

LOPC's Mission Update

How are current headlines impacting our partners

Presbyterians believe that Jesus Christ made it clear in his teachings we have an ethical responsibility to engage in issues of social justice - PC(USA) Web site - 2025

Mission Team March 23, 2025

Agenda

Objectives of this meeting

Introductions

Brief overview of impacted partners

Question and Answer

Where do we go from here?

“ . . . as you did to the least of these, you did it to me.” Matthew 25:40



Objective of meeting

- Inform how the actions of our government are impacting the work of our mission partners
- Encourage people to take action
 - Contact your representatives expressing your views
 - Continue or even increase your donations: food, clothing, hygiene kits, etc.
- Begin the process to determine if LOPC should advocate for those impacted.



Atfaluna Society for Deaf Children

Serving the deaf community in the Gaza Strip

- US was the largest contributor to UNRWA on which Palestinians rely upon for health, welfare and education
- All funding was stopped in Jan of 2024 and remains defunded
- Since Oct 2023 US provided \$641M of aid to Palestinians by USAID
 - This has been suspended including funding for tents and necessities
- Atfaluna's entire school/vocational training facility has been destroyed, founding members and their families have been killed



Church World Services (CWS)

Refugee resettlement, working for a world where everyone has a safe place

- Provide services to legal asylum seekers here in Contra Costa County (over 1,300 families) - 90% are children
 - Families are in limbo
- No longer receiving new arrivals due to program cancelation
- Local staff has been furloughed (28 now 7)
 - Services now reduced to immigration legal services, anti-trafficking support, domestic violence support, health and housing navigation



Democratic Republic of the Congo

Focusing on education and trauma healing and advocacy support

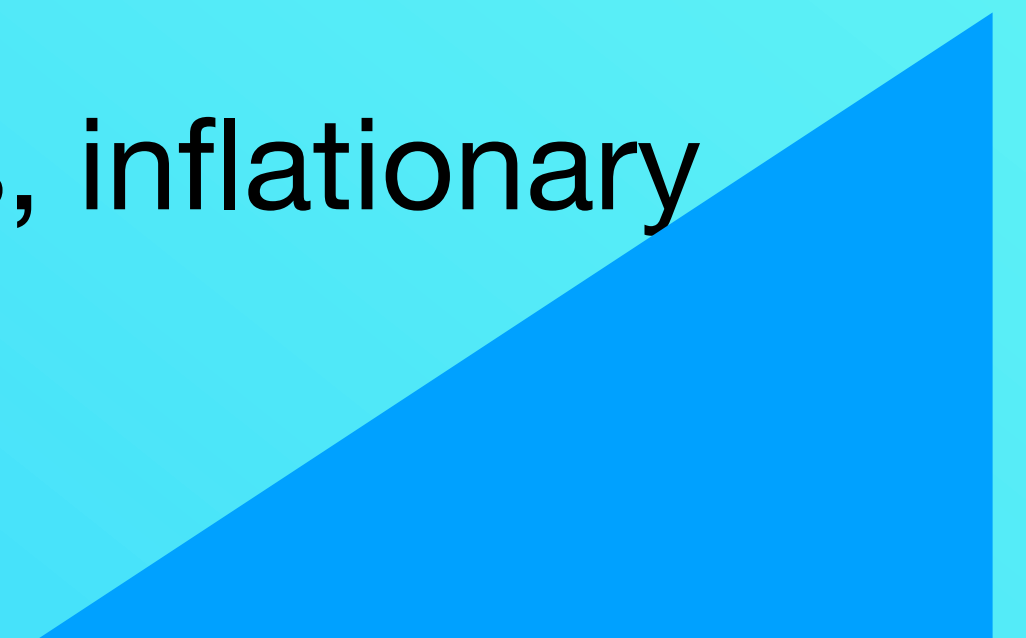
- DRC was the largest recipient of aid from USAID (\$910M in 2024)
- USAID funds provided learning services to over 350,000 children in conflict zones
- USAID funded advanced health projects, life-saving humanitarian assistance, economic growth and protection of the environment
- With less economic aid more children will be taken out of schools to work for the family, ending the growth in school attendance, especially for girls



Contra Costa & Solano Food Bank

Focusing on nourishing our neighbors

- Funding for Local Food Purchasing Assistance Cooperative has ended and the funding for The Emergency Food Program was cut.
 - Reducing the quantity of fresh food, impacting the health of their clients
 - The reduction will mean less food to clients, when household budgets are stretched thin.
- The CalFood program was cut from \$62M to \$8M (87%)
- Historically, food bank usage rises during economic downturns, inflationary periods and uncertain times.



Extended Families Program

Assisting recently unhoused and refugee families by providing basic items

- Expecting reductions on refugee referrals, but will continue to support unhoused referrals from Shelter Inc, Veterans Administration and Winter Nights
- Was expecting to furnish 10 apartments in 2025 for refugees. CWS lost funding from Federal Refugee Resettlement program after 4 families arrived here; EFP covered the cost of new beds and bedding.
- These funds were not budgeted for that use, has significantly impacted EFP's budget



Hope Solutions

Working to end homelessness, with housing and support services

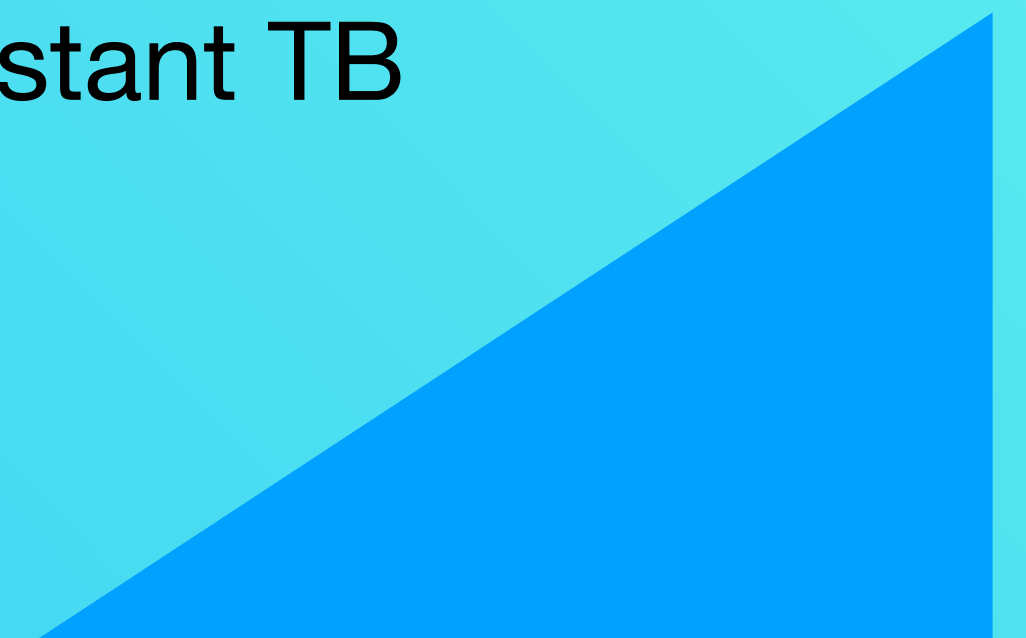
- 80% of funding is from all three levels of government. \$4.3M waiting for finalization. However 82% of staff in HUD offices are targeted to be dismissed. If funding is not finalized or becomes reduced, HS will have to immediately reduce services
- Due to lumber tariffs, cost of new cottages for homeless youth increased 3.5%
- Grant proposals were recently cut due to uncertainty in the stock market impacting the grantors endowment



Kapnek Trust

Reducing the impact of HIV/AIDs in Zimbabwe

- USAID contracts to Kapnek have been stopped - all testing and treatment for disease has ceased. Kapnek's budget cut 75%.
- In 2024 Kapnek tested
 - 135,000 people for HIV/AIDs - 12,000 now in treatment
 - 195,000 for TB - 3,500 started treatment
 - 29,000 for Cervical Cancer - 900 started treatment
- Zimbabwe is low on in-stock TB preventive medicines especially drug resistant TB medicines.
- Diseases know no political boundaries



Monument Crisis Center

Provides food, education, assistance, referrals to at risk and low income families

- Rumors of ICE agents have kept many clients from picking up food
- Funding from State, County and Cities that originates from the Federal level is a big concern
- However 51% of MCC's funding is from individuals, unlike many non-profits
- Commodity food stuffs provided by the Federal government and distributed via the Food Bank are in jeopardy, impacting the agricultural industry
- Very concerned about impact to SNAP (formerly Food Stamps)



STAND!

Breaking the multi-generational cycle of family violence

- Feeling the pressure from a constantly shifting landscape of funding
 - Private foundations are changing priorities away from domestic violence
 - Expecting Federal funds to be drastically reduced if not completely eliminated
 - In 2024 Federal funds for victims of crimes was reduced but California backfilled it for a year.
 - Local funds are derived from Federal funding sources, so impact could magnify
- If STAND!'s budget is cut, staff will be reduced and services will be a bare minimum



**What are your
questions/concerns?**



Where do we go from here?

- Contact your representatives expressing your views
 - We have 3 templates; Domestic Issues, reinstating USAID and restoring funding to Gaza
- Continue or even increase your donations: food, clothing, hygiene kits, etc.
 - When buying groceries, buy some for the Food Bank or MCC - we can get more barrels
- Volunteer your time; local partners need hands, even ones not impacted by government programs!
- Speak to the LOPC Mission liaison for suggestions

