

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3605

To require the President to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to further the United States foreign policy objective of vastly reducing global poverty and eliminating extreme global poverty, to require periodic reports on the progress toward implementation of the strategy, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 28, 2005

Mr. SMITH of Washington (for himself and Mr. BACHUS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

A BILL

To require the President to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to further the United States foreign policy objective of vastly reducing global poverty and eliminating extreme global poverty, to require periodic reports on the progress toward implementation of the strategy, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Global Poverty Act
5 of 2005”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress makes the following findings:

3 (1) More than one billion people worldwide live
4 on less than \$1 per day, and another 1.6 billion peo-
5 ple struggle to survive on less than \$2 per day, ac-
6 cording to the World Bank.

7 (2) At the United Nations Millennium Summit
8 in 2000, the United States joined more than 180
9 other countries in committing to work toward goals
10 to improve life for the world's poorest people by
11 2015.

12 (3) Such goals include reducing by one-half the
13 proportion of people worldwide, between 1990 and
14 2015, that live on less than \$1 per day, cutting in
15 half the proportion of people suffering from hunger
16 and unable to access safe drinking water and sanita-
17 tion, reducing child mortality by two-thirds, ensuring
18 basic education for all children, and reversing the
19 spread of HIV/AIDS and malaria, while sustaining
20 the environment upon which human life depends.

21 (4) On March 22, 2002, President George W.
22 Bush stated: "We fight against poverty because hope
23 is an answer to terror. We fight against poverty be-
24 cause opportunity is a fundamental right to human
25 dignity. We fight against poverty because faith re-
26 quires it and conscience demands it. We fight

1 against poverty with a growing conviction that major
2 progress is within our reach.”.

3 (5) The 2002 National Security Strategy of the
4 United States notes: “[A] world where some live in
5 comfort and plenty, while half of the human race
6 lives on less than \$2 per day, is neither just nor sta-
7 ble. Including all of the world’s poor in an expanding
8 circle of development and opportunity is a moral im-
9 perative and one of the top priorities of U.S. inter-
10 national policy.”.

11 (6) The bipartisan Final Report of the National
12 Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United
13 States recommends: “A comprehensive U.S. strategy
14 to counter terrorism should include economic policies
15 that encourage development, more open societies,
16 and opportunities for people to improve the lives of
17 their families and enhance prospects for their chil-
18 dren.”.

19 (7) At the summit of the Group of Eight (G-
20 8) nations in July 2005, leaders from all eight coun-
21 tries committed to increase aid to Africa from the
22 current \$25 billion annually to \$50 billion by 2010,
23 and to cancel 100 percent of the debt obligations
24 owed to the World Bank, African Development

1 Bank, and International Monetary Fund by 18 of
2 the world's poorest nations.

3 (8) The United States has recognized the need
4 for increased financial and technical assistance to
5 countries burdened by extreme poverty, as well as
6 the need for strengthened economic and trade oppor-
7 tunities for those countries, through significant ini-
8 tiatives in recent years, including the United States
9 Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and
10 Malaria Act of 2003, the Millennium Challenge Act
11 of 2003, the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initia-
12 tive, and trade preference programs for developing
13 countries, such as the African Growth and Oppor-
14 tunity Act.

15 **SEC. 3. DECLARATION OF POLICY.**

16 It is a major priority of United States foreign policy
17 to vastly reduce global poverty and to eliminate extreme
18 poverty in developing countries.

19 **SEC. 4. REQUIREMENT TO DEVELOP COMPREHENSIVE**
20 **STRATEGY.**

21 (a) STRATEGY.—The President, acting through the
22 Administrator of the United States Agency for Inter-
23 national Development, and in consultation with the heads
24 of other appropriate departments and agencies of the Gov-
25 ernment of the United States, international organizations,

1 international financial institutions, recipient governments,
2 United States and international nongovernmental organi-
3 zations, civil society organizations, and other appropriate
4 entities, shall develop and implement a comprehensive
5 strategy to further the United States foreign policy objec-
6 tive of vastly reducing global poverty and eliminating ex-
7 treme global poverty.

8 (b) CONTENTS.—The strategy required by subsection
9 (a) shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

10 (1) Specific and measurable goals, benchmarks,
11 and timetables to achieve the global poverty reduc-
12 tion objectives described in subsection (a).

13 (2) An explanation of how these goals, bench-
14 marks, and timetables will enable the United States
15 to fulfill its commitment to help achieve the inter-
16 nationally recognized goal of reducing by one-half
17 the proportion of people worldwide, between 1990
18 and 2015, who live on less than \$1 per day.

19 (c) GUIDELINES.—The strategy required by sub-
20 section (a) should adhere to the following guidelines:

21 (1) Continued investment in existing United
22 States initiatives related to international poverty re-
23 duction, such as the United States Leadership
24 Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act
25 of 2003, the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003, the

1 Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, and
2 trade preference programs for developing countries,
3 such as the African Growth and Opportunity Act.

4 (2) Increasing overall United States develop-
5 ment assistance levels while at the same time im-
6 proving the effectiveness of such assistance.

7 (3) Enhancing and expanding debt relief.

8 (4) Leveraging United States trade policy
9 where possible to enhance economic development
10 prospects for developing countries.

11 (5) Coordinating efforts and working in co-
12 operation with developed and developing countries,
13 international organizations, and international finan-
14 cial institutions.

15 (6) Mobilizing and leveraging the participation
16 of businesses, United States and international non-
17 governmental organizations, civil society, and public-
18 private partnerships.

19 (7) Coordinating the goal of poverty reduction
20 with other development goals, such as combating the
21 spread of preventable diseases such as HIV/AIDS,
22 tuberculosis, and malaria, increasing access to pota-
23 ble water and basic sanitation, and reducing hunger
24 and malnutrition.

1 (8) Integrating principles of sustainable devel-
2 opment into policies and programs.

3 (d) REPORTS.—

4 (1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than one year
5 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
6 President, acting through Administrator of the
7 United States Agency for International Develop-
8 ment, shall transmit to the appropriate congressional
9 committees a report that describes the strategy re-
10 quired by subsection (a).

11 (2) SUBSEQUENT REPORTS.—Not less than
12 once every year after the submission of the initial re-
13 port under paragraph (1) until 2015, the President
14 shall transmit to the appropriate congressional com-
15 mittees a report on the status of the implementation
16 of the strategy, progress made in achieving the glob-
17 al poverty reduction objectives described in sub-
18 section (a), and any changes to the strategy since
19 the date of the submission of the last report.

20 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

21 In this Act:

22 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
23 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
24 mittees” means—

1 (A) the Committee on International Rela-
2 tions and the Committee on Appropriations of
3 the House of Representatives; and

4 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations
5 and the Committee on Appropriations of the
6 Senate.

7 (2) EXTREME GLOBAL POVERTY.—The term
8 “extreme global poverty” refers to the conditions in
9 which individuals live on less than \$1 per day, ad-
10 justed for purchasing power parity in 1993 United
11 States dollars, according to World Bank statistics.

12 (3) GLOBAL POVERTY.—The term “global pov-
13 erty” refers to the conditions in which individuals
14 live on less than \$2 per day, adjusted for purchasing
15 power parity in 1993 United States dollars, accord-
16 ing to World Bank statistics.

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