



## COUNCIL OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANIES

An initiative of: **PSC** PROFESSIONAL  
SERVICES  
COUNCIL

April 22, 2020

We, the undersigned members of the Professional Services Council's (PSC) Council of International Development Companies (CIDC),<sup>1</sup> urge you to ensure that any further COVID-19 emergency appropriations bill includes at least \$12 billion to bolster America's support to developing countries as they respond to COVID-19. This is both the right thing to do and in America's national interest.

The COVID-19 pandemic is having an unprecedented impact on health, economic, and social systems worldwide. While the Congress develops additional relief packages for U.S. businesses and citizens, our national security is inextricably tied to the global response to COVID-19. CIDC member firms have a long history of rising to the challenge during the most difficult of endeavors – whether combatting HIV/AIDS or Ebola or working in the remotest region of Afghanistan and Iraq.

As global trade shrinks, emerging economies need support to secure access to food and medical supplies, safeguard vulnerable populations, and educate citizens about proper nutrition, sanitation, and protocols for reducing the spread of COVID-19. Weak health care systems, overcrowding, and poor nutrition and sanitation make populations highly susceptible to outbreaks. Outbreaks are also likely to increase in conflict, political, and economic instability. Those who flee to seek safer living conditions risk carrying the virus as they migrate.

Additionally, our global response must be cross-sectoral to address the interdependencies of health, governance, and environmental sustainability. Good governance should be a particular focus as it is a pre-condition for other development gains to take root, including improvements to pandemic preparedness, prevention and response. Similarly, a focus on environmental sustainability across all development assistance areas improves countries' resilience to economic, health, and social shocks.

Therefore, in addition to our funding request, we urge Congress to provide USAID and other U.S. development assistance agencies broad authorities and flexibilities to ensure efficient and effective responses to the myriad challenges associated with COVID-19. We also recommend that Congress extend the period of availability for all development assistance appropriations accounts: 6 months for any 2-year development assistance account first appropriated in FY19 and 1-year for any development assistance account first appropriated in FY20.

Thank you for your attention to these requests. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Alan Chvotkin, PSC's Executive Vice President and Counsel.

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<sup>1</sup> The Professional Services Council (PSC) is the voice of the government technology and professional services industry. PSC's more than 400 member companies represent small, medium and large businesses that provide federal agencies with services of all kinds, including information technology, engineering, logistics, facilities management, operations and maintenance, consulting, international development, scientific, social, environmental services, and more. Together, the trade association's members employ hundreds of thousands of Americans in all 50 states. Our Council of International Development Companies (CIDC) represents those PSC members who work primarily with the Department of State, USAID, PEPFAR, MCC and the newly established DFC.

Signed by:



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