

## Updated Messaging on U.S. Foreign Assistance Congressional Audience/Approach

### WHAT IS FOREIGN ASSISTANCE:

- U.S. poverty-focused 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 for the benefit of our country and the world.
- Few foreign governments receive direct support, with funding primarily going to experienced non-governmental organizations, including faith-based groups like World Vision, which implement programs that bring improved well-being for children and families.

### WORLD VISION'S APPROACH:

- World Vision programs achieve this by addressing root causes of instability—such as poverty, lack of access to education, and health disparities—through evidence-based interventions that foster local leadership, improve livelihoods, and create sustainable, community-led solutions.
- The impact is both immediate and lasting: children gain access to education, families receive life-saving medical care, communities secure clean water, and leading millions out of hunger.
- We reach one new person with clean water every 10 seconds, a family receives livelihood training every 60 seconds, and over the last 10 years, 89% of the severely malnourished children World Vision has treated made a full recovery.

### WHY IT MATTERS TO AMERICA:

#### *Economy*

- Some foreign assistance dollars actually [never leave the United States](#), with specific funds going to U.S. farmers to produce commodities that help vulnerable communities abroad. In the past year alone, [USAID funding to U.S. small business reached \\$1 billion](#).
- Some of our top trading partners, including South Korea, Mexico, and Brazil, have made incredible economic gains that [likely would not have happened](#) if we had not previously supported these countries through foreign assistance.
- [11 of our top 15 trading partners](#) were once recipients of U.S. foreign assistance, and [43 of the top 50 consumer nations](#) of US agricultural products were once recipients of foreign assistance.
- [36 countries](#) that once relied on World Bank International Development Assistance (IDA) support no longer do so, and several have become IDA donors themselves, including Chile, India, South Korea, and Türkiye.
- [Current recipients of U.S. foreign assistance](#) are also stepping up their own funding efforts, with Kenya now contributing to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria.

#### *Security*

- [For every \\$1 the U.S. spends to prevent conflict](#), an estimated \$16 is saved in response costs. U.S. foreign assistance is a critical tool to respond to conflict, displacement, and disasters that is consistently supported by the Defense Department.

- If we want to maintain our security while also reducing our military footprint and engagement globally, “soft power” is vital. Providing education, job training, and democracy programs creates opportunities that reduce crime, terrorism, and migration.

### *American Leadership*

- As the U.S. seeks not only to compete globally, but to lead, foreign assistance is critical to “America First” and our strategic interests. America should be the primary ally and partner of choice around the world – not China, Russia, or others.
- These are gestures of goodwill that don’t go unnoticed – they serve as a tool to build allies and respect for American values around the world.
- According to two separate polls from last year conducted by the [United States Global Leadership Coalition](#) (USGLC) & the [Reagan Institute](#): 8 in 10 voters say the U.S. should play a leading or major role on the global stage; 87% see investing in American diplomacy to prevent future conflicts as a top priority; and 77% say that the U.S. has a moral obligation to stand up for human rights and democracy.

### **CORE MESSAGE & OUR RESPONSE:**

- We agree with Secretary Rubio that “[foreign aid is not charity](#),” but an investment that builds resilient communities and makes the U.S. “[safer, stronger, and more prosperous](#).”
- As [Senator Graham mentioned in the confirmation hearing](#) for the OMB Director, foreign assistance is “1 percent of the budget, you could eliminate it all, you're not going to balance the budget.” Cutting foreign aid has virtually no effect on reducing the nation’s debt, but it does threaten the lives of millions of people worldwide and puts our shared security at risk.
- As needs rise around the world, we must ensure these limited dollars make the most impactful investment. We cannot rely on continual humanitarian supplementals to address the multiple crises affecting our world, including hunger, displacement, and violent conflict.
- Now is the time to shift our focus from quick fixes toward strategic investment in long-term development, so that families are empowered to become self-sustaining and no longer need our assistance in the future.
- While this executive order does put a significant amount of our programming around the world at risk, we remain committed to our faith and mission. Every effort World Vision makes is to show Christ’s love in action to those who need it most.
- From providing lifesaving aid in crises, to empowering families to overcome poverty and experience the fullness of life God intends – this is the work generous partners like the United States have made possible.
- Our job in the coming months is to ask Congress and the Administration to help them see the value of wise investments in foreign assistance that make a difference here at home and globally.