

## **OPEN LETTER TO CONGRESS TO SUPPORT REOPENING THE INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION AND U.S. AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION**

Dear Members of Congress,

As people of faith committed to addressing the root causes of poverty, hunger, and migration in Latin America, the Caribbean, and Africa, we urge you to use your voice and influence to reopen the Inter-American Foundation (IAF) and U.S. African Development Foundation (USADF).

These two institutions reflect the best U.S. values and commitments to empower people to fight poverty and hunger. They are models for effective foreign assistance that works through local organizations rather than contractors to ensure that resources reach those in need. Both foundations enable people to develop their communities, create jobs for youth, and fight hunger – addressing key drivers of migration.

Efforts to shut down the Inter-American Foundation resulted in 400 organizations in 27 countries losing funding. In Haiti, 27 organizations lost resources to fight hunger and provide health care. For example, in Northeast Haiti, the People's Organization for the Development of Haiti (OPDHA) lost funds to help small-scale farmers with seeds, irrigation, and technical assistance from agronomists to increase their harvests to feed their families and neighbors. When projects like this end, people go hungry, rely on food assistance, or migrate. IAF's efforts in the Caribbean and Latin America and USADF's support for agricultural projects and energy infrastructure in 22 African countries make communities less dependent on foreign aid.

Shutting down the IAF and USADF violated the separation of power at the Constitution's heart. Congress – not the President – created the IAF in 1969 and USADF in 1980. Both have annual Congressional appropriations, long-standing bi-partisan support, and Senate-confirmed boards. Last year, Congress approved \$47 million in appropriations for the IAF and \$46 million for the USADF. Congress recommitted to both institutions by funding them in the March Continuing Resolution. The Administration cannot impound these funds or unilaterally replace their boards.

As lawsuits against the IAF and USADF closures move forward, we urge Members of Congress to speak out publicly in support of these two agencies, provide continued funding in the 2026 Federal Budget and reject Administration requests to rescind previously appropriated funding. Let these institutions resume their good works. We must build on these models for effective foreign assistance, not destroy them.