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# The Impacts of Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Cuts on People in Africa and the Middle East

Worldwide, hunger and extreme poverty—defined as living on less than \$1.90 a day—have been cut in half since 1990. Building on this momentum, the world has set a goal to end hunger and poverty by 2030. U.S. foreign aid has contributed to this dramatic progress for less than 1 cent of every dollar in the federal budget. To help achieve the goal of ending hunger and poverty by 2030, our country needs a budget that doesn't cut foreign aid.

Cuts to international hunger and poverty programs will be especially detrimental for people living in Africa. Right now, 30 million people are experiencing alarming hunger across northern Nigeria, Yemen, and several East African countries. Malnutrition is having a disastrous impact and as ever, children are among the worst affected. U.S. foreign aid, which represents less than 1 percent of the federal budget, means the difference between life and death for millions of people.

Without a budget that addresses global hunger and helps reduce the risk of starvation, we will be pushed further away from ending hunger worldwide by 2030.

## The Impact of Cutting Foreign Aid

U.S. investments in global health, food security, nutrition, and smallholder agriculture are putting Africa and the world on a path to ending extreme poverty and hunger by 2030. But much more needs to be done.

- Nearly 800 million people worldwide still suffer from hunger.
- 159 million children under age 5 are malnourished.

Cuts to these vital programs would roll back progress and



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make it harder to end hunger by 2030. Instead, our country should invest in these programs, which have been proven to effectively reduce hunger and poverty in Pan-African countries.

## The Impact of Not Addressing the Famines

Our world will inch further away from our 2030 goal if we do not give adequate funding to address the famine-like conditions and severe food crisis in South Sudan, Nigeria, Somalia, Yemen, and now also in other parts of East Africa—including Ethiopia and Kenya.<sup>1</sup>

- 30 million people are starving and urgently need food assistance.
- About 1.44 million children are suffering from severe acute malnutrition.
- In South Sudan alone, more than 6 million people—45 percent of the population—are facing extreme hunger. One in four South Sudanese children under the age of five is already stunted due to malnutrition.

## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> “Business Guide: Northern -East Nigeria, South Sudan, Yemen, and Somalia: Prevent Famine and Support Response.” OCHA.