We urge members of Congress to prioritize timely passage of the Farm Bill, including reauthorizing life-saving hunger reducing international programs, specifically Food for Peace Title II, McGovern-Dole Food for Education, Farmer-to-Farmer and Food for Progress, including:

- Increasing flexibility for non-emergency Title II Food for Peace development programming by:
  - Making U.S. commodities in non-emergency programs a programming option—rather than a requirement—to allow implementing partners to tailor activities specifically to the needs of the community and;
  - Combining the authorizations under Section 202(e) and ITSH of the Food for Peace Act, thereby maintaining congressional oversight of funds while streamlining budgeting and lessening the administrative burden for implementing partners.
- Increasing the amount of funding set aside for local and regional procurement within the McGovern-Dole Food for Education program to enable programming that better supports local farmers regionally and within communities. Additionally, capacity-building support for farmers should be incorporated into the local and regional procurement component of McGovern-Dole.

**FARM BILL INTERNATIONAL AID AND DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE:**

- Provides life-saving emergency aid to millions of people experiencing hunger and malnutrition.
- Builds capacity, self-sufficiency and resiliency within communities, decreasing the need for future humanitarian assistance.
- Increases child literacy rates and improves nutritional outcomes through school meal programs.
- Builds a pathway towards resiliency so that communities can once again provide for themselves and thrive.
- Supports smallholder farmers and strengthens agricultural sectors, promoting sustainable economic growth.

**Contact Information:**

Ari Shaw-Obasogie, Senior Policy and Legislative Specialist, Catholic Relief Services
ari.shaw@crs.org