

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 28, 2019

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations,
and Related Programs
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations,
and Related Programs
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairwoman Lowey and Ranking Member Rogers:

We write to request the inclusion of bill language that ensures the timely disbursement of funds to assist cholera victims in Haiti in the Fiscal Year 2020 State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs bill.

For years, we have been deeply concerned about the United Nations' inadequate response to the ongoing epidemic, which was introduced to Haiti in 2010 via reckless sanitation procedures at a UN peacekeeping base. The staggering death toll from cholera in Haiti—nearly 10,000 people so far—approaches that of the 2014-2015 West African Ebola outbreak, yet only a fraction of the resources invested in stopping the spread of Ebola have been mobilized against the cholera epidemic. In the meantime, Haitians continue to die, families that borrowed money for funerals struggle to repay loans, those who lost breadwinners plunge deeper into poverty, and children orphaned by cholera are unable to attend school.

As you know, following persistent calls by members of Congress on this issue—including bipartisan letters from both the Senate and House—the UN acknowledged its role in the cholera outbreak in late 2016 and launched a \$400 million plan called the “New Approach” to end cholera transmission and provide material assistance to those most directly affected. The New Approach is the only comprehensive plan to address the cholera crisis and was developed with expert input from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, the Haitian government, and international organizations specializing in cholera control. It is the only plan that aims to support thousands of affected families as they work to rebuild their lives and livelihoods.

We are very thankful that you authorized the use of \$10 million in unobligated funds to support the UN Haiti Cholera Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF). However, the much-needed funds have yet to be released to the MPTF nearly a year later. It is in this context that we request the inclusion of the following bill language in the FY 2020 State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs bill:

The Committee notes the tragic deaths of more than 9,700 Haitians and the sickening of more than 810,000 Haitians who have been infected with cholera, which resulted from the negligence of personnel of the U.N. Stabilization Mission in Haiti. The Committee directs the Department of State to take steps to expedite the release of \$10,000,000 designated for the multi-party UN trust fund to address the epidemic and assist cholera victims in Haiti.

Thank you for your leadership on the Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs. We appreciate your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,


Member of Congress



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Shelia Jackson Lee

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Yvette W. Clarke

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T. E. Shuler

Member of Congress

John J. Wey

Member of Congress

E. H. A

Member of Congress

Danny A. Davis

Member of Congress

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Elizal E. Cummings

Member of Congress

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Gregory W. Meeks

Member of Congress

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Frank Johnson

Member of Congress

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Nydia M. Velázquez

Member of Congress

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Jaya Beatty

Member of Congress

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Eric Swalley

Member of Congress

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Paul Lujan

Member of Congress

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Alan L. Hartman

Member of Congress

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Jon Sorenson

Member of Congress

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Alma Adams

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Richard E. Durbin

Member of Congress

Barbara Lee 32

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