

April 22, 2021

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chair, Senate Committee on Appropriations
437 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on
Appropriations
304 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

CC:

Hon. Tammy Baldwin
Hon. John Hoeven
Hon. Chris Coons
Hon. Lindsey Graham

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Shelby,

As a coalition of companies, nonprofits, faith-based organizations, and foundations, we understand the critical nature of addressing issues of global food security and nutrition as drivers of health, economic, and social well-being. The COVID-19 crisis has overwhelmed food systems, and hunger and malnutrition have risen drastically around the globe. We urge your leadership in these areas as you plan budget priorities for Fiscal Year 2022. Our coalition can serve as a reference for your offices as budget planning develops.

The signing organizations to this letter urge appropriations that are critical in mitigating global food security and nutrition emergencies through relief, development, and resilience programming:

- **Title II – Food for Peace: \$2 billion**

Food for Peace (FFP) programs provide emergency and development food assistance to combat hunger and malnutrition worldwide. Emergency food assistance is delivered primarily to communities affected by recurrent crises such as droughts, conflict, natural disasters, and chronic food insecurity. Development food assistance complements emergency food assistance, working where communities require agricultural system strengthening, improved nutrition services, or household livelihood diversification to cope with yearly droughts or other recurrent shocks. Development programming is multisectoral and targets the highest risk communities to address the root causes of hunger and malnutrition. The Alliance to End Hunger urges Congress to appropriate \$2 billion for these life-sustaining programs.

- **McGovern-Dole Food for Education Program: \$264.5 million**

The McGovern-Dole International Food for Education program provides U.S. agricultural commodities, as well as financial and technical assistance, to food-insecure countries to establish school feeding programs. The program helps improve child nutrition, maternal health, and access to quality education, especially for girls. We urge Congress to appropriate \$264.5 million to further build on the success and expand upon the program.

- **Local and Regional Procurement: \$26.5 million**

The Local and Regional Procurement (LRP) program enables the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to procure local and regional commodities for field-based projects. It

complements existing food aid programs, fills in the nutritional and food aid gaps created by unexpected emergencies, and stimulates local markets by supporting livelihoods. LRP runs in conjunction with McGovern-Dole International Food for Education programs. The Alliance to End Hunger urges a \$26.5 million investment in LRP.

- **Nutrition: \$300 million**

Nutrition programs focus on evidence-based interventions that are foundational to a child's life. They prevent and treat stunting, wasting (acute malnutrition), and anemia and promote breastfeeding during the first 1,000 days of life—from the start of a woman's pregnancy to a child's second birthday. The programs support long-term health, cognitive development, and physical growth. The Alliance strongly urges \$300 million for nutrition under USAID's Global Health account.

Tackling issues of hunger and malnutrition are more important than ever – especially as we work to build back better after this twin health and economic crises. We know that food insecure individuals and families were hit disproportionately hard, and we thank you for your strong considerations to bolster the lives and livelihoods of these individuals worldwide.

Respectfully,

ACDI/VOCA
Alliance to End Hunger
Bread for the World
Cantera Partners
CARE
Church World Service
Cultivating New Frontiers in Agriculture (CNFA)
Edesia
Farm Journal Foundation
Food for the Hungry
Global Child Nutrition Foundation
GrainPro Incorporated
Growing Hope Globally
National Cooperative Business Association CLUSA International
One Acre Fund
Opportunity International
Outreach Inc.
Poetry X Hunger
RESULTS
Rise Against Hunger
HarvestPlus
Islamic Relief USA
Concern Worldwide US