



June 2, 2025

The Honorable Andy Harris
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and
Drug Administration
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sanford Bishop
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and
Drug Administration
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Harris and Ranking Member Bishop:

As your subcommittee works to allocate funding in the Fiscal Year 2026 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration Appropriations Act, the Alliance to End Hunger and its below-signed members respectfully urge you to provide urgently needed funding for global nutrition and food security programming. The President's FY26 Budget Request (PBR) included no funding for international food security programs that have received bipartisan support in the past, but we think it is critical that Congress protect its power to set budget priorities for the USG and continue to fund these programs at levels that enable our organizations to continue their critical work. We are specifically requesting \$1.69 billion for Food for Peace Title II, \$240 million for McGovern-Dole Food for Education and Child Nutrition, and \$500 million for research on agricultural development. These programs have been critical to achieving progress in ending hunger and malnutrition around the world, and the subcommittee's longstanding support has been vital in ensuring the programs continue to improve food and nutrition security.

We understand that there are significant fiscal challenges faced by the subcommittee in making allocations to critical programs funded by the Agriculture appropriations bill. However, we continue to believe that these cost-effective USG programs have a multi-decade record of success in improving food security and building future trading partners. The subcommittee's appropriations decisions are critical for addressing the unprecedented global food crisis. For example, we made significant progress in 2024, with 313 million fewer people estimated to face food insecurity compared to 2023, a 27.5% reduction.

Conflict continued to drive hunger and global food insecurity in 2024. This could be seen in violent gangs taking control of the Haitian capital, Port-au-Prince, and restricting humanitarian food distribution. The civil war in Sudan between the government and its

former Rapid Support Forces (RSF) allies has caused a massive displacement of Khartoum residents who are now suffering from acute food insecurity. Gaza witnessed the fastest deterioration of food security in history. In Ethiopia, extreme weather has caused drought and flooding that have devastated crops and the agricultural workers whose livelihoods depend on them.

As the U.S. considers how to respond to these crises and maintain its global leadership in addressing food insecurity, it is essential that robust funding for global food security accounts be maintained. We must invest not only in the treatment of acute food insecurity and malnutrition, but also in preventing it from occurring.

Title II Food for Peace provides important resources in addressing hunger during emergency situations, primarily through the provision of U.S.-produced agricultural commodities. In 2023, USAID reported that it purchased 1.1 million metric tons of food from U.S. farmers and ranchers to help over 45 million people with emergency aid and nutrition assistance in 35 countries. Through Food for Peace, life-saving treatments, such as Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) produced in the U.S., reach malnourished children. These emergency programs keep people fed and alive during emergencies that are outside the control of recipients on the ground. Additionally, the program provides long-term support for food and nutrition security through multi-year non-emergency programs that strengthen the resilience of communities against recurrent shocks. By supporting the most vulnerable, both during emergencies and when they're building their food security systems, Food for Peace is delivering a more stable world where people are enabled to lead healthy, productive lives.

The McGovern-Dole Food for Education and Child Nutrition program has served over 5.5 billion school meals to over 31 million school-age children in over 48 countries. The program, which primarily sources its school meals from U.S.-produced agricultural commodities, has helped reduce hunger among school-age children and improved literacy and primary education in the countries in which it operates since its inception in 2002. It has been particularly effective at improving school attendance.

U.S. leadership and investment in combating global hunger and malnutrition remains essential. The role of the USG in improving global food security cannot be replaced or replicated, and it remains an area where U.S. leadership and expertise are highly valued. Investments in global food security and nutrition are not only the morally right thing to do; they also bolster our economy and national security by developing future markets for U.S. products and fostering stability by ensuring people can feed their children. Responding to hunger with agricultural solutions the U.S. has developed helps achieve peace and stability in fragile places and protects American interests.

Thank you for your serious consideration of this request.

Signed:

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