



May 27, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chair, House Committee on Appropriations  
2413 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member, House Committee on  
Appropriations  
1026 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington DC 20515

CC:  
Hon. Sanford Bishop  
Hon. Andy Harris  
Hon. Barbara Lee  
Hon. Hal Rogers

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger,

As a coalition of companies, nonprofits, faith-based organizations, universities, and foundations, we understand the critical nature of addressing issues of global food security and nutrition as drivers of health, economic, and social well-being. Over the past two years, we witnessed the COVID-19 crisis overwhelm food systems, leading to hunger and malnutrition rising drastically around the globe. Now, we are faced with the catastrophe in Ukraine which is devastating not only the lives of innocent Ukrainians, but is leading to food, agricultural, and humanitarian crises around the world. We are deeply appreciative of the \$5 billion included in the recent Ukraine Supplemental for global food security and nutrition programs. As you plan budget priorities for Fiscal Year 2023, Congressional leadership continues to be critical. Our coalition can serve as a reference for your offices as budget planning develops.

The Alliance to End Hunger urges appropriations that are critical in mitigating global food security and nutrition emergencies through relief, development, and resilience programming:

### **Agricultural Appropriations**

- **Title II – Food for Peace: \$3 billion**

Food for Peace (FFP) programs provide emergency and development food assistance to combat hunger and malnutrition worldwide. Emergency food assistance is delivered primarily to communities affected by recurrent crises such as droughts, conflict, natural disasters, and chronic food insecurity. Development food assistance complements emergency food assistance, working where communities require agricultural system strengthening, improved nutrition services, or household livelihood diversification to cope with yearly droughts or other recurrent shocks. Development programming is multisectoral and targets the highest risk communities to address the root causes of hunger and malnutrition. Given the continuing rise in food prices and development and relief programming, the FFP account requires a significant rise in investment. The Alliance to End Hunger urges Congress to appropriate \$3 billion for these life-sustaining

programs in FY23. We acknowledge that this is a significant increase from FY22, but also that it is absolutely essential given the global context of inflation, increased transportation and fuel costs, and increased commodities prices.

- **McGovern-Dole Food for Education Program: \$264.5 million**

The McGovern-Dole International Food for Education program provides U.S. agricultural commodities, as well as financial and technical assistance, to food-insecure countries to establish school feeding programs. The program helps improve child nutrition, maternal health, and access to quality education, especially for girls. We urge Congress to appropriate \$264.5 million to further build on the success and expand upon the program.

- **Local and Regional Procurement: \$26.5 million**

The Local and Regional Procurement (LRP) program enables the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to procure local and regional commodities for field-based projects. It complements existing food aid programs, fills in the nutritional and food aid gaps created by unexpected emergencies, and stimulates local markets by supporting livelihoods. LRP runs in conjunction with McGovern-Dole International Food for Education programs. The Alliance to End Hunger urges a \$26.5 million investment in LRP.

- **Food for Progress Program: \$50 million freight ceiling**

The Food for Progress program provides commodities that are monetized to support a significant share of U.S. assistance for agricultural development. It is funded through the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC). CCC's investment in the program is limited by a legislated ceiling on freight expenditure of \$40 million. This has not been increased in more than 30 years, but on occasion has been increased during the appropriations process for a specific fiscal year. Freight rates for the largest food aid commodities have increased 22% over the past year, and 53% since the beginning of the pandemic ("Grains Freight Index" of Maritime Research Incorporated cited on U.S. Wheat Associates web site). To enable USDA to still meet its target of providing 300-400,000 metric tons of commodities under Food for Progress, the Alliance to End Hunger urges appropriators to increase the ceiling on CCC freight expenditure for FY 2023 from \$40 to \$50 million.

### **Bilateral Economic Assistance**

- **Nutrition: \$300 million**

Nutrition programs focus on evidence-based interventions that are foundational to a child's life. They prevent and treat stunting, wasting (acute malnutrition), and anemia and promote breastfeeding during the first 1,000 days of life—from the start of a woman's pregnancy to a child's second birthday. The programs support long-term health, cognitive development, and physical growth. The Alliance strongly urges \$300 million for nutrition under USAID's Global Health account.

- **Global Food Security Strategy: \$1.2 billion**

The Global Food Security Strategy – also known as Feed the Future – invests in agricultural development, nutrition, and research to build the resilience of smallholder producers, families, and communities. Global food insecurity has been rising since 2014, and recent conflicts and shocks around the world have highlighted the need for increased investments in building

resilience – particularly related to food systems in the developing world. The Global Food Security Strategy can be the U.S. Government’s answer to the long-term implications of current events, as well as our way of insulating food systems from the unknown shocks of the future. These funds are especially important to the lives and livelihoods of smallholder farmers, and programs can make vital investments in inputs (fertilizer, seeds, etc.) that that are of great concern given the war in Ukraine. Additionally, investment through the GFSS in R&D can further build local food system resilience through heightened capacity. The Alliance urges no less than \$1.2 billion be appropriated to the Global Food Security Strategy account.

- **International Disaster Assistance: \$5.27 billion**

International Disaster Assistance is absolutely critical at this time. The IDA account provides crucial humanitarian relief for populations suffering from natural disasters and conflict. With war raging in Ukraine, the seriousness of humanitarian hotspots around the world has risen exponentially. A significant increase IDA account is necessary, and the Alliance urges no less than \$5.27 billion for the account.

### **Multilateral Assistance**

- **International Fund for Agricultural Development: \$46.8 million**

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is a global organization that plays a critical role in bolstering agricultural development and resilience, as well as an important financial institution supporting these critical investments. IFAD’s investments focus on supporting rural communities through country-led and owned programs. Their model for investment in agricultural development is essential for a sustainable future, and the Alliance strongly recommends no less than \$46.8 million for the organization.

Once again, we appreciate your leadership on these monumental issues, and we are deeply thankful for your understanding of how complex and essential global food security and nutrition programs are – particularly in the current global context. As a broad coalition of organizations, we hope you will use us as a resource as you take a deep dive into the accounts above. These are unusual times for global food security and nutrition, and we hope that in addition to the much-needed relief that will be supplied through the FY23 omnibus, that this will also help our nation and global anti-hunger community to build stronger and more resilient food systems that will be able to withstand crises and shocks in the future. Thank you for your consideration of our request, and we look forward to continuing to work with you in the months ahead.

Respectfully,



Eric Mitchell  
Executive Director



May 27, 2022

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:

Hon. Tammy Baldwin  
Hon. John Hoeven  
Hon. Chris Coons  
Hon. Lindsey Graham

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