

FARM BILL PROGRAMS

STORIES OF RESILIENCE

After decades of progress, global hunger is on the rise. Vulnerable communities have seen their food systems erode from the compounded shocks of conflict, climate change, and the COVID-19 pandemic. The conflict in Ukraine is further exacerbating this acute food crisis spiraling around the world.

The Farm Bill is a critical tool in fighting both acute and chronic hunger and malnutrition. Title III, which looks at agricultural trade and food assistance programs, authorizes several important international food aid programs that save lives in times of emergency and address the root causes of food insecurity and malnutrition, helping to build resilience within communities.

Below are examples of programs which are supported by the Farm Bill and implemented by international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) around the world.

Programs include:

- ▶ Food for Peace Title II (“Food for Peace”)
- ▶ McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program (“McGovern-Dole Food for Education”)
- ▶ Food for Progress

FOOD FOR PEACE TITLE II

Catholic Relief Services, Ethiopia

Adverse weather conditions in Ethiopia’s East Hararghe zone in Oromia have devastated livelihoods by halting crop production, leading to rapid losses in availability and viability of seeds. To ensure food security, farmers need access to seeds of appropriate varieties and quality for growing season. A Food for Peace Title II-funded Resilience Food Security Activity called Ifaa, led by Catholic Relief Services and implemented through a consortium of local and international partners, uses a multisectoral, integrated activity design to sustainably strengthen livelihoods and better position communities to manage natural shocks. As part of this mission, Ifaa has been providing small-scale farmers with high-yield maize and haricot bean varieties that are well adapted to the local agroecology and are suited to the preferences of small-scale farmers in the region.



Melikte Tadesse, 2022



Save the Children

Save the Children, Nepal

In Nepal, Save the Children implemented a six-year Food for Peace Title II-funded project to improve food security and build resilience. The goal of the program was to diversify livelihoods, improve nutrition for young children and pregnant women, and strengthen the ability of the community to mitigate, adapt to, and recover from shocks and stresses. Save the Children and partners worked with 4,910 farmers groups to improve disaster and agriculture risk management, improving access to nutritious food in the critical 1,000 day window for 30,627 mothers with children.

CARE, Niger

CARE evaluated several Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs), including four funded through Food for Peace, and found that these groups increase savings and income, bolster food security, and improve education access. A typical member of a moderately successful savings group sees their total savings increase by 153% over the first year of participation. The average monthly income increase over the next five years is six-fold. One in five households who joined a savings group consumed an extra meal per day, up from a typical one to two meals per day. For programs that can follow households for at least two years, CARE found that VSLA member households who started in positions of extreme food insecurity achieved a 75% to 80% increase in food security. VSLA member households who started in positions of moderate food insecurity achieved a 40% to 50% increase in food security.



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Food for the Hungry

Food for the Hungry, Guatemala

With funding from the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) International Food Relief Partnership, a Title II-funded program, Food for the Hungry (FH) is working with communities in the Western Highlands of Guatemala to build food security and improve the nutritional status of vulnerable individuals and families in areas with some of the highest rates of poverty, hunger, and child malnutrition in the country. Thanks to U.S. Government funding and partnership, FH local staff have reached over 14,000 children in more than 112 communities

through the distribution of a fortified micronutrient soup mix used to supplement meals, alleviating hunger and addressing vitamin and nutrient deficiencies. FH also provides support for home gardens to further diversify diets, as well as hands-on training and cooking demonstrations that incorporate locally available and affordable ingredients to create traditional, nutritious dishes. These investments address hunger and malnutrition in the immediate term, while also building long-term food security by equipping families with the knowledge, skills, and resources to diversify their diets and improve their nutritional status.

MCGOVERN-DOLE INTERNATIONAL FOOD FOR EDUCATION PROGRAM

Catholic Relief Services, Guatemala

In Guatemala, many children that depended on school feeding programs for meals were at risk for deteriorating nutrition with COVID-19 related school closures. Given these closures, Catholic Relief Services worked closely with the Guatemalan Ministry of Education to pivot from school-based to take-home rations of rice, corn, vegetable oil, and black beans, providing meals for more than 50,000 students through the McGovern-Dole program. Volunteers assembled the individual food rations from the McGovern-Dole Program, along with fresh produce from another local project.

CARE, Timor-Leste

CARE implements HATUTAN, a five-year initiative funded by USDA's McGovern-Dole program, which aims to improve literacy, health, and nutrition outcomes. CARE is working with the Government of Timor-Leste to support 445 schools and surrounding communities throughout four of the most disadvantaged municipalities. One of the HATUTAN program's main objectives is to support the government's implementation of the school feeding program in all basic education and preschools throughout the



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school year. The program reduced dropout across grades one through six in participating schools, while dropout rates increased in all grades of schools that did not participate. In a focus group, teachers reported: “The number of attendances has increased. When the school meal is provided and when we prepare a meal, we check the attendance lists and compared them. The previous numbers were smaller, sometimes there were only around 100 students. Now and maybe in the coming days, when the students assemble in the front yard and we count them, there were more than 200 students.” The program also reduced learning losses by 52% on reading fluency and 42% for reading comprehension.

FOOD FOR PROGRESS

World Vision, Cambodia

In Cambodia, fish is a primary source of protein and contributes to good nutrition. Creating new market opportunities for local farmers has led to increased household income as well as improved dietary diversity. [The CAST project](#), funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food for Progress program, has been successful in strengthening market links between value chain actors and innovation input suppliers, hatcheries, fish producers, financial institutions, distributors, and local and national buyers. To increase local fishery competitiveness and improve regulatory governance, funds for the project were acquired from the proceeds generated by U.S. soybean sales to Cambodia. Led by the American Soybean Association, in partnership with [World Vision](#), Auburn University, and Kansas State University, this program provides business development services along with technical assistance for local market actors, like farmers and producers, to secure loans and grants to grow their businesses.



World Vision Cambodia