

# Talking Points

"Given the current political climate, I have caught myself asking, where are our faith leaders in all of this?"



JUSTICE & PEACE  
COMMITTEE

## **Oppose any budget cuts that would increase hunger and poverty in the United States and around the world.**

- **One in 8 households in the United States is food insecure**-which means that **1 in 6 children's lives are at risk of hunger**. Budget cuts that reduce access to basic living standards like nutrition and health care will increase hunger.
- Nearly **800 million people in the world** are still hungry, and **20 million people are at risk of starvation** due to famine and near-famine conditions in South Sudan, Nigeria, Somalia, and Yemen. Cuts to international poverty-focused development assistance results in life or death consequences.

## **Fully fund domestic safety-net and international development programs that end hunger and poverty.**

- At less than 1 percent of the federal budget, foreign assistance is some of the most impactful money we spend. We urge Congress to continue to stand firm in its commitment to international affairs programs by providing **no less than \$60 billion in the international affairs budget for fiscal year 2018**.
- In the United States, programs like **SNAP (formerly known as food stamps), Medicaid, and**

- **tax credits** provide basic assistance and opportunity to individuals and families working to get back on their feet. Annually funded programs like **WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) nutrition program and summer Electronic Benefits Transfer** help keep hunger at bay for millions of children living at risk of hunger.

## **Oppose harmful structural changes to SNAP, Medicaid, and international development assistance.**

- Block grants, per capita caps, and other structural changes that shift the cost of domestic safety-net programs to states threaten the ability of programs like SNAP, Medicaid, and refundable tax credits to help everyone who is eligible.
- Our lead aid agency must be independent, strong, and capable. Any reforms to U.S. foreign assistance should be conducted jointly by Congress and the administration - in consultation with the development community - and be guided by core principles ensuring that U.S. assistance has the greatest possible impact, especially on the lives of those most in need.