



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

The Honorable
Robert Menedez, Ranking Member
Committee on Foreign Relations
United State Senate
Washington, DC 20510

JAN 29 2020

Dear Senator Menendez:

Pursuant to Senate Report 115-282 and House Report 115-829 accompanying the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2019 (Div. F, P.L. 116-6), please find enclosed the Joint Department of State and USAID Reporting on Gender Equality Programs and Funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Elizabeth Taylor", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mary Elizabeth Taylor
Assistant Secretary
Bureau of Legislative Affairs

Enclosure:
As stated.

Report to Congress on U.S. Foreign Assistance Gender-Related Programming Fiscal Years 2017 and 2018

Consistent with section 7019(e) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2019 (Div. F, P.L. 116-6) (SFOAA), Senate Report 115-282, and House Report 115-829, the Secretary of State's (State's) Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues (S/GWI) and the Senior Coordinator for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) jointly submit a report on programs in furtherance of the requirements of section 7059 of the SFOAA, including the allocation of funds for gender-related programs and activities in fiscal years 2017 and 2018. This report¹ includes gender-program funding disaggregated by country and section 7059 focus area in the Annex.

S/GWI and USAID's Office of the Senior Coordinator for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment share the parallel missions of ensuring that gender considerations are integrated into the policy and program efforts of State and USAID. The U.S. government's common strategic goals include:

- Implementing the *U.S. Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2017*; the *Women's Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment Act of 2018*; and the *Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative*;
- Integrating a focus on gender equality throughout the U.S. government's international diplomacy and development efforts; and
- Empowering women worldwide to realize their economic potential, and in doing so, create conditions for increased stability, security, and prosperity for all.

Gender-Based Violence – Section 7059(c)

U.S. foreign-assistance programming that is categorized as focused on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) includes activities aimed at preventing and responding to the use or threat of sexual, physical, psychological, economic, legal, political, social, and other forms of abuse. Congress earmarked \$150,000,000 in Title III and IV FY 2017 and FY 2018 funds to implement a multi-year strategy to prevent and respond to GBV in countries where it is common, in both conflict and non-conflict settings. Programs were designed and funded to address the root causes of violence, improve prevention and protection services, respond to the health and economic needs of those affected by GBV, and support policy frameworks that mitigate GBV. Highlights of programming in this area follow.

- In FY 2018 and FY 2017, PEPFAR funded more than \$110,000,000 in GBV prevention and post-GBV care. In PEPFAR DREAMS countries, HIV and violence prevention in communities and schools, community-based mobilization and norms-change efforts, and safe spaces interventions combined to reduce HIV risk for adolescent girls and young women and to address violence prevention. Throughout most PEPFAR countries, PEPFAR provides the full package of post-GBV care. In 2018 it reached 263,967 women.

¹ Narratives in this report are illustrative of the scope of programming and do not fully represent the totality of Foreign Assistance gender-equality programming or all programming under section 7059. In the case of FY 2018 funds, narratives are based on section 653(a) report levels, because FY 2018 Operational Plans have not yet completed the approval process at the drafting of this report.

- The Safe from the Start initiative, launched in 2013 by USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) and State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM), increased the resources available for lifesaving GBV prevention and response programming. It also increased the capacity of the humanitarian system to integrate GBV risk mitigation across all humanitarian sectors and to address GBV from the onset of an emergency. Since 2013, USAID/OFDA and State/PRM have jointly committed more than \$94,000,000 to this initiative and significantly more to fund core and specialized GBV response activities through other mechanisms. To date, the initiative has funded both international and non-governmental partners through yearly programs to implement GBV training for their staff, deploy experts to high-level emergencies, undertake life-saving responses, and advocate for gender-based needs to be integrated in every response. For FY 2017 and FY 2018, approximately \$25,000,000 was attributed annually towards the GBV earmark. In Egypt, USAID worked to foster the development of safe, secure, and women-friendly workplaces within the agri-business sector under the Women's Employment Promotion in the Agriculture Sector: Creating Safe and Women Friendly Workplaces Programme (WEPP). WEPP aimed to support actions towards more gender-inclusive work environments and practices in 10 agri-business companies throughout the country with the objectives of fostering women's economic empowerment, countering GBV in the workplace, and helping agribusinesses improve their performance.
- The U.S. embassy in Ukraine provided more than \$75,000 in Assistance for Europe, Eurasia, and Central Asia (AEECA) funding to implement projects to establish new Ukrainian legislation on the prevention of domestic violence and to establish a mechanism of interaction between local authorities and civil-society organizations to counteract domestic violence, prevent GBV, and assist victims of GBV.
- According to a 2016 UN Development Programme (UNDP) survey, in some Indonesian provinces nearly 90 percent of women reported experiencing physical violence by a non-partner. The USAID Bersama program, meaning 'together' in Indonesian, focuses on strengthening local-government capacity to prevent and respond to GBV. Results include finalization of standard operating procedures for Integrated Service Centers for Women and Children Victims of Violence. This allows for better, more-responsive care for GBV victims and the establishment of anti-GBV networks.
- In FY 2017, State's Africa Bureau provided \$1,000,000 to address critical gaps in anti-Trafficking in Persons efforts in Zambia and Ghana. The programs in Zambia will enhance awareness among at-risk populations, assess and upgrade victim shelters, improve victim protection, and provide direct assistance to trafficking victims. The programs in Ghana will strengthen the government's capacity to provide services for adult victims of trafficking by establishing shelter space and training for government officials on anti-trafficking measures.

Child, Early and Forced Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation and Cutting – Section 7059(c)(2)

Congress allocated \$11,000,000 in Development Assistance funds in FY 2017 and FY 2018 to eliminate child early and forced marriage. Additionally, in both FY 2017 and FY 2018, Congress allocated \$5,000,000 in International Organizations and Programs funds for the UN Children's Fund to combat female genital mutilation. Highlights of this programming follow below.

- There is a high prevalence of Female Genital Mutilation and Cutting (FGM/C) and Child, Early, and Forced Marriage (CEFM) (76 percent and 70 percent, respectively) in semi-nomadic African communities. Kenya is among six African countries with the highest possibility of eradicating FGM/C by 2031. USAID began implementing Koota Injena in 2018 as a “proof-of-concept” project designed to leverage Amref Health Africa’s work to generate intergenerational dialogue between clan elders, women, and youth to address harmful norms that support the practice of CEFM and FGM/C. Because of CEFM, girls are less likely to stay in and succeed in school and to achieve economic independence and financial stability for their families. They are more likely to experience sexual and domestic violence and to suffer from higher rates of early pregnancy, pregnancy complications, and maternal death. One hundred and forty champions and 42 school health-club patrons from 20 schools were trained on CEFM. Twenty Muslim and Christian religious leaders were trained to influence attitudes and norm change of their congregations to abandon CEFM.

Women and Girls at Risk from Extremism – Section 7059(e)

In both FY 2017 and FY 2018, Congress earmarked \$15,000,000 in Economic Support Funds (ESF) to support women and girls who are at risk from extremism (WGARE) and conflict, including for programs that help address their needs, advance legal reforms, and document crimes committed against them by extremists. Highlights of this programming follow below.

- State’s S/GWI issued a \$2,000,000 interagency agreement with the United States Institute of Peace to address the vulnerabilities faced by and opportunities available to women and girls at risk from extremism in FY 2017. The program addresses barriers that women and girls face in fully participating and engaging in public life, especially where extremism is prevalent, to build capacity of local women leaders to strengthen and develop programmatic and policy solutions that reduce the conditions that enable violent extremism in their communities and at the national level in East Africa.
- With FY 2017 ESF resources, USAID/DCHA is funding mission-level activities in Indonesia (\$2,550,000), Philippines (\$2,550,000), Morocco (\$2,000,000), Niger (\$2,400,000), Nigeria (\$2,000,000), and Albania (500,000) to increase women's participation in countering and responding to violent extremism (VE); to meet distinct needs of women and girls in VE-related disengagement, rehabilitation, and reintegration efforts; to address research gaps on gender and VE; and to build staff capacity to integrate gender perspectives in VE-related programming in Niger. Activities focus on engaging women in community dialogues and decision-making and partnering with local government and others to provide services that are responsive to the identified needs of women and girls. In Nigeria, USAID trained women on interfaith peacebuilding and networking to address GBV, youth drug use, and other issues affecting women in their faith-based communities. USAID/DCHA is also contributing to the reduction of radicalization, recruitment, and extremism in the Western Balkans with activities on building community resilience while strengthening Albania’s capacity at the national, regional, and local levels to increase the rehabilitation services for returnees in close cooperation with law enforcement and religious communities.

Women, Peace, and Security – Section 7059(d)

Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) includes activities that advance peace and security by integrating women and girls as equal partners in preventing and resolving conflict, reducing

instability, and building peace; by protecting and responding to the needs of women survivors from gender-based violence; by promoting women's engagement and the integration of gender perspectives in conflict prevention and mitigation, early warning, preparedness, or response planning and activities; and by ensuring equal access to relief and recovery assistance in countries affected by crisis. State and USAID supported WPS activities with more than \$125.6 million in FY 2017 funds from the following accounts: Development Assistance, Economic Support Fund, Assistance for Europe, Eurasia and Central Asia, and International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement.² Highlights of this programming follow below.

- WPS Incentive Funds are supporting USAID's Mission to the African Union (AU) in supporting the AU's Continental Women, Peace, and Security Activities to fortify the AU's capacity to track and catalyze AU Member States' implementation of international instruments that protect women's rights and promote their meaningful participation in peace processes.
- State's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL) is providing emergency support for women and girls, especially in areas of conflict through the Department's Voices Against Violence (VAV) initiative. The initiative is a public-private partnership with the Avon Foundation, led by the Vital Voices Global Partnership, and jointly supported by DRL and S/GWI. The program is global in scope and seeks to address GBV through a holistic set of interventions, including trainings, support to local organizations, emergency assistance to individuals facing extreme threats of GBV, and prevention and protection assistance to victims of GBV and civil society organizations working to address GBV.
- State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) continues to support the recruitment, retention, advancement, and mainstreaming of Pakistani female police; assists police organizations in implementing gender reforms; and promotes linkages between police, civil society, and social/legal services to assist women. In Haiti, INL programs will continue to promote peace and security by strengthening female participation and influence in law enforcement. In Central America, INL advances women's empowerment and effective participation in society through recruitment, retention, and capacity-building of female law-enforcement officers, prosecutors, judges, and other justice sector actors.
- In Burma, USAID's WPS Incentive Fund supported a rapid-response mechanism to provide women with childcare, transportation, training, and other resources needed to enable them to attend and influence the national dialogue processes on peace. This intervention increased women's participation in the most recent formal peace dialogue up to 22 percent, a significant difference in representation from the previous dialogue. USAID's Women's Participation Fund in Burma was highlighted as a best practice in the 2018 UN Secretary-General's report on Women, Peace, and Security.
- State's Middle East Partnership Initiative obligated \$4,495,000 in FY 2017 in 16 Middle East countries. These funds support women's leadership training in the Tomorrow's Leaders program by identifying barriers to women's entrepreneurship; by encouraging women's opportunities for leadership positions in the public and private sectors; and by advancing U.S. economic interests by implementing new methods to recruit, retain, and promote women in these sectors.

² As FY 2018 Operational Plans are still being finalized, the Department and USAID cannot report final attributions, including those attributed to the Women, Peace, and Security provision.

- State's Bureau of African Affairs programmed more than \$1 million in FY 2017 ESF under the auspices of its Trans-Sahara Counter-Terrorism Partnership Program (TSCTP) to identify and mitigate the drivers of violent extremism for women and girls; reduce the vulnerability of women and girls to recruitment into extremist groups; and assess gendered aspects of demobilization, disassociation, reintegration, and reconciliation in West Africa and the Lake Chad Region.

Women's Leadership – Section 7059(b)

In both FY 2017 and FY 2018, Congress earmarked \$50,000,000 in Title III funds for programs that increase leadership opportunities for women in countries where women and girls suffer discrimination due to law, policy, or practice, by strengthening protections for women's political status, expanding women's participation in political parties and elections, and increasing women's opportunities for leadership positions in the public and private sectors at the local, provincial, and national levels. Highlights of this programming follow below.

- USAID activities to enhance women's political empowerment during the pre-election period include the priority of pressuring political parties to recruit more female candidates (in 20 programs). A report on integrating women into the political parties was distributed prior to the last elections in Mongolia, leading three parties to incorporate statements in their electoral platforms on the need for greater female representation. Another common approach involves training female pre-candidates (in 16 programs). In Georgia, a cycle of training focused on building up a core of future female leaders by targeting female parliamentary staffers, public servants, political party staff, journalists, members of NGOs, and representatives from the business community. Taking a longer-term approach, a three-year leadership academy for young women in Bosnia targeted political leaders aged 18-26 from the five main political parties. A similar initiative in Azerbaijan sought to build up the pool of future female leaders through training programs for young women on how to use social media for political and civic engagement. USAID added \$1,400,000 in Women's Leadership funds in Bangladesh to strengthen WEPP's women's empowerment activities. As a result, women-worker beneficiaries are better able to protect their civic and human rights in factories through independent, democratic worker organizations.
- The SPRING Accelerator, a strategic partnership of USAID with the UK's Department for International Development, the Nike Foundation, and Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, has worked with 75 businesses in nine countries on two continents to address the needs of adolescent girls in terms of savings, learning, earning, health, and safety.
- In 2018, State's Middle East Partnership Initiative provided \$3,000,000 to support Women's Economic Empowerment II, which will complement ongoing work and create country-focused action plans that will increase women's leadership and meaningful participation in the formal private and public sectors to reduce the gender income and employment gap and promote economic growth in the region.

Joint State and USAID Attributions to Women, Peace, and Security Earmark

	OP Attribution 2017	OP Attribution 2018
<i>\$ in thousands for all items</i>	138,163	
WPS TOTAL	25,000	
Afghanistan	558	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	100	
Burma	1,530	
Cambodia	7,606	
Colombia	3,199	
Democratic Republic of the Congo	200	
Ecuador	500	
Ethiopia	300	
Georgia	2,750	
Guatemala	300	
Haiti	375	
Kenya	300	
Kosovo	500	
Liberia	601	
Mali	450	
Nepal	5,917	
Pakistan	300	
Peru	24	
Serbia	300	
Sri Lanka	780	
Sudan	100	
Timor-Leste	50	
Venezuela	4,800	
S/GWI - Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues**	3,050	
State International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL)	300	
Haiti	1,500	
Pakistan	1,250	
State WHA Regional	1,035	
State Africa Regional	1,035	
Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership (TSCTP)	833	
State Europe and Eurasia Regional	358	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	300	
Georgia	175	
Montenegro	6,520	
State Western Hemisphere Regional	2,470	
El Salvador	2,800	
Guatemala	1,250	
Regional/Global	4,495	
State Near East Regional	4,495	
MEPI		

State DRL	1,000	
USAID Asia Regional	50	
USAID Asia Regional	50	
USAID Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA)*	64,041	
Albania*	2,000	
Indonesia	2,550	
Morocco	2,000	
Niger	2,400	
Nigeria	2,200	
Philippines	2,550	
Regional/Global	50,341	
USAID West Africa Regional	600	
Regional/Global	600	

*DCHA-supported programs in Albania, Indonesia, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, and the Philippines were funded with \$12 million in ESF-OCO (Women and Girls at Risk from Extremism) funding and \$1.7 million in DA (Women, Peace, and Security) funding.

**S/GWI supported WPS programming through \$3 million of Women and Girls at Risk from Extremism funding and \$1.8 million in separate Women, Peace, and Security funding.

Note: Women, Peace, and Security funding is tracked in Operational Plans but not through 653a