

MEETING TIPS

1. Prepare and have a plan:

Your prep call will help determine who will say what. Then practice. Picture yourself in a congressional office (totally okay to imagine it, if you haven't been in one before!) and practice your talking points. Be prepared and try not to read from the outline. Instead, **speak with conviction, using your outline as a guide to jog your memory.**

2. Make it conversational:

Think about it like having a cup of coffee with a friend. Be relatable. Make space for them to be as well. Staffers are bombarded all day with demands in these meetings. Create space for them to be comfortable, safe, and conversational. They may not remember all you say, but **they will remember how you made them feel.**

3. Read the room:

This may create the need to pivot. If you've prepared, you'll be ready and can make the necessary decisions in real-time. Perhaps you'll rearrange the meeting flow a bit because the staffer told you what would be most helpful to them.

4. Tips for connecting with Democratic offices:

Democrats traditionally support international humanitarian assistance. Use this meeting as an opportunity to give them data, project examples, and impact that help reinforce their support. They will listen. **Connect with them as trusted partners.**

5. Tips for connecting with Republican offices:

Republican offices are the priority members to connect with at this time. Many Republican members are skeptical of international assistance while others support assistance that they believe directly benefits America. Use this opportunity to educate offices and give them clear, specific examples of quality programming and impact. **Help them see that we are partners of choice to implement programs that change people's lives – for good – and benefit the American people as well.**

Best opening framing for Republican offices:

Central message: American leadership matters. When the United States walks away from strategic humanitarian and development investments, we leave a vacuum. China, Russia, extremist groups, and instability fill it. Faith-led American organizations like World Vision help the U.S. lead with strength, compassion, accountability, and long-term results.

Use phrases throughout:

- “This is not charity alone. It is strategic investment.”
- “The goal is not perpetual aid. The goal is helping communities become self-sufficient.”
- “When America steps back, others step in.”
- “Strong, stable communities abroad reduce costlier crises later.”
- “Faith-led American assistance reaches places governments alone often cannot.”
- “PEPFAR is a historic Republican foreign policy and global health achievement.”

Phrases to avoid in meetings with Republican offices

Avoid	Use Instead
“Foreign assistance is a moral obligation.”	“American leadership prevents costlier crises later.”
“Equity and global justice.”	“Every family deserves a fair shot to build a stable future.”
“Vulnerable communities.”	“Hardworking families facing crisis.”
“Aid dependency.”	“A path to self-sufficiency.”
“Humanitarian duty.”	“Strategic, accountable assistance that protects U.S. interests.”
“Global solidarity.”	“American leadership in a dangerous world.”

Best one-minute meeting for Republican offices:

“World Vision’s work is rooted in our Christian faith and focused on helping families and communities become self-sufficient. We are not here to defend aid for aid’s sake. We are here because effective assistance is one of the tools America uses to prevent instability, counter negative influences, support American farmers, stop disease before it spreads, and reduce the need for costlier interventions.

World Vision has operated for 75 years, works through trusted local and faith-based partners, and measures each program’s success. Our goal is always to end assistance by helping communities become resilient enough that they no longer need us. We are asking your office to help ensure that appropriated international assistance is spent as Congress intended and that you support strong FY2027 funding for accounts that protect children, strengthen families, and advance American interests.”