



GIVING CHILDREN SAFE AND STABLE COMMUNITIES

The Global Fragility and Violence Reduction Act of 2018 (H.R.5273)

SEEKING SOLUTIONS

For global progress, it is key for the U.S. to address global conflict and fragility now.

Fragility, conflict, and violence are multidimensional, and solutions require contributions from the political, diplomatic, security, and humanitarian development spheres.

World Vision works to strengthen food security and livelihoods, social structures, and government accountability to build resilience and reduce risk.

This violence reduction act is an example of U.S. leadership in tackling the root causes of conflict and fragility globally.

Introduction

Conflict and violence currently drive 80 percent of humanitarian needs and instability.¹ They're the main drivers behind the forcible displacement of an unprecedented 66 million people globally,² surpassing natural disasters for the first time in history. Fragility and violent conflict are expected to rise further due to food insecurity, competition for resources like land and water, severe poverty, poor governance, and the rise of extremism connected to these factors.

Why it matters

Global violence and fragility take a harsh economic toll: reducing them by 10 percent would create an estimated \$1.4 trillion gain in the global economy.³ But human life is greatly impacted as well. Preventable violence kills 1.4 million people each year, about the same number killed by AIDS and malaria combined in 2016. People in extreme poverty—those highly affected by socioeconomic disparities—are the most susceptible. And if things continue as they are, by 2030 nearly 50 percent of those in extreme poverty will be impacted by violence and fragility,⁴ making this a global crisis.

ASK

To tackle the root causes of violence that drive poverty, and answer the world's humanitarian needs, please help the U.S. address global causes of conflict and displacement by cosponsoring the Global Fragility and Violence Reduction Act of 2018 (H.R.5273).

¹worldbank.org/en/topic/fragilityconflictviolence/overview

²unhcr.org/en-us/figures-at-a-glance.html

³www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/01/conflict-costs-global-economy-14-trillion-a-year/

⁴worldbank.org/en/topic/fragilityconflictviolence/overview



About this bill

H.R.5273 aims to strengthen the capacity of the United States to address root causes of fragility and violence. Development of a long-term, interagency strategy, which includes increased coordination, monitoring and evaluation, and application of learnings, can provide systemic change.

The Global Initiative to Reduce Fragility and Violence will launch within six months of bill passage.

- » Ten pilot countries will be selected **based on indicators of fragility and violence**, including violence-related deaths, violence exposure levels, the number of people forcibly displaced due to conflict, gender-based violence, and violence against children.
- » Ten-year goals and plans for action will be developed for each pilot country, **including clear, transparent, and measurable benchmarks** for political, diplomatic, security, and development metrics.
- » **Community-based coordination** will clearly define the roles of involved agencies and civil society and ensure that marginalized populations, including women and youth, are represented in decisions.
- » Every two years Congress will receive a **report for each country on progress made and lessons learned**, including tracking of funding and changes made as a result of monitoring and evaluation.

< THE NEED: IMPOSSIBLE CHOICES IN MYANMAR

Living through an insurgency, Saira (at left) dropped out of school to help earn money for her family. After reports of local sexual violence, her parents made a difficult choice. “I was scared of marriage,” says Saira. **“I was too young, but I had to listen to my parents, it was their decision. To get married seemed the safest option to protect myself from being assaulted.”** Within a year, at age 13, she became pregnant. Afraid for her child, Saira fled the violence by sea. Now, in Bangladesh, she lives in a makeshift settlement of 605,000 people with similar stories, relying on a World Vision food distribution program to survive.

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. ADV11596_0418 © 2018 World Vision, Inc.

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