

September 6, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger Chairwoman Committee on Appropriations U.S. House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro Ranking Member Committee on Appropriations U.S. House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515 The Honorable Patty Murray Chairwoman Committee on Appropriations U.S. Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
Vice Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Granger, Chairwoman Murray, Ranking Member DeLauro, and Vice Chairwoman Collins:

As Members of InterAction, the largest alliance of U.S.-based NGOs that implement and advocate for U.S. humanitarian, health, development, and democracy programs, we applaud the administration's request for supplemental international assistance that supports humanitarian, food security, and resilience needs globally. We urge Congress to use the amounts requested as a floor to provide robust funding to address the compounding effects of the conflict in Ukraine and other stressors. We are grateful for the supplemental resources Congress has provided since the start of this conflict, but global needs are far outpacing existing funding resources.

Increased humanitarian aid in Ukraine and the regions impacted by the conflict is required to support the growing number of people in need of emergency shelter, food assistance, safe drinking water, protection, and healthcare. Many people in Ukraine are still not being reached with health, child protection, and water and sanitation assistance. Moreover, the events in Ukraine continue to have an outsized impact on global food security and the ability to respond robustly to nearly every crisis globally. The crisis has caused significant disruptions to grain production and shipments that feed the world, as well as essential fertilizers for farmers across the globe. It has contributed heavily to rising costs and decreased availability of food and agricultural inputs, greater supply chain disruptions, and increased fuel costs. Prior to the Ukraine crisis the world was experiencing one of the greatest hunger crises in generations, with the greatest impacts on the most vulnerable communities, including women, children, and youth. In 2022, roughly 735 million people experienced chronic hunger, an increase of 122 million people from 2019, with the conflict of Ukraine serving as a hunger multiplier.

In addition, we recognize that Congress will continue to advance Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 appropriations bills and understand that supplemental resources are not a substitute for strong base funding, now and in future years. Therefore, we urge Congress to work diligently to pass FY2024 State and Foreign Operations appropriations at no less than the current FY2023 levels.



The United States has long led the global community in responding to humanitarian and food crises like the one we are experiencing today. We hope that Congress will continue that important legacy. We encourage Congress to enact robust supplemental funding for global humanitarian, food security, and resilience programs to save lives, advance U.S. global leadership, and strengthen security and prosperity here at home and around the world.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

**ADRA** International **IREX** 

Islamic Relief USA Airlink

**IYF** Alliance for Peacebuilding

Jesuit Refugee Service/USA Alliance to End Hunger

American Jewish World Service MedGlobal Better World Campaign Mercy Corps

Blumont Nonviolent Peaceforce

Bread for the World Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) USA

Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation **ONE Campaign** CARE Operation USA

Catholic Relief Services Oxfam America Church World Service Physicians for Peace Corus International Plan International USA

Doctors of the World USA Plant With Purpose

FHI 360 Project HOPE

Refugees International Food for the Hungry

Global Emergency Relief, Recovery & Reconstruction **RTI** International Save the Children (GER3)

Global Communities **SPOON** Global Health Council Together for Girls

U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants Habitat for Humanity International

Heartland Alliance International **UNICEF USA** 

Helen Keller International United Mission for Relief and Development Aid

HelpAge USA Water for South Sudan, Inc. HIAS WaterAid America

**Humanity & Inclusion** Women's Refugee Commission InterAction

World Food Program USA International Medical Corps World Institute on Disability

International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) World Learning

International Rescue Committee World Vision