

Heavenly Father, we know that every child was created in your image to be valued and cherished. Please provide protection. Amen.



Lord, you created us all as brothers and sisters in your image. Give us compassion to lift each other up. In your name we pray.

### Preventing Violence Against Children

Half the world's children—over 1 billion—experienced violence in the last year. This includes physical, emotional, and sexual violence. Many of these children also suffer other harms through abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Violence can come in many forms, including trafficking, child labor, early marriage, and other harmful traditional practices.

**The U.S. Government needs a unified approach to addressing violence against children** that continues to support successful programs while finding new ways to holistically address all forms of violence and the root causes. Too many children are falling through the cracks.

**Goal:** Fully fund the Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB) in FY17 and FY18 to support grant programs to fight child labor including trafficking. Secure ILAB programs through future legislation.

### Strengthening America through aiding others

Less than one percent of the U.S. budget goes to poverty focused foreign assistance. The United States provides this money to other countries for a variety of purposes, some strategic and some humanitarian. It puts children in school, helps women start businesses to provide for their families, prevents the spread of malaria and HIV, assists farmers working to improve their crops, and protects children from violence and exploitation. This assistance has led to great progress in reducing poverty, saving lives, and helping families have better futures.

**The President and Congress need reassurance** that the American people support this spending. They need to know that you care about programs that are helping the poor around the world — programs that are saving lives, protecting children, and lifting families out of poverty. Despite poverty focused foreign assistance equaling only about \$80 a year per taxpayer, total spending for the International Affairs Budget has dropped by 12 percent since FY2010.

**Goal:** Maintain all current funding for Foreign Assistance accounts and increase strategically to meet needs.



*“Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause.”  
-Isaiah 1:17*

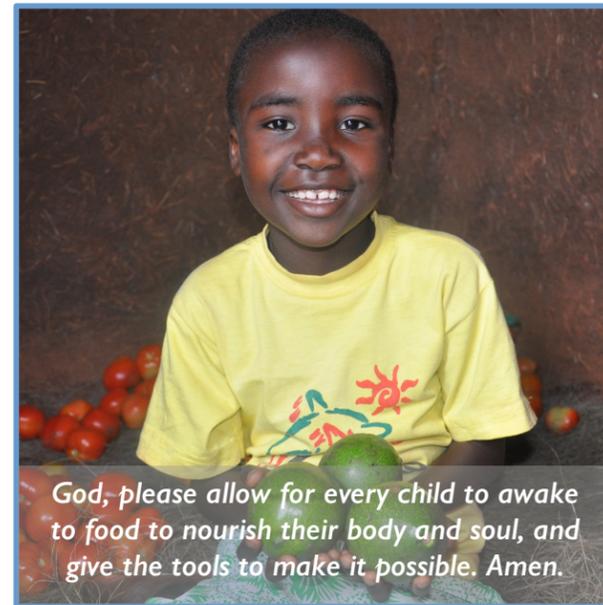
## 2017 Advocacy Issues Guide



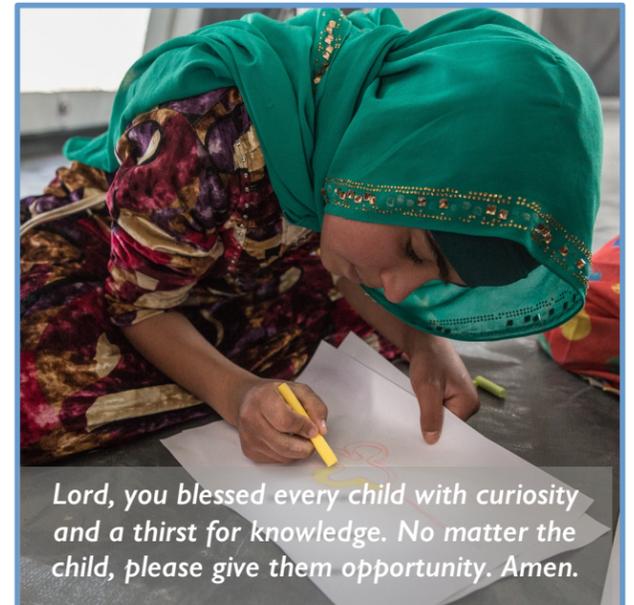
*Lord, please provide so that news of every child is celebrated, so that every mother survives, and every child flourishes. Amen.*



*Heavenly Father, we pray that all of your children find refuge and comfort. May they always feel love. Lord, hear our prayer.*



*God, please allow for every child to awake to food to nourish their body and soul, and give the tools to make it possible. Amen.*



*Lord, you blessed every child with curiosity and a thirst for knowledge. No matter the child, please give them opportunity. Amen.*

## Saving Moms and Babies

Even though progress has been made over the last several decades in reducing mortality rates worldwide, nearly 5.9 million children still die each year before the age of 5, 16,000 each day — from causes we can prevent. Over 300,000 mothers die annually due to complications from pregnancy and childbirth. However, since 1990, under-five deaths have dropped from 12.7 million per year to 5.9 million in 2015. We know what works and we know progress is possible.

**The Reach Every Mother and Child (Reach) Act** is a bold, bipartisan, policy initiative that will accelerate action by the U.S. to assist developing countries to reach the goal of ending preventable maternal, newborn, and child deaths by 2035 by scaling up interventions we know work for the most vulnerable populations.

**Goal:** Reintroduce the Reach Act in Congress, which failed to pass last session, by May, 2017.

## Aid to Families & Children Fleeing Conflict

1 in every 113 people in the world today is a refugee – over 65 million. March will mark the 7-year anniversary of the war in Syria. The Mosul offensive has displaced more than 3.3 million people in Iraq. Since December, 2013 more than 1.66 million people have fled their homes in South Sudan. Among the main casualties of this humanitarian crisis are children. We are facing a lost generation.

**Strong funding for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief accounts** in the U.S. International Affairs Budget will help those around the world who have been impacted by conflict or natural disasters. Hearing from people who are compassionate about this issue can help shape Congress' work.

**Goal:** For FY18, fund these accounts as follows: International Disaster Relief—\$3.2 BIL; Migration and Refugee Assistance—\$4.6 BIL; Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance—\$100 MIL. Prioritize programming for child protection and education.

## Ending Hunger and Providing Opportunity

Around the world, 795 million people, one in nine, regularly don't have enough food to eat. Each year, poor nutrition is an underlying cause of 2.8 million (45 percent of) deaths in children under 5. Globally, 66 million primary school-age children attend classes hungry across the developing world, with 23 million in Africa alone, leading to impaired cognitive and physical development and diminished productivity.

**We can end hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture development by 2030.** To do so, U.S. commitments and resources will be needed to help increase agricultural productivity, increase access to markets, manage resources, and increase diversity of food resources globally.

**Goal:** Congress maintains support for Food for Peace Title II program, including funding for non-emergency development programs.

## Education for All Children

Globally, 59 million children of primary school age (age 5-11) do not have the opportunity for education. Half of this number can be attributed to conflict and fragile states. Nearly 30 million of these children are girls. Of those in school, 250 million are not learning basic skills in reading, writing, and math—an estimated 103 million youth cannot read or write. The impact of all of this is widespread.

**The Reinforcing Education Accountability in Development (READ) Act** is a bill that will develop an integrated strategy to promote basic education and increase transparency. Work will focus on marginalized populations, including girls, children with disabilities, and children who are affected by conflict, such as Syrian refugees. Provisions for children who have been affected by domestic violence, early marriage, and gender-based violence are also included

**Goal:** Have the Senate pass the READ Act this session (the House passed the bill on January 24, 2017).