

107TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4073

To amend the Microenterprise for Self-Reliance Act of 2000 and the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to increase assistance for the poorest people in developing countries under microenterprise assistance programs under those Acts, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 20, 2002

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

A BILL

To amend the Microenterprise for Self-Reliance Act of 2000 and the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to increase assistance for the poorest people in developing countries under microenterprise assistance programs under those Acts, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENTS TO THE MICROENTERPRISE FOR**
4 **SELF-RELIANCE ACT OF 2000.**

5 (a) PURPOSES.—Section 103 of the Microenterprise
6 for Self-Reliance Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–309) is
7 amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (4), by striking “and” at the
2 end;

3 (2) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at
4 the end and inserting “; and”; and

5 (3) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(6) to encourage the United States Agency for
7 International Development to develop, assess, and
8 implement effective outreach methods and tools to
9 ensure that at least 50 percent of all microenterprise
10 assistance authorized under this title, and the
11 amendments made by this title, are used to assist
12 the poorest of the poor.”.

13 (b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 104 of such Act is
14 amended by adding at the end the following:

15 “(5) POOREST OF THE POOR.—The terms
16 ‘poorest of the poor’ and ‘poorest people in devel-
17 oping countries’ means those persons living in the
18 bottom 50 percent below the poverty line as estab-
19 lished by the national government of the country or
20 those persons whose average daily living expenses
21 are equal to, or less than, the equivalent of \$1 per
22 day.”.

23 (c) USAID AS GLOBAL LEADER AND COORDINATOR
24 OF BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL MICROENTERPRISE
25 ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES.—Section 109 of the Microenter-

1 prise for Self-Reliance Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–309)
2 is amended by adding at the end the following:

3 “(c) ROLE OF PEACE CORPS IN PROMOTING THE
4 USE OF MICROENTERPRISE OPPORTUNITIES.—The Ad-
5 ministrator of the United States Agency for International
6 Development, in conjunction with the Director of the
7 Peace Corps, shall take the following actions to increase
8 the involvement of the Peace Corps in microenterprise ini-
9 tiatives:

10 “(1) Ensure that the training of all Peace
11 Corps volunteers after the effective date of this sub-
12 section includes, where appropriate, basic instruction
13 in how to promote, implement, and utilize micro-
14 enterprise initiatives and the use of poverty assess-
15 ment tools.

16 “(2) Establish a specialized training program
17 for Peace Corps volunteers under which the volun-
18 teers are able to acquire specialized knowledge and
19 skills about microenterprise, with an emphasis on
20 how to train indigenous persons to successfully de-
21 velop, organize, implement, and manage a micro-
22 enterprise program.

23 “(3) Establish, as a goal of the Peace Corps,
24 that at least 50 percent of all Peace Corps volun-
25 teers trained during calendar year 2004 and each

1 subsequent calendar year will receive basic instruc-
2 tion in how to promote, implement, and utilize
3 microenterprise initiatives and use of poverty assess-
4 ment tools.”.

5 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE MICROENTERPRISE DEVEL-**
6 **OPMENT GRANT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**
7 **UNDER THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF**
8 **1961.**

9 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—Section 131(b)(3) of such Act
10 (22 U.S.C. 2152a(b)(3)) is amended in the first sentence
11 by inserting at the end before the period the following:
12 “or whose average daily living expenses are equal to, or
13 less than, \$1 per day”.

14 (b) MONITORING SYSTEM.—Section 131(c) of such
15 Act (22 U.S.C. 2152a(c)) is amended—

16 (1) in paragraph (3), by striking “and” at the
17 end;

18 (2) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at
19 the end and inserting “; and”; and

20 (3) by adding at the end the following:

21 “(5) adopts the widespread use of proven and
22 effective poverty assessment tools to successfully
23 identify the poorest of the poor and ensure that they
24 receive needed microenterprise credits, loans, and as-
25 sistance, including the use of—

1 “(A) the Participatory Wealth Ranking
2 (‘PWR’);

3 “(B) the CASHPOR House Index (‘CHI’);

4 “(C) other poverty assessment tools devel-
5 oped by USAID and determined to be appro-
6 priate by the Administrator; or

7 “(D) any combination of poverty assess-
8 ment tools described in subparagraphs (A)
9 through (C).”.

10 (c) LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE.—Section 131(d) of such
11 Act (22 U.S.C. 2152a(d)) is amended by inserting “and
12 \$200,000,000 for fiscal year 2003 and \$225,000,000 for
13 fiscal year 2004” after “fiscal years 2001 and 2002”.

14 (d) DEFINITIONS.—Section 131(e) of such Act (22
15 U.S.C. 2152a(e)) is amended by adding at the end the
16 following:

17 “(5) POOREST OF THE POOR.—The terms
18 ‘poorest of the poor’ and ‘poorest people in devel-
19 oping countries’ means those persons living in the
20 bottom 50 percent below the poverty line as estab-
21 lished by the national government of the country or
22 those persons whose average daily living expenses
23 are equal to, or less than, the equivalent of \$1 per
24 day.”.

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