

September 13, 2013

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
Chairwoman  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
S-128 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
304 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Mikulski and Ranking Member Shelby:

Thanks to your Committee's efforts, the U.S. government has made impressive strides in combating global hunger. U.S. food assistance programs made an enormous difference in the lives of over fifty-three million people in 2012 alone, and the Feed the Future Initiative is partnering with a number of developing countries to lay the ground work for further advances in achieving food security. We, and the communities served by this assistance around the world, thank you for this strong commitment.

Yet more work needs to be done, as 870 million men, women and children around the world struggle every day to secure the food they need to live. As your Committee finalizes the funding for global food security programs under the FY2014 Agriculture and State-Foreign Operations Appropriations bills or drafts a FY2014 Continuing Resolution, we urge you to provide the maximum level of funding possible to these vital programs and approve reforms that would allow these programs to reach even more people without additional cost to the taxpayer. Specifically, please adopt the following:

#### **I. Reform Proposals:**

- A. **\$35 million included in the FY2014 Senate Agriculture Appropriations bill** (see the enclosed document) drawn from existing funding but directed to be used to replace monetized in-kind commodities and other changes that provide greater flexibility in the use of administrative funds to pay for program costs. These changes will improve the efficiency of Food for Peace development programs and allow hundreds of thousands of additional people to better feed themselves, lift their communities out of abject poverty, and mitigate the need for future emergency assistance. These changes are an instrumental step in ending the practice of monetization in Food for Peace development programs.
- B. **Authorization of the Community Development and Resilience Fund (CDRF)**. We ask that you also adopt language (see the enclosed document) that formalizes the operation of the CDRF. The CDRF is an Administration initiative that transfers some Development Assistance funds into Food for Peace development programs that build resilience and long-term food security, thereby reducing the need for future emergency assistance. When this transfer occurs, an equal value of commodities is moved over from development programs to be made available for emergency Food for Peace programming. This process reduces the need to monetize U.S. commodities in development programs and increases the resources available to respond to food emergencies.

#### **II. Funding Levels:**

- A. Further, we request that you **support the critical Title II Food for Peace program and appropriate no less than the Senate funding level of \$1.466 billion**. This program provides emergency food aid and development assistance to millions suffering from hunger and malnutrition around the world. The Food for Peace program has been the primary vehicle for providing food aid in response to natural disasters, crises and other conflicts around the world for nearly 60 years, helping 53 million people in 2012 alone. We also support the funding provided for the development programs under Title II Food for Peace in both the FY2014 House and Senate bills. This funding is critical for building resilience and helping the most vulnerable improve their nutrition and livelihoods, reducing the future need for food assistance.

- B. **Support the Senate funding level for the McGovern-Dole International Food For Education & Child Nutrition Program of \$185 million.** The McGovern-Dole program provides school lunches for poor children in primary and secondary school. Often times, the lunch these children receive through McGovern-Dole programming is the only meal they have each day. Through this program school attendance in program areas is greatly increased, especially for girls who often aren't otherwise sent to school.
- C. **Support the International Disaster Assistance (IDA) account Senate funding level of \$1.615 billion.** IDA includes vital funding for the Emergency Food Security Program (EFSP) that provides cash-based emergency food assistance for local and regional procurement of food in places where market conditions make this a faster and more cost effective option. EFSP has been an instrumental tool in the U.S. government's humanitarian response in Syria and should be robustly funded in FY2014.
- D. **Support the Development Assistance (DA) account Senate funding level of \$2.5 billion.** Adopting this level of funding for the DA account will support the Feed the Future Initiative which increases food and nutrition security in targeted developing countries through improved agricultural production, capacity building (particularly for women small-holder farmers), markets and business development, private sector competitiveness, and nutrition interventions.
- E. **Support Nutrition programs within the Global Health Programs account at no less than the House funding level of \$100 million.** Nutrition programs prevent malnutrition and ensure young children and mothers have the food they need to grow and thrive, especially during the 1,000 day "window of opportunity" – a critical time in development from the mother's pregnancy to a child's second birthday. Interventions include micronutrient supplementation, treatment strategies to manage moderate and severe malnutrition, and nutrition education focused on vulnerable populations during the 1,000 day window.

We urge that funding for these vital anti-hunger accounts do not come at the expense of other effective humanitarian and development assistance, which work together to serve the common goal of building a safer and more prosperous world. Additionally, we encourage you to support other funding streams, including multilateral programs, that are effectively fighting hunger and malnutrition.

Beyond the FY2014 cycle, we also urge you to continue to work with the Administration to find additional ways to fight hunger and advance efficiencies and reforms that would enable U.S. food assistance resources to reach more of the world's hungry people. We look forward to working with you to continue to promote the most effective programs to address the pressing needs of the 870 million hungry people around the world.

Thank you again for your leadership in supporting these vital foreign assistance programs and efforts to make programs more efficient.

Sincerely,

1. ACDI/VOCA
2. Action Aid USA
3. American Jewish World Service
4. The Borgen Project
5. Bread for the World
6. CARE USA
7. Catholic Relief Services
8. Church World Service

9. Counterpart International
10. The Episcopal Church
11. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
12. Helen Keller International
13. The Hunger Project
14. InterAction
15. International Relief & Development
16. International Rescue Committee
17. Lutheran World Relief
18. Mercy Corps
19. NCBA CLUSA
20. Oxfam America
21. PCI
22. Relief International
23. Save the Children
24. United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society
25. Winrock International
26. World Food Program USA
27. World Vision

Enclosure

*A copy of this letter was also addressed and sent to the Chair and Ranking Member of the House Appropriations Committee and the Chairs and Ranking Members of the State-Foreign Operations Subcommittees and Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittees in the House and Senate.*