

The Honorable Barbara Lee
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on State, Foreign
Operations, and Related Programs
2406 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on State, Foreign
Operations, and Related Programs
2406 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

25 June 2021

RE: FY2022 Appropriations request for the Global Agriculture & Food Security Program

Dear Chairwoman Lee, Ranking Member Rogers and Members of the Subcommittee:

The undersigned organizations, dedicated to alleviating hunger around the world, strongly urge you to support at least \$125 million for the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program as part of the State, Foreign Operation, and Related Program Appropriations for 2022. After decades of progress, hunger is on the rise in many parts of the world. As part of the US government's robust, whole-of-government approach to the pandemic and to prevent long-term setbacks, this funding is needed to address growing food insecurity around the world due to conflict, the health and economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, rising food prices, climate change, and under-investment in agriculture development. We strongly recommend a \$125 million contribution under Title V Multilateral Assistance, International Organizations and Programs.

The Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) is one of the most successful and innovative multilateral funding mechanisms fighting hunger, malnutrition, and poverty in the world's poorest countries. US contributions to the GAFSP are overseen by the US Treasury Department and are a counterpart to the US agricultural development program, Feed the Future under the direction of USAID.

The US was instrumental in creating the GAFSP as a response to the food prices crisis of 2007/2008 and it won wide support and funding from other international donors and philanthropies. Since becoming operational in 2010, the GAFSP has dispensed \$1.7 billion in financial and technical resources to 39 countries through partnerships with regional and multilateral development agencies, private sector actors and organizations of smallholder farmers and food producers. More than 16 million smallholder farmers, including 6.3 million women, and their families in 15 developing countries have received direct support ranging from productivity enhancement to improved access to markets, better nutrition services, increased employment opportunities for women, and resilience to climate change. GAFSP also supported post-harvest interventions to improve storage, provided trainings on best health practices and protective equipment to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

- GAFSP investments have a multiplying effect, leveraging \$2.6 of co-financing for every \$1 invested in the public sector, and \$5.3 of private financing for every \$1 invested in the private sector.
- GAFSP's unique model includes direct participation of donors, recipient countries, development Banks, multilateral institutions, and producers' and civil society organizations in the Steering Committee and decision-making process. This multi-stakeholder process leads to better projects and outcomes, and more of the funding getting to the people who need support.
- GAFSP has been effective and responsive. In the past year, it was able to adapt swiftly to the COVID-19 pandemic, dispensing \$60 million to keep farmers' businesses intact in the face of logistical challenges, securing safety nets and farmers' livelihoods to maintain incomes, and proactively addressing emerging risks to protect future harvests.

In 2020, GAFSP launched a replenishment drive with the aim of raising \$1.5 billion between 2020-2025. This came after an extensive, positive, review of GAFSP operations and impact and a restructure to improve efficiency and focus. GAFSP's mandate was extended to 2030 to align with the Sustainable Development Goals and to contribute to meeting SDG2: Ending Hunger. Many international donors have come forward with new contributions including Germany, Spain, Australia, Norway and the Gates Foundation totaling nearly \$300 million. Unfortunately, the Trump Administration did not request funding and none has been appropriated in several years. US funding now could help leverage other donors to contribute while GAFSP seeks additional financing.

With support from the US, GAFSP will be able to support efforts by at least 30 countries to build sustainable food systems, deliver a 20% increase in income for additional 10 million farmers, improving the food security status of their households, create 1.1 million farm jobs, and support climate change adaptation and mitigation in the new projects. Additionally, it would support the ongoing COVID-19 response and recovery and strengthen women and girls' empowerment, climate resilience, and nutrition outcomes.

Thank you for your attention to this issue. We are eager to answer questions or discuss this at your convenience.

Respectfully,

ActionAid USA

The Alliance to End Hunger

Bread for the World

Church World Service

Institute for Agriculture & Trade Policy

Oxfam America

Presbyterian Church (USA)

United Church of Christ, Justice and
Witness Ministries