

# ACTION SHEET

## Write to Congress: Prioritize Global Poverty in FY22 Spending

As Congress looks at its spending plan for fiscal year 2022, it's time to tell them what they should prioritize. Smart investments in global health and education programs in the world's poorest places can dramatically change the futures of women, children, and other vulnerable populations. We have been through an incredibly challenging year, which makes smart, compassionate spending even more of an imperative. As a leader in global health and development, the United States must urgently look to recovery after the COVID-19 crisis to curb major health setbacks in low-income countries. Estimates are that global health gains could be set back by 5-10 years due to the pandemic. Nearly two thirds of AIDS, TB, and malaria programs report service disruptions. And a new World Bank estimate suggests that COVID-19 will drive over 150 million people into extreme poverty during 2021 if we do not mitigate the impact. And we know that children living in extreme poverty are much more likely to be malnourished. Children's education has also been compromised with an estimated 80% of the world's school-age children experiencing disruptions in their education due to COVID-19. Girls' education has especially suffered.

We must be bold and provide more resources to these neglected issues. "Appropriation" is the act of setting aside money for a specific purpose. Annually, the U.S. Congress goes through the process of directing federal funding, or "appropriating" resources for the fiscal year to various programs, including international development programs supported by RESULTS. The graphic shows how the process works, and the tips below will help you influence spending decisions to continue the progress we are making:



The process that starts as a simple flow chart can become very messy and prolonged – even taking over a year to reach an outcome. But weighing in on appropriations is critical for protecting and increasing annual spending for the programs we care most about.

**The key to being heard in this political climate is to show up early and often** to remind Congress that constituents care about fighting poverty and that every member of Congress can and should engage the spending process. Now is the time to tell Congress they should prioritize protecting and increasing funding for anti-poverty programs in global health and education for fiscal year 2022 (which officially starts on Oct. 1, 2021).

**Action:** You have worked diligently, asking your representatives to weigh in on appropriations this spring. Now it's the Senate's turn. Ask your senators to make personal appropriations submissions, including our funding requests, to the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee leadership, and ask them to add their signatures to important "sign-on" letters in the areas of these funding requests.

### Gather Your Fellow Advocates and Start Writing

**First, write letters to your senators urging them to include our funding requests** in their communications to the Chair and Ranking Member of the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee. In the Senate, that is Chair, Senator Chris Coons (D-DE) and Ranking Member, Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC).

For background on each of these issues, please review the [corresponding appropriations memos and laser talks](#), each of which contains additional background and talking points on each issue that you can use to support your request. We strongly suggest that you do not include every issue in your request. Select one or more issues that you think your member is most likely to support and act on.

RESULTS' FY22 Appropriations Requests	
<b>Bilateral Tuberculosis</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide \$1 billion for the TB program within USAID Global Health</li></ul>
<b>Global Partnership for Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide \$150 million for the Global Partnership for Education</li></ul>
<b>Nutrition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide \$300 million for Nutrition within USAID Global Health</li></ul>

**Next, ask senators in your letter to sign on to "Dear Colleague" letters.** Another way we can ensure that global anti-poverty and health programs are fully funded is by asking Congress to raise their voices on this issue with their peers through congressional "sign-on" letters. A sign-on letter (also called a "Dear Colleague" letter) is like a petition in Congress. Sign-on letters are circulated by champions in Congress to ask other members to join them in showing their support for an issue. Sign on letters on funding levels are sent to the leaders of the appropriations committee that writes the foreign aid spending bill. The number of signers on these letters sets a marker for just how much support an issue area

has. As leaders of the committee start writing their annual spending bill, having clear support from their colleagues is important when they are deciding how to divide up their budget for the year. These letters can have a lot of sway with leadership when a strong number of their colleagues are asking them to support a cause – especially if it shows bipartisan support.

Annually RESULTS supports several different appropriations sign-on letters on both the House and Senate side. For FY22 we are prioritizing letters that ask appropriators support 1) funding for tuberculosis treatment and control, 2) robust funding for international basic education and the Global Partnership for Education, and 3) robust funding for nutrition in global health.

Our window of opportunity to get signers for each letter can vary. As of May 1, only Senate letters on maternal/child health and nutrition and international basic education/the Global Partnership for Education are available, with mid-May deadlines for signatures. A letter on tuberculosis is expected to be added. [Continue to check online](#), as our blog will be updated to let you know who has signed on to the letters circulating and what their deadlines are. Remember, you don't have to ask for everything. Pick and choose the letters that you think your senators will be most interested in.

### Here's a sample letter in EPIC format:

<p><b>Engage:</b> Dear Senator XXXX,</p> <p>In partnership with developing countries, the U.S. has led the fight against hunger and poverty by investing in smart global development programs that improve health, education and building brighter futures.</p>
<p><b>Problem:</b> Never has this been more important than on the heels of the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tuberculosis (TB) is the leading infectious disease killer in the world, taking 1.4 million lives in 2019. COVID-19 has derailed TB progress and will cause an estimated 1.4 million additional deaths and 6.3 million cases by 2025.</li><li>• An estimated 617 million children and adolescents around the world are unable to reach minimum proficiency levels in reading and math, even though two thirds of them are in school. And education disruptions due to COVID-19 has set education in low-income countries back even further.</li><li>• Most recent accounting shows nearly one out of every five children globally is severely malnourished, meaning they will never meet their full potential.</li></ul>
<p><b>Inform:</b> We know that members of the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee (SFOPS) will soon be considering spending levels for global development for fiscal year 2022.</p>
<p><b>Call to Action:</b> Will you please write and speak to SFOPS leadership – Chair, Sen. Coons and Ranking Member, Sen. Graham - and ask that they include the following funding levels in their FY22 spending bill?</p> <p>In the area of global health, please include: <i>Draw from the chart above.</i> In the area of education for all, please include: <i>Draw from the chart above.</i></p> <p><b>Or/additionally:</b></p> <p>Will you please sign onto this important Dear Colleague letter on the subject of XXX? The deadline for signing is XXX.</p>

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This funding in these requests represents both a compassionate and pragmatic global development request that will help mute the impacts of COVID-19 and drive future progress. In addition to saving lives and creating brighter futures, global development programs contribute to U.S. economic growth and boost our national security. These investments provide opportunities for children to reach their full potential and enable countries to build the foundations for ending poverty. This is desperately needed if we are to recover from the ravages of the COVID-19 pandemic. Can I count on you?

Thank you, *name, address, phone number.*

## Letter-writing Workshop Agenda

Below is a sample agenda and script for putting people in your community into action. When people take action, they get inspired. Adapt the 60-minute agenda below. If you need assistance with an online platform, like Zoom, for your meetings, contact Lisa Marchal at [lmarchal@results.org](mailto:lmarchal@results.org).

### I. Setting the Stage – 15 Minutes

#### **2 min: Welcome and acknowledge people for being there.**

*“There are a lot of ways you could be spending your time, and I want to thank all of you for joining us and learning more about how YOU can play a role in the movement to end poverty. Let’s share a bit about why we’re here.”*

#### **3 min: State the purpose of the meeting.**

*“Our purpose today is to inspire you all about the difference you can make, working with others, to create the political will to end hunger, poverty, and inequity. In the next few minutes, we’ll . . .*

- *Learn a bit about RESULTS, the group organizing this.*
- *Learn about an issue of poverty.*
- *Take powerful action on the issue: we’ll write letters to Congress*
- *And, finally, see who is interested in continuing to make a difference with RESULTS.”*

#### **10 min: Center the room and do introductions.**

*“Let’s see who’s here and get in touch with why we are here. Please give us your name and tell us briefly why acting on issue of poverty is important to you.”*

*“Thank you all for sharing what is important to you. We have a lot in common.”*

### II. The Basics of RESULTS – 10 Minutes

*RESULTS is movement of passionate, committed, everyday people. Together we use our voices to influence political decisions that will bring an end to poverty. As volunteers, we receive training, support, and inspiration to become skilled advocates. In time, we learn to effectively advise policy makers, guiding them toward decisions that will improve access to health, education, and economic opportunity. Together we realize the incredible power we possess to use our voices to change the world. “*

1. Share the *Raise Your Voice* video: <https://results.org/> via the share-screen function on Zoom.
2. Share an example of success: *“Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, we protected development assistance for FY2020 after the President proposed cutting it by 30%. During the pandemic, we helped secure \$11 billion in international development*

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*funding in the March 2021 COVID relief package, which included \$3.5 billion for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. We also helped secure \$4 billion for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance in the December package.”*

3. Share a local example of our role in creating change (perhaps a way in which you moved a legislator to take action).
4. A few more details if you have time. Tailor these to reflect what your group does:
  - *“RESULTS partners meet twice per month to plan and take action.”*
  - *“During one of our meetings, we connect to a national webinar to learn about an issue, learn to speak powerfully, and take action to influence Congress.”* Give an example.
  - *“We also develop plans for influencing our decision makers through face-to-face meetings, the media, and other community actions.”*

### **III. Issues and Action Component - 30 Minutes**

1. Introduce the issue of appropriations with a story or video about a request area (not an exhaustive list). You can share your screen on Zoom.
  - a. *Story on tuberculosis:* <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/videos/nothabos-dream>
  - b. *Video about the Global Partnership for Education:* <https://tinyurl.com/VidforEd>
  - c. *Video on childhood malnutrition:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k9eGX6Limls>
2. Read the May Action Sheet together, including the sample letter.
3. Show people how to find the email address of the foreign policy aide for your legislators by using our Legislator Lookup tool: <https://results.org/volunteers/legislator-lookup/>
4. Write, and then ask writers to read their letter out loud for feedback and encouragement.
5. Make a plan for sending in the letters and debrief.

### **IV. Invitation to Attend the Next Meeting & Closing - 5 Minutes**

*“Lastly, we are planning to have future meetings like this one to guide people in becoming powerful advocates. We’ll also be meeting with our members of Congress and generating media. Who is interested in joining us again to take action?”*

Say thank you, capture contact information: name, phone, email, address. Add them to your Action Network list in your Group Roadmap and stay in touch with them. Contacts Sarah Leone at [sleone@results.org](mailto:sleone@results.org) for tips on how to best engage your Action Network, as

she can advise on getting Action Network members into the national database and/or starting to receive regular actions from your group on a regular basis.

### **Action Network Managers Action**

Here's a sample message you can send to your Action Network:

*Dear (Name): As Congress looks at its spending plan for fiscal year 2022, it's time to tell them what they should prioritize. Smart investments in global health and education programs in the world's poorest places can dramatically change the futures of women, children, and other vulnerable populations, particularly post-COVID. Use our [online action](#) to ask senators to prioritize global health and education during the FY22 appropriations process. We must continue to build support for these vital issues.*