



**A Catholic Campaign  
Against Global Poverty:**

Trade • Aid • Debt

April 24, 2006



**TAKE ACTION!!**

**Urge your Senators to support assistance for Haiti and African countries in crisis;  
Provide more for food aid emergencies and refugees**

**WHY THIS ISSUE IS IMPORTANT:** Before the Easter recess, the Senate Appropriations Committee marked up its FY 2006 supplemental appropriations bill, which primarily funds the war in Iraq and Afghanistan, but also includes urgently needed funding for global food programs, assistance for the people of Sudan, Liberia, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and Haiti as well as refugee assistance.

The House of Representatives already passed its supplemental appropriations bill, which includes similar funding levels for Sudan, Liberia, and food aid but does not include funding for the DRC or Haiti and less for refugee assistance. We expect the full Senate to take up the supplemental appropriations bill when Congress reconvenes the week of April 24.

**BACKGROUND:** In support of our mission to follow the Gospel's call to alleviate human suffering and promote justice worldwide, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) joins the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in promoting the *Catholic Campaign Against Global Poverty* ([www.usccb.org/globalpoverty](http://www.usccb.org/globalpoverty)). Our campaign is rooted in our Church's teaching to uphold human dignity, which we believe should be reflected in U.S. programs that address the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable people around the world.

It is therefore essential that the Senate retain the following as passed by the Senate Appropriations Committee in the FY 2006 supplemental appropriations bill:

- \$564 million for refugee, humanitarian, and peacekeeping needs in Sudan;
- \$350 million for Title II Food Aid;
- \$50 million for economic support assistance to Liberia;
- \$40 million for assistance to Haiti, including economic support and child survival/health funding; and
- \$13.2 million for the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), including \$8.2 million for military reform and \$5 million to support free and fair elections.

In addition, USCCB and CRS urge the Senate to include:

- \$117 million for Migration and Refugee Assistance – an increase of \$17 million over the Committee-passed amount; and
- \$50 million to replenish the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust (BEHT), an emergency food reserve, to meet unanticipated emergency needs during the year. While much more food aid will be needed this year to address growing needs, the level constitutes a good first start.

USCCB and CRS also urge the Senate to:

- Ensure that urgently needed aid reaches the Palestinian people, especially through NGOs, while requiring the Palestinian Authority to recognize Israel and renounce terrorism; and
- Target Iraq reconstruction funding to create employment and economic opportunities for Iraqis that will help save lives and make Iraq more secure and stable.

**TAKE ACTION NOW!** Please contact your Senators today by visiting <http://actioncenter.crs.org> and urge them to:

1. Retain assistance for Sudan, Liberia, Haiti, and the DRC as well as Title II food aid in the FY 2006 supplemental appropriations bill as passed by the Appropriations Committee.
2. Encourage them to support more for emergency food aid and extra money for migrants and refugees.
3. Remind them that genuine reconstruction in Iraq will require the necessary financial support to help create decent levels of employment and economic opportunity.

Please remember to let us know about your advocacy efforts! Contact Tina Rodousakis at CRS to let her know how your member responded.

**For more information, contact:**

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