

November 22, 2016

Ms. Nancy Stetson  
Deputy Coordinator for Diplomacy for  
Feed the Future  
Special Representative for  
Global Food Security  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Ms. Beth Dunford  
Deputy Coordinator for Development for  
Feed the Future  
Assistance Administrator for  
Bureau for Food Security  
U.S. Agency for International Development  
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20523

Dear Deputy Coordinator Stetson and Deputy Coordinator Dunford:

The passage of the Global Food Security Act (GFSA) marked the culmination of nearly 3 years of painstaking, open collaboration with Congress, the Administration, and numerous stakeholders including NGOs, faith-based organizations, universities, and U.S. commodity groups. With the recent release of the Global Food Security Strategy, as required by GFSA, we want to follow up with our reactions to the strategy and express our interest in continuing to collaborate as GFSA implementation moves forward.

First, congratulations on meeting the mandated deadline. The turnaround on the document was tight, and we appreciate the effort you made to be timely and to include our input as possible. The development of a comprehensive, whole-of-government U.S. strategy to combat hunger and malnutrition globally represents the cornerstone of the GFSA. Its implementation will be an exciting step forward in building the political will, best practices, and transparency needed to end global hunger and malnutrition by 2030.

The strategy focuses on increasing sustainable and equitable agricultural development; reducing global hunger; and improving nutrition – especially in the key first 1,000 days between a woman's pregnancy and her child's second birthday. We are especially pleased by the additional attention to resilience and the commitment to engage civil society both within the U.S. and in target countries, in order to "inform priority-setting processes, provide input as programs are designed and evaluated, and participate as partners on the ground". Other elements that stood out include the promotion of country ownership and accountability, improving upon monitoring, evaluation, and learning practices, highlighting the importance of multi-sectoral food security efforts including a focus on WASH, emphasizing women's empowerment, and explicitly connecting natural resource management.

We applaud the strong stakeholder engagement before and after the release of the Global Food Security Strategy given the importance of food security to our community (as an example: in 2015 InterAction members mobilized more than \$540 million in private/non-USG resources to support food and nutrition activities worldwide). We request that similar meetings continue as the legislation continues to be implemented. As stated by USG representatives at the recent meeting here at InterAction, meaningful civil society participation works best when it is transparent and formalized. We look forward to reviewing the proposed plan for this type of engagement.

In the meantime, we look forward to continuing the conversation about implementing GFSA with the taskforce as the new Congress and Administration take office in January. Some of the ongoing conversations we are particularly interested in updates on include:

- Country Selection and Graduation Processes
- Indicators that will undergird the new Results Framework, including those that demonstrate impact and applicability to vulnerable populations such as smallholder producers, women, youth, and people with disabilities
- Regional, and Country Level strategy development and implementation

As organizations engaged in efforts to end global hunger, malnutrition, and extreme poverty, we thank you for your strong leadership of Feed the Future, and look forward to partnering with you and the 9 other departments and agencies implementing this whole of government strategy.

Sincerely,

1,000 Days  
ACDI/VOCA  
Action Against Hunger  
ADRA International  
Alliance to End Hunger  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
Bread for the World  
CARE USA  
Congressional Hunger Center  
Farm Journal Foundation  
Feed the Children  
Global Citizen  
Global Communities  
Handicap International  
Heartland Global, Inc.  
Heifer International  
INMED Partnerships for Children  
InterAction  
Islamic Relief USA  
Lutheran World Relief  
Mercy Corps  
NCBA CLUSA  
ONE  
One Acre Fund  
Oxfam America  
Project Concern International (PCI)  
Save the Children  
Self Help Africa  
Stop Hunger Now  
The Global FoodBanking Network  
The Hunger Project  
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries  
Volunteers for Economic Growth Alliance (VEGA)  
World Food Program USA  
World Vision US

Cc: Aysha House, U.S. African Development Foundation  
Brian Guse, U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Victoria Kao, U.S. Department of Commerce  
Nicholas Strychacz, U.S. Department of Treasury  
William Lellis, U.S. Geological Survey  
Tim Mooney, Millennium Challenge Corporation  
Bruce Cameron, Overseas Private Investment Corporation  
Sarah Marshall, Peace Corps