



July 26, 2023

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

We write to you today requesting that as you consider emergency supplemental appropriations, you prioritize a request for robust funding to address the dire humanitarian situation and lasting impacts caused by the conflict in Ukraine. As this conflict enters its 18<sup>th</sup> month, the severity of hunger and humanitarian need within Ukraine, and its rippling effect across the globe, is staggering. We are grateful for the resources that the Biden Administration and Congress have provided to date to address this deep and worsening crisis, but, tragically, the needs far outpace existing funding levels.

Within Ukraine, attacks on population centers are increasing, with growing numbers of people facing hunger, displacement, and an ever-greater need for emergency shelter, food assistance, safe drinking water, healthcare, safe spaces for the most vulnerable populations, and other humanitarian support both in Ukraine and throughout the region. The destruction of the Kakhovka Dam and its resulting depletion of the Kakhovka Reservoir in June this year was a particularly grim development as tens of thousands of people immediately lost access to shelter, livelihoods, health care, clean water, and irrigation. Thousands of people are displaced. Large agricultural regions remain indefinitely without a source of water, further threatening production in the Ukrainian “breadbasket” on which global food systems heavily depend.

The events in Ukraine are having an outsized impact on global food security and malnutrition. The crisis has caused significant disruptions to grain production and shipments that feed the world, as well as essential fertilizers for farmers across the globe. This has been worsened by the recent suspension of the Black Sea Grain Initiative, which threatens to further increase food insecurity and global instability. This conflict is contributing heavily to rising costs and decreasing availability of food and agricultural inputs, greater supply chain disruptions, and increased fuel costs. The result is a world in the midst of one of the greatest hunger crises in generations.

Even before the conflict in Ukraine, decades of progress on global hunger and malnutrition were being reversed due to the compounding effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, conflict, and climate shocks. Now, the crisis in Ukraine is serving as a “hunger multiplier,” resulting in 735 million people worldwide who do not have enough to eat. It is projected that by 2030, around 23 million more people will be chronically undernourished than if the conflict in Ukraine had not happened. Globally, for children under five, 45 million children were experiencing wasting and over 148 million children were experiencing stunting as of May this year. This global food and nutrition crisis is hitting women and girls the hardest, with nearly 85 million more hungry women and girls than men and boys.



These staggering needs come at a time when there is great uncertainty about the level of funding for vital humanitarian and development programs in the FY24 appropriations process. We are actively engaging with Congress to ensure that base funding for humanitarian response and long-term resilience rises to the level of global need. However, emergency supplemental funding is urgently needed now to address the worsening crisis in Ukraine and its global impact in the near future and the years to come. We urge you to request a new Ukraine supplemental funding bill from Congress, with robust support for international humanitarian assistance, including food and nutrition assistance and long-term agricultural resilience efforts, as quickly as possible.

Thank you for your consideration.

CC: Shalanda Young, Director, White House Office of Management and Budget

Sincerely,

1,000 Days, an initiative of	Global Health Council	One Acre Fund
FHI Solutions	Helen Keller Intl	Operation USA
Action Against Hunger	HelpAge USA	Oxfam America
Alliance for Peacebuilding	HIAS	Physicians for Peace
Alliance to End Hunger	Humanity & Inclusion	Project HOPE
Americares	InterAction	RTI International
Bread for the World	International Medical Corps	Solidarity Center
Buddhist Tzu Chi	International Rescue	Together for Girls
Foundation	Committee	WaterAid
CARE USA	IREX	World Food Program USA
Catholic Relief Services	Islamic Relief USA	World Institute on
Church World Service	MedGlobal, Inc.	Disability
Corus International	Mercy Corps	UNICEF USA
Doctors of the World USA	Nonviolent Peaceforce	World Learning
Farm Journal Foundation	Norwegian Refugee Council	World Vision
Food for the Hungry	(NRC) USA	
Global Communities	ONE Campaign	