

the region has seen in 60 years. The heartbreaking accounts of lives lost and of those struggling to survive remind us of our common humanity and the need to reach out to people in need. I want to thank the many Americans who have reached out in support and made donations over the last several months to support people in need in the Horn of Africa.

Today, on behalf of the U.S. Government and the American people, I am announcing an additional \$113 million in emergency relief assistance for the Horn of Africa. This funding will support urgently needed food, health,

shelter, water, and assistance needs. To date, the U.S. has provided approximately \$870 million for relief purposes. Importantly, and even as we help to meet the emergency needs of the people of this region, we are also investing in their long-term food security: [www.feedthefuture.gov](http://www.feedthefuture.gov).

For more information, please visit the FWD Campaign, run by the U.S. Agency for International Development, and to learn more about how you can get involved, please visit [action.usaid.gov](http://action.usaid.gov).

## Statement on Congressional Action on Payroll Tax Cut and Unemployment Insurance Legislation

*December 22, 2011*

For the past several weeks, I've stated consistently that it was critical that Congress not go home without preventing a tax increase on 160 million working Americans. Today I congratulate Members of Congress for ending the partisan stalemate by reaching an agreement that meets that test.

Because of this agreement, every working American will keep his or her tax cut, about \$1,000 for the average family. That's about \$40 in every paycheck. Vital unemployment insurance will continue for millions of Americans who are looking for work. And when Congress

returns, I urge them to keep working to reach an agreement that will extend this tax cut and unemployment insurance for all of 2012 without drama or delay.

This is good news, just in time for the holidays. This is the right thing to do to strengthen our families, grow our economy, and create new jobs. This is real money that will make a real difference in people's lives. And I want to thank every American who raised your voice to remind folks in this town what this debate was all about. It was about you. And today your voices made all the difference.

## Remarks on Congressional Action on Payroll Tax Cut and Unemployment Insurance Legislation

*December 23, 2011*

Good afternoon, everybody. I know you're all looking forward to spending time with your families over the holidays, but we did have one last piece of business to finish up. I said it was critical for Congress not to go home without preventing a tax increase on 160 million working Americans, and I'm pleased to say that they've got it done. So I want to thank all the Members of Congress for ending the stalemate and making this happen.

Because of this agreement, every working American will keep their tax cut, about \$1,000

for a typical family. And that's—translates into an extra \$40 or so in every paycheck. Vital unemployment insurance will continue for millions of Americans who are looking for work. And when Congress returns, I urge them to keep working, without drama, without delay, to reach an agreement that extends this tax cut as well as unemployment insurance through all of 2012.

Last week, I said that this should be a formality, and that's still the case. So let's make sure that we extend this tax break and unemployment insurance for a full year for our