

## ACHIEVING ZERO HUNGER BY 2030

Feed the Future & the Global Food Security Reauthorization Act  
(S. 2269/ H.R. 5129)



## INTRODUCTION

The world is making progress to end chronic hunger and malnutrition. Over the past two decades, due in large part to rapid economic growth and increased agricultural productivity, the proportion of undernourished people was reduced by half.

Many developing countries that once suffered from high rates of food insecurity and malnutrition are now better able to meet the food and nutritional needs of their citizens particularly in Central and East Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean. In the summer of 2015, the international community came together in New York

and adopted the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 2, which seeks to end hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture development by 2030.

At last count, nearly 815 million people around the world, regularly don't have enough food to eat each day. Each year, poor nutrition is an underlying cause of approximately 2.7 million childhood deaths. In addition, 155 million children are stunted and 52 million suffer from wasting.

## U.S. RESPONSE: FEED THE FUTURE

In recent years, the U.S. government has significantly contributed to global food security through various efforts including the Feed the Future Initiative (FTF). The whole-of-government approach used by Feed the Future emphasizes country-led development, advancing growth in the agriculture sector, and promoting nutrition, particularly among women and children.

Prior to Feed the Future, there was a decade-long decline in investment in agriculture development. This decline contributed to the rapid rise in global food prices from 2007-2008 leading to political unrest and food riots. The international community came together in response to address food insecurity and at the 2009 G-8 Summit in Italy, President Obama pledged to invest \$3.5 billion in agriculture over three years and to strengthen global efforts to reduce poverty, hunger, and undernutrition.

Thanks to U.S. leadership, this commitment leveraged an additional \$18.5 billion in support from G-8 members and other donors. Shortly thereafter, Feed the Future was launched in 2010 in 19 countries, drawing from the expertise of 11 U.S. federal agencies and building on a response initially begun by the George W. Bush administration during the global food crisis, in order to combat chronic hunger and malnutrition. Since the Initiative began, there has been a 19

percent drop in poverty and a 26 percent reduction of stunting in targeted program areas. In the regions they work, 9 million more people are living above the poverty line, 1.7 million more households are not suffering from hunger, and 1.8 million more children are free from stunting. Central to its work, Feed the Future promotes country ownership and aligns its efforts with country-specific investment plans developed by governments to advance agricultural productivity and household income, strengthen local economies, and promote nutrition. These strategic partnerships with governments, civil society, non-governmental and faith-based organizations, universities and the private sector are helping to boost individual incomes, connect farmers to markets, and further people's access to nutritious food.

## GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY REAUTHORIZATION ACT (S. 2269/ H.R. 5129)

### Legislative Background

On February 27, 2018, H.R. 5129, the Global Food Security Reauthorization Act was introduced by Representatives Chris Smith (R-NJ-04) and Betty McCollum (D-MN-04) in the U.S. House of Representatives, and S. 2269, a Senate companion bill was introduced by Senators Robert Casey (D-PA) and Johnny Isakson (R-GA) on December 21, 2017.

### Bill Summary

The Global Food Security Reauthorization Act is a bipartisan effort to address chronic food insecurity and malnutrition. This legislation would ensure the gains made as part of the original Global Food Security Act (signed into law 7/20/2016) continue including the updated whole-of-government Global Food Security Strategy, and the Feed the Future Initiative.

### Bill Strengths

Both the House and Senate bills will continue to advance the comprehensive global food security strategy that will further reduce chronic hunger and malnutrition while promoting a country-led approach to development and leveraging strategic partnerships with NGOs, faith-based organizations, the private sector, and educational institutions. Specifically, the bills advance:

### Economic Opportunity and Livelihoods

The Global Food Security Reauthorization Act seeks to increase agricultural production and the incomes of farmers. By promoting improved agricultural development, families have greater access to tools and resources to combat poverty and hunger. Studies have shown that for every one percent increase in agricultural income per capita, the number of people living in extreme poverty is reduced anywhere from 0.6 to 1.8 percent. Further, by investing in long-term agriculture development, countries



are better able to feed their own people and absorb various food system shocks, reducing the need for emergency food aid and other assistance.

#### WORLD VISION'S IMPACT

In Zimbabwe, World Vision U.S. and other partners are implementing the ENSURE program, which is supported by USAID's Office of Food for Peace, a program included in the global food security strategy. Community members join producer groups and they are trained in improved irrigation techniques, and finance and marketing skills. Through participation in this group, farmers have accessed new loans to purchase inputs as well as received education on value chain development helping to increase household incomes and improve livelihoods.

Women's Empowerment The Global Food Security Reauthorization Act recognizes the significant role female farmers play in ending hunger and malnutrition. Currently, almost half of smallholder farmers are female. But, when compared with their male counterparts,



they routinely lack access to proper tools, effective seeds, financial services, and land tenure rights. If women had the same

access to these inputs and services as their male counterparts, they could increase their yields by up to 20-30 percent. This disparity severely limits their agricultural outputs and reduces economic opportunities. As a result, USAID and its partners launched the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index, an innovative tool used to track women's engagement in agriculture including through such initiatives as Feed the Future.

#### WORLD VISION'S IMPACT

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, World Vision U.S., through the support of USAID's Office of Food for Peace works with its partners ADRA and the John Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health (JHSPH) to sustainably reduce food insecurity among vulnerable households. The program has implemented Women's Empowerment Group methodologies to invest in women and help them become community leaders and stronger household decision makers while gaining skills in income generation, workload reduction, literacy, and leadership.

Sustainability, Accountability, and Transparency The Global Food Security Reauthorization Act ensures close partnership with governments and civil society. Through collaboration with these countries, Feed the Future supports national agricultural development strategies that helps to advance productivity and market-based economic growth. These efforts promote sustainable programs over time thereby reducing reliance on international foreign assistance. The Global Food Security Reauthorization Act also promotes and improves upon current accountability and transparency

practices, ensuring U.S. investments in the Feed the Future initiative are being thoroughly evaluated, monitored, and tracked with results reported annually to Congress.

#### WORLD VISION'S IMPACT

World Vision works with Save the Children in Niger to implement the USAID's Office of Food for Peace funded Livelihoods, Agriculture and Health Interventions in Action (LAHIA) plan. The program aims to reduce food insecurity and malnutrition among nearly 18,000 poor rural households through the creation of community gardens and small animal husbandry enterprises as well as training staff and partners in good agricultural techniques and management.

Nutrition The Global Food Security Reauthorization Act prioritizes nutrition for women and children in its programming and since the initiative began, child



stunting dropped by 26 percent across target regions in Feed the Future's focus countries. This important gain was achieved by prioritizing interventions including the use of nutrient-packed foods, educating mothers and fathers about growing nutritious crops, and promoting the use of community gardens to further supplement diets of families.

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## FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

In pursuit of a hunger free world, we support people in producing their own food and advancing their livelihoods through increased access to markets. However, when droughts, disasters and conflicts strike, World Vision is there providing short-term food aid to make sure children and families get essential nutrients during a time of crisis. At the same time, we help families strengthen and improve their ability to produce or purchase their own food. This approach helps families become more resilient and better equipped to handle future food challenges.

Food assistance is one of the critical global safety nets that helps hungry, vulnerable people maintain and rebuild their lives and livelihoods. It complements World Vision's ongoing community development work in health, nutrition, education, agriculture, economic development and resilience to natural and human-made disasters.

Specifically, we help hungry children and families by:

- Increasing agricultural productivity through improved seeds and farming practices
- Improving access to markets so farming families can profitably sell their surplus food
- Teaching families and communities how to improve nutrition and dietary diversity

- Managing resources in a sustainable way to prevent soil erosion, maintain soil fertility, use water more efficiently, and protect the environment

In addition, World Vision uses cash, vouchers, and food commodities to support public works programs, school meals, maternal, child health programs, and assistance for people living with HIV/AIDS. Our Food Security and Livelihoods team is a group of technical experts who ensure the high quality of World Vision's food assistance programs in over 39 countries. World Vision operates food assistance programs in partnership with the United Nations World Food Program, USDA, USAID, and other partners.

Across the World Vision partnership, life-saving food assistance was provided to 9.5 million men, women, and children. The programs included general food distributions, vulnerable group feeding, food for education, as well as cash/food for work/assets to strengthen household and community resilience.



World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. We serve all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.  
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