

Catholic Relief Services Talking Points: Fiscal Year 2025 Federal Appropriations

Framing

Begin with gratitude

- Thank you for your time to allow us to get to know each other and discuss international development and humanitarian assistance.

Express gratitude for something your member has done recently related to poverty, hunger or climate change.

Introduction: Who you are and why you're there

- As people of faith seeking justice and care for all in our world, we believe there is a moral obligation to provide assistance and address the root causes of poverty. Global food insecurity and the impacts of climate change are two of the most pressing issues of our time, and they disproportionately affect people experiencing poverty and vulnerability.

Share about yourself/the group, your work in the state/district and your connection to CRS. Share your personal story of why you support CRS' international humanitarian and development work, including your concern about our human family and why global issues like hunger and climate change matter to you.

Moving to the issues: Set the stage for the conversation

- In a 2024 letter to the World Economic Forum, Pope Francis asked global leaders to “be mindful of the moral responsibility that each of us has in the fight against poverty, the attainment of an integral development for all our brothers and sisters, and the quest for a peaceful coexistence among peoples.”
- With conflict, hunger and displacement ravaging communities across the world, U.S. leadership and international collaboration is more important than ever to wisely resolve the many crises of our time and to build a foundation for a safer, more prosperous and just world.
- CRS is proud to partner with the U.S. government to pursue solutions to the defining issues of our time: hunger, climate change, humanitarian crises and global health.

The Ask

- At a time of unprecedented humanitarian need, we urge Congress to increase funding for poverty-reducing international development and humanitarian assistance in fiscal year 2025. [The accounts which do this are detailed in the [CRS/USCCB appropriations chart](#).]

Share a story about the importance and impact of CRS' programs funded by U.S. international assistance. Consider including details from the [background document](#), the [Appropriations Leave Behind](#) or using stories found at [crs.org/act](#).

Discussion

Questions to Ask

- How does [Senator/Representative's name] plan to approach international development and humanitarian aid?
- What can I do, as a constituent, to continue to advance this important issue with you/your office?

Comments to Raise

- If the senator/representative travels abroad, ask if he/she would like to visit CRS programming in the future. CRS works in more than 120 countries around the world and would welcome an opportunity to show the senator/representative the impact United States investments in food security and climate change adaptation have on the ground.
- Let your senator/representative know that you—along with CRS—can serve as a resource both in Washington, D.C. and back home in their state/district. Express an interest in continuing to dialogue with them—or their staff—on these and other issues of mutual interest.



A partnership between the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief Services