

**Message from Anne Sophie Fournier, Executive Director  
Action Against Hunger (AAH) USA  
on the Observance of World Food Day**

Action Against Hunger—USA supports and applauds World Food Day. The UN's goal, like ours, is to rally everyone to participate in an international campaign aimed at eradicating world hunger.

Each year, the UN's annual World Food Day highlights a different aspect of the battle against hunger. Past themes have included malnutrition, food security, and water, each a primary concern of Action Against Hunger—USA. This year, World Food Day's topic is biodiversity, one of our touchstones as well. Healthy eating requires an array of nutrients, which is why we train developing communities to grow and harvest a broad range of foods.

Action Against Hunger's programs reach over 5 million beneficiaries a year. But our task and that of other organizations supporting World Food Day is Herculean. Despite everyone's best efforts, 800 million people worldwide remain chronically undernourished, and 200 million children age five and younger still suffer from acute and chronic malnutrition. Distressingly, each year 30 million babies are born with impaired growth because their mothers were inadequately nourished.

So far, Action Against Hunger's achievements have been noteworthy. We're proud that other humanitarian organizations have adopted our protocols for treating and preventing malnutrition, which we've developed and refined over the past quarter century. And we're especially gratified that our widely used nutritional formulas have slashed mortality rates of the severely malnourished from 25% to 5%.

But the challenge continues. Individuals and governments must support and expand programs that fight hunger. World Food Day broadcasts this message one day every year. We need to pursue our goal vigorously during all 365.