



**Alliance for
Peacebuilding**

THE
Global Fragility Act
COALITION



February 17, 2022

The Honorable Jake Sullivan
National Security Advisor
White House National Security Council
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20502

Dear Mr. Sullivan,

On behalf of the [Global Fragility Act Coalition](#), we urge the Administration to immediately release the list of priority countries and regions as required by law to ensure a robust implementation of the bipartisan [Global Fragility Act](#) (GFA). In December 2019, Congress enacted the GFA because the traditional U.S. approach to foreign assistance and diplomacy is insufficient to prevent and reduce violent conflict and build sustainable peace. As we hit a [30-year high](#) in violent global conflict, the delayed release of the priority countries and regions is stalling the progress of a new prevention foreign assistance strategy that is needed now more than ever.

U.S. foreign policy can no longer operate as "[business as usual](#)." Fortunately, [the GFA is a game-changing law that will transform U.S. foreign policy and assistance](#) by prioritizing conflict prevention and peacebuilding in at least five priority countries and regions. Over five years ago, the peacebuilding community worked closely with the humanitarian and development sectors to mobilize strong bipartisan support in Congress to ensure the adoption of the GFA. In championing the GFA, Representative Gregory Meeks (D-NY), Chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, called for halving the number of chronically unstable countries by the year 2030. But he [acknowledged](#) the difficulty by stating, "For the past two decades, we've had the same security-focused approach," he said. "So, we need to focus on upstream conflict prevention in line with the recently passed Global Fragility Act and fundamentally reframe the manner in which we approach these issues."

Unfortunately, there have been significant delays in implementing the GFA. As per the law, a global fragility strategy and the selection of five priority countries and regions were due to Congress in September 2020. The U.S. government released a global strategy in December 2020. Still, to date, the countries and regions have not been released, causing significant delays in developing the country strategies and preventing implementation of the GFA.

While we understand the Administration is dealing with competing crises at home and abroad, the GFA is the best tool to reduce violent conflict globally and prevent it from breaking out in the first place. We urge the Biden Administration to immediately release the priority countries and regions so the State Department, USAID and the Department of Defense can begin to robustly implement the GFA.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Tjada D'Oyen McKenna in black ink.

Tjada D'Oyen McKenna
Chief Executive Officer
Mercy Corps

Handwritten signature of Liz Hume in black ink.

Liz Hume
Executive Director
Alliance for Peacebuilding