

ACTION SHEET

Ask Congress to Cosponsor Global Malnutrition Legislation

The bipartisan Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act ([S.2956/H.R.4693](#)) is led by Senators Christopher Coons (D-DE) and John Boozman (R-AR), and Representatives Gregory Meeks (D-NY), Michael McCaul (R-TX), Chrissy Houlahan (D-PA) and Young Kim (R-CA). This legislation better positions USAID, our country's main international development agency, to support countries to save more lives. The legislation focuses on increasing coverage for high impact, proven and affordable interventions, including “the Big 4”: prenatal vitamins, breastfeeding support, vitamin A supplementation for young kids, and emergency therapeutic foods to treat life-threatening severe malnutrition. It will also ensure USAID:

- **Increases coverage of highest-impact, evidence-based interventions and monitors progress with measurable goals and targets** by setting clear benchmarks and intended timelines for increasing coverage of key interventions.
- **Prioritizes the most vulnerable** by targeting interventions to underserved, marginalized, or impoverished communities, including children under 5 and pregnant and breastfeeding women.
- **Prioritizes country leadership and country-specific implementation plans**, including building capacity of local and community-based organizations and increasing the use of context and country-appropriate fortified staple foods.
- **Increases coordination within USAID and across U.S. agencies and multilateral partners** by establishing an inter-bureau Nutrition Leadership Council within USAID.
- **Leverages investments to increase impact of nutrition programs** and expands domestic resource mobilization for nutrition interventions, as well as encouraging investment into innovative and multi-stakeholder partnerships.
- **Is held accountable through rigorous monitoring, evaluation, and reporting requirements.**

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, malnutrition was an underlying cause of nearly half of all deaths of children under 5 years old. The policies in this legislation will make U.S. nutrition assistance more effective and help make sure that every child in the world has a chance to not only survive but thrive. **Will you reach out to your representative and senators and ask them to cosponsor this crucial legislation?**

Sample Call or Email Message in EPIC Format

Consider organizing a group writing activity by inviting RESULTS group members and people in your Action Network to join together to discuss why U.S. leadership to end global malnutrition matters to each of you. Write and share your messages with each other, then either hand-deliver the messages to a local office or have advocates submit their personalized letter via our online action on the website:

<https://results.org/volunteers/action-center/>.

See the sample meeting agenda on the next page to guide you in enrolling others into action.

Subject: Congress Must Take a Stand to Help End Global Malnutrition

Engage: All children deserve a strong start in life, regardless of where they are born. But tragically, in 2020, nearly 150 million children under 5 were stunted (too short for their age) and over 45 million were affected by wasting (too thin for their height), both reflecting severe malnutrition.

Problem: Experts predict that pandemic-related disruptions to food and health systems could cause up to a 50 percent rise in global malnutrition—and wasting is expected to be the single biggest driver of increased child deaths. Failure to act now will have devastating long-term consequences that affect poverty and malnutrition levels for years.

Inform on Solution: With COVID-19 reversing progress on global poverty for the first time in decades, bold U.S. leadership on nutrition is needed. The Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act ([S.2956/H.R.4693](#)) is led by Senators Christopher Coons (D-DE) and John Boozman (R-AR), and Representatives Gregory Meeks (D-NY), Michael McCaul (R-TX), Chrissy Houlahan (D-PA) and Young Kim (R-CA), and it provides hope. This legislation better positions USAID, our country's main international development agency, to support countries to save more lives.

Call to Action: The policies in this legislation will make U.S. nutrition assistance more effective and help make sure that every child in the world has a chance to not only survive but thrive. Will the Representative/Senator co-sponsor the Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act (S.2956/H.R.4693)?

Message-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.

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.*
- *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 the 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 our values (<https://results.org/our-anti-oppression-values/>) via the share-screen function on Zoom.
2. Share an example of success: *“During the pandemic, we helped secure \$11 billion in international development 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 late 2020. We are currently*

working to protect housing, tax credit, and COVID-19 vaccine access resources in the Build Back Better bill.

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 global malnutrition with a story or video. You can share your screen on Zoom.

Videos about global malnutrition:

- Nourish the Future: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C7hCXUMgMOg>
 - Story of Hagirso: https://ccga.ccgclients.com/hagirso/?fbclid=IwAR1KtNGi11nOYXK5NHDJYNRR3fbdPMeiRpPG5GBrfHBcwYvY6IXqH24_E9A
2. Read the November Action Sheet together, including the sample message.
 3. Show people how to find the email address of the foreign policy aide for your legislators or office addresses by using our Legislator Lookup tool: <https://results.org/volunteers/legislator-lookup/>
 4. Write, and then ask writers to read their message out loud for feedback and encouragement.
 5. Make a plan for sending in your messages 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. Contact Sarah Leone at 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):

All children deserve a strong start in life, regardless of where they are born. But tragically, in 2020, nearly 150 million children under 5 were stunted (too short for their age) and over 45 million were affected by wasting (too thin for their height), both reflecting severe malnutrition.

With COVID-19 reversing progress on global poverty for the first time in decades, bold U.S. leadership on nutrition is needed. The Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act ([S.2956/H.R.4693](#)) is led by Senators Christopher Coons (D-DE) and John Boozman (R-AR), and Representatives Gregory Meeks (D-NY), Michael McCaul (R-TX), Chrissy Houlahan (D-PA) and Young Kim (R-CA), and it provides hope. This legislation better positions USAID, our country's main international development agency, to support countries to save more lives.

Will you ask your legislator(s) to co-sponsor the Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act (S.2956/H.R.4693)?

Use our [online action alert](#) to write your legislator(s) and raise your voice on this issue.