

**Written Statement of Administrator Samantha Power,
U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)
before the
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
July 14, 2021**

Introduction

Thank you Chairman Menendez, Ranking Member Risch, and distinguished Members of the Committee. I am grateful for the opportunity to discuss the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 President's budget request for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

The global challenges we face today have become more complex and numerous, casting a large shadow over our lives. A persistent pandemic has left over 4 million dead, swelled the ranks of the extreme poor for the first time since the late 1990s, and exposed the pervasive inequities that continue to fray societies across the globe. Authoritarian regimes like China and Russia are acting more aggressively by the day, exploiting not only the COVID-19 emergency, but vulnerabilities in our democracies. A rapidly changing climate is sending fiercer storms our way and inflicting droughts, deep freezes, and wildfires upon communities. Mass displacement is at its highest since World War II. And every day, it seems as though new horrific crises emerge, such as that in Ethiopia's Tigray region, where Ethiopians are facing both conflict and the worst food insecurity the country has seen since the 1980's famine killed over 1 million people.

These are not positive developments, but as an American, I am very glad that USAID is uniquely positioned to confront them, and I am immensely grateful to you for sustaining support for the Agency's vital programming. Your continued bipartisan support for USAID saves and improves millions of lives each day, while enhancing U.S. national and economic security. When we fight the COVID-19 pandemic abroad, we help stem the rise of variants that can possibly lead to new outbreaks at home. When incomes rise in the developing world, those countries become more self-reliant and less dependent on U.S. or other donor support. When the U.S. delivers aid to those affected by natural disasters and humanitarian crises, we demonstrate the best of American values and build the type of goodwill that inspires action and cooperation from our allies.

As we emerge from a once-in-a-century pandemic and confront the already substantial inroads that China has made in different parts of the world., the FY 2022 budget request of \$27.7 billion for foreign assistance funding accounts fully or partially implemented by USAID will help us address urgent priorities, and allow the United States to lead the world in providing development

and humanitarian assistance to promote peace and security, effective and accountable democratic governance, and improved economic conditions. The budget request will provide USAID with critical resources to combat the COVID-19 pandemic abroad, address the drivers of violent extremism and the root causes of conflict and migration, build resilience to extreme weather patterns caused by a rapidly changing climate, defend democratic institutions and fight corruption, help support civil society and independent media, and meet the needs of some of the most vulnerable populations.

In order for us to get the most out of our programs, we know we must make ourselves a more capable and nimble Agency at a time of heightened need. Collaborating with local actors to address local priorities in the world's poorest countries remains fundamental to USAID's mission. USAID assistance and development expertise can provide local leaders, entrepreneurs, civil society, and all people the tools to take the lead in their own country's development. We have long advocated an inclusive approach to development and moving forward we will double down to seek to ensure that marginalized populations can reap the benefits of our programming. The President's FY 2022 budget request strengthens the Agency's ability to respond to short-term shocks, while allowing us to deepen investments that will help us secure a more stable and prosperous future.

USAID as a National Security Agency

USAID seeks to make the world safer, healthier, more democratic, and more prosperous. The Agency was created as a tool to promote peace and prosperity following the devastating impacts of World War II. We are facing a wide range of threats today, be they from autocratic nations attempting to subvert liberal and democratic norms, pandemics that upend the global economy, displacement of tens of millions of people due to natural and manmade disasters, or existential threats to our environment that jeopardize our future on Earth. USAID has a central role to play in tackling each of these challenges.

Development has often taken a backseat to defense and diplomacy as a means of advancing U.S. national security objectives. But President Biden made clear that defense, diplomacy, *and* development are all vital components of our foreign policy, as reflected by his decision to elevate the USAID Administrator to become a standing member of the National Security Council. I take that responsibility seriously and will continue to advocate tirelessly for development and humanitarian goals at the National Security Council.

As the world's premier global development agency, USAID is uniquely placed to address the world's toughest problems, catalyze our partners, and strengthen our global standing at a time when China increasingly uses its financial power as leverage to advance its interests.

Ending COVID-19 and Strengthening Global Health Leadership

The COVID-19 pandemic threatens to wipe away decades of development progress. Extreme poverty has increased for the first time in almost 25 years, and it could take many years to recover from the health, economic, and education impacts. In order to keep Americans safe, mitigate the risk of new variants, and rebuild our economy, we must fight the pandemic everywhere. Our global health leadership is evident in USAID's response to emergency requests for support in partner countries such as India and Nepal, where USAID stepped up to deliver life-saving personal protective equipment, oxygen, and medicines to communities battling a ferocious second wave of the virus. With your support, we will continue to meet people around the world in their hour of dire need. Millions of lives hang in the balance, and USAID support can mean the difference between life and death.

The U.S. is also rallying other countries to bring about the vaccination of the world. President Biden's recent commitment to deliver 500 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine by June 2022 is the largest-ever by a single country and is a historic pledge to supercharge the global fight against the pandemic. This is on top of the 80 million surplus U.S. doses that the administration has been distributing in recent weeks. As part of this work, USAID has re-engaged with our multilateral partners including the World Health Organization and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. As USAID teams help strengthen cold chains and health systems, we are coordinating our vaccine supply efforts with the COVAX initiative to provide doses to countries in need and working as a government to increase the overall vaccine supply.

Even as we move quickly to support vaccine uptake and provide additional crucial support to countries battling the pandemic, USAID works with other USG partners on preventing child and maternal deaths, controlling the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and combating infectious diseases like malaria and tuberculosis, while building resilient health systems and advancing global health security to prevent the next pandemic. While COVID-19 has had a devastating impact on many global health outcomes, the tuberculosis (TB) response has been particularly hard hit. As a result of the pandemic, an additional 6.3 million people are projected to be stricken with TB, and an additional 1.4 million people are expected to die from the disease between 2020 and 2025.

Nutrition gains have also been set back, with an estimated 2.5 million additional children expected to experience stunting by next year. In addition, over 6 million women experienced disruptions to family planning services. And 164 million treatments for neglected tropical diseases—three quarters of the normal total—went unprovided in 2020. Postponed immunization campaigns are putting around 228 million people, mostly children, at risk for diseases such as measles, yellow fever and polio. Because services have been redirected, in many countries around the world, people are dying at higher rates of these preventable illnesses than they are of COVID-19 itself.

The FY 2022 budget request includes \$3.9 billion to strengthen USAID’s role in global health activities, expand the number of countries we work in, and work to retain the hard-fought gains made over the last 60 years. Last year, as we supported our partners who were trying to stem the spread of the COVID-19 virus, together with international partners we nonetheless managed to achieve historic successes in global health, including certifying the Africa region as wild polio-free, providing 80 million people with mosquito nets in an effort to prevent malaria, and launching innovative programs designed to deliver quality, evidence-based voluntary family planning and reproductive health care as well as maternal, newborn, and child health services in USAID partner countries. For every dollar invested by USAID, we have worked with partners to secure \$26 in donated medicines for neglected tropical diseases, yielding a total of \$26 billion for mass treatment campaigns to date.

Combating Climate Change

Climate change is the greatest common threat the world faces today, setting back progress on core priorities, from food insecurity to displacement to the rise of zoonotic diseases. We must move far more aggressively to address this threat, including helping communities anticipate, respond and recover from increasingly intense shocks. President Biden has called the climate crisis “the number one issue facing humanity.” It is a crisis that does not recognize national borders. Just as we have witnessed storms that increase in frequency and intensity in Asia each year, we have seen wildfires in California eight times larger than they were fifty years ago. The same extreme weather patterns that lead to recurrent droughts in sub-Saharan Africa that displace people from their homes also caused the anomalous deep freezes in Texas in February 2021 that cut power for millions and left more than 20 people dead.

Since 2000, climate-related disasters have affected almost 4 billion people globally, costing an estimated \$2.2 trillion. Without urgent action, climate change could push an additional 100

million people into extreme poverty by 2030. That's why President Biden rejoined the Paris Agreement on the first day of his Presidency and committed to tripling the U.S. Government's funding for climate adaptation by 2024. The U.S. is leading by example, announcing a bold commitment to reduce U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by 50-52 percent from 2005 levels by the end of this decade. However, approximately 85 percent of global carbon emissions come from outside the United States, with about two-thirds of these emissions coming from developing countries. The FY 2022 budget request includes more than \$600 million to enable State and USAID to work with partner countries to set and pursue ambitious goals toward net-zero emissions, expand critical renewable energy infrastructure, adapt in a manner that mitigates the deadly effects of rising seas and extreme weather events, and improve the management of carbon-rich forests and landscapes. In addition, as announced during the Climate Leaders' Summit, USAID plans to mobilize \$3.5 billion in private investment for climate, working in collaboration with the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) and partner governments to use innovative solutions to procure and fund green energy projects. We are also working with the InterAmerican Development Bank, the DFC, several pension funds, and venture capital firms on Natural Climate Solutions to conserve, restore, and reforest 20 million hectares by 2025. The request will support USAID's plans to double private investment in adaptation in 20 of the most vulnerable countries and accelerate the transition to net-zero emissions in at least 20 partner countries.

USAID works with and in countries that are most at risk of climate change. Our programs support countries as they seek to anticipate and manage climate-related disaster risks and adapt to climate change. From working with NASA to provide satellite information that helps governments and farmers make decisions on water resources, food security and disaster preparedness, to developing and improving agricultural insurance, microfinance and other tools that empower people to manage weather and climate risks, our programs are building resilience to climate change. Concurrently we are supporting countries to rapidly reduce their emissions, and increase carbon storage, all while helping them secure a clean energy future, develop their economies sustainably, and protect their forests, coastlines, and watersheds.

USAID is also in the process of developing a new Agency-wide Climate Strategy to ramp up climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts, and further integrate climate change considerations into our assistance programs across all sectors. Ensuring that women and girls can meaningfully lead on addressing climate change is key to this work. Research shows that climate change adaptation, mitigation, and resilience building is more effective when women are involved. As the burden of climate events falls disproportionately on the backs of low-income,

Indigenous, and marginalized communities, we will also seek to target our assistance to strengthen the resilience of these populations.

Bolstering Democracy and Countering Authoritarianism

As is well known, the cause of democracy is currently on its back heel in many parts of the world. Amid the 15-year democratic decline globally documented by Freedom House, nine more countries slipped into a state of autocracy in the last five years alone, representing more than 300 million people. Authoritarians are using the COVID-19 pandemic as a further excuse to curb individual freedoms and tighten their grip on power. As we have seen in Uganda, Russia and other contexts, authoritarian regimes in particular have used COVID-19 as justification to target LGBTQI+ persons. The pandemic has also tested the ability of fragile democracies that are trying to respond to and maintain public confidence in their institutions. The People's Republic of China increasingly supplies technological surveillance tools to other nations, and uses its financial leverage to sway their actions. As countries grow more repressive, they become more inclined in turn to support China's initiatives on the global stage, including those to weaken human rights norms, in ways that are detrimental to U.S. interests.

Yet for all of this, other trends and events should motivate us to step up to do more to meet this challenge. Mass pro-democracy demonstrations reached an all-time high of 37 in 2019, higher than during the Arab Spring or the end of the Cold War. And as the 2018 women-led revolution in Sudan shows, no matter how tight a dictator's grip on power may seem in a given moment, the will of the people can suddenly assert itself—and prevail. Although the country's democratic transition remains tenuous, Sudan's Civilian-Led Transitional Government is ushering in reforms in an effort to take the country down the path to democracy.

The FY 2022 budget includes a request for \$2.8 billion in foreign assistance across USAID and the State Department to meet this moment. First, we need to bolster our “Rapid Response” capacity to quickly seize on opportunities to support democracy throughout the world when there is a political opening of the sort that occurred in Sudan, or an attempt to roll back democratic progress as in Myanmar. Second, corruption is the Achilles' heel of many illiberal regimes, and USAID will use our programmatic assistance, and our voice to support reformers, independent media, and civil society actors fighting corruption and promoting accountability. The President's budget request of \$50 million to fight corruption aligns with President Biden's National Security Study Memorandum identifying corruption as a core United States national security interest. Third, we will help countries fight misinformation and disinformation, increasingly used by

malign actors to stoke public anger against democratically-elected officials and civil society. Fourth, we will work to support activists and citizens subjected to digital repression by regimes that are becoming increasingly sophisticated at surveilling and censoring their populations, including across borders. By the same token, we will continue to provide support for governments to align regulatory frameworks for emerging technologies with democratic values. Finally, in the service of these goals, we will work to support independent and public interest media, helping journalists and whistleblowers withstand government repression, legal harassment, disinformation, and attacks on media outlets' financial viability. This work includes protecting the human rights of at-risk groups, such as LGBTQI+ persons in line with the President's Memorandum to Advance the Human Rights of LGBTQI+ Persons Around the World. USAID is in particular focused on combatting rising violence targeting transgender persons through supporting a Global Barometer on Transgender Rights and expanding livelihood opportunities.

President Biden pledged to host an international Summit for Democracy so that democratic governments can align to confront authoritarianism, fight corruption, and promote respect for human rights. This Summit is an opportunity to elevate support for democracy as a cornerstone of our foreign policy, in concert with our allies and partners.

Addressing Irregular Migration from Central America

For far too long, Central Americans have been entrenched in cycles of poverty, violence, and corruption. El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras are home to some of the world's most dangerous cities, riven by criminal gangs, extortion, and gender-based violence, all of which persist and flourish due to lack of rule of law and pervasive corruption throughout national and municipal authorities. Weak governance and endemic corruption undermine social and economic progress, and troubling recent developments, such as the Salvadoran legislature's dismissal of the Attorney General and the magistrates of the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court, illustrate democratic institutions are under pressure. The grim circumstances these countries face are compounded by the increased frequency of extreme weather events, particularly in regions reliant on subsistence farming. Last year, the powerful, back-to-back storms of Hurricanes Eta and Iota brought heavy rains and severe flooding, affecting millions of people. The COVID-19 pandemic has also had far-reaching impacts, not only on health, but in undermining food systems, food security, and economic prosperity in the region and COVID-related lockdowns have yielded increasing rates of domestic and other gender-based violence. These compounding factors are contributing to the increases in Central Americans who are abandoning their homes to

embark on the dangerous journey toward the U.S. southern border in a desperate search for a better life. Without reliable harvests, sustainable sources of income, and guarantees of physical safety, many see migration as their only option to survive and provide a future for their children. Those who attempt the journey and are returned are met with insufficient support to reintegrate in their communities.

The President's FY 2022 budget request includes \$861 million across State and USAID, as a first step toward a four-year \$4 billion commitment, to support opportunities for families in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras to feed their children and build stable and secure lives at home so they do not feel compelled to migrate irregularly to the United States. This approach includes a greater emphasis on building economic resilience, an emphasis on data-based evaluation to identify and address conditions in emigration hot spots, and a recognition that improved local governance free from corruption is needed to unlock improvements in living conditions and economic opportunity. At the direction of President Biden, USAID is aggressively ramping up programs in all three countries. USAID's programs can improve incentives for individuals to stay in their local communities. Through whole-of-government initiatives like Feed the Future, we are addressing the root causes of poverty and hunger. Increased agricultural incomes and greater resilience for smallholder farmers, for example, improves food systems and expands economic opportunity.

Like you, though, we recognize that ultimately political will from the region's leaders will be the best predictor of whether economic and security conditions in the region improve. In the wake of challenges to democratic institutions in the region, we are speaking out in defense of the rule of law. We are deepening our support for local actors fighting corruption as well as those holding governments accountable both for their performance and for their infringements or attacks on democratic norms. USAID is working with civil society, U.S. and local private sector partners, faith-based groups, and reform-minded officials in local governments to multiply our impact in addressing the interrelated economic, governance, and security conditions that contribute to an individual's decision to migrate.

Bolstering Humanitarian Assistance

Even as the world races to address the COVID-19 pandemic, we must still grapple with other emergent and protracted crises. Political conflicts are becoming more intense, hunger is on the rise, severe and frequent weather events and natural disasters are exacerbating chronic vulnerabilities, all of which are taking a heavy toll on civilians and leading to situations of

protracted displacement. As of April 2021, the United Nations World Food Program estimates that 296 million people in the 35 countries where it works are without sufficient food—111 million more people than in April 2020. And more than 34 million people are currently on the very edge of famine and risk starvation, up from 27 million people in 2019. The United States is the world's largest donor globally for humanitarian assistance, and we will continue to use our contributions to get other countries to step up to do more. For example, we are working with Gulf donor nations to strengthen the ability of communities in Bangladesh to withstand the impact of cyclones. We also significantly scaled up humanitarian assistance in the Northern Triangle countries, and urged the United Nations to release a Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), and are actively engaging with other donors to shore up commitments to the response. For example, on June 10, the European Union announced \$22.3 million in new funding assistance to Mexico and Central America, and other donors, including Canada, Germany, Sweden, and South Korea, have signaled interest in supporting the HRP.

In the Tigray region of Ethiopia, the scale of humanitarian need is staggering and sobering. After more than eight months of hostilities between multiple armed actors, approximately 5.2 million people are in need of food assistance, out of a total population of around 6 million. As soon as the conflict in Tigray started, USAID immediately began providing life-saving aid. The United States is the largest donor of humanitarian aid to the Tigray response, providing more than \$488 million in food, nutrition services, agricultural supplies, safe drinking water, shelter, health care, and essential services to protect the most vulnerable

Our Disaster Assistance Response Team, or DART, which deployed in March, has been focused on rapidly scaling up our life-saving efforts to reach even more people, but it will not be enough if the current trajectory continues. I want to be crystal clear—we expect widespread famine in Ethiopia this year. This is a man-made catastrophe, and it needs to end. The Government of Ethiopia and all armed actors need to immediately allow for unimpeded humanitarian access in to and throughout Tigray. Aid operations also depend on fuel, electricity, telecommunications, and banking services which need to be restored and maintained. I ask for your support to use your voice in the days and weeks to come as we find ways to support the people of Tigray, hold accountable those who have harmed civilians, and press for an end to the violence and suffering.

Around the world, USAID's dedicated teams and partners continue to respond to other grim man-made crises with untold levels of suffering. In Yemen, by most metrics the world's largest humanitarian emergency after more than six years of war, two of every three people, or 20.7 million people, need humanitarian assistance this year. The UN projects that nearly one in two

Yemeni children under five years of age will be acutely malnourished this year. Our brave relief agency partners surmount numerous obstacles every day to deliver lifesaving assistance to millions of people, but in many places, they cannot access populations in need due to cynical intransigence from those who control the territory, and they do not have enough money—despite generous contributions from the United States and other donors, the UN appeal for Yemen is only a third filled this year. Of course, we at USAID continue to do all we can to support U.S. Special Envoy Lenderking in his efforts to bring about the political solution that alone will end the war.

In addition to Tigray and Yemen, our DARTs are also responding in places like Syria, where we are seeing heightened humanitarian needs due to the ongoing conflict, economic crisis, and COVID-19 outbreak there. Our humanitarian experts also remain on standby to respond to unexpected natural disasters such as earthquakes, typhoons, hurricanes, floods, and even volcano eruptions like those we have seen recently in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

This has been a year like no other that came before, but we expect continued, deepening need well into the upcoming year. The FY 2022 budget request includes \$6.3 billion in humanitarian assistance administered by USAID that will allow the Agency to address unprecedented humanitarian needs. We will also invest in resilience and risk reduction efforts that reduce the economic and human cost of disasters. Studies show that every dollar spent on adaptation and resilience can save as much as \$3 in humanitarian aid. Over the past decade, we made substantial investments in early warning systems and emergency response in Central America. This meant that when storms Iota and Eta ripped through the region in November of 2020, the number of people killed was in the low hundreds; in 1998, a storm of similar size and trajectory killed 10,000 people. Helping people affected by natural disasters and humanitarian emergencies reflects our values as Americans, demonstrates our global leadership, and makes the world a safer place.

Expanding Economic Growth

The COVID-19 pandemic has deepened development challenges, exposed inequities, and erased years of progress on poverty reduction through its impact on the global economy. Global gross domestic product shrank by 4.4 percent, the worst decline since the Great Depression, according to the International Monetary Fund. Despite the bleak economic outlook, there are opportunities

to recover and accelerate reforms so that the U.S. can revive relationships with our trading partners.

USAID assistance will support economic recovery with a laser focus on job creation, strengthening small and medium businesses, and reducing the time and cost to import and export goods. At the beginning of this year, USAID launched its new Economic Growth Policy, which confirmed and elevated the need for inclusive, sustainable, and resilient growth as central to sustainable development and poverty reduction. This is needed now more than ever to address the devastating and ongoing secondary impacts of COVID-19 on the global economy. In particular, the new policy strengthens our focus on engaging with the private sector and improving the conditions for foreign investment in emerging markets, which in turn creates local jobs and market opportunities for American companies and investors. Our work will also create market pressures on governments to reduce corruption, enforce the rule of law, and ensure access to economic opportunities for all, especially women. This effort is a driving force behind our request for the Gender Equity and Equality Action Fund, which will work to empower women economically, while also preventing and responding to gender-based violence and supporting marginalized populations.

The FY 2022 budget request increases our inclusive economic growth programming to \$4.9 billion globally across State and USAID, bolstering our work to create conditions for more favorable investment climates. We are also stressing the importance of economic analysis for increasing our impact per taxpayer dollar spent. The request also funds economic growth programs that are essential for sustainable development in developing countries, which generate the public resources governments need to invest in education, health, rural roads, as well as digital and other infrastructure. The Agency needs to adapt its systems, processes, and procedures to support full engagement with the private sector. In particular, we must upgrade our hiring, data, relationship management, professional development and procurement systems to engage the private sector at scale.

Investing in Our People

None of our work is possible without the dedication of our staff across the world. This last year has demonstrated their strength and provided lessons on what we need to do to meet the challenges and opportunities that we will face in the future. The COVID-19 pandemic has not only had an impact on the work we do overseas and the communities in which we work, but also on the lives of our dedicated USAID teams. Many of our staff have been working diligently to

provide life-saving aid to communities around the world, even while their loved ones battle and succumb to COVID-19. Moving forward, we are seeking not a return to the previous status quo, but to a more dynamic work environment that better supports our staff. The FY 2022 budget request includes \$1.9 billion to invest in our people and ensure a diverse, equitable, and inclusive workforce, and we will utilize these funds to strengthen the Agency to maximize our impact and build institutional capacity commensurate with USAID's role as a national security agency.

With your support, we are also increasing the size and agility of the career workforce to better advance U.S. national security priorities. Since last year, we have hired approximately 500 career employees and are working to reach our target levels of 1,850 Foreign Service and 1,600 Civil Service employees this year. However, it is not enough just to recruit talent, we must nurture and develop it. We will work to empower and support our Foreign Service Nationals, local country employees of USAID who represent the heart and soul of our workforce. And we will also build on the successes of our Staff Care employee assistance programs as we continue to invest in our employees' physical and mental well-being.

Underpinning all of our efforts will be a strong focus on creating a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive USAID. On my first day as Administrator, I signed into action our Agency's new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion strategy, designed to help us create a workplace that lives up to our ideals. The strategy outlines concrete steps the Agency will take to ensure we are creating a workforce that better reflects America, including the expansion of initiatives to create paid internship and fellowship opportunities as well as strategic outreach efforts to Minority Serving Institutions. The requested funding will fund new recruitment and training programs to develop a global workforce that reflects our nation; and it will help us implement comprehensive training, career mobility, and advancement programs to help retain diverse employees in entry-level positions and strengthen the Agency's culture of inclusion, equity, and access. It will also help us address Government Accountability Office recommendations to enhance data collection and reporting efforts, and strengthen our ability to disaggregate workforce data across various demographic categories.

Advancing Peace and Stability

The number of flashpoints in the world right now is striking, from raids killing dozens of people in the Sahel, to an ISIS-offshoot group storming a city in northern Mozambique, to armies in the Caucasus standing off, to long-standing conflicts in the Middle East boiling over. Violent extremist groups like Boko Haram in West Africa are taking advantage of conflict and instability

to recruit and expand their ranks. Our military alone cannot solve these challenges; USAID assistance is a much more cost-effective way to advance peace and security. As former U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates said, “Development is a lot cheaper than sending soldiers.” We will use our resources to support civilian efforts to erode the appeal of extremist groups like ISIS, Boko Haram, and Al-Qaeda, and help our partners become prosperous and peaceful nations.

The FY 2022 request expands resources for our newly-established Bureau for Conflict Prevention and Stabilization. I share the concerns many of you have about the rise in conflicts, and accompanying risk of increasing mass atrocities, in many of the countries where USAID works. Even more alarming is the risk of violence spreading into places we previously considered safe from these threats, such as coastal West Africa. This budget request includes funds which will allow USAID to work toward preventing violence from spreading across West Africa, applying non-military solutions to counter the recruitment and advance of violent extremist organizations, and bringing stability to areas in crisis. This budget also gives USAID the chance to effectively deploy resources in conflict prevention and stabilization to implement the Global Fragility Act in select countries and in coordination across diplomacy, development, and defense efforts. Whether through flexible, small grants mechanisms targeting the grassroots, implementing the Women, Peace and Security Strategy, or leveraging political openings to build peaceful, prosperous societies in countries like Sudan, USAID will continue to work with interagency partners to build peace and stability and create paths to resilience.

Conclusion

The challenges I have described here don’t just threaten countries far from our shores—they impact our national security and prosperity directly, here at home. The steps we take to combat COVID-19, climate change, hunger, conflict, and other ills abroad, make us safer, while demonstrating compassion and cooperation with people all over the world.

With your support, USAID will move aggressively to tackle these challenges in order to build a more stable and prosperous future for all of us. Thank you.