



## Alliance for Peacebuilding

January 15, 2021

Dear Member of Congress,

The Alliance for Peacebuilding (AfP) is a nonpartisan network of 130+ member organizations working in 181 countries to end violent conflict and build sustainable peace. The administration's proposal to rescind \$27.4 billion in budget authority undermines U.S. national security and global leadership and will damage U.S. economic interests. This rescission package is the largest package ever proposed under the Impoundment Control Act, and the majority of which—well over \$17 billion—is funding for critical foreign assistance. We strongly urge you to oppose this rescission in its entirety, request the incoming Biden Administration immediately revoke the rescission, and ensure the funds are released in a timely fashion, as intended by Congress.

These cuts will significantly weaken the ability of the U.S. to contain the spread of COVID-19 and prevent and reduce violent conflict worldwide. The rescission of these funds comes as the global COVID-19 pandemic is [exacerbating violent conflict](#), [extremism](#), and [gender-based violence](#); prolonging [humanitarian crises and inhibiting peacebuilding activities](#), and [wreaking havoc on the global economy](#). Experts predict the pandemic will result in new conflicts in an [additional 13 countries](#) through 2022—a 56% increase from pre-COVID forecasts. However, even pre-COVID, the number of highly violent conflicts was on the rise. In the beginning of 2019, there were 41 active highly violent conflicts, an increase from 36 in 2018. These conflicts are taking a heavy toll on civilians, dramatically spiking instances of sexual violence, injury, death, property and infrastructure damage, and loss of livelihoods. In 2020, nearly 168 million people will need humanitarian assistance and protection—about 1-in-45 people in the world—the highest figure in decades.

Now is not the time to cut or delay foreign assistance when it is needed the most. Once again, we urge you to reject these cuts in their entirety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Liz Hume".

Liz Hume  
Acting President and CEO  
Alliance for Peacebuilding