

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5656

To authorize the Feed the Future Initiative to reduce global poverty and hunger in developing countries on a sustainable basis, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 18, 2014

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself and Ms. MCCOLLUM) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To authorize the Feed the Future Initiative to reduce global poverty and hunger in developing countries on a sustainable basis, 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Feed the Future Glob-
5 al Food Security Act of 2014”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) For more than 60 years, the United States
9 has provided consistent global leadership in address-
10 ing food security and investing in agricultural devel-

1 opment, research, innovation and humanitarian as-
2 sistance, particularly in Africa, Latin America and
3 South Asia.

4 (2) Nevertheless, according to the January
5 2014 Worldwide Threat Assessment of the United
6 States Intelligence Community report, “lack of ade-
7 quate food will be a destabilizing factor in countries
8 important to United States national security that do
9 not have the financial or technical abilities to solve
10 their internal food security problems,” and “food
11 and nutrition insecurity in weakly governed coun-
12 tries might also provide opportunities for insurgent
13 groups to capitalize on poor conditions, exploit inter-
14 national food aid, and discredit governments for
15 their inability to address basic needs”.

16 (3) According to the most recent estimates of
17 the Food and Agriculture Organization of the
18 United Nations, globally more than 805,000,000
19 people suffer from chronic hunger. In addition, ap-
20 proximately 165,000,000 (or 1 in 4) children under
21 the age of 5 are stunted, with 80 percent of the
22 world’s stunted children living in just 14 countries.
23 Mounting evidence from several peer-reviewed stud-
24 ies provide compelling evidence that undernutrition
25 during the critical first 1,000 day window until age

1 two leads to stunting, a lifelong condition of poor
2 health, impaired cognitive and physical development,
3 and diminished productivity.

4 (4) The provision of folic acid as a supplement
5 to women of childbearing years has resulted in bene-
6 fits, including a reduction in incidents of autism in
7 some populations.

8 (5) The African Union Commission Cost of
9 Hunger in Africa study estimated that the economic
10 costs associated with child undernutrition are sub-
11 stantial—from 2 percent to 16 percent of the gross
12 national product (GNP) in several African nations.
13 For instance, this cost was estimated at
14 \$4,700,000,000 in Ethiopia in 2009 alone, which is
15 the equivalent of 16 percent of Ethiopia's GNP.

16 (6) The Feed the Future Initiative (FTF) is
17 the United States flagship global hunger and food
18 security program. The primary objectives of FTF
19 are to improve food security by increasing produc-
20 tivity and incomes as well as reducing hunger and
21 to improve nutrition among 140,000,000 of the
22 world's poorest people in 19 priority countries. Feed
23 the Future focuses on improving the lives of
24 smallholder farmers, especially women and children.

1 (7) FTF leverages partnerships with a wide
2 range of stakeholders—including private voluntary
3 organizations, universities, faith-based groups, inter-
4 national and domestic research organizations, com-
5 munity-based organizations and cooperatives—har-
6 nesses new innovations and technologies, builds local
7 capacity and sustainability, links to the global econ-
8 omy, and adheres to rigor, transparency and ac-
9 countability.

10 (8) Its whole-of-government approach to food
11 security brings together agriculture, economic
12 growth, trade facilitation, nutrition, development,
13 and humanitarian programs to achieve unprece-
14 dented results. For example, preliminary data indi-
15 cates child stunting rates in Ethiopia have declined
16 at a 3.3 percent annual rate over the past 3 years,
17 such that there are currently 160,000 fewer stunted
18 children in Ethiopia despite population growth over
19 this period.

20 (9) In 2013, FTF reached more than 7,000,000
21 farmers and other food producers resulting in the
22 employment of new technologies and management
23 practices on more than 4,000,000 hectares of land.
24 Also in 2013, the initiative reached more than
25 12,500,000 children with high impact nutrition

1 interventions such as micronutrient supplementation
2 improving both health and development.

3 (10) To increase responsible private agricultural
4 investment, private sector executives and African
5 leaders launched the New Alliance for Food Security
6 and Nutrition (New Alliance). Since 2012, the New
7 Alliance has expanded from three to ten African
8 countries and approximately 180 African and inter-
9 national companies have committed to investing over
10 \$10,000,000,000 in African agriculture.

11 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

12 It is the sense of Congress that United States efforts
13 to end extreme global poverty should build upon the
14 progress and successes of the Feed the Future Initiative
15 in supporting agricultural development and addressing
16 chronic hunger and malnutrition.

17 **SEC. 4. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

18 It is the policy of the United States—

19 (1) to reduce global poverty and hunger
20 through a comprehensive food security and nutrition
21 strategy known as the Feed the Future Initiative
22 (FTF);

23 (2) to implement FTF using a whole of govern-
24 ment approach;

1 (3) to promote agricultural development to help
2 transform local economies, increase political sta-
3 bility, and expand trade;

4 (4) to focus on country-led agricultural prior-
5 ities in partnership with local governments, donor
6 organizations, multilateral institutions, the private
7 sector, civil society, and international and university
8 research institutions in the United States;

9 (5) to increase the productivity, incomes and
10 livelihoods of small-scale producers, especially
11 women, by working across agricultural value chains
12 and expanding farmer access to local and inter-
13 national markets;

14 (6) to promote secure and transparent land
15 rights in order to enable responsible investment in
16 agriculture;

17 (7) to target research, develop new technologies,
18 utilize extension agents, and improve post-harvest
19 storage in order to reduce food waste;

20 (8) to improve the nutrition of women and chil-
21 dren, with a focus on reducing child stunting;

22 (9) to expand access to diverse and quality
23 foods and enhance nutrition-related behaviors that
24 improve maternal and child health; and

1 (10) to increase the resilience of vulnerable
2 communities and households by building capacity in
3 safety nets and decreasing the need for emergency
4 assistance.

5 **SEC. 5. ASSISTANCE TO REDUCE GLOBAL POVERTY AND**
6 **HUNGER IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ON A**
7 **SUSTAINABLE AND GLOBAL BASIS.**

8 (a) ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—The President, acting
10 through the heads of the relevant Federal depart-
11 ments and agencies specified in paragraph (2), shall
12 provide assistance to reduce poverty and hunger in
13 developing countries. To the extent consistent with
14 the requirements of this Act, such assistance should
15 be provided in accordance with the terms and condi-
16 tions of the Federal program known as the “Feed
17 the Future Initiative” (as such program was in ef-
18 fect on the day before the date of the enactment of
19 this Act).

20 (2) RELEVANT FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS AND
21 AGENCIES.—The relevant Federal departments and
22 agencies specified in this paragraph are the United
23 States Agency for International Development, the
24 Department of Agriculture, the Department of Com-
25 merce, the Department of State, the Department of

1 the Treasury, the Millennium Challenge Corporation,
2 the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, the
3 Peace Corps, the Office of the United States Trade
4 Representative, the United States African Develop-
5 ment Foundation, the United States Geological Sur-
6 vey, and any other department or agency specified
7 by the President for purposes of this paragraph.

8 (3) PROVISIONS OF LAW.—Assistance author-
9 ized under this subsection that is provided pursuant
10 to the authorities of section 103, section 103A, title
11 XII of chapter 2 of part I, and chapter 4 of part
12 II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C.
13 2151a, 2151a–1, 2220a et seq., and 2346 et seq.)
14 may be provided notwithstanding any other provision
15 of law.

16 (4) REFERENCE.—Assistance authorized under
17 this subsection may be referred to as the “Feed the
18 Future Initiative”.

19 (b) COORDINATION.—The President, acting through
20 the Administrator of the United States Agency for Inter-
21 national Development, shall coordinate the efforts of the
22 relevant Federal departments and agencies under sub-
23 section (a).

1 (c) STRATEGIC APPROACH.—Assistance authorized
2 under subsection (a) should be provided under a strategic
3 approach that—

4 (1) prioritizes the overarching dual objectives;

5 (A) increasing agricultural productivity, in-
6 come, and economic growth, with a strong em-
7 phasis on small-scale producers; and

8 (B) improving nutrition, especially of
9 women and children;

10 (2) takes a whole-of-government approach of
11 Federal departments and agencies that engage in
12 some aspect of food security, nutrition security, and
13 agricultural development;

14 (3) is driven by country strategies, ownership,
15 and engagement;

16 (4) harnesses science, technology, and innova-
17 tion;

18 (5) leverages unique partnerships in develop-
19 ment, including farmers' organizations, cooperatives,
20 the private sector, civil society and faith-based orga-
21 nizations, research entities, and academic institu-
22 tions;

23 (6) has a strong focus on women's economic
24 empowerment and nutrition;

1 (7) builds capacity of local organizations and
2 institutions;

3 (8) integrates and strengthens resilience ap-
4 proaches to ensure that chronically vulnerable popu-
5 lations are linked to market systems and longer-term
6 economic growth opportunities;

7 (9) supports and seeks to align with country-
8 owned agriculture, nutrition, and food security policy
9 and investment plans developed with input from rel-
10 evant governmental and non-governmental sectors
11 within partner countries and regional bodies, includ-
12 ing representatives of the private sector, small-scale
13 producers, and international and local civil society
14 and faith-based organizations;

15 (10) gives consideration to integrating agricul-
16 tural development activities among food insecure
17 populations living in proximity to designated na-
18 tional parks or wildlife areas to support wildlife con-
19 servation efforts;

20 (11) engages, when appropriate, the expertise of
21 United States institutions of higher education in col-
22 laboration with public and private institutions in de-
23 veloping countries; and

1 (12) assesses criteria to determine where agri-
2 cultural development assistance is no longer re-
3 quired.

4 (d) REQUIREMENTS.—Assistance authorized under
5 subsection (a) should meet the following requirements:

6 (1) Be consistent with a country-led, multilat-
7 eral, accountable process, and a comprehensive ap-
8 proach to agricultural development, nutrition, and
9 resilience.

10 (2) Maintain an emphasis on the cross-cutting
11 issues of nutrition, land tenure, research, technology
12 innovation, and supporting women farmers.

13 (3) Engage strong partnerships with the private
14 sector, educational institutions, and civil society and
15 faith-based organizations.

16 (4) Build the capacity of local organizations
17 and institutions.

18 (5) Develop community and farmer resiliency to
19 natural disasters, emergencies, and natural occur-
20 rences that adversely impact agricultural yield.

21 (e) MONITORING AND EVALUATION.—Assistance au-
22 thorized under subsection (a) should be provided under es-
23 tablished parameters for a rigorous accountability system
24 to monitor and evaluate progress and impact, including

1 by reporting to Congress and the public on an annual
2 basis.

3 **SEC. 6. REPORT.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President, acting through the
5 Administrator of the United States Agency for Inter-
6 national Development, should submit to Congress an an-
7 nual report that details, by fiscal year, the programs and
8 activities carried out under this Act.

9 (b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The report requested by
11 subsection (a) shall include a summary of significant
12 issues and developments, the outlook for the next
13 fiscal year, an analysis of performance and effective-
14 ness against the results framework, and details of
15 results and activities with respect to the programs
16 and related subject areas described in paragraph
17 (2).

18 (2) PROGRAMS AND RELATED SUBJECT AREAS
19 DESCRIBED.—The programs and issues described in
20 this paragraph are the following:

21 (A) Country and regional programs.

22 (B) Global and multilateral programs.

23 (C) Nutrition integration.

24 (D) Women's economic empowerment.

1 (E) Stakeholder engagement, including list
2 of partner organizations and description of
3 their respective roles.

4 (F) Management and accountability.

5 (G) Participation and research by United
6 States and developing country institutions of
7 higher education.

8 (H) Policy and program management.

9 (I) Areas related to private investment in
10 developing countries and the impact of private
11 sector investment on economic opportunities
12 and income of small-scale producers.

13 (c) ADDITIONAL MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The
14 report requested by subsection (a) should provide account-
15 able and transparent information on United States Gov-
16 ernment performance under this Act.

17 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

18 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Presi-
19 dent to carry out this Act, for each of the fiscal years
20 2015, 2016, and 2017, an amount equal to the amount
21 of funds made available for food security and agricultural
22 development programs for fiscal year 2014 under section
23 7060(d) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations,

- 1 and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2014 (division
- 2 K of Public Law 113–76; 128 Stat. 554).

