



September 7, 2017

## **LEADING HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS DECRY EFFORT TO DE-FUND ISLAMIC RELIEF WORLDWIDE**

Leading humanitarian organizations expressed grave concern about a proposed amendment to the State and Foreign Operations section of the House Appropriation bill (HR 3354) by Representative Ron DeSantis that would strip funding away from Islamic Relief Worldwide (IRW), a global humanitarian organization dedicated to the alleviation of poverty and suffering.

The thirteen organizations – American Relief Agency for the Horn of Africa (ARAHA), Bread for the World, Care, Child Fund, HIAS, InterAction, International Rescue Committee, Global Links, Mercy Corps, Project C.U.R.E., Relief International, Oxfam, and Women Thrive – stand united in support of IRW and call the allegations against the organization baseless. More than 500 audits of the organization have failed to find any evidence to support Rep. DeSantis’s allegations.

IRW is a valued partner of numerous governments and United Nations bodies, and works closely with other faith-based and secular organizations, such as Catholic Relief Services, World Vision, Bread for the World, and the Red Cross to save lives and reduce conflict. Much of IRW’s work is financed by charitable donations from individuals. Islamic Relief-USA, the US based affiliate of IRW, is a member of the United States Government’s Combined Federal Campaign (CFC#:10154), enabling government employees to make charitable donations to IR-USA, which indicates that it has met a broad array of requirements and regulations. Islamic Relief-USA is also currently responding to hurricane Harvey in Houston and surrounding areas.

The organizations also raised concern that there is no precedent for singling out an individual non-profit organization for legislative exclusion from participation in programming with US foreign assistance funds when there is no legal basis for the exclusion, and expressed concern that this is an attempt to target an effective and widely respected humanitarian group without evidence, due process, or right of reply.

/ENDS