

The World Vision logo, featuring the text "World Vision" in white on a dark background, with a small orange star icon to the right.

## INVEST IN U.S. FOREIGN ASSISTANCE:

Building a Better World for Children

## Introduction

US foreign assistance accounts for less than 1 percent of the federal budget—yet this small amount enables the United States to work through trusted partners, including faith-based organizations such as World Vision, to implement programs that bring hope, opportunity, and improved well-being for children and families in the world's toughest places. US leadership in this area has long been bipartisan. In light of increased global needs, it is critical that this collaboration continues through strong funding for the International Affairs Budget, including poverty-focused development assistance.

## Why it matters

Globally, our neighbors face unprecedented challenges that threaten to reverse decades of progress made in addressing poverty. The COVID-19 pandemic is responsible for an estimated 71-100 million additional people falling into extreme poverty,<sup>1</sup> 31 million additional cases of gender-based violence,<sup>2</sup> and 13 million additional child marriages.<sup>2</sup> Driven by conflict, economic shocks, and extreme weather, the number of people facing acute food insecurity continues to rise,<sup>3</sup> affecting an estimated 110 million children.<sup>4</sup> In 2022, an estimated 274 million people will need humanitarian assistance—an increase from a year ago, which was already the highest figure in decades.<sup>5</sup>

ASK

In the face of unprecedented complex global challenges—which often affect children the most—please support robust funding of the International Affairs Budget in the FY23 appropriations process. Please sign the circulated Dear Colleague letter supporting robust funding for the International Affairs Budget.

(over)

# How It Works

Poverty-focused development assistance encompasses global health, child protection, food assistance, gender equality, education, economic development, water, sanitation & hygiene, and humanitarian response—all while partnering with communities and countries to build self-reliance. With funding allocated annually by Congress, the US Agency for International Development (USAID) provides grants to trusted implementing partners like World Vision. These grants complement existing development activities and increase our overall impact—putting our collective goals of eliminating extreme poverty and achieving holistic child wellbeing within reach.



*Sarah, a member of her local Stay in School Committee, holds a book that shares her sentiments: Stay in School.*

## References

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/poverty-and-shared-prosperity>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.wvi.org/publications/report/coronavirus-health-crisis/covid-19-aftershocks-perfect-storm>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.fao.org/state-of-food-security-nutrition>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.wvi.org/publications/report/coronavirus-health-crisis/aftershocks-out-time>

<sup>5</sup> <https://gho.unocha.org/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.usaid.gov/global-health/health-areas/maternal-and-child-health>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.usaid.gov/results-and-data/progress>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.usglc.org/combating-state-fragility-reduces-global-threats/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://results.usaid.gov/results>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.worldvision.org/dreams>

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. ADVI2081\_0618 © 2018 World Vision, Inc.

Poverty-focused development assistance:

- » **Provides life-saving support to the most vulnerable - including children.** In the past ten years, USAID's maternal and child health efforts have helped save the lives of more than 9.3 million children and 340,000 women.<sup>6</sup>
- » **Employs a multi-sectoral, holistic approach to improve child wellbeing.** The DREAMS public-private partnership (profiled below) is one of the best examples of integrated programming in U.S. foreign assistance.
- » **Promotes economic growth and stability, strengthens trade partnerships, and attracts new consumers** around the world for U.S. goods and products. In fact, 43 of the top 50 consumer nations of U.S. agricultural products were once foreign aid recipients.<sup>7</sup>
- » **Bolsters strategic alliances, helps combat extremism and instability, and improves governance.** It responds to global needs and challenges that often have far greater negative consequences if we fail to act. For every \$1 spent on conflict prevention, an estimated \$16 is saved in response costs.<sup>8</sup>
- » **Is data-driven, transparent, and accountable** to the American people.<sup>9</sup>

## < ACHIEVING HER DREAMS

In Uganda, only one out of every four girls make it past the tenth grade.<sup>10</sup> Once out of school, girls are at high risk of HIV infection, violence, early marriage, or pregnancy. That's why World Vision's DREAMS (Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, Mentored, and Safe) project funded by the US Government employed a holistic approach to reducing secondary school dropout among girls ages 13-19 in 151 schools in Uganda. Stay in School Committees combined peers, parents, faith and community leaders, and educators to utilize an Early Warning System and find solutions with families to keep their girls in school. Of over 40,000 participants, 99.7% retained their attendance in school. Veronica, age 18, says, "The DREAMS project has mentored me and empowered me to stay in school. If they were not there, I would have been married right now."

**Lisa Bos**

Senior Director of Government Relations  
[lbos@worldvision.org](mailto:lbos@worldvision.org)  
202.572.6545

**World Vision**

300 I Street NE  
Washington, DC 20002