

27 August 2019

Mr. Stefan Schmitz
Chair of the Steering Committee
Global Agriculture and Food Security Program
Washington DC, USA

Subject: Global Agriculture and Food Security Program Proposal from the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Dear Mr. Schmitz,

I write to you from Kabul to lend my full support to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan's proposal for funding of its Household Food and Livelihood Security Project under the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program's (GAFSP) special Call for Proposals for fragile and conflict affected countries.

The United Nations in Afghanistan has been an active partner with the Government in the promotion of peace, rehabilitation and development. One of the key challenges has been addressing the immediate needs of the population in the context of crisis scale poverty and food insecurity, which affect the great majority of Afghans. The Government has committed itself to address this challenge.

Over four decades of continuous civil strife, the increased frequency and severity of climate disasters have rendered addressing extreme poverty and food insecurity a daunting task. Despite concerted efforts and some positive results, more than 54 percent of the population live below the national poverty line, and over 10.6 million people are considered severely food insecure and require emergency food assistance. Securing further resources to assist the Government in the implementation of its priority program by directly targeting the poorest households to sustainably alleviate extreme poverty is crucial.

The United Nations team and Afghanistan's development partners are committed to supporting the Government in its efforts to address extreme poverty and food insecurity. The Household Food and Livelihood Security Project Proposal is a promising way forward given its founding principles, alignment with the Government's priorities, and aim to directly target the poorest households. The financing provided under the GAFSP trust fund shall contribute to ease the highly constrained fiscal situation and directly address extreme poverty and food insecurity in the country.

I hope you will consider the Government of Afghanistan's proposal favorably.

Sincerely



Toby Lanzer
Assistant Secretary-General and Resident Coordinator