

July 9, 2018

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

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
State and Foreign Operations
U.S. Senate
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**