

## OUR ASK is for Members of Congress to:

Support women and girls around the world by passing an FY27 appropriations bill that includes at least \$52.5 billion for U.S. international assistance and programming for women and girls.

## BEFORE THE MEETING

Coordinating meeting roles with your group during our strategy session is essential to ensure you have successful meetings. Make sure each member of the group has one of the following roles:



**Meeting Leader:** Ideally a constituent who opens the meeting, delivers the main advocacy ask, and follows up with a thank you note.



**Designated Advocate:** An assigned group member who has a specific speaking role during the meeting.



**Notetaker:** Group member who takes notes during the meeting. Share notes with the CARE staff lead for submission to Soapbox.

## DURING THE MEETING

This outline offers a flexible structure and suggested roles to guide your meetings. Use the talking points as a reference and **focus on what feels most relevant and authentic to you.**

### 5 Key Actions to Take



**Introduce the Group**



**Share Your Story**



**Make the Ask**



**Provide Leave-Behinds**



**Snap a Photo**

### Part I. Introductions: Who You Are and Why You're Here

#### Meeting Leader:

- **Opens the meeting** by explaining you're there to ask for support for women and girls through U.S. international assistance.
- **Invites** other group members to introduce themselves followed by the Member of Congress or staff.
- **Shares a personal anecdote** about why supporting women and girls matters to you.
- **Thanks the Member of Congress or staff member** for taking the time.



### Designated Advocate

Start out by asking the person you're meeting with if they are familiar with CARE. This is a great way to understand how much you need to tell them about the organization.

- CARE is a leading global organization dedicated to ending poverty.
- For the last 80 years, **CARE has been a trusted partner of the U.S. government**, country governments, communities, and local partners to save lives and ensure the efficacy of American investments abroad.
- In its 80-year history, **CARE has worked with 14 U.S. Presidents and generations of American leaders** as champions of freedom, hope, and opportunity.
- Last year alone, **CARE reached 54 million people in 118 countries** with lifesaving aid and the tools to build their own strong communities.



## Part II. How U.S. International Assistance Supports Women and Girls

### Designated Advocate

*Introduce the ask: **We are really encouraged to see Congress pass the FY26 spending bill with strong funding levels for international assistance. Today, we are here to ask your support for women and girls with at least \$52.5 billion for U.S. international assistance in FY27, because when women and girls can thrive, everyone benefits.***

- **Women are often the backbone of entire societies**, yet they eat last and least at home, have a harder time getting jobs than men, are often absent from decision-making tables, and face a higher risk of sexual violence.
- **As an advocate, I care about support for women and girls because.....[add your 'why' and how this issue aligns with your values, like compassion for others, faith, etc.]**
- Currently, women and girls have far fewer economic opportunities than men, including finding paid jobs, accessing banking services – like small loans or savings accounts – and receiving business training. But **proven, community-led solutions like savings groups can help women overcome these barriers.**
- A critical tool for supporting women is **savings groups**.
  - These are powerful community alternatives to banks that help women generate their own income and run their own businesses to lift their families out of poverty without relying on others. **CARE ensures that U.S. dollars go toward solutions that reduce long-term aid dependence and strengthen local economies.**
  - In fact, once set up, these savings groups often run on their own without other support. That means fewer costly humanitarian crises for the U.S. to respond to later, and more stable trading partners for American businesses.

- For example, women in Egypt started saving nearly three times more with the help of CARE savings groups. As a result, their families ate better and more, children stayed in school longer, and local businesses became stronger. These outcomes reduce long-term aid dependence and create more reliable markets — a win for U.S. taxpayers and the U.S. economy.
- **Women and girls also face higher risks of violence**, which further limits their ability to attend school and participate in the economy.
  - One in three women will face violence in her lifetime.
  - Women and girls facing violence need essential, lifesaving help – which can be supported with U.S. international assistance – like shelters, legal support, and crisis counseling to live with dignity and safety, and contribute to their communities.

### Part III. Meeting Leader Makes the Ask

***“Will [MEMBER OF CONGRESS’ NAME] support women and girls by passing an FY27 appropriations bill that includes at least \$52.5 billion for U.S. international assistance?”***

***If asked for more details:*** Specifically, we ask Congress to pass

- At least **\$200 million** for women’s economic empowerment
- **\$250 million** for reducing gender-based violence

### Part IV. Discussion

*This is your chance to engage and listen. If the Member of Congress or staff doesn’t commit to the ask, try to understand why. Note any concerns or questions **and share them with your staff lead so they can log it via the Soapbox Mobile Tool.***



### Sample Discussions Questions

- *If the office **supports** our ask: What are your other foreign policy priorities for this fiscal year?*
- *If the office **does not commit to supporting our ask:** What are your questions or concerns about increased funding for U.S. international assistance?*

### Part V. Conclusion

Thank the Member of Congress and/or staff for the meeting. Request to take a picture with them and ask if you can share it on social media. Tell your Member of Congress you hope to meet with them again in the future.

## AFTER THE MEETING

### Notetaker: Share Meeting Feedback

- After each meeting, share any relevant notes or follow-up needs with your CARE staff lead so that they can submit via Soapbox.

### Meeting Leader: Send Thank You Email

- Send a personalized thank you email to the congressional staff you met with. Use the template provided in your materials as a guide.

**To:** [MEMBER/STAFF CONTACT NAME]

**Subject:** Thank You for Meeting with CARE advocates

### Email Body:

Dear [MEMBER/STAFF CONTACT NAME]:

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me and [INSERT GROUP MEMBER NAMES] about the importance of global funding to support women and girls around the world. We hope you will stand for women everywhere by passing an ***FY27 appropriations bill that includes at least \$52.5 billion for U.S. international assistance.***

CARE works to end poverty by addressing its underlying causes and by putting women and girls at the heart of all we do because they face the greatest challenges, but when given the right tools and opportunities, they can uplift their families and communities.

I appreciated our discussion and hope you understand why I want my elected officials to stand with women and girls around the world. This assistance can change millions of lives every year, decrease dependency on U.S. assistance in the future, and advance economic growth and national security.

Thank you again for standing with CARE at this critical time. Please reach out to me if you have any additional questions. I look forward to staying in touch.

Sincerely,  
[YOUR NAME]