

CATHOLICS CONFRONT GLOBAL POVERTY



Meet 11-month-old Brandon Sandoval who weighs just 9.5 pounds, 11 days after he was admitted to the hospital in Jalapa, Guatemala. He is among dozens of other children being treated for malnutrition and related illnesses at the hospital. U.S. poverty-focused international assistance is making a difference in the life of Brandon and many others around the world by providing food and nutrition services so that he can grow up strong, healthy and productive.

confrontglobalpoverty.org

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[Send an e-mail to Congress now!](#)

Or call your members of Congress:

1-866-596-7030

[Get talking points here.](#)

ACTION ALERT

**CARELESS CUTS COST LIVES:
CONGRESS, BALANCE THE BUDGET,
BUT NOT ON THE BACKS OF POOR PEOPLE!**

U.S. poverty-focused international assistance makes it possible for Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to deliver food and care to children like Brandon as he recovers from malnutrition. It also makes it possible for CRS to provide education to communities so that malnutrition and common diseases can be prevented. Seeds, tools and training are helping families grow gardens and raise livestock so that they can overcome droughts and have a constant, diverse source of food. The teaching of new farming practices is helping communities conserve soil, protect water resources, and reforest the land.

You too can support Brandon, his community, and millions of the poor and vulnerable people around the world right now by raising your voice. Congress is deliberating how much funding to make available for poverty-focused international assistance. While our nation's fiscal challenges are significant, poverty-focused international assistance makes up less than 1% of the U.S. federal budget. This little bit of funding saves millions of lives around the world. Cutting this assistance will not balance the federal budget, but it will cost lives.

Reducing future unsustainable deficits is important, but it must be done in a morally responsible way that gives priority to those who are poor and vulnerable at home and abroad. To resolve our fiscal crisis our nation should consider increased revenue, cuts to unnecessary military and other spending, and just and fair entitlement reform.

Your vocal support for lifesaving international assistance over the last several years has prevented cuts and even regained funding. Your voice is now needed again. Contact your members of Congress today and urge them to support poverty-focused international assistance.

TAKE ACTION!

VISIT THE [CONFRONT GLOBAL POVERTY ACTION CENTER](#) OR CALL 1-866-596-7030

TO CONTACT YOUR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS NOW

"Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."

— Matthew 25:40

MESSAGE TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

Dear Senator/Representative:

As a supporter of Catholics Confront Global Poverty, an initiative of Catholic Relief Services and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, I urge you resolve our nation's fiscal issues and long-term unsustainable deficit. As an elected official, you have the privilege and responsibility to promote the common good while also protecting the most vulnerable in our society.

As you deliberate these critical issues, I urge you to work with your colleagues in a bipartisan way to consider everything to resolve our fiscal crisis including increased revenue, fair and just entitlement reform, as well as cuts in unnecessary military and other spending. I urge you to protect poverty-focused international relief and development assistance in FY 2013 appropriations and fiscal cliff negotiations.

As a blessed country, America has a special leadership role to protect the life and dignity of those most in need. We must resist disproportionate cuts to programs that assist the poor and vulnerable at home and abroad. Poverty-focused international assistance makes up less than 1% of our federal budget, but saves millions of lives every year. Cutting this lifesaving aid will not balance the budget but will cost lives.

Thanks to U.S. poverty-focused international assistance, organizations like Catholic Relief Services (CRS) bring hope to the most vulnerable communities around the world:

- One promising intervention trains small-scale farmers to access markets and earn greater profits. In Nicaragua for example, CRS' public-private partnership has helped more than 7,000 producers to double their net incomes.
- Other efforts have taught communities to manage water sustainably such as one in Ethiopia that helped communities withstand last year's drought.
- Community-based schools across the globe have helped families lift themselves out of poverty; in Afghanistan, more than 60% of the students in schools established by CRS are girls.
- Peacebuilding programs like those in South Sudan are helping communities build democracy.
- In nine countries, CRS has transitioned our PEPFAR programs to local partners who now administer life-saving treatments to people affected by HIV.

To ensure that programs like these continue, and that refugees fleeing violence in places like Syria and Mali are protected, I ask you to support the Senate figures for poverty-focused international assistance in the FY 2013 appropriations.

Moreover, I ask you to avoid sequestration. Sequestration of international poverty-focused relief and development accounts would cost lives overseas. For example, as many as 276,000 people would not have access to HIV treatments, while 3.3 million people will have reduced access to life-saving food aid. Real gains in development would be reversed; as many as 656,000 fewer children would have access to a quality primary education annually.

In our best moments, the United States makes important moral decisions that are far greater than one generation or one Member of Congress. Choices made in the interest of the common good maintain the generous American spirit at home and abroad.

Thank you for your consideration of this urgent life and death issue.