



Alliance for International Youth Development
1400 16th Street, NW
Suite 210
Washington, DC 20036

*To promote effective policies & programs and
advocate for resources that support youth worldwide.*

April 8, 2020

AIYD Co-Chairs - 2020

Kristen Lord
President & Chief
Executive Officer
IREX

Patrick Fine
Chief Executive
Officer
FHI 360

- Chemonics
- Creative Associates International
- Education Development Center, Inc.
- FHI 360
- Global Communities
- InterAction
- International Youth Foundation
- IREX
- Making Cents International
- RTI International
- The Aspen Institute

Acting Administrator John Barsa
US Agency for International Development
1300 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC

Dear Acting Administrator Barsa:

As the Co-Chairs of the Alliance for International Youth Development (AIYD), we are writing to congratulate you on your designation by President Trump as Acting Administrator of USAID. As long-time partners of USAID, AIYD’s members recognize that you are taking on one of the most important roles in American diplomacy and foreign policy, made all the more crucial by this moment of international crisis. We are writing now to pledge to do everything we can to support you in carrying out USAID’s mission.

Never in modern history has the role of youth been as important than at this time of global crisis. 1.2 billion people worldwide are between 15 and 24 years old and 73% of this population is in Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Latin America. We urge you to ensure that USAID takes a multi-sectoral approach in its pandemic response that recognizes this is not only a public health emergency but also an economic and social calamity. Youth hold the key to building dynamic economies needed to grow export and investment markets and forestall the appeal of extremist ideologies in the countries where USAID works. Unless we work now to ensure there are economic opportunities for young people once the public health crisis subsides, the damage done by the COVID-19 pandemic will take much longer to repair and the path towards self-reliance is likely to be far longer.

AIYD stands with you as you take on this heavy leadership responsibility and assures you that we are ready to assist in any way. AIYD members would welcome the opportunity to meet with you via videoconference to discuss the role of youth in addressing the economic and social aftershocks of the pandemic and the importance of engaging youth to advance democratic governance strategies to counter malign authoritarian influences that will undoubtedly seek to take advantage of the current crisis.

Yours very truly,

Kristin Lord
AIYD Co-Chairs

Patrick Fine

CC: Bonnie Glick, Deputy Administrator
Chris Milligan, Counselor
Michelle Bekkering, Assistant Administrator
Mike McCabe, Agency Youth Coordinator