

March 3, 2025

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20451

Dear Secretary Rubio:

We are writing to urge you to reverse recent actions taken by the Trump Administration to eliminate the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). These actions were executed without the requisite Congressional consultation and are unconstitutional. They include placing the entire USAID direct hire workforce globally on indefinite administrative leave, terminating all “non-essential” Institutional Support and Personal Service Contractors, and instituting stop work orders.

The Congressional Caucus on Global Migration and other concerned Members of Congress, know these actions will drive forced and irregular migration worldwide by reducing access to humanitarian aid, hindering economic opportunity, increasing violence, and strengthening the likelihood of disease and famine.

USAID’s humanitarian and development programs, when executed in solidarity with the local communities, can play a role in addressing the conditions across the globe that enable people to build the life they want and deserve *at home*. *USAID* operations specifically designed to invest in humanitarian aid can help alleviate crises before they generate mass migration movements. For example:

- One 2019 study found that in Guatemala, participants in an agricultural support program saw a **30 percent drop** in young people considering migration.^[1] These programs are now at risk, further destabilizing the region.
- USAID programs designed to address hunger can reduce the prevalence of famine. Approximately 4.5 million children under the age of five are facing acute malnutrition in the Democratic Republic of Congo.^[2] Title II Food Aid, administered by USAID, utilizes the Family Early Warning Systems Network. This vital network enables the U.S. to identify potential famine, preventing acute food insecurity from becoming a destabilizing event that drives conflict and migration.
- Some USAID-funded security programs have been essential in reducing violence in major migrant-producing countries.^{[3],[4]} In Colombia’s Norte de Santander, funding freezes have left authorities without resources to combat rising violence and manage the influx of Venezuelan refugees.^[3] Without these programs, criminal recruitment will rise, disproportionately affecting women and children.^[3]
- USAID programs also support current host countries to provide protection, legal status, and opportunities to integrate/settle successfully. Similarly, a U.S.-funded initiative in Ecuador aimed at regularizing **100,000 Venezuelans** is now in jeopardy.^{[3],[5]} Without this

support, fewer Venezuelans will be able to integrate locally, increasing the likelihood of onward migration through irregular routes.^[3]

- Finally, USAID programs play a crucial role in monitoring and preventing the spread of diseases. USAID plays a vital role in controlling HIV/AIDs epidemics, and preventing infectious diseases, such as Ebola, Measles, and Polio. Former USAID employees have warned that the dismantlement of USAID has increased the risk of potential pandemics, specifically Mpox and Ebola. The Agency's work in prevention, preparedness, and rapid response to disease outbreak has been significantly impacted^[6]; this threat poses a risk to both the global community and our domestic biosecurity and will result in the loss of lives.^[7]

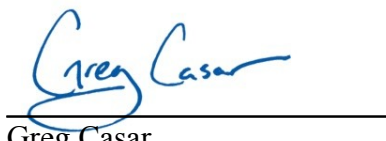
Your Administration has expressed a commitment to reducing irregular migration. Your actions run counter to this commitment and exacerbate the conditions on the ground that drive people to be on the move. We believe that improvements can be made to USAID that make it more community-led, judicious in its partnerships, and more responsive to local conditions. We urge you to immediately halt the stop-work orders and restore USAID's operational capacity.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.


Sincerely,



Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



Greg Casar
Member of Congress



Sydney Kamlager Dove
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



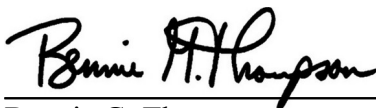
Robert Garcia
Member of Congress



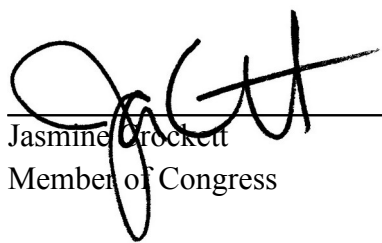
Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



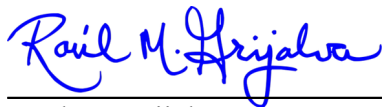
Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Andre Carson
Member of Congress



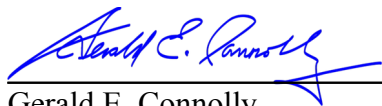
Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



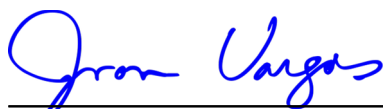
Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



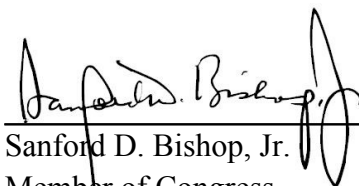
Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Jim Tokuda
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



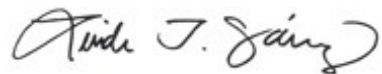
Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress



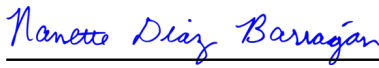
Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Robert J. Menendez
Member of Congress



Summer L. Lee
Member of Congress

^[1] Mercy Roots, *Subsist or Persist? Assessing Drivers of Migration and Effects of Foreign Assistance Programs on Migration from the Northern Triangle*. <https://www.mercycorps.org/research-resources/subsist-or-persist>

^[2] World Food Programme, *Democratic Republic of Congo*.
<https://www.wfp.org/countries/democratic-republic-congo>

^[3] The Center for Engagement and Advocacy in the Americas (CEDA).

^[4] NBC News, *Ending USAID programs could undercut Trump's goal of slashing migration to the U.S., groups say*.
<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/cutting-usaid-migration-us-border-rcna191169>

^[5] United Nations Higher Commissioner for Refugees, *IOM, UNHCR commend Ecuador's efforts to regularize Venezuelan refugees and migrants*.
<https://www.unhcr.org/us/news/press-releases/iom-unhcr-commend-ecuador-s-efforts-regularize-venezuelan-refugees-and-migrants#:~:text=This%20initiative%20is%20expected%20to,and%20migrants%20in%20the%20Americas.>

^[6] NBC News, *Disease outbreaks and starvation deaths will increase as a result of USAID cuts, officials say.*
<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/diseases-starvation-security-global-problems-worsen-result-usaid-cuts-rcna190953>

^[7] Infection Control Today, *USAID in Crisis: A Global Catastrophe Unfolding.*
<https://www.infectioncontrolday.com/view/usaid-crisis-global-catastrophe-unfolding>