

Action Sheet

OCTOBER 2021

May our hunger for justice remain until all creatures have a share in earth's bounty and all people have enough nutritious food not only to survive but to thrive. ([Give Us a Hunger for Justice, Lord](#))

SKILL AND RELATIONSHIP BUILDING ACTION

The Senate will continue to markup and negotiate the 12 Senate appropriations bills in October. Our Action Sheet action this month is to email your senators to urge them to speak with the Chair and Ranking Member of the Senate State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs subcommittee. Ask them to urge the SFOPS subcommittee leadership to increase international humanitarian and development funding in Fiscal Year 2022. See details below.

LASER TALK

Since 1990, 1 billion people have moved out of extreme poverty. U.S. sponsored international humanitarian and development aid has provided opportunities for countless millions around the world to move out of poverty. Of the more than \$4 trillion federal budget, Congress allocates half of 1% towards poverty-reducing international aid with strong bipartisan support. Beyond a belief in the moral imperative, the United States recognizes it is in our best interest to invest resources that foster peace and security and promote the common good.

The World Bank estimates that the impacts of COVID-19 will cause between 143 and 163 million people to fall into poverty in 2021, the first rise in extreme poverty globally in 20 years. Our faith compels us to uphold the dignity of individuals and communities around the world, especially those experiencing forced displacement and hunger. Therefore, it is critically important to increase funding that supports sustainable solutions to poverty, changing climates and disease.

Will you help increase international poverty-reducing development and humanitarian assistance in Fiscal Year 2022? The accounts which do this are outlined in [CRS and the USCCB's appropriations chart](#). The innovative programs that this funding supports can help ensure that decades of development gains are not lost during the COVID-19 pandemic.

BACKGROUND

Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Timeline

We continue to consider the annual budget process to have three key phases: prioritization, negotiation and finalization. Advocacy on the FY22 budget and appropriations process this month continues to fall into the negotiation phase, as members of Congress compromise to form budget proposals. This continues to be a critical time to ensure that the priorities you have advocated for are included in the Senate bills as subcommittees finalize their 12 bills.

COVID-19, Nutrition and CRS Programming

The quality and quantity of children's diets have been negatively impacted by COVID-19, such as reduced access to school feeding programs given school closures. A recent report in The Lancet estimated an additional 6.7 million children worldwide would suffer malnutrition and wasting because of COVID-19.¹² This would be in addition to the 47 million children affected by wasting and 144 million affected by stunting in 2019 before the pandemic, according to the 2020 Joint Malnutrition

¹ The Lancet. [Impacts of COVID-19 on childhood malnutrition and nutrition-related mortality](#). 27 July 2020.

² UNICEF. [UNICEF: An additional 6.7 million children under 5 could suffer from wasting this year due to COVID-19](#). 27 July 2020.

Estimates. COVID-19 has also led to disruptions of mass vitamin A and micronutrient supplementation efforts for pregnant and breastfeeding women and young children, as well as early detection and treatment for child malnutrition. As COVID-19 continues to spread around the world, CRS and our partners are adapting programs to new and existing needs. In 2019, CRS served more than 159 million people in 114 countries, partnering with the U.S. government to provide poverty-reducing foreign assistance, including food assistance, agriculture and nutrition programs. CRS addresses hunger and malnutrition through a multi-sector approach, implementing Feed the Future and Food for Peace projects that address the multi-faceted drivers of hunger to improve agricultural practices, provide livelihood opportunities and educate on nutrition.

CRS recognizes the interconnection of the spiritual, human, social, political, financial and physical aspects of people's lives. For families and communities to fully recover from crisis, the investment in comprehensive solutions is critical. The United States must prioritize a multi-sector approach that also addresses global climate change, which is one large driver of hunger and malnutrition. U.S. government investment in priority poverty-reducing areas supports the work of international organizations, such as Catholic Relief Services, and their local partners, to work with especially vulnerable communities to strengthen their preparedness, mitigate impact and loss and build their resilience.

World Food Day

We celebrate World Food Day on October 16. Continuing to advocate on the FY22 budget and appropriations process works to ensure that families around the world, like the Rasoanandrasana family, can find greater food security for their family with education and practicing new habits. Read more about Labaladezy and Frankline's experience with CRS programming in Madagascar that is funded by the Title II: Food for Peace account [here](#). Currently, around 1.14 million people in the deep south of Madagascar are hungry, with 14,000 experiencing famine conditions. U.S. investment has allowed CRS Madagascar to give food to over 220,000 people and provide nutrition counseling and monitoring to over 25,000 children.³

TAKE ACTION: Email your Senators

- 1. Go to the website of your U.S. Senators and see how they want to be emailed** (e.g., by filling out an online form or by emailing a specific email address from the website).
- 2. Introduction:** Provide personal information to root yourself in the community (e.g., I am active in my local parish, I volunteer at our local food bank, etc.) and briefly share why this issue matters to you. Share connections to your faith, activities you're involved with in your community to help children and families, etc.
- 3. Express gratitude to your U.S. Senators:** Express gratitude for something related to global poverty or for their service in Congress. You can express gratitude that Congress provided \$10.8 billion of emergency funding in the American Rescue Plan for the international response to COVID-19.
- 4. Make the ask:** Urge them to speak with Senators Christopher Coons (D-DE) and Lindsey Graham (R-SC), the respective Chair and Ranking Member of the Senate State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs subcommittee. Ask them to urge SFOPS leadership to increase international humanitarian and development funding in Fiscal Year 2022. [The accounts which do this are enumerated in the [CRS/USCCB appropriations chart](#).] We strongly urge Congress to maintain the Helms Amendment in Fiscal Year 2022 appropriations, which prohibits the use of U.S. funded foreign assistance for abortion.
- 5. Provide some background to support your argument:** In your own words, share why it is important that the United States is a global leader in funding international humanitarian and development aid and how this funding addresses the root causes of issues, such as hunger and malnutrition, through innovative and sustainable programs.
- 6. Repeat the 'ask', say thank you, and request a response:** Leave your name, address, phone number and email address so the office can get back to you with their decision.

³ Catholic Relief Services. [CRS in Madagascar](#).

