

## ACTION SHEET

### Write Letters: Tell Congress to Prioritize Health & Education

As coronavirus risks becoming the next global pandemic, we know it's the communities facing poverty and already pushed to the margins that face the greatest threats. **Viruses don't discriminate, but people and policies too often do.** Whether it's new emergencies like this one or ongoing emergencies like severe malnutrition, preventable child deaths, and tuberculosis – they require strong health care delivery systems, a respect for human rights, and an approach grounded in equity.

As Congress looks at its spending plan for 2021, we must tell them to prioritize smart investments in global health and education programs in the world's poorest places that can dramatically change the futures of women, children, and other vulnerable populations, particularly in challenging times like these.

This is just the latest global health challenge, not the last. Coronavirus is a sobering – and urgent – reminder that we need to increase investment in what we know works: strong international partnerships, building health care delivery systems that reach everyone, research and development, and an approach to care that prioritizes the most marginalized.

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 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 addressing healthcare challenges. 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).

### Gather Your Fellow Advocates and Start Writing

**Take Action:** Write a letter to your Senators asking them to make a personal request for specific funding levels to the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee (SFOPS) leadership: Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) & Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT). You can also ask them to sign on related Dear Colleague letters.

For background on each of these requests [please review the corresponding Appropriations memos](#), which contain additional background on each issue to support your request. We suggest that you not include all of the funding requests, unless you know your Senator supports all of them. Instead, select one or more requests that your Senator is most likely to support and act on.

RESULTS' FY21 Appropriations Requests	
<b>Child Health, Gavi, and Nutrition</b> <a href="#">(Link to memo)</a>	<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> <a href="#">(Link to memo)</a>	<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> <a href="#">(Link to memo)</a>	<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> <a href="#">(Link to memo)</a>	<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 for your Senators

<p><b>Engage:</b> Dear Senator, When the world has come together to prioritize the health of <i>everyone</i>, we've seen what's possible. Partnerships like the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, save lives by bringing together the world's resources to reach everyone.</p>
<p><b>Problem:</b> But as the COVID-19 outbreak makes clear, we still have much more to do. Now is the time to be even more ambitious in our investment, our focus, and our commitment 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> Members of the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee (SFOPS) will soon be considering spending levels for global development for fiscal year 2021.</p>
<p><b>Call to Action:</b> Will you please write and speak to SFOPS Chair Graham and Ranking Member Leahy and ask that they include the following funding levels in their FY21 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 request. In addition to saving lives and creating brighter futures, global development programs contribute to U.S. economic growth and boost our national security. They also blunt the effects of global outbreaks on the world's most vulnerable. Can I count on you?</p> <p>Thank you, <i>name, address, phone number.</i></p>

## 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.

### 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 the day, and I want to thank all of you for coming out and learning more about how YOU can play a role in the movement to end poverty. As we pass around the sign-in sheet, we can 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 and poverty. 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 in the room tonight 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/>
2. Share an example of success: *“We protected development assistance for FY2020 after the President proposed cutting it by 30%. We worked with Republicans and Democrats to help secure the highest number ever of congressional supporters for AIDS, TB, and malaria; global education; and maternal & child health, sending a message to the President that these programs should be protected and strengthened.”*
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:

- *“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):
  - a. *Global Fund*: <https://tinyurl.com/VidforGF>
  - b. *Gavi*: <https://tinyurl.com/VidforGavi>
  - c. *Global Partnership for Education*: <https://tinyurl.com/VidforEd>
2. Read the March 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://tinyurl.com/yy2a8n4y>.
4. Write letters, then get volunteers to read their letter out loud for inspiration.
5. Make a plan for sending/delivering the letters and debrief on the experience.

### 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 visiting our representatives and senators. 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 and stay in touch with them. Send contact info to Ken Patterson or Lisa Marchal for the RESULTS national database as part of your group’s Action Network. Your new people will receive actions on a regular basis. They can also sign up [here](#).

### Action Network Managers Action

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

*Though we’ve made progress on health & education worldwide, there is still much work to do. Nearly 15,000 children under age 5 still die daily of preventable causes. And 151 million children under age 5 experience stunting from malnourishment. **Take Action:** Ask your representative and senators to fund effective global health and education programs addressing poverty.*