

Global Food Security Act of 2013 (H.R.2822)

Representatives Betty McCollum, Aaron Schock and James McGovern



(Photo credit: CARE and Josh Estey)

Around the world, 870 million people suffer from chronic food insecurity.

- Today, more than **200 million children** are chronically malnourished.
- As many as 25% of the world's children are actually **stunted** – permanently physically and cognitively underdeveloped – due to malnutrition.
- Food security is the **foundation** of all other health, education, and economic development investments we make. If students are hungry, they cannot learn in school. If patients do not have proper nutrition, medications do not work.

Now is the time for Congress to act.

- Food is a basic foundation of economic development and sound health. A hungry world will never be a secure world and it can never be a just world.
- Nearly a billion people around the world are struggling with chronic hunger. It is an obstacle to development and threatens our national security.

The *Global Food Security Act of 2013* renews our nation's commitment to helping poor countries grow their way out of poverty and overcome hunger. This bill:

- Directs the President to develop a comprehensive, multi-agency strategy focused on improving **nutrition**, strengthening **agriculture development** by ensuring smallholder farmers' access to inputs and training, and investing in **farm-to-market capacity** to strengthen local markets.
- Appoints a new **Special Coordinator** for Food, Nutrition, and Agricultural Development.
- Requires **yearly reports** on progress towards meeting strategy objectives.
- Updates the *Foreign Assistance Act of 1961* to include a renewed focus on **women, nutrition, and smallholder farmers**.

This bill will ensure smallholder farmers in the world's poorest countries, particularly women, have the tools, education, and training they need to produce food for their families, communities, and countries.

Now is the time for Congress to authorize a long-term commitment to fight hunger, strengthen agricultural production, and give hundreds of millions of children and families food security so they can grow, develop, and learn.