A child wrapped in a blanket

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CONGRESSIONAL MEETING OUTLINE

Appropriations Request: McGovern-Dole and Food for Peace

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| **Meeting Goal:** Affirm the value of foreign assistance and funding for food security programs like Food for Peace Title II and McGovern-Dole Food for Education, and the Member’s role in ensuring those in the most difficult circumstances can access resources that save lives and build resiliency. | **Long-Term Goal:** Member displays increasing leadership to support U.S. foreign assistance. Member and staff know World Vision and feel supported and accountable to make decisions that honor God and reduce global poverty. |

**» INTRODUCTIONS (5 MINUTES):**

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**THANK THE OFFICE:**

If you’re meeting with the same staffer as Summit, you don’t need to spend too much time on this and just give a very quick thanks for taking the time to meet with you and for the Rep./Sen.’s support for our issues.

* Check the **Member’s Backgrounder** to see if World Vision staff or Advocates have met with this office/staffer before. Recognize ways the member has supported World Vision priority issues in the past.
* Specifically, go to [the HUB](https://www.worldvisionadvocacy.org/hub/meetingresources/) and check last year’s **Food For Peace and McGovern Dole letters** to see if your member signed on. If they did sign on last year, your meeting may be more abbreviated and to the point, asking for their support again this year.
* In September 2023, Congress voted on the FY24 Agriculture Appropriations Bill and a series of amendments that would reduce or eliminate the funding for Food for Peace and McGovern-Dole.
  + Check [here](https://clerk.house.gov/evs/2023/roll414.xml) to see how you member voted on eliminating Food for Peace.
  + Check [here](https://clerk.house.gov/evs/2023/roll415.xml) to see how your member voted on eliminating McGovern-Dole.

Thank you so much for making the time to meet today. We are REP./SEN.’s constituents and Advocates with World Vision. Before we begin, we want to thank you and REP./SEN. for the work that you’ve done to support children and families, both here at home and around the world.

**ADVOCATE INTRODUCTIONS:**

Briefly introduce each advocate and where you are from within the state/district (you will provide more detail later about why this issue matters to you as a constituent).

**CONNECT WITH THE STAFFER PERSONALLY:**

* If you’ve met with this staffer before, follow up on things you’ve learned about them previously to show that you are working to build meaningful relationship with them.
* If you have ***not*** met with this staffer before, spend a few minutes making a connection with them by asking some questions. You might ask: How long have you served in the office? What issues are you passionate about? Have you ever traveled out of the country?

**INTRODUCE THE ASK:**

We’re here today to talk with you about foreign assistance programs for FY25. We know FY24 levels are still being determined but we wanted to meet with you early, so you have time to consider our FY25 request. At a time of increased gridlock and what feels like little movement within our government system, we are bringing you a tangible way to address global hunger.

* [If you had a Summit meeting]: We are here today to continue the conversation about the global hunger crisis and ask for REP./SEN.’s support within the appropriations process for programs that help save lives and eliminate hunger.
* [If new office/staffer]: We are here today to share with you about the global hunger crisis and ask for REP./SEN.’s support within the appropriations process for programs that help save lives and eliminate hunger.
* We ask for REP./SEN.’s support for foreign assistance programs, specifically the **McGovern-Dole Food for Education** and **Food for Peace Title II** accounts that are funded through Agriculture Appropriations. These programs that we will share with you today have a legacy of bipartisan support and are broadly supported by a range of stakeholders like NGOs, the shipping industry, commodity groups, and farmers.
  + We request **$265 million** for the McGovern-Dole Food for Education account and **$2 billion** for the Food for Peace Title II account within the Agriculture Appropriations Bill to address global hunger and break cycles of poverty.

**ABOUT WORLD VISION:**

We are constituents and volunteers from World Vision.  How familiar are you with our organization? [Depending on the response, you can follow up with some of the following details]:

* World Vision is one of the largest Christian humanitarian relief and development organizations working with children, families, and their communities.
* World Vision is the largest implementing partner of the World Food Program and one of the largest NGO implementing grantees of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).
* World Vision provides both emergency relief in places like Ukraine and Afghanistan after the earthquake, and even here at home, like with the fires in Maui last fall. World Vision also does long-term community development, building resiliency so that communities can develop, thrive, and provide for themselves.

**» GLOBAL HUNGER CRISIS (4 MINUTES):**

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We would like to share with you in greater detail about the current global hunger crisis.  It is important to understand that before we get to the ask:

* Last year, ***345 million people*** faced food insecurity. This is due to conflict, climate, and unpredictable economies.
* What is most concerning about that number is that it is ***more than double*** the numbers from 2020.
* The global hunger crisis is particularly affecting young children. It's preventing them from realizing the fullness of life that God intended.
* But it does not need to be this way, ***because we have ENOUGH***. . . We have enough food, and we have enough resources so that every child can have a life of plenty.

Food assistance programs, supported by American foreign assistance, help level the playing field, providing fuller lives for children and families. Programs address both emergency hunger situations and longer-term solutions to move vulnerable communities toward self-sufficiency.

The term “food insecurity” is ***not just about food [select several points as you see fit]***:

* Malnourished children are up to nine times more likely to die from common infections than children who are better-nourished.
* Wasting, the most visible and severe form of malnutrition, threatens the lives of 45 million children under 5.
* If a child doesn’t consume enough nutrients, their intellectual and physical development can be harmed, causing stunted growth, lifelong disability, mental disorders, or developmental delays.
* Hunger can also become a barrier to education, limiting opportunities for the future. Families can feel forced to make desperate decisions because of hunger, including pulling children out of school to work, or in even more dire situations, arrange child marriage to have one less mouth to feed.

***This is not only a tragedy today—it’s setting the stage for a continuing crisis.*** Investing in global stability is not just the ***right*** thing to do, it’s the ***smart*** thing, especially for constituents at home. While foreign aid represents just 1% of all federal spending, for every $1 the U.S. spends to prevent conflict, an estimated $16 is saved in response costs.

Our investment in global child health also leads to secure trading partners, directly effecting our local economy. And it leads to more stable communities, which limits the risk of conflict and war. ***Stability abroad generates stability here at home; hunger generates conflict.***

[Check for understanding. Ask if the staffer has any additional concerns to share or questions].

**» FROM THE FIELD: FOOD FOR PEACE & MCGOVERN-DOLE PROGRAMS IN ACTION (5 MINUTES):**

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Ending hunger isn’t just about feeding the hungry in emergency situations - **it's about building *resiliency.***  Breaking the cycles of poverty and food aid dependency is *exactly* what the Food for Peace Title II and McGovern-Dole Food for Education programs aim to do.

Specifically, here are a few details about each program:

* **Food for Peace Title II** is the largest international food aid program and has two parts: emergency programs and non-emergency programs.
* The *emergency* programs use U.S. grown commodities (like wheat, corn, and beans) to feed communities where local markets are not functioning, and where people are unable to grow their own food.
* The ***non-emergency*** programs help families be able to feed themselves. The programs fund activities that address root causes of hunger, including water-sanitation-and hygiene programs, irrigation, and maternal and child health initiatives.

[Share story as an example. Photo slides to share virtually are available on the HUB]:

* For an example of the impact of these life-changing non-emergency programs, we can look at Seada, a mother of 6 in Ethiopia.
* She was struggling to make ends meet until she received monthly funds, vegetable seeds, and gardening training through Food for Peace. In addition to her garden, she learned about nutrition and balanced diets for her family.
* What started as a home garden became a small farm when she was able to then sell her produce and allow her to invest in 2 goats. This program changed her life from struggling to being able to feed her family to becoming a farmer, providing for others in her community.
* She said, “I am very thankful for the eye-opening opportunity granted to my family through this project to change our abandoned backyard into a productive home garden, which is helping my family to get fresh, nutritious vegetables and earn income from the excess products.”
* **The McGovern-Dole International Food for Education** is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It provides U.S. agricultural commodities to help reduce hunger globally and promote literacy and primary education in food-insecure countries.
* Parents in highly vulnerable communities have an incentive to send their children to school, as they receive the dual benefit of access to both education and nutritious food.
  + [Use the ***Commodities Map*** on the HUB to share this about your state]:   
    In fact, the state of Kansas contributes wheat to the McGovern-Dole program.
* In addition to school meals, the McGovern-Dole program provides take-home rations and meal preparation trainings to families to help improve diets at home. This benefits children who are not yet enrolled in school to improve health long-term.

[Share story as an example. Photo slides to share virtually are available on the HUB]:

* For an example of this program, we look to Northern Mozambique which has the highest rate of chronic malnutrition in the country.
* Thanks to the McGovern-Dole program administered by World Vision, Filomena’s six children are no longer at risk of falling into malnutrition.
* Not only do her older children receive a meal *in* school through the program, but Filomena benefits from take-home rations like vegetable oil and a staple product in hunger settings called *corn soy blend*.
* Filomena shared: “*We try to maintain balance in the way we feed our children. One day we may give them CSB porridge, and another day, we prepare cereals mixed with vegetables, peanuts, sugar, eggs, and other ingredients.”*
* In 2023, this project distributed take-home rations to over 10,000 children under 5 and over 18,000 rations to pregnant and lactating women.
* Through this program, a total of 2,100 *metric tons* of CSB (corn soybean blend) and 60 metric tons of vegetable oil was shipped from the United States to this project and distributed to beneficiaries, which demonstrates the way in which U.S. commodities play a significant role in addressing global hunger.

At World Vision, we continue to believe that to fully eradicate hunger, we must adopt a multifaceted approach that a) meets immediate needs and b) invests in risk reduction now to build resilience and reduce suffering in the future. ***We believe that Food for Peace and McGovern-Dole programs help achieve this goal.***

[Check for understanding. Ask if the staffer has any additional concerns to share or questions].

**» WHY THIS MATTERS TO ME (5 MINUTES):**

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1-3 Advocates to come prepared to share personally, as a constituent, why this issue matters to you, and why you want your members to support these programs.   
  
If you have been on a Vision Trip with World Vision and seen this kind of work, that would be a very appropriate thing to share.   
  
Practice in your prep calls and determine which Advocate(s) will share.

**» ASK (2 MINUTES):**

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**[For ALL Offices]**: We ask for REP./SEN. to support **$265 million** for the **McGovern-Dole Food for Education** account and **$2 billion** for the **Food for Peace Title II** account within the Agriculture Appropriations Bill, and to oppose attempts to reduce or eliminate these lifesaving programs.

**[In addition - for House Offices ONLY]:** To demonstrate this support, we would ask REP. to consider signing ***two Dear Colleague letters*** to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee:

* The first is a letter requesting no less than $265 million for the McGovern-Dole account led by Reps. James McGovern (D-MD) and Tracey Mann (R-KS).
* The second is a letter requesting $2 billion for the Food for Peace account led by Reps. Jim Costa (D-CA) and Dusty Johnson (R-SD).

***What insight can you share on Sen./Rep.’s position on these issues? Is there any follow up our team can provide?***

[If Member claims faith]: World Vision is a faith-based organization, and we feel called by our faith to help care for all the children of the world.

* We recognize that the Member claims faith as well, and we call on him/her to lean into their faith, and with the confidence of Christ, ***act now.***
* We ask that you extend that belief to help the widow and the orphan. Your office’s support of these very beneficial tools we have shared with you today are a way to live out our faith and calling.

**» CLOSING LOGISTICS (2 MINUTES):**

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Thank the office for their time. If you sense it would be appropriate, ask if you could end the meeting in **prayer**. *(Direct your prayers toward encouragement, peace, and guidance, so that they will leave feeling like they have met with God rather than you. Do not pray that God converts them to your viewpoint or “shows them the way” to think on the issue.)*

**Ask if you can take a photo!** Post the photo and a thank you on social media, tagging the member of Congress and @WorldVisionUSA on Twitter (or “X”), @WorldVision on Facebook, or @WorldVisionUSA on Instagram.

After your meeting, the scheduler will be emailed directions to **fill out a meeting report form** as well as **send a brief thank you email** to the office you met with.