

[Sample Advocacy Letter to Your Elected Official]

Date:

The Honorable [full name] (or) The Honorable [full name]
U.S. House of Representatives U. S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515 Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative [last name] (or Senator [last name]):

I am writing you today as a resident of _____ [city, state in XXth Congressional District]. As a citizen committed to the wise use of every tax dollar, I am writing to you today to highlight the plight of African communities abroad, embedded in a cycle of poverty and minimal resource accessibility, and to urge you to commit to prioritizing foreign aid in your present and future policy considerations.

As a supporter of organizations such as Bread and Water for Africa® (africanrelief.org) that seek to promote positive change in Africa by supporting and strengthening grassroots initiatives for community self-sufficiency, health and education, I know that the need is vast. Too many children, families, and communities are without basic necessities such as sanitary water, lifesaving but unavailable medications, education, and sustainable food sources. In 2011, the world saw the devastation that a prolonged drought can cause for these nations that already teeter on the brink of starvation under normal conditions. As a major world power with significant responsibility to the international community, the United States cannot ignore the state of famine that devastated over 11 million people in Africa.

Currently, nonprofits do the best they can to support communities throughout the African continent, but the support that the United States could offer as a government would yield a more immediate and widespread impact for these countries. Organizations such as Bread and Water for Africa® seek to not only offer immediate resources to these communities to address short-term goals, but also support long-term sustainable projects and strategies to local grassroots efforts to ensure real changes in the communities that they work. It is clear by their project successes – and the failures incurred when there is a sole focus on short-term solutions – that a US adoption of this empowerment strategy would work miracles for those in most dire need of aid.

As the world climate becomes more unpredictable and African communities face the magnified impacts of the world's economic hardships, don't we owe it to our neighbors overseas to make an official commitment offering our ongoing support through financial resources and through our own lessons learned? I hope you will agree to support foreign aid and development efforts in Africa through a strategy that empowers grassroots efforts and focuses on long-term, sustainable change.

Thanks for your consideration, and - as an involved constituent - I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,