

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Pinkston Team

[wr@pinkston.co](mailto:wr@pinkston.co)

### **World Relief Applauds USAID Commitment to Increasing Partnerships with Faith Based Organizations**

**Baltimore, MD (September 13, 2023)** – Today, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) announced their first ever religious engagement policy, demonstrating a more robust effort to increase their partnerships with religious communities and faith-based organizations. The rollout of this new policy acknowledges the indispensable role faith partners play in providing comfort and assistance to those experiencing vulnerability and strengthens opportunities to develop solutions that can address the world’s greatest humanitarian challenges.

World Relief affirms this recognition of the important role faith-based partners play in motivating humanitarian response and welcomes the opportunity for the expansion of partnerships between USAID and faith-based organizations.

“Since the early days of our nearly-80-year history, World Relief has partnered with the United States government, along with local churches and religious communities to further our mission of serving the most vulnerable,” said **Myal Greene, President and CEO of World Relief**. “This announcement from USAID underscores the value of public partnerships between religious communities and faith-based organizations and creates new avenues for them to not only continue but also grow stronger.”

World Relief has persistently advocated for the essential contributions that religious communities and faith-based organizations make in addressing humanitarian concerns. The leadership of faith communities brings healing and help for the vulnerable that complements and strengthens the aid provided by social services.

“Perhaps the most powerful part of USAID’s new religious engagement policy is that it addresses perceived roadblocks that have historically limited partnerships between the government and faith-based organizations,” said **Lanre Williams-Ayedun, Senior Vice President of International Programs at World Relief**. “The new policy offers USAID staff clarity on how to engage with religious institutions without any fear of violating important standards. I am grateful for USAID's willingness to lean into relationships and work together with faith actors.”

**###**

**About World Relief**

[World Relief](#) is a global Christian humanitarian organization whose mission is to empower the local church to serve the most vulnerable. The organization was founded in the aftermath of World War II to respond to the urgent humanitarian needs of war-torn Europe. Since then, for over 75 years, across 100 countries, World Relief has partnered with local churches and communities to develop sustainable, locally-driven solutions to some of the world's greatest problems. To learn more, visit [worldrelief.org](http://worldrelief.org)