



Food for the Hungry Welcomes Inclusion of International COVID-19 Assistance in the American Rescue Plan Act

Washington, DC (March 11, 2021) As COVID-19 continues to devastate low- and middle-income communities worldwide – disrupting critical and life-saving services that provide food, water, and healthcare to the world's most vulnerable people – Food for the Hungry welcomes inclusion of necessary resources to support those in need around the world in the American Rescue Plan Act. The emergency stimulus package allocates \$10.8 billion in international response funding to ensure that years of historic development progress are not erased by the COVID-19 pandemic and to help prevent additional vulnerable people from slipping into poverty. The nearly \$11 billion in global response funds will provide:

- \$800 million for Food for Peace Title II emergency food assistance through in-kind food commodities from U.S. farmers to provide food to hungry families;
- \$905 million for activities that will prevent, detect, and respond to COVID-19
- \$3.05 billion for international disaster relief, emergency health activities, and emergency food security assistance
- \$3.75 billion to fight HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, and to protect related programming from the impacts of COVID-19
- \$500 million to address COVID-19 within refugee and displaced populations, among other vital funding provisions.

Fragile contexts where Food for the Hungry operates – like South Sudan, Ethiopia, Bangladesh and Mozambique – are witnessing unprecedented secondary effects from COVID-19 that are severely impacting health systems, food systems, social safety nets, and livelihoods. The U.N. Global Humanitarian Review¹ projects that, in 2021, more than 235 million people will be in

¹ <https://gho.unocha.org/>

urgent need of humanitarian assistance due to COVID-19, exacerbating existing crises such as extreme violent conflict, climate-related disasters, and desert locust infestations. FH has played an active role in advocating for funding that prioritizes global food security and nutrition for the most vulnerable.

At this critical moment when the world is looking to the United States to lead globally in tackling poverty during a raging global health crisis, FH applauds the United States government for boldly committing international funding that will assist our most vulnerable brothers and sisters around the world. Matthew 25 reminds us when we serve the least of these, we are serving the Lord. We are grateful that the United States continues to be the most trusted humanitarian leader around the world - providing more resources for addressing humanitarian assistance than any other country.

Although more resources are needed to ultimately put an end to the pandemic and ensure that low-income communities everywhere have equitable access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines, the FH community is grateful for the U.S. government's ongoing support, and will continue advocating to our allies on Capitol Hill on behalf of those we serve.

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About Food for the Hungry:

Food for the Hungry (FH) is a Christian humanitarian organization ending all forms of human poverty by providing life-changing development programs, disaster relief, and advocacy. For 50 years, FH has been going into the world's hardest places with an exit strategy: to respond to

human suffering and graduate communities of extreme poverty into self-sustainability, all within a decade. By creating context-specific solutions in education, agriculture, health, livelihood, clean water, and disaster risk reduction, the nonprofit focuses on transformational development, investing in children as the key to lift entire communities out of poverty. With 98% of staff working in their country of origin, FH works side by side with local leaders, churches, and families to implement innovative solutions. The organization currently serves more than 5.3 million people in over 20 countries worldwide. For more information, follow FH on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#), or visit www.fh.org.