



Senator Richard G. Lugar
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-1401

Senator Robert P. Casey, Jr.
383 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Richard Durbin
309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-1401

February 27, 2009

Dear Senator Lugar, Senator Casey, and Senator Durbin:

The undersigned international relief and development organizations applaud your leadership in promoting global food security with the introduction of the Global Food Security Act (S.384). We have long fought for the underlying principles driving the legislation and are pleased that the walls of Congress are beginning to echo our cries.

Solutions are needed to address the estimated 1 billion people that suffer from chronic food insecurity. Lasting improvements in food security can be reliably ensured with adequate financial and technical resources for sustainable agricultural development. Studies show that investments in agriculture produce the highest returns in rural poverty alleviation and increased food security. In addition, when emergency food assistance is necessary, aid must be structured in a way that vulnerable families do not have to wait four to six months for U.S. food shipments to arrive.

The bill not only addresses the emergency needs of those suffering from the ongoing food crisis, but offers long term food security solutions by investing in agriculture and rural development. We are heartened by the legislation's recognition of the critical role that women throughout the world play in agriculture and family nutrition. By providing assistance in forms that benefit the women working on family farms using local resources, your bill promises efficient and effective investment in food production and well-being for those who need it most. In addition, we welcome the introduction of a Special Coordinator for Global Food Security and support its integration into a modernized foreign assistance strategy.

We look forward to working with you on this important issue and, on behalf of hungry families around the world; we thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,



1. Congressional Hunger Center



2. World Wildlife Federation



3. Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa



4. The Alliance to End Hunger



5. ECHO



6. The Hunger Project



7. International Medical Corps

8.  **ICRW** International Center
for Research on Women
where insight and action connect International Center for Research on Women

9.  **Oxfam**
America Oxfam


10. **WORLD RELIEF**  World Relief

11.  **Friends of the
World Food Program** Friends of the World Food Program

12.  **Lutheran
World Relief** Lutheran World Relief

13.  **ONE** ONE

14.  **FRB** Foods Resource Bank

15.  **CRWRC**
Living Justice, Loving Mercy The Christian Reformed World Relief Committee



16. Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture & NRM



17. World Cocoa Foundation



18. www.WomenThrive.org Women Thrive Worldwide



19. Heifer International




20. **Save the Children®** Save the Children



21. **breadfortheworld** HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER. Bread for the World

22.  Relief International

23.  Adventist Development and Relief Agency International

24.  Expanding Opportunities Worldwide ACDI/VOCA

25.  CARE