

September 9, 2022

Dear President Biden,

We, the undersigned organizations, write to thank you for your continued leadership on the global food crisis at the United Nations and on the world stage, including recent announcements of funding. We are alarmed at the human toll and potential long-term consequences this crisis has created. A perfect storm of high and rapidly rising food, fertilizer and fuel prices, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and intensified by the Ukraine conflict, is exacerbating the devastating trend of rising hunger since 2014.

Tragically, we are nowhere near the level of funding needed to prevent famine in the countries on the brink, including Afghanistan, Yemen, Somalia and South Sudan, and to prevent 50 million people in many more countries from sliding closer to catastrophic food insecurity. To avoid lurching from crisis to crisis in the future, at the upcoming UN General Assembly, **we urge you to commit additional funding and to use your remarks at the UNGA to push other world leaders to step up to deliver at least \$22 billion**, as identified by the World Food Programme, to save lives and meet humanitarian needs. We also urge you to support vulnerable countries and communities to build resilience and take measures to secure the future, including by delivering much needed climate finance, reallocated Special Drawing Rights, and meaningful debt relief.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, an entire cohort of children have been born into and spent their first 1,000 days, the critical window for physical and cognitive development, in an era of crises. Global food systems are failing them, high food prices threaten their nutrition and therefore their health and future outcomes, and unsustainable practices across the economy threaten the stability and resilience of the natural systems and resources upon which they depend.

Rising food prices are affecting the quality of diets, reducing the reach of humanitarian interventions that address malnutrition, and eroding the purchasing power of nutrition budgets. The basic nutritional needs of vulnerable mothers and children are at grave risk. In 2022, 50 million children under the age of 5 are estimated to be acutely malnourished, requiring therapeutic foods to survive. In addition, more than 3.1 billion people do not have access to an adequate, healthy diet.

Significant steps must be taken now to protect and boost the harvests and livelihoods of small-scale food producers in poor rural communities, where rising input and food prices are causing immense hardship. Small-scale food producers, many of whom are women, can help diversify food production and diets, protect agrobiodiversity, maintain and improve soil health, and sustain local markets.

Environmental degradation and unpredictable, climate-related weather patterns are creating further fragility and pushing more people in vulnerable regions towards hunger and poverty. Globally, [agriculture accounts for an average of 26% of total damage and losses from climate-related disasters](#). Severe droughts in the Horn of Africa are creating famine-like conditions, as livestock and crops are failing.

With eight years left to achieve the SDGs, a combination of anticipatory actions – development and humanitarian – together with systematic structural reforms to tackle inequality and environmental degradation - must be taken to prevent a further rise in hunger, lay the groundwork for sustainable, equitable and nutritious food systems transformation and break the cycle of compounding crises. Not only is this the just approach, it is the most cost-effective approach.

CC: Secretary of State Antony Blinken
U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Linda Thomas-Greenfield
USAID Administrator Samantha Power

Respectfully,

1,000 Days
Alliance to End Hunger
Bread for the World
Cantera Partners
Christian Connections for International Health
CWS (Church World Service)
Congressional Hunger Center
Corteva Agriscience
Cultivating New Frontiers in Agriculture
Edesia
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Global Child Nutrition Foundation
The Global FoodBanking Network
GrainPro Incorporated
Growing Hope Globally
Islamic Relief USA
One Acre Fund
Opportunity International
RESULTS
Rise Against Hunger
Save the Children