McGovern-Dole International Food for Education

Agriculture Appropriations Bill
Department of Agriculture
Title VII

What is McGovern-Dole International Food for Education?
The McGovern-Dole International Food for Education Program provides U.S. agricultural commodities and financial and technical assistance to low-income, food-insecure countries to establish school feeding programs for preschool and primary school children. The program also works to increase access to safe water and improve sanitation and works with local farmers to bolster sustainable production of nutritious foods.

Funding History
Funding levels may not accurately reflect those in the appropriations bills and/or reports due to rounding.

USDA Local and Regional Procurement

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What is Local and Regional Procurement?
The USDA Local and Regional Procurement (LRP) program provides development assistance and emergency food relief using locally procured commodities, with projects typically implemented in underserved and remote parts of recipient countries. The LRP program complements existing food aid programs, especially the McGovern-Dole Program, and fills nutritional and food availability gaps created by unexpected emergencies.
Funding History

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What do these funds support?

- **Enhanced school enrollment** and academic performance by providing school meals, educational instruction, teacher training, and school infrastructure construction.
- Nutrition programs for **pregnant and nursing women, infants, and preschoolers** to improve children’s health and learning capacity before they enter school.
- Increased access to safe water and sanitation and deworming medications.
- **Strengthened capacity** of schools and the government to effectively procure local commodities to supply school feeding programs.
- Formation of **sustainable market linkages** between schools and local producers.

Foreign Aid Delivers

McGovern-Dole reduces hunger and improves literacy and primary education, especially for girls. In FY2023, **approximately $197 million** was allocated to various food assistance programs which provided over 44,000 metric tons of in-kind U.S. sourced agriculture and locally procured commodities. These programs have benefitted over **31 million children** and families in 48 countries and provided more than **5.5 billion school meals**. Furthermore, McGovern-Dole builds democratic and accountable institutions by helping establish transparent governance bodies—such as training **11,240 Parent Teacher Associations** in how to champion education in FY2021—and bolsters U.S. trade and exports by providing agricultural commodities from **17 states**.

When local and regional procurement resources are integrated, strengthening the capacity of schools and governments to procure local commodities, programs stimulate local economies by increasing producers’ incomes and creating jobs in the community. For example, in FY2022, LRP projects reached **126,859 people** across five countries, including **Nicaragua**, where funds supported school garden production in 39 schools, producing 670 kilograms of fresh fruits and vegetables to supplement school meals for 5,282 students.

*This account received supplemental resources in recent years. See “About Choose to Invest” for more info.*