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Former Prime Minister of Mozambique, Luísa Diogo, to Keynote The Hunger Project's Fall Gala

New York, NY – Mozambique's former prime minister, and first woman to hold the post, Her Excellency (H.E.) Madame Luísa Diogo, will be this year's keynote at The Hunger Project's annual Fall Gala, on October 22, 2016.

H.E. Madame Diogo has also been elected to serve on The Hunger Project's Global Board of Directors as of October 2016.

"I am honored that Madame Diogo will serve as keynote speaker at this year's Fall Gala," said The Hunger Project President and CEO, Åsa Skogström Feldt. "Her commendable efforts to eradicate hunger and poverty, and her focus on improving gender equality and women's empowerment align with The Hunger Project's mission and vision of empowering people to lead lives of self-reliance."

H.E. Madame Diogo was Prime Minister of Mozambique from 2004 to 2010. She served in Mozambique's Finance Ministry in various capacities, culminating in serving as Minister of Planning and Finance from 2000-2004.

H.E. Madame Diogo has focused her recent efforts on gender equality and the empowerment of women through the Network of Women Ministers and Parliamentarians (MUNIPA), an advocacy and lobbying group that promotes gender equality in Africa and abroad, and through New Faces and New Voices, a network of African women working to provide economic empowerment of women. Madame Diogo is also a member of the Council of Women Leaders and serves as a Member of the UN Secretary-General's Panel on Global Sustainability and as a Member of the African Commission's Advisory Council for Peace and Security.

"I am thrilled to now be a part of The Hunger Project's Global Board and to introduce myself at their Annual Fall Gala," Madame Diogo said. "I very much respect the work of the organization in

Mozambique, Africa and beyond; The Hunger Project's approach of focusing on self-reliance and the empowerment of women is critical to ending hunger and poverty sustainably," she said.

At the gala, The Hunger Project will, for the first time, celebrate the communities that have achieved the targets they set for declaring their self-reliance, as well as the communities across Africa that are on the path to this monumental achievement. These communities have demonstrated the confidence, capacity and skills to act as agents of their own development.

Other speakers at the gala include The Hunger Project's Country Director in Malawi, Rowlands Kaotcha, who provides country leadership to The Hunger Project's integrated sustainable livelihood program focusing on food security, microfinance, education, health and hygiene, HIV/AIDS and gender equality. With Mr. Kaotcha's leadership, in September 2016, two epicenters in Malawi, Champiti and Ligowe, graduated to self-reliance. One of The Hunger Project's community partners, Dennis Denga, from Champiti Epicenter, one of the graduated epicenters, will also speak.

The Hunger Project's Fall Gala, which expects over 400 attendees, will take place on October 22, 2016 at Chelsea Piers and will include a cocktail reception, dinner and entertainment.

About The Hunger Project

The Hunger Project is a global non-profit organization whose mission is to end hunger and poverty by pioneering sustainable, grassroots, women-centered strategies and advocating for their widespread adoption in countries throughout the world. The Hunger Project is active in 22 countries throughout the world, with global headquarters based in New York. For more information, visit www.thp.org.

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