

July 28, 2022

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Durbin  
Majority Whip  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Thune  
Minority Whip  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Majority Whip Durbin, and Minority Whip Thune,

We thank you all for the swift action and support of the Senate to provide \$5 billion in supplemental funding for U.S. international humanitarian and development food and nutrition assistance programs in May. Since that time, the need for strong global aid to support food and nutrition has only continued to grow. **As CEOs and partners of U.S. government efforts to end preventable childhood deaths, we write to request that the U.S. Senate immediately move to take up and pass [H.R.4693](#), the Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act, under unanimous consent.**

H.R. 4693 passed the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on July 19, 2022, following House passage of the bill on April 27, 2022 with significant bipartisan support from 384 Representatives. With malnutrition rates rising dangerously around the world, this legislation provides the executive branch with the framework and direction required to meet this global challenge head on, just as Congress has done in the past on other critical global health issues, such as HIV/AIDS and malaria.

This legislation gives USAID the tools it needs to deploy targeted, evidence-based solutions to prevent and treat malnutrition around the world and to improve the futures of vulnerable children and their families. It optimizes U.S. global nutrition assistance programming through improved coordination with public and private partners; increased coverage of high-impact, proven interventions in priority countries; and updated planning and reporting requirements. The bill also calls for participation in innovative finance mechanisms that amplify U.S. government nutrition investments, improved UN system coordination on nutrition programming, and an expanded nutrition research agenda to identify and develop best practices. This legislation could impact the lives of tens of millions of women and children. It will deepen U.S. global leadership and strengthen strategic focus.

The time to act is now. Unfortunately, rates of global hunger and malnutrition, which had already increased dramatically due to disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing conflicts like the crisis in northern Ethiopia, have worsened significantly in the last six months as rising inflation, unprecedented drought in the Horn of Africa, and the ripple effects of the war in Ukraine drive up the cost of food. Women and girls are disproportionately affected by malnutrition, often eating last and least despite their key roles as food producers and preparers. Good food does not just address hunger, it improves nutritional status and is a key tactic in building resilience to future conflict or pandemics. Malnutrition is entirely preventable, but it is a major underlying cause of child deaths worldwide, causing more deaths than HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis combined. Malnutrition claims roughly 3.1 million children's lives each year – meaning a child dies of malnutrition every 11 seconds – and is a

key factor in about 45% of deaths in children under age five. Recent modeling predicts COVID-19-related disruptions alone will result in an additional 13.6 million children suffering from wasting, the most severe form of malnutrition, by the end of the year. Since malnutrition weakens immune systems and leaves young children up to 15 times more likely to die from common infectious diseases, this increase in malnutrition rates threatens to amplify the spread of COVID-19.

Behind these numbers and statistics are real human beings being devastated by violence, hunger, and malnutrition. The Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act is necessary to ensure that as we address the current and growing need now, we are also strengthening our long term investments to support the health and nutrition of children and families to prevent the problem of malnutrition from increasing in severity and having lasting effects down the road.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has drawn the world's attention to global food security and malnutrition issues, but needs were growing long before the war. The U.S government has taken critical actions over the last year, including through commitments at the 2021 UN Food Security Summit, 2021 Nutrition for Growth Summit, 2022 G7 Summit, and the announcement made just this week by Administrator Power to commit \$200 million of emergency funding to provide ready-to-use therapeutic foods (RUTF) to immediately treat severely malnourished children. To reaffirm these U.S. commitments to elevate nutrition and respond to ongoing food and nutrition insecurity, we ask that you prioritize the passage of the Global Malnutrition Treatment and Prevention Act of 2021 under unanimous consent before the August recess.

We represent multi-mandate organizations working across a range of issue areas, united in prioritizing nutrition in this crucial time. By coming together and reinforcing a strong U.S. commitment through this legislation, we will save lives and help millions of children and families to survive and thrive.

Sincerely,

Arun Baral, Chief Executive Officer, HarvestPlus  
Blythe Thomas, Initiative Director, 1,000 Days  
Carrie Hessler Radelet, President, Global Communities  
Dr. Charles Owubah, Chief Executive Officer, Action Against Hunger  
Eric P. Mitchell, Executive Director, Alliance to End Hunger  
Rev. Eugene Cho, President & Chief Executive Officer, Bread for the World  
Dr. Joanne Carter, Executive Director, RESULTS  
Joel Spicer, President & Chief Executive Officer, Nutrition International  
Kathy Spahn, President & Chief Executive Officer, Helen Keller International  
Mark Viso, President & Chief Executive Officer, Food for the Hungry  
Michelle Nunn, President & Chief Executive Officer, CARE USA  
Saskia Osendarp, Executive Director, Micronutrient Forum

CC:

The Honorable Robert Menendez  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable James Risch  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations  
United States Senate  
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The Honorable Chris Coons  
United States Senate  
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The Honorable Roger Wicker  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510