Agriculture
Development and Food Security

Presentation of the Secretary-General’s Report to the 64th General Assembly

A/64/221 available at:
http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/resources/res_docugaecos_64.shtml
2008: Shocks to the World Economy

Energy price volatility → Fuel crisis
Rapid escalation of food and commodity prices → Food crisis
Financial crisis → Global economic recession
Food and Commodity Prices 2000-2009

Source: Farm Foundation (2009), What’s Driving Food Prices, Issue Report, March 2009 update; available at www.farmfoundation.org

Note: Commodity prices and indices are normalized to equal 1.0, on average, for 2002.
Global Food Production System: Key Problems

- Widespread hunger and malnutrition
- Price volatility
- Widening gap between supply and demand
- Competition for land and water resources
- Climate change
- Failure to scale up
- Green revolution
Almost one billion people regularly suffer from hunger, most are women and children.

More people die of hunger every year than from AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined.

Malnutrition prevents children from reaching their full developmental and cognitive potential.

One child dies every six seconds from hunger-related causes.

On any given day, WFP has an average 5,000 trucks, 70 aircraft and 30 ships delivering food across the globe.

Responses to the Food Crisis

Actions at the Global, Regional, and National Levels
Actions Taken at the Global Level

UN High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis (HLTF)

Established April 2008

High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis

Chair: Mr. Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary-General
Vice-Chair: Mr. Jacques Diouf, Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organization

- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- International Labour Organization (ILO)
- International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
- Special Adviser on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
- United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)
- United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO)
- United Nations Department of Political Affairs (DPA)
- United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
- United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS)
- World Bank (WB)
- World Food Programme (WFP)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- World Trade Organization (WTO)

Coordinator: Dr. David Nabarro, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General
Actions Taken at the Global Level

• 2008 FAO High-level Conference on World Food Security: the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy
  …estimated the total amount needed for achieving agricultural development and food security to be around USD 30 billion annually.
  …donor countries and financial organizations announced significant additional financial support totaling more than $12 billion.

• High-level Meeting on Food Security, Madrid, January 2009
  …additional pledges materialized, and Spain has since disbursed its first commitment of €1 billion for 17 West African countries.

• Group of Eight meeting, L’Aquila, Italy, July 2009
  …Italy agreed to commit more than $20 billion to agriculture over the next three years as part of the food security initiative.

• FAO Council World Summit on Food Security, November 2009

Actions Taken at the Global Level

17th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development
May 2009

National Actions:

- Sustainable development strategy
- Sustainable green revolution
- Social strategy

Areas of International Cooperation:

- Financing: meet agreed ODA commitments
- Enhanced access to international markets, including through trade, policy and assurance of price stability (Doha Round)
- Cooperation in research and development
- Enhancing policy coherence
Regional Initiatives and Actions

CAADP

ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework
August 2008

Commission on Family Farming
MERCOSUR

Investing in Agriculture
for Economic Growth and Food Security
African Union July 2009

Colombo Declaration on Food Security
Actions Taken at the National Level

Policy actions to address high food prices

Policy actions to address high food prices by region

Source: High-level Conference On World Food Security: The Challenges Of Climate Change And Bioenergy
Rome, 3 - 5 June 2008
Soaring Food Prices: Facts, Perspectives, Impacts And Actions Required
## Actions Taken at the National Level

### Countries Targeted by the UN High-level Task Force

* These 35 countries are targeted for intensive coordinated action

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<th>Afghanistan</th>
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Concluding Remarks

• Implement agreed Decisions and outcomes of relevant international conferences

• Focus on long-term considerations

• Also implement short-term measures
UN DESA
Division for Sustainable Development

Muhammad Chaudhry
chaudhry@un.org

Tonya Vaturi
vaturi@un.org