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Global Action
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Take Action! Urge Your Representative and Senators to Weigh In on FY 2014 Foreign Aid Funding Priorities

“Though I am an optimist, I am not blind to the problems we face. There are challenges we must overcome to speed up progress in the next 15 years. Two that worry me the most are the possibility that we won’t be able to raise the funds needed to pay for health and development projects, and that we won’t align around clear goals to help the poorest.”

–2013 Annual Letter from Bill Gates

The foreign aid funding bill, known as the Foreign Operations Appropriations bill, is the most important annual legislative opportunity to increase resources for improving the health and livelihood of the poorest around the world. This legislation provides funding for global health and nutrition programs, basic education, microfinance, and other development assistance. Even while Congress is still working to finish the fiscal year (FY) 2013 budget, attention is turning to the FY 2014 spending process. Each and every member of Congress can have an important voice in shaping this bill by writing to and speaking with committee leadership before they begin drafting the spending legislation.

Although poverty-focused development assistance is less than 1 percent of the total annual budget (the entire International Affairs budget is about 1.4% of the budget, but poverty-focused assistance is about half of that), foreign assistance is too often a target of severe cuts. For our members of Congress to be bold in defending these programs, they need to hear from their constituents. **Your voice in support of these programs needs to be heard in Washington, now more than ever.**

Write letters to your members of Congress urging them write to and speak with the committee leaders who determine foreign aid funding priorities — the Chair (from the majority party) and Ranking Member (from the minority party) of the House and Senate Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittees.

Take Action! Write a Letter to Your Senators and Representative:

- ✓ **Introduce yourself** as a RESULTS volunteer and a constituent. Acknowledge any actions that your member has already taken to support our work or other actions on poverty and thank him/her.
- ✓ Urge your representative/senators to write to and speak with the leadership of the Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee in support of key anti-poverty priorities in the FY 2014 foreign aid funding bill.

Foreign Operations Subcommittee Leadership:

House: Chair Kay Granger (R-TX); ranking member Nita Lowey (D-NY)

Senate: Chair Patrick Leahy (D-VT); ranking member Lindsey Graham (R-SC)

- ✓ **Make your funding request.** Choose one or more issues that your member is likely to support. Use the Appropriations Request Sheets for additional issue background. Here is sample language to include in your letter:

Members of the Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee will soon be considering spending levels for life-saving global development work for the fiscal year 2014 foreign aid spending bill. I am writing to request that you speak and write to the leadership of this subcommittee and ask that they include the following funding levels in their bill. I believe this funding represents both a compassionate and pragmatic foreign aid request.

In the area of **Global Health**, please include:

- \$1.65 billion for the multilateral Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria;
- \$400 million for bilateral tuberculosis control efforts; and
- \$750 million for Maternal and Child Health, including \$175 million for the GAVI Alliance for Childhood Vaccines, and \$200 million for Nutrition.

In the area of **Economic Opportunity**, please include \$500 million for microfinance and microenterprise programs, with at least fifty percent benefiting the very poor, as directed by the Microenterprise Results and Accountability Act of 2004.

In the area of **Education for All**, please include \$125 million for the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) within basic education assistance.

- ✓ **Request a reply** and include your contact information. If you don’t know the aide that handles foreign affairs, call the office and ask. Please e-mail and fax your letter if possible. Call and make sure the aide that handles these issues received your letter. Find contact information on the RESULTS website: <http://capwiz.com/results/dbq/officials/>.

Navigating the Appropriations Process

There are a number of steps you can take to help make your appropriations request successful:

1. **Check the deadline.** The Appropriations Committees set deadlines to receive requests from members of Congress and most congressional offices set their own internal deadlines for appropriations requests well before these dates. Ask your congressional offices about their deadlines so you can submit your request beforehand. (And if the deadline has passed, don't be dissuaded from submitting your request anyway.)
2. **Check the form.** Members of Congress receive many appropriations requests. To standardize this process, some members have a form to complete, either on paper or online. Check your member of Congress' web site or call to see if there is a form to complete. Don't hesitate to ask RESULTS staff for help filling it out.
3. **Schedule a meeting.** Sending a letter is an important way to show support, but a meeting with your member of Congress or their staff can separate your request and demonstrate the depth of support for poverty-focused foreign aid.
4. **Follow up.** After your request is submitted, follow up with the foreign policy legislative aide to see if he/she requires any more information to complete the request. Tell the aide that you would like to know if your requests are included in the Congressperson's request to the appropriators and ask how and when you can find that out.

Summary of Fiscal Year 2014 Requests

For background on each of these requests, please review the corresponding [Appropriations Request Sheet](#), which contains additional background on each issue that you can use to support your request. **We strongly suggest that you do not include every issue in your request.** Select one or more issues that you think your member is most likely to support.

Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide \$1.65 billion for the Global Fund to maintain and expand life-saving prevention and treatment programs.
Tuberculosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide \$400 million for scaling up critical US supported efforts to control and treat TB and drug-resistant TB.
Child Health and Nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide \$750 million for Maternal and Child Health, including \$175 million for the GAVI Alliance for new and underused vaccines.• Provide \$200 million for nutrition programs in the global health account.
Microfinance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide \$500 million for microfinance and microenterprise programs to increase access to financial services. Support language ensuring 50 percent of funding reaches the very poor.
Education for All	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide \$125 million for the Global Partnership for Education within basic education funding to cost-effectively support access to quality education for all children.

Understanding the Earmark Ban

The House of Representative has banned earmarks from the appropriations bills, and the Senate has extended a moratorium on earmarks. Earmarks are legislative provisions that direct funding to specific projects for specific purposes. **Funding requests for foreign aid programs are not considered earmarks.** Funding for these foreign aid programs are considered "programmatic" requests, and are not subject to the ban on earmarks. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) records earmarks in every appropriations bill and has verified that there are no earmarks in the most recent [House and Senate State and Foreign Operations appropriations bills](#) for which data is available (FY 2010).

To download additional background on each of these issues and other information, please visit our Appropriations resource page: http://www.results.org/issues/global_poverty_campaigns/appropriations/.