



ACTION SHEET

Strengthen Impact: Invest in Development

In just a generation, with U.S. leadership, the world has more than halved extreme poverty globally. By investing in targeted global health and quality education programs in the world’s poorest places, we see that development is working. We have halted and reversed the rising rates of HIV/AIDS infections, seen more girls in primary and even secondary school than ever before, and are on track to end preventable child and maternal deaths by 2030. By joining forces with other donor nations and developing countries themselves, we are building the foundations for successful, country-owned health and education programs and ensuring that every person, regardless of where they are born, has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

You can help make these shared values a reality for all people by using your voice!

Members of Congress can prioritize global development programs that save lives and support the world’s poorest to become more self-reliant through the foreign aid funding bill, known as the State and Foreign Operations (SFOPS) Appropriations bill. This legislation supports partnerships with poor countries, enabling them to improve access to health and nutrition, and strengthen basic education. 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 before they begin drafting the fiscal year 2018 (FY18) funding bill early this year.

For our members of Congress to be bold in supporting effective poverty-focused foreign assistance programs that support poor countries to stand on their own, they need to hear from their constituents. **Your voice in support of these programs is critical to creating the political will needed to protect funding, save lives, strengthen impact, and create brighter futures.**

Write letters to your members of Congress urging them to champion anti-poverty funding priorities in global health and education for FY18 as both the House and Senate State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittees start drafting legislation.

Take Action! Write to Congress to Support Global Health and Education

Sample Letter:

Dear Rep./Sen. XXX,

Thank you for your work to support _____ in the last Congress. At the beginning of each year, we set resolutions. At the beginning of each Congress, we must also set priorities to ensure that children and families worldwide have every chance for good health and opportunity in the coming year. As Congress looks to fiscal year 2018, I ask that you prioritize support for programs that strengthen impact and create opportunity for people living in poverty, and ensure health and education for children to reach their full potential, regardless of where they are born.

This year, will you champion increased funding for global health and basic education in the State and Foreign Operations (SFOPs) Appropriations Subcommittee bill?

Access to quality health services and basic education, particularly for people in the world's poorest places, build the foundations for opportunity, dignity, and independence. In addition to saving lives and creating brighter futures, global development programs contribute to U.S. economic growth and boost our national security. The U.S. must prioritize support for effective health and education programs that provide opportunities for children around the world to reach their full potential and enable countries to build the foundations for ending poverty.

Fast Facts on Global Health and Education Investments for Your Letters

- **Maternal and Child Health:** Since 1990, the world has more than halved the number of children dying of preventable and treatable diseases from 12 million to 5.9 million a year. The U.S. now has a roadmap to save 15 million children's lives and 600,000 women's lives by 2020, but must maintain the momentum to do so with strong resource commitments to USAID in 2018.
- **Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance:** U.S. funding for Gavi supports its strategy of immunizing an additional 300 million children by 2020, saving an additional five million lives in the poorest countries in the world. As a commitment to improve their own child health, all 73 Gavi eligible countries co-finance a portion of vaccine costs.
- **Nutrition:** Forty-five percent of all under-five deaths are attributed to malnutrition. Ensuring quality nutrition during the "1,000 Day" period from pregnancy to a child's second birthday is critical to saving lives and preventing stunting. Investing in the early years improves physical and cognitive development and has life-long impact on education and economic outcomes.
- **Tuberculosis (TB):** While previously thought of as a disease of the past, in 2015 there were over 1.8 million TB-related deaths worldwide and over 10 million people sickened by the disease. TB is the leading killer of people who are living with HIV and drug-resistance strains continue to gain strength. Over 9,000 TB cases were reported in the United States in 2015. We must fight the disease where it occurs, because TB anywhere is TB everywhere.
- **Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria:** In 2017, global leaders pooled their financial resources to support the Global Fund's plan to save 8 million lives by 2020 against these diseases of poverty in countries with the greatest disease burden. Congress must now make good on the U.S. commitment of \$4.3 billion over three years.
- **Basic Education:** Around the world, 263 million children and youth are still not in school. And 250 million primary school-aged children who are in school are failing to acquire even basic reading, writing, and numeracy skills. The world has made steady progress toward universal education since 2000, but unless more effective policies are implemented and there is greater international financial support, it is projected that more children will be left out of school.
- **Global Partnership for Education (GPE):** GPE is the only international partnership exclusively dedicated to achieving education for all. In 65 poor and conflict-affected countries, GPE supports quality education for millions of children. GPE's unique model brings together international donors, the private sector, and community groups to harmonize education plans and funding toward the biggest education challenges, leading to the highest impact for children and youth. GPE has supported its partner countries to enroll 61 million more children in primary school and helped 13 percent more girls actually complete primary school. Congress should increase the U.S. investment to GPE so that all children, regardless of where they are born, can reach their full potential.

Leading with Action: Sample Education and Action Meeting Agenda with Script

Below is a sample agenda and script that you can use to put people in your community into action. We know that when people take action they get inspired. The agenda below would require a meeting of roughly 90 minutes. Adapt the elements that work for you!

I. SETTING THE STAGE – 15 MINUTES

Introduce the room to each other.

“Hi, my name is _____ and I am a volunteer with RESULTS here in _____. I have been a volunteer since _____.

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.

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 . . .

- Go over a bit of information about RESULTS for context.
- We will learn about and take action on one of our key campaigns. We’ll write a letter about _____.
- Finally, we’ll share a vision with you of the huge changes you can be a part of if you join RESULTS.

II. INSPIRING STORY OR DVD AND GROUP INTRODUCTIONS – 15 MINUTES

Bring the focus to why we are having this meeting.

“I know many of you have come straight from work, or a crazy few hours at home with your families, or from school. Your attention is likely to be focused anywhere but on this meeting. This video/reading will give you a sense of the problem of poverty and some of the solutions. You’ll see that ordinary citizens like you and me actually can do something about it.”

Video: We Have a Vision: http://www.results.org/blog/we_have_a_vision/

Ask everyone else to introduce him/herself and why came to meeting.

You may want to ask a broader question like, “What are you committed to in life or what are you passionate about or who do you want to be in the world?” If not, simply try the following: “Now, I would like to start off by asking everyone to introduce themselves and share what it was about RESULTS that had you come to this meeting. I would like to start with _____ here on my left and then go clockwise around the room.”

III. THE BASICS OF RESULTS – 10 MINUTES

RESULTS is...

“So what is RESULTS? 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.”

A few more details:

- RESULTS partners meet twice per month to plan and take action.
- During one of those meetings, we hook into a national conference call with hundreds of other volunteers around the country to learn more about an issue, learn to speak powerfully, and take action to communicate with our elected officials by sending them letters.
- We also develop plans for influencing our decision makers through face-to-face meetings, the media, and community action.

An example of success we've had in using our voices is getting Rep/Senator _____ to do _____.

IV. ISSUES/ACTION COMPONENT – 50 MINUTES

Overview of an issue we're working on.

“Now we will spend the next 30 minutes or so learning more about a specific campaign that RESULTS is working on, teach you how to speak powerfully about that issue, and guide you through writing a letter to your members of Congress.

Taking the Action.

Utilize this time to read, review, discuss, and act on the January Action Sheet focusing on our Appropriations Asks for FY18. You can use the following videos to introduce one of the appropriations issues:

- *Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria:* http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/blog/2016-12-01_SALESFORCE_RED_Great_Strides_Toward_an_AIDS-Free_Generation/
- *Maternal and Child Health & Early Childhood Development:* <http://tokeepapromise.org>
- *First 1000 Days:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OvS6ijzqfgM&feature=youtu.be>
- *TB:* http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/blog/2016-10-25_Meet_the_Generation_Mykola_Story/
- *Global Fund Generation:* http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/blog/2016-08-16_Meet_the_generation_to_End_It_For_Good/

V. INVITATION TO ATTEND THE NEXT MEETING AND CLOSING – 10 MINUTES

“Lastly, we are planning to have future meetings like this one about RESULTS and taking people through the process of taking action by writing letters like the ones you wrote tonight. Please let me know if you can think of other people here in _____, or in other cities where we may have a RESULTS group now or are looking to start one, who may be interested in coming to a meeting like this. We are also looking for people who want to take the next step in using their voice to work with the media and Congress with our group. Let me know if you are thinking about that so we can have a conversation.”

Share thank yous, and be sure to capture contact information.