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