

## Call to Action Against U.S. Hunger October 2017

### ***Learn and Share: Hunger and Poverty Reports Released***

#### **In Brief:**

In September, two important reports were released. Both of these reports provide information that is critical for our anti-hunger and anti-poverty communities as we track the trends, progress, and concerns related to poor and hungry people in the United States.

**[Income and Poverty in the United States: 2016](#)** (U.S. Census Bureau): This publication reported a poverty rate of 12.7 percent – a drop of 0.8 percent between 2015 and 2016. While this translates into 2.5 million fewer people than in 2015 and 6.0 million fewer than 2014, there are still 40.6 million people in poverty. This is close to pre-recession levels.



**[Household Food Security in the United States in 2016](#)** (USDA Economic Research Service): 12.3 percent of U.S. households are food insecure. This is “essentially unchanged from 2015 (12.7 percent), but continued a downward trend from a high of 14.9 percent in 2011.” 59 percent of food insecure households participated in one or more of three federal nutrition programs: SNAP, WIC, and/or School Lunch).

#### **What it Means**

In both the national poverty data and household food security reports, we are observing numbers that are improving, but those improvements are slowing down. With 40.9 million people in poverty and 15.6 million food insecure households, we cannot slow our efforts at helping America’s most vulnerable people.

Further, with the progress being made, but also the distance yet to go, we absolutely cannot allow cuts to critical federal food and nutrition programs. Unfortunately, these programs continue to be under threat, including through a dangerous budget bill just passed by the House of Representatives. We need to keep pressure on policymakers to protect the programs that protect our vulnerable families!

#### **What You Can Do**

Remind your elected officials of the progress made, and the need to keep federal food security and nutrition programs strong.

CALL your **[Senators](#)** and **[Representative!](#)**

#### **Sample Tweets from Members:**

**RESULTS** on safety net success:

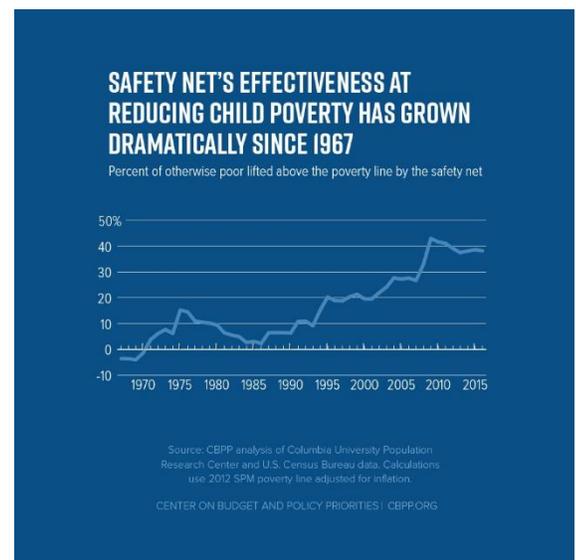
**[https://twitter.com/RESULTS\\_Tweets/status/916018907969937408](https://twitter.com/RESULTS_Tweets/status/916018907969937408)**

**No Kid Hungry** on recent House Budget

**<https://twitter.com/nokidhungry/status/916012616304271362>**

**Bread for the World** with a *The Guardian* article on “Food Samps.”

**<https://twitter.com/bread4theworld/status/916289873434177536>**



Great & informative social media graphic provided by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

### ***Change the Future of Migration: October 16 is World Food Day!***

#### In Brief:

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations promotes World Food Day each year on October 16. Events are organized in over 150 countries across the world – promoting worldwide awareness and action for those who suffer from hunger and for the need to ensure food security and nutritious diets for all. World Food Day is a chance to show our commitment to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 – to achieve Zero Hunger by 2030.



This year, the World Food Day theme is *Change the Future of Migration: Invest in Food Security and Rural Development*. Conflict, poverty, famine, and other factors are contributing to huge influxes in migration around the world. In many cases, investing in rural development can address factors that drive the desire to migrate, or harness the potential migration has to drive development in the developing world. Learn more about this topic, and take action to spread awareness!

#### What You Can Do

The Food and Agriculture Organization has a comprehensive [communications toolkit](#) that can teach you about World Food Day 2017, and spread the word about the importance of recognizing food security implications of migration around the world. Join the conversation on social media to educate your networks on how global migration and food security must be approached hand-in-hand.

#### Sample Tweets

By investing in #foodsecurity & rural dev't, we can create equality, jobs, & choices. Change the Future of Migration. #ZeroHunger #WFD2017.

Millions are forced from home by hunger, poverty, climate, conflict. Migration should be a choice, not a necessity. #WFD2017 #ZeroHunger.

→ Use the hashtags #ZeroHunger and #WFD2017 to show additional support!

