



February 5, 2025

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
United States Department of State
2201 C St NW
Washington, DC 20451

Dear Secretary Rubio,

The Alliance to End Hunger is a coalition of over 100 companies, nonprofits, foundations, faith groups, and individuals committed to ending hunger and malnutrition in the United States and around the world. I write you today, on behalf of our members, with serious concerns regarding the stop work order on foreign assistance issued by the State Department on January 24 in response to the January 20 Executive Order *Reevaluating and Realigning United States Foreign Aid*.

We welcome the evaluation of programs to increase efficiency, particularly in this challenging fiscal environment and increasing federal deficit. However, the freeze on humanitarian and development programs, including some that are focused on agriculture development, food security, and nutrition, has disrupted the ability of implementers to enact programs that are crucial to carrying out United States foreign policy priorities. Minimizing or eliminating our investment in agriculture development and food security sends a troubling signal. For decades, the United States has been a leader in the fight to combat global hunger, build resilient food systems, and promote stability in fragile regions. Halting this support threatens not just the world's most vulnerable populations but also America's strategic interests.

Programs like *Feed the Future*, which you helped to establish during your time in the U.S. Senate, have transformed the lives of millions by supporting smallholder farmers, improving nutrition, and building resilience and stability in communities most affected by poverty.

We have heard serious concerns from our membership, many of whom provide critical food security and nutrition programs to people around the world. **A number of our members have received stop-work orders for critical lifesaving programs including emergency food assistance, despite the waivers for emergency food assistance indicated in your State Department directive.** This includes critical agricultural research at US Land Grant Institutions like the University of Florida, which brings innovation and significant economic benefits back to US agriculture.

American international food security and nutrition assistance programs not only save lives and promote American goodwill around the world, but also make America safer, stronger, and more prosperous. Global food insecurity threatens U.S. national security. **By addressing the root causes of hunger, our global food security programs help to stabilize regions, reduce the need for costly humanitarian interventions, and mitigate migration pressures that have direct implications for U.S. national security. Moreover, these programs help drive economic growth and create new markets for US products**

while contributing to agricultural productivity and profitability for farmers here at home.

The United States plays a critical role in preventing and treating global hunger and malnutrition. A delay or termination of this food assistance is literally a matter of life and death to communities reliant on this assistance. American support not only helps the populations we serve but also increases the strength and prosperity of the American people — from farmers producing commodities to businesses ensuring these goods are reaching those in need. The global food crisis continues to worsen, including famine in Sudan, disruptions to both food assistance and agricultural development due to ongoing violence in Haiti, and the urgent emergency needs in the Middle East.

We cannot afford to pause and question our commitment to lifesaving food security programming. We must also continue to support long-term investment in agriculture to ensure that farmers all over the world have the resources and technology they need to remain resilient. Doing so will not only help lift millions out of poverty overseas, but it will also open new markets for U.S. goods, creating economic opportunities, and supporting jobs here at home.

The Alliance to End Hunger has enjoyed our longstanding relationship with the Department of State and our shared commitment to eradicating global hunger and malnutrition. Thank you for your consideration, and we stand ready to assist State Department officials as they consider the real impacts of pausing critically-needed food aid which supports the security, safety, prosperity, and interests of the American people.

Sincerely,



Eric P. Mithcell
President
Alliance to End Hunger

CC:

Hon. Susan Collins, Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
Hon. Patty Murray, Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Committee
Hon. Lindsey Graham, Chair, Senate State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs
Subcommittee
Hon. Brian Schatz, Ranking Member, Senate State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs
Subcommittee
Hon. Tom Cole, Chair, House Appropriations Committee
Hon. Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee
Hon. Mario Diaz-Balart, Chair, National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs
Subcommittee
Hon. Lois Frankel, Ranking Member, National Security, Department of State, and Related
Programs Subcommittee