



April 6, 2026

The Honorable John Hoeven
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and
Drug Administration, and Related
Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and
Drug Administration, and Related
Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Hoeven and Ranking Member Shaheen:

As the Senate Appropriations Committee works through its process to allocate funding, the Alliance to End Hunger and its below-signed members respectfully urge your subcommittee to **provide robust funding for lifesaving global food security and nutrition programming** through the Fiscal Year 2027 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. We are requesting that, at a minimum, **\$1.62 billion** be appropriated for Food for Peace Title II and **\$240 million** be appropriated for the McGovern-Dole Food for Education and Child Nutrition program.

We are aware of the major fiscal constraints facing Congress as it looks to appropriate funds, and that it is critical for programs to demonstrate effectiveness and a return on taxpayer investment. Food for Peace and McGovern-Dole programs have a track record of success in their efforts to reduce hunger and malnutrition globally, while also developing markets for American agricultural products and building positive associations with the U.S. among recipients of U.S. aid globally.

The Subcommittee's longstanding support has been critical in ensuring the programs are authorized and enabled to deliver on their promises to improve food and nutrition security. Progress can be slow, but we have seen tremendous long-term progress in reducing the number of people facing food insecurity and undernourishment. Even with recent setbacks, progress since 1990 has been significant, with the prevalence of undernourished children dropping from 23.3% to 12.9%.

In 2025, there were an estimated 318 million people across 68 countries experiencing acute food insecurity. It has become harder to feed people in the places where people are

most likely to face famine, which includes famine-afflicted countries and territories such as Sudan, South Sudan, the Gaza Strip, Yemen, Haiti, and Mali. In these places and elsewhere, Alliance to End Hunger members are risking their personal safety to ensure hungry people continue to be fed during conflict.

In the face of such desperate conditions, the Subcommittee's appropriations decisions for international food aid have an outsized impact on those suffering from hunger around the world. We understand that it's not possible or advisable for the U.S. Government to intervene in every humanitarian crisis globally, but the U.S. has an undeniable competitive advantage in agricultural production, and it is a critical opportunity for our foreign policy to ensure American farmers provide the food that fills bellies and nourishes dreams around the world.

The U.S. is witnessing crises around the world, from civil war in Sudan to gang violence in Haiti. As responses to these crises are considered, it is critical that funding for effective global food security and nutrition programs be supported. We know these interventions are not only effective, but generate significant returns for the American taxpayer, in the creation of new stable markets for U.S. goods and peaceful international conditions that prevent the reoccurrence of crises.

Food for Peace Title II enables the U.S. Government to supply U.S.-grown agricultural commodities to places experiencing emergencies that impact food security. Although the program was impacted by the foreign aid freeze at the beginning of 2025, and purchases of U.S.-grown commodities were paused, USDA announced in February a plan to purchase and distribute 211,000 metric tons of U.S.-grown agricultural commodities, valued at up to \$452 million. These commodities are intended to be distributed through the World Food Programme in seven countries: Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Haiti, Kenya, and Rwanda. The emergency programs supported by these commodities prevent deaths from starvation, while non-emergency programs work over multiple years to build resilience within communities that reduces the need for future emergency programming.

The McGovern-Dole Food for Education and Child Nutrition program has, since it was created in 2002, served over 5.5 billion school meals to nearly 40 million food insecure children in 48 countries. The program primarily sources food for its meals from U.S. agricultural products, while enabling locally produced dairy, fruit, and vegetable products to be included. This program has led to reductions in hunger among school-age children, while improving their literacy and school attendance rates.

The U.S. Government's role in supporting food security and nutrition globally cannot be replaced, and its leadership and expertise continues to be highly valued around the world. This leadership represents an opportunity to grow our economy, support our farmers, improve our trade relationships, and benefit our foreign policy, while at the same time fostering peace and economic growth among partner countries.

Thank you for your serious consideration of this request.

Signed:

Bread for the World

Cantera Partners

Church World Service

Congressional Hunger Center

Cultivating New Frontiers in Agriculture (CNFA)

Edesia Nutrition

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Global Child Nutrition Foundation (GCNF)

Human Appeal USA

Islamic Relief USA

World Renew