RESPONDING TO GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN CRISES

Dramatic humanitarian crises driven by protracted political battles, armed conflict, and extreme weather caused by climate change have only worsened due to the COVID-19 global pandemic – including Yemen, Syria, Venezuela, and South Sudan, as well as emerging challenges in Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, and Ethiopia. USGLC's Roadmap for U.S. Global Leadership: Report on Reports identified several areas of consensus in a review of recommendations by over 120 think tanks across the political spectrum ahead of the 2020 presidential election:

- Addressing the root causes of crises and fragility;

- Deepening local engagement in humanitarian crises;

- Increasing interagency coordination to manage conflicting priorities; and

- Investing in better data on humanitarian and conflict prevention efforts.

BY THE NUMBERS:

- **235 Million:** Number of people estimated who will need humanitarian assistance in 2021 – a 40% increase over 2020, almost entirely attributable to the impact of COVID-19.

- **80 Million:** Number of people forcibly displaced from their homes worldwide – a number that has doubled over the past decade and represents 1% of humanity.

- **155 Million:** Number of people facing severe food insecurity in 2020, an increase of 20 million from 2019.

- **$16:** Every $1 the United States spends to prevent conflict saves $16 in response costs.

ADDRESSING THE ROOT CAUSES OF CRISES AND FRAGILITY

The State Department's Global Fragility Strategy outlines four key goals to address root causes and drivers of humanitarian crises in fragile states, including rising poverty and hunger, a lack of economic opportunity, poor governance and instability, and corruption.

Key Facts:

- 80% of the world's poor will live in fragile states by 2030 – countries that lack the ability and resources to effectively govern their own territory, and often leave a void for extremist networks to recruit new members.

- For every 10 murders in Central America, 6 children sought safety in the United States.

- More than 143 million people could be driven from their homes by 2050 due to conflict over food and water insecurity and climate-driven disasters.

DEEPEN LOCAL ENGAGEMENT IN HUMANITARIAN CRISES

International humanitarian and disaster assistance provide essential support to vulnerable communities in times of crisis, but sustainable outcomes require the empowerment of local stakeholders who can create lasting peace by ensuring local ownership of programs in the long term.

- Peace processes involving women are 35% more likely to last for at least 15 years, according to the UN. However, between 1992 and 2019, women have made up only 6% of signatories on major peace processes.
- PEPFAR's investments in strengthening overall health systems also helped countries prevent and respond to the 2014 Ebola outbreak.

INCREASE INTERAGENCY AND INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION

Multiple departments and agencies are involved in responding to humanitarian crises including USAID, which responds to an average of 75 crises each year in more than 70 countries, the State Department, which supports displaced people and refugees, and the Department of Defense, which plays a supporting role by delivering supplies and medical treatment.

Key Facts:

- World Food Programme reached a record-breaking 138 million people with food assistance in 2020 with U.S. support, and UNICEF plans to support over 190 million children in 2021.
- Following a survey that showed 86% of surveyed experts said they were not clear which U.S. Government agencies have lead responsibility for different elements of stabilization, the U.S. Stabilization Assistance Review set a framework for roles and responsibilities for USAID, State, and the Pentagon, and ensuring taxpayer dollars are spent efficiently.

INVEST IN BETTER DATA ON HUMANITARIAN AND CONFLICT PREVENTION

Data on what works in humanitarian and conflict prevention can be challenging due to physical risk to aid workers in conflict settings, lack of access, limited infrastructure, and displaced populations that are constantly on the move.

Key Facts:

- MCC and USAID were ranked 1st and 2nd across the federal government by the 2020 Federal Invest in What Works Index for their use of data and evidence to inform policy and management decisions.
- USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance supported a multi-sectoral needs assessment in the Central African Republican in 2019 to help understand the needs of the most vulnerable in the country and respond in a targeted manner.
- USAID has worked after natural disasters with ridesharing companies to gather GPS data on road accessibility to improve its ability to respond quickly.

BIPARTISAN CONSENSUS:

- **Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH):** "When humanitarian crises emerge, women and girls are at greater risk of experiencing sexual and domestic violence. Combating gender-based violence is a moral responsibility as well as a critical part of broader efforts to bring stability and economic security to some of the most vulnerable corners of the globe. This demands Congress' attention and should be a U.S. foreign policy priority."
- **Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL):** "Providing humanitarian assistance is aligned with our core values as Americans and is a strong component of our foreign policy priorities."