

September 6, 2011

Dear Representative/Senator:

As more than 12 million lives hang in the balance in the drought-ravaged Horn of Africa, we write to express our deep concern about fiscal year 2012 funding for humanitarian assistance programs.

Given the extreme severity of the unfolding disaster in east Africa—in which tens of thousands of lives are expected to be lost in the next few months—and pressing humanitarian needs in other areas of the world, we strongly urge Congress to fund the Migration and Refugee Assistance, International Disaster Assistance, and Title II Food Assistance accounts at fiscal year 2010 enacted levels—\$1.85 billion, \$1.3 billion, and \$1.84 billion respectively. We also ask that Congress ensure that the Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance account is fully funded at its authorized ceiling of \$100 million. Increased funding for these accounts should not come at the expense of other relief and development accounts that fight poverty and often help prevent the need for emergency spending down the road.

The people supported by these accounts are women, children, the disabled and the elderly whose lives have been devastated by war and natural disasters. Most cannot survive and their communities cannot recover without help from the international community. Our country, with strong bipartisan support from Congress and the American people, has traditionally been the leading donor of humanitarian assistance. The choices our country makes in its funding decisions save millions of lives, influence the entire international community to do more, and reassure refugees and the many impoverished countries hosting them that we will not abandon them. Congress should make clear its unwavering commitment to providing the resources necessary to address urgent humanitarian needs.

Recent emergencies combined with a number of protracted humanitarian situations will require strong humanitarian funding in fiscal year 2012. The drought in the Horn of Africa is the worst in six decades. Famine conditions already prevail in several areas and are spreading to new ones, with more than two million children estimated to be acutely malnourished. Tens of thousands of Haitians remain in tents eighteen months after the earthquake. Women and children need our help in places like Darfur and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Burmese and Iraqi refugees cannot return home safely at this time.

For all of these reasons, we respectfully request that you strengthen and expedite the approval of humanitarian funding as the appropriations process moves forward. The most vulnerable people in the Horn of Africa and around the world depend on it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

ActionAid USA  
Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), International  
Alliance for Peacebuilding  
AME-SADA  
American Friends Service Committee  
American Jewish World Service (AJWS)  
*(list continued on next page)*

American Refugee Committee  
Asylum Access  
Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation  
CARE  
The Center for Victims of Torture  
ChildFund International  
Church of the Brethren  
Church World Service  
Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach  
Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM)  
Congressional Hunger Center  
Counterpart International  
The Episcopal Church  
Episcopal Migration Ministries  
Ethiopian Community Development Council  
Friends Committee on National Legislation  
Global Health Council  
Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society  
Helen Keller International  
International Medical Corps  
Investors Against Genocide  
IRD (International Relief & Development)  
International Rescue Committee  
Jesuit Refugee Service/USA  
Kurdish Human Rights Watch  
Life for Relief and Development  
Lions Clubs International  
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service  
Lutheran World Relief  
Massachusetts Coalition to Save Darfur  
Mennonite Central Committee U.S.  
Mercy Corps  
Mercy-USA for Aid and Development  
Organization for Refuge, Asylum and Migration  
Oxfam America  
Physicians for Human Rights  
Presbyterian Church (USA), Office of Public Witness  
Refugees International  
Relief International  
Resolve  
Save the Children  
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center  
United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society  
United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)  
U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops – Migration and Refugee Service  
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI)  
Women’s Refugee Commission  
World Concern  
World Food Program USA  
World Relief  
World Vision

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**ADRA**

ADVENTIST DEVELOPMENT  
AND RELIEF AGENCY



Alliance for  
Peacebuilding



African Methodist Episcopal Church  
Service and Development Agency, Inc.



**American Friends  
Service Committee**



American Refugee Committee



Making Refugee Rights a Reality in Africa, Asia, and Latin America



**TZU CHI**



The  
CENTER for  
VICTIMS of  
TORTURE  
Restoring the Dignity of  
the Human Spirit

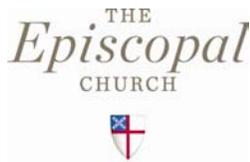
**ChildFund**  
International



Church of the Brethren



**CHURCH WORLD SERVICE**



**Investors  
Against  
Genocide**





**Massachusetts Coalition  
to Save Darfur**



**RESOLVE**



**Save the Children®**

