

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1252

To authorize a comprehensive strategic approach for United States foreign assistance to developing countries to reduce global poverty and hunger, achieve food and nutrition security, promote inclusive, sustainable, agricultural-led economic growth, improve nutritional outcomes, especially for women and children, build resilience among vulnerable populations, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 7, 2015

Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. ISAKSON) 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 reduce global poverty and hunger, achieve food and nutrition security, promote inclusive, sustainable, agricultural-led economic growth, improve nutritional outcomes, especially for women and children, build resilience among vulnerable populations, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Global Food Security
3 Act of 2015”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress makes the following findings:

6 (1) According to the Food and Agriculture Or-
7 ganization of the United Nations (referred to in this
8 section as the “FAO”), 805,000,000 people world-
9 wide suffer from chronic hunger. Hunger and mal-
10 nutrition rob people of health and productive lives
11 and stunt the mental and physical development of
12 future generations.

13 (2) According to the January 2014 “Worldwide
14 Threat Assessment of the US Intelligence Commu-
15 nity”—

16 (A) the “[l]ack of adequate food will be a
17 destabilizing factor in countries important to
18 US national security that do not have the fi-
19 nancial or technical abilities to solve their inter-
20 nal food security problems”; and

21 (B) “[f]ood and nutrition insecurity in
22 weakly governed countries might also provide
23 opportunities for insurgent groups to capitalize
24 on poor conditions, exploit international food
25 aid, and discredit governments for their inabil-
26 ity to address basic needs”.

1 (3) Decades of research have shown that there
2 are multiple underlying causes of food insecurity and
3 poor nutrition, including—

4 (A) the lack of availability of, access to,
5 and consumption of nutritious food;

6 (B) limited investments to improve agricul-
7 tural productivity;

8 (C) social and gender inequality;

9 (D) insufficient value chains and market
10 development for farmers, including small-scale
11 producers, which lead to post-harvest loss; and

12 (E) weak institutions in government and
13 civil society.

14 (4) Agriculture, which comprises large portions
15 of the total labor force in many developing countries,
16 is an essential component of inclusive economic
17 growth. According to the World Bank's 2008 World
18 Development Report, growth in the agricultural sec-
19 tor has been twice as effective in reducing poverty
20 as growth in other sectors.

21 (5) Women, who are often heads of households
22 and small farmers, are especially vulnerable to food
23 insecurity. Women frequently face stricter con-
24 straints than men in accessing markets and re-
25 sources. In its 2010–2011 report, the FAO esti-

1 mated that if women farmers had the same access
2 to inputs as men, they could increase their farm
3 yields by 20 to 30 percent. According to the FAO,
4 this “could raise total agricultural output in devel-
5 oping countries by 2.5–4 percent”.

6 (6) According to UNICEF—

7 (A) more than 161,000,000 children
8 younger than 5 years of age suffer from chronic
9 malnutrition (also referred to as stunting); and

10 (B) 1 in 3 women in the developing world
11 are anemic, which leads to severe health and
12 developmental consequences.

13 (7) According to the United Nations World
14 Food Programme, poor nutrition causes 45 percent
15 of deaths in children younger than 5 years of age.

16 (8) Malnutrition can—

17 (A) undermine future earning potential by
18 up to 20 percent; and

19 (B) inhibit economic growth by up to 3
20 percent of gross domestic product.

21 (9) According to The Cost of Hunger in Africa
22 Study by the African Union Commission—

23 (A) the economic costs associated with
24 child undernutrition are substantial, ranging

1 from 2 percent to 16 percent of the gross na-
2 tional product in several African nations; and

3 (B) adults who suffer from stunting as
4 children are less productive than nonstunted
5 workers and are less able to contribute to the
6 economy.

7 (10) According to Save the Children's 2013
8 Food for Thought report, if the current malnutrition
9 rates continue, global output could be reduced by an
10 estimated \$125,000,000,000 by 2030, as the young
11 children of today reach working age.

12 (11) A comprehensive approach to sustainable
13 food and nutrition security should not only respond
14 to emergency food shortages, but should also ad-
15 dress malnutrition, resilience to food and nutrition
16 insecurity, building the capacity of poor, rural popu-
17 lations to improve their agricultural productivity,
18 and incomes, removing institutional impediments to
19 agricultural development, value chain access and ef-
20 ficiency, including processing and storage, enhancing
21 agribusiness development, access to markets and ac-
22 tivities that address the specific needs and barriers
23 facing women and small-scale producers, education,
24 and collaborative research.

1 (12) An effective, sustainable approach to com-
2 bating food insecurity requires consultation with,
3 and participation from, multiple stakeholders, in-
4 cluding government, the private sector, international
5 organizations, international and local nongovern-
6 mental stakeholders, grassroots and civil society or-
7 ganizations, faith-based organizations, and higher
8 education research institutions.

9 (13) Nongovernmental organizations, faith-
10 based organizations, community-based organizations,
11 private voluntary organizations, academic institu-
12 tions, and cooperatives can increase the effectiveness
13 of public investments by building local capacity,
14 strengthening food and nutrition security and resil-
15 ience, and leveraging additional resources.

16 (14) The United States has provided consistent
17 global leadership in addressing food security and in-
18 vesting in agricultural development and humani-
19 tarian assistance. In 2010, the United States Gov-
20 ernment launched Feed the Future (referred to in
21 this paragraph as “FTF”), an initiative designed to
22 expand and better coordinate the United States in-
23 vestments in improving global food security. FTF is
24 a whole-of-government approach that works across
25 agricultural value chains and focuses on the dual ob-

1 jectives of improving farmer productivity, income,
2 and livelihoods in developing countries and improv-
3 ing the nutrition of women and children.

4 (15) The United States Government spear-
5 headed the creation of the Global Agriculture and
6 Food Security Program (referred to in this para-
7 graph as the “GAFSP”), which mobilizes contribu-
8 tions from a wide range of international donors to
9 support the goals of FTF. As of 2014, the GAFSP
10 had received pledges totaling \$1,300,000,000 from
11 10 donors and reached an estimated 12,000,000 di-
12 rect beneficiaries in 25 countries.

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

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

19 (1) eradicate hunger and malnutrition, espe-
20 cially for women and children;

21 (2) assist foreign countries to achieve long-
22 term, sustainable, and inclusive agricultural develop-
23 ment by emphasizing—

24 (A) increased productivity, resiliency, local
25 management capacity, income, and growth;

1 (B) reduction in poverty and long-term
2 vulnerability to food and nutrition insecurity;
3 and

4 (C) improved skills building and market
5 linkages for producers, especially for women
6 and small-scale producers, who face specific
7 constraints in accessing markets, networks, and
8 resources; and

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

11 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
12 gress that the President, or a designee of the President,
13 in providing assistance under this Act, should—

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

18 (2) utilize, to the maximum extent possible,
19 open and streamlined solicitations, grants, and coop-
20 erative agreements to allow for the participation of
21 a wide range of implementing partners; and

22 (3) strengthen and expand partnerships be-
23 tween developing country institutions of agricultural
24 sciences with universities in the United States, with

1 a focus on building the agricultural capacities of uni-
2 versities in developing nations.

3 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

4 In this Act:

5 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
6 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
7 mittees” means—

8 (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of
9 the Senate;

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

12 (C) the Committee on Appropriations of
13 the Senate;

14 (D) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
15 the House of Representatives;

16 (E) the Committee on Agriculture of the
17 House of Representatives; and

18 (F) the Committee on Appropriations of
19 the House of Representatives.

20 (2) FEED THE FUTURE INNOVATION LABS.—

21 The term “Feed the Future Innovation Labs”
22 means research partnerships led by United States
23 universities that advance solutions to reduce global
24 hunger, poverty, and malnutrition.

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

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

9 (5) MALNUTRITION.—The term “malnutrition”
10 means poor nutritional status caused by nutritional
11 deficiency or excess.

12 (6) RESILIENCE.—The term “resilience” means
13 the ability of people, households, communities, coun-
14 tries, and systems to mitigate, adapt to, and recover
15 from shocks and stresses in a manner that reduces
16 chronic vulnerability and facilitates inclusive growth.

17 (7) SMALL-SCALE PRODUCER.—The term
18 “small-scale producer” means farmers, pastoralists,
19 and fishers that have a low asset base and limited
20 resources, including land, capital, skills and labor,
21 and, in the case of farmers, typically farm on fewer
22 than 5 hectares of land.

23 (8) STUNTING.—The term “stunting” refers to
24 a condition that—

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

4 (B) manifests in children who are younger
5 than 2 years of age;

6 (C) is a process that can continue in chil-
7 dren after they reach 2 years of age, resulting
8 in an individual being “stunted”;

9 (D) is a sign of chronic malnutrition; and

10 (E) can lead to long-term poor health, de-
11 layed motor development, impaired cognitive
12 function, and decreased immunity.

13 (9) SUSTAINABLE.—The term “sustainable”
14 means the ability of a target country, community,
15 implementing partner, or intended beneficiary to
16 maintain the programs authorized and the outcomes
17 achieved pursuant to this Act over time.

18 (10) TARGET COUNTRY.—The term “target
19 country” means a developing country that is selected
20 to participate in agriculture and nutrition security
21 programs under the Feed the Future Strategy.

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

23 (a) FEED THE FUTURE STRATEGY.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—The President, or a designee
25 of the President, shall coordinate the development

1 and implementation of a United States whole-of-gov-
2 ernment strategy to accomplish the policy objectives
3 set forth in section 3(a), which shall—

4 (A) support and be aligned with country-
5 owned agriculture, nutrition, and food security
6 policy and investment plans developed with
7 input from relevant governmental and non-
8 governmental sectors within target countries
9 and regional bodies, including—

10 (i) representatives of the private sec-
11 tor;

12 (ii) agricultural producers, including
13 women and small-scale producers;

14 (iii) international and local civil soci-
15 ety organizations;

16 (iv) faith-based organizations; and

17 (v) research and academic institu-
18 tions;

19 (B) support inclusive, sustainable agricul-
20 tural value chain development, with small-scale
21 producers, especially women, gaining greater
22 access to the inputs, skills, networking, resource
23 management capacity, bargaining power, fi-
24 nancing, and market linkages needed to sustain
25 their long-term economic prosperity;

1 (C) support the improvement of the nutri-
2 tional status of women and children, especially
3 during the critical 1,000-day window starting at
4 the beginning of a woman's pregnancy and end-
5 ing 2 years after her child's birth, with a focus
6 on reducing child stunting;

7 (D) urge target countries and communities
8 to respect and promote the land tenure rights
9 of local communities, particularly those of
10 women and small-scale producers;

11 (E) support the long-term success of pro-
12 grams by building the capacity of local organi-
13 zations and institutions;

14 (F) integrate resilience and nutrition strat-
15 egies into food security programs, such that
16 chronically vulnerable populations are better
17 able to build safety nets, secure livelihoods, ac-
18 cess markets, manage resources, and access op-
19 portunities for longer-term economic growth;

20 (G) develop community and producer resil-
21 ience to natural disasters, emergencies, and
22 natural occurrences that adversely impact pro-
23 ductivity and livelihoods;

24 (H) harness science, technology, and inno-
25 vation, including the research conducted at

1 Feed the Future Innovation Labs, or any suc-
2 cessor entities, throughout the United States;

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

7 (J) support collaboration between United
8 States universities and public and private insti-
9 tutions in developing countries to promote agri-
10 cultural development and innovation;

11 (K) set clear and transparent selection cri-
12 teria for target countries, regions, and intended
13 beneficiaries of assistance provided under this
14 Act;

15 (L) set specific and measurable goals,
16 benchmarks, timetables, performance metrics,
17 and monitoring and evaluation plans that re-
18 flect international best practices relating to
19 transparency, accountability, food and nutrition
20 security, and agriculture-led economic growth,
21 consistent with the policy objectives described in
22 the Feed the Future Strategy; and

23 (M) include criteria and methodology for
24 graduating countries from United States assist-

1 ance provided under this Act once the countries
2 have achieved certain benchmarks.

3 (2) GOVERNING LAW.—Notwithstanding any
4 other provision of law, in carrying out the purposes
5 of this Act, assistance may be provided to the De-
6 partment of State and the United States Agency for
7 International Development pursuant to sections 103
8 and 103A, title XII of chapter 2 of part I, and chap-
9 ter 4 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of
10 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151a, 2151a–1, 2220a et seq.,
11 and 2346 et seq.).

12 (b) FEED THE FUTURE COORDINATION.—The Presi-
13 dent, or a designee of the President, shall coordinate,
14 through a whole-of-government approach, the efforts of
15 relevant Federal departments and agencies in imple-
16 menting the Feed the Future Strategy by—

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

20 (2) aligning linkages with other initiatives and
21 strategies of the United States Agency for Inter-
22 national 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) national and local governments;

9 (B) multilateral institutions;

10 (C) private voluntary organizations;

11 (D) cooperatives;

12 (E) the private sector;

13 (F) local nongovernmental and civil society
14 organizations;

15 (G) faith-based organizations;

16 (H) research and academic institutions;

17 (I) congressional committees; and

18 (J) other stakeholders, as appropriate;

19 (4) leveraging the expertise of the Department
20 of Agriculture in agricultural development, nutrition,
21 trade, research, and education; and

22 (5) establishing and leading regular public con-
23 sultations in target countries.

1 **SEC. 6. REPORTING.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
3 date of the enactment of this Act, and not later than De-
4 cember 31 of each year thereafter through 2020, the
5 President, or a designee of the President, shall submit a
6 report to the appropriate congressional committees that
7 describes the status of the implementation of the Feed the
8 Future Strategy.

9 (b) CONTENT.—The report required under subsection
10 (a) shall—

11 (1) contain an appendix of the Feed the Future
12 Strategy;

13 (2) identify any substantial changes made in
14 the Feed the Future Strategy during the preceding
15 calendar year;

16 (3) identify the indicators that will be used to
17 measure results, set benchmarks for progress over
18 time, and establish mechanisms for reporting results
19 in an open and transparent manner;

20 (4) describe the progress made in implementing
21 the Feed the Future Strategy;

22 (5) assess the progress and results of imple-
23 menting international food and nutrition security
24 programming on the policy objectives set forth in
25 section 3(a);

1 (6) indicate how findings from monitoring and
2 evaluation were incorporated into program design
3 and budget decisions;

4 (7) contain a transparent, open, and detailed
5 accounting of spending under this Act by all relevant
6 Federal agencies, including a disaggregated account-
7 ing of assistance provided through different procure-
8 ment mechanisms;

9 (8) identify any United States legal or regu-
10 latory impediments that could obstruct the effective
11 implementation of the programming referred to in
12 paragraph (5);

13 (9) describe how the Feed the Future Strategy
14 relates to other United States food security and de-
15 velopment assistance programs on the continuum
16 from emergency food aid through sustainable, agri-
17 culture-led economic growth;

18 (10) contain a clear gender analysis of pro-
19 gramming that includes established disaggregated
20 gender indicators to better analyze outcomes for
21 food productivity, income growth, control of assets,
22 equity in access to inputs, jobs and markets, and nu-
23 trition;

24 (11) describe the methodology and criteria for
25 the selection of target countries;

1 (12) describe related strategies and benchmarks
2 for graduating target countries and communities
3 from assistance provided under the Feed the Future
4 Strategy over time, including by building resilience,
5 reducing risk, and enhancing the sustainability of
6 outcomes from United States investments in agri-
7 culture and nutrition security;

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

11 (A) other bilateral donors;

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

14 (C) international financial institutions;

15 (D) target country governments;

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

19 (F) research and academic institutions;
20 and

21 (G) other stakeholders;

22 (14) assess the status of institutional capacity
23 building efforts, including higher education;

1 (15) assess United States Government-facili-
2 tated private investment in related sectors in target
3 countries and communities;

4 (16) assess the impact of private sector invest-
5 ment on—

6 (A) the economic opportunities available to
7 small-scale producers, especially women;

8 (B) improving international food and nu-
9 trition security;

10 (C) local land tenure issues; and

11 (D) enhancing inclusive, sustainable agri-
12 cultural development;

13 (17) be prepared in consultation with relevant
14 United States Government agencies; and

15 (18) incorporate a plan for regularly reviewing
16 and updating strategies, partnerships, and programs
17 and sharing lessons learned with a wide range of
18 stakeholders in an open and transparent manner.

19 (c) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—The
20 information referred to in subsection (b) shall be made
21 publicly accessible in an electronic format and in a timely
22 manner.

23 (d) GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE RE-
24 PORT.—During the 1-year period ending on December 31,

1 2019, the Comptroller General of the United States shall
2 publish a report that—

3 (1) summarizes the progress of the strategy de-
4 scribed in section 5(a);

5 (2) assesses the whole-of-government coordina-
6 tion described in section 5(b);

7 (3) assesses the mechanisms through which
8 United States assistance authorized under this Act
9 is provided, including a list of the major recipients
10 of United States contracts, grants, and cooperative
11 agreements;

12 (4) includes a review of evaluations conducted
13 on assistance provided under this Act; and

14 (5) assesses the budget decisionmaking process,
15 including the role of monitoring and evaluation in
16 program design.

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

18 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
19 retary of State and the Administrator of the United States
20 Agency for International Development to carry out this
21 Act, for each of the fiscal years 2015 through 2020, an
22 amount equal to the amount of funds made available for
23 food security and agricultural development programs for
24 fiscal year 2014 under section 7060(d) of the Department
25 of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Ap-

1 propriations Act, 2014 (division K of Public Law 113–
2 76; 128 Stat. 554).

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