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HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS BILL WOULD CUT 18 MILLION FROM INTERNATIONAL FOOD AID PROGRAMS

Washington, D.C., February 13, 2011 –The Alliance for Global Food Security urges Congress to restore funding to the Food for Peace and McGovern-Dole Food for Education Programs to assure that the United States continues its leadership role in the fight against global hunger.

The House Continuing Resolution released on February 11th (H.R. 1) would reduce international food assistance to its lowest levels in a decade, slashing 42%, or \$800 million, from its FY 2010 level. The bill would eliminate nearly 18 million beneficiaries. Ellen Levinson, Alliance Executive Director, points out, “Cutting food aid is particularly devastating now, because food prices have soared to their highest levels in decades and low-income, food-deficit countries are struggling with growing hunger and unrest.”

Put in perspective, funding for international relations comprises little more than one percent of the federal budget. Of those international funds, food assistance programs receive only one-third of one percent. Nonetheless, they reach and improve the lives of nearly 50 million people a year.

With the House Bill, over 15 million people would be cut from the Food for Peace Program, which targets communities where there is persistent hunger and 30 percent or more children are undernourished. Reductions in Food for Peace will also severely limit the ability of the United States to provide assistance in response to conflicts, drought and other disasters, when hunger sets in quickly and people's lives are endangered. An additional 2 1/2 million food aid recipients – school children – will be dropped from the McGovern-Dole Food for Education Program.

The cuts in Food for Peace threaten operations in thousands of poor communities where humanitarian and development organizations provide food aid along with training and capacity building in health, nutrition, and agriculture and enterprise development. Those programs have

Adventist Development & Relief Agency International ♦ ACDI/VOCA ♦ Congressional Hunger Center ♦ Counterpart International
Food for the Hungry ♦ Joint Aid Management ♦ International Relief & Development ♦ Land O'Lakes ♦ OIC International
Planet Aid ♦ Project Concern International ♦ Salesian Missions ♦ United Methodist Committee on Relief ♦ World Vision

February 13, 2011
Page 2

effectively improved nutrition, household incomes, food supplies, and agricultural and food systems.

The members of the Alliance are private voluntary organizations and cooperatives that are committed to addressing hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity. They operate in over 100 developing countries, implementing emergency and development programs that directly engage, support and build the capacity of local communities, enterprises and institutions.

For further information on U.S. food aid programs, please see www.foodaid.org.

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