

Coalition Statement of Support for the Global Food Security Act of 2015 (S. 1252)

As organizations engaged in efforts to end global hunger, malnutrition, and extreme poverty, we welcome the introduction of the Global Food Security Act of 2015 (S. 1252) by Senators Robert P. Casey, Jr. (D-PA) and Johnny Isakson (R-GA). These Senators are well-known leaders in the fight against global hunger and malnutrition, as well as champions of small-scale producers' efforts to lift themselves out of poverty.

Globally, over 800 million people are hungry, and malnutrition causes approximately half of all deaths of children under 5 (3.1 million children) each year. Hunger and malnutrition prevent millions of people in developing countries from living healthy, productive lives and stunt the mental and physical development of future generations.

After decades of declining support for farmers in developing countries, renewed U.S. leadership from President Bush and now President Obama has sparked a global commitment to help people feed themselves. Governments, nongovernmental and civil society organizations, academic and research institutions, businesses, multilateral institutions, and farmers themselves have all recommitted to fighting extreme hunger and malnutrition through new agriculture-focused investments.

The bipartisan Global Food Security Act is an exciting step forward in building the political will needed to end global hunger and malnutrition in our lifetime. The Act includes the development and implementation of a comprehensive, whole-of-government strategy to combat hunger and malnutrition in developing countries by focusing on increasing sustainable and equitable agricultural development; reducing global hunger; and improving nutrition – especially in the key first 1,000 days between a woman's pregnancy and her child's second birthday. The legislation promotes country ownership and accountability and engages the expertise and unique contributions from U.S. non-governmental organizations, civil society, research and academic institutions, and the private sector. It also improves upon existing monitoring and evaluation practices to ensure U.S. taxpayer investments are implemented transparently, efficiently, and effectively.

This legislation seeks to capture and improve upon the successes the U.S. government is already achieving through its Feed the Future Initiative. Drawing on resources and expertise from 11 federal agencies, Feed the Future is investing in national agriculture investment strategies and is helping countries, including 19 focus countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia, transform their agricultural sectors and sustainably produce enough nutritious food to feed their people. The Initiative has already achieved impressive results: in 2013, Feed the Future reached more than 12.5 million children with nutrition interventions and helped nearly 7 million farmers and producers with new technologies and management practices on more than 4 million hectares of land.

We support passage of the Global Food Security Act, a bill that recognizes the important role of small-scale producers, women, and local food economies, and promotes country ownership, sustainable agricultural development, and civil society engagement. The comprehensive global food and nutrition security strategy authorized by this legislation also builds the resilience of communities; provides safety nets for the most vulnerable food insecure populations; and fosters improved nutrition, research, management of agricultural resources, environmental protection, land tenure rights, capacity building, and gender equality and female empowerment.

We look forward to continuing to work with Congress and the Administration to pass the Global Food Security Act and help ensure U.S. leadership to sustainably tackle hunger, malnutrition, and extreme poverty in the most effective and efficient ways possible around the world.

1. ACDI/VOCA
2. Action Against Hunger
3. ActionAid USA
4. ADRA International
5. Alliance for Global Food Security
6. Alliance to End Hunger
7. American Academy of Pediatrics
8. American Jewish World Service
9. Amref Health Africa
10. Association for International Agriculture and Rural Development (AIARD)
11. Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
12. Auburn University Hunger Solutions Institute
13. Bread for the World
14. CARE USA
15. Catholic Relief Services
16. Church World Service
17. Concern Worldwide US
18. Congressional Hunger Center
19. Counterpart International
20. Edesia
21. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
22. Fabretto Children's Foundation
23. Farm Journal Foundation
24. Food for the Hungry
25. FRB - Foods Resource Bank
26. Global Food Exchange, LLC
27. Global Harvest Initiative
28. Global Health Council
29. Global Poverty Project
30. Global Water Challenge
31. GrainPro Inc.
32. Heartland Global, Inc.
33. Heifer International
34. Helen Keller International
35. INMED Partnerships for Children
36. InterAction
37. International Medical Corps
38. Islamic Relief USA
39. JAM - Joint Aid Management
40. Lutheran World Relief
41. MANA Nutrition
42. Mercy Corps
43. Mercy-USA for Aid and Development
44. NCBA CLUSA
45. ONE
46. One Acre Fund
47. Outreach, Inc.
48. Oxfam America
49. PCI
50. Presbyterian Church (USA)
51. Salesian Missions, Inc.
52. Save the Children
53. Self Help Africa
54. Stop Hunger Now
55. The Borgen Project
56. The Episcopal Church
57. The Hunger Project
58. United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries
59. U.S. Fund for UNICEF
60. Volunteers for Economic Growth Alliance (VEGA)
61. Water for South Sudan, Inc.
62. Women Thrive Worldwide
63. World Concern
64. World Food Program USA
65. World Vision