



# Advocacy Steps for American Christians

Significant progress has been made in addressing chronic malnutrition through programs like Feed the Future, which helped more than seven million small farmers increase crop production and resulted in nutritious food for more than 12.5 million children in 2013. USAID programs like Feed the Future cannot answer the challenge of poverty on their own but they do play a vital role. Feed the Future builds on feedback, success and learnings from World Renew and other agencies. It provides research to make future programs more effective. It also helps national government extension agencies to get involved so that solutions can be multiplied in neighboring communities. World Renew gives thanks to God for progress wherever we partner and we value the role that government extension agencies can play when they join in the work with local churches and nonprofits. Change can last and grow when more parties are involved and when entire regions transform together. (Plus it is a cost effective strategy for government to partner in sustainable development projects).

The Global Food Security Act is a bill in Congress that will make Feed the Future permanent. It will continue to help hungry and malnourished nations around the world to develop long-term agriculture strategies. It will also ensure that nations empower their people, especially women and children in the first 1,000 days of life, to meet their own nutrition needs.

Please help Congress to make an informed vote on the Global Food Security Act. You can send an electronic letter to your congressperson voicing your support and learn more at [crcna.org/hungeradvocacy](http://crcna.org/hungeradvocacy)

## Support the GFA through Social Media

You can also support the Global Food Security Act through social media. Use social media to raise awareness amongst your community, networks, peers, family, and friends. Use the #EndHunger2030 and #ChildHunger hashtags to add your voice to the conversation. You can also follow World Renew on Facebook and Twitter and share our Global Food Security Act and Maternal and Child Health posts. Below are some sample Twitter and Facebook posts:

**Encourage the U.S. government to support robust funding for maternal and child health programs through the Global Food Security Act. #EndHunger2030 #ChildHunger**

**Join in putting your faith into action. Ask our nation's leaders to work to end hunger both at home and abroad by supporting the Global Food Security Act. #EndHunger2030 #ChildHunger**

**The Global Food Security Act will build on the success and learnings from World Renew and other agencies like it in working to end hunger around the world. Urge our nation's leaders to support it. #EndHunger2030 #ChildHunger**

*TIP: Congresspeople are active on social media. Use social media to reach out to them by tweeting at them and writing on their Facebook walls.*



## ***Get Informed: Myths and Facts about Development Assistance***

**Myth: Development assistance is a big part of the U.S. budget and is fueling our record budget deficit.**

**Fact:** Development assistance is less than 1 percent of the U.S. budget, so cutting it would not help fix the deficit. It does, however, save millions of human lives every year.

**Myth: Not much progress can be made against a problem as big as hunger.**

**Fact:** In less than two generations, global hunger has been cut in half. Instead of one person out of every three suffering from hunger and malnutrition, it's now one person out of every six—still far too many, but a big improvement. The global situation is now one where there's a heightened sense of momentum, more commitment and leadership, and better knowledge of "what works." The United States is leading the way with new initiatives such as Feed the Future, which focuses on agriculture and nutrition.

**Myth: It's a waste of time and money to give development assistance, because it never gets to the people who need it.**

**Fact:** In recent years, there has been much more emphasis on transparency and adherence to strict accounting standards. It has become increasingly difficult for anyone to make aid money "disappear," lost to corruption. There are many examples of children, families, and communities who have benefited from development programs. And, of course, there are the longer-term results just mentioned: the rate of global hunger has been cut in half.

**Myth: The United States provides more than its fair share of development assistance.**

**Fact:** The United States saves millions of lives every year with programs like child immunizations, PEPFAR, and food aid. There is no doubt that our efforts make a big difference. But the amount the United States gives per person is less than average for donors and far less than Scandinavian countries. Preliminary data for 2011 indicate that Sweden and Denmark devoted more than 1 percent of their national incomes to development assistance. The U.K. gave 0.56 percent, the average for 23 donor countries was 0.46 percent, and the United States was near the bottom of the list at 0.2 percent.