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Description of document: United States Agency for International Development (USAID) correspondence to and from the certain Congressional Committees and Committee Leaders \* during calendar years 2012 and 2013

Requested date: 09-May-2013

Released date: 10-September-2013

Posted date: 21-October-2013

\* Note: See release letter for list of Committees and Committee Leaders

Source of document: FOIA REQUEST  
USAID FOIA Office  
Bureau for Management  
Office of Management Services  
Information and Records Division  
Room 2.07C – RRB  
Washington, DC 20523-2701  
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September 10, 2013

TRANSMITTED VIA EMAIL

Re: FOIA Request No. F-00223-13

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) regrets the delay in responding to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. Unfortunately, USAID is experiencing a substantial backlog due to staff shortages that we are committed to resolving.

This is the final response to your May 9, 2013, FOIA request to USAID. We received your request in this office on May 17, 2013. Specifically, you requested correspondence to and from the following Committees and Committee Leaders during calendar years 2012 and 2013 to date:

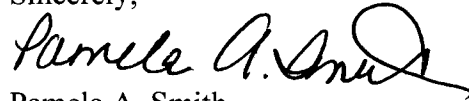
- Senate Committee on Foreign Relations;
- Senator Robert Menendez, Chairman;
- Senator Bob Corker, Ranking Member;
- Senate Subcommittee on International Development and Foreign Assistance;
- Senator Timothy Kaine, Chairman;
- House Committee on Foreign Affairs; and
- Congressman Edward Royce, Chairman

USAID's Office of the Executive Secretariat (OES) and Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs (LPA) conducted a search for responsive documents. The search produced 16 responsive pages. After careful review, we have determined that all 16 pages are releasable in their entirety; no exemptions have been claimed.

No fees have been assessed for your FOIA request.

As this concludes the processing of your request, it will be closed. If you have questions regarding your request, you may contact Pamela Smith on (202) 712-4476 or via email at [psmith@usaid.gov](mailto:psmith@usaid.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pamela A. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "P".

Pamela A. Smith  
Government Information Specialist  
Bureau for Management  
Office of Management Services  
Information and Records Division

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20540

April 8, 2013

Dr. Rajiv Shah  
Administrator  
United States Agency for International Development  
Ronald Reagan Building, Suite 610  
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20523

Dear Administrator Shah:

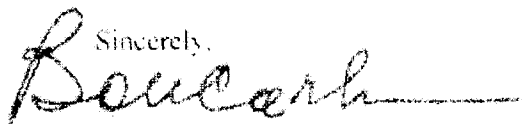
I am writing in regards to Visitation Hospital Foundation's application for funding through the American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) program. (APS-ASHA-13-000001)

Visitation Hospital Foundation is an independent, non-profit charity with a mission to provide healthcare and healthcare education in rural Haiti. Founded in 1999, the organization's headquarters are in Nashville, and many of its supporters live in central Tennessee.

It is my understanding that the foundation supports the Visitation Hospital Center in one of the poorest and least-served regions in Haiti. They would use the additional funding to build a small hospital, with the purpose of providing additional facilities for outreach, education, and support.

I appreciate your attention to this matter. Please keep me informed about the progress of this proposal and when a decision is made. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office at (202) 224-3344.

Sincerely,



Bob Corker  
United States Senator

BC'es



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

MAY 31 2013

The Honorable Bob Corker  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Corker:

Thank you for your letter of April 8, 2013, concerning support for the Visitation Hospital Foundation's grant application for 2013 funding under the American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) program. We regret the delay in responding.

Applications, which were due by April 15, 2013, will be reviewed in accordance with the Annual Program Statement (APS) posted on [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). Please be assured that the request for assistance from Project Mercy will be given full and careful consideration in this process.

If we can be of further assistance, please contact us at (202) 712-4300.

Sincerely,

T. Charles Cooper  
Assistant Administrator  
Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs

CLEARANCE PAGE FOR RESPONSE TO Senator Bob Corker, letter regarding the support of an application submitted by Visitation Hospital Center in Haiti to the American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) program.

CLEARANCES:

DCHA/ASHA:	KGoodspeed	cleared	Date: 5/8/2013
DCHA/PPM:	DCorle	cleared	Date: 5/9/2013
DCHA/DAA:	LMeserve	cleared	Date: 5/8/2013
LPA:	ACatella	cleared	Date: 5/14/2013

Author: DCHA/ASHA: Margaret McKenzie: x20176, 202-664-3550

Location: P:\DCHA.ASHA.PUB\Congressional Letters\FY 2013: Control # 201301301720



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

*The Administrator*

August 14, 2012

The Honorable Bob Corker  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Corker,

As you know, in July 2011, famine was declared in the Horn of Africa with 750,000 people at risk of starvation. As a result of the global humanitarian response, that famine abated by December, as reported in my last update letter to you. Your leadership made this possible and we remain grateful for your continued attention. Our sustained humanitarian and development assistance is critical to protecting livelihoods and ensuring that communities and countries are not plunged back into crisis. Stabilizing this region, a vital front in our battle against violent extremism, is of considerable strategic interest to the United States.

I am pleased to report to you now on the efforts we are making to build resilience against future crises in the region. We know we cannot prevent drought, but we can make progress in ensuring that the next drought is less devastating.

With critical lessons learned from our efforts in the Horn, we are now leading the path beyond crisis mitigation to crisis prevention—with vast benefits for Africa's most vulnerable populations and for the United States, which continues to bear the costs of responding to chronic crisis. We are working to build resilience in countries that have long faced cyclical droughts, famine, and conflict by instilling long-term solutions—vaccinating livestock, improving crop yields, improving natural resource management including sustainable water sources and rangeland systems, and working to strengthen nutrition—so that development gains and whole livelihoods are not lost with the next inevitable shock.

In the aftermath of the worst drought in 60 years, we have gained a better understanding of the kind of impact resilience programs can have. For example, in Ethiopia, a program called the Productive Safety Net Program, which USAID has supported since 2005, effectively kept 7.6 million people, on top of the 13 million already in need, from requiring emergency assistance and from losing their household assets. Just last year, Kenya established a Drought Management Authority, which has helped coordinate efforts to build resilience and has increased funding in its national budget for livestock development and infrastructure in the drylands. These are the kinds of things that can help protect Kenyans against the next drought. We are working to ensure that programs and policies like these are built into national planning and strategies.

The United States is not alone in this effort. In April 2012, USAID co-led an effort in Nairobi, Kenya with African leaders and the international donor community to affirm our mutual commitment to building resilience as key to ending cycles of crisis in drought-plagued

communities. This joint call to action, formalized through a new Alliance for Action among donors, is a step forward in changing the way we do business and solidifying the necessary international and African leader support to address the underlying causes of crisis—and halt recurring crisis—in the Horn of Africa. The Alliance is committed to holding itself accountable for results, and we will assess our progress in six months.

The U.S. Government's Feed the Future initiative is critical to USAID's efforts to instill resilience, especially among small subsistence farmers by improving yields with improved fertilizers and drought-and-disease tolerant seeds, finding markets for crops in environmentally sustainable ways, and improving the regional flow of staple foods from areas of high production yield to high consumption need. In Ethiopia, these efforts are strengthening select value chains while encouraging private-sector engagement and improving market function. These efforts mean better opportunities for the poor, improved food security, and a more resilient population.

Through new joint planning groups, we are more efficiently bringing these activities together and linking our work to other donors and host country governments for maximum impact.

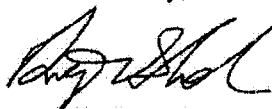
Of course, profound challenges remain. We must be vigilant in monitoring the situation. Our continued assistance to Ethiopia and Kenya from food to sanitation to water will be vital to their sustained recovery. Current forecasts indicate the return of poor rainfall for some areas of the Horn and the numbers of people in need may increase in coming months. However, by strategically investing in the future, we can mitigate the scale of forthcoming humanitarian crises.

In southern Somalia, *de facto* control of the terrorist group Al-Shabaab makes it difficult to help those most in need. Yet, through the United Nations and non-governmental organizations, we continue to find new ways to deliver food aid, vouchers, agricultural inputs, nutrition support, medication, and urgent health care to southern Somalia's most vulnerable. These efforts are critical to stabilizing the area. Still, roughly 2.5 million Somalis continue to require humanitarian assistance with predicted below average rainfall elevating needs while Al-Shabaab threatens to keep help out. Nearly nine million people remain in need region-wide.

I remain proud of our sustained focus on the Horn of Africa and our ability to effectively act on our values to improve the lives of millions and stabilize this vital region in East Africa. Investment in smart and effective humanitarian assistance builds resilience and saves lives. Development—boosting crop yields, diversifying livelihoods in pastoral areas, improving nutrition, and supporting strong elections—is essential to prevent conflict and increase well-being in the long-term while ensuring prudent and effective use of taxpayer dollars.

I am grateful for your leadership and continued attention and look forward to working with you in the weeks and months ahead.

Sincerely,



Rajiv J. Shah



United States Senate  
455 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510



Phone: (202) 224-4944  
Fax: (202) 228-3398  
[www.alexander.senate.gov](http://www.alexander.senate.gov)

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# Lamar Alexander

United States Senator · Tennessee

## FAX COVER SHEET

To: Barbara Feinstein

Fax: 202-216-3035

From: Mackenzie Burt

Phone: 202-224-4944

Pages with cover sheet: 2

Date: 5/21/12

Notes:

LAMAR ALEXANDER  
TENNESSEE

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 21, 2012

The Honorable Rajiv Shah  
Administrator  
U.S. Agency for International Development  
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20523-1000

Dear Administrator Shah:

We are writing to ask that you give all due consideration to the application submitted by Tennessee Tech University for a Higher Education Solutions Network grant to support a project in Bangladesh.

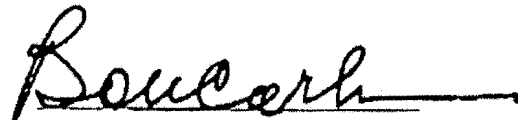
Tennessee Tech University's project, *Building Life-Saving Resilience against Water and Health Vulnerabilities in Low-Lying Delta Nations of South and Southeast Asia*, is designed to help communities prevent floods, droughts and cyclones, as well as address health threats like cholera and malaria. According to Tennessee Tech University, they will use information technology, public education and outreach, and ongoing strategic initiatives with the Google Foundation, the Gates/Rockefeller Foundations and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to help people in low-lying delta nations of South and Southeast Asia.

We hope you will give all due consideration to Tennessee Tech University's application. We would be glad to furnish additional information, or your office may wish to be in touch with Allison Martin at (202) 224-4944.

Sincerely,



Lamar Alexander  
United States Senator



Bob Corker  
United States Senator



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

JUL 16 2012

The Honorable Bob Corker  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Corker:

Thank you for your letter of May 21, 2012, concerning the Higher Education Solutions Network and the application from Tennessee Tech University.

The Higher Education Solutions Network (HESN) aims to engage students, staff, faculty, and higher education institutions, catalyzing the enthusiasm for international development, translating advocacy and ideas on campus into action and results in the field. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has called on the brightest minds across the globe to:

- Address USAID's need for development data and analysis;
- Test and scale new models and technologies for development; and
- Engage new solvers and incentivize new solutions and new approaches for development.

The response to this RFA was extraordinary. We received over 470 concept notes from leading universities in 49 states and 33 countries. The submissions were marked by tremendous creativity, inclusiveness and leveraging of resources. Given that we have resources to fund only five to seven awards, many outstanding proposals will not get funded. The RFA focused on building up USAID's capacity around data, science, and technology for development, and the proposals selected were those that most precisely aligned with that goal.

A technical peer review committee comprised of USAID and external evaluators performed a merit-based review of each note against the RFA. Please be assured that the application from Tennessee Tech University was given full and careful consideration in this process, although it did not advance to the next round. As this is an open procurement, we are unable to provide discuss the applications or process further at this time.

We appreciate Tennessee Tech University's interest in contributing to the HESN and furthering development goals and hope that they will apply for opportunities to work with USAID in the future. If this office can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to let me know

Sincerely,

Barbara A. Feinstein  
Deputy Assistant Administrator  
Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs

CLEARANCE PAGE FOR REPLY to Senator Lamar Alexander

**Clearances:**

PPL/DAA: Larry Garber	<u>cleared</u>	Date: <u>6/7/2012</u>
PPL/ST: Alex Dehgan	<u>cleared</u>	Date: <u>06/06/2012</u>
OAA: Marcus Johnson	<u>cleared</u>	Date: <u>06/06/2012</u>
LPA/CLO: Jeff Mettillie	<u>cleared</u>	Date: <u>6/8/2012</u>

**Drafter:**

PPL/ST: Tallie Faircloth: ext. 2-129; 919-219-1630

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Chairman

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Chief of Staff

THOMAS SHEEHY  
Staff Director



One Hundred Thirteenth Congress  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Foreign Affairs  
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Deputy Chief of Staff

April 15, 2013

The Honorable Rajiv Shah  
Administrator  
U.S. Agency for International Development  
Ronald Reagan Building  
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20523

Dear Mr. Administrator:

I am writing to invite you to testify before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs at a hearing entitled, "The FY 2014 Budget Request: U.S. Foreign Assistance Priorities and Strategy" to be held on Thursday, April 25, 2013, at 10:00 a.m., in Room 2172 of the Rayburn House Office Building. The purpose of this hearing is to review the President's Fiscal Year 2014 budget request for the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Millennium Challenge Corporation.

Enclosed are the Committee's instructions for hearing witnesses. I ask that your biography and written testimony be sent electronically to [Reid.Fritz@mail.house.gov](mailto:Reid.Fritz@mail.house.gov) as soon as possible. Should you need any additional information for this hearing, please contact Reid Fritz, Hearing Coordinator, at (202) 225-5021.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE  
Chairman

Enclosure

**Testimony of U.S. Agency for International Development  
Assistant Administrator Nancy E. Lindborg to the**

**House Committee on Foreign Affairs**

**March 20, 2013**

**Crisis in Syria: the U.S. Response**

Chairman Royce, Members of the Committee, thank you for inviting me to speak with you today. I appreciate the opportunity to talk with you about the U.S. response to Syria's crisis to date. Thank you also for your continued support for our assistance programs around the world, which are making a positive difference every day in millions of lives around the world.

**Introduction**

We have just passed the two-year anniversary since the onset of the Syrian conflict. Sadly, the country continues to face a grim situation and an escalating humanitarian crisis. The dreams of those who first began with hopeful demonstrations on the street of Damascus are far from being realized. The statistics are numbing: more than 70,000 dead; more than 4 million people inside the country in need of assistance; and more than 2.5 million displaced from their homes. We have already reached the somber milestone of more than one million refugees in neighboring countries, with greater numbers of refugees fleeing the violence each day.

The United States is fully committed to standing with and supporting the Syrian people. I traveled to Turkey and Jordan with Ambassador Ford and Assistant Secretary Richard in late January to underscore that message of support. I met with young activists who have been yanked from their dreams of college, braved arrest and in some cases served brutal jail time, and who are now dedicated to organizing their generation for a better future. Several of them sent me text messages on March 8<sup>th</sup> as part of their "I Am She" Campaign, urging people to wear white on International Women's Day in honor of the many Syrian women who have suffered violence during this conflict. And we met with refugees who have fled bombardment and attack. One man and his three young sons all had fresh shrapnel wounds as we talked in the camp in Jordan. And in a tragic twist of technology, more than one woman showed me photos on her cell phones of dead children or lost husbands.

I will highlight today several of the ways in which the United States is providing assistance, including support for the democratic transition, help for the neighboring countries reeling under the influx of refugees, and urgently needed humanitarian help, as well as underscore the magnitude of the challenge ahead.

**Investing in Syria's Democratic Transition**

The United States is investing in the future of a democratic, prosperous Syria and has committed nearly \$115 million in non-lethal assistance to support Syria's Opposition Coalition (SOC), its Assistance Coordination Unit (ACU), and emergent democratic institutions at the grassroots level. We are working from the ground up by supporting the efforts of the local councils and civil society groups and from the top down by helping the SOC build its capacity to administer opposition-held areas and provide urgent and essential services to the people of Syria. Newly

announced program commitments will support the SOC/ACU's ability to manage and implement donor funds both to meet urgent needs and for strategic initiatives that support rehabilitation and restoration of basic services for the Syrian people.

We know from prior transitions the importance of providing basic services and meeting the fundamental needs of a community – from fuel to schools to trash collection. In conflict and post-conflict environments, this is especially vital as communities need reason to believe in the possibility of a better future and establish trust in opposition leadership. At USAID we are working quickly through USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives to provide the SOC with support to respond rapidly to immediate requests from local councils -- including the provision of emergency power, clean water, heaters, and educational supplies for children in strategically selected areas -- as well as support strategic transition initiatives that restore basic services.

As Ambassador Ford has detailed, \$54 million in non-lethal assistance, of the \$115 million committed, is already at work through State and USAID-supported mechanisms to support, train, equip, and connect a network of civil society activists, civilian opposition leaders, and emergent democratic institutions. USAID has prioritized help for Syrian women to play a meaningful role in the country's transition through training and support for coalition-building. Working with the State Department, USAID recently co-sponsored a workshop for Syrian women that resulted in the development of a formal Syrian Women's Network and the drafting of a Charter for Syrian Women.

### **Support for Syria's Neighbors**

We fully recognize the toll of this conflict on the neighboring countries that have so generously taken in the thousands of refugees that flee each day. Assistant Secretary Richard has noted the extensive efforts underway to support Syrian refugees. We are working as well through our USAID missions to help alleviate the potential tensions and impact of a growing Syrian refugee burden on host communities and stressed country systems.

In Lebanon, Syrian refugees now comprise more than 10 percent of the population, comparable to more than 22 million refugees suddenly coming to the United States. We have shifted existing programming to focus on mitigating conflict in particularly affected, vulnerable Lebanese communities, primarily in the North and the Bekaa Valley. Programs are focused on reducing strains on resources by improving service delivery and expanding economic and education opportunities. We are working to support Lebanon's leaders in their efforts to bridge sectarian and ethnic divides, with a particular focus on youth to encourage their participation in resolving community concerns.

In Jordan, the United States has responded vigorously to support the Government of Jordan (GOJ) as it copes with the influx of 350,000 Syrian refugees to-date, as well as help the Jordanian people who are hosting Syrian refugees in their communities. We have used the Complex Crisis Fund to help mitigate potential conflict in northern Jordanian communities where water supplies, never abundant, are stretched thin by arriving refugees. The USAID Mission has realigned existing projects and cash transfer assistance (\$284 million in FY 2012) to cover gaps in the GOJ budget that are, in part, due to increased costs related to the arrival of the Syrian refugees.

## **The U.S. Humanitarian Response**

Finally and most urgently, the United States has fully mobilized to provide humanitarian assistance in Syria. We have provided nearly \$385 million in humanitarian aid to date, \$215 million of which is helping those in need in all governorates inside Syria. Our aid is reaching all 14 governorates in Syria, and an estimated 60 percent is working to help those in contested and opposition-held areas. And I want to be clear: our funding is not just a pledge; every dollar counted is already at work on the ground every day, in some of the worst violence-affected areas, including Idlib, Aleppo, and Dar'a.

We are working through all channels to enable our assistance to reach people throughout Syria: the United Nations (UN), international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and local Syrian organizations and networks – and thousands of dedicated aid workers and Syrians who risk their lives daily.

### **Medical care, food aid, relief supplies**

We have prioritized the provision of food aid, basic medical care, trauma care, and relief supplies. Working through partners, including a cadre of very brave Syrian physicians, we are supporting a life line of essential medical supplies and drugs, trauma training for doctors and support for hospitals and mobile clinics. This assistance is saving lives every day. Right now in Syria, the United States is providing support for 144 hospitals, health clinics, and mobile medical units. This includes providing medical supplies and equipment, paying doctors' salaries, and training additional first responders and medical staff. USAID-supported field hospitals are providing emergency care and emotional support for children, women and men who have suffered sexual- and gender-based violence. The hours and days following rape are critical to treat injuries related to the assault, prevent infection, and receive the basic emotional support that will allow survivors to recover and resume a full life.

The U.S. is the largest donor for emergency food assistance for those affected by conflict in Syria, including those who have fled to neighboring countries. World Food Program (WFP) activities supported by the United States currently provide monthly rations to nearly 1.5 million within Syria and approximately 300,000 refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq and Egypt. WFP targets for these programs are set to increase in coming months to 2.5 million people inside Syria and 755,000 in neighboring countries.

In Aleppo Governorate, the U.S. is providing enough flour to more than 50 bakeries to provide daily bread for 210,000 people. Some of these bakeries had been shuttered for nearly three weeks before this program began, and they are now able to operate. Syrian families in these areas have bread, and the bakery owners and workers are once again earning income.

Throughout the winter, we pushed hard to ensure warm blankets, winter clothes, plastic sheeting and mattresses for over one million internally displaced Syrians who had fled their homes, many of whom have been displaced two or three times already. Now, as winter becomes spring, we face a new set of warm weather challenges, and we will shift greater focus to providing clean



water, improving sanitation and stepping up hygiene supplies and education to thwart the onset of waterborne disease.

As makeshift camps have sprung up along the Turkish border, such as the Olive Tree Camp in Atmeh, near the Reyhanli border crossing in Turkey's Hatay Province, we are responding with assistance to improve basic personal hygiene—including hygiene kits for each family—also essential to preventing disease. At Olive Tree, U.S. assistance has also established 120 garbage collection points and trash removal services, repaired the water pump, established water trucking, installed pipe for a sewage system, and constructed 140 latrines.

After the brutality they have suffered and witnessed, children and adults alike need psychosocial support to help them through this crisis. From helping to form women's groups that encourage discussion to providing vital psychosocial support for children by providing a safe space for them to play and interact with their peers, we are helping to provide ways for Syrians to work through the trauma. With U.S. government support, UNICEF continues to provide psychosocial support to more than 32,000 children in Damascus, Rif Damascus, Homs, and Aleppo governorates, including in conflict locations. In 2013, UNICEF aims to reach 300,000 children throughout the country.

### **Coordination**

In complex crises, coordination with international partners is imperative to ensure the greatest effectiveness of humanitarian contributions. The UN-led coordination effort for Syria enables the humanitarian community to collectively identify and meet immediate humanitarian needs without duplication. Meanwhile, the SOC's ACU has assumed a vital role in coordinating efforts to reach Syrians, especially in opposition-held and contested areas. The UN, UK and USAID each have full time liaisons in Turkey to work with the ACU, which holds a weekly coordination meeting with all donors and implementing partners to share information and map out delivery of assistance to priority areas. Thanks to the determination of ACU leadership, it has grown quickly since its inception in November, and we continue to help the ACU build its capacity to coordinate and leverage international assistance inside Syria.

### **Key Challenges**

Despite our efforts, Syria's humanitarian crisis is quickly outpacing current international response capacity. As violence escalates, three critical challenges are impeding the international humanitarian system from more effectively meeting the urgent needs of the Syrian people. First, **access** remains greatly constrained, especially to the seven northern governorates. In late January, the UN had a breakthrough in delivering assistance across battle lines and has since completed three cross line missions. These efforts are making a tangible difference—but these cross-line operations are logistically complicated and dangerous, underscoring the need for direct, cross-border delivery. This is essential if we are going to be able to reach those in need more quickly.

Secondly, **security** remains a critical concern. We receive daily reports of aid workers being targeted, arrested and kidnapped, of bakeries and clinics being bombed. Our priority is providing life-saving aid, so we provide our assistance in a way that maximizes the potential for protecting the many courageous aid workers and those who receive the aid. This means U.S. humanitarian

assistance in Syria is currently provided without branding. We continue to work however to find ways we can safely let the Syrian people know that the United States is the leading donor and the largest, most proactive provider of humanitarian assistance, including media campaigns, trips to the region and branding where possible.

Finally and importantly, resources are running short. It is imperative that all countries help shoulder this burden. The Emir of Kuwait hosted an international pledging conference on January 30 that raised \$1.5 billion in pledges for the UN Appeal, but unfortunately only about 20 percent of these pledges have turned into funding for programs on the ground. We continue to urge all countries to follow through with their generous pledges and, as the current appeal only covers operations through June, they need to begin looking at next stage funding, especially as the worst-case scenario quickly becomes the current case.

### **Conclusion: A Pivotal Moment**

Our continued, full-throttled humanitarian response is a vital lifeline to millions of Syrians. And our support to help build the Syrian opposition's capacity to provide accountable leadership is crucial as Syrians seek to build a new democracy even as conflict continues.

But we also know our humanitarian aid is not enough to meet the growing needs. And we know our humanitarian aid will not end the bloodshed. We are seeing a shift in the level of violence, in numbers of Syrians fleeing into neighboring countries and collapse of basic systems inside Syria that is outstripping response. Without a political solution, no amount of aid will turn the tide.

After two brutal years of conflict, the Syrian people have more than earned the chance to achieve their democratic aspirations.

EDWARD R. ROYCE, CALIFORNIA  
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May 8, 2013

Ms. Nisha Biswal  
Assistant Administrator  
Bureau for Asia  
U.S. Agency for International Development  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Ms. Biswal:

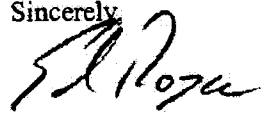
I am writing to invite you to testify at a hearing entitled, "Assessing U.S. Foreign Assistance Priorities in East Asia and the Pacific" to be held before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 16, 2013, in Room 2172 of the Rayburn House Office Building.

The Administration's Fiscal Year 2014 request for programs within the East Asia and the Pacific (EAP) region represents a seven percent, or \$79 million, increase from current spending levels. The budget request states that this substantial increase in funding aims to address critical gaps in core programs to deepen economic ties, promote democratic values, strengthen diplomatic engagement, and broaden the U.S. security presence. What mechanisms are in place to ensure that these funds are providing a sound return on U.S. taxpayer investment? Please address the following:

- In a region where corruption is prevalent and various transnational security challenges threaten the region's stability and peace, how does this increase in funding aim to confront these growing challenges?
- Funding requests for Burma, Indonesia, Laos, Mongolia, and the Philippines received the largest increase. Please provide details about foreign assistance programs in these countries, particular objectives and goals, and how this assistance, in the short and long-term, will help achieve U.S. priorities in these nations and throughout the region;
- Please provide further details about the Lower Mekong Initiative. What metrics are used in these projects? What is the selection criteria for participants and are they vetted for previous human rights abuses? How are outcomes measured? What are the outcomes thus far? How will this program evolve over the course of the next year?; and
- What critical gaps in core programming does this funding aim to fill? How does it align with government-wide strategic priorities as part of rebalance efforts?

Enclosed are the Subcommittee's instructions for hearing witnesses. I ask that a biography and written testimony be sent electronically to [priscilla.koepke@mail.house.gov](mailto:priscilla.koepke@mail.house.gov) as soon as possible. Please contact Priscilla Koepke at (202) 225-0358, and she will be pleased to provide you with any additional information you may need.

Sincerely,



EDWARD R. ROYCE  
Chairman

Enclosure



One Hundred Thirteenth Congress  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Foreign Affairs  
2170 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
[www.foreignaffairs.house.gov](http://www.foreignaffairs.house.gov)

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