

**Testimony of Jonathan Shrier, Acting Special Representative for Global Food Security
before the Senate Subcommittee on International Development and Foreign Assistance,
Economic Affairs and International Environmental Protection**

Wednesday, November 28, 2012.

10:00 A.M. SD-419.

Good morning Chairman Cardin, Ranking Member Corker, and Members of the Subcommittee. It is an honor to appear before this Subcommittee to testify about the U.S. Government's efforts to help end world hunger and improve food security and nutrition around the globe.

President Obama and Secretary Clinton have prioritized food security on the U.S global agenda for humanitarian, economic, and national security reasons.

As USAID's testimony notes, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates that one in eight people worldwide—almost 870 million people—suffer from chronic hunger. By 2050, population growth and changing food demands will require up to a 60 percent increase in agricultural production, according to the FAO.

Our best traditions of compassion compel us to act to help end hunger and undernutrition. Because we can help, we must help—that is our moral imperative. But ending hunger and undernutrition is also in our national security and economic interests.

As we witnessed in 2008, spikes in food and energy prices threw tens of millions of vulnerable people in the developing world back into poverty. High and volatile food prices in 2008 touched off demonstrations in dozens of countries, contributing to political unrest. We can see how preventing food insecurity becomes a matter of national security.

President Obama and Secretary Clinton have been strong advocates for food security, making the case for increased investments in agriculture and nutrition because they can have immediate and long-term impacts in the lives of children, help move people out of poverty, create stronger communities and open new markets. Our economy's future growth will depend on growth in the rest of the world. Many of our future customers will live in markets outside of our borders,

including in emerging economies and low-income countries that have been particularly vulnerable to economic shocks.

The 2009 G8 Summit in L'Aquila, Italy, was a pivotal moment for hunger and poverty reduction. There, President Obama rallied presidents and prime ministers as well as leaders of key international and regional organizations to join together to reverse a three-decade decline in investment in agricultural development and launch the L'Aquila Food Security Initiative (AFSI). This initiative was designed to attack the root causes of global hunger through accelerated agricultural development and improved nutrition.

In keeping with the global L'Aquila Food Security Initiative, President Obama launched the U.S. government's Feed the Future initiative, and he asked that we do things differently to get better results for every taxpayer dollar we are investing. This means that countries develop their own plans for food security, increase their own funding for agriculture, and are accountable for sound plans and actions. It means taking a comprehensive approach that focuses on how countries can increase their own production, marketing, and nutrition programs, so they can help prevent recurrent food crises and do not have to rely on food aid in the future; focusing on women as a key part of the solution; integrating natural resource constraints into our plans; and measuring results.

To achieve these goals, Feed the Future leverages the capacity and expertise of different agencies across the U.S. government, including the U.S. Department of State; the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID); the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, and the Treasury; the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC); the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative; the Overseas Private Investment Corporation and others. Working in close coordination with my USAID colleague, Deputy Coordinator for Development Tjada McKenna, I act as the Deputy Coordinator for Diplomacy for Feed the Future.

Role of diplomacy in implementation of Feed the Future and other food security initiatives.

U.S. food security diplomacy actively supports the work of multiple U.S. Government agencies to advance our global food security agenda and further our Feed the Future priorities. We do this through policy coordination among major donors, strategic partners, and multilateral organizations, ensuring that food security and nutrition remains high on bilateral and global policy agendas. Through our engagement with the G-8, G-20, UN Agencies, and other economic cooperation platforms, such as APEC and Summit of the Americas, we help ensure that leaders stay focused on the fight against hunger and undernutrition.

U.S. leadership in the L'Aquila Food Security Initiative, focusing on sound food security policy, innovation, and reliable metrics, has helped advance the initiative's goals. Our ability to fulfill the U.S. financial pledge on schedule by obligating \$3.786 billion over three years promotes confidence among other donors to meet their own financial pledges and maintain strong financial support for global food security, shouldering responsibility along with us. As of May 2012, four of the 13 AFSI donors had fully disbursed their AFSI pledges, and we expect to announce further donor progress at the end of the AFSI pledge period later this year. Under the U.S. chairmanship of the AFSI follow-up group in 2012, AFSI donors agreed to provide in-depth information on how they are investing their food security assistance at the individual country level. These detailed materials were published in May and represent a significant advance for transparency and accountability.

The United States has worked closely with G-20 countries, the World Bank, and other multilateral organizations and civil society organizations to establish the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP), a multi-donor trust fund to help millions of poor farmers grow more and earn more so they can lift themselves out of hunger and poverty.

In two and a half years of operation, GAFSP has attracted pledges of nearly \$1.3 billion from nine development partners to help support the food security strategies of low-income countries. GAFSP's Steering Committee, which includes civil society and developing country representatives, has also allocated \$658 million to support 18 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. GAFSP financing will help boost the incomes of approximately 8 million smallholder farmers and their families by increasing farm productivity, linking smallholder farmers to

markets, and helping farmers to mitigate the risks that they face. In Sierra Leone, for example, GAFSP financing has underwritten the delivery of improved extension services to farmers to help them boost yields in key staple crops. GAFSP has also financed the rehabilitation of 250 kilometers of rural roads in Togo to better connect farmers to local markets and has provided 18,000 farmers with better access to improved seed varieties and fertilizer. The United States is currently working with other donors—including the Gates Foundation and several other development partners—to replenish this successful fund

The United States also plays a leading role in the UN Committee on World Food Security negotiations. Over the past two years, working through the U.S. Mission to the UN Agencies in Rome and in collaboration with USAID and MCC, we guided the committee's consultative process to develop Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forestry in the Context of National Food Security that were approved in May 2012. Now, we are turning our attention to the follow-on consultative process aimed at developing voluntary, non-binding principles on responsible agricultural investment.

We work with strategic partner countries—Brazil, India, and South Africa—to leverage the expertise and influence of government, the private sector, and civil society partners in these countries in order to collaborate to improve food security in Feed the Future focus countries. For example, we are partnering with Brazil in Mozambique to help farmers increase the productivity of their vegetable crops, improve post-harvest packing, storage and processing, and support research on food technology innovation. We also recently announced new agreements with Brazil to work together in Haiti to improve land use and promote conventional and bio-fortified crops and in Honduras to increase agriculture productivity, decrease malnutrition, and promote renewable energy .

At the national level with individual Feed the Future focus countries, we help promote policy changes and keep food security priorities high on national agendas. For example, when the worst drought in 60 years struck the Horn of Africa, Secretary Clinton contacted the leaders of Ethiopia and Kenya to press for specific policy shifts that could help assure lasting food security even as we extended emergency assistance. The Administration worked with Tanzania to

establish a nutrition-specific line in its national budget to ensure effective coordination and implementation of the country's national nutrition strategy. We have helped countries like Guatemala, Uganda and Mozambique to introduce new measures to improve financial accountability and strengthen their countries' commitment to nutrition.

We understand that to end world hunger we need the collective efforts of governments, donors, institutions, businesses, and, in particular, civil society. As Secretary Clinton highlighted in her remarks on the margins of the UN General Assembly this year, "Civil society organizations are crucial to our success, both in the public and private sector; they have long-standing relationships in communities and valuable technical expertise, and they work every single day on their commitment to try to make this world a better place for all of us." Through our diplomatic efforts we engage and facilitate collaboration with civil society at home and abroad to help achieve Feed the Future's food and nutrition security goals.

For example, in 2010, Secretary Clinton launched the 1,000 Days partnership, which is helping mobilize governments, civil society, and the private sector to promote action to improve nutrition in the 1,000 days from pregnancy to a child's second birthday. The partnership helps disseminate research information and the latest innovations in nutrition and best practices. With financial support from the Gates Foundation and Walmart and in collaboration with the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition and InterAction, we facilitated the establishment of an organization to promote the 1,000 Days message and support the UN's Scaling Up Nutrition movement. Thanks to these efforts, more and more stakeholders are prioritizing nutrition interventions during the critical 1,000 days when adequate nutrition has the greatest lifelong impact on a child's health, ability to grow, learn, and contribute to the prosperity of her family, her community, and her country.

Our diplomatic and development efforts have also focused on spotlighting the role of women in agriculture. Women make up the majority of the agricultural work force in many developing countries, but they often earn less because they do not have rights to land, access to finance, natural resources, and the best inputs needed for production. Research shows that when women's incomes increase, their families are more financially secure, eat more nutritional food, and are

less hungry and under-nourished. Women are more likely to invest their earnings in the health, education, and nutrition of their children. Feed the Future is funding innovative approaches for promoting gender equality in agriculture and land use and to integrate gender into agricultural development and food security programs.

In September 2012, as a result of our outreach efforts, Secretary Clinton announced a \$1 billion pledge of private, non-government funds for food security from InterAction, an alliance of 198 U.S.-based NGOs. Five of its member organizations together pledged to contribute more than \$900 million toward the total, namely Catholic Relief Services, World Vision, Heifer International, Save the Children, and ChildFund International. We look forward to deepening coordination of our efforts with civil society partners to achieve greater impact and scale in our food security and nutrition efforts.

Progress in the Feed the Future effort continues. Diplomacy played a key role in negotiating with G-8 partners in particular in developing and launching the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition, announced by President Obama in May 2012. The New Alliance is a shared commitment to achieve sustained and inclusive agricultural growth and raise 50 million people in sub-Saharan Africa out of poverty over the next 10 years by aligning the commitments of Africa's leadership to drive effective country plans and policies for food security; the commitments of private sector partners to increase investments where the conditions are right; and the commitments of the G-8 to expand Africa's potential for rapid and sustainable agricultural growth.

Food security remains a policy priority for the Obama Administration. For us at the State Department, Feed the Future is one of the premier examples of development diplomacy as envisioned in the Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review. The State Department works closely with USAID to align diplomatic and development goals, develop the Feed the Future budget, and continue support for the work of our partners in advancing our global food security agenda. Working together across the whole of the U.S. government, with other governments, and throughout the international community, we are determined to make significant progress toward ending hunger and undernutrition in our lifetimes.

Thank you, I look forward to taking your questions.

