

AMERICA'S ROLE IN ENDING GLOBAL HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION THROUGH:

INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURE AND FOOD ASSISTANCE

Updated February 2019



**FOOD FOR
THE HUNGRY**

USAID'S FOOD FOR PEACE

The people of the United States have responded to and prevented chronic and acute hunger overseas for more than 60 years by supporting Food for Peace. Food for Peace administers several U.S. international poverty-focused relief and development assistance programs that reduce hunger and malnutrition, ensure food security through agricultural and livelihoods development, and mitigate the impacts of disasters, like drought and conflict, in some of the most vulnerable communities around the world. These programs help build more stable communities, and ensure families are able to live healthy and productive lives. Food for Peace is the U.S. government's largest international food and agriculture assistance platform, which has responded to the needs of more than four billion people with lifesaving food assistance since its inception in 1954.

Food for Peace: Title II Emergency Food Assistance

Authorizing Legislation:	Title II of the Food for Peace Act, most recently in the 2018 "Farm Bill" (Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018)
Funding Committee:	House and Senate Appropriations (Agriculture Subcommittee)
U.S. Account:	Title II of the Food for Peace Act
FH Partnership:	FH implements this program in areas of Ethiopia suffering from severe drought

In an emergency, when people are facing the threat of severe hunger or starvation, Food for Peace's Emergency Food Assistance program has been the primary vehicle for providing food assistance. Currently, Food for Peace is responding to unprecedented needs worldwide including 821 million hungry people, over 68 million people forced from their homes - more than any other time period since WWII, as well as providing humanitarian relief to the 85 million people suffering from near-famine conditions.

In response to natural disasters, crises, and other conflicts around the world, U.S.-grown food commodities – usually grains, pulses, and vegetable oil – are shipped and delivered to feed affected communities through public or private agencies, including intergovernmental organizations like the U.N.'s World Food Programme. In emergencies, USAID can utilize up to 100,000 tons of food commodities from prepositioned warehouses at the U.S. Gulf post and additional sites overseas to expedite the U.S.'s response to an emergency situation. However, sometimes even prepositioned food will not arrive quickly enough to address the needs depending on where the emergency is located, the level of need the emergency triggers, or whether there is access to the populations in need. That is why the 2014 Farm Bill expanded this program's flexibility, enabling use of funds for alternative market-based food access approaches that complement traditional U.S.-produced food commodities. **In recent years, Food for the Hungry (FH) has implemented Food for Peace's Emergency Food Assistance Program in Ethiopia, Mozambique, Guatemala, and Kenya.**

Food for Peace: Title II Non-Emergency Assistance (Development Food Security Activities)

Authorizing Legislation:	Title II of the Food for Peace Act, most recently in the 2018 “Farm Bill” (Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018)
Funding Committee:	House and Senate Appropriations (Agriculture Subcommittee)
U.S. Account:	Title II of the Food for Peace Act
FH Partnership:	FH implements the Development Food Security Activities Program (DFSA) in Ethiopia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The DFSA is a multiyear, multisectoral development assistance program designed to address the root causes of food insecurity. Intended to reach vulnerable people living in poor and fragile settings, Food for Peace implements the DFSA program in communities that have the greatest need based on extreme poverty indicators. The DFSA program strategically focuses on addressing the underlying causes of hunger and malnutrition for pregnant women, new mothers, and children during the critical “1,000 day” period - the time between conception and a child’s second birthday - in order to maximize effectiveness. It also strengthens and diversifies small scale farmers’ agricultural productivity, increases and diversifies household incomes and livelihoods, and helps ensure adequate, safe, and nutritious food is available, accessible, and well-utilized. In addition, the DFSA program reduces the risk and effects of shocks and disasters, like drought, by helping communities build resilience and long-term sustainability. Since DFSAs are typically five years in length, implementors have adequate time to equip communities with knowledge and tools that will enable them to manage their own food security and livelihoods’ futures and achieve positive community results – such as improved land resource management, agriculture techniques, community health strengthening, and local market development.

In addition, the program utilizes food assistance tools including direct, in-kind food assistance from the U.S. These food commodities are grown by farmers in the U.S., sold to the U.S. government, and then shipped overseas to feed people suffering from food insecurity. In order to improve efficiency and effectiveness, the program has partially expanded to allow for limited incorporation of market-based approaches, which complement U.S. food commodities. These include local and regional procurement of food, cash transfers, and food vouchers which are chosen if appropriate, feasible, cost efficient, and meet the program objective. The availability of diverse and flexible tools helps combat hunger and malnutrition and ensures food security in the long term, thereby reducing the need for future assistance. The DFSA program is implemented in partnership with Private Voluntary Organizations (deemed officially by USAID) and international organizations. **Currently, FH implements USAID’s Food for Peace DFSAs in Ethiopia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.**

Emergency Food Security Program (EFSP)

Authorizing Legislation:	Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended by the Global Food Security Act of 2016
Funding Committee:	House and Senate Appropriations (State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs (SFOPs) subcommittee)
U.S. Account:	International Disaster Assistance
FH Partnership:	FH has implemented this program in Haiti and Mozambique.

Effective emergency food assistance is a critical lifeline for millions of people in the wake of natural disasters and conflicts. USAID's Office of Food for Peace also implements the Emergency Food Security Program designed to complement Food for Peace's Title II Emergency Food Assistance.

This program is employed on a case-by-case basis when in-kind food assistance is either unavailable or impractical, and has reduced the suffering of millions of people on the brink of disaster. Through the EFSP, beneficiaries receive local or regionally procured food, food vouchers, or cash transfers to purchase food. These timesaving, alternative modalities provide flexibility in order to supply urgent food assistance that will reach those who need it most. Providing cash-based, emergency food assistance instead of U.S. food commodities when market conditions make cash-based assistance a faster and more cost-effective option is an excellent option in certain circumstances. As an example, the EFSP has been an instrumental tool in the U.S. government's emergency response to the armed conflict in Syria where it has not been possible to provide U.S.-produced commodities to feed civilians affected by the conflict. **FH has partnered with the U.S. government to implement the Emergency Food Security Program in Mozambique and Haiti.**

USDA'S FOOD SECURITY, EDUCATION, AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

USDA – Title II Food for Progress

Authorizing Legislation:	Title I of the 1985 Farm Bill (Food Security Act of 1985), and most recently in the 2018 "Farm Bill" (Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018)
Funding Committee:	Mandatory funding through the Farm Bill (i.e. doesn't rely on annual appropriations)
U.S. Account:	U.S. Commodity Credit Corporation
FH Partnership:	FH has implemented Food for Progress in Bolivia

Established in 1985, Food for Progress seeks to improve agricultural sectors and expand the trade of agricultural products in prioritized developing countries and emerging democracies. The program helps

developing countries become more food secure, increases incomes, and expands markets for American producers.¹ To achieve this, U.S.-produced agricultural commodities are sold in developing countries' foreign markets, and proceeds from those sales are used to support agriculture, economic, and infrastructure development activities. These activities include training farmers in animal and plant health and improved farming methods; developing road and utility systems; developing agriculture value chains; and providing microcredit. **Food for Progress has reached more than 5.5 million people, and in the last 3 years alone, 174,000 individuals from developing countries have been trained in improved agricultural techniques and productivity.**

Private volunteer organizations, foreign governments, universities, and intergovernmental organizations partner with the USDA to implement the program. For example, Land O'Lakes International Development and Cornell University currently implement Food for Progress projects in Bangladesh; the government of Mali and the Aga Khan Foundation have implemented Food for Progress projects in Mali; and Lutheran World Relief and Catholic Relief Services have implemented Food for Progress projects in Burkina Faso. Food for Progress's focus on agricultural development is critical as global food security demands continue to increase. By 2050, it is predicted that global food production will need to increase by 70 percent², while agricultural yields are predicted to decrease due to climate change by at least 10 percent.³ **FH has implemented Food for Progress in Bolivia.**

McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Nutrition Program

Authorizing Legislation:	2002 "Farm Bill" (Farm Security and Rural Investment Act), most recently in the 2018 "Farm Bill" (Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018)
Funding Committee:	House and Senate Appropriations (Agriculture Subcommittee)
U.S. Account:	McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Nutrition

The McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Nutrition Program is an international school feeding and nutrition program established in 2002, which promotes education and literacy, child development, and food security in low-income, food deficit countries. Authorized by the Farm Bill, the program provides school meals comprised of U.S.-produced commodities in food insecure countries, while also utilizing local and regionally grown food through USDA's local and regional procurement programming. The incorporation of homegrown food encourages local agricultural production and market development, which is good for the economy. The program also trains teachers and empowers girls - since serving nutritious meals at school increases the likelihood girls will attend. The program is currently active in 24 countries, and has reached 40 million children and families. **In 2017 alone, the program fed 1 million children and their families.**

¹ For example, there was 153 percent growth of US agricultural exports from 2005 to 2015 in developing countries, as compared to 83 percent in developed countries.

² Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations: http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/wsfs/docs/Issues_papers/HLEF2050_Global_Agriculture.pdf

³ This practice is referred to as "monetization."

U.S. MULTI-AGENCY FOOD SECURITY & AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

Feed the Future

Authorizing Legislation:	Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (implemented under broad authority)
Funding Committee:	House and Senate Appropriations (State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs (SFOPs) subcommittee)
U.S. Account:	Development Assistance

Feed the Future is a multiagency food security and agriculture development initiative, which is part of the U.S.'s whole-of-government Global Food Security Strategy. Feed the Future is intended to address global food production needs in some of the most underdeveloped countries of the world that have growing populations. This program is critical since it is estimated that global food production will need to increase by 70 percent by 2050⁴ in order for adequate food supplies to support a growing global population.

Feed the Future aligns its efforts with targeted developing countries, and together they create country-specific investment plans in order to help build the country's technical capacity. In addition to helping national governments' food security strategies, Feed the Future works with nongovernmental, civil society, and faith-based organizations, along with U.S. academic and research institutions, U.S. businesses and farmers, and multilateral institutions in order to increase food and nutrition security in U.S.-targeted developing countries. The initiative does this through nutrition interventions, improved agricultural production, capacity building for small holder farmers (especially female farmers), markets and business development, and private sector competition. The initiative connects farmers to markets, boosts their income, and improves families' access to nutritious food, while also emphasizing the importance of resilience building, gender integration, and research and capacity building.

Feed the Future strategically focuses on improving nutrition for pregnant women, new mothers, and children during the critical "1,000 day" period – the time between conception and a child's second birthday - in order to maximize effectiveness. The initiative emphasizes synergy across health, agriculture, and social protection sectors since improving nutrition requires a multisectoral approach. Although Feed the Future is less than ten years old, impressive results have already been achieved. **Feed the Future has reached more than 9 million individuals, and on average, poverty has dropped 23 percent and child stunting has decreased by 32 percent in targeted regions within twelve focus countries.**⁵

⁴ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations: http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/wsfs/docs/Issues_papers/HLEF2050_Global_Agriculture.pdf

⁵ <https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1867/2018-fff-snapshot.pdf>

NUTRITION WITHIN GLOBAL HEALTH PROGRAMS ACCOUNT

Nutrition Sub-Account

- Authorizing Legislation:** Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (as amended)
- Funding Committee:** House and Senate Appropriations (State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs (SFOPs) subcommittee)
- U.S. Account:** Global Health Programs (USAID)

The Nutrition sub-account within the Global Health Program account provides the bulk of the U.S. government’s high-impact, nutrition-specific investments each year. The Nutrition sub-account supports treating chronic and acute malnutrition. It also ensures young children and mothers have access to nutritious food in order to grow and thrive, which is especially critical during the first 1,000 days between conception and her child’s second birthday. The sub-account funds programs that promote nutrition education, especially for pregnant women and mothers. Education training emphasizes the importance of proper nutrition during pregnancy, exclusive breastfeeding, as well as improved infant and young child feeding practices. Since malnutrition requires a multisectoral response, support for this sub-account alone will not adequately address global malnutrition. Therefore, the U.S. government should also ensure that robust investments are made in other areas such as water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) and maternal, newborn, and child health funding and programs.