

October 16, 2023

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

Dear Senators Murray and Collins:

We write to you with continued concern regarding the mounting global food insecurity crisis and to urge you to include robust funding for emergency international food aid, particularly Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) as part of any upcoming supplemental package or end-of-year funding bill. Amid the uncertainty of a government shutdown after November 17, it is critical that the Senate signal the importance of directing resources to lifesaving products under these current circumstances. As producers of U.S. agricultural commodities and ingredients, we stand ready to support the growing food security needs around the world.

According to the UN World Food Programme (WFP), the number of people facing acute food insecurity has increased from 135 million in 53 countries before the pandemic to 345 million in 79 countries in 2023. This alarming rise has been fueled by several factors including COVID-19, conflict, and climate shocks. However, Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 worsened an already dire situation by further driving up the costs of food, fuel, and fertilizers, and helping to drive millions closer to starvation. With Russia's withdrawal from the Black Sea Grain Initiative in July, global grain supplies have been reduced and the global food system continues to absorb additional shocks.

Over 45 million children – those most vulnerable to food insecurity – suffer from acute malnutrition, known as “wasting”. Through Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF), over 95% of wasted children can recover, yet only 25% of children have historically had access to treatment. Thanks to leadership from USAID and Congress last year, over \$580 million was mobilized to provide a one-time increase to RUTF procurement, which has doubled the number of children being treated. However, without sustained funding, RUTF treatment will return to previous levels of 1 in 4 children receiving the care they need.

We have welcomed the leading role the United States has played in efforts to support Ukraine by providing assistance to the Ukrainian people. Likewise, we have strongly supported the United States' leading role in addressing global food insecurity and the efforts to encourage other international donors to take similar actions to combat global hunger and malnutrition.

U.S. leadership and resources are critical to addressing both of these complex issues and we strongly urge you to include funding for emergency international food aid, including RUTF procurement, in any supplemental appropriations package or end-of-year funding bill that moves forward.

Sincerely,

Admiral Packaging
American Natural Processors, Inc.
Dairy Farmers of America, Inc.
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Edesia Nutrition
Glanbia Nutritionals
ofi (Olam Food Ingredients)
MANA Nutrition
National Milk Producers Federation
Perdue Agribusiness
Phoenix Wood Products
Pratt Industries
SEMO Milling LLC
Sucro Can Sourcing LLC Sucro/Sweet Life
Tiger Soy LLC
U.S. Dairy Export Council
U.S. Peanut Federation