

FARM BILL: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

Alliance to End Hunger's vision is to end hunger in the United States and around the world in this generation. To achieve this, the Alliance unites diverse sectors to address today's hunger and malnutrition needs and to solve the root causes of hunger at home and abroad. We are a diverse coalition of over 100 <u>members</u> including corporations, non-profits, universities, individuals, agriculture organizations, healthcare providers, foundations and faith-based organizations – all working together in the fight against hunger and malnutrition.

Conflict, climate shocks, the ongoing impacts of COVID-19, and the rising costs of living have resulted in an unprecedented global food and nutrition crisis. A record 349 million people across 79 countries are facing acute food insecurity – up from 287 million in 2021. Congress has a critical opportunity this year to alleviate global hunger and improve nutrition through the reauthorization of the Farm Bill. Our recommendations for internationally-focused programs are:

Food for Peace (FFP) Title II

Support robust funding annually to provide emergency and long-term development food assistance targeting the most vulnerable populations. Additionally,

 Increase flexibility for non-emergency assistance to use the most effective source of aid, to make U.S. commodities an option, not a requirement for these programs.

McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program (McGovern-Dole)

We support reauthorization with robust funding to support education, nutrition, child development and food security in low-income, food-deficit countries around the globe. Additionally,

• Change the current 10% to a range of 10-20% of funding for local and regional procurement.

Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust

BEHT was created for times of exceptional needs in response to unanticipated food crises abroad, for the purchase of U.S. commodities, to provide emergency humanitarian food assistance in developing countries.

 Replenish the BEHT which was completely depleted in 2022 due to the global food crisis.

Food for Progress (FFPr)

FFPr provides for the donation of U.S. agricultural commodities to developing countries and emerging

democracies committed to introducing and expanding free enterprise in the agricultural sector.

- Increase the Freight Ceiling to \$55 million.
- Apply Cargo Preference to FFPr the same as to other food aid programs.

Increase support for nutrition throughout International Food Aid Programs

It is critical that nutrition be further prioritized in these programs as rates of global hunger and malnutrition continue to rise. Malnutrition is the greatest threat to child survival worldwide, making children more susceptible to deadly infectious diseases and contributing to more child deaths, roughly 3 million a year, than AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis combined.

Research

We support reauthorization of the Farm Bill Research Title with robust funding for agricultural research activities that support innovation for improving agricultural production and sustainable, safe, nutritious food systems. Support for research programs that fund international research, such as the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR) should be reauthorized, and given robust funding.

Climate Adaptation

Advance policies and funding for programs to enhance adaptation measures for small-holder farmers in lowerincome countries and communities to help reduce the negative impact of climate change on food systems. Support small-holder farmers to afford and adopt regenerative practices.

For a detailed list of recommendations or more information, please contact Blake Selzer, International Policy Manager at <u>bselzer@alliancetoendhunger.org</u>.