



# ACTION SHEET

## Building the Foundation to End Poverty

Sitting at your kitchen table to make a budget, you prioritize the things that are most important for your family – providing daily meals, maintaining the roof over your head, ensuring your kids grow up healthy, and giving them every opportunity to succeed. Now is the time to urge Congress to do the same for families around the world by voicing their support on issues that build the foundation to end poverty – global health, education, and economic opportunity.

Members of Congress should voice their support for global development programs that save lives and help the poorest around the world become more self-reliant through the foreign aid funding bill, known as the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill. This legislation supports partnerships with poor countries, enabling them to improve access to health and nutrition programs and strengthen basic education. Every member of Congress can play a role in shaping this bill by writing to and speaking with the leadership of the State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee of Appropriations before they begin drafting the spending legislation.

**This is where YOU come in!** For our members of Congress to be bold in defending effective poverty-focused foreign assistance programs that build independence within poor countries, they need to hear from their constituents. Your voice in support of these programs is critical to developing the political will needed to protect funding, save lives, and create brighter futures.

Write letters to your own members of Congress urging them write to and speak with the committee leaders who determine foreign aid funding priorities — the Chair (Rep. Kay Granger and Sen. Lindsey Graham) and Ranking Member (Rep. Nita Lowey and Sen. Patrick Leahy) of the House and Senate State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittees.

## Improving Health and Education

For background on each of these requests, please review the corresponding Appropriations Request Sheets, which contain additional information 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.

<b>Child Health, Gavi, and Nutrition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide \$850 million for Maternal and Child Health.</li> <li>• Include \$235 million for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, for global immunization within Maternal and Child Health.</li> <li>• Provide \$200 million for Nutrition programs in Global Health.</li> </ul>
<b>Bilateral Tuberculosis</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide \$400 million for scaling up critical U.S.-supported efforts to control and treat TB and drug-resistant TB.</li> </ul>
<b>Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide \$1.35 billion for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to maintain and expand life-saving prevention and treatment programs.</li> </ul>
<b>Global Partnership for Education and Basic Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include \$125 million for the Global Partnership for Education to cost-effectively support access to quality education for all children within Basic Education.</li> <li>• Provide \$925 million for Basic Education in Development Assistance.</li> </ul>

## Tips for Navigating the Appropriations Process

- **Check the deadline.** The Appropriations Committees set deadlines to receive requests from members of Congress. Most congressional offices set their own internal deadlines for appropriations requests from constituents well before these dates. Ask your congressional offices (start with the foreign affairs aides) about their deadlines so you can submit your request beforehand. Even if the deadline has passed, submit your request anyway.
- **Check the form.** Members of Congress receive many appropriations requests. To standardize this process, some members have a form to complete, either on paper or online. Check your representative's and senators' websites or call to see if there is a form to complete. Don't hesitate to ask RESULTS staff for help filling it out.
- **Schedule a meeting.** Sending a letter is an important way to show support, but a meeting with your member of Congress or their staff will make your request stand out, demonstrating deep support among constituents for empowering foreign aid programs that reach the poorest.
- **Follow up.** After your request is submitted, follow up with the foreign policy legislative aide to see if he/she requires any more information to complete the request. Tell the aide that you would like to know if your requests are included in the Congressperson's request to the appropriators and ask how and when you can find that out. Stay with your request until you know what happens.

## Take Action! Write Letters!

### Here's a sample letter:

Thank you for your work to support \_\_\_\_\_. We know members of the State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee of Appropriations will soon be considering spending levels for life-saving global development work for the fiscal year 2016 foreign aid spending bill. I am writing to request that you speak and write to the leadership of this subcommittee, Chair(wo)man XXX and Ranking Member XXX, and ask that they include the following funding levels in their bill. This funding represents both a compassionate and pragmatic global development request.

In the area of Global Health, please include:

- \$850 million for Maternal and Child Health, including \$235 million for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and an additional \$200 million for Nutrition in Global Health.
- \$400 million for bilateral Tuberculosis control efforts.
- \$1.35 billion for the multilateral Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

In the area of Education for All, please include:

- \$125 million for the Global Partnership for Education within Basic Education, and a total of \$925 million for Basic Education.

In addition to saving lives and empowering people to build pathways out of poverty, global development programs also contribute to U.S. economic growth and boost our national security. Evidence-based health and education programs enable countries to build the foundations they need for ending poverty.

To download additional background on each of these issues and other information, please visit our Appropriations resource page: [http://www.results.org/issues/global\\_poverty\\_campaigns/appropriations/](http://www.results.org/issues/global_poverty_campaigns/appropriations/) or contact RESULTS staff Crickett Nicovich at [cnicovich@results.org](mailto:cnicovich@results.org)