

SAVE THE CHILDREN 2018 FARM BILL AND FOOD SECURITY POLICY PRIORITIES

Save the Children urges Congress to maintain gains in the 2014 Farm Bill and to continue to support programs that help reduce food insecurity for families in difficult circumstances around the globe and to provide maximum flexibility for using the best tool for reducing food insecurity.

Specifically, Save the Children urges Congress in its consideration of international food assistance programs to:

Food for Peace Title II

Protect the development function of Food for Peace (FFP) Title II. Save the Children applauds U.S. leadership in responding to humanitarian crises and emergencies – such as famine conditions – with food assistance. Food for Peace non-emergency food programs are critical to helping reach the most vulnerable populations and build resilience in communities facing chronic poverty and recurring crises. Critically, FFP programs’ multi-sectoral approach focused at the family- and community-level looks beyond food to support income diversification, agricultural interventions, disaster risk reduction, and interventions to prevent malnutrition. Where possible, FFP programs coordinate with Feed the Future programs focused on the agricultural system- and market-level. Often, FFP works in areas and communities where Feed the Future is not operating. Such efforts are critical to helping create the conditions under which U.S. foreign assistance is no longer needed as well as helping to reduce malnutrition among children and families. Save the Children rejects proposals that would seek to eliminate the development function of food assistance programs within Food for Peace Title II.

Maintain 20% cap for 202(e). Save the Children supports the “right tool for the job” principle and urges flexibility around modality choice to ensure that food assistance is able to reach the greatest number of people in need. In some contexts, local markets have been destroyed, and U.S. commodities are the best bet to ensure those impacted by food crises are reached. In other circumstances, vouchers provide a quicker means of ensuring that food reaches families and that local markets are able to persevere.

McGovern-Dole Food for Education Program

Reauthorize McGovern-Dole Food for Education Program and protect broad scope of the McGovern-Dole program. The McGovern-Dole program, whose key objective is to reduce hunger and improve literacy and primary education, helped reach 3 million children and their families in 2015. A clean reauthorization is needed in the 2018 Farm Bill to ensure these efforts to help support child nutrition and access to education continue. McGovern-Dole is more than school feeding program: It’s a sustainable investment in communities. In addition to boosting school enrollment and academic performance, the program also focuses on improving children’s overall health, including through deworming and improved hygiene, and by offering nutrition programs for pregnant and nursing women, infants, and pre-schoolers. Efforts to increase the

commodities within the McGovern-Dole program would compromise the program's availability to deliver a wraparound set of services and reduce the program's overall impact.

Reauthorize Local and Regional Procurement (LRP). LRP enables both emergency and non-emergency assistance to be delivered quickly and at a cost savings. When linked to McGovern-Dole programming, LRP helps ensure school feeding programs become sustainable over the long-term for maximum return on investment.

Other Program Components

Reject any proposed increase to cargo preference requirements. Shipping on U.S.-flagged vessels costs an average of 23% more than shipping on foreign-flagged vessels. Any increase to cargo preference requirements would mean additional transportation costs at the expense of those reached with food assistance and would result in a decrease in commodities able to be purchased from U.S. farmers.

Protect Community Development Funds (CDF). CDF funding helps bridge Food for Peace Title II programming in Feed the Future countries to catalyze resilience-building in order to help accelerate their participation in agriculture development and food security programs. CDF serves a unique purpose as an alternative to monetization for programming and helps to establish the foundation for higher-level agriculture programming.