

FIGHTING A GLOBAL PANDEMIC REQUIRES A GLOBAL RESPONSE

Admiral James Stavridis (Ret.) and General Anthony Zinni (Ret.), March 21, 2020

“No matter how successful we are in fighting the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic at home, we will never stop it unless we are also fighting it around the world.”

Letter from 33 Republican and Democratic U.S. Senators on July 9, 2020, led by Senators Ben Cardin (D-MD) and Marco Rubio (R-FL)

“Americans across the political spectrum overwhelmingly agree that the U.S. must lead a global response to this pandemic. Simply put, we cannot afford to ignore the international component of a comprehensive COVID-19 response if we want to be successful.”

Liz Schroyer, USGLC President and CEO, December 5, 2020

“A robust COVID-19 response is incomplete without international resources... [W]e fail to protect America’s health, safety, and security by leaving out critical, targeted investments for international efforts such as GAVI, the Global Fund, and CEPI, the international economic and humanitarian response, and frontline operations for U.S. civilian agencies overseas.”

The U.S. International Response is an essential part of America’s COVID-19 response toolkit.

- **Combating COVID-19 & preparing for vaccine distribution:** Greater surveillance, equipment, personnel, testing, and laboratory capacity will support USAID in saving lives and combating the spread of COVID-19. Additionally, support for the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Initiatives (CEPI) will ensure vaccines will be deployed effectively worldwide to help those most vulnerable.
- **Supporting urgent global health needs:** Essential health services support will ensure PEPFAR and PMI will help address ongoing epidemics such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria.
- **Providing emergency international food assistance:** The World Food Program (WFP) has outlined emergency needs of \$2 billion for international food aid programs funded through the Agriculture Appropriations bill. WFP’s new estimates show that the number of hungry people could increase to 270 million, an 82% increase from before the pandemic outbreak.
- **Maintaining mission operations around the world:** The frontline operational response by U.S. diplomats and development professionals helping Americans abroad and maintaining mission operations around the world has been challenged by a severe shortfall in revenue due to the disruption of State Department and USAID consular operations and services during the pandemic response.

Emergency international resources will advance American interests overseas and protect U.S. economic, health, and national security at home.

- In today’s interconnected world, a major pandemic only takes 36 hours to spread around the globe. The U.S. will not eradicate the virus until everyone has.
- The global pandemic has exacerbated health, humanitarian, and economic needs around the world, threatening to devastate countries with fragile health systems and have spillover effects on hunger, conflict, disease, and extreme poverty.
 - Without additional resources, conflict-affected and fragile states could see anywhere from 1.7 to 3.2 million deaths from COVID-19 in the developing world.
 - The number of people pushed to the brink of starvation could double to 265 million globally.
 - Violent attacks in sub-Saharan Africa were up 40% in the first five months of the global shutdown.
 - U.S. exports to top trading partners are down as much as 50% in the developing world since the global shutdown from COVID-19.