



## The “*Streamlining International Food Assistance Act of 2024*”

U.S. Senator Peter Welch

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### Background

Through Food for Peace (FFP), the United States has a long history of using commodities produced by farmers in the United States to alleviate hunger abroad. In regions where food production is non-existent, provision of U.S. produced commodities will continue to play an important role in addressing food insecurity.

However, the requirement to use most FFP resources on in-kind food donations hinders our ability to be flexible and creative in addressing complex global hunger issues. Procuring and shipping commodities is a process that can take 4-6 months, where nearly 40% of funds are used for freight, shipping, and handling expenses.<sup>12</sup> These logistical and cost burdens ultimately reduce the amount and quality of aid reaching communities in need.

Conflict and climate change are driving food insecurity and hunger around the world and the *Streamlining International Food Assistance Act of 2024* gives USAID the ability to be more creative in effectively addressing these issues. While U.S. commodities may be helpful in the short run, our aid needs to empower locally-led solutions to hunger. For instance, Palestine, Sudan, South Sudan, Mali, and Haiti either have famines or are at risk of famine. To address this, the Food and Agricultural Organization at the United Nations (FAO) recommends providing in-kind commodities while also taking other actions, such as, providing cash transfers to acquire locally produced food and agricultural inputs, undertaking vaccination campaigns for livestock, and rehabilitating farmland.<sup>3</sup> If allowed to, FFP funds can be used to support activities that simultaneously address acute hunger needs, support devastated economies, and help local communities build resilience to future shocks, exponentially increasing the impact of the program.

Providing more flexibility in the usage of FFP funds can improve United States efforts to address food insecurity and the conflicts it contributes to.<sup>4</sup> U.S. commodities will continue to be used in regions where food is unavailable, but by using aid to bolster local markets, we can create resiliency abroad, reducing the costs of providing aid in the future.

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<sup>1</sup> “Modalities for Emergency Food and Nutrition Assistance - 12-22-2022 | Document.” 2022. U.S. Agency for International Development. December 29, 2022. <https://www.usaid.gov/document/modalities-emergency-food-and-nutrition-assistance-12-22-2022>.

<sup>2</sup> “FY22 International Food Assistance Report (IFAR) | Document.” 2023. U.S. Agency for International Development. May 25, 2023. <https://www.usaid.gov/document/fy22-international-food-assistance-report-ifar>.

<sup>3</sup> “Hunger Hotspots. FAO–WFP early warnings on acute food insecurity: June to October 2024 Outlook. | Document.” 2024. WFP and FAO. June 5, 2024. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cd0979en>

<sup>4</sup> “The Link between Food Insecurity and Conflict DANGEROUSLY HUNGRY.” 2023. [https://www.wfpusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Dangerously\\_Hungry\\_WFPUSA\\_Digital\\_Report.pdf](https://www.wfpusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Dangerously_Hungry_WFPUSA_Digital_Report.pdf).

## **Legislation**

The *Streamlining International Food Assistance Act of 2024* provides the United States Agency for Aid and Development (USAID) full flexibility within the Food for Peace program to provide donations of U.S. commodities, alongside other forms of international food assistance. To avoid conflicting requirements and duplicative authorizations, the text also eliminates the requirement for USAID to provide 2.5 million metric tons of commodities in aid per year, repeals mandated support for eligible organizations, and streamlines authorization streams.

## **Endorsements**

The *Streamlining International Food Assistance Act of 2024* is endorsed by the National Family Farm Coalition.