

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2909

To authorize a comprehensive strategic approach for United States foreign assistance to developing countries to end extreme global poverty and hunger, achieve food and nutrition security, promote enduring, long-term, agricultural-led economic growth, improve nutritional outcomes, especially for women and children, build resilient, adaptive, local capacity of vulnerable populations, and for other related purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 18, 2014

Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. JOHANNES, Mr. COONS, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. BOOZMAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To authorize a comprehensive strategic approach for United States foreign assistance to developing countries to end extreme global poverty and hunger, achieve food and nutrition security, promote enduring, long-term, agricultural-led economic growth, improve nutritional outcomes, especially for women and children, build resilient, adaptive, local capacity of vulnerable populations, and for other related purposes.

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

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Global Food Security
3 Act of 2014”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress makes the following findings:

6 (1) According to the Food and Agriculture Or-
7 ganization (FAO), 805,000,000 people worldwide
8 suffer from chronic hunger. Hunger and malnutri-
9 tion rob people of health and productive lives and
10 stunt the mental and physical development of future
11 generations.

12 (2) According to the January 2014 Worldwide
13 Threat Assessment of the United States Intelligence
14 Community report, the “[l]ack of adequate food will
15 be a destabilizing factor in countries important to
16 U.S. national security that do not have the financial
17 or technical abilities to solve their internal food secu-
18 rity problems” and “[f]ood and nutrition insecurity
19 in weakly governed countries might also provide op-
20 portunities for insurgent groups to capitalize on poor
21 conditions, exploit international food aid, and dis-
22 credit governments for their inability to address
23 basic needs”.

24 (3) Decades of research have shown that there
25 are multiple underlying causes of food insecurity and
26 poor nutrition, including the lack of availability of,

1 access to, and consumption of nutritious food, lim-
2 ited investments to improve agricultural produc-
3 tivity, insufficient value chains and market develop-
4 ment for farmers, including small-scale producers,
5 leading to post-harvest loss, and weak institutions in
6 government and civil society.

7 (4) Agriculture, which comprises large portions
8 of the total labor force in many developing countries,
9 is an essential component of inclusive economic
10 growth. According to the World Bank's 2008 World
11 Development Report, growth in the agricultural sec-
12 tor has been twice as effective in reducing poverty
13 as growth in other sectors.

14 (5) Women, who are often heads of households
15 and small farmers, are especially vulnerable to food
16 insecurity. Women frequently face stricter con-
17 straints than men in accessing markets and re-
18 sources. In its 2010–2011 report, the FAO esti-
19 mated that if women farmers had the same access
20 to inputs as men, they could increase their farm
21 yields by 20 to 30 percent. According to the FAO,
22 this “could raise total agricultural output in devel-
23 oping countries by 2.5–4 percent”.

24 (6) More than 165,000,000 children younger
25 than 5 years of age, and 1 in 3 women in the devel-

1 oping world, suffer from malnutrition, which leads to
2 severe health and developmental consequences.

3 (7) Malnutrition can undermine future earning
4 potential by as much as 20 percent and can inhibit
5 economic growth by as much as 3 percent of gross
6 domestic product (GDP). The African Union Com-
7 mission Cost of Hunger in Africa study estimated
8 that the economic costs associated with child under-
9 nutrition are substantial, ranging from 2 percent to
10 16 percent of the gross national product (GNP) in
11 several African nations.

12 (8) Research shows that adults who suffered
13 from stunting as children are less productive than
14 nonstunted workers and are less able to contribute
15 to the economy. According to Save the Children's
16 2013 Food for Thought report, if the current mal-
17 nutrition rates continue, global output could be re-
18 duced by \$125,000,000,000 by 2030, when the
19 young children of today have reached working age.

20 (9) A comprehensive approach to enduring
21 food security should not only respond to emergency
22 food shortages, but should also address malnutrition,
23 resilience against food and nutrition insecurity due
24 to disasters, building the capacity of poor, rural pop-
25 ulations to improve their agricultural productivity,

1 nutrition, and incomes, institutional impediments to
2 agricultural development, value chain access and ef-
3 ficiency, agribusiness development, access to markets
4 for the specific needs and barriers facing women and
5 small-scale producers, education, and cooperative re-
6 search.

7 (10) An effective, sustainable approach to com-
8 bating food insecurity requires participation from
9 multiple stakeholders, including government, the pri-
10 vate sector, international organizations, local and
11 nongovernmental stakeholders, grassroots and civil
12 society organizations, and higher education research
13 institutions.

14 (11) Nongovernmental organizations, faith-
15 based groups, community-based organizations, and
16 cooperatives can increase the effectiveness of public
17 investments by building local capacity, strengthening
18 food and nutrition security and resilience, and
19 leveraging additional resources.

20 (12) The United States has provided consistent
21 global leadership in addressing food security and in-
22 vesting in agricultural development and humani-
23 tarian assistance. In 2010, the United States Gov-
24 ernment launched Feed the Future (FTF), an initia-
25 tive designed to expand and better coordinate the

1 United States investments in improving global food
2 security. FTF is a whole-of-government approach
3 that works across agricultural value chains and fo-
4 cuses on the dual objectives of improving farmer
5 productivity, income, and livelihoods in developing
6 countries and improving the nutrition of women and
7 children.

8 (13) The United States Government spear-
9 headed the creation of the Global Agriculture and
10 Food Security Program (GAFSP), which mobilizes
11 contributions from a wide range of international do-
12 nors to support the goals of FTF. Since 2010, the
13 GAFSP has leveraged approximately \$730,000,000
14 from 10 donors and reached an estimated
15 12,000,000 direct beneficiaries in 25 countries.

16 **SEC. 3. POLICY OBJECTIVES; SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

17 (a) STATEMENT OF POLICY OBJECTIVES.—It is in
18 the national security interest of the United States to pro-
19 mote global food and nutrition security, consistent with
20 national agriculture investment plans, which is reinforced
21 through programs, activities, and initiatives that—

22 (1) eradicate hunger and malnutrition, espe-
23 cially for women and children;

1 (2) assist foreign countries to achieve long-
2 term, enduring, and inclusive agricultural develop-
3 ment by emphasizing—

4 (A) increased agricultural productivity, in-
5 come, and growth;

6 (B) reduction in poverty; and

7 (C) improved skills building and market
8 linkages, including for small-scale producers
9 and women who face specific constraints in ac-
10 cessing markets and resources; and

11 (3) ensure the effective use of United States
12 taxpayer dollars to further these objectives.

13 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the
14 Congress that the Administrator, in providing assistance
15 under this Act, should—

16 (1) coordinate, through a whole-of-government
17 approach, the efforts of relevant Federal depart-
18 ments and agencies to implement the strategy set
19 forth in section 5(a);

20 (2) utilize, to the extent possible, open and
21 streamlined solicitations to allow for the participa-
22 tion of a wide range of implementing partners;

23 (3) consider the provision of assistance through
24 the most appropriate contracting mechanism, wheth-

1 er it be grants, cooperative agreements, or contracts,
2 in order to best meet objectives; and

3 (4) continue to strengthen existing partnerships
4 between developing country institutions of agricul-
5 tural sciences with universities in the United States,
6 with a focus on building the capacities of developing
7 nation universities in agriculture.

8 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

9 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
10 trator” means the Administrator of the United
11 States Agency for International Development.

12 (2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
13 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
14 mittees” means—

15 (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of
16 the Senate;

17 (B) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutri-
18 tion, and Forestry of the Senate;

19 (C) the Committee on Appropriations of
20 the Senate;

21 (D) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
22 the House of Representatives;

23 (E) the Committee on Agriculture of the
24 House of Representatives; and

1 (F) the Committee on Appropriations of
2 the House of Representatives.

3 (3) FEED THE FUTURE INNOVATION LABS.—
4 The term “Feed the Future Innovation Labs”
5 means research partnerships led by United States
6 universities that advance solutions to reduce global
7 hunger, poverty, and malnutrition.

8 (4) FEED THE FUTURE STRATEGY.—The term
9 “Feed the Future Strategy” means the strategy de-
10 veloped and implemented pursuant to section 5(a).

11 (5) FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY.—The
12 term “food and nutrition security” means access to,
13 and availability, utilization, and stability of, suffi-
14 cient food to meet caloric and nutritional needs for
15 an active and healthy life.

16 (6) MALNUTRITION.—The term “malnutrition”
17 means poor nutritional status caused by nutritional
18 deficiency or excess.

19 (7) RESILIENCE.—The term “resilience” means
20 the ability of people, households, communities, coun-
21 tries, and systems to mitigate, adapt to, and recover
22 from shocks and stresses in a manner that reduces
23 chronic vulnerability and facilitates inclusive growth.

24 (8) SMALL-SCALE PRODUCER.—The term
25 “small-scale producer” means farmers, pastoralists,

1 and fishers that have a low-asset base and limited
2 resources, including land, capital, skills and labor,
3 and, in the case of farmers, typically farm on fewer
4 than 5 hectares of land.

5 (9) STUNTING.—The term “stunting” refers to
6 a condition that—

7 (A) is measured by a height-to-age ratio
8 that is more than 2 standard deviations below
9 the median for the population;

10 (B) manifests in children who are younger
11 than 2 years of age, and is a process that can
12 continue in children after they reach 2 years of
13 age, resulting in an individual being “stunted”;

14 (C) is a sign of chronic malnutrition; and

15 (D) can lead to long-term poor health, de-
16 layed motor development, impaired cognitive
17 function, and decreased immunity.

18 **SEC. 5. COMPREHENSIVE FOOD SECURITY STRATEGY.**

19 (a) FEED THE FUTURE STRATEGY.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall co-
21 ordinate the development and implementation of a
22 United States whole-of-government strategy to ac-
23 complish the policy objectives set forth in section
24 3(a), which shall—

1 (A) support and be aligned with country-
2 owned agriculture, nutrition, and food security
3 policy and investment plans developed with
4 input from relevant governmental and non-
5 governmental sectors within partner countries
6 and regional bodies, including representatives of
7 the private sector, agricultural producers, in-
8 cluding women and small-scale producers, inter-
9 national and local civil society organizations, re-
10 search institutions, and farmers;

11 (B) support inclusive agricultural value
12 chain development, with producers, including
13 women and small-scale producers, gaining
14 greater access to the inputs, skills, networking,
15 bargaining power, financing, and market link-
16 ages needed to sustain their long-term economic
17 prosperity;

18 (C) seek to improve the nutritional status
19 of women and children, especially during the
20 critical 1,000-day window beginning at the be-
21 ginning of a woman's pregnancy and ending on
22 her child's second birthday;

23 (D) ensure the long-term success of pro-
24 grams by building the capacity of local organi-
25 zations and institutions;

1 (E) harness science, technology, and inno-
2 vation, including the research conducted at
3 Feed the Future Innovation Labs throughout
4 the United States;

5 (F) leverage resources and expertise
6 through partnerships with the private sector,
7 farm organizations, cooperatives, civil society,
8 research entities, and academic institutions;

9 (G) support collaboration, as appropriate,
10 between United States universities and public
11 and private institutions in developing countries
12 to promote agricultural development and inno-
13 vation;

14 (H) set clear and transparent selection cri-
15 teria for target countries, regions, and intended
16 beneficiaries of assistance provided under this
17 Act;

18 (I) set specific and measurable goals, tar-
19 gets, and time frames, and a plan of action con-
20 sistent with the policy objectives described in
21 the Feed the Future Strategy;

22 (J) ensure that target countries respect
23 and promote the lawful land tenure rights of
24 local communities, particularly those of women
25 and small-scale producers; and

1 (K) include criteria and methodology for
2 graduating countries from United States assist-
3 ance provided under this Act once the countries
4 have achieved certain benchmarks.

5 (2) GOVERNING LAW.—In carrying out the pur-
6 poses of this Act, assistance may be provided pursu-
7 ant to section 103, section 103A, title XII of chapter
8 2 of part I, and chapter 4 of part II of the Foreign
9 Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151a, 2151a-
10 1, 2220a et seq., and 2346 et seq.) notwithstanding
11 any other provision of law.

12 (b) FEED THE FUTURE COORDINATION.—The Ad-
13 ministrators shall coordinate, through a whole-of-govern-
14 ment approach, the efforts of relevant Federal depart-
15 ments and agencies in the implementation of the Feed the
16 Future Strategy by—

17 (1) establishing policy coherence, monitoring
18 and evaluation systems, and coordination across all
19 relevant United States Government agencies;

20 (2) establishing linkages with other initiatives
21 and strategies of the United States Agency for
22 International Development, the Department of Agri-
23 culture, the Department of State, the Millennium
24 Challenge Corporation, the Overseas Private Invest-
25 ment Corporation, the Peace Corps, the United

1 States Trade Representative, the United States Afri-
2 ca Development Foundation, the Department of
3 Commerce, the Department of the Treasury, and the
4 United States Geological Survey;

5 (3) establishing platforms for regular consulta-
6 tion and collaboration with key stakeholders, includ-
7 ing—

8 (A) multilateral institutions;

9 (B) private voluntary organizations;

10 (C) cooperatives;

11 (D) the private sector;

12 (E) local nongovernmental and civil society
13 organizations;

14 (F) congressional committees; and

15 (G) other stakeholders, as appropriate;

16 (4) leveraging the expertise of the Department
17 of Agriculture in agricultural development, nutrition,
18 trade, research, and education; and

19 (5) establishing and leading regular public con-
20 sultations in partner countries.

21 **SEC. 6. REPORTING.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
23 date of the enactment of this Act, and not later than De-
24 cember 31 of each year thereafter through 2020, the Ad-
25 ministrator shall submit a report to the appropriate con-

1 gressional committees that describes the status of the im-
2 plementation of the Feed the Future Strategy.

3 (b) CONTENT.—The report required under subsection
4 (a) shall—

5 (1) contain an appendix of the Feed the Future
6 Strategy;

7 (2) identify any substantial changes made in
8 the Feed the Future Strategy during the preceding
9 calendar year;

10 (3) identify the indicators that will be used to
11 measure results, set benchmarks for progress over
12 time, and establish mechanisms for reporting results
13 in an open and transparent manner;

14 (4) describe the progress made in implementing
15 the Feed the Future Strategy;

16 (5) assess the progress and results of imple-
17 menting international food and nutrition security
18 programming;

19 (6) contain a transparent, open, and detailed
20 accounting of spending under this Act by all relevant
21 Federal agencies;

22 (7) identify any United States legal or regu-
23 latory impediments that could obstruct the effective
24 implementation of the programming referred to in
25 paragraph (5);

1 (8) contain a clear gender analysis of program-
2 ming that includes established disaggregated gender
3 indicators to better analyze outcomes for food pro-
4 ductivity, income growth, equity in access to inputs,
5 jobs and markets, and nutrition;

6 (9) describe the strategies and benchmarks for
7 graduating target countries and monitoring any
8 graduated target countries;

9 (10) assess efforts to coordinate United States
10 international food security and nutrition programs,
11 activities, and initiatives with—

12 (A) other bilateral donors;

13 (B) international and multilateral organi-
14 zations;

15 (C) international financial institutions;

16 (D) host country governments;

17 (E) international and local private vol-
18 untary, nongovernmental, and civil society orga-
19 nizations; and

20 (F) other stakeholders;

21 (11) assess United States Government-facili-
22 tated private investment in related sectors in target
23 countries;

24 (12) assess the impact of private sector invest-
25 ment on—

1 (A) the economic opportunities available to
2 small-scale producers;

3 (B) improving international food and nu-
4 trition security; and

5 (C) enhancing enduring, long-term agri-
6 cultural development;

7 (13) include consultation with relevant United
8 States Government agencies in the preparation of
9 the report; and

10 (14) incorporate a plan for regularly reviewing
11 and updating strategies, partnerships, and programs
12 and sharing lessons learned with a wide range of
13 stakeholders.

14 (c) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—The
15 information referred to in subsection (b) shall be made
16 publicly accessible in a timely manner on a consolidated
17 website.

18 (d) GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE RE-
19 PORT.—During the 1-year period ending on December 31,
20 2018, the Comptroller General of the United States shall
21 publish a report that summarizes the progress of the strat-
22 egy described in section 5(a).

23 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

24 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Presi-
25 dent to carry out this Act, for each of the fiscal years

1 2015 through 2020, an amount equal to the amount of
2 funds made available for food security and agricultural de-
3 velopment programs for fiscal year 2014 under section
4 7060(d) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations,
5 and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2014 (division
6 K of Public Law 113–76; 128 Stat. 554).

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