

February 10, 2022

The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Chair
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby, Vice Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Chair
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger, Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Leahy, Vice Chairman Shelby, Chair DeLauro, and Ranking Member Granger:

We are writing to request robust FY22 supplemental funding for international food assistance programs. The number of people facing crisis levels of hunger worldwide has more than doubled from 135 million in December 2019 to 283 million today, primarily as the result of the Covid-19 pandemic and related economic shocks. This figure includes 45 million people in 43 countries who are facing the prospect of famine. In Afghanistan alone, some 22 million people—more than half of the country’s population—are in need of lifesaving assistance.

The last two years have seen an unprecedented rise in global hunger and humanitarian organizations have seen demand for their programs skyrocket. For example, the United Nations World Food Programme estimates that it will require an additional \$7.3 billion above what it received last year to fully meet the needs of 45 million people on the verge of famine. Without considerable supplemental funding, tens of millions of people worldwide will slip further into crisis-level hunger—or worse—with devastating effects on the global economy and stability.

Given that regular base funding for international food assistance accounts will result in considerable funding gaps in this extraordinary year, we respectfully request that Congress provide FY22 supplemental emergency funding of no less than \$1 billion for Food for Peace Title II emergency operations and \$2.8 billion for International Disaster Assistance (to be directed to food assistance through the Emergency Food Security Program). This request is for funds above the FY22 base level. Funding at these levels will help U.N. agencies and U.S.-based NGOs meet the dire food security challenge that millions of people across the world are facing today.

There is widespread support on Capitol Hill and beyond to see that food assistance needs are adequately addressed in any supplemental funding effort. On January 20th of this year Senator Dick Durbin led a bipartisan effort that included support from 17 fellow Senators to encourage the Biden Administration to include international food assistance in its supplemental request to Congress. The United States has taken monumental steps to address the worst impact of the pandemic at home through emergency funding totaling more than \$5 trillion. Of that amount, just 0.3 percent of funding has been directed to international assistance and less than 0.03 percent to global food assistance specifically, even as global hunger has skyrocketed as a result of the pandemic.

The U.S. role in fighting world hunger remains an important reminder of this country's global leadership and of the strong moral fabric of her people. For Congress to act in this historic moment would send a powerful signal to the global community. Responding to hunger is a critical tool for achieving peace and stability in fragile places and protecting American interests through our goodwill. For these reasons, and many more, we hope you will strongly consider this request and, again, serve as the voice of the American people in standing firm against the scourge of global hunger.

Sincerely,

1,000 Days	HIAS
ACDI/VOCA	Humanity & Inclusion
Action Against Hunger	InterAction
ADRA International	Islamic Relief USA
Alliance to End Hunger	Mercy Corps
BRAC USA	National Association of Wheat Growers
Bread the for World	National Cooperative Business Association CLUSA
Breedlove Foods, Inc.	International
Bunge	North American Millers' Association
Cantera Partners	One Acre Fund
CARE USA	ONE Campaign
Church World Service	Opportunity International
Concern Worldwide US	Outreach Inc.
Congressional Hunger Center	Oxfam America
Didion Milling Inc.	Poetry X Hunger
Edesia	REPCO
Faiths for Safe Water	RESULTS
Food For The Hungry	Rise Against Hunger
Global Child Nutrition	Seed Programs Interntional
Foundation	SPOON
Global Food & Nutrition	The Hunger Project
Global Volunteers	The Union for Reform Judaism
GOAL USA	US Dry Bean Council
GrainPro	USA Rice
Helen Keller International	World Food Program USA
Helping Hand for Relief & Development	World Vision

CC: The Honorable Tammy Baldwin, The Honorable John Hoeven, The Honorable Sanford Bishop Jr., The Honorable Andy Harris, The Honorable Christopher Coons, The Honorable Lindsey Graham, The Honorable Barbara Lee, the Honorable Hal Rogers