

April 18, 2022

Nutrition CEO Council Members Support Treasury Secretary Yellen's Plans for a Global Food Crisis Summit

Washington, D.C.- *This statement is delivered on behalf of the endorsing organizations: 1,000 Days of FHI Solutions, Action Against Hunger, Alliance to End Hunger, Bread for the World, CARE, Food for the Hungry, HarvestPlus, Hellen Keller International, Micronutrient Forum, Nutrition International, RESULTS*

On the heels of a congressional briefing hosted by the Senate Hunger Caucus and the Nutrition CEO Council, *Ripple Effects of Conflict: The Worsening Global Food Insecurity and Malnutrition Crisis*, U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen last week announced plans to convene world leaders during this week's International Monetary Fund and World Bank Spring Meetings to address the growing global hunger and malnutrition crisis.

The Nutrition CEO Council welcomes this action. The war in Ukraine is exacerbating the global food crisis, which will lead to increased rates of hunger and malnutrition. Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus are some of the world's largest producers of staple grains and key components for fertilizers, with Ukraine and Russia providing over 25 percent of the world's global wheat exports.

Even before the conflict in Ukraine, global food prices and rates of severe malnutrition were rising – and in March, global food prices rose to the highest levels ever recorded by the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Developing countries, particularly in Africa, are being hit especially hard. The World Food Programme, which provides emergency food to those who need it most urgently, is spending \$50 million more each month to reach the same number of people. FAO estimates the number of undernourished people globally could increase by 8 to 13 million. For children under two, the effects of even a short period of malnutrition can lead to stunted physical and cognitive development which has a lifelong impact on their health, education, and earning potential. For women, including those who are pregnant and lactating, the impact is also disproportionate, as they often eat last and least during a food crisis, while women smallholder farmers are often first to lose the ability to grow, harvest, and sell their crops, further exacerbating the crisis for all.

During this week's meetings, we urge Secretary Yellen to commit the United States to invest significant resources to combat the unprecedented rise in global hunger and malnutrition and continue to press world leaders to make similar commitments. We also urge Congress to

immediately provide supplemental emergency funding for food and nutrition assistance to address the global hunger crisis and continue its increased support for core development programs focused on long-term food and nutrition security such as Feed the Future authorized through the Global Food Security Act, which creates greater resiliency to absorb shocks and crises.

Sincerely,

