

Action Sheet

NOVEMBER 2021

We know that every creation is a gift from you: our lives, the earth, everything we eat and enjoy. May this time help us to focus on your generosity and our responsibility to protect and care for the land and those among us. ([Online Hunger Retreat](#)).

SKILL AND RELATIONSHIP BUILDING ACTION

The Senate has now introduced all three bills we prioritize, setting the stage for the House and Senate to begin the process of finalizing all FY22 bills. Our Action Sheet action this month is to email your senators to urge them to speak with Senators Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Richard Shelby (R-AL), the Chair and Ranking Member of the full Senate Appropriations committee and Senate Leaders, Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Mitch McConnell (R-KY). Have your senators urge these leaders to ensure the highest funding level possible in international humanitarian and development funding in Fiscal Year 2022. Don't forget to share the [CRS/USCCB chart of accounts](#). See details below.

LASER TALK

Since 1990, 1 billion people have moved out of extreme poverty. U.S. sponsored international humanitarian and development aid has provided opportunities for countless millions around the world to move out of poverty. Of the more than \$4 trillion federal budget, Congress allocates half of 1% towards poverty-reducing international aid with strong bipartisan support. Beyond a belief in the moral imperative, the United States recognizes it is in our best interest to invest resources that foster peace and security and promote the common good.

The World Bank estimates that the impacts of COVID-19 will cause between 143 and 163 million people to fall into poverty in 2021, the first rise in extreme poverty globally in 20 years. Our faith compels us to uphold the dignity of individuals and communities around the world, especially those experiencing forced displacement and hunger. Therefore, it is critically important to increase funding that supports sustainable solutions to poverty, changing climates and disease.

Will you help increase international poverty-reducing development and humanitarian assistance in Fiscal Year 2022? The accounts which do this are outlined in [CRS and the USCCB's appropriations chart](#). The innovative programs that this funding supports can help ensure that decades of development gains are not lost during the COVID-19 pandemic.

BACKGROUND

Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Timeline

We continue to consider the annual budget process to have three key phases: prioritization, negotiation and finalization. Now that the Senate has introduced all of its appropriations bills, your advocacy on the FY22 budget and appropriations process this month falls into the finalization phase. The House and Senate will now discuss the bills they have proposed and work to create and pass final bills. This continues to be a critical time to ensure that the priorities you have consistently advocated for are included in the final FY22 budget.

Fighting Global Hunger and Malnutrition

According to the United Nations, 135 million people required emergency food assistance in 2019. Conflict and insecurity, as well as weather extremes and economic shocks are the primary causes of hunger around the world. The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has made hunger invariably worse, disrupting supply chains and increasing consumer demand for food, which has in turn increased food prices and exacerbated the severity of acute food insecurity. Half a billion people are at risk to be

pushed into poverty because of COVID-19, which will have devastating impacts on people's ability to afford food. The biggest invasion of desert locusts in Africa in 70 years also threatens to push 25 million East Africans into hunger.

CRS addresses hunger and malnutrition through a multi-sector approach, implementing projects that address the multi-faceted drivers of hunger to improve agricultural practices, providing livelihood opportunities, educating on nutrition and linking to the private sector. CRS also addresses hunger and malnutrition through a variety of programs, including the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP), which can provide vulnerable families with food or cash/vouchers; Food for Education, which feeds kids in their schools; and Food for Progress, which strengthens agricultural systems in developing countries. CRS also implements the Farmer to Farmer program, helping to bring technical expertise to farmers in countries like Benin, Nepal and Rwanda.

A Movement of Evangelization

In his [message for World Day of the Poor](#) (November 14), Pope Francis shares that “the face of God revealed by Jesus is that of a Father concerned for and close to the poor.” The Holy Father shares that his hope that with this celebration, is that we “will grow in our local Churches and inspire a movement of evangelization that meets the poor personally wherever they may be.” Your continued advocacy on the FY22 budget and appropriations process in this finalization stage is critical is an act of evangelization to meet those facing extreme poverty can access the resources they need.

Your advocacy works to ensure that incredible women like [Birhan](#) living in Tigray, a region in Ethiopia at severe risk of hunger, can cope and reduce their vulnerability to environmental shocks, cycles and trends. The Joint Emergency Operation Program, funded by the U.S. government's Title II Food for Peace account outlined in the [CRS/USCCB appropriations chart](#), has served as a valuable lifeline for more than 1.6 million people in times of need. This U.S. funded program has allowed CRS and its local partners to safely distributed more than 72,000 tons of food to communities in need.

TAKE ACTION: Email your Senators

- 1. Go to the website of your U.S. Senators and see how they want to be emailed** (e.g., by filling out an online form or by emailing a specific email address from the website).
- 2. Introduction:** Provide personal information to root yourself in the community (e.g., I am active in my local parish, I volunteer at our local food bank, etc.) and briefly share why this issue matters to you. Share connections to your faith, activities you're involved with in your community to help children and families, etc.
- 3. Express gratitude to your U.S. Senators:** Express gratitude for something related to global poverty or for their service in Congress. You can express gratitude that Congress provided \$10.8 billion of emergency funding in the American Rescue Plan for the international response to COVID-19.
- 4. Make the ask:** Ask your senators to speak with the Chair and Ranking Member of the full Senate Appropriations committee, Senators Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Richard Shelby (R-AL), and Senate Leaders, Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Mitch McConnell (R-KY). Have your senators urge these leaders to ensure the highest funding level possible in international humanitarian and development funding in Fiscal Year 2022. Don't forget to share the [CRS/USCCB chart of accounts](#). We strongly urge Congress to maintain the Helms Amendment in Fiscal Year 2022 appropriations, which prohibits the use of U.S. funded foreign assistance for abortion.
- 5. Provide some background to support your argument:** In your own words, share why it is important that the United States is a global leader in funding international humanitarian and development aid and how this funding addresses the root causes of issues, such as hunger and malnutrition, through innovative and sustainable programs.
- 6. Repeat the 'ask', say thank you, and request a response:** Leave your name, address, phone number and email address so the office can get back to you with their decision.

