



Take Action!!

March 14, 2006



Urge your Representatives to retain Funding for Food Aid, Sudan and Liberia; Provide more for Food Aid Emergencies and Refugee Assistance

WHY THIS ISSUE IS IMPORTANT: Last week, the House Appropriations Committee passed a FY 2006 supplemental appropriations bill that primarily funds Iraq and Afghanistan operations but also includes urgently needed funding to address serious shortfalls in global food programs as well as the crisis in Sudan and refugee assistance. Please read the letter USCCB/CRS sent to the House of Representatives in support of our priorities here: http://www.crs.org/get_involved/advocacy/grass_roots/emergency_appropriation_0603.pdf. **The full House is scheduled to consider this bill tomorrow, March 15.**

The Committee passed an amendment by Rep. Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. (D-IL) that provides \$50 million for assistance to Liberia but did not pass other Jackson amendments USCCB/CRS supported, including \$50 million for the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust (BEHT), a food reserve to meet global emergency humanitarian food needs, and an additional \$66 million for the Migration and Refugee Assistance account.

TAKE ACTION NOW! Please contact your Representatives today by visiting www.crs.org/actioncenter.cfm and urge them to retain funding for food aid, Sudan, and Liberia in the FY 2006 supplemental appropriations bill as passed by the Appropriations Committee. Encourage them to support increased funding for migration and refugee aid and an additional \$50 million for the BEHT. Remind them that genuine reconstruction in Iraq will require the necessary financial support to help create decent levels of employment and economic opportunity.

BACKGROUND: In support of our mission to follow the Gospel's call to alleviate human suffering and promote justice worldwide, CRS joins the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in promoting the Catholic Campaign Against Global Poverty (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 Congress retain the following as passed by the House Appropriations Committee in the FY 2006 supplemental appropriations bill:

- **\$350 million for Title II Food Aid. USCCB/CRS also support an additional \$50 million to replenish the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust (BEHT) 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.
- **\$514 million to address refugee and humanitarian needs in Sudan as well as support for peacekeeping.**
- **\$50 million for assistance to Liberia.**

USCCB/CRS also urge members to increase funding for **Migration and Refugee Assistance**. While we appreciate the Administration's request for \$51.2 million, **a minimum of \$117.2 million** in fiscal year 2006 will be needed to provide a greater level of protection to refugees in Africa and elsewhere.

Finally, USCCB/CRS ask that Congress **target Iraq reconstruction funding** to those areas where the need is greatest and where it can be most effective. Funding vital priorities to create employment and economic opportunities will help to save lives and make our world more secure and peaceful.

TAKE ACTION NOW! Contact your Representatives today and urge them to retain urgently needed funding for food aid, Sudan, and Liberia as well as provide additional funding for food aid emergencies and migration and refugee assistance. Visit www.crs.org/actioncenter.cfm to send a message today. 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:

Tina Rodousakis, Legislative Network Specialist, 1-800-235-2772 x 7462, troudousa@crs.org

Fr. Andrew Small, Policy Advisor, International Economic Development, USCCB, (202) 541-3153; asmall@usccb.org