

United States Senate

April 7, 2017

Mr. Wade Warren
Acting Administrator
United States Agency for International Development
1300 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20004

Mr. Jason Hafemeister
Acting Undersecretary for Farm and Foreign Agriculture Services
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Acting Administrator Warren and Acting Under Secretary Hafemeister:

Thank you for your dedication to reducing global food insecurity and providing emergency food assistance to those in need. While significant progress has been made in the fight against hunger, the millions of people around the world who suffer from malnutrition and starvation each year highlight the need to continue to strengthen America's commitment to providing global food assistance.

It's estimated that nearly 70 million people worldwide will need emergency food assistance this year. Many of those people are located in four countries currently experiencing famine or near famine conditions – Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen. Approximately 20 million people are at risk of starving in these countries alone, making it one of the greatest impending humanitarian crises in modern history.

Strong American leadership is critical to responding to this disaster. Without greater attention from America and our partner countries, the world will witness mass starvation and the unnecessary deaths of millions of people. However, a timely and generous response of emergency food and humanitarian assistance will result in saving countless number of lives.

I appreciate USAID and USDA's past and ongoing efforts to respond to each crisis. While significant resources have already been dedicated to preventing and responding to the famines, I understand greater assistance is necessary to fully meet the on-the-ground food and humanitarian needs of the people of these countries. In an effort to have a greater understanding of our nation's plan to respond to the crises and estimated amount of resources needed by USDA and USAID, I ask that you respond to the following questions:

- Please provide detailed plans for further actions USAID and USDA intend to take, respectively, to respond to the declared famine in South Sudan and near famine conditions in Nigeria, Somalia and Yemen.
- What resources does USAID and USDA estimate are needed to fully respond to the crisis situations in each of the countries?
- What resources within USAID or USDA can be repurposed to help meet the growing demand for emergency food and humanitarian assistance? And does USAID or USDA intend to do so?

Thank you once again for your efforts to respond to the historic famine conditions the world faces. America has led the world in providing food assistance to people in need and it is our moral duty to continue the fight against hunger and food insecurity. I look forward to hearing back and learning more about your efforts.

Yours truly,

Jerry Moran

Jerry Moran
U.S. Senator