



May 12, 2022

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Senate Majority Leader  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Minority Leader  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chair, Senate Committee on Appropriations  
437 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on  
Appropriations  
304 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

CC:

The Honorable Chris Coons  
The Honorable Lindsey Graham

Dear Leaders Schumer and McConnell, Chairman Leahy, and Ranking Member Shelby,

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has presented the world with unprecedented challenges ranging across a number of issues both domestic and international. In addition to the sheer humanitarian disaster and need in and around Ukraine, the conflict has added stress to what was already a precarious food security and nutrition environment around the globe. As has been widely reported, the disruption of critical commodities and inputs such as fertilizer has led to fears of a protracted global food crisis. This crisis will be felt everywhere, but the brunt of the impact will be dealt to vulnerable populations that were already facing the threat of severe hunger and malnutrition, as well as smallholder farmers reliant on fertilizer and other inputs from Ukraine and Russia. As a coalition of nearly 100 nonprofits, faith networks, companies, foundations, universities, and individuals, the Alliance to End Hunger was encouraged by the passage of the emergency supplemental funding bill for Ukraine in the House of Representatives. We now urge you to take up and pass this critical bill.

The world was facing deep challenges in meeting the food security and hunger needs in hotspots around the world even before the crisis in Ukraine. Political and economic turmoil, climate shocks, and the COVID 19 pandemic have put tremendous strain on food and emergency systems. Now, with the war in Europe adding to these complications, the World Food Programme [estimates](#) that nearly 47 million people in 81 countries could be pushed to the brink of famine. Further, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has continued to [post record rises](#) in their food price index. Beyond the immediate food security needs, farmers across the world – including smallholder farmers in the developing world – are facing the prospect of precipitous price rises for fertilizers and other agricultural inputs.

The emergency bill out of the House of Representatives includes key funding to alleviate global food security and nutrition stresses, including:

- \$4.348 billion for International Disaster Assistance
- \$20 million for the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust
- \$150 million for the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program

Urgent action is required to address food security and nutrition crises everywhere. The war in Ukraine has devastated countless individuals and families in the country, but has also created a broader existential crisis to the world's food and emergency response systems. We urge you to adopt the food security provisions in the House emergency supplemental bill and pass the legislation expediently.

Respectfully,



Eric Mitchell  
Executive Director  
Alliance to End Hunger