in the group's rise. USAID programs are designed to respond to, and contain, this threat. By providing development and humanitarian assistance, USAID supports the credibility and stability of the Nigerian state, and reduces individual's vulnerability to extremist recruitment. USAID has created more than 1,200 non-formal learning centers in the Northeast that allowed nearly 88,000 children affected by the crisis to access basic literacy, numeracy, and social-emotional skills. Our development assistance combats fragility and supports stronger and more effective governance so that these problems do not grow worse and threaten the United States and its allies.

U.S. Leadership and Influence

For more than 55 years, USAID programs have saved and improved lives around the world, advanced American values, increased global stability, and driven economic growth in emerging markets. Global pandemics and the spread of diseases, such as tuberculosis, the H5N1 strain of avian influenza, and the 2014-2016 Ebola epidemic in West Africa have shown us that American health — and therefore our national security — are vulnerable. USAID's health programming helps prevent or stop outbreaks at the country level by strengthening African health systems and preventing these diseases from becoming epidemics that spread across borders.

Of the FY 2018 request for Africa, approximately eighty percent is allocated to global health programs. These programs support control of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, prevent child and maternal deaths, and combat infectious disease threats — they are hallmarks of U.S. leadership in the world. The United States, through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) has led the response to HIV and AIDS for more than 20 years. However, responding to global challenges is a shared responsibility that cannot be met by one nation alone. The United States will continue to challenge the global community to devote resources and political capital to building healthier, stronger, and more self-sufficient nations in the developing world.

Fostering Economic Opportunities for the American People

Although Africa is the world's least developed continent, the region has experienced rapid economic growth and significant poverty reduction, with a number of African countries (Côte d'Ivoire, Tanzania, and Senegal) now among the top 11 fastest-growing economies in the world. The changing economic landscape, including a burgeoning middle class and greater regional integration, will create vast markets for American goods and valuable investment opportunities for American businesses.

Increasingly, foreign direct investment is driving growth in Africa, and U.S. assistance is being outpaced by private investment. Through Power Africa, a U.S. Government initiative, the private sector has invested \$14 billion in 57 projects at a relatively minimal cost to the U.S. taxpayer. Partnerships have allowed other programs to grow beyond U.S. Government resources. For example, USAID has garnered more than \$80 million in cash and in-kind donations from the private sector for youth learning centers in Africa. Partners include non-profit and for profit organizations: MasterCard Foundation, Microsoft, Dow Chemical, Procter & Gamble, General Electric, and Kenya Commercial Bank. This is a model for how the interagency can maximize the impact of our resources by aligning and leveraging partners from the public and private sector alike.

Through the USAID Regional Trade and Investment Hubs in Ghana, Kenya, and South Africa, we reduce barriers to trade and investment, and foster linkages between U.S. and African firms. In close cooperation with African countries, USAID facilitates trade and also reduces its time and cost. We have prioritized programs that promote entrepreneurship, help build capacity in local institutions to support free markets, fight corruption, and unlock opportunities to formalize the huge informal economy. Our investments also help to empower women and youth to advance economically, ensuring inclusive economic growth.

Focus on Efficiency, Effectiveness, and Accountability to the American Taxpayer

We intend to uphold the Administration's commitment to ensure effectiveness and accountability to the U.S. taxpayer. Rigorous monitoring and evaluation help to ensure the effectiveness of USAID's programs.

In 2011, USAID released a new Evaluation Policy renewing its commitment to effective program management, results, accountability, and evidence for decision-making. We report transparently on evaluation findings and share the evaluation reports online. That being said, not everything we do always turns out the way we planned – so we will continue to manage our risks well, learn from experience, and correct course when necessary.

The United States has a continued commitment to a partnership with African governments, partners, and other donors grounded in mutual responsibility and respect. USAID has a very real role in safeguarding the United States' national security and economic opportunities. As we continue to work with our partners toward our shared goals over the coming months, I look forward to a continued conversation on USAID work in Africa.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee. I look forward to responding to your questions.

Mr. SMITH. Thank you so very much for your testimony. To begin the questioning, just let me ask you first. In year 2000 I authored the Admiral Nance and Meg Donovan Foreign Relations Act. It passed the House. Wasn't taken up by the Senate so I attached it in its entirety to that year's appropriations bill. Much of it focused on the issue of security for U.S. personnel abroad, whether it be at USAID missions or our Embassies themselves with a heavy emphasis on setbacks, securing the windows so that they are less vulnerable to terrorist attack. And it came right out of the bombings in Dar es Salaam and the bombing in Nairobi in 1997 when we learned a painful lesson that international terrorism was transnational and that they would hit softer targets believing that we would be less prepared.

So my first question really is along the lines of the commitment that began then under the law and the appropriators have been very faithful and I think diligent in trying to ensure that the setbacks and the compounds within which our deployed personnel work and our contract workers including a number of indigenous people from each of these countries is sufficient to protect. And I am wondering if you could tell us if, in your opinion, Ambassador, that is true and reflected in this year's budget?

Ambassador YAMAMOTO. First, thank you very much for those efforts. So of our 44 Embassies and we have another 6 consulates and other offices for a total of 50. And we have about 1200 officers and 3200 other agencies working those missions, we have about 30 or so missions and offices that have been or are under construction under the new standards for security. And so those monies have been put to good use.

The security development, I think the Secretary raised it very clearly on diplomatic security and the funding, so that continues. We still have several Embassies that are now under construction. In fact, this week, we will be opening two new chancelleries in Mauritania and in Chad. So thank you very much for that work, Mr. Congressman.

Mr. SMITH. I will never forget when Admiral Crowe who then headed up the Accountability Review Board and testified before my committee then back in 1988 made the case that wonderful people from the United States travel abroad, often at great risk to themselves from disease, as well as terrorism. We should at least ensure that the physical plan and the protocols that are in place to protect them are as robust as they can be. And that was the reason for the law in the beginning. So I am grateful that progress continues under your watch.

One area of concern with yours in this year's budget request, which I think frankly is in the process of being overcome through the appropriations process, and that is the issue of Feed the Future. In the last Congress, I was the author on the House side on the Global Food Security Act with a big emphasis on ensuring that nutrition, proper supplementation was provided for, and yet this year's budget calls for very significant cuts in Feed the Future and elimination of the of the Food for Peace program. I don't believe that will happen and I wish it wasn't even in the budget request to begin with.

Already in the appropriations bill, as passed by the House, that is largely overcome with bipartisan efforts to ensure that that important food security is available. But if you would like to speak to that and in a like manner, PEPFAR. A visionary bill authored originally by Congressman Henry Hyde who was chairman of our full committee, but also especially inspired by George W. Bush who said, "This pandemic must end." And I remember Henry Hyde explained to him, he said, "If left untreated, this will be like the Bubonic Plague" and was already claiming lives of so many millions of men, women, and children in the United States, but also in sub-Saharan Africa where it was particularly raging and destroying human life.

There is a significant cut, as well, in PEPFAR and on the good news front, I don't it is going to happen. Already in this budget we are talking about the budget that the House has passed for appropriations. Talks about \$6 billion being allocated for the PEPFAR program and through USAID as well. So I think it will be overcome by congressional intervention, but if you would speak to how important these programs and others—you know, it is not the nature of both Democratic and Republican administrations.

I remind my colleagues that President Obama sent up budgets that cut tuberculosis by 20 percent. We added it all back. He had a program that neglected tropical diseases efforts which were at at \$100 million, cut it by \$20 million. We put it back. I tried to get it to \$125 million, but at least we got it back to straight lining.

And Mr. Biggs and I have introduced a bill that would significantly prioritize these horrific neglected tropical diseases including worms which about 1 billion people carry, which is unconscionable, when we think what that must be like. Rather than Feed the Future with food, we are feeding the worms. So we really want to ensure that people have healthier guts and parasites are destroyed inside of these very vulnerable groups of people all over the world, but especially in sub-Saharan Africa.

But if you could speak to PEPFAR and this effort. Again, I do think the record should show it this year's budget already makes it clear that that money is going back into the budget and perhaps you might want to speak to how well utilized that money could be to ensure that these vulnerable populations are cared for.

Ms. ANDERSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would emphasize that as we formulated the budget for fiscal year 2018, we worked to reflect the President's America First policy and the foreign policy priorities of the administration. So we focused our resources on the programs and the countries and the sub-regions where we felt we could maximize our impact on national security, on U.S. economic interests, U.S. influence and leadership, and also efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability to the American taxpayers.

So we made some tough choices. And I would like to emphasize that at any budget level, we always have to make sure that we are efficient with our use of resources. And it is always a very good exercise to see how we can be more efficient. It is also important for us to look to others to do more, including helping our host countries to mobilize domestic resources to help mobilize private capital for development objectives. That said, we absolutely recognize the im-

portance of food security and appreciate the Global Food Security Act.

Feed the Future has already done quite a bit toward the development of the countries in sub-Saharan Africa. We are particularly concerned about building resilience to future shocks that we know will be coming, especially drought in some of the areas of sub-Saharan Africa where we see recurring problems.

We also realize that the work that we do in food security and making the value chains more efficient is good for U.S. businesses. So we did announce a new set of target countries for Feed the Future and we will continue to prioritize our resources as much as we can in the countries where we will have a good impact.

On PEPFAR and on health, in general, I think you will see in the fiscal year 2018 budget the line item for PEPFAR actually went up a little bit. And we recognize the importance of continued investments in health and especially in HIV and in AIDS.

Mr. SMITH. I noticed in the explanation before, Ambassador Yamamoto, the administration said that nobody would lose their ARVs. Anybody who was on treatment would continue receiving it. And that is important for a number of reasons, obviously. You don't want people who are HIV positive obviously getting full-blown AIDS and suffering the ravages of that deadly disease. But I think one of the greater stories that remains largely told in policy circles, but not in the general public, is that the viral load, as you know, is so significantly reduced to a treatment, not just preventive means, but the treatment itself down that viral load. So the more we provide treatment the more we are lessening or mitigating the transmission of this horrific disease. So I am glad to hear of the increase because I think it is needed and then some.

And I do believe, as you have noted, and I have read the budget recommendations, we want to get others to do more and that is an important concept. And the American taxpayer demands that others step up and do more, particularly the European Union where much more could be done. With that said, for people who are suffering starvation or the ravages of disease, it seems to me that we always should be the first with the most to make sure that they survive and thrive, even if the others do not step up to the plate. That is just my thoughts on that. Ambassador.

Ambassador YAMAMOTO. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and really for all your great work for the committee. So just to kind of emphasize that the overall budgeting, if you look at the \$5.2 billion 2018 request is still over about 81 percent which is not really changed in the past, so 81 percent toward health and overall healthcare issues.

But I think what is really important is that over the years since PEPFAR has developed and Feed the Future, what the Ambassadors are doing and what we are doing with USAID directors in the field is doing much more integration. So in other words, building on other pots of funding and also programs and kind of bring it together. So for instance when you see the PEPFAR countries from Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Namibia, Nigeria, that is just not receiving PEPFAR money, but they are also receiving economic support funds. The other issue is military assistance to help for security issues, education, agriculture.

The other issue, too, is looking at supporting our NGO partners, the faith-based groups, etcetera. And so it is really a much more holistic, cohesive group.

The other thing, too, is I think we have learned from a lot of areas. I think when I was the Ambassador in Ethiopia, we had a problem about how to utilize all the funding. And I think through your guidance and the guidance from USAID, we have done a much better job of really utilizing effectively and saving a lot of taxpayer money. So thank you.

Mr. SMITH. Ranking Member Bass.

Ms. BASS. I want to compliment both of you for incredible careers and contributions that you have made to our country through your service over the years. And you don't need to answer this, but I know that you have to support this budget and it must be very painful because this is just filled with contradictions.

You ran through, Ms. Anderson, you ran through—I think I lost track of some of your points, but U.S. national security to advance peace. You talked about U.S. leadership and influence and efficiency and effectiveness and accountability. I think there was one I missed. Did I miss one?

Ms. ANDERSON. U.S. economic interests?

Ms. BASS. Yes, U.S. economic interests and you also said America First. And to me, America First doesn't mean we abdicate our leadership role. And so for national security and advancing peace and then the budget proposes cutting peacekeeping and cutting development. So to me, that is a direct contradiction. U.S. leadership and influence, Feed the Future is a perfect example of U.S. leadership.

You know, I think it is one of the best programs we have had and the chairman's leadership in it. Instead of us providing food to Africa, Africa can feed itself. And us providing technology and our scientific expertise so that we can build the capacity rather than have this charity approach to me is U.S. leadership. We complain about the role of the Chinese. Well, you know, this budget has us stepping back in my opinion.

When you are looking for efficiency and effectiveness, I am wondering if instead of cutting programs, you are looking at or examining any outside contracting that might be done. And you know, if that is an area where you could look at cutting instead of cutting things like some of the programs that we have talked about.

I wanted to ask you about a couple of things health related. It is my understanding and you can tell me if I am wrong, but that the budget would dramatically reduce reproductive health programs and family planning. And one of the problems in Africa is maternal deaths and one of the reasons why you have maternal deaths is when women cannot space their pregnancy. And so if I am reading it right, what is the logic in cutting it back?

You know, again, we can make decisions about national security. We can put all of our resources in the military or we can help address some of the root causes for the conflicts to begin with. And it seems like this budget is very short sighted and why I said it is full of contradictions.

Now it is a perfect example of why I am thankful we have three equal branches of government so that we can push back and not

fund the way this budget is proposing to fund Africa-related programs. So I want to ask, am I correct in looking at essentially family planning would be zeroed out, if not drastically reduced. You can answer that, one of you.

Ms. ANDERSON. That is correct. We have zeroed out family planning in the fiscal year 2018 budget.

Ms. BASS. What is the reason? What is the logic for that?

Ms. ANDERSON. Policy decision.

Ms. BASS. Yes, I know it is a policy, but why?

Ms. ANDERSON. I would be happy to take your thoughts back.

Ms. BASS. You know, I know that funding is cut for anything related to climate change and unfortunately Africa and a lot of the problems that happen in Africa, the natural disasters are completely related to climate change. So is that just using the budget to express an ideology?

Ms. ANDERSON. Again, that was a policy decision. I would go back to family planning and note that we continue our commitment the health of women and children with our other health programs including maternal and child health and malaria programming and HIV/AIDS.

Ms. BASS. Maternal and child health. One of the reasons for maternal death are not being able to space your pregnancies. So you provide it in one side and then contribute to the problem in another way?

Ms. ANDERSON. Yes, go ahead.

Ambassador YAMAMOTO. And yours was a very cogent and very difficult question and the challenges that we had in trying to fashion the budget and what decisions are made, but then on the other side, too, we are looking at for more efficiencies. I will give you one example is on maternity and infant mortality rates. So looking at the different pots of money and looking at what really makes sense, so for instance, in East Africa where you have in many countries and areas one out of every ten will die before the age of 5. So if they survive to five is really one of our basic USAID campaigns.

Ms. BASS. Which is our chairman's program as well. First 1,000 Days.

Ambassador YAMAMOTO. It is one of the most effective. The areas that we have to depend on contributions from NGO groups, the others, faith-based groups, and we really connected with a lot of faith-based groups in the United States from Oklahoma to Virginia to other places in the Eastern United States.

Right, it doesn't make up all the issues that we need to do and to address, but it makes up a significant. The other part is is one of the things that—

Ms. BASS. What do the faith-based groups have to do with it? I am missing your point.

Ambassador YAMAMOTO. For instance, in Ethiopia and Somalia, you don't have incubators. And so what they have done is they have made these skull caps, which is to help.

Ms. BASS. Oh.

Ambassador YAMAMOTO. And then we bring in—it is called, the mothers are—we call them kangaroos because what they do is because there are no incubators, they hug the child until they survive.

Ms. BASS. Right. Keep the child warm.

Ambassador YAMAMOTO. That is right. And then the other issue, too, is looking at food aid and food assistance and then food development issues to help feed children, etcetera.

The other issue that is really kind of plaguing us is medical care and health care. So for instance, when we were doing a data dumping on some of the countries, particularly Ethiopia, we were noticing that a lot of doctors, there were more Ethiopian doctors outside of Ethiopia than inside Ethiopia.

Ms. BASS. There were more what?

Ambassador YAMAMOTO. Ethiopian doctors.

Ms. BASS. Right.

Ambassador YAMAMOTO. In Botswana, even in Washington, DC.

Ms. BASS. Probably in Los Angeles.

Ambassador YAMAMOTO. Yes, Washington, DC. So the issue is what do you do? And so we learn from the U.S. program EMTs and how to do basic EMT work and having basic healthcare providers. And so the low cost, a lot of contributions, and private sector support and so that helps to address a lot of the basic maternity and infant mortality issues.

Ms. BASS. When we had a hearing, the Deputy Secretary testified before the full committee regarding the State Department's redesign plan which really seems like it is a mess. I mean you might be able to talk about that, all of the combination of programs. But in particular, I asked about a special envoy, specifically the South Sudan. And the Deputy Secretary thought that the special envoy was put in statute by Congress. And that is not the case apparently.

So what we have been told is that the Department of State believes that the responsibilities can be administrative realigned to be covered by the DAS within the Bureau of African Affairs. And so I want to know if you can provide additional details about the DAS that will cover this and how we think, especially given—you know again, it is shortsightedness.

We pass close to \$1 billion for famine and then we remove the special envoy to South Sudan?

Ambassador YAMAMOTO. And so from your travels and visits to the region, you see very much the problems in Mali, 1.3 million refugees from South Sudan going to Uganda and other problems. What we have done on the decision made by the Secretary is that we have the envoy back into the Bureau. And so we still have those FTE positions, so in other words, the positions.

So what we want to do is is really kind of refocus and we have been coordinating with the P3s and our donor colleagues, particularly the special reps that they have from Norway, the U.K. And then looking at the African Union and seeing how can we, the United States, play a—

Ms. BASS. I thought we cut the African Union, we cut funding to the African Union.

Ambassador YAMAMOTO. But the issue is that we are coordinating with them because they play a critical role, particularly in the high level dialogue run by Ethiopia's Hailemariam and Uganda's Museveni with Salva Kiir in Southern Sudan. So based on that, we are looking at how we can realign and support these ef-

forts and then using our positions to use senior officers to play critical roles in support of and also taking lead in certain areas. That is something that we are still looking at, but I think I have a little more confidence now as we look in reshaping and redirect our operations.

Ms. BASS. So you don't think a special envoy is needed?

Ambassador YAMAMOTO. At this point the decision has been made that we will not have a special envoy.

Ms. BASS. That was a good answer. You didn't answer that, but I understand that. I really do. I feel like both of you, this budget does not reflect your illustrious careers and I am sorry that you have to be put in a position to defend it.

My final question is—I am sorry.

Ms. ANDERSON. If I could just make one clarification on the development budget for African Union. If you are looking at the line items it is showing as zero, but we will be providing funding through the regional account.

Ms. BASS. So the chairman asked you a question, Ambassador, about Embassy security. And you mentioned that several Embassies were on line to be built. What about the DRC? That Embassy, when I went there, the place was falling apart.

Ambassador YAMAMOTO. That is an issue that we have been working on for years. We have asked President Kabila to give us land so we can start building. And that is something that we are going to be pushing very vigorously because we really need to get our people into safe, secure areas. And that is one of our top priorities.

Ms. BASS. Well, even if he doesn't give land, do we have anything in the budget to repair that place? Because literally, it looked like it was falling apart.

Ambassador YAMAMOTO. And we have done based on DS security regulations to look at how we can upgrade what we have now. But the bottom line is that we need to have a new Embassy and that is what we are looking and focusing on and working with the government on.

Ms. BASS. Thank you. Yield back my time.

Mr. SMITH. The gentleman from New York, Mr. Donovan.

Mr. DONOVAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have to attend a Middle East and Northern African hearing, so I just wanted to ask one question.

Mr. Ambassador, you touched on it. I think you also did, Ms. Anderson, about efficiencies and reviewing where we are getting the best results from the efforts that we are making and where we are replacing our resources. Can you touch on some of the findings that you may have found as you review whether or not some of the programs are as efficient as we would hope they would be and then maybe some other areas that you might look at in the future to see where we would reallocate resources so we are getting results for our efforts?

Ambassador YAMAMOTO. So as we are looking at the security environment right now and the problems we are seeing is flow of arms, criminal syndicates going through Central African Republic and then posing problems to the G5 countries, those are like Mauritania, Chad, Niger, etcetera is what is it that we need to do to

kind of bolster the security? And the issue is that you don't want to do it alone.

So from the U.N. General Assembly on we have really worked very effectively and hard with the key threes, that is the U.K. and then France and then other donor countries. And then also the African Union and the regional states, so ECOWAS and other issues. And then looking at what they are providing assistance or what they see the issues are, then looking at our own funding that we have given to countries.

So what we have done is if you look at the budget, you see a lot of countries that are being decreased by 20 percent, 30 percent or what have you. But if you look at the regional funding, that is where we are looking at trying to use that as assistance or reserve to look at the most critical areas that we need to provide assistance. So in other words, we have—I will give you some examples on the funding. So we have \$131 million that is going to be Chad-based in country. That is Nigeria, Mauritania and Niger. And then we look at the trans-Sahel and the TSTCP on the west side and the PRACT on the east side. And so as we see problems developing, we can use the funding from these regional bases to help support and bolster these countries' security.

Mr. DONOVAN. Ms. Anderson.

Ms. ANDERSON. I would say three things. On finding efficiencies in our programming, we have had a major push on putting more rigor into our monitoring evaluation since 2011. And that is good because that is a very good way to look back at the evaluations and see where we can find efficiencies.

A couple of things, when we have very small programs, it takes a long time to mobilize and it can be quite costly, but I also appreciate Ranking Member Bass' comment about looking at some of the big outside contracting, so that is also where we will be looking.

And then on the other side of things, improving our partnerships with the host country governments, with civil society so that we truly have a partnership in our planning and working together toward the same objective because what we always want to be doing is working toward the time where we don't have to have a big program that is as involved as maybe we have previously.

And another aspect to that is finding ways that we can mobilize the private sector, private capital. I think we have done a pretty good job in Power Africa and even Feed the Future in mobilizing private capital for some of the infrastructure and other investments that are needed for development.

Mr. DONOVAN. I have to excuse myself, but I thank both of you for your service to our country.

Mr. SMITH. Thank you. Dr. Bera.

Mr. BERA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before I start asking my questions, again I appreciate both of you being here. I appreciate both of your long service to our country and understand that your job as career diplomats are to implement the policies of the administration.

I also do want to just give a shout out to the many employees of the State Department for the work that they are doing representing the United States both here and abroad under difficult

circumstances, often having, my opinion, often having to implement policies that they don't believe in, but doing their job every day.

I also, as a message to the administration, they are very much under cutting our ability to be the great country that we are.

America is a better place and the world is a better place when America is engaged globally. We have seen that in the second half of the 20th century when we have been leading with our values, our values of compassion, our values of leadership in health and global health, our values of leadership and development.

The second half of the 20th century was much more stable than the first half of the 20th century because of that American leadership. And much of that leadership was our diplomats and the valued employees of the State Department. So I think certainly I speak to many of the members of this committee that we will do everything we can as we go through the budgeting process to get you the resources and the personnel to continue to do that exemplary job. But I thought it was very important to make sure those employees that are out there representing our great nation understand that many of us appreciate that service.

Now kind of getting back to some of the questions, I understand the President talks about an America First policy. I think the policy he is putting forth is going to make us weaker and have less influence around the world and is not a reflection of what our values are.

Ms. Anderson, I want to make sure I heard correctly, the President's budget zeroes out all family planning funds?

Ms. ANDERSON. For fiscal year 2018.

Mr. BERA. And the budget is a reflection of a President's values and so forth. That is our best reflection. So my opinion, it is appropriate when we talk about family planning, that is birth control, that is other forms of contraception. We are not talking about abortion because we have not been using Federal funds for pregnancy termination. We have been using Federal funds and working with NGOs and others historically to reduce the number of unintended pregnancies. That, I think, most global health experts, and I am a physician who has worked internationally, would think that is appropriate.

My colleague, Ms. Bass from California, has talked about the importance of reducing maternal and child mortality and one of those causes of maternal mortality is the spacing of pregnancies. So if it is in our values to reduce maternal mortality, we ought to make family planning funds more accessible.

I haven't asked any questions yet because there is a lot on my mind here. I understand that there are Members of Congress that are anti-choice, along with those that do want to empower women to be in charge of their full reproductive rights. But regardless, I think we all want to reduce the number of unintended pregnancies. And on May 15th, the State Department released guidelines for the implementation of the Mexico City policy, the global gag rule which my understanding is for the first time will apply to all global health assistance programs, many of which are in Africa.

Now this isn't the first time that this policy has been introduced. In fact, it seems to swing from administration to administration based on the party that is in charge. But if our goal is to reduce

the number of pregnancy terminations and reduce the number of unintended pregnancies, what I will tell you is the last time this policy under George Bush was implemented, the number of abortions rose 20 percent as a result of curtailing the ability to have family planning out there.

Ms. Anderson, would that be a somewhat accurate number?

Ms. ANDERSON. I am not certain I have that kind of data right now, but I certainly appreciate the point. Thanks.

Mr. BERA. Thank you. Earlier this year, I asked Secretary Tillerson a number of questions regarding this policy including as they implement the Mexico City policy. Would they be consulting with partners in the field, monitoring the impact of the policy on healthcare access as well as maternal mortality? And I think I was told that there would be a 6-month review of the policy as it was being implemented.

Given the significant amount of healthcare funding we contribute to the Africa region, I have got a couple of questions. The Bureau of African Affairs at State and the Bureau for Africa at USAID obviously is playing a role in implementing this policy and assessing the potential impact of the policy such as again women's access to health care, family planning services, rates of unsafe abortion, and maternal mortality including the 6-month review.

Do you have any idea what the time line for releasing the 6-month review is?

Ms. ANDERSON. We are working to fully implement the policy and I would be happy to get back to you on that.

Mr. BERA. If you could, that would be great. Again, as you are implementing this policy and again, I am not holding you or the wonderful employees of State accountable for this policy, but when I questioned Secretary Tillerson, one of the things was look, we ought to be checking on is this impacting maternal mortality? What impact is it having on folks that are out in the field? What impact is it having on women's access to health care?

Certainly, I think many on this committee would have a very big interest in how that policy is being implemented.

I guess my last question and maybe it is for Ambassador Yamamoto, I am all for looking for efficiencies, looking for ways we can take our Federal dollars and our taxpayer resources, partnering those with NGOs that are out there working in the field, whether those are faith-based groups or folks like the Gates Foundation, etcetera, and looking at ways reducing morbidity and mortality and increasing health around the world. I just worry with the reduction in certain programs it is actually not helping us leverage our dollars. It is actually reducing our ability to have impact in the region. And I just would be curious about your thought on that?

Ambassador YAMAMOTO. Let me give you something that you all worked on very hard and that is the AGOA process. And I think that more than anything has given a lot of hope to Africa. Obviously, a lot of countries don't benefit, but actually in many ways they do.

And we were just going and doing the data numbering and we notice that exports from the United States to Africa rose from \$6 billion in 2000 to \$25 billion. That means you are talking about

well over 35,000 U.S. jobs. But on the reverse side is producing and expanding the capabilities for the Africans.

You know, today, they have a \$500 billion total manufacturing output. That is going to be \$1 trillion in the next decade which means that we are going to help create hundreds of thousands of jobs in Africa. So that, I think, if we can continue to do that and one of the areas that I think in spite of the budget cuts and restraints is that if we can continue our efforts on fighting corruption, building institutions, fighting back on non-tariff trade barriers, it is really opening up businesses and trade so that countries in Africa, their main trading partner is not going to be Europe or the former colonial countries, but each other.

We have the capability or ability to produce probably \$100 billion in added value over the next several decades. That means that that is going to create jobs and when you create jobs, you create wealth and security. And those are the areas is how do you give them that hope? Those are the fundamental questions and issues that we are trying to struggle with and what is the best way, the most efficient and effective manners?

And I think some of the things that we are doing on the budget is that we are going to meet those needs through the AGOA, through a lot of the programs and projects that you have already set up.

I mean look at, for instance, YALI. So YALI is—we now have 74,000 applications for 700 fellowships to come to the U.S. And once they come to the U.S., they are going to the already 500,000 YALI groups that are all over Africa being kind of like African Ambassadors to the United States and vice versa, Ambassadors to Africa, who are supporting and developing and expanding this relationship. I think this has really been a very good program.

Ms. BASS. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BERA. Absolutely

Ms. BASS. You just described YALI which I would agree with you 100 percent. YALI is being cut.

Ambassador YAMAMOTO. It is, 50 percent. So we are getting 700 fellowships this year as opposed to 1,000. But they were still going to continue to develop the fellowship programs and centers out in Africa. That is the issue.

Ms. ANDERSON. If I could just chime in? We have had a fair amount of interest from private sector companies in contributing to YALI, especially the regional leadership centers in Africa. And we are hoping to mobilize those resources better in the coming years. We do have \$5 million programmed for the regional leadership centers for 2018.

Mr. SMITH. Mr. Castro.

Mr. CASTRO. How is the morale at the State Department?

You don't have to answer it. I can ask you another question.

Over the last year, there has been a growing call toward autonomy or even independence in Anglophone Cameroon. Cameroon military has apparently been deployed in these regions and the government has reportedly blocked social media and internet access on multiple occasions.

Amnesty International recently reports that up to 17 protesters died, many by the hands of police. So how is the State Department and USAID addressing the situation?

Ambassador YAMAMOTO. And thank you for your question. And thank you for your concern on the issues. Cameroon is a critical core country, not only security-wise, but also economic because you know, it forms the oil pipeline from Chad into Cameroon.

We have talked to President Biya. I have been almost on a monthly basis several years ago when I was the deputy in the Bureau to look at how you do the transition from post-Biya. He has been the President for a long time and how do you transition, prepare the country for a post-Biya or for the next leadership?

The other issue, too, is how do you prepare and develop Cameroon's two groups of French speaking and Anglophone? And really, it comes down to does everyone have equal access to wealth and resources; two, education. Three is jobs. Four is also is there equal opportunities for security and opportunities afterwards? And those are issues and challenges that we continue to face. So the fundamental issue is right now is that we have issued statements calling on the government and all sides to refrain from the violence.

Mr. CASTRO. But have you confronted them on the violence and the abuse and the murder?

Ambassador YAMAMOTO. We have on President Biya and the government, we have. And we will continue to do so. And in the course of my going out to the region is those will be one of the first stops.

Mr. CASTRO. Thank you. And of course, as you know, this is an incredible time for refugees around the world. Many Syrian refugees in Europe, I spoke yesterday on the Rohingya Muslims who have fled or have been pushed out to Bangladesh, Central Americans from the Northern Triangle who have come to the United States, and there are also refugees in Africa.

So my question is these refugees in Somalia, South Sudan, and the Central African Republic, when refugees move across borders, how have host governments responded in those areas? Are host governments able to provide for refugees including food, water, shelter, medicine? And what can the United States do to address any difficulties that these host governments face?

Ambassador YAMAMOTO. And you raise the fundamental difficult challenges. So if you have 65 million refugees worldwide and if you look at the countries that have really taken in a lot of the refugees, it is really the countries around the areas of crises.

So if you look at Somalia right now, you have Dadaab refugee camp which most of us have gone to. I mean it is the size of San Diego. If you look at the 1.3 million refugees coming out of South Sudan, going into Uganda, or if you look at the refugee flows coming in in Ethiopia, you see now we are seeing some flows of refugees of the DRC into neighboring countries.

And so the question is we have the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM), our Refugee Bureau, which looks at funding and assisting these countries to support the refugees. We also looked at the UNHCR, the United Nations organizations. We look at other donor communities in support of these refugees. It is difficult. It is long-term, but the issue is it has to be immediate response because people are suffering as they go across the borders.

Mr. CASTRO. Sure. And then if you will indulge me one more comment, chairman, just for the record and this subcommittee, so much of the work that all of us care about, including the chairman's work over the years which I have heard him speak strongly on human rights, for example, I believe much of that work is undercut by the budget cuts that we are seeing, and also by some of the changes in policy.

I think that we are ceding a lot of ground to other countries like China to go into places like Latin America and Africa and build stronger relationships than perhaps even some of the relationships that we have. And I see that issue only growing in the coming years if we continue down this new path. But thank you all for being here. Thank you for your testimony.

Mr. SMITH. Thank you, Mr. Castro. I do have one final question on peacekeeping, but before we get to that just a point. Dr. Bera raised the issues of the Mexico City policy and I think people know that it got its name because under Ronald Reagan, it was announced at the U.N. Population Conference in Mexico City in 1984. And the policy was to say we want to protect harmless unborn children and who we contribute to does matter. If an organization wants to perform and promote abortion, except in the case of rape, incest, and life of the mother, and those are the three exceptions contained in the Mexico City policy, if they were to do that, we believe that the unborn child should be held harmless.

There are members of this committee, Members of the House, and we just had a very divisive vote on pain-capable unborn children who at 20 weeks we sought, and it did pass the House with a rather significant majority, that pain-capable unborn babies ought to be protected. And I, during the course of that debate, quoted from a doctor, Dr. Levatino, who used to be an abortionist. He performed 1200 abortions himself, over 100 on children up to 24 weeks gestation and he told the story before the House Judiciary Committee how he would pull arms and legs off of a child and he was numb to it. He felt it was an abortion, so therefore it was justified. And then he had a complete, total, 180 degree change of heart and said, "What am I doing? I am pulling a baby apart."

We know for a fact that children as early as 20 weeks survive at 20 weeks' gestation. And that they are in nurseries, intensive care nurseries. And one of the doctors that I quoted as well, who works in an intensive care neonatal unit talked about her patients at 20 weeks, that if she were to go and pull an arm or a leg, delimb that the child, that that child would suffer would be intense.

So I believe, it is not shared by everyone and I respect all people, whatever their view, that the most fundamental human rights issue of our time is protecting the innocent and the most vulnerable from violence.

And I do believe that abortion is violence against children and it also, and I work with a number of women who are post-abortive, that there are consequences for the women as well, particularly psychologically. Not all would agree with that, but there is no doubt that when you dismember or chemically poison an unborn child, it has a horrific impact on the child, the older he or she is, and the evidence is overwhelming, not even suggestive, but over-

whelming that they feel pain and they feel even more excruciatingly in a much deeper way than we do because from 20 weeks to 32 weeks gestation, there are more receptors on the skin area available to the dismemberment and the child just does feel it even more.

Dr. Anand, who is an expert, has stated that in sworn affidavits on behalf of the Justice Department in courts of law. I say that because there will be obviously on-going fights on this issue. President Obama reversed the Mexico City policy when he took office. President Clinton did the same thing. Ronald Reagan initiated it. George Herbert Walker Bush continued it and George W. Bush reinstated it.

I am very proud of the administration for extending it to global health so that the child is held harmless. These are babies. The first amendment I offered in the U.S. House of Representatives in committee, in the Foreign Affairs Committee, was to provide \$50 million to the Child Survival Fund to promote immunizations, oral hydration therapy, growth monitoring, and breast feeding, the four pillars of child survival.

Unfortunately, Ronald Reagan's David Stockman had suggested we take the \$25 million that we have in that program and we get rid of it. I doubled it by offering my amendment. I do believe, respectfully, to those who disagree, that abortion is antithetical to child survival because it literally takes the life of that child and destroys him or her and disproportionately women, girls, the girl child is killed.

I chair the China Commission. We just released our most recent human rights report, and because of sex selection abortion, China is missing 62 million or more girls. Girl children are killed. More than that have been killed the sex selection abortion, but in my humble opinion, this is an act of gender crime when you single out a child at 5 months or so through ultrasound, discover that it is a girl and it was admitted, even was put out that said the three most dangerous words that could be uttered in some parts of the world, "It is a girl," because then she is targeted for elimination and extermination, simply because she is a girl.

I again want to applaud the administration for saying we will provide those monies and you will get more than what you asked for for a variety of programs, including family planning, but we agree with the caveat that we want to hold harmless that child from dismemberment or chemical poisoning because that is the two ways that abortions are effectuated.

Let me just say, ask one question, and my final question on peacekeeping. I am concerned that the administration's budget, the fiscal year 2017 enacted level was \$1.9 billion. The proposal is for \$1.2 billion. There are 21 peacekeeping efforts under way around the world. Six are under the auspices of the African Union; 15 under the auspices of the United Nations.

And Karen Bass and I, when we went to South Sudan, we both have been there a number of times, we went there in June. We were happy to see the UNMISS, the U.N. deployment there had greatly fine-tuned and embedded their rules of engagement because they had been wanted in many, many ways. I had been there a year before that and frankly they were not really protecting civil-

ians. But we, I think you would agree, we found that there was an increased effort to try to be on the protection side and really—my question is, my concern, and I think it is shared by every member of this subcommittee, is a cut in peacekeeping, even though we always want them to do more with less, we want other countries, particularly in the EU to step up and perhaps donate more, and I agree with that.

But it is a bargain when it comes to deployment of getting troops highly trained and in Africa, they are mostly African troops, not all of course, but for the U.S. military, this is incredible value added and for the civilians, the women and children, especially who suffer in these countries from rogue militaries, as well as insurgents and terrorists, it is the difference between life and death.

I want to encourage you to do what you can—even more. I think personally both of you would be more supported, but even in the administration to say this is a really good deal for protection, making sure that the peacekeeping funding is as high as it could possibly be. And I say that with one other caveat that I know what you are doing. As you know, I am the author of the Traffic and Victims Protection Act and I work on that issue every single day.

When we found out in the Democratic Republic of Congo that the peacekeepers themselves were raping children, as young as 13, there was an outrage in a human rights violation with very few parallels. I know that the U.N. peacekeeping leadership have gone through great lengths to try to really reign in on that egregious practice and have done so very successfully. It is not perfect. Never is, but I want to applaud them in New York and those who are involved with this effort.

Jane Holl Lute, who was one of the ones who helped get Kofi Annan to enact or put into place the zero tolerance policy, but again, our Government, obviously, our TIP Office, State, and USAID, all of us together need to be pushing to make sure the peacekeepers are always on the side of protection and never on the side of exploitation. But if you could take that back about the \$1.9 billion and I think that needs to be augmented upwards simply because of more need that is out there for peacekeeping, if you want to speak to that.

Ambassador YAMAMOTO. We will. And just to make one response, so yes, absolutely correct that the peacekeeping is critical and again, I think the regional funding is going to help us support a lot of the areas where we have challenges that we have today, the G5 in the Central Africa Republic area or in the future which may pop up which we don't perceive now. But just looking at all of the funding that the President has allocated, we are seeing them coming in to Africa from the \$131 million for the Lake Chad initiative. We have \$121 million for the trans-Sahel issue and \$200 million for East Africa.

But you are absolutely correct, we are going to look very hard at how we can address security needs. But one thing that really stands out has been the ACOTA process. We have just completed the training of over 300,000 African troops from 26 countries and as you rightly say, Mr. Chairman, 70 percent of all of the peacekeepers in Africa are from Africa, 70 percent. Eighty-four percent of all U.N. peacekeepers are in Africa. And thanks to Leahy vetting

as well, those troops have been very supported, and so to contain and to change that mindset of these rogue armies and others in Africa.

Can I just make one more comment off the record? Not off the record, but I mean in addition to the record. Yes.

I know Congressman Castro made one comment, but the issue comes in and let me just say for my colleagues and I at the State Department is that I was—I worked at the National Defense University looking after basically our future leaders in the military and foreign affairs. And I was called and said come back to the State Department to help the Africa Bureau. Well, that is not going to be like—not even announced. I said yes, of course.

Coming back to the Bureau really as a senior officer, our job and our commitment and certainly my colleagues are the same as to how do we develop, how do we mentor our officers? I have been away 3 years and I think we have probably the youngest Bureau in the Department of State. I mean they are really young. And so I think my job and the job of our senior officers is really to mentoring, to train, and to develop them as future diplomats.

And the other issue, too, is that I have been honored to work on our redesign on personnel reform. How do we develop and train our future officers? How do we do better mentoring? And I think that I am really enthused about and that is what gets me up every day and that is what I want to every single solitary day.

Ms. BASS. I appreciate that and I know from your general enthusiasm that your morale is high and I think that is great. I don't know that that translates throughout the Department, but I think it is really important to have your spirits uplifted.

I just wanted to mention a couple of things in terms of the USAID, in particular, is that I hope when a reorg. is happening that we look at doing foreign aid much more like the Feed the Future, Electrify Africa model, where it is not just about—it is not just charity. And you know a continent like Africa has a capacity to do for itself and we shouldn't just look at foreign aid as supplying resources to our own NGOs because then you have a model where it never ends and I don't think that that should be the case. And obviously, the NGOs are very important. There is enough poverty to go around, so it is not like they are going to go out of business if, you know, our focus is more on building self-sufficiency rather than providing direct services.

I appreciate my colleague's comments and I appreciate that he also respects that people see things differently and the two of us do in some areas, but I think where we have a common perspective is on the family planning side and we were both in South Sudan. We were in the refugee camps and you were in northern South Sudan. Was that Bidi Bidi?

Ambassador YAMAMOTO. Unity State.

Ms. BASS. Unity State. And there were all of these babies and it just broke my heart because I knew that the majority of those babies were not created by partners. They were created through rape. And we saw the children right next to bodies of water and it just made me scared to death at how many drowning deaths they must have in that camp. And so I think the best way to prevent abortion is to provide family planning. And I don't think those

women chose those pregnancies. Those pregnancies were forced on them. And so you know, we should look at that. We are zeroing it out and once again, I think it is just an example of the hypocrisy of a lot of what is proposed in the budget. And I am just glad that as Congress we cannot follow and reverse some of the proposals that are put forward by the administration. Thank you.

Mr. SMITH. Anything else you would like to add before we close?

Ms. ANDERSON. Just appreciate your comment about the redesign and we have submitted our proposal, but we are keeping it close hold for now, so I am not in a position to talk about it, but we do look forward to consulting as soon as we can and your points are very similar to the points that Administrator Green makes every day in terms of real partnerships and moving our host country partners closer to self-sufficiency.

Mr. SMITH. I want to thank both of you for your very, very noble service to our country. Thank you for your presentations today. We look forward to working with you going forward. The hearing is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 3:25 p.m., the subcommittee was adjourned.]

APPENDIX

MATERIAL SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD

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

**Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations
Christopher H. Smith (R-NJ), Chairman**

October 4, 2017

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 by the Subcommittee Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations in Room 2200 of the Rayburn House Office Building (and available live on the Committee website at <http://www.ForeignAffairs.house.gov>):

DATE: Wednesday, October 11, 2017
TIME: 2:00 p.m.
SUBJECT: The State Department and USAID FY 2018 Africa Budget
WITNESSES: The Honorable Donald Yamamoto
Acting Assistant Secretary
Bureau of African Affairs
U.S. Department of State

Ms. Cheryl Anderson
Acting Assistant Administrator
Bureau for Africa
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 SUBCOMMITTEE ON Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations HEARING

Day Wednesday Date 10/11/17 Room 2200

Starting Time 2:00pm Ending Time 3:26pm

Recesses () (to) (to) (to) (to) (to) (to)

Presiding Member(s)

Smith

Check all of the following that apply:

Open Session [x]

Electronically Recorded (taped) []

Executive (closed) Session []

Stenographic Record [x]

Televised [x]

TITLE OF HEARING:

The State Department and USAID FY 2018 Africa Budget

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bass, Donovan, Suozzi, Bera, Castro

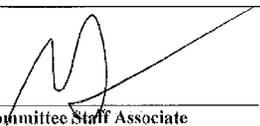
NON-SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: (Mark with an * if they are not members of full committee.)

HEARING WITNESSES: Same as meeting notice attached? Yes [x] No []

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

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

TIME SCHEDULED TO RECONVENE _____
or
TIME ADJOURNED _____


Subcommittee Staff Associate

Questions for the Record Submitted to
Acting Assistant Secretary Donald Yamamoto by
Representative Christopher Smith (#1)
House Foreign Affairs Committee,
Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee
October 11, 2017

Question:

In your testimony, you cite difficult decisions in the budget process. What do you consider some of the most difficult decisions that had to be made?

Answer:

The President's FY 2018 foreign assistance budget request for Africa acknowledges that our operations must become more efficient, that our assistance must be more effective, and that our primary mission must always be advocating for the national interests of the United States. The request expects greater leverage of U.S. dollars, as well as increased efficiency and effectiveness of each dollar. In addition, the request requires that the private sector and countries themselves make better use of their own investments for development. The budget request will allow us to support the President's priorities to foster opportunities for U.S. economic interests, defend national security interests, assert U.S. leadership, and ensure accountability to the U.S. taxpayer.

As the Administration works to streamline efforts to ensure efficiency and effectiveness of U.S. taxpayer dollars, it has to prioritize and make some tough choices. Some of the most difficult included decisions to cut bilateral Economic Support and Development Funds and/or Global Health Program funding for several Operating Units (OUs). This decision contributed to the elimination of smaller basic education and democracy and governance programs in a number of places to prioritize funding for other OUs aligned with U.S. national security and economic

interests. U.S. assistance will continue to be provided in other accounts, where foreign assistance will have the greatest impact or, in some cases, countries may still receive central or regionally managed funds such as through Power Africa, the Africa Regional Democracy Fund, Trade and Investment Capacity Building, and other programs.

Focusing our efforts allows us to advance our most important policy goals and national security interests, while ensuring that other donor countries contribute their fair share toward meeting challenges in the region. We will continue to partner with key allies to protect Americans and American interests, advance bilateral partnerships, open new markets for U.S. businesses, and promote American interests abroad.

Questions for the Record Submitted to
Acting Assistant Secretary Donald Yamamoto by
Representative Christopher Smith (#2)
House Foreign Affairs Committee,
Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee
October 11, 2017

Question:

Since 2013, nearly every region in Africa has seen a surge in civil conflicts and political violence. Mali, the Central African Republic, and South Sudan are now mired in conflict, alongside longer-running wars in Somalia and Sudan, while countries such as Nigeria, Cameroon, Niger, Burkina Faso, and Burundi face new threats to stability and civilian welfare. What is the Administration's view of the appropriate U.S. role in responding to this rapid deterioration in security on the continent?

Answer:

Conflict and fragility are major concerns for the Department as it seeks to meet economic and security goals on the African continent. Our Africa strategy focuses on addressing a range of underlying causes of conflict and terrorism, including lack of educational opportunities, youth unemployment, lack of accountability for security force abuses, and perceptions of marginalization. We see the African Union, regional economic communities (RECs) and other regional organizations, and African member states taking steps to address these root causes of instability and doing much more preventive diplomacy than in the past. The appropriate U.S. role is found in diplomatic engagement and program strategies, as well as targeted assistance, that seek to enable regional organizations and member states to more effectively respond to evolving threats and challenges and support members of civil society to engage more effectively with their governments on key concerns and grievances.

The United States will continue to work closely with key stakeholders, including the UN (including peacekeeping missions), EU, France, United Kingdom, World Bank, and others, to ensure that policy design and best practices are promoted in all of Africa's fragile countries. The United States will also work to enhance prevention and early warning structures to help prevent conflict and crises from breaking out in the first place.

Question for the Record Submitted to
Acting Assistant Secretary Donald Yamamoto by
Representative Christopher Smith (#3)
House Foreign Affairs Committee,
Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations
Subcommittee
October 11, 2017

Question:

Despite some bright spots, such as The Gambia, advocates of greater democracy in Africa have faced a number of setbacks in recent years. In what ways is the Administration responding to democratic backsliding in Africa—including in fragile states such as DRC and Burundi, as well as more established democracies such as South Africa and Tanzania—through aid and diplomatic efforts?

Answer:

U.S. government engagement in the region spans a wide range of country situations, from autocracies to post-conflict states to consolidating democracies. In all these situations, our assistance programming and diplomatic efforts emphasize accountable and participatory governance at all levels, the rule of law, respect for human and civil rights, credible and legitimate elections, a politically active civil society, and religious freedom. These principles are foundational to Africa's future and U.S. foreign policy objectives on the continent, including security, economic growth, development and trade.

We speak out against the suppression of all forms of freedom of expression, including the arbitrary arrest and detention of political dissenters and journalists.

At the same time, we work with civil society organizations, activists, and opposition coalitions to deliver programming on civic and voter education and raise citizen concerns with governments on challenges related to electoral and political space.

Our embassies routinely participate in elections monitoring and the Department issues statements in which we evaluate the elections as fair or unfair, depending on the circumstances. We also speak out against constitutional amendments intended to do away with or reset term limits for incumbents.

USAID and the State Department work in tandem, using foreign assistance and robust diplomatic engagement to promote democracy, good governance, and respect for human rights with our African counterparts. We enlist international partners and regional organizations such as the African Union and the Southern African Development Community in these efforts.

We fund bilateral and regional projects to promote the rule of law, foster peace and security, fight transnational crime, uphold human rights, and strengthen civil society and social justice. We have legal attaches attached to many of our embassies, working with host governments to strengthen justice sector development.

In the face of backsliding, and considering the particular country context, our assistance may shift from national to sub-national levels, training local

government officials in effective planning, budgeting, and program implementation, while strengthening citizens' ability to advocate and engage with local government through effective channels. We partner with local community and religious leaders on initiatives that promote participation, inclusion, transparency, and accountability around citizen priorities, such health services and education.

USAID programming in fragile states focuses on the establishment of legitimate government institutions and improving the ability of these governments to deliver the benefits of peace through service delivery, access to justice, and accountable governance, while ensuring instability is not exacerbated.

Questions for the Record Submitted to
Acting Assistant Secretary David Yamamoto by
Representative Christopher Smith (#4)
House Foreign Affairs Committee,
Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee
October 11, 2017

Question:

USAID Administrator Mark Green recently announced an additional \$550 million in humanitarian assistance to address food insecurity and violence in Yemen, South Sudan, Nigeria, and Somalia. But Green also underscored that “We need long-term political solutions that address the drivers of conflict and insecurity.” How are the State Department and USAID working to balance the short-term emergency response with the longer-term resilience and capacity-building efforts in these crises?

Answer:

The State Department and USAID believe that the purpose of foreign assistance must be to end the need of its existence. The United States stands with people around the world when crises occur, and we also work to reinforce the capacity of other nations to prevent humanitarian crises and better help themselves when disaster strikes. Tackling root causes of food insecurity and building the resilience of communities are key to working ourselves out of the humanitarian assistance business.

USAID is investing in both emergency humanitarian assistance and food security programs. Through the Office of Food for Peace, we continuously monitor food insecurity levels worldwide and make emergency funding decisions on a monthly basis, often to meet anticipated emergency food needs several months in the future. When agricultural, market, or political indicators improve, we adjust our plans for humanitarian assistance. Natural disasters, such as hurricanes and earthquakes, and political crises resulting in population displacements often require immediate assistance to meet life-saving food needs. The Department and USAID

balance these changing needs and adjust programming priorities and plans to ensure that food assistance is reaching the most vulnerable populations worldwide.

The Department and USAID are working together, alongside nine other agencies, to address the root causes of hunger and poverty overseas through the U.S. Government's global hunger and food security initiative, Feed the Future, as implemented under the Global Food Security Act. The initiative emphasizes increasing resilience for the world's most vulnerable communities and individuals, particularly women and children, through development programs to reduce the long-term need for food assistance. Efforts range from providing farmers with better land management skills to training caregivers and healthcare workers in child nutrition and child healthcare.

Questions for the Record Submitted to
Acting Assistant Secretary Donald Yamamoto by
Representative Christopher Smith (#5)
House Foreign Affairs Committee,
Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee
October 11, 2017

Question: The Electrify Africa Act (now law) builds on the Power Africa Program (led by USAID) to create a strategy directing existing U.S. government resources from many agencies to encourage the installation of 20,000 megawatts of additional electrical power and to promote efficient institutional delivery of electrical service to rural and underserved areas. This law improves access to affordable and reliable electricity in order to unlock the potential for inclusive economic growth, job creation, food security, improved health and education and environmental outcome and poverty reduction. How will you work to ensure that access to electricity is prioritized and supported and to advance the goals of the Electrify Africa Act and the Power Africa program?

Answer:

Power Africa's overall goal is for the private sector to drive the development of the power sector in Africa. Recognizing that many countries in Sub-Saharan Africa have limited experience with private sector power deals, capacity for reforming their sectors, and knowledge of new technologies, Power Africa aims to bridge those gaps. For instance, once a government manages its first competitive tender for power generation, with Power Africa assistance, that government will not need U.S. government help for future tender processes. Power Africa's innovative, interagency development model works because it meets private sector demand for support on deals that create business opportunities and jobs in the United States and abroad; catalyzes reforms; identifies clear, measurable goals; is field driven; promotes inclusive leadership and decision making; presses donors to coordinate; and provides convenient, effective interagency one-stop shopping. We plan to continue this work.

We have recently taken a look at reevaluating our strategic direction on Power Africa and identified potential ways to enhance our implementation of the Electrify Africa Act and the

Power Africa program. They include: identifying countries that are currently being underinvested in, and identifying the ways in which – through diplomacy and foreign assistance – the U.S. government can encourage African governments to improve their enabling environments, which will, in turn, open up markets. At the same time, it is important to look across the continent where Power Africa resources are currently being spent and assess the possibility of shifting emphasis away from areas where many transactions have already reached financial closure to countries or regions that have not yet attracted investor interest. The Department of State, drawing on the expertise of U.S. embassies in African capitals, can help assess the opportunities for new investment in Africa and the areas in which governments need to improve. Additionally, we will continue to coordinate among agencies to leverage the range of tools and technical assistance programs to address specific needs.

Questions for the Record Submitted to
Acting Assistant Secretary Donald Yamamoto by
Representative Christopher Smith (#6)
House Foreign Affairs Committee,
Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee
October 11, 2017

Question: Is the Power Africa program building on the U.S. experience in rural electrification as it tries to increase access to electricity for millions of African families and businesses?

Answer:

We are harnessing American experience and expertise and working with partners that contributed to U.S. rural electrification. One lesson learned from the U.S. experience is that a cooperative model and community-driven approach can help expand electricity to dispersed, low-income populations. Additionally, we learned that there is a need to build consumer demand in newly electrified households, including teaching households how to maintain appliances and providing credit for appliance purchases. We also learned to take advantage of new technology.

Questions for the Record Submitted to
Acting Assistant Secretary Donald Yamamoto by
Representative Ami Bera
House Foreign Affairs Committee,
Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee
October 11, 2017

Question 1:

Sub-Saharan Africa faces critical development challenges, particularly among burgeoning youth populations. A key way to address these challenges is to attract more private sector investment. The United States can help address this problem by enhancing stability across the region and working with host nation governments, private sector partners, and multilateral agencies to establish a better business environment by building institutional capacity, streamlining the regulatory environment, and fighting corruption. What tools currently exist to protect individuals and businesses investing in Africa from public and private sector corruption?

Answer:

The annual Investment Climate Statements, produced by the Department of State, provide information on factors affecting the business climate in individual African countries, including information and resources related to corruption. This includes information on whether countries are signatories to the UN Convention against Corruption and the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention and participate in other international mechanisms for combatting corruption. These reports are available at:

<https://www.state.gov/e/eb/rls/othr/ics/investmentclimatestatements/index.htm#wrapper>.

The Foreign Corrupt Practices Act also serves as a useful tool to help U.S. firms to send a clear and consistent message that they are legally prohibited from engaging in bribery or other forms of corruption. The U.S. supports efforts to increase transparency and combat corruption through a range of international initiatives such as the Open Government Partnership, the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and associated regional bodies. Further, participation in multi-stakeholder initiatives that seek to increase transparency and accountability, such as the Voluntary

Principles on Security and Human Rights or the International Code of Conduct for Private Security Service Providers Association (ICoCA), can help mitigate corruption and protect U.S. businesses.

Questions for the Record Submitted to
Acting Assistant Secretary Don Yamamoto by
Representative Ami Bera (#2)
House Foreign Affairs Committee,
Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee
October 11, 2017

Question:

How can these existing tools be expanded to better protect foreign investment in Africa against public and private sector corruption?

Answer:

The Department can work to reinforce implementation of existing multilateral commitments to combat corruption, such as the UN Convention against Corruption and encourage participation in other voluntary international mechanisms, such as the OECD Working Group on Bribery and the Anti-Bribery Convention. In addition, we will continue to actively participate with American companies and civil society organizations in multi-stakeholder initiatives aimed at addressing corruption. Through initiatives such as the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights, the U.S. government works with NGOs, other governments, and oil, gas, and mining companies to promote the implementation of principles that guide companies on providing security for their operations in a manner that respects human rights. The initiative provides a mechanism to increase accountability, security force professionalism, and civilian protection, and reduce corruption in places where resources are extracted.

The Department's participation in the Open Government Partnership (OGP) provides a venue for us to encourage government reformers and citizen activists in more than 70 member countries to co-develop commitments that enhance government transparency and accountability. OGP works to combat corruption and improve governance through citizen inclusion and participation in shaping and implementing national reforms. We continue to exchange lessons

learned and encourage other member governments to make their governments more open, accountable, and responsive to citizens, as well as to work with non-member governments to achieve eligibility to join OGP.

Finally, we will continue to collaborate with the World Bank on the valuable Doing Business indicators, which provide detailed information at the national and sub-national level to businesses making investment decisions overseas, and complement the U.S. Investment Climate Report and other tools.

Questions for the Record Submitted to
Acting Assistant Secretary Don Yamamoto by
Representative Ami Bera (#3)
House Foreign Affairs Committee,
Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee
October 11, 2017

Question:

What policies can Congress adopt to protect existing and encourage further investments in Africa and reduce corruption across the continent?

Answer:

Congress can help support U.S. investment and reduce corruption in Africa by supporting U.S. policies and programs that build capacity to protect investor rights, increase transparency, and combat corruption in Africa. The United States works to protect and encourage U.S. investment through diplomatic engagement, and commercial diplomacy, as well as via capacity building programs to develop a stable, predictable environment for investment.

We look to Congress to continue supporting foreign assistance programs that reinforce the investment climate, democratic institutions, anti-corruption efforts, and the rule of law. We also encourage funding to fully participate in multi-stakeholder initiatives, such as the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights, the Open Government Partnership, and the International Code of Conduct for Private Security Service Providers Association.

As you are aware, corruption adds a further cost of doing business in a country and can reduce the incentives to invest. To continue to reduce corruption in African countries and protect and encourage American investments, we need Congress' assistance.

We appreciate that the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) addresses corruption as a factor in determining a country's eligibility to benefit from AGOA.



Questions for the Record
The State Department/USAID FY 2018 Africa Budget
October 11, 2017
Acting Assistant USAID Administrator for Africa Cheryl Anderson
Submitted by Chairman Chris Smith

1. Aside from health programs that consume the major share of development aid in Africa, what are the specific top development priorities of this Administration with regard to Africa?

Assistance to sub-Saharan Africa can be categorized around four priorities:

Aligning with U.S. National Security Objectives: Many of the biggest security threats the United States faces — including terrorism, pandemics and transnational organized crime — are incubated and thrive in weak, failing, and failed states. Development assistance in Africa counters political fragility and supports stronger and more effective governance so that corruption, failure to deliver basic services, and lack of transparency do not grow worse in unstable regions, threatening the United States and its allies. Economic growth, health, education, gender-equality programming as well as access to water services and improved food security can significantly reduce these key drivers of conflict. U.S. investments in food security and water reduce the national security risk to the United States in terms of political unrest, potentially accompanied by displaced persons or refugee crises. Additionally, surging urbanization in Africa greatly increases the likelihood of diseases spreading to the United States. To combat the threat of these diseases and prevent them from becoming global epidemics, health programming strengthens African health systems through access to needed medical supplies, professional training, and improvements in infrastructure.

Asserting U.S. Leadership and Influence: Decades of United States engagement in Africa have built relationships that support U.S. interests. Youth programs such as the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) are developing a network of influential young African leaders who are shaping the political, economic, and security environments in sub-Saharan Africa. Education and training programs for these rising leaders create strong relationships between the United States and many African state leaders and ministers. Similarly, U.S. development assistance provides funding to numerous regional and local institutions to facilitate trade, and respond to epidemics. These relationships strengthen the performance of key programs such as food security, Power Africa, and trade. The United States leads the response to HIV and AIDS, and has been successful in drastically reducing HIV/AIDS-related deaths for more than 20 years.

Fostering Economic Opportunities for the American People: Africa's changing economic landscape — with a growing middle class and greater regional integration — is creating new

markets and investment opportunities for increased U.S. exports. Development assistance programs lay the foundation for continued growth of the U.S. economy by sustainably invigorating African markets through partnerships with the private sector, smart investments in emerging energy markets, youth development, and investments in primary and secondary education. By improving policies and increasing markets necessary for business growth, the United States helps secure the social and economic stability American firms require for profitable operations. Power Africa provides an innovative model for creating business opportunities for U.S. firms, while achieving tangible improvements in power delivery, which enables economic development. At the same time, by making investments in education for African youth today, we are influencing future leaders in Africa. As sub-Saharan Africa's school-age population is projected to grow one-third between 2015 and 2030, U.S. development assistance will continue to be critical in primary and secondary education, alongside increasing investments from African governments to connect youth to jobs, and grow a high-quality, educated workforce.

Ensuring Effectiveness and Accountability to the U.S. Taxpayer: Rigorous monitoring and evaluation help to ensure programs are effective and increase efficiency and impact over time. In Ghana, for example, a FY 2015 performance evaluation demonstrated success in its local governance program to facilitate tax collection, and guided efforts to scale up the activities from 5 to 55 districts. In FY 2016, a total of 48 evaluations were conducted in 14 countries and three regional operating units, of which 63 percent informed future programming, 35 percent informed adaptive management and course correction, and 50 percent provided deeper information about results achieved.

2. What types of U.S. aid have been most effective in encouraging development, economic growth, health, and security in Africa? How can Congress and the executive branch work together most effectively to ensure that U.S. aid to Africa has the maximum possible impact at the lowest cost to the U.S. taxpayer?

U.S. assistance in sub-Saharan Africa has been effective in encouraging the economic well-being and health of Africans. Between 2000 and 2015¹, the percentage of Africans living in extreme poverty declined from 57 to 41 percent. Since 2000, African countries have experienced among the highest rates of economic growth in the world, averaging five percent over the 2000-2015 period.

The health status of Africans, especially children, has improved significantly. Under-5 mortality rates declined from 154 per 1,000 births in 2000 to 74 children per thousand in 2015. The United States Government through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) has been the major donor in combatting HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa, home to nearly 70 percent of

¹ These data come from the World Bank's World development indicators

all people living with HIV.² New infections per year in sub-Saharan Africa have declined by almost 50 percent, from a peak of 2.7 million in 1997 to 1.4 million in 2015. Additionally, AIDS-related deaths in sub-Saharan Africa were reduced by half between 2005 and 2015.³

USAID works in partnership with local institutions to ensure the sustainability of development gains. Where host governments or non-governmental organizations are weak, programs are structured to help increase the capacity of partners and to protect taxpayer funding.

Congress's leadership has prompted significant achievements in Africa. With Congress's passage of the Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act and the Paul Simon Water for the World Act, USAID investments have brought nearly 11 million Africans access to improved drinking water and more than eight million people access to improved sanitation between FY 2008 and FY 2015. The Feed the Future program, now implementing the Global Food Security Act of 2016, is helping Africans grow more and increase their incomes. In FY 2015 alone, USAID investments in Africa helped more than 3.6 million farmers gain access to new tools or technologies. Feed the Future-supported farmers experienced more than \$450 million in new agricultural sales in the same year. Power Africa, now legislated through the Electrify Africa Act, has helped facilitate the financial close of 82 private-sector transactions valued at more than \$14.5 billion, which are expected to generate more than 7,300 megawatts. Power Africa also helped add over 10 million new connections to on- and off-grid systems, enabling tens of millions of people to gain access to power for the first time.

Congress' attention and support for these issues has been instrumental in building effective programs. As USAID continues to provide assistance to address the evolving needs in sub-Saharan Africa, flexibility to use funding to pivot programs to emerging needs is critical.

3. Today there are 15 countries in sub-Saharan Africa where half of the population is under the age of 18. Combined with this tremendous youth bulge is that fact that about 60 percent of Africa's unemployed are under the age of 25. What is USAID doing around youth engagement in Africa to ensure that economic and political opportunities exist for Africa's rapidly growing youth, and to steer Africa's youth away from violent extremism?

A recent Mercy Corps study finds that feelings of injustice and marginalization, compounded by unemployment or poverty, push young people to violent extremism. As part of USAID's strategic approach to positive youth development, programming in fragile environments seeks to include youth in participatory processes and decision making. USAID programs to counter violent extremism in East Africa and the Sahel engage youth in dialogues and allow them to air grievances. This work is providing avenues for expression and recognition and helping to reduce tension in communities at risk of violent extremism.

² [UNAIDS, Global AIDS Update, 2016](#)

³ <http://aidsinfo.unaids.org/>

As part of our efforts to engage youth, USAID has multiple radio programs across the Lake Chad Basin that engage youth in transmitting messages of peace and stability. These programs are conducted at the community level in local languages and include intensive youth participation.

USAID's continued investment in the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) is critical to steering youth away from violent extremism. YALI is cultivating a generation of effective and responsible African leaders who advocate for peace, security, and good governance in their countries, and seek to find solutions to the underlying conditions that destabilize nations and pose threats to global security.

One example of YALI's success is in Tanzania, where terrorism remains a threat, as al-Shabaab continues to exercise retributive violence, and as ISIS looks for a stronger foothold in East Africa. Young African leaders like Hashim Pondeza are working tirelessly to de-radicalize youth. As a YALI Mandela Washington Fellow, Hashim attended the 6-week leadership training institute at U.C. Berkeley. That experience inspired him to start the Center for Youth Dialogue, an organization to counter extremism among youth in his community in Tanzania. After returning home, he received funding from the U.S. Department of State to begin his work. The Center for Youth Dialogue provides youth with access to informative dialogues, cultural and educational exchange visits, entrepreneurial and volunteering opportunities, as well as access to education, employment, healthcare, sports and other social opportunities. Hashim has worked with over 2,000 youth and expanded the work of his organization to facilitate an exchange between imams from Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, and Somalia to promote regional collaboration of cultural leaders.

USAID's resilience programming in Africa also has a youth focus. Resilience programs support and enhance the extension of agricultural value chains that will provide opportunities for youth to get jobs and generate incomes.

4. USAID Administrator Mark Green recently announced an additional \$575 million in humanitarian assistance to address food insecurity and violence in Yemen, South Sudan, Nigeria, and Somalia. But Green also underscored that "We need long-term political solutions that address the drivers of conflict and insecurity." How are the State Department and USAID working to balance the short-term emergency response with the longer-term resilience and capacity-building efforts in these crises?

Administrator Green is correct that crises with political instability at their root - such as the food insecurity and violence in Yemen, South Sudan, Nigeria, and Somalia - require political solutions to be brought to an end. These crises have made many millions of people food insecure

and in need of humanitarian assistance, and the U.S. Government continues to respond with life-saving assistance.

Global humanitarian assistance spending is already unsustainably high, and continuing to rise, making building the resilience of vulnerable populations a developmental priority, particularly given life-saving assistance is sometimes to the same communities every few years. U.S. Government investments in building resilience are designed to reduce recurrent humanitarian needs in the future, saving lives and resources.

A 2013 study by the UK estimates that, over the long-term, every \$1 invested in building the resilience of people and places subject to recurrent crisis will result in \$2.9 in reduced humanitarian spending, avoided losses and improved well-being.

Our investments in resilience align to country-led efforts in places like Kenya and Ethiopia and help to shift the responsibility for managing risks from donors to partner governments, the private sector and communities themselves. For example, in Kenya, the Government has committed \$1.6 billion toward its Ending Drought Emergencies initiative in the chronically vulnerable northern arid lands. This is matched by \$1.5 billion in investment by donors, including USAID.

In countries, like Somalia, we are leveraging the private sector both as a means of expanding economic opportunities and as a platform for responding to shocks such as droughts when they do occur. One innovative program is expanding the practice of camel-leasing: vulnerable pastoralists lease their animals to large dairies on the outskirts of Mogadishu in exchange for \$200 to \$300. The dairies sell the milk into high demand markets and return the animal, healthy and cared for, at the end of the lease. USAID resilience programs in Somalia, like the camel-leasing program, have helped communities stay in place during the current drought, whereas many communities not reached by these programs have been forced to migrate in search of food. Many communities reached by USAID resilience programs are now hosting those displaced by drought.

In Nigeria, USAID has expanded its Feed the Future food security and resilience development program into the northeast to contribute to the Comprehensive Peace and Recovery plan in states impacted by Boko Haram. These investments complement our humanitarian assistance programs, which meet immediate life-saving needs. In addition to helping communities and households in the more stable areas of northeastern Nigeria recover and be more resilient, these investments in expanding economic opportunities also help address some of the economic push factors and associated grievances that the Boko Haram exploited for recruitment from among the local population.

5. The Electrify Africa Act (now law) builds on the Power Africa Program (led by USAID) to create a strategy directing existing U.S. government resources from many agencies to encourage the installation of 20,000 megawatts of additional electrical power and to promote efficient institutional delivery of electrical service to rural and underserved areas. This law improves access to affordable and reliable electricity in order to unlock the potential for inclusive economic growth, job creation, food security, improved health and education and environmental outcome and poverty reduction. How will you work to ensure that access to electricity is prioritized and supported and to advance the goals of the Electrify Africa Act and the Power Africa program?

Power Africa, in implementing the Electrify Africa Act of 2015, has helped facilitate the financial close of 82 power projects valued at more than \$14.5 billion, which are generating or expected to generate more than 7,300 megawatts (MW). Power Africa has also helped add over 10 million new connections to on- and off-grid systems, enabling tens of millions of people to gain access to power for the first time. Power Africa continues to build on these results and make strides towards achievement of the Electrify Africa Act goals. Power Africa is currently tracking approximately 780 power projects across the continent that have the potential to add more than 75,000 MW of power capacity if Power Africa can help them reach financial close.

Power Africa is also catalyzing investment in off-grid solutions including solar home systems and micro-grids, and is providing support to African utilities to more quickly and affordably extend the grid to more homes and businesses. U.S. Government agencies are deploying a diverse set of 160 different tools (financing, legal support, technical assistance, etc.) to advance catalytic projects across the continent. Power Africa's FY 2017 budget level demonstrates the U.S. Government's continued commitment to advancing the Electrify Africa Act goals.

Power Africa has brought together a broad coalition of more than 140 partners, including 14 bilateral and multilateral partners, and more than 130 private sector partners -- 60 of which are American businesses -- who are committed to working together with African governments to unlock the continent's vast energy potential. The U.S. Government's leadership has resulted in a groundswell of international momentum, as evidenced by our partners' collective commitment to invest more than \$54 billion in the development of Africa's electricity sector. Power Africa is sustaining this momentum by supporting the private sector's work at all stages of power-project development, seizing opportunities to complement and leverage the work and resources of development partners, and supporting African governments, utilities, and regulators to develop enabling environments conducive to private investment and growth. Ultimately, we are working toward an energy secure future in which local communities and leaders — without the support of Power Africa — will be empowered to catalyze and sustain the progress needed to to achieve universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable electricity.

6. Is the Power Africa program building on the U.S experience in rural electrification as it tries to increase access to electricity for millions of African families and businesses?

Yes - Power Africa is building on the U.S. rural electrification experience in several ways. The key challenge rural American communities faced less than a century ago is the same one we see in sub-Saharan Africa today: in remote areas, electricity providers face higher costs and a dispersed, lower-income customer base. In the United States, rural communities addressed this challenge by establishing non-profit, farmer-owned cooperatives that expanded electricity infrastructure with the help of low-interest loans provided by the newly created Rural Electrification Administration.

Power Africa sees opportunities to build on this experience by supporting the establishment of rural cooperatives in areas where they make sense and by taking advantage of new technologies — including increasingly cost-effective solar panels, pre-pay meters, and mobile money — to enable a more efficient, flexible approach that optimizes on- and off-grid solutions.

Power Africa is currently working with the National Rural Electric Cooperatives Association (NRECA), which represents the interests of the U.S. rural cooperatives, to harness American experience and expertise. Specifically, NRECA and Power Africa are partnering in Uganda to develop master plans for rural electrification concession areas and reduce the cost of grid extension and connection; in Ethiopia to strengthen the utility's capacity to use geospatial analysis to plan and implement rural electrification activities; and in Liberia to help the national utility plan and implement rural electrification programs more effectively.

7. How can these existing tools be expanded to better protect foreign investments in Africa against public and private sector corruption?

Accelerated progress against corruption requires sustained and deepened effort. It means focusing on corruption itself and in sectoral activities such as health and education that include anti-corruption elements. It also benefits from alignment among donors to ensure a more comprehensive approach. These efforts would be characterized by:

- Sustained focus on promoting the rule of law, including strengthening judicial institutions to combat impunity; enhancing the ability of investigators and prosecutors to effectively prosecute corruption and secure convictions; bolstering the legal framework, especially laws aimed at preventing public and private sector corruption, promoting transparency and combating money laundering and fraud; and providing both the capacity and the means for citizens to report on corruption.

- Continued focus on improving public sector institutions' processes and procedures to ensure a transparent and open use of public resources; clear ethical guidelines for public servants; enhanced internal controls and oversight procedures; and rigorous oversight over public finances and contracting.
- Continued focus on strengthening anti-corruption and oversight institutions' ability to serve as independent watchdogs and hold government accountable.
- Sustained commitment to critical global anti-corruption initiatives, including the Open Government Partnership and the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, which empower citizens, level the playing field for companies, and push governments to combat corruption and enhance transparency.

Where the United States has an explicit foreign policy and development interest in reducing corruption, better interagency planning coordination can improve the delivery of complementary assistance, for example, providing a dual focus on improving internal controls and public financial management as well as offering judicial and prosecutorial capacity building. U.S. agencies have a variety of different expertise to focus on problems of corruption where we have willing and committed country government partners. Furthermore, within USAID missions, a holistic approach to strategy and program development — integrating the technical expertise of democracy and governance specialists, general counsel, financial oversight, and health and education sectors — can focus resources on addressing the problem from a variety of angles that are specific and appropriate to each sector. Similar to gender and other issues, considering corruption explicitly during the concept and design phase will often permit identification of opportunities to integrate anti-corruption practices into Mission programs.

8. What policies can Congress adopt to protect existing and encourage further investments in Africa and reduce corruption across the continent?

Congress could emphasize the importance of initiatives to fight corruption and encouraging investment in Africa.

- Open Government Partnership (OGP): The OGP is a multilateral initiative that aims to secure concrete commitments from governments to promote transparency, empower citizens, fight corruption, and harness new technologies to strengthen governance. Examples of OGP anti-corruption tools include reforming the government budgeting process; enhancing public availability of expenditure data to “follow the money”; and creating e-procurement and online asset disclosure platforms to minimize fraud and corruption.
- Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI): The EITI serves as a tool for countries to improve the management of their oil, gas and mining sectors. Examples of EITI tools

include the publishing of extractive resource management data, open data concerning mineral and extractive licensing and concessions, and open data concerning extractive taxes and revenues.

Congress could sustain funding that enables USAID to continue to work in rule of law strengthening and in bolstering anti-corruption institutions, processes, and norms throughout the continent.



Questions for the Record
The State Department/USAID FY 2018 Africa Budget
October 11, 2017
Acting Assistant USAID Administrator for Africa Cheryl Anderson
Submitted by Rep. Ami Bera

Sub-Saharan Africa faces critical development challenges, particularly among burgeoning youth populations. A key way to address these challenges is to attract more private sector investment. The United States can help address this problem by enhancing stability across the region and working with host nation governments, private sector partners, and multilateral agencies to establish a better business environment by building institutional capacity, streamlining the regulatory environment, and fighting corruption. What tools currently exist to protect individuals and businesses investing in Africa from public and private sector corruption?

Tools to protect individuals and businesses from public and private sector corruption fall into three categories: legal/regulatory reform tools, institutional capacity and oversight tools, and transparency and accountability approaches and tools.

Legal and regulatory reform tools can be integrated into broader efforts to improve the business environment, or the performance of particular sectors, such as health or education. For example, in Tanzania, USAID has partnered with the the Government of Tanzania's Ethics Secretariat to improve public officials' asset disclosure and verification. They have also worked together to disseminate and socialize the Public Leadership Code of Ethics.

Examples of these measures include:

- Drafting/strengthening the legal framework to fight corruption, including laws mandating public officials' asset disclosure and banning illicit enrichment, and laws requiring ethical disclosures, among others.
- Drafting/strengthening the legal framework to build transparency and accountability, such as laws requiring disclosure and reconciliation of profits and tax revenues in the extractive sector.
- Reviewing and reforming the legal framework to mitigate risks to foreign investors, such as review of asset seizure regulations, contract enforcement mechanisms, government procurement laws, etc
- Creating and strengthening public procurement laws and regulations to ensure procurement integrity.

Institutional capacity and oversight tools empower independent bodies that can counter corrupt activities. In Mali, USAID is building the capacity of the Supreme Audit Institution to conduct performance audits and monitor public spending and service delivery. In Liberia,

USAID works to strengthen public sector management human and institutional capacity within targeted ministries, agencies, and commissions in support of the Government of Liberia's Public Financial Management Reform Strategy. Some examples of institutional capacity and oversight tools include:

- Creating or supporting an independent anti-corruption body tasked with monitoring and investigating cases of public corruption.
- Strengthening the capacities of Supreme Audit Institutions to provide regular budget oversight and monitoring.
- Creating objective criteria for the appointment of judges and prosecutors, and allowing civil society or other anti-corruption bodies to monitor the process.
- Enhancing public financial management, including creating more transparent and clear tax reporting processes, streamlining budgeting and expenditure management, and creating single treasury accounts to minimize opportunities for waste, fraud, and corruption.

Transparency and accountability approaches get to the heart of developing corruption-resistant systems. For example, in Mozambique USAID is strengthening the capacity of journalists to produce quality content, with a special emphasis on investigative journalism.

Transparency and accountability tools include:

- Training investigative journalists and supporting high profile, high-impact reporting on corruption.
- Creating whistleblower processes to report fraud and corruption.
- Supporting citizen groups to increase their ability to demand greater transparency and accountability of their governments, and to monitor compliance with commitments and obligations.
- Supporting individual change agents, or individuals within government willing and able to push reforms.
- Supporting transparency and outreach among judicial oversight bodies, courts, and civil society.
- Using international anti-corruption norms and standards to deepen and elevate reform, e.g.:
 - Open Government Partnership (OGP): OGP anti-corruption tools include reforming the government budgeting process; enhancing public availability of expenditure data to “follow the money”; and creating e-procurement and online asset disclosure platforms to minimize fraud and corruption.
 - Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI): EITI tools include the publishing of extractive resource management data, open data concerning mineral and extractive licensing and concessions, and open data concerning extractive taxes and revenues.