May 13, 2020

Dear Honorable Senate Majority Leader McConnell, Members of the U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, and Members of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee:

The Alliance for Peacebuilding (AfP), a global membership organization with over 120 members working in 153 countries around the world to end violent conflict and sustain peace, greatly appreciates Congressional leadership in domestic and global COVID-19 response. Your quick action passing the CARES Act and related supplementals ensures vital emergency development aid for conflict affected and fragile states to assist in the effective prevention and mitigation of the pandemic, protecting American security and prosperity.

However, the next COVID-19 relief package introduced in the House recently does not include much-needed emergency funding for foreign development assistance. While the funding needs currently in the United States are substantial, COVID-19 is “stabilization in reverse” and accelerating conflict dynamics in conflict-affected and fragile states that are already highly vulnerable to shocks. A sustained U.S. government response to this unprecedented crisis is vital, both at home and abroad, to contain a pandemic that knows no borders and curb its destabilizing impact globally.

As AfP and other international organizations have already called for, it is absolutely vital that at least $12 billion is included in the next emergency funding package to contain the global spread of the pandemic, address humanitarian needs and prevent and reduce violent conflict and violence due to the destabilizing impact of the pandemic.

Again, we greatly appreciate Congress for its dedicated work during this unprecedented and uncertain time. However, to prevent the spread of the virus at both home and abroad and its destabilizing impact globally, we urge the Senate to include substantial foreign assistance in the next emergency funding response for the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,

Uzra Zeya
President and CEO