

CARE USA Welcomes Waxman-Markey Bill as Strong Start Towards U.S. Addressing Climate Change

Robust Funding for International Adaptation Urged

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CARE USA welcomes as a strong start the introduction of climate change legislation in the U.S. Congress by House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Henry Waxman and Congressman Edward Markey. In addition we urge policy makers to prioritize funding for international adaptation.

We applaud the inclusion of the international adaptation program in the discussion draft. However, Congress must make clear the U.S.'s commitment to doing its fair share to support adaptation in developing countries vulnerable to climate change. Robust investments in adaptation, worldwide, are vital and already urgently needed.

Today, more than one billion people survive on less than \$1.25 a day and already live on the edge of crisis. Climate change will have a disproportionate impact on the poorest, who are the least responsible for climate change and whose levels of vulnerability are great.

The Markey-Waxman bill should set aside substantial revenues – new and additional to official development assistance and reflecting U.S. commitment to funding its fair share – to support adaptation in developing countries most vulnerable to climate change. The bill should also include language to ensure that adaptation funding reaches and responds to the priorities of the poorest populations most vulnerable to climate change.

Successful global climate negotiations, culminating this December in Copenhagen, may well hang on concrete U.S. leadership and action and the impact it will have in bringing all countries together around shared goals and responsibilities.

CARE, therefore, recognizes the Waxman-Markey discussion draft as a positive first step in this process, and we look forward to working with the Energy & Commerce Committee to make the bill even stronger as it moves forward.

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