

September 26, 2016

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Vice Chairwoman
Senate Appropriations Committee
S-146A, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Rogers, Ranking Member Lowey, Chairman Cochran, and Ranking Member Mikulski:

Thank you for your continuing support of investments in improved nutrition for women and children. Your work to protect and invest in the life-saving programs funded through the State and Foreign Operations account has cemented U.S. leadership in global health and development efforts and has made an enormous difference in the lives of the millions of people living in poverty and hunger around the world. In fiscal year 2015 alone nearly 18 million children were supported by U.S. government nutrition programs, and nearly 3 million people in Feed the Future focus countries were trained in child health and nutrition.

Despite the gains that have been accomplished over the years, there is more to be done. Currently 156 million children globally are stunted, affecting both their physical and cognitive development for the rest of their lives. 500 million women are anemic, contributing significantly to maternal mortality; and nutrition has been vastly underfunded by both donors and high-burden countries. According to a recent analysis by the World Bank and Results for Development Institute, there is an annual gap of \$7 billion in nutrition financing from what is currently funded to what is needed. This is the responsibility of both donors and high-burden countries to fulfill.

We appreciate your Committees' support of the current funding level of \$125 million for global nutrition programs in the fiscal year 2017. However, even a slight **increase in the nutrition sub-account in the global health programs account would send a strong signal** to other donors and national governments that investments must be increased if global malnutrition is to be adequately addressed.

While the community recognizes the important contribution areas such as agriculture and food security can make in improving nutrition, the nutrition in global health programs account drives the implementation of direct nutrition interventions such as breastfeeding, micronutrient supplementation, and community level treatment of moderate and severe acute malnutrition. These activities are proven to be high-impact and cost-effective in the fight against malnutrition and must be scaled up if we are to see the end of malnutrition in our lifetime.

We also want to add that it is important to protect other programs that benefit people living in hunger and poverty. We especially appreciate the gains seen this year in the Maternal and Child Health

account. All of these initiatives work together to improve the lives of millions of people around the world and each is necessary.

Again, we thank you for your continued support of these accounts, and recognize the tough decisions that you and your staff have to make in deciding our funding priorities. As the leading donor, the United States plays an important catalytic role in driving progress on malnutrition. We see nutrition investments as a down payment to reducing hunger and improving nutrition outcomes for millions around the world and ask you to consider increasing the investment in the nutrition in global health programs account. Thank you again for your leadership in supporting these vital programs.

Sincerely,

1,000 Days
Action Against Hunger
ADRA International
Alliance to End Hunger
American Academy of Pediatrics
Bread for the World
CARE USA
Children's Medical Ministries
Christian Connections for International Health
Church World Service
Congressional Hunger Center
Disabled Children's Fund
Edesia
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Faiths for Safe Water
Food for the Hungry
Global Citizen
Global Communities
Heifer International
Helen Keller International
IMA World Health
InterAction
International Medical Corps
Mercy Corps
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
RESULTS
Save the Children
Save the Children Action Network
SPOON Foundation
The Episcopal Church
The Hunger Project

CC: Rep. Kay Granger
Sen. Lindsey Graham
Sen. Patrick J. Leahy