

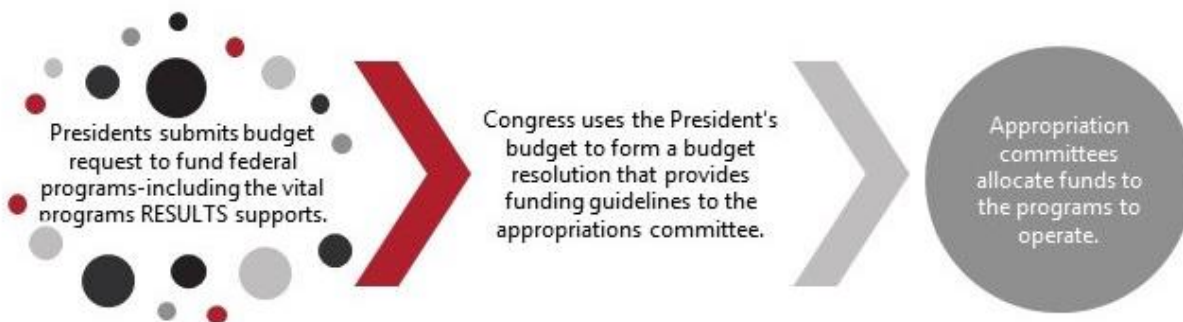
# ACTION SHEET



## Tell Congress What They Should Prioritize

As Congress restarts the government and looks at its spending plan for next year, it's your turn to tell them what they should prioritize. Smart investments in targeted health and quality education programs in the world's poorest places can dramatically change the futures of women, children, and other vulnerable populations. With U.S. leadership, in partnership with developing countries, we have all but eradicated polio, halted and reversed the rising rates of HIV/AIDS infections, seen more girls finish primary and even secondary school than ever before, and we are now on course to end preventable child and maternal deaths in a generation. Each year, U.S. led efforts save millions of lives from disease, ensure quality education for the poorest children, strengthen democratic values in fragile states, and build trading partners with emerging economies.

But these efforts require resources. "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 development programs supported by RESULTS. The graphic shows how the process works, and the tips below will help you be an effective advocate:



The process that starts as simple in a "Schoolhouse Rock" song or a flow chart can be very messy and prolonged – taking over a year to finalize and see the end result of our advocacy (as it has been for fiscal year 2019). But, it is clear that weighing in on appropriations is critical for determining 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. 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 2021 (which officially starts on Oct. 1, 2020). There are two key actions RESULTS advocates will take in the coming months:

- **Now:** Ask your member of Congress to make a personal request for specific funding levels to the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee Leadership.
- **Soon:** Ask your member of Congress to sign on to “Dear Colleague Letters.”

## The Role Congress Plays

Members of Congress that serve on the Appropriations Committee in the House and Senate are responsible for creating legislation to fund all government programs each fiscal year with the budget and guidelines they are given. In order to fund the fight against poverty, RESULTS weighs in annually by taking actions to influence the foreign aid funding bill, known as the State and Foreign Operations (SFOPS) Appropriations bill. This legislation supports partnerships with developing countries, enabling them to improve access to quality health programs, improve nutrition, and strengthen national education systems. These anti-poverty, global development programs represent less than one percent of the federal budget.

This is where your advocacy makes a difference. While members of the Appropriations committee are important in crafting the legislation, **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 Appropriations Subcommittee. And we can influence the requests our members of Congress make by writing to and meeting with them throughout the process.

## Annual Requests RESULTS Makes of Congress

Every step of crafting the SFOPS bill is an opportunity for advocacy. And the more the leadership of the committees hears about a specific funding request, the more likely they are to support it. We ask representatives and senators to weigh in both formally (in writing) and informally (speak personally to leadership) before and during the writing of the bill.

## Action One (Now)

**Write letters to your members of Congress** urging them to write to and speak to committee leaders who determine foreign aid funding priorities — the Chair and Ranking Member of the House (Rep. Nita Lowey (D)/Rep. Hal Rogers (R)) and Senate (Senator Lindsey Graham (R) /Senator Patrick Leahy (D)) State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittees.

For background on each of these issues, please review the corresponding Appropriations Request Sheets, which contain additional background 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>RESULTS' FY21 Appropriations Requests</b>	
<b>Child Health, Gavi, and Nutrition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide \$900 million for Maternal and Child Health.</li> <li>• Include \$290 million for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, for global immunization within the Maternal and Child Health Account.</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 \$1.56 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</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include \$125 million for the Global Partnership for Education within Basic Education to cost-effectively support access to quality education for all children.</li> </ul>

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

<p><b>Engage:</b> Dear Representative or Senator, In partnership with developing countries, the U.S. has led the fight against extreme hunger and poverty by investing in smart global development programs that make differences by improving health and building brighter futures.</p>
<p><b>Problem:</b> But we have more work to do since:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Too many kids are still dying of preventable causes – almost 15,000 each day.</li> <li>• Close to 260 million children and youth who should be in school are not.</li> <li>• Tuberculosis sickens over 10 million people and kills 1.5 million people annually.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Inform:</b> We know that members of the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee will soon be considering spending levels for global development for fiscal year 2021.</p>
<p><b>Call to Action:</b> Will you please speak and write to the leadership of this subcommittee, Chair XXX and Ranking Member XXX, and ask that they include the following funding levels in their 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>This funding represents both a compassionate and pragmatic global development request. 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</p>

the foundations for ending poverty. Can I count on you to weigh in?  
Thank you, *name, address, phone number.*

## Action Two (Now)

**Contact the Foreign Policy Aide and/or meet with your members of Congress personally** to ask them to make a request to the Appropriations Committee Leadership.

**Step 1:** Reach out to the Foreign Policy aides in your representative's and senators' offices and ask when and how they prefer to receive our appropriations requests. (*Pro Tip: Ask offices if they have an appropriations form they want you to fill out – see more below!*)

**Step 2:** If you need assistance in fulfilling their requirements contact RESULTS staff at [cnicovich@results.org](mailto:cnicovich@results.org).

**Step 3:** Contact the scheduler for your representative and senators and ask for an in-person meeting with your members of Congress so you can make the requests in person.

## Action Three: (Coming Soon)

**Ask your members of Congress to sign on to a “Dear Colleague Letter”:** A “sign-on” letter, also known as a “Dear Colleague” letter, is circulated by members of Congress. It is much like a petition sent to the Chair and Ranking Member of the SFOPS committee by their Congressional peers. The more signers on the letters, the more sway they have – especially if both Republicans and Democrats sign on! This can be an entry level action if your member of Congress has never taken an appropriations action before.

**Step 1:** Chose which sign-on letters you want to send to your representative or senator.

**Step 2:** Pay attention to timing – each sign-on letter varies on its deadline for closing.

**Step 3:** Send an email to the Foreign Policy Aide with the letter(s) and appropriate RESULTS background document(s), asking them to sign onto it. Follow up with a phone call.

## Tips for Navigating the Appropriations Process

- **Schedule a meeting.** Sending a letter is an important way to show support, but meeting with your member of Congress or their staff will make your request stand out, demonstrating deep support among constituents for anti-poverty global development programs.
- **Be targeted.** If your member of Congress has signed “Dear Colleagues” or submitted personal appropriations requests before, ask them to maintain or grow their support. If they have not, start by asking them to support just one or two issue areas of interest. (Don't know? No problem! You can find this information on our website [www.RESULTS.org](http://www.RESULTS.org) -> Join Us -> Take Action Today -> Congressional Scorecard).

- **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 Policy Aide) 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, usually from their own district. 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.
- **Follow up.** After your request is submitted, follow up with the Foreign Policy Aide to see if they require any more information to complete the request. Ask the aide to let you 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.

To download additional background on each of these issues and other information, please visit our Appropriations resource page: <https://results.org/issues/global-poverty-budget-appropriations/> or contact RESULTS' staff, Crickett Nicovich at [cnicovich@results.org](mailto:cnicovich@results.org)