

STAND IN THE GAP



HOST SCRIPT

Long version

As many of you know, we have partnered with the Christian humanitarian organization World Relief for [number of years/decades]. Over the past few days, a series of executive orders have greatly impacted its ability to serve vulnerable communities both here in the U.S. and around the world. Let me explain what's going on.

For over 40 years, a successful public-private partnership between the U.S. Government, local churches and World Relief helped to resettle more than 500,000 refugees in the United States. The government provided funding to pay for essentials like rent, food, and transportation during the first 90 days of refugees in our country. And, World Relief and churches came alongside these refugees to help them feel welcomed and cared for as they began the process of rebuilding their lives here. These are women, men and children who have been forced to flee their countries because of war, violence and persecution — and it's an honor to help along their journey to healing and belonging.

World Relief also partnered with the US Government overseas, including in Sudan, South Sudan, Haiti and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to serve millions of people in vulnerable situations. Federal funding covered much of the costs associated with running health clinics, providing medical care, temporary shelter, water, sanitation and other life saving services. Private revenue would then bolster and build upon these funds by helping World Relief integrate holistic components and actively mobilize the church.

But last week, federal funding for the refugee resettlement program was cut, both abruptly and unexpectedly, leaving World Relief and other organizations with a devastating funding gap. They have received a temporary waiver that allows them to continue their life-saving work overseas but what's now covered remains deeply unclear, and there are concerns on future funding required to sustain this work.

World Relief now faces unimaginable odds in ensuring acutely malnourished children are fed, pregnant mothers receive adequate maternal health services, and refugees right here in the U.S. receive the food and shelter they were promised. They have asked if we, the church, are willing to step into the gap — to give, to advocate, to pray, to share.

Church — we were called for such a time as this. Serving the widow, the orphan, the stranger is part of our calling. Let's watch this video from Daniel Yang, World Relief's national director of Churches of Welcome, on the situation.

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For over 40 years, a partnership between the U.S. Government, local churches and World Relief has resettled more than 500,000 refugees and served millions in vulnerable positions overseas.

Over the past few days, federal funding for nearly 4,000 refugees under their care in the U.S. was cut abruptly and unexpectedly, leaving World Relief and hundreds of their peer organizations with a devastating funding gap. They have received a temporary waiver that allows them to continue much of their life-saving work overseas but what's now covered remains deeply unclear, and there are concerns on future funding required to sustain this work.

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