

Samantha Power  
Administrator  
USAID

12 July 2023

Administrator Power,

The World Council of Churches, Caritas Internationalis, ACT Alliance, the World Evangelical Alliance, and the Lutheran World Federation join in conveying to you the attached statements issued by the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church, by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Ethiopia together with the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, and by the Ethiopian Catholic Eparchy of Adigrat regarding the suspension of food aid to Ethiopia by USAID and consequently also by WFP.

We join with our counterparts in Ethiopia in expressing profound appreciation for the essential humanitarian assistance provided to the people of Ethiopia by USAID and WFP, and in affirming the importance of ensuring that such aid reaches those who need it most and is not delayed, diverted or misused. The humanitarian community in Ethiopia, including local and international faith-based actors, share the commitment to stronger accountability measures and have already demonstrated the same through the adoption of measures including vulnerability-based targeting.

However, we also affirm the concerns expressed in the attached statements about the impact that the decision to suspend food aid is having and will have on millions of people in Ethiopia in such a gravely conflict-affected and drought-threatened context. In recent weeks, the humanitarian situation in the country has sharply deteriorated and will continue to deteriorate if urgent action is not taken. The consequences will inevitably entail more hunger, suffering and death.

The Central Committee of the World Council of Churches, which recently concluded its meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, took note of the situation and its consequences, and made its own appeal to USAID and WFP, while investigating the matters of concern, to resume urgently this essential assistance to Ethiopian communities and people whose lives depend on it. Caritas Internationalis has similarly made public statements expressing extreme concern about the situation and the foreseeable consequences for millions of people in Ethiopia.

The concerns that have been identified regarding misuse of food aid are serious and warrant thorough investigation and correction. Meanwhile, the people and communities in urgent need of this aid must not suffer the consequences of this situation. We ask for your consideration of these concerns and appeals, and for urgent action to restore this critically-needed lifeline to so many Ethiopian children, women and men.

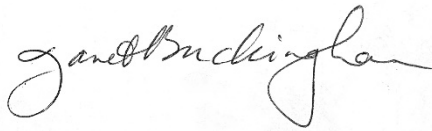
Yours respectfully,



Rev. Prof. Dr Jerry Pillay  
General Secretary  
World Council of Churches



Rev. Dr Anne Burghardt  
General Secretary  
The Lutheran World Federation



Janet Epp-Buckingham  
Director  
Global Advocacy Department  
World Evangelical Alliance



Rudelmar Bueno de Faria  
ACT Alliance General Secretary



Alistair Dutton  
Secretary General  
Caritas Internationalis

cc: Cindy McCain  
Executive Director  
World Food Programme