



# FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY

## **Statement by Food for the Hungry President & CEO Mark Viso Applauding President Biden's Announcement of an Additional \$2 Billion in Humanitarian Assistance for Africa and Urging Leaders to Focus on Resilience**

Washington, DC (December 16, 2022) – “Yesterday, in his closing remarks at the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit, President Joe Biden announced an additional \$2 billion in humanitarian assistance to fight acute food insecurity on the continent. He also launched a new strategic partnership between the United States and the African Union focused on creating a more resilient food system. Part of the effort will involve expanded private sector investment to increase food production through climate-resilient seeds and other sustainable agricultural practices. Noting that *“food security is essential to the foundation of a broader peace and prosperity”* and *“if a parent can't feed their child, nothing else really matters,”* President Biden's commitments come amidst an unprecedented global food security crisis.

“Right now, 828 million people go to bed hungry each night, 149 million children experience stunted growth and development due to a chronic lack of essential nutrients, and 50 million people in 45 countries are at immediate risk of famine. And nowhere is this food and nutrition crisis more severe than the Horn of Africa, where conflict, COVID-19, and climate change have combined to create a hunger catastrophe that has left 21 million people in need of urgent, lifesaving food assistance.

“At Food for the Hungry, we believe that everyone, everywhere deserves nutritious, plentiful food that brings health and hope, and know this vision can become reality. Utilizing a [‘shared resilience approach’](#), we are [working](#) in the Horn of Africa to provide immediate relief through food and nutrition assistance, health care, and provision of clean water, while utilizing our deep relationships within communities to strengthen adaptive capacities among both people and systems to ensure a well-nourished population that is resilient to future shocks and stresses. Without this focus, we jeopardize hard-won development gains and leave families vulnerable to lapsing back into poverty, hunger, and malnutrition.

“Knowing that resilient communities can face challenges like a changing climate, conflict, and COVID-19 and survive and even thrive, we thank the U.S. Government for its crucial humanitarian investments, and urge continued and increased focus on building resilience to ensure sustainable progress. Through collective embrace of this paradigm shift, we can put an end to these recurring crises and truly transform the lives of the most vulnerable.”

### **About Food for the Hungry**

Food for the Hungry (FH) is a Christian humanitarian organization providing life-changing development programs, disaster relief, and advocacy since 1971. Inspired by our belief that every person has intrinsic value and inestimable worth, we seek to end all forms of poverty and combat injustice by going to the hard places and humbly walking with the world's most vulnerable people. Through context-specific agriculture, health and nutrition, clean water,

education, and disaster risk reduction programs, Food for the Hungry builds resilience and transforms lives. Last year, we provided emergency and humanitarian relief to 3.1 million people and impacted over 10 million lives through our development programs. With over 99% of staff serving in their country of origin, Food for the Hungry develops sustainable, locally led solutions to fight poverty and injustice. For more information, follow FH on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [Facebook](#), or visit [www.fh.org](http://www.fh.org).