

May 5, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Vice Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McCarthy, Minority Leader McConnell, Chairwoman DeLauro, Chairman Leahy, Vice Chairman Shelby, and Ranking Member Granger:

We are writing to request urgent supplemental funding for U.S. international food security and nutrition assistance programs. The world is facing a hunger catastrophe on an unprecedented scale, with the crisis in Ukraine serving as a “hunger multiplier” for emergencies around the world. Prior to the conflict in Ukraine, the number of people facing crisis levels of hunger worldwide had already more than doubled since 2019, with 276 million people experiencing acute hunger—primarily the result of a rise in man-made conflict, the Covid-19-related economic downturn and supply chain disruption, and escalating climate change impacts.

According to new estimates by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), if the Ukraine crisis continues into the coming months, the number of people facing crisis levels of acute hunger worldwide could rise by an additional 47 million people this year. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization similarly projects that an additional 8 to 13 million people will become undernourished between 2022 to 2023 – on top of the more than 800 million undernourished today. This growing food crisis disproportionately impacts women and girls,

who often suffer from eating less than their male family members, and harms children who may suffer permanent physical and mental stunting from even a brief period of severe malnutrition.

Already, the conflict is driving wheat, oil and other commodity prices to near all-time highs across global markets. WFP, the world's largest provider of humanitarian food assistance, has seen its operational costs increase by more than \$70 million each month to reach the same number of beneficiaries. Additionally, this community understands that operational costs for donors like USAID and implementing partners across the food security and resilience spectrum are increasing at commensurate levels.

We commend the Biden Administration for the recent release of the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust and the introduction of a second Ukraine supplemental request including food assistance funding. We thank Congress for including emergency assistance for the Ukraine crisis in the FY22 omnibus spending package signed into law on March 16. Unfortunately, these efforts are not enough to meet the dire need. Prior to the crisis in Ukraine more than 40 million people in dozens of countries were already at risk of famine. Those emergencies continue to spiral, exacerbated by the Ukraine crisis and the ripple effect it has had on global food prices. Funding for U.S international food assistance programs is simply not keeping pace with need. To prevent both humanitarian and development contexts from metastasizing into global instability, additional resources are required.

Based on new and worsening humanitarian emergencies and increased food, fuel and shipping costs, the likely global humanitarian food assistance funding shortfall in 2022 has increased by 50 percent since the beginning of this year. **Consequently, we are issuing a new appeal for Congress to provide \$5 billion in supplemental funding for international food security and nutrition assistance programs.** The now 323 million people likely facing crisis levels of acute hunger around the planet cannot afford further delay, nor can the U.S. partner humanitarian organizations continue making impossible choices everyday as to who lives and who dies because of a lack of funding.

One thing is certain: the cost of failing to rise to this occasion will be orders of magnitude more expensive for the United States than acting now. Providing life-saving and long-term food, nutrition, cash, and voucher assistance to vulnerable households that cannot access or afford nutritious food to feed their families is among the most cost-effective ways to reduce further instability in fragile places. We urge Congress to take action today and help lead the global community out of this hunger catastrophe.

Sincerely,

[Signed organizations on following page]

1,000 Days, an initiative of FHI  
Solutions  
Action Against Hunger  
Alliance to End Hunger  
Bread for the World  
Breedlove Foods, Inc.  
Cantera Partners  
CARE USA  
Catholic Relief Services  
Congressional Hunger Center  
Didion Milling Inc  
Edesia  
Food for the Hungry  
Global Child Nutrition Foundation  
Global Food & Nutrition Inc.  
GrainPro Incorporated  
Heartland Goodwill Enterprises  
Helen Keller Intl  
International Dairy Foods Association

Islamic Relief USA  
Mana Nutrition  
Mercy Corps  
National Council of Farmer  
Cooperatives  
National Milk Producers  
Federation  
North American Millers'  
Association  
ONE  
One Acre Fund  
Poetry X Hunger  
Rise Against Hunger  
Save the Children  
U.S. Dairy Export Council  
USA Rice  
World Food Program USA  
World Renew  
World Vision

CC: The Honorable Tammy Baldwin, The Honorable John Hoeven, The Honorable Sanford Bishop Jr., The Honorable Andy Harris, The Honorable Christopher Coons, The Honorable Lindsey Graham, The Honorable Barbara Lee, the Honorable Hal Rogers