

## Global Ministries University's Statement on the Defunding of US AID

Global Ministries University calls for the immediate restitution of USAID assistance, resources, and personnel necessary for the preservation of the lives of millions of the world's poorest people, and the prevention of the spread of communicable diseases and deadly viruses.

USAID provides 40% of global aid. Cutting USAID programs completely without any notice or review is unconscionable and destabilizing for the developing world. GMU finds the current Administration's decisions immoral. They do not represent the will of US citizens. A recent poll by the Economist and YouGov shows that a majority of Americans support humanitarian aid programs that provide food and disaster relief to poor countries.

GMU refers to the statement from Caritas, the International Charity of the Vatican, which warned that millions of people could die as a result of the "ruthless" U.S. decision to "recklessly" stop USAID funding, and hundreds of millions more will be condemned to "dehumanizing poverty." Nichole Winfield of the Associated Press reported that the USAID budget is less than 1% of the total US Budget. One can only speculate that USAID was targeted not because of excess, mismanagement, or fraud but because it helps the most needy and vulnerable in our world, those who cannot object or litigate for their rights.

Moreover, American farmers will lose revenue and markets as USAID purchases over \$2 billion in crops. Those crops are now rotting on docks and in warehouses rather than feeding hungry people. In addition, research and development of new seed strains and innovative farming practices that address drought and other adverse climate conditions have been halted.

The United States is quickly becoming a pariah in the family of nations because of the Trump Administration's unlawful and cruel policies. This is not a matter of conservative versus liberal politics. It is a matter of morality and America is failing.

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