



The largest alliance of U.S.-based international nongovernmental organizations focused on the world's poor and most vulnerable people.

November 15, 2017

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

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

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

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Vice Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Rogers, Ranking Member Lowey, Chairman Cochran, and Vice Chairman Leahy:

Thanks to your Committee's' efforts, the U.S. government has made impressive strides in combating global hunger and malnutrition. U.S. international food assistance made an enormous difference in the lives 49 million people in 61 countries in FY2015 alone, and the Feed the Future Initiative has helped to lift 9 million people above the poverty line and reduce poverty in Feed the Future countries by 19 percent. On behalf of the communities served by this assistance around the world, thank you for your commitment to combating global hunger.

Yet more work needs to be done. 815 million men, women, and children around the world struggle every day to secure the nutritious food they need to live. Acute crises stemming from the ongoing impacts of prolonged drought and conflicts inside Somalia, Yemen, South Sudan, Nigeria and elsewhere have created massive food insecurity. The needs of extremely vulnerable communities are growing.

As your Committees take part in negotiations for Fiscal Year 2018 (FY2018), we urge you to provide the maximum level of funding possible to these vital programs that fight hunger and malnutrition, and support reforms that would allow these programs to reach even more children and families without additional cost to the taxpayer. Specifically, in the FY2018 conference agreement we ask that you:

- i. **Support the critical Title II Food for Peace Program (FFP) and appropriate no less than the Senate funding level of \$1.6 billion and include at least \$350 million for nonemergency programs per House report language.** This program provides emergency food aid and development assistance to millions suffering from hunger and malnutrition around the world. The Food for Peace program has been the primary vehicle for providing food

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Transnational NGO Initiative

David Weiss
Global Communities

Jeff Whisenant
ReSurge International



aid in response to natural disasters, crises and other conflicts around the world for more than 60 years. We also support the funding provided for the development programs under Title II Food for Peace. This funding is critical for building resilience and helping the most vulnerable improve their nutrition and livelihoods, reducing the future need for food assistance. Funding FFP at the Senate level would mean an estimated 2.8 million more vulnerable men, women and children would receive lifesaving food assistance.

ii. Support at least the Senate funding level of \$206.626 million for the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education & Child Nutrition Program, and include at least \$15 million for Local and Regional Procurement. The McGovern-Dole program provides school lunches for poor children in primary and secondary school in the developing world. Oftentimes, the lunch these children receive through McGovern-Dole programming is the only meal they have each day. Through this program, school attendance in program areas is greatly increased, especially for girls who often without this incentive are not sent to school.

In addition, we urge Congress to include \$15 million for local and regional procurement (LRP) as contained in the Senate bill. LRP funding, piloted through the 2008 Farm Bill and made permanent in the 2014 Farm Bill, will help spur local markets and will use time saving and cost-efficient methods of providing food assistance to school children at lower costs than traditional assistance programs.

iii. Support at least the Senate funding level of \$3.13 billion for the International Disaster Assistance (IDA) account. IDA includes vital funding for the Emergency Food Security Program (EFSP) that provides cash-based emergency food assistance for local and regional procurement of food in places where market conditions make this a faster and more cost-effective option. EFSP has been an instrumental tool in the U.S. government's humanitarian response in Syria, where needs continue to grow, and should be robustly funded in FY2018.

iv. Support the Development Assistance (DA) account at least at the Senate funding level of \$2.89 billion and include at least the Senate level \$3.96 B for the Economic Support Fund. We also strongly support the Senate language for the Food Security and Agriculture Development section. Adopting this level of funding will support the Feed the Future Initiative in implementing the Global Food Security Strategy which increases food and nutrition security in targeted developing countries through improved agricultural production, capacity building (particularly for women small-holder farmers), markets and business development, private sector competitiveness, and nutrition interventions. The Senate report language should ensure that the Community Development Fund (CDF), which helps decrease the need for costly monetization programs in Food for Peace Programs, will be funded at adequate levels. We also respectfully request the inclusion of report language that allows for the use of Community Development Funds within non-emergency food programs for the purpose of section 412 (e) of the Food for Peace Act.

v. Support Nutrition programs in the Global Health Programs account at no less than the House and Senate funding level of \$125 million. Increasing nutrition programs will further prevent malnutrition and ensure young children and mothers have the food they need to grow and thrive,



especially during the key first 1,000 days between a woman's pregnancy and her child's second birthday. Interventions include micronutrient supplementation, treatment strategies to manage moderate to severe malnutrition, and nutrition education focused on vulnerable populations during the 1,000-day window.

We hope to work with you and your staff to provide the highest possible levels of funding for these accounts, either through increasing funding in the FY2018 appropriations bills or through an emergency funding bill. We urge that continued funding for these vital anti-hunger accounts does not come at the expense of other effective humanitarian and development assistance, which work together to serve the common goal of building a safer and more prosperous world. Additionally, we encourage you to support other complementary funding streams, including water, sanitation and hygiene programs and multilateral programs that are effectively fighting global hunger and malnutrition.

Beyond the FY2018 cycle, we also urge you to continue to work with the Administration to find additional ways to fight hunger and advance efficiencies and reforms that would enable U.S. food assistance resources to reach more of the world's hungry people. We look forward to working with you to continue to promote the most effective programs to address the pressing needs of the 815 million hungry people around the world.

Thank you again for your leadership in supporting these vital foreign assistance programs and efforts to make programs more efficient.

Sincerely,

ACDI/VOCA
Action Against Hunger
Adventist Development and Relief Agency International (ADRA)
The Association for International Agriculture and Rural Development (AIARD)
Alliance to End Hunger
Bread for the World
Church World Service
Congressional Hunger Center
Feed the Children
InterAction
Lutheran World Relief
Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Washington Office
Mercy Corps
ONE
Planet Aid
Project Concern International (PCI)
The Hunger Project
Volunteers for Economic Growth Alliance (VEGA)
WFP USA