

## “For Such a Time as This” Pray. Fast. Act.

### FOREIGN ASSISTANCE BUDGET

Our country has a rich history of fighting extreme poverty and responding to humanitarian crises around the world. Although it's less than 1 percent of the federal budget, foreign assistance has saved millions of lives and continues to do so today. The International Affairs account is the main vehicle through which the federal government provides this assistance.

**The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America supports sustained government efforts to address the needs of vulnerable and marginalized populations around the world and encourages all Lutherans to advocate for robust foreign assistance funding, including for these programs:**



#### DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

These are foundational U.S. investments to help the world's poorest people obtain access to education and clean water, grow nutritious food, promote economic development, support good governance, respond to climate change, and create more sustainable, self-sufficient democratic societies.

**We urge Congress to allocate \$3.4 billion to this account in fiscal year 2018.**

#### INTERNATIONAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE

This assistance provides lifesaving aid following natural and human-made disasters, including conflicts, earthquakes, floods and droughts.

**We urge Congress to allocate \$3.41 billion to this account in fiscal year 2018.**

#### GLOBAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

U.S. global health funding helps reduce child mortality, slow the spread of diseases such as HIV and AIDS, address health emergencies, prevent malnutrition, and support initiatives such as the President's Malaria Initiative and the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

**We urge Congress to allocate \$9.5 billion to these programs in fiscal year 2018.**

#### MCGOVERN-DOLE INTERNATIONAL FOOD FOR EDUCATION AND CHILD NUTRITION

This program provides U.S. agricultural products, as well as financial and technical assistance, for school feeding and maternal and child nutrition projects in low-income, food-deficit countries that are committed to universal education. The program gives school-age children in poverty-stricken countries with what is often their only full meal of the day and helps protect vulnerable children and their families, especially during societal shocks.

**We urge Congress to allocate \$209.5 million to this account in fiscal year 2018.**

#### FOOD FOR PEACE TITLE II

This food-assistance program authorizes the U.S. to confront global hunger and malnutrition and bring stability to situations that can threaten our national security. It includes emergency programs that keep people alive through natural disasters, conflict and food security crises.

**We urge Congress to allocate \$1.875 billion to this account in fiscal year 2018.**

#### MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION

The corporation works with competitively selected developing countries to provide program-oriented partnerships, focusing on promoting sustained economic growth through investments in areas such as agriculture, education, private sector development and capacity building.

**We urge Congress to allocate \$1 billion to this account in fiscal year 2018.**

U.S. foreign assistance: Reference Guide  
[pdf.usaid.gov/pdf\\_docs/Pnadc240.pdf](http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/Pnadc240.pdf)

ELCA social statement: "Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All"  
[ELCA.org/en/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements/Economic-Life](http://ELCA.org/en/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements/Economic-Life)

#ForSuchATime #PrayFastAct [ELCA.org/PrayFastAct](http://ELCA.org/PrayFastAct)



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.