



### Background

The U.S. has long served as one of the foremost donors of food assistance to people around the world who are at risk of hunger. Since its creation in 1954, the Food for Peace program has shipped millions of tons of American-grown commodities to more than 150 countries, feeding more than four billion people globally. It has long been recognized as a program that supports American agriculture, U.S. national security, and global stability.

After the dissolution of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in 2025, control of Food for Peace was assumed by the U.S. Department of State (DOS) and later the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

### Interagency Agreement

In December 2025, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) entered into an Interagency Agreement (IAA) with USAID, as approved by OMB, allowing USDA to operate the Food for Peace program for a year. USDA has a proven track record of running similar international food assistance programs efficiently and effectively, such as the McGovern-Dole Food for Education Program and the Food for Progress program.

Within less than two months of the IAA, USDA began planning for the full-scale purchasing of commodities for the Food for Peace program. In early February, USDA [announced](#) their intent to deliver up to \$452 million in FY 2025 assistance, sending nearly 211,000 tons of U.S. agricultural goods to people in need in seven countries. Commodities planned for purchase include wheat, Corn-Soy Blend Plus, beans, peas, lentils, rice, sorghum, vegetable oil, and ready to use supplemental foods.

### Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026

The 2026 farm bill permanently transfers the authorities of the Food for Peace Act from USAID to USDA. The bill also reserves 50% of Food for Peace resources for U.S. grown commodities, as seen in [H.R. 4293](#) (118<sup>th</sup> Congress). This change expands U.S. market access abroad and returns the program to its original intent of addressing the global hunger crisis through the purchase of U.S. grown commodities.

