

EXPLORING THE CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS TO FOOD & NUTRITION SECURITY



Women at a farm in Yei County, South Sudan tend to their cassava crops. The USAID project is helping South Sudan to increase agricultural productivity and develop commercial small-holder agriculture.

Findings from the CARE Learning Tour to South Sudan & Tanzania

February 17-22, 2013



The delegation (from left to right) Jonathan Shrier, Chris Adamo, Liz Schroyer, Patricia Garamendi, Representative John Garamendi, Robert Dreyfuss, General Wesley Clark, Mike Davis, Ambassador David Lane, Representative Betty McCollum, Robert Roche, Jenn Holcomb, David Ray, and Catie Lee.

Participants:

- **Chris Adamo**
(Staff Director, Senate Agriculture Committee)
- **General Wesley Clark**
(CEO, Wesley K. Clark & Associates)
- **Mike Davis**
(Senior Vice President of Human Resources, General Mills, Inc.)
- **Robert Dreyfuss**
(Journalist, The Nation)
- **Representative John Garamendi**
(D-CA-3)
- **Patricia Garamendi**
(Board Member, ACDI/VOCA)
- **Jenn Holcomb**
(Legislative Director, Representative McCollum)
- **Ambassador David Lane**
(Ambassador, UN Food and Agriculture Agencies in Rome)
- **Catie Lee**
(Legislative Assistant, Senate Agriculture Committee)
- **Representative Betty McCollum**
(D-MN-4)
- **David Ray**
(Head of Policy & Advocacy, CARE)
- **Liz Schroyer**
(Executive Director, U.S. Global Leadership Coalition)
- **Jonathan Shrier**
(Acting Special Representative, Office of Global Food Security at the U.S. State Department)

Introduction:

Over the last few years, rising food prices and climate pattern changes have compromised the ability for many farmers in Africa to access food for their families, and the countries of South Sudan and Tanzania are no exception. To better understand the obstacles and solutions around food and nutrition security, the global poverty-fighting organization CARE traveled with a group of high-level government officials, corporate sector partners and the media on a Learning Tour to these two countries.

In February 2013, the group, including Reps. Betty McCollum (D-MN) and John Garamendi (D-CA), began their journey in South Sudan and then traveled to Tanzania. Presently, the two countries sit at two very different stages of development: While South Sudan is one of the newest countries in the world still recovering from years of conflict; Tanzania has often been viewed as a center of political stability in Africa. That said, both countries struggle with high rates of malnutrition for women and children under the age of five.

Food security has become a major area of U.S. investment in both countries. For South Sudan, agriculture is seen as a way to diversify the economy and relieve dependency on petroleum. While more than 90 percent of the land is suitable for farming, only a tiny fraction – 4 percent – has been cultivated for use.

In Tanzania, over 80 percent of the people engage in agriculture as a source of income. Agricultural growth can be three to six times more effective at fighting poverty than growth in other sectors, according to USAID. As a result, investing in smallholder farmers – most of whom are women – and their ability to sustainably and nutritiously feed their families is more important than ever. Hunger and malnutrition can be beat, but success depends on sustained investment, a comprehensive approach and a commitment to tackling the drivers of hunger and malnutrition.

“When people have access to food security and water security and access to opportunity with their economy and their family, there’s a more peaceful nation, and that’s better for our children back in the U.S.,” said Rep. McCollum. “So it’s a win-win-win.”

The delegation visited a half dozen innovative programs funded by the U.S. government, CARE and its partners that aim to increase agriculture production, improve access to markets and ultimately reverse stunting and malnutrition. One of the key programs highlighted on the trip was the U.S. government’s Feed the Future Initiative, which aims to secure sustainable, transformational change for food insecure households. Through Feed the Future, the U.S. government is renewing its commitment to agriculture and economic growth and focusing on harnessing the power of the private sector and research to transform agricultural development. Feed the Future represents a \$3.5 billion pledge to work with partner countries, development organizations and other stakeholders to tackle the global food security challenge, which in turn, advances international security and benefits the American people.

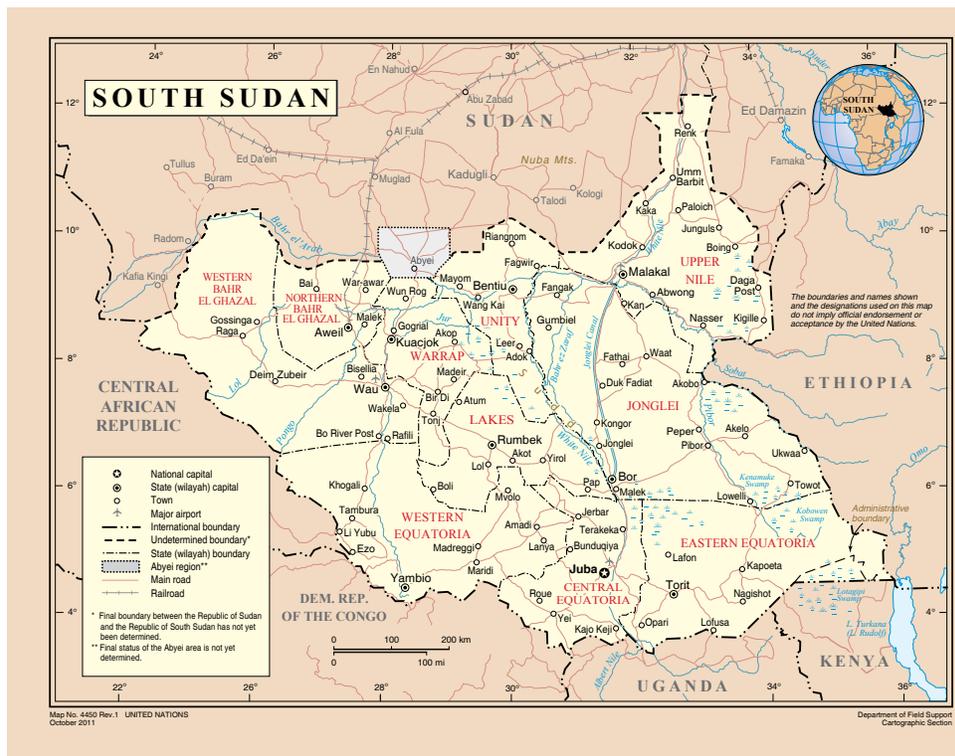
On the trip, the delegation saw programs ranging from sweet potato cultivation, a food rich with vitamins and minerals, to cooperative farming organizations. The group also sat down with micro-savings groups that are enabling people to have greater access to markets and the financial training needed to become self-sufficient. While the programs differed in their approaches, one commonality was the focus on partnerships between organizations: The programs required many stakeholders to come together and work together to improve the food security status and reduce poverty.

South Sudan and Tanzania Overview

After more than two decades of civil war, South Sudan became an independent nation in January 2011. Today, relations with Sudan remain tense, and a number of sources of conflict remain between the two countries. Issues such as citizenship, sharing of revenue from joint investments and development projects and assorted territorial claims continue to be disputed.

There are 10.6 million people living in South Sudan. Nearly 98 percent of government revenue comes from petroleum. Other exports include agriculture products, machinery and industrial raw materials. Only 25 to 40 percent of South Sudanese have access to basic health care services, which stems from a combination of poor infrastructure, rural populations and shortages of skilled medical personnel and medical facilities.

Food security in South Sudan is a significant contributor to nutrition problems. Fluctuations in supply and demand cause seasonal food shortages and unpredictable markets. Driven by weather changes, supply can fluctuate dramatically. Demand is also prone to



significant fluctuation as refugees have filtered back into the country following years of conflict, and regional demand fluctuations are greater still as conflict continues to displace residents. Almost all people in South Sudan are subsistence farmers. Much of the food found in South Sudan's urban markets is imported from Uganda, Kenya and other regional countries, resulting in higher food prices for the population.

Tanzania represents a more stable and developed nation. While Tanzania is capable of being self-sufficient in terms of agricultural productivity, poorly developed infrastructure and inefficient markets drive food insecurity at local and regional levels.

Tanzania has about 46 million people, with 45 percent of the population under the age of 14. Food insecurity and malnutrition are among the most serious threats to public health in Tanzania. Eight out of ten children

under the age of one in Tanzania are anemic, along with nearly half of pregnant women. In addition, 42 percent of children are malnourished, one of the highest rates in the world.

► Day One: South Sudan

The trip began in Juba, South Sudan where the delegation met the U.S. Mission led by the U.S. Ambassador to South Sudan, Susan D. Page. The delegation received a briefing on the progress and challenges facing South Sudan. The meeting provided the delegation an opportunity to better understand the impact of the U.S. humanitarian and development strategy and discuss the successes and challenges, particularly those focused on food security, health and gender.

To gain a better understanding of the daily challenges a woman in South Sudan faces, the delegation headed to a primary health center operated by MCHIP and Jhpiego in partnership with South Sudan's Ministry of Health and USAID. One primary goal of the center is to reduce maternal deaths and improve patient's access to services and health education. The year-long pilot program builds the capacity of health workers to perform vital services. Currently, many South Sudanese women deliver at home without a skilled birth attendant, increasing the chances of severe health risks.

Half the delegation met with South Sudan Vice President Riek Machar to discuss Africa-related development challenges and governance efforts in South Sudan, as well as the impact of U.S. investments. He articulated some of the challenges his administration is currently tackling. He addressed how the U.S. can continue to be engaged in efforts to bring stability and prosperity to the country.

The delegation continued their day with a trip to Yei County to meet with a group of farmers, including several women farmers. Yei is located in the 'greenbelt' states of South Sudan, where the potential for farming and agriculture is vast. The group saw the Food, Agribusiness and Rural Markets (FARM) Project operated by



Abt Associates in partnership with Ministry of Agriculture and funding from USAID. The project is helping South Sudan to increase agricultural productivity in selected commodities, increase trade and improve the country's capacity to develop commercial small-holder agriculture.

David Lane, United States Ambassador to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture, said that for many of these families, the more ambitious goal is to be able to produce enough food so that they can take their products to market. He said he was impressed by how many of the women were thriving in their businesses through the use of modern farming technology.



The delegation spends time with a group of women farmers in Yei County, South Sudan. They listened to the challenges and successes the female farmers have recently faced.

The project is currently focused on four staple crops: maize, sorghum, cassava and groundnuts. The delegation got a chance to visit a demonstration plot and engage with farmers about the production process in the rural setting. They met one woman who spoke proudly about her land and her ability to produce cassava for her family.

Chris Adamo, Staff Director for the Senate Agriculture Committee, said that the programs in South Sudan really helped him see that reducing hunger requires that many different organizations and areas of the

government to work together. He said the program helped him comprehend the vital role women have in farming.

“Women are the key proprietors of these businesses,” Adamo said. “They are out there working it and running it. They are not only just controlling finances, but also a lot of the labor in the field. They are managing these businesses.”

► Day Two: Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania

The delegation departed South Sudan for Tanzania, where the country's political stability, sound macro-economic management and considerable resources have contributed to several years of sustained growth. Even so, the country still faces challenges in addressing its poor malnutrition rates and maternal health issues. Agriculture is a major part of these people's lives. About 80 percent of the population works in the agriculture industry.

The morning started with a panel discussion on health, food and nutrition security and access to financial services. Speakers included Richard Ragan, the UN World Food Program representative to Tanzania; Tadashi Yasuda, health manager at UNICEF Tanzania; Lauren Hendricks, executive director of CARE's Access Africa Initiative; and Paul Daniels, country director for CARE Tanzania.

Ragan pointed out the complexity in achieving food security. He said that getting food isn't just about what the farmers in Tanzania can grow, but it's also important for these farmers to have access to markets to sell their food, so they can feed their families. Ragan also talked about the influx of Congolese refugees into Tanzania due to the recent instability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), which adds another layer of complexity to Tanzania's food and nutrition security.

One way to achieve more access to markets is through CARE's Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) program. There are nearly 3 million VSLA participants

in 26 countries in Africa, including Tanzania. CARE is the largest non-governmental provider of financial services in Africa. The repayment rate for CARE VSLA loans exceeds 99 percent.

The impact has been powerful. VSLAs coach members on how to better manage their resources. The micro-savings program provides members a mechanism to save and invest their money and take small loans. In subsistence farm communities, the ability to save and manage cash helps families survive and prosper during lean periods between harvests. The VSLA groups provide a platform for other vital interventions such as maternal health, agriculture improvements and empowerment.

CARE's Lauren Hendricks explained that 76 percent of the participants are women. Hendricks said that 68 percent of the population in Tanzania lives on less than \$1 a day.

Many of the members choose to invest in agriculture or food-producing activities, including Habiba Hassan, a 39-year-old mother of three, who used the money loaned from a Tanzanian VSLA to invest in a cow. She was then able to sell milk, which gave her an alternative source of income when hard times hit, like the drought that struck last year and killed all of the corn

and rice crops she typically relies on. For other members, Hendricks explained that they use the money to invest in tractors or better seed technology so they can earn a greater profit.

A Walk through an Urban Health Center

Buguruni Health Center was the first stop for the delegation. At the clinic, women and their children sat on benches waiting to see doctors. The health clinic, operated by the government of Tanzania with funding from USAID, offers comprehensive reproductive maternal newborn and child health care and HIV/AIDS outpatient services to over 80,000 residents in Dar es Salaam. Approximately 350 patients are seen each day.



Mike Davis, Vice President of Human Resources at General Mills, and the delegation meet with mothers and their children at Buguruni Health Center.



Rep. Betty McCollum, D-Minn., walks through Buguruni Health Center in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania. The health clinic offers comprehensive reproductive maternal new born and child health and HIV/AIDS outpatient services to over 80,000 residents.

The hospital is significant in that it provides a comprehensive package of services under one roof, which helps ensure that mothers get the type of care they need. The program also recently introduced a service that distributes check up reminders and safe pregnancy tips through text messages. As the delegation walked through the hospital, each delegate received a sample cell phone in order to experience the text messaging service. They met several young mothers who told their personal stories of how the hospital has enabled them and their children to live healthier lives.

The delegation toured different rooms, each one specializing in different services, making the hospital a one-stop shop. The group saw antenatal care, family planning, immunization, prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV (PMTCT), HIV early infant diagnosis and Antiretroviral Treatment (ART) services to pregnant women and girls. In the delivery room, the nurses shared with the group that about 10 children are born each day at the Health Center. While Tanzania has experienced a decline in child mortality rates, it is still a challenge. In 2005, the infant mortality rate was 68 deaths per 1000, a vast improvement from the 1999 figure of 99 deaths per 1000.

Afterwards, the group joined USAID Administrator Dr. Raj Shah for a meeting on the topic of nutrition. The government of Tanzania, along with USAID and other partners, have been actively working to improve coordination and outreach on nutrition efforts in-country. Local community groups shared their success stories such as micro-nutrient supplement packets and sweet potato cultivation. Administrator Shah emphasized the importance of the orange-flesh sweet potato in helping fight malnutrition and stunting. In many of these examples, women play a significant role in deciding household nutrition amongst their families. Women are typically the ones who decide which foods to buy and cook for the family.



USAID Administrator Dr. Raj Shah and U.S. Ambassador Alfonso E. Lenhardt arrive to meet the delegation in Dar Es Salaam to discuss nutrition and agriculture, with a specific focus around women.



Liz Shroyer, director of U.S. Global Leadership Coalition, meets with USAID Administrator Dr. Rajiv Shah at a nutrition lunch.

Over lunch, members of the delegation talked about nutrition in the context of value chains, particularly how nutrition can be factored in early, such as when particular value chains are selected or at the production stage when inputs like seeds are procured. The government and aid groups are looking at how to improve the nutrient level of plants, in order to generate higher nutritional value and viability in the market.

The group also discussed the focus that has been placed on district and regional levels by the government. In addition the group honed in on the importance of partnerships and applauded the coordination that was taking place.

► **Day Three: Morogoro, Tanzania**

The delegation boarded an early flight to Morogoro, Tanzania's agricultural breadbasket, which lies west of Dar es Salaam. CARE runs several poverty-fighting programs in the region, reaching more than 30,000 people. During their visit to the countryside, the group also saw several successful U.S. development programs in action.

Tanzanian Mothers Share their Nutrition Knowledge

The group kicked off the day with a visit to Africare's Mwanzo Bora program, which means "good beginnings." The program helps pregnant women and children by teaching them new farming techniques and providing nutrition advice. The five-year program aims to reduce the prevalence of stunting among children and maternal anemia among pregnant women.

They toured the demo plot filled with 14 different varieties of sweet potatoes and vegetables, including spinach and tomatoes. The goal of the program is to replicate these plots in the participants' homes so that they become self-sustainable. Rep. Garamendi and his wife spent time in the garden with several young mothers and their children. They listened to how the program has helped them have access to a more diverse and healthy diet.

"The first two or three years of life are so critical," Rep. Garamendi said. "It begins before birth - the proper nutrition for the mother. You can provide food, but if someone learns how to provide for themselves, that's what this is all about."



Rep. John Garamendi, D-Calif. and his wife Patricia greet women farmers in Morogoro, Tanzania. They are participating in Africare's Mwanzo Bora program, which focuses on nutrition for pregnant women.

Sharifa Juma, a 36-year old mother, hosted the delegation in her garden outside her home on a shaded hilltop. She explained how she used to eat a diet of starch and oil. But with the program, she now incorporates locally grown avocados, spinach and carrots into her diet. She says her baby girl, Rakia Seleman, is very healthy and has reached the appropriate height and weight for her age of two months.



Sharifa Juma, a 36-year old mother, hosted the delegation in her garden outside her home on a shaded hilltop. She explained how she used to eat a diet of starch and oil. But with the program, she now incorporates locally grown avocados, spinach and carrots into her diet.

"I saw the women farmers who were so proud of what they had been creating," said Liz Shryer, executive director of the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition. "And when one of our members asked what you are doing with your extra money, she proudly said, 'I'm using it to send my children to school.' It was so inspiring."

Farming Cooperatives Improve Harvests

The delegation also visited a cooperative farming program run by USAID. The NAFKA Staples Value Chain Activity is a five-year, \$30 million project is part of Tanzania's Feed the Future Initiative. The project integrates agriculture, irrigation, gender, environment and nutrition development efforts to improve smallholder farmer productivity and profitability within the maize and rice value chains.

The program's goal is to reduce poverty and food insecurity by increasing incomes for smallholder farmers, including men, women and youth.

The farmers explained how working in cooperatives is at the core of NAFKA's activities. Cooperatives link individual farmers, allowing them to take advantage of economies of scale while providing a platform for engagement in commercial market activities. Additionally, NAFKA strengthens local partners to meet the demands of value chain actors.

The delegation listened to a presentation by one of the farmers in the group, an enthusiastic woman named Victoria Urio.

She reported a 73 percent increase in her rice harvest as a result of Feed the Future interventions. Veronica and her husband, Anaeli Urio, each have 12 acres of land. Veronica used the training and enhanced technology she learned from Feed the Future to successfully plant the rice. Her husband did not use the new agriculture techniques.



Victoria Urio is a farmer in Morogoro, who reported a 73 percent increase in her rice harvest as a result of Feed the Future interventions.

In year's past Veronica harvested an average of about 2.2 tons of rice per acre. This year, she reaped 3.8 tons per acre. Her husband's harvest remained the same. He intends to apply the technology and training to increase his yield next season.

“This is my knowledge I have from America,” Urio said proudly. “The American people are helping us from their own pockets. Thank you for coming.”

After Urio's speech, the two members of congress thanked Veronica, adding that they are grateful for the successful partnerships. They also drew parallels to the business of agriculture in their own home states of California and Minnesota.

“To be successful, we need to work in partnership with good farmers like yourself,” Rep. McCollum said to Urio.

“Let's Be Together:” Connecting People to Markets through Micro-Savings

To see how CARE is increasing access to markets for women, the group visited CARE's Village Savings and Loans program and met a group of women and men, who formed their own savings and loan group. The name of the group was Tushikamane, which means “Let's Be Together.”

Last year, CARE worked to provide 4,000 women and girls in Tanzania access to the VSLA program. CARE also reached 44 farmer groups with micro-finance services through the VSLA to enhance the farming activities and livelihood of their members.

These member-managed groups of about 20 to 30 people offer basic financial services to people who are excluded from the formal financial services system. Every group receives one year of intensive financial literacy training to make sure they understand how savings, interest, profit and loss, and financial bookkeeping. They also learn about the selection and management of income

generating activities. For many of the group members, they have invested in farming techniques that have protected them from food shortages and other shocks.

Mwanahamas Hemed, 49 and a participant in the VSLA program helped give a presentation to the group on how the VSLA process works. As the delegation sat in a circle with the group, they learned the process at a typical weekly meeting. They watched the each of the group members put in a tiny amount of savings into the metal box.



The delegation engaged with a savings group that was part of CARE's Village Savings and Loans Association program. The members used their money to invest in agriculture technology and start small businesses.

Hemed is a widow and mother of two. She owns four acres of land, but relying on farming has been tough this past year. In October, a lack of rainfall caused her maize crops to shrivel up. Luckily, she had diversified her income through her participation in the VSLA. She invested in a refrigerator so she could sell ice to her neighbors. Even when the crops failed, she was still able to feed her family.

"If I have a problem, I know where I can run to," Hemed said. "I can go to the group."

The Nation contributing editor, Robert Dreyfuss, was particularly impressed by the VSLAs and their ability to empower women to take action and start their own businesses.

"Investing in women and girls pays off because women are less advantaged and also really hard workers," Dreyfuss said.

"The women in turn care for the children primarily. You can get big improvements in child health and education by lifting up the status and means of women."

Conclusion

Tanzania and South Sudan are at different stages of development, perhaps most noticeably in the extent of infrastructure but also in governance, national capacity, and economic progress. Despite these differences, however, food and nutrition security remains a major challenge for both countries. This Learning Tour enabled participants to better understand the complexity of hunger and under-nutrition and thus the lingering challenge in both countries: food and nutrition security is not a matter of access to food alone, but also availability of and access to nutritious food, the reliability of nutritious food sources, the ability and capacity of farmers to produce and market their crops in order to grow their incomes.

During the trip, the group listened to the stories of poor and marginalized families. They are vulnerable to a range of risks and shocks which derive from factors over which they have little or no control: volatile food prices, natural disasters and human conflict, social status/discrimination, lack of political and social power and high dependence on natural resources being degraded by overuse and climate change or access to which is being restricted by those with more power. However, through the efforts of the U.S. investments, private sector partnership and the national governments, many of these people are receiving better

nutrition, knowledge of better farming techniques and access to markets.

As the people in Tanzania and South Sudan improve their access to food security, the U.S. government continues to make food security one of its hallmark issues, with the Feed the Future initiative. The U.S. government's approach to food security has become more coordinated and comprehensive under Feed the Future, with a prioritization of gender and nutrition and recognition of the importance of integrating climate change and natural resource management into food and nutrition security programs.

The knowledge gained from this trip will help participants, CARE and its partners to continue to advocate for support and funding for these initiatives in South Sudan, Tanzania and throughout the developing world.

Policy Recommendations

CARE seeks a world where the poorest women and their families live in dignity and security, have equitable access to opportunities to move out of hunger, and can secure stable, sustainable, and resilient livelihoods. CARE calls for a comprehensive approach to food and nutrition security that supports resilience, empowers women, promotes pro-poor and gender equitable governance, and tackles the underlying drivers of hunger and vulnerability. Hunger and malnutrition can be beat, but our success depends on sustained investment, a comprehensive approach, and a commitment to equity.

Support comprehensive food and nutrition security programs: Supporting and promoting a comprehensive approach to food and nutrition security ensures that we meet immediate needs, address underlying drivers of hunger and vulnerability, and enhance the ability of poor households to graduate out of poverty and hunger. US food and nutrition security programs should:

- **Increase flexibility of international food aid programs:** Allowing organizations like CARE to choose the most appropriate, cost-effective, and

rapid way to respond to any given hunger crisis, through the use of imported food aid, purchase of food locally or regionally, or the use of cash transfers and vouchers.



The delegation visited a primary health center in Juba operated by MCHIP and Jhpiego in partnership South Sudan's Ministry of Health and USAID. One primary goal of the center is to reduce maternal deaths and improve patient's access to services and health education.

- **Invest in women** to help them increase the value of their goods and gain access to resources including education, credit and land tenure.
- **Prioritize nutrition needs** of children under two years of age, in the window of opportunity of their first 1,000 days, and pregnant and lactating mothers.
- **Support cost-effective, equitable risk management tools** that enable vulnerable households to manage economic and natural shocks and prevent communities from falling into crisis in the first place.
- **Integrate climate change and natural resource management** into food and nutrition security programs to reduce households' vulnerability and ensure the long-term sustainability of food security programs.

- **Target the underlying causes and drivers of poverty and vulnerability** by investing in women's empowerment, improved governance, participatory approaches, and transparency.

Support U.S. Investments: While recognizing that there are significant strains on the federal budget, strong, smart investments in international development and humanitarian programs remain cost-effective. The International Affairs budget – only one percent of the U.S. federal budget – is critical to addressing the underlying causes of poverty and meeting basic human needs in developing countries. It represents a practical and smart investment in building a prosperous, stable and secure world.

The International Affairs budget is critical to reducing extreme poverty and helping the more than one billion people around the world struggling to survive on less than \$1 a day. This budget is critical to issues Americans care about, including tackling global hunger, helping women and men create income-generating jobs, and fostering global stability.

The International Affairs budget is critical to responding to conflict and disasters, including the crisis in Syria, which has already resulted in more than one million refugees.

CARE has been witness to the profound difference these investments make, especially in the lives of girls and women. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) – the agency at the heart of U.S. foreign assistance efforts – has more than doubled spending on women and girls since 2008. These funds produce real change in the lives of women, children and their families living in extreme poverty, changing entire communities and nations for the better.

Thanks to U.S. foreign assistance:

- In the past 20 years, the number of chronically undernourished has been reduced by 50 percent.

- In the past 50 years, infant and child death rates in the developing world have been reduced by 50 percent.
- Investments in agriculture by the U.S. and other donors over the past two decades have helped feed an extra billion people.

In the short term, there are concrete means of improving US assistance to support food and nutrition security. Policymakers can:

1. **Support a strong, smart international affairs budget that protects the poverty-fighting accounts** to ensure a sustained investment in food and nutrition security programs.
2. **Support reforms in the Farm Bill to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of US international food aid programs.** These reforms were included in the Farm Bill that passed the Senate in the 112th Congress.
3. **Support expected reforms to US international food aid in the President's FY14 Budget Request** that ensure that we meet the needs of the same if not a greater number of hungry people while maximizing the efficiency of every dollar spent.
4. **Support legislation to ensure a comprehensive, coordinated approach to US food and nutrition security programs** that links short-term emergency and long-term development needs, targets the nutrition of children in the first 1000 days, prioritizes investment in women smallholder farmers, integrates natural resource management, and enables vulnerable food insecure households to manage and adjust to *increasingly variable weather patterns*.
5. **Promote and institutionalize the integration of natural resource management, climate change, gender, and nutrition into Feed the Future** through tools, trainings and guidance as well as robust monitoring and evaluation of integration.

The CARE Learning Tours program introduces policymakers and other influential individuals to the importance of U.S. investments, particularly as it relates to family health outcomes for women and girls. The goal is to utilize these individuals in ongoing advocacy efforts and help inform recommendations for a long-term U.S. strategic approach to these issues.

We are deeply grateful to the many individuals who generously gave of their time to make this visit to South Sudan & Tanzania a success. CARE specifically thanks the Bill and Melinda Gate Foundation for its generous financial support to the Learning Tours.

If you are interested in CARE's Learning Tours program, please contact:

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