July 9, 2018

The Honorable Lindsey Graham  The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman  Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
State and Foreign Operations  State and Foreign Operations
U.S. Senate  U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510  Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Graham and Ranking Member Leahy,

As CEOs in the international development and global health communities, we deeply appreciate the recommended allocation of $435 million for international water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programs for Fiscal Year 2019 State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs. We are also grateful for the increase in funds directed to WASH programs in sub-Saharan Africa.

Thanks to your leadership in Congress, thousands of communities may have the potential to improve health outcomes; allow more time for school and work; provide dignity and safety for women and girls; prevent diarrheal diseases that take the lives of millions of children each year; end open defecation, which is still practiced by a billion people worldwide, contaminating water sources; and protect national security and American interests abroad.

Since unanimous passage of the Water for the World Act in 2014, the United States government has made great progress toward reaching poor and vulnerable communities around the world with WASH services.

As a result of USAID WASH programs in FY 2016, more than 3.1 million people received sustainable access to an improved water supply, and more than 3 million people received improved access to sanitation facilities. These results include more than 500,000 women and girls benefiting from improved water services, and more than 1.8 million women and girls gaining access to improved sanitation. The new US Global Water Strategy will improve a whole-of-government approach to US leadership on water security and WASH.

There are still 844 million people who lack access to safe drinking water and 2.3 billion people who lack access to adequate toilets – one-third of the global community. With your continued leadership, those staggering statistics have a greater chance of diminishing in the coming years.

This increased funding for WASH will provide much needed assistance to countries, specifically for countries throughout sub-Saharan Africa, that are facing extreme water insecurity, and health epidemics such as Cholera or Ebola. These funds can help to increase country’s capacity for good governance in the sector and better integration with other areas of development such as nutrition, food security, education, gender equality, biodiversity, and healthcare.

However, in actual USAID programming in the field, we still note a somewhat disproportionate amount going to countries with higher access to WASH services, leaving too little for those with...
the greatest need. Your specific directive of $195 million for sub-Saharan Africa, the region with the lowest WASH access in the world, will help to prioritize investments in these impoverished and vulnerable regions.

Thank you again for your support of $435 million for WASH and the $195 million allocated specifically to sub-Saharan African WASH projects. We look forward to working with you and your staff as the Fiscal Year 2019 appropriations process proceeds.

Sincerely,

1. Andrea Tamburini, CEO, Action Against Hunger
2. Jonathan Duffy, President, ADRA International
3. Arti Varanasi, President and CEO, Advancing Synergy
4. Mark Del Monte, Interim CEO and Executive Vice President, American Academy of Pediatrics
5. Robert Bank, President and CEO, American Jewish World Service
6. Michael Nyenhuis, President and CEO, Americares
7. Ralph Sudfeld, President and CEO, Assist International, Inc.
8. Donella Rapier, President and CEO, BRAC USA
9. Michelle Nunn, President and CEO, CARE USA
10. Serra Sippel, President, Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE)
11. Rev. John L. McCullough, President and CEO, Church World Service
12. Lisa Hilmi, Executive Director, CORE Group
13. Rob Bell, Executive Director, El Porvenir
14. Susan Barnett, Founder, Faiths for Safe Water
15. Gary Edmonds, President & CEO, Food for the Hungry
16. Asha Varghese, Director of Global Health, GE Foundation
17. Hugh Evans, CEO and Co-Founder, Global Citizen
18. David Weiss, President and CEO, Global Communities
19. Loyce Pace, President and Executive Director, Global Health Council
20. John Oldfield, Principal, Global Water 2020
21. Monica Ellis, CEO, Global Water Challenge
22. Jonathan Reckford, CEO, Habitat for Humanity International
23. James Mitchum, CEO, Heart to Heart International
24. Kathy Spahn, President and CEO, Helen Keller International
25. Judith Hermanson, President and CEO, IHC Global
26. Matt Hackworth, Director of Communications, IMA World Health
27. William Barron, CEO, iMMAP
28. Chris Busky, CEO, Infectious Diseases Society of America
29. Christopher Busky, CEO, Infectious Diseases Society of America
30. Sam Worthington, President, InterAction
31. Victoria M. Sheffield, President and CEO, International Eye Foundation
32. Daniel Wolf, Executive Director, International Lifeline Fund
33. Nancy A. Aossey, President and CEO, International Medical Corps
34. Pape Gaye, President and CEO, IntraHealth International, Inc.
35. Patrick Moriarty, CEO, IRC
36. Jonathan Wiles, Senior Vice President, Programs, Living Water International
37. Marian Wentworth, President and CEO, Management Sciences for Health
38. Umar al-Qadi, President and CEO, Mercy-USA for Aid and Development
39. Malcolm Morris, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Millennium Water Alliance
40. Doug O’Brien, President and CEO, NCBA CLUSA
41. Charles Benjamin, President, Near East Foundation
42. Joel Charny, Director, Norwegian Refugee Council USA
43. Gary Gottlieb, CEO, Partners In Health
44. Lois Quam, President and CEO, Pathfinder International
45. Ester Neltrup, President and CEO, Planet Aid
46. Karl Hofmann, President and CEO, Population Services International
47. Carrie Hessler-Radelet, President and CEO, Project Concern International
48. Carolyn Meub, Executive Director, Pure Water for the World
49. Nancy Wilson, President and CEO, Relief International
50. Rod Brooks, President and CEO, Rise Against Hunger
51. Vanessa Kerry, CEO, Seed Global Health
52. Eric Stowe, Executive Director, Splash
53. Evan Thomas, CEO, SweetSense Inc.
54. Alexandra Campbell-Ferrari, Executive Director, The Center for Water Security and Cooperation
55. John Coonrod, Executive Vice President, The Hunger Project
56. Björg Pálsdóttir, CEO, THEnet: Training for Health Equity Network
57. Eskinder Negash, President and CEO, US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI)
58. Caryl Stern, President and CEO, UNICEF USA
59. Roland Fernandes, Treasurer, United Methodist Committee on Relief
60. Dianne Calvi, CEO, Village Enterprise
61. Michael Deal, President and CEO, Volunteers for Economic Growth Alliance (VEGA)
62. Dena Morris, President and CEO, Washington Global Health Alliance
63. Eleanor Allen, CEO, Water for People
64. Lynn Malooly, Executive Director, Water for South Sudan
65. Gary White, CEO and Co-founder, Water.org & WaterEquity
66. Matt, Hangen, President and CEO, Water4.org
67. Sarina Prabasi, CEO, WaterAid
68. David Douglas, President, Waterlines
69. Laurie Adams, CEO, Women for Women International
70. Dave Neiswander, CEO, World Bicycle Relief NFP
71. John Lyon, President, World Hope International
72. Carol Bremer-Bennett, Executive Director for US, World Renew
73. Halil Demir, Executive Director, Zakat Foundation of America
74. Loune Viaud, Executive Director, Zanmi Lasante