

October 31, 2022

The Honorable Christopher Coons
Chairman
Subcommittee on State-Foreign Operations
United States Senate

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on State-Foreign Operations
United States Senate

The Honorable Barbara Lee
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on State-Foreign Operations
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on State-Foreign Operations
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Coons, Ranking Member Graham, Chairwoman Lee, and Ranking Member Rogers:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, thank you for your long-standing leadership to strengthen U.S. international programs that combat hunger and malnutrition and help build resilience in the most vulnerable communities around the globe.

As you conference the FY23 State and Foreign Operations bill, we urge you to appropriate the highest possible funding levels for these critical programs in light of worsening food security needs we are witnessing around the world. It is essential that FY23 spending bills are finalized as soon as possible to ensure that programs can reach marginalized communities with life-saving assistance in a timely manner and that programs do not experience funding gaps or delays. We ask that you continue these important investments by appropriating at least \$64.58 billion in base funding in the final FY 2023 State, Foreign Operations Bill. A long term continuing resolution would have detrimental effects on these programs.

Over the last few years, vulnerable communities have seen their food systems eroded by compounding shocks like conflict, climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, an acute food crisis is spiraling around the world, driven by the conflict in Ukraine. Currently an estimated [45 million people are at risk of death](#) or already facing starvation and death because they have so little to eat. The intensity and persistence of the food crisis are also straining local responders and humanitarian actors and forcing [painful decisions](#) about where to pull away much-needed aid to account for new hunger hot spots.

These levels of hunger are not only a tragedy today; they are setting the stage for continuing crisis. It is estimated that nearly [670 million](#) people will still be undernourished in 2030 – eight percent of the world population. [In 15 countries around the world, a child is being pushed into severe malnutrition every minute.](#) Nearly half of all children whose growth is stunted by poor nutrition face [further threats from climate change](#), as these children are growing up in countries most vulnerable to its impacts. Additionally, women and girls, who often eat ["last and least,"](#) have suffered disproportionately from the effects of COVID-19 on food insecurity.

We are grateful for the United States' leadership to provide emergency resources to meet the food

security and nutrition needs of at-risk communities worldwide. As you know, U.S. global food and nutrition security and international food aid programs not only respond to immediate needs but also tackle the root causes that drive hunger and poverty. Non-emergency programs focus on building resilience, helping to decrease the need for future humanitarian assistance resources. In order to address the medium to long-term impacts of COVID-19, conflict, and climate change, strong funding in base appropriations for global food and nutrition security and food aid accounts are critical to make progress on global development goals and build greater resilience in communities prone to shocks. Any increases to these accounts should not come at the expense of other international poverty-reducing and humanitarian programs.

In the final, conferenced FY23 State-Foreign Operations Appropriations bill, we ask that you include at least:

- \$1.2 billion for the Global Food Security Strategy/Feed the Future, including \$160 million for agricultural research, the House funding level,
- \$160 million for the Global Health-Nutrition Subaccount, the House and Senate¹ funding level,
- \$4.48 billion for the International Development Assistance, the Senate funding level,
- \$43 million for the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the House and Senate funding level, and
- \$10 million for the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP), the House funding level.

Thank you for your consideration of our request and for your leadership over the years to help vulnerable families and children have an opportunity for a better future. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff as you work to conference FY23 appropriations bills. Again, we hope that you are able to finalize FY23 spending expeditiously to ensure that programs can reach the most vulnerable people with timely, life-saving assistance.

Sincerely,

- Alliance to End Hunger
- Bread for the World
- CARE
- Farm Journal Foundation
- Food for the Hungry
- Helen Keller International
- InterAction
- Islamic Relief USA

¹ “Senate” refers to the FY23 State-Foreign Operations Explanatory Statement released by Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-VT) on July 28, 2022.

- Mennonite Central Committee U.S
- ONE Campaign
- Oxfam America
- Save the Children
- The Hunger Project
- World Vision