

Action Sheet

JUNE 2021

Almighty God, we pray that nations act to help all who are displaced by violence and conflict so that the futures of each person and our world may be bright. Continue your prayer this month with the [Prayer for Migrants and Refugees](#).

SKILL AND RELATIONSHIP BUILDING ACTION

Our Action Sheet action this month is to write a personal email to your U.S. Senator(s) urging them to increase international poverty-reducing development and humanitarian assistance in Fiscal Year 2022. Urge them to take the next step by speaking with leaders of the key subcommittees outlined in the chart (SFOPs, Agriculture and LHHS).

LASER TALK

Since 1990, 1 billion people have moved out of extreme poverty. U.S. sponsored international humanitarian and development aid has provided opportunities for countless millions around the world to move out of poverty. Of the more than \$4 trillion federal budget, Congress allocates half of 1% towards poverty-reducing international aid with strong bipartisan support. Beyond a belief in the moral imperative, the United States recognizes it is in our best interest to invest resources that foster peace and security and promote the common good.

The World Bank estimates that the impacts of COVID-19 will cause between 143 and 163 million people to fall into poverty in 2021, the first rise in extreme poverty globally in 20 years. Our faith compels us to uphold the dignity of individuals and communities around the world, especially those experiencing forced displacement and hunger. Therefore, it is critically important to increase funding that supports sustainable solutions to poverty, changing climates and disease.

Will you help increase international poverty-reducing development and humanitarian assistance in Fiscal Year 2022? The accounts which do this are outlined in CRS and the USCCB's appropriations chart. The innovative programs that this funding supports can help ensure that decades of development gains are not lost during the COVID-19 pandemic.

BACKGROUND

FY22 Timeline

In May, the president released his full budget proposal. The deadlines for senators to submit their priorities for the budget to the Senate appropriations subcommittees is quickly approaching. CRS continues to share our priorities with Congress so that members of Congress can hear and reflect these priorities in the submissions they share with key appropriations subcommittees. Your expression of priorities to your senators is crucial in the final days where Senate appropriation subcommittees welcome submissions. In the upcoming negotiation and finalization phases of the annual budget and appropriations work, it is critical to share with Congress how your faith calls you to support vulnerable communities around the world. The annual budget is one key way for Congress to then reflect and uplift the values voiced by you and other constituents.

Programming responding to forced displacement and the budget

In 2020, more than 80 million individuals are forcibly displaced. This includes over 45 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), nearly 30 million refugees and over 4 million asylum seekers.¹ Conflict and fragility have caused a 50 percent increase

¹ UNHCR. [Forced displacement passes 80 million by mid-2020 as COVID-19 tests refugee protection globally](#). 9 December 2020.

in displacement over the past decade.² Climate disruptions, which alter people’s ability to grow food, find stable work and fundamentally survive, have disrupted an estimated 20 million people per year over the past 10 years.³

CRS and its partners have provided emergency relief and support for more than 2 million refugees, IDPs, asylum seekers and migrants across the world over the past decade. The impact of U.S. funding in this response is critical. The Migration Refugee Assistance, Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance and International Disaster Assistance accounts are key accounts that support the holistic response to address forced displacement and support IDPs and refugees. These accounts support the response of CRS and other international NGOs that seek to uphold the dignity of the human person and integral human development in their emergency response, while addressing root causes through development programming. To ensure that all of the international poverty-reducing accounts, including those that address forced migration, receive the highest top-line amounts, we advocate holistically on the priorities, as outlined in the [CRS/USCCB appropriations chart](#).

World Refugee Day

Pope Francis continues to invite us towards a collective vision with “an ever wider ‘we.’” We contemplate how in our own lives we can dismantle the walls within our own vision of the “other” to grow our vision of “we,” to encompass all of humanity. Pope Francis continues to invite us to think collectively about how, “in encountering the diversity of foreigners, migrants and refugees, and in the intercultural dialogue that can emerge from this encounter, we have an opportunity to grow as Church and to enrich one another.” This month, we celebrate World Refugee Day and honor the richness of many refugees in our world and take action to support them by urging Congress to increase all poverty-reducing accounts. This allows for an increase to accounts such as the Migration Refugee Assistance (MRA) account, which supports a holistic, sustainable response to crises. The MRA account currently funds a \$4.7 million program that [supports the response to the Syrian Refugee crisis](#) in Egypt through a program titled Refugee Self Reliance Through Livelihoods.

Read the story on [COVID-19’s Impact on Migrants and Refugees](#) as we commemorate World Refugee Day this month.

TAKE ACTION: Write a personal email to your U.S. Senator(s)

1. **Go to the website of your U.S. Senator and see how they want you to email them** (e.g., by filling out an online form or by emailing a specific email address from the website).
2. **Introduce yourself:** Provide personal information to root yourself in the community (e.g., I am active in my local parish, I volunteer at our local food bank, etc.) and briefly share why this issue matters to you. Share connections to your faith, activities you’re involved with in your community to help children and families, etc.
3. **Express gratitude to your U.S. Senator:** Express gratitude for something related to global poverty or for their service in Congress. You can express gratitude that Congress provided \$10.8 billion of emergency funding in the American Rescue Plan for the international response to COVID-19.
4. **Make the ask:** Urge your U.S. Senator to increase poverty-reducing international development and humanitarian assistance in Fiscal Year 2022. [The accounts which do this are enumerated in the [CRS/USCCB appropriations chart](#).] We strongly urge Congress to maintain the Helms Amendment in Fiscal Year 2022 appropriations, which prohibits the use of U.S. funded foreign assistance for abortion. Urge them to take the next step by speaking with leaders of the key subcommittees outlined in the chart (SFOPs, Agriculture and LHHS).
5. **Provide some background to support your argument:** In your own words, share why it is important that the United States is a global leader in funding international humanitarian and development aid and how this funding addresses the root causes of issues such as forced displacement through innovative and sustainable programs.
6. **Repeat the ‘ask’, say thank you, and request a response:** Leave your name, address, phone number and email address so the office can get back to you with their decision.

² Migration Data Portal. [Forced migration or displacement](#). 21 May 2021.

³ World Economic Forum. [The cost of the climate crisis? 20 million homeless every year](#). Diciembre 6 de 2019.

