

March 2017

The Honorable Mick Mulvaney
Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Director Mulvaney:

The United States has a long history of leadership in the international fight against hunger. A strong commitment from the U.S. to strengthen global food security is not only necessary to alleviate hunger and suffering, but also to create a safer and more secure world. As the Office of Management and Budget finalizes the Fiscal Year 2018 budget request for United States global diplomacy and development priorities, we urge you to provide full support for the P.L. 480 Food for Peace (Food for Peace) program, especially given its contributions to the U.S. government's integrated global food security strategy and the unprecedented levels of starvation predicted this year around the world.

In February of this year, famine levels of food insecurity were declared in the South Sudan. The countries of Nigeria, Somalia, and Yemen are also facing the potential risk of famine level conditions. Ongoing conflict, weather related crises, and economic instability are driving food insecurity threats around the world that could result in an estimated 70 million people across 45 countries with need of emergency food assistance during 2017.

The Food for Peace program has been a critical foreign policy tool since its inception over six decades ago. Food for Peace emergency programs save tens of millions of lives each year. During an emergency, U.S.-sourced commodities serve as a core component of humanitarian relief, and where appropriate, other forms of flexible food assistance are used as well.

In addition to serving as the first line of defense against food security emergencies, Food for Peace development programs empower vulnerable communities to address the underlying causes of hunger and malnutrition and improve agricultural production and growing economies. These efforts are making a difference in the resiliency of countries to withstand future food security threats, which in turn results in increased security and stability around the world.

Through partnerships between governments, implementing non-profit organizations, and the private sector, including the agriculture, fishing and transportation industries, Food for Peace has long maintained its position as a program with broad, bipartisan Congressional support. Last

year, the Global Food Security Act was signed into law, creating a comprehensive global food security strategy, of which the Food for Peace program holds an important role.

Food for Peace has been, and will continue to be, a critical tool in combatting global hunger. This year in particular, with ongoing conflict and instability, cyclical weather patterns impacting regions all over the world, and increased levels of famine, we urge full support of the Food for Peace program.

Sincerely,

CC: The Honorable Rex Tillerson
Secretary of State
United States Department of State