Heart of the Hill: Taking our heart for farmers to the Capitol
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**Foods Resource Bank**

*A Christian Response to World Hunger*
Introduction

Foods Resource Bank (FRB) began Heart of the Hill in 2007 as a way to share our experiences and those of our volunteers with decision makers in Washington, DC. We do this by establishing relationships with members of Congress and other humanitarian organizations.

It is our hope that the voice of FRB will cultivate greater awareness, understanding and support for our and others' efforts to grow lasting solutions to hunger. This guide is designed to help you share your story with decision makers and other people of influence.

Although many of us find the idea of sharing our story with our nation’s lawmakers a daunting and overwhelming task, our members of Congress, like us, are just everyday people who care and want to make a positive difference in the world. Together, we bring information and ideas that might encourage legislators in making decisions that lead toward transformation and long term justice for everyone, both here and abroad.

At FRB we are not lobbying Congress on specific bills nor are we asking for government funds. Instead, we seek to draw the attention of Congress to the importance of small-scale agricultural development. Supporting smallholder agricultural development, encouraging local markets, modifying how America approaches food aid, and educating people about what changes are needed are key elements to alleviating hunger.

Would you consider joining your voice with that of many others into one powerful voice? Together, we can lift up the importance of agriculture development and the role of smallholder farmers to policy makers in Washington, DC and make a significant impact on hunger around the world.
Who is Foods Resource Bank?

Foods Resource Bank (FRB) is a Christian response to world hunger. Our goal is to support people in their communities as they work to address hunger and poverty through agriculture development, including practices such as crop storage, marketing and nutrition education. Together we are growing lasting solutions to hunger.

We do this by supporting programs that help small-scale farmers grow their own abundance of food. This helps enable families to have enough left over to share, barter or sell in order to purchase household staples and basic medicines and send all their children to school.

FRB and its members, 15 humanitarian organizations in the United States, partner with local organizations in developing nations around the world to design appropriate programs that address local hunger needs, often providing modest assistance with resources, training and organizational skills. FRB works with its members in more than 30 countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, the Middle East and Eastern Europe to fund approximately 60 programs aimed at enhancing people’s ability to provide for themselves and their families.
Why Smallholder Agriculture?

Nearly 1 billion people live in chronic hunger and extreme poverty. Three-quarters of them reside in rural areas, and most rely on agriculture for food and income. Their success or failure determines whether they have enough to eat, are able to send their children to school, and can save money. Farmers, the very ones who produce the food we eat, are too often the most hungry among us.

The World Bank's World Development Report 2008 stated that, “The potential of agriculture to contribute to growth and poverty reduction depends on the productivity of small farms.” The majority of small farmers in the developing world, 95%, farm less than two hectares of land, making small-scale farmers a big priority.

Reducing hunger and poverty on a large scale begins with these small-scale farmers. Those who can grow enough to feed their families, have a surplus, and get that surplus to market will have the chance to increase their incomes and improve their quality of life. Agriculture offers a unique opportunity to millions of the poorest people around our world to prosper.

In many parts of the world, hunger is a way of life. A “hunger season”, as it’s called, occurs during the months leading up to a harvest, when supplies of food from the last harvest have run out.

Helping farmers bridge this hunger season with agricultural solutions, rather than food-aid, is the focus of many FRB programs overseas.

We’re working to help small farmers—men and women—flourish on their farms and overcome hunger and poverty. By engaging with farmers and their communities we can work together to improve their health, livelihoods and futures, making a lasting impact on hunger and poverty.
Recommendations to Decision Makers

Unlike a lobby organization, when FRB goes to the Hill, it is not with a specific request in mind. We are not soliciting funds or requesting votes for a specific bill. Instead, we want to help our public-and-private sector leaders understand the importance of small-scale agriculture development as one of the main ways of eradicating hunger and poverty in the world. Of the 1 billion chronically hungry people in our world, more than 70 percent live in rural areas.

FRB has compiled some key learning and observations from our work with more than 100 food security development programs around the world. FRB’s programs work alongside local partners, leaders, farmers, landless people and their communities to help grow lasting solutions to hunger. We want to urge our leaders to keep the following points in mind when they think about agricultural development.

1. **Local leadership**: respectful engagement with local people in developing countries increases the speed and potential sustainability of development activities. By supporting local leaders in their efforts to develop local governance, leadership and innovation the most sustainable outcomes are achieved. Even the most well-intended development programs can inadvertently overlook the needed buy-in & influence of local farmers, leaders and other entrepreneurs.

2. **Local contribution & investment**: considerations must be made regarding what the local community will provide in the way of materials, labor and financial resources to ensure local ownership and increase the likelihood of sustainability. Materially poor people and communities have resources they can invest in the program.

3. **Program scale**: should be considered carefully to ensure that materially poor communities obtain access and voice. Every setting has very unique challenges and assets, thus smaller agricultural development and food security programs may lend themselves toward potential fit, ownership and long-term results.

4. **Holistic approaches** yield proven results. Hunger and poverty go deeper than the physicality of the situation. Social, historical, cultural, gender, land rights and spiritual issues, to name a few, need to be considered when working on finding solutions.

5. **US farmers seek justice** for all people and know that smaller developing countries and communities are not competitors. In response to the warnings and predictions by FAO concerning food needs in the coming decades, farmers recognize it is imperative to develop increased participation and sustainability of all farmers around the globe. The innovative and entrepreneurial spirit of farmers around the world can make lasting improvements in the lives of the poor.

6. **Young people** need to be included in discussions and plans regarding agriculture development, particularly regarding the question of who will farm the future.
Making an Appointment with Your Member of Congress

Thank you for joining FRB on the Hill. The following steps will help guide you in making appointments with your elected officials.

1. Call your senators’ and representative’s office(s). Go to http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml to find out who currently represents you and to find their contact information. Ask for the scheduler’s name and her or his fax number. Even if you know someone else in the office, get the name of and the contact information for the scheduler.

2. Put together a written request for a meeting with the Senator or Representative. Nearly all verbal requests are rejected. Send the written request to the scheduler and copy anyone else you know in the office (the original must go to the scheduler). The request should be less than a page long and should include:
   - who is in your delegation and their titles or affiliations;
   - what you want: a 30-minute meeting with the Senator/Representative;
   - when you want to meet: specify the days and times your delegation can meet;
   - where you want to meet;
   - why you want to meet: e.g., to talk about FRB, your growing project and bringing about an end to hunger and poverty.

Tip: Check www.congress.org for your members’ contact information as well as background information, committee assignments, and voting records. You will also find their declared religious affiliations, which can be useful for an interfaith delegation.

3. Send in the written request (preferably by fax) as soon as you can, even if you don’t have the full delegation.

4. Follow up with a phone call to the scheduler one day after you send the written request. Don’t ask if they have an answer; just ask if they’ve received the request.

5. Follow up again two to three days later to see if there is an answer.

One of the most effective ways to influence your legislator is to make a personal visit. A direct conversation--whether with your legislators or members of their staff--enables you to establish a real relationship.

You can share your concerns directly, ask questions about important policy issues, and hear what your legislator has to say. Understanding why a legislator holds a particular position opens the door for education.
Sample Letter Requesting an Appointment

Date __________

Dear Senator (or Representative) ____________,

My name is ____________ and I am from (City/State). I will be in Washington, DC on (dates) and would like to schedule an appointment with you. I am a volunteer for Foods Resource Bank (FRB), an organization that is helping *grow lasting solutions to hunger* through food security programs throughout the developing world. I would like to share my experience and the experience of other constituents with you. I recognize that your schedule is very busy; however, if at all possible, I would like to meet with you.

(Briefly describe your involvement in FRB). For example: I have been involved in an FRB growing project (a unique fundraising project that unites farmers, rural and urban communities around the goal of ending hunger) as a farmer/volunteer/land owner/project leader for (number of years). I did not realize the full impact of our efforts in (State name) until I visited FRB programs in East Africa last year. As a farmer/resident/etc. of (State name) I would like to tell you about how FRB’s model is changing lives both here and overseas.

Currently, I will be the only person attending the meeting. FRB has invited other growing project participants from (State name). When I know the names of the rest of my delegation, I will send you a follow-up email with their names and phone numbers.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Your name

Your phone number

Your e-mail

Your address
Once you have a meeting scheduled you will need to prepare …

Preparing for Your Visit

Remember, the purpose of your visit is to tell your story, and you are the only one who can tell it. Bring anything that helps you tell your story, such as pictures of your growing project or a trip you took with FRB overseas. Don’t forget to bring this booklet with you and be sure to bring copies of the Recommendations for Decision Makers flier provided by FRB. Appropriate dress is business casual (what many people wear to church on a Sunday morning is more than appropriate).

During Your Visit

How to start: First, relax. Everyone in the delegation should introduce themselves and mention where they live. One person should give a brief introduction about Foods Resource Bank and mention that each person in the delegation is an FRB volunteer from your community. Then express appreciation for any positive actions (big or small) the member has taken that you can find in the public record. A "thank you" helps establish a cordial tone.

During your discussion: Clearly articulate the purpose of your visit. Be concise when you present your story. Allow plenty of opportunity for listening to your legislator's views and concerns. Listen closely to what your legislator says—there may be hints that will enable you to follow up with resources. And, even if your legislator does not seem interested, she/he likely has a lot of pressing things on her/his mind.

Be sure to leave behind a copy of Recommendations for Decision Makers. You may also want to leave behind an invitation to any up-coming events that your growing project may be hosting.

You don’t need to know everything: Many people are put off by the idea of a visit because they do not feel sufficiently expert on the issue of hunger and poverty. Simply be honest when there is something you do not know, and offer to send the information
after the meeting. FRB will be able to help with follow-up information needed.

**After the Meeting:** As soon as possible after the meeting, ideally immediately, your team should spend time debriefing. Take notes to help with future work with your legislator. Follow up with a thank-you letter, recapping your key points and including any additional information the legislator may have requested. Please copy FRB on any items you feel might help clarify future actions. Plan other ways to work with your legislator, such as generating letters and calls from other constituents.

Help strengthen FRB’s work: Please be sure to e-mail or mail in your feedback from your visit. We want to know about your experience on the Hill and how we can make it better next time.

**For those who are unable to travel to Washington DC…**

When organizing a local event like a Harvest Celebration, special gathering or a meeting with an overseas guest, invite your members of Congress to speak or attend. A delegation representing a broad and diverse local constituency or the promise of a large audience will help get you on your busy legislator's schedule. Leave plenty of lead time to organize such an event.

Capitol Hill is not the only place where you can meet with your legislator. All members of Congress have offices in their home states or districts. Constituent visits to the home offices are valued. They will be reported to the Washington office and will help raise the visibility of the issues you discuss in both offices. Summer recess (August) and other, shorter recess periods are great times to try meeting directly with your legislator. See www.house.gov, www.senate.gov or www.congress.org for schedules.
Sharing Your Heart Closer to Home...

An alternative to visiting your members of Congress in person is to write letters letting them know about the importance of making good decisions that positively affect the lives of the poor and hungry around the world. Letter writing is also an important way to follow up your visit to your members of Congress.

Here are some basics of effective written communication to your members of Congress:

**Identify yourself as a constituent:** Members of Congress are accountable to voters in their home state or district, so giving your address is important, especially in emails. (It is also why it is not generally effective to write members of Congress who do not represent you.) Additionally, many offices need your address to send a response.

**Stick to one issue per letter:** Staying focused keeps your request clear. Also, congressional staff are assigned different issues to track, so one person may get letters regarding Iraq, another may get the letters about U.S. oil dependence, and so forth.

**Keep it short, simple and polite:** Congressional staff get piles of mail each day, so make your letter brief and to the point. Keep the tone respectful no matter how frustrated you feel with a congressperson’s votes or activities.

**Include relevant personal information:** If you have loved ones in the military, mention that in letters about issues that affect them. If you are a teacher concerned about federal budget priorities, describe the financial challenges your school faces. These kinds of personal links boost your letter’s power.

**Send thank you letters:** Many constituents write when they are unhappy, but few write when they are pleased with their member of Congress. Recognizing a vote or speech lets your congressperson know that constituents support such actions.
Sharing your story

For some, sharing their story can be intimidating. The following helpful information comes from Bread for the World.

What convinced you to get involved with Foods Resource Bank? Chances are it wasn’t a set of statistics, but something you connected with on a deeply personal level. Sharing your story with someone is a powerful way to introduce them to FRB’s work. Most people connect more easily with personal stories than with abstractions, even with the most compelling data.

Sharing your story with the goal of transforming hearts and minds is both an art and a science that is often called “public narrative.”

What’s a public narrative?

A public narrative is the art of translating values into action through stories. Using your public narrative is the skill of connecting with others both through their “head” and” heart”. A public narrative is made up of 3 different parts, and should take less than 5 minutes to tell.

3 Parts of a Public Narrative:

1. Story of You:

“Some of us think our story doesn’t matter, people aren’t interested, or we shouldn’t be talking about ourselves so much. On the contrary, if we do public work we have a responsibility to give a public account of ourselves - where we came from, why we do what we do, and where we think we’re going.” – Marshall Ganz

Being able to put into words who you are, why you do and believe what you do, and how that relates to your actions is harder than you might imagine—without practice. Being able to tell your story sincerely and succinctly will help you as you share your work with people and invite them to be involved. Generally speaking, people get involved in an organization not just because of the mission, but because someone they respected asked them to get involved, and because they found a strong personal connection.
2. Story of Us:

“Points of intersection become the focus of a shared story—the way we link individual threads into a common weave. A Story of Us brings forward the values that move us as a community.” —Marshall Ganz

Consider FRB’s story—how does it overlap with your own story? What challenges does it entail? The Story of Us is the section where you connect the values and experiences of your life to the larger group. Key moments of when you made a choice that ending hunger was important to you, or when you decided to get involved can be very powerful. Tell how you’ve connected with others through FRB to take action.

3. Story of Now:

“Stories of Now articulate the challenges we face now, the choices we are called upon to make, and the meaning of making the right choice. Stories of Now are set in the past, present and future. The challenge is now -- we are called upon to act because of our legacy and who we have become, and the action that we take now can shape our desired future.” —Marshall Ganz

Right now, we have the opportunity to bring about an end to hunger. We know from experience that progress is feasible but it will require everyone to do their part, including those in government. Telling our nation’s leaders why you’re excited to be involved, and why they should get involved will help bring about needed change to policies and practices that will have a positive impact on the world’s hungry.

It takes a little thought and a lot of practice, but developing one’s public narrative is one of the most useful tools in learning to tell our stories effectively. You don’t need to master your public narrative to be effective. Authenticity and enthusiasm go a long way in connecting with others that you want to get involved.
Next Steps

Now that you have taken your Heart to the Hill, what is next?

Pray

It is God's grace in Jesus Christ that moves us to help our neighbors, whether they live in the house next door, the next state, or the next continent. One of the most important things we can do to make a difference is pray.

Helpful resources can be found at: http://www.bread.org/help/church/worship/prayers/

Or: http://www.one.org/us/onesabbath/resources.html

Learn

A great way to stay involved and build on your Heart of the Hill visit is to continue to learn about the issues affecting the poor and hungry around the world. The amount of information available on a daily basis can be overwhelming. Bread for the World’s website has some great resources to keep you up to date on what is happening in the arena of domestic and foreign policy that affects the poor and hungry. They also produce the Hunger Report which is another important source of information.

Hunger information: http://www.bread.org/hunger/

Hunger report: http://www.bread.org/institute/

You may also be interested in doing some in-depth research into the program or country your growing project supports. More information can also be found on FRB’s member’s websites. See the box opposite for information.

Act

Don’t let your actions stop with your FRB visit to the Hill! We invite you to stay involved and dig deeper.

1. Follow up with your member of Congress

   a. Send a thank you note to the congressional staff you visited.
b. Write a follow-up letter and invite others in your growing project to join you. We have provided some tips for writing effective communication to members of Congress in this handbook. Be sincere and write from your heart.

2. Get your church involved:

a. You may want to invite your church to take up an offering of letters with Bread for the World as a way to engage your growing project or church in advocating on behalf of the hungry and small farmers around the world.

b. With Scripture: From Genesis (“God said….you shall have them for food” - Gen 1:29) to Revelation (“they will hunger no more” - Rev. 7:16), the Bible is rich with examples of hunger being met. In addition to assigned texts for the day, seek other scriptures or use some of these: Isaiah 25:6, Isaiah 58:10, Matthew 25: 31-40, Mark 6: 34-44, Luke 24:28-31, or Acts 2:43-47.

3. Invite your friends or fellow growing project volunteers to a Heart of the Hill visit.

4. Invite your member of Congress to your seed blessing, harvest party or other community growing project events.

FRB Member Websites
Adventist Development & Relief Agency International
www.adra.org
Catholic Relief Services
www.crs.org
Christian Church - Disciples of Christ - Week of Compassion
www.weekofcompassion.org
Christian Reformed World Relief Committee
www.crwrc.org
Church of the Brethren
www.brethren.org
Church World Service
www.churchworldservice.org
Evangelical Covenant Church - Covenant World Relief
www.covchurch.org/relief
Lutheran World Relief
www.lwr.org
Mennonite Central Committee
www.mcc.org
Nazarene Compassionate Ministries
www.ncm.org
Presbyterian Church (USA) - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
www.pcusa.org Reformed Church in America - Reformed Church World Service
www.rca.org/rcws
United Church of Christ - One Great Hour of Sharing
www.ucc.org/oghs
United Methodist Committee on Relief, GBGM, UMC
http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor
World Hope International
www.worldhope.org
Heart of the Hill Travel Information

General Itinerary

The itineraries on these trips vary but in general we usually travel out to the DC area on a Monday evening and return home either late evening Thursday or early morning on Friday. On Monday we try to meet as a group around dinnertime to discuss the weeks events. Tuesday and Wednesday are usually set aside for meetings with congress and the senate. We try to set Tuesday for the Congress meetings and Wednesday for the Senate meetings but that does not always work out. Thursday we try and set aside time for sightseeing, however there may be a meeting or two that needs to happen. We understand that many are traveling to DC for the first time and would like to take in the sights, which is why we try and leave this day open.

**Be aware that at times we do a lot of walking. If you let us know ahead of time we will try and make accommodations to help out but even with the advanced planning sometimes it is difficult to avoid. You may want to consider packing a pair of comfortable shoes that are easy to carry for those days when we have meetings and sightseeing planned.

Comfort Inn Alexandria
5716 S. Van Dorn Street
Alexandria, VA 22310
Phone 703-922-9200
Metro Stop: Van Dorn (Blue Line)
Shuttle runs to and from Metro 7am-10pm
Foods Resource Bank has a $90/night rate at this hotel. Your trip leader will be able to book this for you but if you wish to extend your stay please use this link to make your reservations:

hotel=VA403&srp=LFRB

This hotel is not only convenient to downtown DC but it is also very close to Old Towne Alexandria, which has boat access to the Potomac River, a very historic atmosphere and many restaurants and shopping. Just take a shuttle from the hotel to the Kings Street Metro Stop where you can take
the free Kings Street Trolley through the area. The hotel has maps and information at the front desk.

**Transportation**

**Regan National Airport (DCA)**

Regan National is about 6 miles from Arlington Virginia and the commute to the hotel is relatively easy if you use the Metro and hotel shuttles. In the airport you will follow signs to the METRO.

To travel to the Comfort Inn you will pick up a blue line train heading towards Franconia at the airport and take it to the Van Dorn stop. When you arrive call the hotel shuttle to pick you up.

**Baltimore Washington Airport (BWI)**

The Baltimore Airport is about 40 miles from Arlington, Virginia. From the airport to Arlington you can take a taxi for around $90, a super shuttle for around $51, or you can take an Amtrak right into Alexandria VA for around $27 where you can either take about a $10 taxi or the Metro and a free shuttle. The Amtrak station is on the Kings Street Metro stop, which has access to both the yellow and blue lines.

**Washington Dulles (IAD)**

Washington Dulles is about 35 miles from Arlington Virginia. From the airport you can take a taxi for around $60, a super shuttle for around $30, or you can use the Metro public transportation system for about $10.

**Super Shuttle**

This is a shared taxi service. There may be other people traveling with you and multiple stops but it is significantly less expensive than hailing a cab.

To make reservations you can either go to their website at [http://www.supershuttle.com/](http://www.supershuttle.com/) or call them at 1-800-258-3826. Please make sure you have your flight number, arrival time, and location of hotel, and a credit card handy when you make your reservation.

Foods Resource Bank has a discounted rate established with Super Shuttle. When making your reservation (whether by phone or online) be sure to provide the coupon code **FOODS** to receive the discount.
Getting around DC

To get to Downtown Washington DC we will be taking the Metro, the stop will be determined by the location of your meeting. The Metro is fairly easy to navigate and will take you close to many of the sites you might want to visit. Once in Washington DC a number of the places that you will need to go or want to see will be within walking distance. If you are tired of walking or need to get someplace quickly you can choose to use the Metro or hail a taxi. Taxi’s are readily available and are a good option if you are running from one side of the city to the other trying to make a meeting.

A couple of key Metro stops to keep in mind are:

Van Dorn – Blue Line; hotel

Kings Street – Blue/Yellow Line; Eating, Shopping, Sightseeing, Amtrak

Union Station – Red Line; Close to Senate Buildings, eating, other transportation

Capitol South – Yellow/Blue Line; Closest to Congressional Buildings

Federal Center – Yellow/Blue Line; Close to Bread for the World Office

Rosslyn – Blue/Yellow Line; this is where the bus to and from Dulles Airport picks you up

Regan National – Blue/Yellow Line; this is the Regan National Airport stop
Further Resources

If you would like to research specific issues or learn more about advocacy for the hungry, check out these on-line resources:

- Official website for the US Senate:
  www.senate.gov/index.htm

- Official website for the US House of Representatives:
  www.house.gov/Welcome.shtml

- Friends of the World Food Program:
  http://usa.wfp.org/advocate

- Bread for the World
  www.bread.org

- ONE campaign
  www.one.org
Cannon House Office Building
Longworth House Office Building
Rayburn House Office Building
Ford House Office Building
U.S. Botanic Garden & the National Garden
Glossary of Terms

**Action:** an act of will.

**Advocacy:** the act of pleading for, supporting, or recommending; active espousal; a deliberate process of speaking out on issues of concern in order to exert some influence on behalf of ideas or persons.

**Boycott:** a concerted refusal of consumers to purchase the products or services of a business to indicate displeasure with the manufacturer, seller, or provider of the product or to force acceptance of certain conditions.

**Co-Op (Cooperative):** a jointly owned commercial enterprise (usually organized by farmers or consumers) that produces and distributes goods and services and is run for the benefit of its owners.

**Demographic:** characteristics and statistics of human populations.

**Economic Aid:** funds that may be provided to communities or countries in the event of a humanitarian crisis or to create long-term sustainable economic growth.

**Economic Sanctions:** punitive measures to pressure a country.

**Environmental Sustainability:** interacting with the environment in a way that preserves it so that needs can be met not only in the present, but in the indefinite future.

**Export:** any good or commodity transported from one country to another in a legitimate fashion, typically for use in trade.

**External Debt (or foreign debt):** the part of a country’s total debt that is owed to creditors outside the country. The debt includes money owed to private commercial banks, other governments, or international financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

**Extreme Poverty:** living on less than $1.25 per day.

**Fair Trade:** an organized social movement and market-based approach to empowering developing country producers and promoting sustainability by advocating the payment of a fair price as well as social and environmental standards in areas related to the production of a wide variety of goods.

**Food security:** Access by all people at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life. Food security includes at a minimum: the ready availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods, and an assured ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways (e.g., without resorting to emergency food supplies, scavenging, stealing, or other coping strategies).

**GDP (Gross Domestic Product):** the total market value of all final goods and services produced in a country in a given year. GDP equals a country’s total consumer, investment, and government spending, plus the value of exports, minus the value of imports.
**GDP per capita**: an approximation of the value of goods produced per person in the country; equals the country’s GDP divided by the total number of people in the country.

**Growing project**: a volunteer community effort that produces a crop or other commodity, sells it, and donates the money to FRB for food security programs overseas.

**IDPs** (Internally Displaced Persons): people forced to flee their homes but who, unlike refugees, remain within their country’s borders.

**Import**: any good or service brought into one country from another country in a legitimate fashion, typically for use in trade.

**Lobby**: to try to influence the thinking of legislators or other public officials for or against a specific cause.

**Millennium Development Goals**: eight international development goals that 189 United Nations member states and at least 23 international organizations have agreed to achieve by the year 2015.

**NGO** (Non-Governmental Organization): a legally constituted organization created by private organizations or people with no participation in or representation of any government.

**Poverty-focused Development Assistance**: a catch-all phrase to describe those accounts within the U.S. foreign aid budget that most effectively provide assistance to poor countries to meet the challenges of reducing poverty and investing in broad-based economic development.

**Refugee**: a person who flees to a foreign country or power to escape danger or persecution.

**Solidarity**: Unity or agreement of feeling or action, esp. among individuals with a common interest; mutual support within a group.

**Systemic**: of or pertaining to a system; in this case, the word is used to describe problems related to systems, policies, and procedures that affect multiple people; most notably used when referring to government systems.

**Undernourished**: lacking the food needed for health and growth.

**Unemployment Rate**: the percentage of people in the labor force—available to work and currently seeking work—who are unemployed.