



U.S. FOOD ASSISTANCE: THE 2018 FARM BILL

The U.S. Farm Bill – Agricultural Act of 2018

QUICK FACTS

Under the current Farm Bill, the following food assistance requirements include:

- » Agricultural commodities in the FFP program must be sourced from the U.S.
- » At least 50 percent of U.S. food assistance must be shipped on U.S.-flag vessels.
- » 20 to 30 percent—with a minimum of \$350 million—of FFP funding must be available for non-emergency use.
- » At least 15 percent of non-emergency food assistance funding must be available to nongovernmental organizations for monetization.

Introduction

Every five years, legislation known as the Agricultural Act—commonly referred to as the “Farm Bill”—is considered by the U.S. Congress. While this bill is largely related to domestic agriculture issues, it includes a title that addresses international food assistance programs. The most recent Farm Bill, the Agricultural Act of 2014, is set to expire September 31, 2018.

Why it matters

Most Food for Peace (FFP) resources are authorized under Title II of the Food for Peace Act, which is part of the Farm Bill. The funds provided under this act are largely used to purchase and transport U.S. in-kind agricultural commodities for programming abroad. Under Title II, Section 202(e) funds cover the administrative costs of programming U.S. in-kind commodities overseas. These funds also enhance Title II in-kind food assistance programs and offset the burdensome practice of monetization. Section 207(f) funds cover program oversight, monitoring, and evaluation, as well as activity support including the Famine Early Warning Systems Network.



(over)



Recommendations

As Congress works on the Farm Bill of 2018, World Vision proposes the following:

- » Protect funding for FFP development programming at \$350 million per year with the authority to increase this funding to 30 percent of overall FFP appropriations with the remainder of funds supporting emergency activities. This “safe box” programming is critical in efforts to help countries tackle the root causes of poverty by putting people on the path to self-reliance.
- » Replace the minimum monetization requirement with permissive authority, and support use of the Community Development Funds within FFP non-emergency development programs.
- » Further leverage good governance and social accountability programs in FFP and McGovern-Dole Food for Education to empower vulnerable and disadvantaged populations to improve their own food security through more transparent and responsive public and private institutions.
- » Support and advance the increased use of cash, food vouchers, and local and regional procurement in Food for Peace (Section 202e) and McGovern-Dole Food for Education programs.
- » Reduce the impact of cargo preference on food assistance programs.
- » Leverage crisis modifiers in FFP programs with more frequency and depth to enhance resilience to shocks and protect development gains in agriculture, food security, and livelihoods.

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