



Civil Society and the UN System: debate in the food security arena

SCN NEWS
a periodic review of developments in international nutrition

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United Nations Administrative Committee on Coordination

SUB-COMMITTEE ON NUTRITION

(ACC/SCN) —The UN System's Forum for Nutrition—

The Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), which is comprised of the heads of the UN Agencies, recommended the establishment of the Sub-Committee on Nutrition (SCN) in 1976, following the World Food Conference (with particular reference to Resolution V on food and nutrition). This was approved by the Economic and Social Council of the UN (ECOSOC) by resolution in July 1977. The UN members of the SCN are ECA, FAO, IAEA, IFAD, ILO, UN, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCHR, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNRISD, UNU, WFP, WHO and the World Bank. IFPRI and the ADB are also members. From the outset, representatives of bilateral donor agencies have participated actively in SCN activities as do nongovernmental organizations. The Secretariat is hosted by WHO in Geneva.

The **mandate of the ACC/SCN** is to serve as the UN focal point for promoting harmonized nutrition policies and strategies throughout the UN system, and to strengthen collaboration with other partners for accelerated and more effective action against malnutrition. The **aim of the SCN** is to raise awareness of and concern for nutrition problems at global, regional and national levels; to refine the direction, increase the scale and strengthen the coherence and impact of actions against malnutrition worldwide; and to promote cooperation among UN agencies and partner organizations. The SCN's annual meetings have representation from UN Agencies, donor agencies and NGOs; these meetings begin with symposia on subjects of current importance for policy. The SCN brings such matters to the attention of the ACC and convenes working groups on specialized areas of nutrition. Initiatives are taken to promote coordinated activities—interagency programmes, meetings, publications—aimed at reducing malnutrition, reflecting the shared views of the agencies concerned. Regular reports on the world nutrition situation are issued. *Nutrition Policy Papers* are produced to summarize current knowledge on selected topics. *SCN News* is published twice a year, and the *RNIS* is published quarterly.

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Your contributions to future issues are most welcome. *SCN NEWS* shares experience in nutrition.

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CHAIRMAN'S ROUND-UP

This issue of *SCN News* focuses on the interface between NGOs/civil society and the UN system concerning food security. *SCN News 23* tries to take stock of what has *not* happened since the World Food Summit (WFS) in 1996. The postponement of the WFS: *five year later* meeting gives us a good window of opportunity to focus on what are still unanswered questions and to engage in the much needed lobbying to, this time, obtain more meaningful commitments. *SCN News 23* is an important contribution to this goal and looks at the issues from the perspectives of the UN agencies, the NGOs/civil society and respected professionals in the field. The feature articles provide facts and opinions, hopes and frustrations. A deliberate attempt is made to cover both opposing and complementary views, using the FAO-sponsored WFS: *fy/* preparatory process as a case study. Readers will undoubtedly identify with some views and disagree with others, this is the essence of the kind of dialogue needed. Also included in this issue is a message from the ACC/SCN Distinguished Nutrition Advocate Professor MS Swaminathan; he gives his perspectives on how to achieve greater food and nutrition security

The news in late summer that Dr. Per Pinstrup-Andersen was awarded the 2001 World Food Prize was most welcome indeed. This prize was conceived by Nobel laureate Norman Borlaug as the equivalent of a Nobel prize for food. This award recognizes Per's lifetime of achievements in food policy research to help poor and malnourished people in developing countries. Per has been a towering strength and a clear voice for nutrition for many years, for the past ten years as Director General of IFPRI. Per's vision, dynamic energy and signal efforts to put nutrition squarely onto the global policy agenda are well known. I know I am speaking for the entire SCN family when I convey to Dr. Per Pinstrup-Andersen heartfelt congratulations.

An important appointment has just been announced by UNICEF. Dr. Rainer Gross has been appointed Chief of the Nutrition Section at UNICEF Headquarters. Rainer is well known to the SCN, having represented Germany for many years in the SCN's bilaterals group. Rainer has served for GTZ in field posts in Indonesia, Brazil and Peru. He has worked extensively on issues pertaining to micronutrient malnutrition, iron nutrition in particular, and food security. He brings great enthusiasm and expertise to UNICEF. We look forward to working with Rainer in his new position.

Preparations for the 29th Session of the ACC/SCN to be held in Berlin, March 11-15, 2002 are now well advanced. The centrepiece will be a symposium on *Nutrition in the Context of Crisis and Conflict*, with keynote addresses by Austen Davis of Médecins Sans Frontières and Catherine Bertini of the World Food Programme. This will be followed by three invited papers on achievements in the field, on new developments in assessment and on nutrition as a human right during conflict. The Sixth Dr. Abraham Horwitz Lecture will be delivered this year by Ms. Soha Moussa, a graduate student from Lebanon studying at Tufts University in the US. Ms Moussa will present a paper entitled *Keeping Schools Open* which deals with school feeding in crisis and conflict, an important but much neglected area. ACC/SCN annual sessions are open to all. You are warmly invited to attend.

Many have asked me over the past months what impact ACC reform will have on the SCN's important work. The SCN was created by ECOSOC Resolution in July 1996. Since its inception the SCN has reported to the ACC, which is made up of UN agency heads. It is of course logical that changes in the ACC may well have some effect on this reporting relationship. The SCN Secretariat is in regular contact with the ACC Secretariat in New York and news will be shared as it becomes available. In the meantime the ACC/SCN Steering Committee has discussed several possibilities for a new name for the SCN, to be implemented in the new year. Above all, the SCN will most certainly continue to function as a vibrant forum and network of UN agencies, bilaterals and NGOs in a creative tripartite structure aimed at common goals.

This message comes to you not from Rome but from Kinshasa. In August 2001 I took up new work and new challenges in Kinshasa where I serve as Special Representative of the UN Secretary General to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. As my two-year term as SCN Chair comes to a close I will hand over responsibilities to my successor in March, in Berlin. The Steering Committee is making good progress in selecting the next SCN Chair and we can expect to make an announcement shortly. I look forward to seeing you in Berlin.

Finally, Professor MS Swaminathan has most generously offered to host the 30th Session in Chennai, India. The dates are March 3-7, 2003 immediately after the IX Asian Congress of Nutrition. As usual, information on all SCN activities can be found on our website at <http://acc.unsystem.org/scn/>

Namanga Ngongi



ADVOCACY IN PRACTICE

PRIORITY ACTIONS THAT CAN BEST IMPROVE NUTRITION

After a lifetime of work in this field, I am more and more convinced that to bridge the nutritional divide, we have to attend to non-nutritional divides.

I propose ten groups of actions and their respective indicators that should be considered as a matter of priority:

1. *Food Security (outcome indicator)*: Physical, economic and social access to a balanced diet for every child, woman and man, based on a life-cycle approach.

2. *Water Security*: Safe drinking water and adequate water for agriculture, industry and the maintenance of the ecosystem.

3. *Literacy and "Techniracy"*: Total literacy and attention to quality improvements in education, ranging from the pre-school to university education; special actions to empower the illiterate and semi-literate women and men with technical skills; abolition of child labour so that children can go to school, and actions to prevent adolescent girls from becoming school dropouts.

4. *Health Security*: Provision of gender sensitive primary health care services; control of all major preventable diseases including malaria, tuberculosis, preventable blindness, and eradication of disease-preventable diseases; reduction in birth and death rates and an increase in average life expectancy; reduction of infant and maternal mortality rates and in the incidence of low birth weight; provision of appropriate services for working mothers and enabling them to exclusively breastfeed for six months; fight against HIV/AIDS; and special attention to the physically and mentally handicapped.

5. *Ecological Security*: Conservation and enhancement of life supporting systems like land, water, forests, biodiversity, oceans and the atmosphere; efficient harvesting and use of rain water; recycling of solid and liquid wastes and composting of all organic wastes; safe disposal of hospital wastes; bio-environmental control of malaria; preventive action to mitigate the potential adverse effects of climate change and of rising sea levels.

6. *Livelihood Security*: Transition from unskilled to skilled work; combined attention to rural on-farm and non-farm employment, as well as to micro-enterprises supported by micro-credit; a *new deal* for the self-employed through the provision of appropriate tech-

nology, training, a technical-infrastructure and producer-focused domestic and external trade.

7. *Energy Security*: Building of sustainable energy systems with concurrent attention to thermal, hydro, nuclear and renewable forms of energy (wind, solar, biogas and biomass); energy use efficiency and self-sufficiency on the farm, as well as in the industrial and domestic sectors.

8. *Gender Equity*: Engendering all areas of public policy, stern action against female foeticide that leads to distorted sex ratios in society, and provision of support services to working women (e.g. day care), taking into account the multiple burden on a woman's day to day life.

9. *Folk, classical and modern art, culture, drama*: Creation of awareness and appreciation of people's cultural heritage and revitalisation of their cultural traditions, and dying arts and crafts; respecting animal rights, as well as diversity and pluralism in human communities.

10. *Technological leapfrogging and providing the basic conditions essential for enhanced national and foreign investment*: Rapid progress in biotechnology as well as information, space, nuclear and renewable energy technologies and launching a movement for fostering greater public understanding of science and promoting a new social contract between scientists and society; providing equal attention to connectivity and content in an effort to bridge the digital divide; blending traditional wisdom with frontier science and technology in order to develop and disseminate ecotechnologies rooted in the principles of ecology, economics, gender, social equity and employment generation; including access to appropriate technologies in basic minimum needs programmes; and attention to training, technical-infrastructure and domestic and external trade.

Professor M.S. Swaminathan
ACC/SCN Distinguished Nutrition Advocate

Note from the Editor:

We are delighted to announce that Professor Swaminathan has most generously offered to host the ACC/SCN's 30th Session (2003) in Chennai. The Session will follow immediately after the Asian Congress of Nutrition.

Civil society and the UN system: debate in the food security arena

Claudio Schuftan, Guest Editor

As work began on this issue of *SCN News* the perspective of one of the civil society organizations, FIAN, struck me as being especially sensible¹. FIAN's perspective prompted me to ask what I feel are some of the key questions that needed to be answered before the World Food Summit: *five years later* (WFS:*fyl*) event, originally scheduled for November 2001. I used these questions to probe many of our contributors in a search for plausible, concrete responses.

In my view, most of the questions are addressed in these feature articles. Responses are not black or white, but span all shades of gray. Some of the responses are profound, others are witty, all are interesting. Try to find your own most comfortable shade of gray and take a stand; be counted in this debate. This is not the time for procrastination.

Readers are challenged to carry out a pre-test of their knowledge of the key content and process issues before us in this debate. Try to respond to these questions before reading the articles, and re-examine them afterwards. Try to focus on what is needed to resolve outstanding problems. This could become the basis for active involvement in advocacy.

- Was the outcome document of the WFS just one more shopping list of ideas with little follow-up on how to get them implemented?
- Should the target to reduce the number of food insecure by half by 2015 be re-considered?
- Why has the pace of progress since 1996 been so slow?
- Why are governments not reporting regularly on actions taken, and when doing so, often being vague about it?
- How do we judge the speed and efficiency of the implementation of the *entire* WFS Plan of Action so far?
- Should civil society play a more formal and concrete role in implementing and monitoring the Plan of Action?
- What have been the achievements and shortcomings of the partnerships between NGOs and the UN system in the area of food and nutrition security?
- How should civil society challenge governments unwilling to implement the Plan of Action?
- Should the Committee on World Food Security take a more proactive role in investigating states'



compliance with their monitoring responsibility, or, should NGOs/CSOs assume this role of holding governments and agencies accountable?

- Are some parts of the Declaration contradictory?
- Has the new vulnerability mapping system of FAO (called FIVIMS) helped to better identify the groups more severely affected by hunger and malnutrition and the underlying determinants? Is FIVIMS data being used optimally? Could it be used more aggressively?
- What has the international community really done since the late 90s to implement the Right to Adequate Food as defined by General Comment No. 12?
 - How far has the international community gone in putting pressure on governments to marshal the needed political will to fight hunger and malnutrition and in mobilizing the resources to do so?
 - Has the CSO-proposed Code of Conduct on the Right to Adequate Food received the prominent consideration this sector thinks it deserves?
 - What has the effect of the WTO's Agreement on Agriculture—that has forced many developing countries to open up their agricultural markets to imports—been on small farmers?
- What progress has been made since 1996 on access to genetic resources, credit and water rights for the poor and what progress on their access to land?
- Is the WFS:*fyl* prepared to address food sovereignty and alternative models of food production?

Because so many of the issues addressed by these questions hinge on accountability over commitments made loosely, a quantum leap forward at the WFS:*fyl* event seems unlikely unless agencies, organizations, governments and individuals work out concrete mechanisms to assure checks and balances, reserving a voice for beneficiary groups. Contributors to this issue of *SCN News* assess the situation variously and propose a spectrum of alternative approaches. Read and judge.

Reference:

1. Windfuhr M (2001). From the Summit to the ground. *Hungry for What is Right*. Number 23, August 2001.

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Preparing for the World Food Summit: *five years later*

10-13 June 2002

Hartwig de Haen

Under the pressure of external events this important gathering had to be postponed. The time that remains, until the rescheduled World Food Summit: *five years later* (WFS:*fyl*) takes place, should be used both to draw attention to the urgency of actions needed to accelerate progress in the fight against hunger, and to strengthen further the mobilization of forces necessary to ensure that the target set by the Summit will be met.

The worst way to use the time between now and then is to start thinking of a new, lower target than the one set at the Summit. Such thinking should have no place on the agenda of those who believe that hunger is a scourge and that it is high time to take decisive actions to reduce it. The target is both just and feasible. That the target is *just* is proven by the fact that it was unanimously agreed upon at the Summit.

As regards feasibility and if history is a guide, world agriculture has shown that it is able to produce more without putting excessive pressure on food prices. Worldwide, there is certainly no lack of food to provide everyone with at least a minimum diet. Moreover, resources to aid countries and populations in need are also available. What it takes to reach the target is to set priorities right.

Progress has been made. The number of undernourished (defined by FAO as food intake that is continuously insufficient to meet dietary energy requirements) has fallen from 816m in 1990-92 to 777m in 1997-99 despite population growth, i.e., from 20% of developing countries' populations in the early 90s to 17% in the late 90s¹. Indeed, the rate of reduction in the 90s has been below what would be required to achieve the WFS target. But before we despair, we should consider that a group of 31 developing countries was able to reduce the number of undernourished people by 116m people in the 90s. We should thus take a closer look at what those countries did and learn from their experience. Peace and political stability, investment in agriculture and rural development, overall economic growth, and safety nets were some of the ingredients of their success.

It would therefore be a major mistake if we were to succumb to pessimism based on the lack of suffi-

cient progress towards achieving the target. Lowering the target would send the wrong signal to all those who have been given hope that everything possible will be done to help them. It will also be an injustice to those, alas too few, who not only believe that the target is fair and feasible, but who have devoted their energies to help make the goal a reality.

For some, the ripple effect of the September 11 events on the world economy has been a cause of pessimism with respect to the achievement of the WFS target. We believe that it should be a cause for reflection and redoubled commitment to correct the injustices which are used by self-appointed defenders of the destitute and of the marginalized to carry out their criminal acts.

A key action point towards achieving the target would be the building of a "global coalition to fight hunger", as proposed by the President of Germany on World Food Day 2001 in Rome. Building such

Worldwide, there is certainly no lack of food to provide everyone with at least a minimum diet

a coalition of governments, civil society organizations (CSOs), international agencies and institutions should be a first priority for the time between now and the

WFS:*fyl* meeting. To build such a cohesive coalition, its partners must not only believe in the common cause, but they should also share their understanding of the major determinants of the problem of hunger and agree on an action plan to meet the goal. A transparent dialogue is essential in this endeavour.

Over five years after the WFS, we are fully aware of the reasons why we are not on track in meeting the target. The main reason has been a lack of political will to follow up on what was agreed in the Summit Declaration, i.e. the political will to follow up on commitments made by 185 governments in 1996.

I certainly do not want to question the seriousness of intentions of those who signed the commitment. However, we should not forget that the Declaration and Plan of Action expressed the *collective* commitment of those represented to halve the number of hungry in the world by 2015. It could be said that when collective commitments are made, there is a tendency of the parties to pass (at least part of) the responsibility for meeting the commonly-agreed targets onto others. Accountabil-

ity is therefore needed for political action to meet the target. I believe the time has come for every stakeholder to internalize the commitments made, by, for example, setting national targets for hunger reduction. Setting and meeting national targets would be the responsibility of national governments and their development partners. The global coalition we propose would have to work together to ensure that such targets are indeed met.

What are the steps to be taken to rekindle a waning political will?

- First, we should review the numerous targets set by the world community in the 90s concerning poverty and its manifestations, introduce a sense of priority and provide the necessary resources. No matter how desirable comprehensive approaches to development are in principle, they run the risk of making everything a priority without any assurance that the means to achieve the priority are adequately provided for. We now need to agree on the priorities among the priorities and agree that hunger is a central component in the fight against poverty.

- We should change our views of hunger being simply a consequence of unequal economic growth. We should consider its negative effects on growth. As such, the hunger problem is an urgent one and requires immediate and purposeful action

- We should dispel the widely-held public opinion that associates hunger mainly with emergencies, conflict and natural calamities. While acute hunger can be a source of conflict and is also the result of it, we should create greater awareness of the chronic dimensions of food insecurity and its links with poverty.

- We should not be misled by the current global availability of ample food, by declining international food prices and by the perception that food production technologies have an unlimited poten-

tial to keep up with increasing demands. We must not equate “enough food” with “food for everybody to eat”.

- We have to bring hunger, its root causes and consequences into the mainstream of the scientific and policy research agenda. This will provide a means to strengthen the evidence on which to base more convincing advocacy and concrete action commensurate with the magnitude of the problem. Everybody must become aware that alleviation of hunger is not just a moral imperative, but fulfilment of a fundamental human right. Moreover, it is in the long-term self-interest of all, rich and poor alike.

- In the final analysis, the political will of the global coalition will be measured by its concrete achievements in terms of reforming policies and mobilizing resources to achieve the WFS target.



More than ever, the facts in front of us push us to set priorities to mobilize resources to fight hunger and poverty effectively. Two thirds of the poor and the hungry live in rural areas of developing countries, with agriculture being the basis of their livelihoods. Yet, so far, domestic resource allocation, official development assistance and multilateral lending for agriculture and rural development have not reflected the sector’s crucial role. We firmly believe that the global coalition proposed should make sure that the priorities set for hunger and poverty reduction reflect this important but often forgotten fact.

Reference

1. FAO (2001) *The State of Food Insecurity in the World*. FAO: Rome.

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How do civil society organisations help the poor access resources?

It is not clear what happens when civil society organizations (CSOs) collaborate with government agencies in terms of what is achieved and who benefits. CSOs do assist the urban poor in leveraging resources for self-help and in promoting and supporting their advocacy efforts. What is often at stake is the need to overcome subtle forms of state resistance, i.e. bureaucratic inertia, vested interests and local political interests. So when negotiations take place with local politicians, it is usually political support that is exchanged in return for resources such as the provision of services. Yet how transparent, sustainable and democratic are such linkages? How far do CSOs truly represent the needs and interests of the poorest? Or, more simply stated, what impact do CSOs have on poverty? To date, most of CSO activities have been more about the inclusion of community views in governance than about directly fostering pro-poor decision-making. CSOs have spent too little time developing innovative programmes to help the capacity of the poor to tackle their poverty.

Excerpted from Beall J and Mitlin D (2001) *Beyond confrontation? Insights Development Research* ID21, published by the Institute of Development Studies. J.beall@lse.ac.uk or diana.mitlin@ied.org

Five points need to be made on the road to WFS: *fyl*

Michael Windfuhr

Why has the pace of progress been so slow? Are parts of the WFS's Plan of Action contradictory?

FAO's Committee on World Food Security (CFS) pursues the task of monitoring the results of the World Food Summit. The reporting process is just beginning and, so far, is not very effective. States report to the secretariat which then provides the CFS with very condensed summaries of what has been achieved. The CFS does not investigate individual states' compliance any further, and states do not want this to happen either. For example, FAO does not check states' performance on the right to food and their means of implementing it. At the CFS level, FAO basically highlights "best practices" at country level and presents analytical papers highlighting implementation problems.

The Summit follow-up process has started to give recommendations to countries, however, it has not found a way to discuss conflicts amongst different commitments *within* the Plan of Action, nor to challenge international policies that conflict with the implementation of the Plan, e.g. trade policy instruments. Consider, for instance, that developed countries, especially those in the EU, are still dumping surpluses on world markets, often with very negative impacts on small farmers in developing countries. Changes in these policies are still pending. On the other hand, through the Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) of the WTO and through the directives of structural adjustment policies, many developing countries have opened up their markets for agricultural imports, often with negative consequences for farmers. FAO has made some 14 studies on the impact of the AoA on developing countries describing the potential negative effects of opening markets to products from countries that subsidize their production (as allowed by the AoA). These contradictions have yet to be challenged.

Another example is access to land. In Commitment 2, states had agreed in Rome on very clear language on access to land, reflecting the real need for securing access to land by millions of landless people worldwide. It wording is: "equal access to productive resources such as land, water and credit". The World Bank, however, is pushing strongly for privatization of land markets and for policies on land reform to be based on markets. A market-based land reform -- basically asking the

poor to buy land with (subsidized) credits -- is miles away from the "equality requirement" of Commitment 2 of the Plan of Action. But this new Bank policy on land reform increasingly dominates national land reform strategies.

Unless the whole process of follow-up is made to become more concise and results-oriented, at the national level as well at the CFS level, countries will meet in 2015 and *again* look for greater political will and financial means to implement the very same objectives set in 1996.

The reporting process is just beginning and, so far, is not very effective

How does the WTO's Agreement on Agriculture affect small farmers?

During the Uruguay Round, countries agreed to open up national markets and to cut export and national subsidies to the agricultural sector. While many developing countries were initially favourable to this (because they were expecting better access to markets in industrialized countries) more and more have become disillusioned and critical of the agreement.

It is not easy to show the direct impact of WTO's AoA on small farmers, because often the opening of markets had already been introduced by structural adjustment policies. Nevertheless, the impact of the AoA on small farmers is in many cases dramatic. Small farmers still have to compete with agricultural imports that benefit from export subsidies in industrialized countries. The relevance of this to the right to food is obvious. From a right to food perspective individual access to productive resources is essential. If small farmers produce food or other crops on their lands and lose their markets due to rapid changes in the import regime, they are often squeezed and left with no options. They lose their main source of income and often have no alternative source. Hunger and malnutrition result.

A systematic look at the consequences of such trade agreements on the right to adequate food is urgently needed. This work should be done by human rights institutions not by the WTO. Additionally, countries must be able to exert the right to restrict their agricultural trade if the right to food is violated and if liberalization endangers small producers. Countries must have the right to choose the adequate mix of policies to live up to their human rights obligations, including the right to adequate food.

Has the Code of Conduct on the Right to Adequate Food received the attention it deserves?

The idea of developing an International Code of Conduct on the Human Right to Adequate Food originated during the preparation of the World Food Summit in 1996. At that time, several states and many NGOs were dissatisfied with the preparatory documents for the Summit. The idea of focusing more strongly on the right to adequate food and of devoting a specific chapter in the Plan of Action (Objective 7.4) to its implementation was raised by Latin American countries. The idea became one of their main lobbying points during the Summit. The Code was put forward as one of the two key demands of the plenary of the parallel NGO Summit in Rome. A few NGOs were mandated to formulate the text of the Code in the course of 1997 and to have it discussed in an international NGO conference. A draft Code of Conduct has been available since September 1997.

During the World Food Summit the demand for a Code of Conduct was included in Objective 7.4 of the Plan of Action with the formulation: "voluntary guidelines for food security for all" can be developed to better implement the right to adequate food. The push for the Code of Conduct was, and is, therefore, a push for a new legal instrument to give the final documents of the WFS more strength. It argues that the implementation and promotion of the right to adequate food must become a central objective of all states in order to put an end to hunger and malnutrition. The drafting group for the Code of Conduct was sure that while the right to adequate food is firmly established as a fundamental right, it needed to be further elaborated to better ensure its implementation.

During the CFS meeting in May 2001 the proposal to develop such a Code was included in the current draft list of the topics to be discussed at the WFS:*fyl* event. Several countries declared their full support to this initiative during a preparatory conference at FAO in November 2001. The NGOs present openly demanded that the WFS:*fyl* take the decision to further develop the Code of Conduct on the Right to Adequate Food. The Rome Declaration and the Plan of Action have, therefore, only laid the foundations for international work that allows for a strengthened implementation of the right to food. Yet more lobbying and advocacy work is needed to get states to join the drafting process towards this Code of Conduct. This is a challenge for the WFS:*fyl*.

What has the international community done since 1996 to implement the right to adequate food?

The follow-up process concerning the right to food had a successful start. Together with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), FAO organized three expert consultations on the right to adequate food to better clarify the content and to identify new means to implement it. The International Code of Conduct on the Right to Adequate Food was one of the important implementation instruments discussed. So far, the follow-up process successfully defined this right and the related state obligations that flow from it. The second step, i.e. a better implementation process of that right, has to be started now. The right to food concept should also be introduced in the development of poverty reduction strategy processes (PRSPs), which the World Bank is currently developing in the highly-indebted poor countries.

The right to food concept should also be introduced in the development of poverty reduction strategy processes

How far has the international community gone in fostering the needed political will to fight hunger and malnutrition?

Heads of state were criticized in 1996 for adopting the goal of halving the number of hungry by only 2015. Five years later it is obvious that even this modest goal will not be achieved. FAO tells us there has been some success (slightly reduced numbers underfed in the face of population growth), but now the goal seems less and less realistic. The attitude of many countries attending the recent CFS meetings cannot be characterized as overly enthusiastic. On the one hand, many governments seem to have summit fatigue with all UN Summits of the 90s having their follow-up conferences. The Rome + 5 Summit was given a somewhat different name to help overcome this sentiment. On the other hand, most governments expect that the follow-up summit will not be used to impose new commitments or to create more financial burdens. They will be happy if the urgency to implement the earlier commitments more efficiently is simply reinforced in June. So if the Summit is to become a success, it will be up to civil society to challenge slow and often unwilling governments, and to put the needed political pressure behind the process to resolve constraints to achieving real results.

After five years of implementation of the Plan of Action the results are not encouraging. Governments are starting to recognize that the pace is too slow. The official preparatory process for the WFS:*fyl* has identified two main issues for the agenda in

June: fostering the needed political will to fight hunger and mobilizing resources. The FAO secretariat prepared background documents on these two themes for the CFS last spring and invited comments from NGOs and states (excerpts appear on page 15). We can expect to see revisions shortly. The output of the June summit should be a short and concise political resolution of only a few pages.

States have already started to collect ideas and to work on content. The resolution and the process in the next few months and the Summit itself will focus on these two main issues.

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Of hopes and frustrations

Comments from NGOs and civil society organizations involved in the WFS:*fyl* preparation process

The heads of the three UN food-related organizations (FAO, IFAD and WFP) recently expressed their concern over the slow rate of reduction of the number of hungry people in the world since the World Food Summit in 1996. At the present rate, the goal of halving malnutrition by 2015 will only be reached in some 60 years. In the eyes of civil society, these numbers are not cold statistics. They represent real people who have names, families and dreams. Their precarious survival is the vivid proof of our *collective* failure to fulfill our obligation to respect, protect, promote and realize their human right to adequate food and nutrition. They are the millions (billions even) of victims of relentless violations of human rights.

Several UN reports coming from different quarters have warned us of the possible negative impacts of continued hunger on economic and political stability around the world as well as of the sustainability of the food system overall. They have also pointed to the need for more concerted actions to guarantee substantial reductions in hunger and poverty rates. Calls have been made for strong partnerships between governments and all relevant social actors. These partnerships are seen as the only way to reach the goals. They would enable a sustainable democratic process of community empowerment.

It seems clear that we are failing the test of putting economic and social development at the service of humankind as a stated goal of promoting human rights and development. In addition, we have yet to put effective strategies into practice. Organizations like the IMF and the WTO have been resistant to working decisively with the UN towards this common goal.

The international system is rife with glaring contradictions among intergovernmental organizations.

This reflects not only their different governance mechanisms, but also the different interests which guide and control them. As such, the UN system reflects the internal contradictions of its member governments which themselves often defend contradictory positions in different international fora. This is how civil society assesses the UN and how it explains the difficulties the UN has in coordinating its work both at international and national level.

The ACC/SCN, for instance, has contributed significantly to more coordinated actions in the nutrition field and has facilitated civil society's participation in its discussions. However, it could do much more to integrate its work with that of the ACC Network on Food Security and Rural Development. Another example is the lack of integration of follow-up activities to the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN) with those of the WFS.

The WFS:*fyl* is the opportunity (hopefully not missed) to combine all our efforts to date and to bring more sharply into focus the very concrete nutritional and human consequences of the recent economic developments. This is the only way to propose a sensible and sustainable course of action.

Civil society warned that the Uruguay Round as well as structural adjustment programmes in developing countries were harbingers of grim consequences in terms of household food security. Can the WFS:*fyl*, with all its assembled leaders, counteract the ominous consequences of the worldwide implementation of a liberalization model of international trade that is inequitable? Can the WFS:*fyl* dismantle national food security policies that have led to further rural exodus and social exclusion?

Not by accident, over the last few years, have food-related civil society organizations (CSOs) and movements progressively shifted their attention to the WTO forum. Some believe that the fate of people's food and nutritional security is sealed

there. In this context, FAO has been weakened in the eyes of many CSOs. This is because FAO is perceived as being out of the loop of influence to fulfil its mission of promoting and protecting food security of people in the international scene. The call on FAO made by the Global Forum on Food Sovereignty (see p 40) to re-establish its mission and responsibility to coordinate the food security effort in the international sphere is symptomatic of this.

The postponement of WFS:*fyl* to mid 2002 gives us an opportunity not to be missed to correct our course and to position CSOs in a more protagonist role in the updating of national and regional reports for the event. It also gives us an opportunity to concretely build on the interfaces of the WFS follow-up with the ICN and its National Plans of Action for Nutrition with the Earth Summit and with the upcoming UN General Assembly Special Session on Children.

We are all in the same boat. We must take up the challenge and window of opportunity to assess existing means to promote food and nutrition security and to squarely place them in the context of human rights. FAO should take the lead in this effort. If not, the global community may have to set up a new intersectoral governance mechanism capable of bringing together all relevant actors to tackle the real underlying and basic causes of food insecurity, malnutrition, hunger and poverty.

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The International Partners for Sustainable Agriculture is interested in food, nutrition, land and sustainable agriculture. These issues need to be addressed simultaneously to resolve problems of food insecurity. It is a struggle to get needed increased attention to these issues and to co-ordinate better with the various single-issue CSOs as well as with the specialized UN agencies that work in the area of food insecurity.

We have had good collaboration with FAO, but it takes constant effort to sustain this collaboration at an effective level. Our experience has been that once NGO representatives leave Rome, it is easy for them to go back to the old ways of working and to forget the commitments made.

In our joint work with the UN agencies, the perspectives of each group have been clarified to a degree. This has enriched everyone's understanding of decision-making processes in key institutions. We have learned that CSOs and UN agencies cannot be lumped together in a homogenous grouping. Because the WFS has a mandate from governments, NGOs have managed to have an official "seat at their table". This gives NGOs and CSOs a chance to speak up and be heard during the debate, rather than at the end of the day as a token contribution.

FAO is mandated to work with accredited NGOs and to engage in a multi-stakeholder dialogue with them as well as with governments. This has created an open arena in which to raise issues and concerns. The issues addressed so far have been of key significance to advance the cause of food, land and agriculture. The rescheduled WFS:*fyl* will be preceded by the Committee on World Food Security and five regional conferences between January and June 2002. It is up to all of us to make the best of this opportunity and to further link the four issues in our advocacy and lobbying. Although some institutions increasingly recognize the need for linkages, they are often unable or unwilling to address them head on.

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Participation of civil society in the WFS:*fyl* process has to be assessed from the perspective of NGOs themselves. Even if most of NGOs working in the food security area pay attention to all that happens in the most active international organisations, foremost among them the WTO, their interest in what happens at FAO is limited, except in key situations. This was the case during the World Food Summit. However, WFS follow-up by the non-governmental sector, especially during the World Food Security Committee meetings, was not optimal.

Accredited CSOs are of two kinds: one group is represented by international organizations with a permanent representative in Rome. Representatives based in Rome are often not very specialised in food security issues. The other group is represented by some very specialised and active food and agriculture NGOs/CSOs. This second group is small and those based in the South generally have no means to finance their travel and stay in Rome. It is very difficult to raise funds to cover participation

of organizations from the South or from transition countries.

Since 1996, co-operation between FAO and NGOs/CSOs has improved, especially with the organizations of the second group. In particular

- there have been official joint meetings and independent consultations between FAO and these NGOs/CSOs in advance of global and regional meetings,
- there have been opportunities for these specialized organizations to present their positions at official meetings as full partners rather than as observers, and
- FAO has implemented a new policy of co-operation with the NGOs/CSOs sector.

Undoubtedly there has been progress, but more needs to be achieved. Cooperation with member governments of FAO needs to be strengthened. Member governments have been far less responsive on the whole. One factor that does not contribute to success in this area is the lack of consistent interest from NGOs/CSOs themselves in follow-up to the Summit Plan of Action. Follow-up at the national level is a critical element; each organization should be in touch with its respective government. In this regard, should NGOs/CSOs look to the countries of the European Union for examples of success in this arena? This is an open question.

The range of opportunities for action is greater today than five years ago. NGOs/CSOs now need to mobilize their constituencies more forcefully on food and agriculture issues. They need to keep up their dialogue with peasants, with governments and with UN specialized agencies.

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A lack of political will to address the most difficult issues and to focus primarily on the most disadvantaged groups is evident in the fact that, in spite of studies showing an alarming impact of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) on food security, no revision of the trade policy aspects of the Summit Plan of Action is foreseen on the WFS:*fyl* agenda. The historical chance to influence the ongoing Agreement negotiations is basically being given away.

Since 1996, a small number of large corporations have intensified their domination of global

agricultural markets. Patents and genetically-modified organisms (GMOs) have accounted for much of their growth. Against a background of consumer protests in many countries, documented economic, environmental and health risks of GMOs and consumers' readiness to pay premium prices for non-GMOs, research, development and production of GMOs continues to increase. "Feeding the South" is very often the reason given by proponents of GMOs. GMO genes have been detected in fields where they were not even sown. GMO contamination reduces choice. A GMO contamination case in Canada showed that corporations will take farmers to court to retrieve their patented genetic material (in this case in canola seed) even though it cannot be shown how the material got into the fields.

Civil society organizations in the South largely oppose the GMO solution to the hunger problem. Genetic use restriction technologies, or GURTs, developed since 1996 (like the terminator technology) should be banned internationally. Voluntary renunciations by some corporations will not be sustainable if the patent-owning corporations merge with others or sell off parts of their assets, something that is now happening at an increasing pace.

The WFS:*fyl* event should adopt a ban on GURTs in order to safeguard food sovereignty and food security for the poor.

Since 1996, the issue of universal access to genetic resources has regressed as more and more patents limit access to these resources in an increasing number of countries. The Convention on Biological Diversity has placed genetic resources under national sovereignty; before this, they were considered a heritage of humankind. The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources adopted unanimously in November 2001 by FAO members (the USA and Japan abstained) could have mitigated these effects much earlier. However, several countries delayed the proceedings by insisting on provisions aimed at limiting access. Implementation of the new Treaty depends on the willingness of parties to a) allow the free exchange of agricultural genetic resources and delete the provisions of Intellectual Property Rights on these resources, and b) increase the number of crops covered by the Treaty.

The related issue of sharing the benefits of commercial use of plant genetic resources will have a tremendous impact on food security. Optimism among those supporting these issues increased when in early November 2001 a letter from US Majority Leader Tom Daschle asked the US State Department to oppose any provisions that limit

...should NGOs/CSOs look to the countries of the European Union for examples of success ...
This is an open question

farmers' rights. Senator Daschle's letter did not change the wording of the Treaty, but it helped to instil optimism.

So far, the WFS:*fyl* draft Declaration makes no reference whatsoever to genetic resources for food and agriculture. FAO members should now use the opportunity to confirm the objectives of the Treaty and to push for its ratification and implementation.

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While in some countries there is coordination among civil society organizations around the issue of food security, the overall picture is one of weakness and fragmentation. In all truth, there is no evidence of organized national campaigns in support of the implementation of the WFS Plan of Action. One thing missing is an expression of a strong political will of society at large, and civil society organizations as a collective, to do what is needed to ensure food security for all.

Greater coordination, new partnerships and concrete plans of action among civil society organizations are needed to overcome this situation. Some even talk of the need for a whole new social contract. For this we need to facilitate encounters that can consolidate new relationships between social and political activists and make them converge into a broad process of social transformation. But beware, civil society organizations also require some oversight to ensure they play the social function required of them. This is because a devolution of power to the grassroots is a necessary, but not sufficient, condition for local processes of collective empowerment to flourish. There is a risk of decision-making power being appropriated by local elites.

Additionally, new forms of partnership have to be fostered between:

- civil society organizations and the state. We have to be clear: civil society is not opposed to the state, it only demands to interact with it on equal terms.
- civil society and communities. People who face pressing immediate needs do indeed have the time and energy to contribute to development provided the new social contract opens the space they perceive is needed for their legitimate claims to be heard. The lack of interest in agricultural activities is worrying, though, in particular amongst the young.

Ultimately, achieving freedom from hunger depends on creating opportunities for effective action

and on making individual and collective choices within the space created by these opportunities. Thus, the importance of local collective processes and actions to empower all stakeholders—especially women.

We need to educate elected officials and members of civil society on the elements of the new social contract and its opportunities. The establishment of private non-profit mechanisms to strengthen these local capacities has been proposed.

SID (2001) *From aid to community empowerment: food security as a political project.* www.sidint.org/publications.htm

Elena Mancusi-Materi, Society for International Development □

The WFS and its follow-up is seen by Canadian NGOs as both a symbolic and a substantive process. The symbolism of an international process to address hunger in a world of plenty is both hopeful and powerful. Canadians generally understand the symbolism and support the WFS goals. Canadian NGOs, therefore, joined the public debate during and since the Summit, in part reflecting Canadian politicians', the media's and the public's genuine interest in discussing the issue and also Canada's role in reaching the Summit goals.

The substantive process has been frustrating though, both nationally and internationally. In Canada, there seems to be a dysfunctional mismatch between the task at hand and the tools proposed. In Canada, it is the Ministry of Agriculture that has the lead role in Summit follow-up, but its ability to influence domestic social policy, official development assistance policy and the national budget is minimal. On the other hand, FAO clearly has expertise in the area of food and agriculture, but has had little authority to lead a major international campaign or process aimed at significantly reducing hunger in its many dimensions. Some Canadian government officials have been committed to the Summit follow-up and cooperation with NGOs. This is hopeful and has strengthened Canadian NGOs' commitment to the Summit follow-up process. Their efforts have focused on seeking greater accountability to the pledges made by both the Canadian government and Canadian civil society.

We see our challenge as one to find ways to push the substantive process: to use the force of our constituency (representing the public interest in our country) to change the major stakeholders' (governments, the IMF, the World Bank and the WTO) political will to more decisively address hunger and poverty worldwide. That is how we under-

stand the tool matching the job, and that is why the debate is sometimes hopeful and sometimes just plain frustrating.

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At the dawn of the new millennium, with all its new wealth, knowledge and technology base, it is critical we take an honest and hard look at the hunger and food security situation of the poorest in India. The poor continue to suffer and to be marginalized even while Indian government commitments are made in global UN conferences that reaffirm the fundamental human rights of the poor and their access to adequate food.

A 1996-97 survey carried out by the National Institute for Nutrition, published just two years ago, revealed the magnitude of the nutrition problem in comparison with earlier surveys in the country. About one half (48%) of households have chronic energy deficiency while 57% of preschool children are stunted. In two decades the proportion of well-nourished preschool children increased from 5.9 to 8.9% only. There are disturbing trends in protein, energy, iron and calcium intake in many segments of the population. Consumption of cereals, millets and pulses in all states is declining in some vulnerable groups while intake of milk, milk products, sugar and green leafy vegetables is also inadequate. During the past five years the infant mortality rate in ten states has stagnated or even worsened. The proportion of low birthweight babies continues to be a high, at 30%.

However, the most significant finding is that nutrition and food security is severely compromised by the prevailing economic development policies. In ten years, the proportion of landless households increased from 30 to 41%. There has been a fragmentation of landholding size that contributes to increased food insecurity. Prices of some agricultural commodities crashed causing distress among poor farmers. The average monthly per capita income increased by the equivalent of only approximately 50 pence at constant prices. Other sources report an increase in suicides, indebtedness, unemployment and migration. Lack of money causes delayed marriages, mass marriages, pawning of household assets and impoverishment. The international community must address the root causes of poverty and hunger, namely social, economic and political injustice.

Broader people-centred policies, better access to markets, a lifting of agricultural subsidies in the North and greater social security in the South, removing barriers to developing countries` interna-

tional trade, halting the negative effects of globalization and trade liberalisation—these are all needed to reverse the negative social effects we are seeing, including the adverse nutritional effects. Public distribution systems which make essential food grains available to people are now forced to increase prices and reduce coverage rather than help increase equity and act as genuine safety nets.

Development strategies which have changed agricultural practices in India deplete the soil of micronutrients. In the meantime, pharmaceutical houses aggressively market vitamins and minerals and influence government agencies to introduce them in mass-based health programmes for women and children. Genetically modified crops and foods are being quietly introduced as well.

The role of the state is being eroded. Between 1990 and 2000, in Karnataka, expenditures on nutrition interventions declined 4.3% a year (in real terms) adversely affecting nutrition support services. World Bank loans are negotiated for health and nutrition programmes while structural adjustment and global trade agreements increase economic vulnerability and food insecurity of a large majority.

In this context, the Indian Peoples Health Charter adopted by a representative countrywide group in a National Health Assembly in Calcutta in December 2000, expressed concerns and made concrete demands regarding agriculture, trade, pricing and public health. The global Peoples Charter for Health adopted by the Peoples Health Assembly in Dhaka in December 2000 raised similar concerns. A worldwide movement is now being organized to systematically follow-up on these issues.

At the beginning of 2002 and over five years after the WFS, there are more unanswered questions than there are answers. Where exactly are we in relation to the 1996 Plan of Action? Where do we see economic and social rights taking central stage in the struggle against hunger and malnutrition? What is being done to address the root causes of malnutrition and the ineffectiveness of nutrition programmes currently implemented? What is the international community doing to address the added threats posed by the HIV/AIDS pandemic food security of poor people? Can collective peoples rights (as much as individual human rights) and social accountability of the big players be put squarely on the agenda? These are urgent issues for a more assertive civil society.

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The Power of Civil Society Advocacy

The scale and speed with which debt has been reduced for Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPCs) at a time when the formal stance of most developed country governments has been towards a reduction in aid is, to a very large extent, attributable to the effectiveness of the advocacy campaign led and orchestrated by the Jubilee 2000 Coalition.

Amongst the reasons for the success of Jubilee 2000 are:

- ❑ Clear and simply stated, relentlessly reiterated time-bound goals: a tight deadline loaded with symbolism;
- ❑ Appeal to people's shared sense of justice, regardless of religion, race, politics or wealth;
- ❑ Construction of a loose coalition of civil society organizations (including NGOs, religious groups, civic organizations, parliamentarians), many of which had extensive existing networks;
- ❑ Maximum use of media and state-of-the-art information and communication technology to complement traditional methods (e.g., religious services, televised concerts, demonstrations) in quickly mobilizing widespread and highly visible worldwide popular support;
- ❑ High quality research and monitoring, leading to the development of well articulated messages (e.g. "too little, too late");
- ❑ Targeting of key leaders worldwide to enlist their support by providing an assurance of popular backing;
- ❑ Focus on major decision-making events, particularly G-8 Summits, ensuring that debt issues remain high on the agenda and that individual leaders are accountable for adhering to their commitments.

Ending hunger in the world is a cause which could provide the driving force for an equally effective international movement driven by civil society. The costs of not eradicating hunger are staggering. A failure to address the problems of hunger and malnutrition frontally is likely to frustrate the achievement of the now well accepted goal of poverty alleviation. Yet eradicating hunger has not been formally singled out either in the International Development Goals or as an objective for Poverty Reduction Strategy Processes (PRSPs) thus failing to address hunger and malnutrition as issues on their own right. The reason probably lies in the fact that hunger is an extreme instance of market failure and governments committed to neoliberal policies fail to accept that that compels them to compensate for this market failure. Embarking in actions to raise poor people's income is not enough; redistributive measures (e.g. land reform and progressive taxes) are needed: they are less costly and can be enacted quicker. But the widespread political bias against redistributive measures has been hard to overcome: "reasons beyond our control" are a weak excuse to take any longer. What is needed is a renewed determination on the part of governments to implement the straightforward measures which they endorsed at the WFS. Fortunately, many people throughout the world are strongly committed to seeing a global society which is managed more equitably, and they are prepared to use all possible measures to make their voice heard by those in power. It comes as a natural, then, that these members of civil society should monitor the performance of governments in fulfilling their pledges at the WFS.

Committee on World Food Security of FAO (2001). *Fostering the political will to fight hunger*. 27th Session. FAO: Rome.

WFS: *fy!* The Underlying Issues The Facts

Access to food:

How much has changed for the poor since the WFS in 1996?

David Wilcock

The WFS target of halving the number of hungry people by 2015 was based on an FAO estimate of food available for human consumption at the country level. Over five years have gone by since the Summit in 1996. How is the world community doing in meeting this ambitious target? The short answer is: not so well, but there is huge variation from one region to another. Achievements against the global target are monitored by FAO, and a database is maintained in Rome for this purpose. The baseline estimate of the number of people with insufficient access to adequate food in 99 developing countries with populations greater than one million in the period 1990-92 was 816m. FAO's latest three-year average estimate is 777m in 1997-99.

According to latest estimates only about one third of the countries tracked actually recorded a decline in the *number* of underfed since the WFS. These declines amounted to 98m people no longer counted as hungry. However, in countries with estimated increases in the number of underfed, these increases amounted to 58m people. The net reduction (1991 to 1998) for the developing world is approximately 40m people. At this rate of decline, it

will take 60 more years to achieve the WFS target of reducing the number of hungry to about 400m, rather than the 14 years left until the 2015 deadline.

If we look at the *percentage* of the population estimated to be underfed, the same developing countries together have moved from 37% in 1969-71 to 20% in 1990-92 and to 17% in 1997-99. Changes in the proportion of underfed provide a measure of performance that is independent of the influence of population growth. During the 90s, some 58 of the 99 developing countries reduced the percentage underfed. However, in 18 of these countries the fall coincided with a rise in absolute numbers. In short, the decrease in the proportion underfed in these countries has not been sufficient to offset the effect of population growth. India is a case in point: from 1991-98, the estimated percentage underfed declined from 25 to 23% but the number rose by 11m, owing to rapid population growth. The table (below) provides information on changes in numbers and proportions by region and sub-region.

The largest reductions in numbers is seen in the East Asian region, which includes China. Per capita dietary energy supply increased in China from

Changes in numbers and proportions underfed by region in the 90s

Region	Number of countries	Total population in 1997-99, millions	Change in number and prevalence underfed in total population, 1990-92 to 1997-99		Current estimate of number underfed, millions
			Millions	%	
East Asia	6	1,336	- 71	- 6 %	128
SE Asia	8	502	- 12	- 4	66
South America	12	336	- 9	- 4	33
West Africa	14	211	- 6	- 5	32
North Africa	5	140	+ 1	0	6
Southern Africa	11	85	+ 3	- 5	37
Cent. Am. & Carib.	12	161	+ 4	+ 1	20
Near East	11	239	+ 7	+ 1	27
East Africa	9	199	+12	- 1	86
South Asia	5	1,283	+14	- 2	303
Central Africa	6	78	+17	+15	40
<i>Total Countries</i>	99	4,565	- 40	- 3 %	777

Source: FAO (2001) *State of Food Insecurity in the World*. FAO: Rome.

2710 kcal to 3040 kcal during the 90s, translating into 76m fewer people underfed. This occurred during a period of rapid and relatively equitable aggregate economic growth in China. In the same region, hunger actually increased in the DPR Korea from 3.4m to 8.8m over a similar period. South Asia (comprising Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) experienced a fall in the proportion underfed; however, the rate of improvement was insufficient to affect overall numbers which rose to 303m. Central Africa recorded an increase in both numbers and percentages. Most of the increase of 17m came from the Democratic Republic of the Congo which has suffered from war and chaos over the entire time period.

Over the past decade the total number of chronically underfed in the developing world has fallen by about 40m. However, the average rate of decline has continued to slow, reaching only 6m per year, compared with 8m reported by FAO in 1999. Consequently, the annual reduction required to reach the target by 2015 has grown from 20 to 22m people per year. The gap is widening.

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Snapshots from the Committee on World Food Security of FAO, 27th session, May 2001

In 1998, some 792m people in developing countries (18% of their population) and 34m in the developed world remained chronically hungry. Further, there was widespread evidence of land degradation and inequity in access to food, water and technology. FAO is concerned that chronic hunger is perceived as less urgent a problem than other social maladies the world over. Few countries have approached the issue of chronic hunger with the determination and commitment required to achieve the WFS goal. There are signs of public indifference and of wavering commitment reflected in a reduction in resources being made available to fight hunger. Food security is linked to international fair trade practices. Globalisation has had major repercussions on the livelihoods and food security of farming populations worldwide. It has raised the risk of marginalization of countries making them uncompetitive in world markets rife with trade barriers (tariffs, quotas) and hampering them in attracting investments. Moreover, countries are now more vulnerable to external shocks. Reductions in market protection on the part of developed countries and in restrictions on the international movement of labour could do much for the achievement of the WFS goal.

A careful examination of the adequacy of current institutional arrangements to address major global challenges to food security is needed to prevent crises and to react with speed and on the scale required to limit the damage already being done. This is not easy in the face of the progressive ratcheting down of the resources available internationally for better and more timely responses. To reach food security, we need the world to mobilize public/private and internal/external resources towards strengthening the productivity and productive capacity of the agricultural sector. Most resources are traditionally mobilized by the farmers themselves provided the incentives are right and the government provides the needed infrastructure. Thus government expenditure remains indispensable. But, in reality, public expenditures on agriculture are lower in the countries with the highest levels of malnutrition. The cost of providing just the food required for those undernourished to be fed at a minimally adequate level has been estimated at around \$13 per capita per year, for 800m persons. This means \$10b per year. Overall investments in agriculture and supporting the infrastructure and services needed to meet the WFS objective to halve malnutrition by 2015, are estimated at \$180b per year; the current levels of investment fall short by some \$30b/yr. To help 80 of the most food insecure countries investments are needed in the order of \$1.4b/yr (+/- \$17m per country). Less than one fifth of this is available now.

Reports of the Committee on World Food Security are available on FAO's website, www.fao.org

For we should not forget: follow-up to the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN)

Guy Nantel

It has been almost a decade since the International Conference on Nutrition in Rome. It is appropriate to look back and see if the momentum created by this key event is still alive today. Has the ICN achieved its objective of keeping nutrition at the forefront on the development agenda?

Records at FAO show that as of August 2001, 121 countries had National Plans of Action on Nutrition (NPANs) that were either in advanced draft form or considered final. Among the final ones, some have been officially adopted by the concerned government. However, FAO does not have their exact number because there is no reporting requirement to that effect. The number of countries with NPANs in each region is given below. In addition, some countries, such as certain Pacific Islands and Caribbean countries, with no NPANs are now formulating theirs.

	<i>countries</i>
Africa	39
Near East	12
Asia and the Pacific	27
North America and Europe	14
Latin America and the Caribbean	31

The Food and Nutrition Division at FAO in Rome does not follow up on progress in the development and implementation of NPANs. This idea was envisaged after the December 1994 deadline when all countries were expected to have finalised their NPANs. It was ultimately rejected. This would have been a resource-intensive process without any assurance that it would significantly improve implementation.

Judgement as to what may be considered a "final" NPAN is difficult, because NPANs vary considerably and do not lend themselves to easy comparison. Situations, priorities and hence strategies to be adopted are understandably very different from one country to another. Some countries have officially adopted their plan of action, but may be weak on implementation. Others may only have a draft document, and this draft plan is actively implemented. Some countries are developing district or provincial plans. Still others are working on their third national plan update.

Another problem which has complicated record

keeping has been that, in some countries, NPANs have been developed by the health sector without linking actions to agriculture. In others, NPANs centre around food security and agriculture without any links to health. Final documents may thus be sent to either WHO or FAO so that each agency ends up with a different collection. In the past, occasional efforts have been made to match WHO and FAO records. However, the situation is constantly changing. Both agencies continuously receive new or updated plans and draft plans.

Over the last three years WHO has organized new rounds of joint WHO/FAO follow-up workshops. Workshops were held in Kuala Lumpur for the Western Pacific region in November 1999, in New Delhi for South Asia in December 1999, in Ouagadougou for Francophone African countries in October 2000, in Damascus for the Eastern Mediterranean region in November 2000, and in Harare for Anglophone African countries in March 2001.

In preparation for the workshops, WHO regional offices sent questionnaires to member countries to enquire about the status of the formulation and implementation of NPANs. Unfortunately, the questionnaires varied from one region to the other so that the results were not readily comparable. However, the questionnaires did stimulate sound country preparations for the workshops.

The most important outcome of the ICN follow-up workshops has been heightened awareness of the impediments to progress in improving the nutritional status of populations. Each workshop made recommendations to deal with these impediments. Not surprisingly, there were many similar recommendations from the different regions. The main messages that emerged were:

- Effective inter-sectoral coordinating mechanisms are needed at all levels, reaching from the community to the central government, with clear definitions of each sector's area of responsibility for action.
- Community-based participatory assessment, analysis and action are key for the implementation of NPANs. Community ownership and empowerment (beneficiary-driven demand) are a must for successful implementation and sustainability.
- Increasing national budgetary resources for nutrition improvement, and allocating these resources wisely, are as important as the mobilisation of addi-

tional support from outside sources.

- There is a need to intensify advocacy for nutrition improvement at all levels, specifically aimed at decision-makers, development planners and those who control resources.
- Opportunities have to be seized to ensure that nutrition becomes an important component and an outcome indicator of relevant development programmes such as those for poverty alleviation, roll-back malaria, integrated management of childhood diseases and prevention and control of HIV/AIDS.
- Representatives from civil society, academic institutions, NGOs and private sector should all be involved in the planning and implementation of nutrition improvement programmes.

In the end, the success of a national plan for nutrition should best be assessed on the basis of their impact on the nutritional status of a country's population, and not on the document itself. After all, these are plans for *action* and it is the success of such *actions* that really counts.

To come back to the initial question as to whether the ICN process is still alive today, the answer must be yes, because the NPANs remain important resource documents for nutrition projects and programmes. They have also been revived in the context of the World Food Summit process because NPANs can be integrated to become national plans of action for food security and nutrition. In

this context, FAO's Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Mapping System (or FIVIMS) initiative provides a base for monitoring country situations.

ICN follow-up workshops may have exhausted their capacity to further stimulate and accelerate progress. They risk becoming routine. Yet, at the WFS world leaders recommitted themselves to reduce hunger by 20m people yearly. Due to a slowdown in the rate of reduction this figure has been revised upwards. To accelerate progress, it is now imperative to improve the performance of NPAN implementation strategies. Key to this will be stimulating extensive community mobilization. Ultimately, beneficiaries have to develop their capacity for self-help and communities need to become self-reliant. Without long-term and clearly-articulated political support for the expressed needs of communities, it is doubtful that community-based initiatives can become truly sustainable. Therefore, to achieve the goals of the ICN and the WFS and to effectively address priority issues, greater political support will need to be given to policies that will effectively foster community mobilization and capacity development.

Guy Nantel, Senior Nutrition Officer, Food and Nutrition Division, FAO, Rome. guy.nantel@fao.org □

Defining energy requirements

FAO, together with WHO and the UNU, convened an expert consultation on energy requirements in November 2001 in Rome. The consultation was chaired by Eileen Kennedy. One outcome of the consultation is an updated definition of requirement. The experts felt that it was necessary to modify the definition of requirement used in the 1985 report *Energy and Protein Requirements* (WHO Technical Report Series no. 724) in several ways. The word "individual" will be removed from the new definition because requirements are for population groups and not individuals. The term "economically and socially" will also be removed. Many women, particularly those in developing societies, expend large amounts of energy on activities which would not be traditionally defined or thought of in terms of economic activity. The new definition will read:

"Energy requirement is the amount of food energy needed to balance energy expenditure in order to maintain body size, body composition and level of necessary and desirable physical activity, consistent with long-term good health. This includes the energy needs for optimal growth and development in children, and the deposition of tissue or secretion of milk during pregnancy and lactation consistent with good health. The recommended level of energy intake for a population is the mean energy requirement of the individuals who constitute that group."

Source: Summary of recommendations from the Expert Consultation on Energy Requirements (mimeo).

WFS: *fy!* The Underlying Issues The Opinions

A view from a respected civil servant

It was 27 years ago when, for the first time, world leaders accepted the collective responsibility of the international community to abolish hunger and malnutrition within a decade (Rome World Food Conference, 1974). The promising ideas of the 70s (like full employment, food security, small farmer agriculture, income distribution, education, housing and drinking water) were then relegated in priority and liberalisation and privatisation were presented as the panacea for all economic ills. The role of state was condemned as the source of all problems and the market was the main instrument for reviving growth which, if sustained, was going to take care of all the social problems. The age of globalization had arrived. But it was not very successful in reducing poverty, so, 27 years later, we need a new development paradigm which recognizes the role of the state in protecting the rights of the weaker and poorer segments of the population and in meets their basic needs.

We have to recognize that social problems are not simply *inevitable costs* of structural adjustment and that *sustainable development* does not just mean *development with environment*. It cannot be financed merely from residual financial resources that the adjustment process may spare using the standardized *one size fits all* policies advocated by the IMF that restrict demand and thereby increase poverty and unemployment. In the existing policy framework, as for example spelled out in several national poverty reduction strategies under the auspices of the World Bank/IMF, there is no fiscal space for implementing truly pro-agriculture and pro-poor policies. The global trading and financial system is working against the longer-term interest of low-income countries and their poor people. WTO policies not only reduce the share of developing countries in global agricultural trade, but also weaken their incentive system for increasing domestic production.

ODA only partly compensates for the inequities of the global system. If by some miracle, the entire amount of \$61b ODA could directly reach the 1.2b very poor people, it will add only \$50 per year to their incomes or the paltry sum of \$4 per month. In practice of course, less than 10% of ODA actu-

ally reaches the poor, with very limited impact on their lives. The political dimensions of globalization have shocked civil society in Europe and America into action; the size and intensity of public protests has been growing. Nevertheless, there is very little in-depth discussion of the real issues that these protestors have been raising. The basic message is that the global development crisis cannot be solved in purely market terms. The poor do not have much income, and therefore they cannot enter the market in the first place. Access to markets has always been manipulated by the powerful companies or countries, to the disadvantage of poor people and poor countries. The inherent inadequacies of an unregulated market system are fully understood in the more advanced societies. That is why they have created laws and institutions against monopolies, to protect consumers and small businesses; they have developed an elaborate system of taxation and social security to protect the weak and

The global trading and financial system is working against the longer-term interest of low-income countries and their poor people

assist the poor. But at the global level, they refuse to recognize the impact of unjust or inappropriate globalization policies on the poor in the South and

evolve similar taxation or social security policies for them. We need to lay the foundation for a broad coalition of policymakers, the academic community and civil society to evolve a concept of truly sustainable development that is more meaningful for the large majority of people in developing countries and that rectifies the flow of funds for poverty reduction and food security.

Sartaj Aziz, Senator and former Agriculture Minister, Finance Minister and Foreign Minister, Pakistan □

Views from international NGOs

Bread for the World

What we need is to increase effective, poverty-focused development assistance. We also need to improve international goal-setting in three respects. We need to better integrate and coordinate goal-setting processes and measure progress. We need to estimate and agree on how much additional development assistance it would take to cut hunger in half by 2015. Finally, we need to add the cutting-hunger-in-half goal to the industrial countries' Development Assistance Commitment. Remember that nutrition programmes allow us to reduce hun-

ger more quickly than poverty alleviation programmes in general. We should agree on political strategies first and only then follow-up with serious and coordinated political organizing.

David Beckmann, President, Bread for the World.
bread@bread.org □

Oxfam GB

We see the empowerment of women, the harnessing trade for employment, income and food security and access to productive resources and employment for women as high priorities. Women are moving out of agriculture at a slower pace than men and, as a result, women's representation in the agricultural labour force in developing countries has been on the increase since 1980. The burden of investing in household food security is disproportionately borne by women. The often invisible services, investments, paid and unpaid work provided by women requires special consideration. International organizations can play a critical role in helping governments identify the menu of choices available or required. Targets that are too simplistic have misrepresented the complexity underlying food security and have even distorted policy. Political will wanes as targets are missed.

Stewart Wallis, International Director, Oxfam GB □

Views from a think tank

Globalization is something that is happening as a consequence of forces outside of the control of any country. As the probability of financial crises increases with globalization, the poor will face additional risks. Developing countries will thus need policy instruments to protect the livelihoods of their rural poor from import surges. In the current WTO agricultural negotiations, they may legitimately insist that industrialized countries first reduce the high levels of subsidization and protection of their agriculture. Deteriorating environmental conditions brought about in part by globalization may reinforce existing vicious cycles of conflict over resources, as well as humanitarian crises. It is the poor who will pay the higher price for delays in actions to protect the environment. Complaints in industrialized countries about developing countries enjoying unfair trade advantages from presumed lax environmental regulations (which, if true, would have only local effects) appear inconsequential when compared to the larger responsibilities of rich countries in shaping global environmental conditions that adversely affect some of the poorest of the planet. Developing countries are being told

time and again to put their houses in order, but it is difficult to maintain a well-kept house in a neighbourhood in turmoil—and the shape of that neighbourhood is basically defined by industrialized countries.

Eugenio Diaz-Bonilla, Research Fellow, IFPRI.
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Myths are seductive. When the facts make a compelling case for action, myths must be buried, because myths stifle our collective appetite for action. We read that numbers of malnourished preschool children are going down. Maybe, but we cannot be so sure. For a large number of countries there are no decent data and we have to rely on guesswork. Looking only at countries for which there are good data on trends, a decidedly less rosy picture emerges. Malnutrition is going down only in 31 out of the 58 developing countries that have good data over time. The remaining 27 countries are witness to growing numbers of wasted and stunted children. Overall, for these 58 countries, the number of malnourished children has dropped from 137 million in the 80s to 131 million in the 90s. At that rate, goals for halving the number of malnourished children will only be accomplished by 2094.

The burden of investing in household food security is disproportionately borne by women.

Private markets fail parents who want to invest in the nutrition of their children. The economic costs of malnutrition may exceed 3.5% of GDP. Is this loss a big deal? In the absence of malnutrition, after ten years, GDP would be 41% higher than it will be with malnutrition. After twenty years, it would be double. Give me a good reason why policymakers are not asked *Are the children growing?* as opposed to *Is the economy growing?* Seattle? we need to stop the violence and retain the energy, sustaining it and channelling it with solid empirical evidence that explodes myths and liberates action. We need to become better activists. A billion seconds ago, there were one billion fewer malnourished infants on the planet. Thing about it, one malnourished infant per second. We need to do much better in the next billion seconds.

Lawrence Haddad, Director, Food Consumption and Nutrition Division, IFPRI. l.haddad@cgiar.org □

A view from a transnational corporation

What do the poor in rural areas need to increase agricultural productivity? To make agricultural productivity gains self-sustaining, private enterprise and a transition from public assistance to private enterprise in rural economies are needed. The rule of law, enforceable contracts and a stable government free of corruption are also a must. Governments need to wring out overvalued exchange rates, export taxes and domestic industrial protection that raise farm input costs. They also need to curb corruption, ensure civil order, provide broad access to risk capital and facilitate the resolution of property rights disputes, as well as to invest in human capital and physical infrastructure. Public or parastatal monopolies need to give way to entrepreneurial competition and job creation. More transparent capital markets and more progressive labour standards are required to stimulate investment and to protect against worker abuses. In some quarters, even the thought of private foreign investment seems anathema. This point of view needs rebutting. Peasant economies need to be transformed by the infusion of capital and new ideas. Eventually, self-sustaining economic development must connect with the private global marketplace. Global food and agricultural companies can help developing countries incorporate needed safety, handling and quality practices in an effort for them to gain access to developed markets. Most large companies already make it a practice to bring their *first world* standards with them.

Trade-based food security can be a critical supplement to local production. An open food system enhances food security. The world will need to double its food production and to do this will require wider access to new production technologies, including biotechnology. Knowledge-intensive agricultural systems, broadly disseminated, are the only way the world can feed all its people better. For those who work on the frontiers of feeding all people better, agricultural biotechnology is an essential tool. Today's often sterile confrontations on this need to give way to a more productive dialogue. Globalisation is raising standards for people, products and plants. Economic development creates new consumers, people with the income to translate their needs and wants into effective demand. Aid recipients eventually become consumers with purchasing power, calling forth markets that bring new choices and opportunities. Excessive inequality deserves to be disciplined, but the benefits of

economic development also need to be acknowledged. Private globalization need not be just about creating private wealth; it also can harness talents and resources to make whole communities better. The better response is not to block globalization but to channel it through the right choices.

Robbin S. Johnson, Senior Vice President, Corporate Affairs, Cargill Incorporated □

A view from a developing-country unionist

Sub-Saharan Africa is the only region in the world in which the number and percentage of children who are malnourished is expected to rise rather than fall over the next twenty years. The long-term solution to food insecurity is beyond production of additional food. It is to address rural livelihoods in general. The pastoral livelihood systems have received little attention with dwindling support from governments. This is a system that needs more attention. The rural poor have little or not access to the kind of information that will allow them to adjust their production systems thus giving them a narrow choice of options to increase their incomes. Farmers are expected to do farming using their own (meagre) resources and locate their own marketing outlets. Those who can find alternatives opt out of farming to get better opportunities in town. To develop sustainable agricultural models for fragile ecosystems, lessons should be learned from the people themselves. We have to learn more from the actors themselves as to how they have coped with risk over time. Greater involvement of people should also be encouraged in research work so as to identify gaps as people see them.

Mercy Karanja, Chief Executive, Kenya National Farmers Union. □

A view from a private foundation

We must increase the cost-effectiveness of development cooperation in agriculture and in other sectors as well. Technology has been, and will continue to be, a powerful tool for human development and poverty reduction. All responsible actors should do their best to create more political and financial support for public research.

Klaus Leisinger, Executive Director, Novartis Foundation for Sustainable Development. □

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A view from a UN organization, IFAD

To fight hunger, the lack of political will is more important than the lack of capacity and economic resources. Political will does not come from heaven, nor from summits or conferences. It is driven by pressure from below and must derive from those who are poor and hungry. To build up this pressure, the poor must organise themselves and build institutions that serve them. It is the *hungry* who have the need and the will to fight hunger. There can be no sustainable answer to hunger that is not at the same time a sustainable answer to poverty. Rural poverty persists, in part because of an unresponsive policy and institutional environment in which the poor have no major influence. It is difficult to foresee a major reduction in food insecurity until such time as poor rural people exercise much greater power over the policies and institutions that are critical to them. Since the principal responsibility for food security lies in the hands of the poor, reducing hunger requires empowerment of the poor. They have to be able to develop their own institutions serving their own interests. They have to influence other institutions through hard political bargaining. Resources without empowerment are not the answer. Governments are more likely to take an active part in fighting hunger when they are under pressure from the poor.

Ultimately, poor men and women have to direct *the rules of the game*. The donor community is in a position to influence all these factors, providing the means and facilitating the dialogue between community-based organizations and governments. However, donors, like developing country governments, are not fighting hard enough and are not demonstrating the political will equal to the challenge. The words are all there, empowerment, decentralization, capacity building, good governance. But the deeds are still lacking. The reality of development cooperation has to change. It must be provided within the framework of assistance to the self-organisation of the poor. The creation of greater political accountability to the poor, and focusing resources in areas that the poor themselves consider critical for their livelihoods. The quantum leap towards millennium targets still lacks the commitment of the national and international communities.

Klemens van de Sand, Project Management Department, IFAD. □

All the above are excerpted, with permission, from discussion notes circulated during the IFPRI 2020 Conference on Sustainable Food Security for all by 2020, held in Bonn, Germany, September 2001.

A comment from civil society on the 2020 Conference and its Vision: Back to basics

At the 2020 Conference sponsored by IFPRI scientists and politicians asked what tools could effectively be used to alleviate hunger in the world. Most put their hopes in high-tech solutions and advocated modern biotechnologies. The invited audience could participate in the discussions mainly via 'digivote', a hand-held electronic device used by the German parliament. It turned out that two per cent of the several hundred participants and four per cent of the speakers were farmers. By far too few to speak of an adequate involvement of those affected.

But were the concepts advocated and presented by the think tanks of international agricultural research and policy really visionary? For instance, to whom are organizations such as IFPRI, which design strategies for worldwide food security, accountable? Is there a glimmer of hope that they, and the management of transnational corporations, can come up with a silver bullet for entire regions of the world where every day millions go to bed hungry?

NGOs from the North and the South doubt that mainstream agricultural policy is really focusing enough on small farmers. With their knowledge and experience, small farmers have the capacity that has secured food for people for many centuries and in many places. If constraints are removed and the incentives are right, they can still do so today. This potential was considered by only a few of the speakers. Many claimed that small farmers' approaches were outdated.

The mantra of the market dominated the conference. Little room was given to critical questions concerning the deregulation of trade, the fixation on high-tech solutions and the role transnationals play in the food system. Again, more technical than political solutions were offered to solve the problem of world hunger.

Today, agro-ecological approaches that are adequate to the various social, cultural and economic location-specific realities offer a good potential for food security. This know-how must be supported politically and spread by means of appropriate educational and training activities.

Forum Umwelt und Entwicklung, www.forumue.de gura@forumue.de

Point/counter-point Trilogy

Food Security: Which institutions must act?

Robert Paarlberg

with responses from Tola Atinmo and Prem Chandran John

Point:

To achieve sustainable food security for all, new actions will have to be taken by a wide range of local, national and international institutions both in the public and in the private sector. What should be the division of labor among these institutions?

The most logical division of labor between these institutions is for inter-governmental organizations (IGOs) to provide the *global* public goods needed to end hunger (e.g., open international food markets, an efficient international famine early warning system, a capacity to deliver timely international famine relief and a well-financed international agricultural research system), while local authorities and national governments provide the necessary local or national public goods. These would include internal peace, rule of law, a stable macroeconomic environment, public health services, universal public education, an adequate rural transport and power infrastructure and a national agricultural research system. Private companies will never have an incentive to provide such goods. While some international and national NGOs and CSOs may have an incentive to provide such goods, they will seldom have the financial resources or authority to do so. Profit-making companies and not-for-profit NGOs can play a valuable role once these public goods have been provided (once markets are working, once the roads have been built). However, the public goods most needed for societies to escape hunger must be provided by public sector institutions.

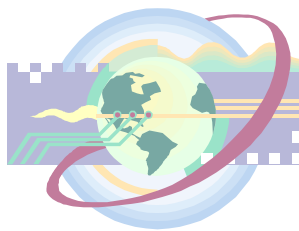
In the two regions of the developing world where hunger is still highly prevalent (South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa) the most important public goods now being under-supplied are local or national public goods, rather than global public goods. By implication, local and national governments have greater room and hence the greater obligation to improve their performance.

At the global level, IGOs are now delivering some necessary public goods with considerable suc-

cess. Negotiations conducted in the WTO have helped to keep international food markets relatively open. Organizations such as FAO have developed significant famine early warning capabilities. International food aid organizations such as the World Food Programme have a strong record in getting food to countries facing short-term emergencies (provided the governments of those countries cooperate and those countries are free of violent internal conflicts). The international agricultural research centers of the CGIAR have put a significant quantity of internationally usable agricultural research into the public domain. The supply of these global public goods is not completely adequate, but it has been enough to help most geographic regions reduce hunger dramatically. In regions where hunger remains acute, such as South Asia and Africa, global public goods deficits are less significant than public goods deficits at the local or national level.

In South Asia, hunger persists despite the availability of a dependable international food trading system. In fact, hunger persists here in part because some governments in this region have made it a policy (in the name of "self-sufficiency") not to use international food markets. The states of South Asia import only two per cent of their (inadequate) internal grain consumption from world markets. Governments in this region have also made it their policy, for years, to avoid foreign direct investments by transnational corporations. South Asia receives only about one eighteenth as much foreign direct investment as the low and middle income countries of East Asia. Given such weak connections between the region and most global markets, hunger in South Asia is hard to attribute to globalization or to some deficit in global governance.

The hunger that persists in South Asia today has origins which are primarily local. In many cases the problem traces back to low farm productivity within rural communities that are situated in non-irrigated dryland areas. These disadvantaged



farming communities have not yet found a way to make their land productive. Grain yields on non-irrigated land in India average one third the yield average on irrigated land. Non-irrigated farming in India still accounts for 67% of total cultivated area and struggles to support 40% of the country's vast population. Improving the productivity of these poor dryland farming communities will require substantially larger investments by local and national governments in agricultural research, rural infrastructure and human capital (gender-equal).

In recent decades national governments in South Asia have done a better job of delivering important public goods to their own citizens. As a consequence, rural income has increased and hunger is now finally in numerical decline. The prevalence of child malnutrition in South Asia fell from 61% in 1985 to 49% by 1995. The trends in Africa are not yet so favorable. In Sub-Saharan Africa the prevalence of adult hunger is now greater than in South Asia (34% versus 23% according to FAO) and with population growth the total number of hungry people in Sub-Saharan Africa continues to increase.

Africa's hunger problems are once again mostly local in their nature. Sub-Saharan Africa has been bypassed by many of the new forces of globalization. Whereas Africa in colonial times was deeply integrated into global commodity markets, Africa today is actually retreating from export trade. Africa's total volume of exported coffee, groundnuts, palm oil, and sugar has been shrinking. Its exports are actually smaller today than thirty years ago. Total foreign direct investment flows into Sub-Saharan Africa have also become negligible, equaling less than one percent of the developing world total. Africa does rely on imports for a slowly growing share of its total grain consumption, but many of these imports are now arranged as food aid or financed through development assistance rather than commercial export earnings. The outside world gives Africa roughly 2.8m tons in food aid and roughly \$11.3b in net official development assistance every year. Despite the availability of such global public goods, the number of hungry people in Africa continues to rise.

Hunger persists in Africa today not because of global market malfunctions, but instead because of low productivity growth within Africa's own farming sector. In Africa, food and farm production per capita is declining. This makes Africa dramatically different from the rest of the world. FAO data indicate that, between 1970 and 2000, in the developing countries as a whole, per capita food production increased by 51%, but in Sub-Saharan Africa per capita food production decreased by 9%. When it comes to ending hunger, some advocates like to ar-

gue that "food production isn't the problem". However, lagging agricultural production clearly is a problem in Africa because it translates so directly into lagging rural income growth, persistent poverty and hence persistent hunger.

Farmers in Africa have had trouble increasing their productivity mostly because of public goods deficits at the local or national level. In too many countries in Africa national governments have failed to provide essential public goods such as internal peace, rule of law, protections for individual or community property, adequate rural infrastructure (e.g., feeder roads) and sufficient investments in agricultural research. These missing public goods at the national level are holding Africans back. Farmers in Africa hesitate to invest in more productive farming techniques so long as underfunded national agricultural research and extension agencies are unable to demonstrate the promise of those techniques. They hesitate to move beyond traditional subsistence crop production to growing higher value crops so long as poor road systems and high transport costs make it impossible to purchase inputs (such as fertilizer) at a low price or sell commodities into the local market at a high price. They also hesitate if the roads are not safe from militia soldiers or bandits, or policemen demanding bribes.

When national governments fail to deliver the essential public goods necessary for domestic food security, CSOs, NGOs, and international NGOs may try to fill the gap. NGOs are good at working alongside governments, but they seldom have the ability to replace governments. NGOs are not good at keeping or restoring peace in societies divided by violent conflict, or protecting property and enforcing rule of law, or making the research and infrastructure investments needed to supply the rural poor with science-based technology options, or providing an integrated infrastructure for delivery of water, power, and rural transport. NGOs can provide important assistance in the delivery of supplemental services to the poor if governments provide a conducive environment. When national governments fail, NGOs will usually not be a sufficient answer.

To conclude, it is national governments (in South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, or elsewhere) that must now take primary responsibility for ending hunger. Hunger has been reduced rapidly in East Asia primarily through successful public goods supply actions by national governments, not through foreign aid, global governance, or a proliferation of NGO projects. Yet outsiders are not free from responsibilities. Mobilizing financial and technical resources is one thing outsiders can do. It would help if these resources were focused on local or na-

tional public goods investments rather than on simple relief (which does not solve long-term problems) or on what is sometimes called "structural adjustment." Rather than conditioning so much international assistance, lending or debt relief on the pursuit of "policy reform" (which often reforms policies only partly, or only temporarily, or not at all) the donor community should refocus on financing public investments in tangible goods, such as infrastructure, human capital, and research. And most of all, instead of cutting back on international assistance to agriculture, donor governments should increase that assistance.

These essential external financial contributions by donor governments and IGOs will not succeed without parallel actions by national governments. But wealthy outsiders will not be credible in prodding local governments to act if they continue to fail in strengthening their own tangible commitment to ending hunger, a project which should engage us all.

Robert Paarlberg, Professor of Political Science, Wellesley College, and Associate at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University, USA. rpaarlberg@wellesley.edu

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Counterpoint 1 from Sub-Saharan Africa:

I have read Robert Paarlberg's ideas on which institutions should do what to achieve sustainable food for all. Some of his views are, at the very least, controversial and such views about Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) must be addressed to set the records straight.

According to Paarlberg, the most important public goods that are under-supplied in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia (where hunger is still highly prevalent) are local or national in nature. Paarlberg sees the mechanisms of globalization as the vehicle for ending hunger in Sub-Saharan Africa and advocates market liberalization and export-oriented agriculture with WTO keeping the food markets relatively open. In reality, what we see here is that unlimited access of goods and especially capital to these countries is nothing but a new form of colonialism leading to the ongoing exploitation of the working class. It is abundantly clear to us here that free markets only benefit the powerful and rich countries (and local elites) to the disadvantage of the poor. We have more sympathy for an alternative strategy, i.e., give true support to

small farmers to protect them from the exploitation they are currently subjected to.

Paarlberg further posits that Sub-Saharan Africa has been bypassed by many of the new forces of globalization whereas Africa was deeply integrated into global commodity markets during colonial times. The point needs to be forcefully made that globalization has had negative effects on Africa's food security.

The rich dictate to us the prices at which they will buy our raw materials and the prices they will charge us for manufactured goods

As the late Mwalimu Nyerere said, in world markets, we are price takers and not price makers. Farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa earn much less for the same products compared to what producers earn in developed economies. The rich dictate to us the prices at which they will buy our raw materials and the prices they will charge us for manufactured goods. This is a double neo-colonial injustice for the prospects of development in Africa. Globalization has also weakened the power of many African states to fulfil their obligations to their people and to bargain with creditors. Globalization takes place under the aegis of governments of the North and transnational corporations and their agents by proxy in the WTO, the IMF and the World Bank so many of our governments end up (directly or indirectly) protecting the interests of large trans-national corporations rather than those of their people.

According to Paarlberg, hunger persists in Sub-Saharan Africa independently of the forces of globalization. Instead he blames low agricultural productivity. But how can the two be de-linked, I ask? Let us be clear. Globalization is a major cause of hunger and malnutrition in Sub-Saharan Africa. Market liberalization has resulted for us in a revised form of colonialism. Those who control the global economic system manipulate the markets to serve their own interests. Countries in this region have virtually no control over the conditions imposed on them from outside their borders. The solution has to start by somehow looking inward, i.e. by putting more food in the internal markets, limiting food exports and imports and promoting small farms and small scale agri-businesses with access to affordable credit, especially for women. African governments that export crops earn foreign exchange, but the poor farmers are not its beneficiaries.

Finally, Paarlberg concludes that productivity does not increase because SSA governments have failed to provide peace, rule of law and property protection. He even suggests that farmers in SSA hesitate to grow higher value export crops, because of bribes they purportedly have to pay. I submit

that this is very simplistic thinking. Bribe taking, if and when it exists at all is the least of the problems affecting agricultural productivity. The core issues to be addressed are those of *equity* and *justice*: giving small farmers a fair deal and appropriate incentives and subsidies. True, there is no peace in many parts of Sub-Saharan Africa because Africa is still seen as a big estate that can be looted from within and without. Wars in Africa are no longer fought on ideological grounds. In this context, we need to discuss Sub-Saharan Africa's debt burden that has impoverished most households and provided a fertile ground for conflicts.

We must not only be concerned about the outcome, we must examine the process. This is a major fault in Paarlberg's submission. The future of Africa has grave implications for the rest of the world, because democracy and prosperity in any part of the world is seriously threatened by the persistence of poverty, hunger and food insecurity on the African continent.

Tola Atinmo, Professor of Human Nutrition, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria. atinmo@skannet.com □

Counterpoint 2 from South Asia:

In my view, Paarlberg's article starts out with two fundamental mistakes. One, he applies reductionist analytical methods to complex, human scale problems, and two, he advocates standard, across-the-board solutions that have shown not to work in the past fifty years.

It must first be understood that the food security of a nation does not automatically mean food security of all its citizens, most of all the poor. Institutions, be they national or international, cannot provide food security. Only communities and people can. History shows us that before colonialism, communities in Asia, Africa and South America (or even in the so-called first world), though only having subsistence economies, had reasonable food security. Chronic food insecurity clearly is a colonial and post-colonial phenomenon. (Witness the archetypal Bengal famine which was not due so much to lack of infrastructure, but more to a changed cropping pattern imposed to fulfil the needs of the then rulers). This is not to glorify the pre-colonial period since discrimination based on caste, class and gender have all played their part --but no one starved systematically, day-in, day-out. The social capital of 'trust and concern for each other' commonly present in pre-colonial communities as a result of people's networks was subsequently lost primarily due

to the introduction of capitalist modes of production, distribution and consumption.

Certain other claims of Paarlberg's piece also have to be countered. One, hunger cannot be directly attributed or linked to over-population. Bengal, during the famine, was not over-populated. The poor, then and now, have their own good reasons for having large families since it is their only social security. Also, being more often than not landless, their only asset has been labour. Their logic can make sense if one were in their shoes: the bigger the family, the more the income. Two, in India as elsewhere, it has been proven that smaller land holders, with the participation of the entire family, do much more intensive agriculture and thus are more productive than larger farms. The primary problem has been the introduction of export crops such as sugar cane, mulberry for silk production, fruits, long stemmed cut flowers or grain to feed European beef. A decade back, when sub-Saharan Africa was reeling under one of its severe droughts, it was still producing and exporting vegetables for the European market. The secondary and more insidious problem has been the marketing of produce and the role played by middlemen. Local middlemen have now been replaced by national and transnational corporations who dictate what crops should be grown, when and for what market, controlling processes all the way down to the production and distribution of seeds. Bear in mind that two large corporations hold a 70% market share in agricultural seeds.

At present India has a buffer stock of 60m tons and a good enough road and communications infrastructure. In spite of this, pockets of hunger and severe malnutrition persist, mainly because of caste and class considerations and a distinct lack of political will. In a situation such as this, the 'dependable international food trading system' that Paarlberg advocates for South Asia cannot be the solution, but will more likely become part of the problem. Consider further the rush to patent life forms such as rice, the prevailing export priorities and the centralization of knowledge, research and resources. They effectively obliterate community participation and ownership and thus, self reliance!

Do we need more arguments? Here are some more. The destruction of global environmental resources on a massive scale only for the sake of profit (much of tropical Africa, the Amazon basin and Borneo to name a few) also reduces access of the poor to their traditional resources of food, fuel, fodder and herbal remedies. The introduction of industrial agricultural methods with massive monetary inputs in terms of fertilizer, pesticides and ma-



chinery with ever diminishing returns results in massive under employment and unemployment. These factors also contribute to a loss of food security. Moreover, never for a moment forget the role of wasteful Western life styles and the greed of trans-national corporations.

While foreign direct investment is always welcome, it does not always bring commensurate prosperity (and food security) to the recipients. The East Asian tigers themselves will attest to this. Indonesia, where a quarter million children are at risk of hunger and malnutrition is a case in point. India is fortunate that foreign direct investment has been regulated and kept within manageable limits.

The clear message that Paarlberg conveys about global governance is surprising to me. There is well-documented evidence (at least since the early seventies) of increased maternal deaths in Latin America, infant deaths in Africa and starvation deaths in South Asia as a direct result of the structural adjustment programs of the IMF. In South Asia, conditionalities such as the reduction and removal of subsidies for public education, health and agricultural services and for the public distribution system have sharply reduced access of the poor to the only public services that are on offer. Correlation between this and vital indices are under study, but are likely to be adverse. These facts do not put the blame on external forces alone. The role of national

bourgeoisies whose priorities are not the priorities of the majority cannot be overlooked.

There are two distinct approaches that are needed. On the one hand, the poorer countries have to set their house in order, build viable and participatory democratic institutions, reduce obstacles such as corruption and make the bureaucracy more effective and governance more transparent and accountable to the people. The latter would presumably make for distributive justice. On the other, we ask of the richer countries: i) don't give us aid or charity, rather give us a just price for our products; ii) remove unjust tariffs and restrictive trade practices, make for a level playing field; iii) nurture global democratic economic systems, not globalization; iv) rein in and regulate your destructive trans-national corporations; v) stop destroying our environment for the sake of profit and wasteful lifestyles; vi) remove restrictions on immigration and use our labour, often our biggest asset, justly; and vii) make knowledge and information accessible and available to all for genuine progress.

Keep in mind that any society is only as strong as its weakest link. As Mahatma Gandhi said, "the world has enough for everyone's need, not for every one's greed".

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The ACC/SCN 29th Session

will take place in Berlin, Germany
Monday 11 through Friday 15 March 2002

A Symposium on *Nutrition in the Context of Crisis and Conflict* will take place on Tuesday 12 March. Speakers include:

- Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul, German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development
- Catherine Bertini, Executive Director, World Food Programme
- Austen Davis, Médecins Sans Frontières, Holland
- M S Swaminathan, UNESCO Cousteau Chair in Ecotechnology and Chairman MS Swaminathan Research Foundation

Soha Moussa of Tufts University will give the Dr Abraham Horwitz Memorial Lecture on *Keeping Schools Open: School feeding in crisis and conflict*

For further details, agenda and registration see our website: <http://acc.unsystem.org/scn/>



PROGRAMME NEWS

INTERAGENCY

UNICEF—WORLD BANK Turning the Tide: The New Challenge for Nutrition

A Synthesis of Findings from the World Bank-UNICEF Nutrition Assessment

In 1999, the World Bank and UNICEF joined forces to review past collaboration with a view to improving the future. This joint assessment comprised reviews of portfolios, policy analyses, country case studies, and consultations with Bank and UNICEF staff along with selected external experts. The aim was to provide a fresh perspective on the global effort to address malnutrition, with a particular focus on the roles of the two agencies in shaping this agenda and its implementation. The study attempted to understand how policy change in nutrition happened, what influenced these processes, and what lessons could be learned from them.

Key findings:

- Nutritional status is improving slowly in some regions, but progress has stagnated in others.
- Per capita spending on nutrition is generally low and poorly targeted nutrition expenditures by the two agencies are also low in relation to the size of the problem.
- Beyond the nutrition community, knowledge about the problem, its consequences and relevance to poverty and other human development goals is fragmented, and inconsistently applied advocacy has not been effective.
- There is broad consensus on key interventions, and on success factors for successful implementation, but few large scale sustained programmes. Process is key and has been neglected; multi-sectoral pre-packaged interventions do not work.
- Rigorous evaluations demonstrate impact, but the evidence base is small.
- Capacity to tackle malnutrition is often the limiting factor for accelerating progress. Nutrition is often marginalized and decentralization has provided both opportunities and challenges.

Malnutrition can be addressed by concomitantly focusing on policy, programmes, capacity building and good information. These problem areas interact. Any comprehensive analysis of the nutrition situation should, therefore, take into account *all* these areas. Any one of these problem areas represents an entry point for recommended actions. But to maximize and sustain impact, all four need to be addressed according to the type and degree of their shortfalls or inadequacies.

Key recommendations:

- Reframe the nutrition issue; position it squarely on the poverty and human development agenda.
- Emphasise information for decision making and the capacity to measure and evaluate.
- Strengthen capacity to achieve this agenda. Capacity in nutrition in all agencies needs significant strengthening. Stakeholders involvement needs to be maximized and partnerships forged.
- Increase nutrition-relevant public expenditures to achieve this agenda.

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Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) (Gates Foundation, USAID, CIDA, Private food companies, the World Bank, UN agencies and NGOs)

GAIN is new. Plans for a launch mid this year are in the making. GAIN is an alliance of public and private sector organizations seeking to save lives and improve health through the elimination of vitamin and mineral deficiencies. GAIN will support developing countries in their effort to implement locally developed food fortification strategies. Organizations working in developing countries will receive grants in support of country-based initiatives for food fortification based on comprehensive national nutrition strategies. GAIN partners include bilateral donors, foundations, multilateral agencies, developing countries, private sector companies, NGOs and academic institutions. GAIN will combine the strengths of public and private sector organizations to mobilize private industry, donors and foundations and to tap the expertise and resources of the corporate sector in technology transfer, business development, trade and marketing. GAIN will also work with multilateral agencies to set international standards and establish systems for quality assurance and control. At the moment, GAIN is funded mainly by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Total grant funds for the first year are estimated to be about \$20 million. The executive director and the location of the secretariat are expected to be announced in early 2002.

More information is available at www.gainhealth.org

ADB

Asian Development Bank

Almaty Forum 2001: Improving Nutrition of Poor Women And Children In Central Asia and Neighboring Countries

Participants from six neighbouring Central Asia countries attended a regional round table on salt and wheat flour fortification in October 2001. They agreed on the following set of principles, strategies and actions (to be supported by the Japan Fund through 2002):

We recognize:

- that in recent years the nutritional status of women and children in our region has deteriorated badly with negative consequences for children, families and countries—iodine and iron deficiencies are the most serious, but other essential nutrients also need to be addressed;
- that the damage to the learning capacity of our children from iodine deficiency in pregnancy is irreversible;
- that iron deficiency is causing serious damage to social and economic development through poor pregnancy outcomes, impaired cognition especially in young children, reduced work capacity and increased morbidity from infectious diseases;
- that zinc deficiency is associated with lowered immunity, slower growth and increased risk of heavy metal poisoning in contaminated environments;
- that folic acid deficiency in pregnant women contributes to congenital abnormalities of the central nervous system of the newborn and is an independent risk factor for coronary heart disease; and
- that thiamin, riboflavin and niacin are removed during the milling of grain along with most iron and folic acid contributing to micronutrient malnutrition among populations whose diets are heavily dependent on bread and other flour-based foods.

We affirm:

- that the addition of potassium iodate to all salt sold for human nutrition is a well established method for eliminating iodine deficiency as a societal problem;
- that the freely available Knowledge, Attitudes and Practice (KAP) Komplex formula, developed by the Kazakh Academy of Nutrition for Central Asia, is an appropriate and safe basis for wheat flour fortification to prevent deficiencies of thiamin, riboflavin, niacin and folic acid and reduce iron and zinc deficiencies;
- that people of the region should have access to affordable, safe, and efficacious fortified foods as a permanent commitment to the elimination of micronutrient malnutrition;
- that there are no capacity constraints for private producers to achieve significant progress in providing affordable fortified salt and flour to consumers in the region;
- that the consequences of not implementing fortification programs at national level will be poor child development, low educational achievement of chil-

dren, and decreased earnings and economic growth; and

- that the initiative, supported by the Japan Fund, will contribute to fulfilling commitments made by the participating governments to the universal protection of children.

Therefore, we pledge:

- that all salt for human consumption will be fortified with potassium iodate and, to the maximum extent achievable, wheat flour will be fortified with micronutrients using the KAP Komplex formula.

This will require:

- that food laws and regulations be reviewed and amended to ensure they support and enable the addition of all essential micronutrients in appropriate food carriers;
- that public policies and regulations that constrain or impede investment in food fortification to reduce micronutrient malnutrition be reviewed and amended and that all nations collaborate to produce uniform or consistent standards based on international best practices that will facilitate the trading of foods;
- that customs protocols and trade regulations be revised or enacted to ensure the import and export of certified and safe fortified foods at agreed levels of fortificants;
- that the cost of food fortification be ultimately borne by the producer and the consumer, but a transition period of cost-sharing between the public and private sectors may be necessary;
- that efforts be continued to inform the public of the benefits of fortified salt and flour to the learning and earning capacities of the region's children and that the interests of NGOs, especially women's federations and consumers' rights unions, be fully included in future activities jointly conducted by the nations; and
- that food fortification be a part of a comprehensive strategy of anemia prevention and control that includes supplementation, dietary diversification, breastfeeding promotion and other public health measures.

National Actions

National actions to achieve this will require the following coordinated actions at national and local levels:

- Pass and effectively implement mandatory salt iodization laws in all countries and move forward flour fortification laws as required.
- Urge the elimination of tariffs and value-added taxes on inputs to fortification and fortified food products, imported or domestically processed, to promote sustainability.
- Avoid excessive price increases for fortified products that may discourage consumers.
- Initiate cost-sharing by public and private sectors of the costs of producing fortified salt and flour and strengthen the capacity of the private sector to be fully self-reliant shortly after the two year project completion.



- Establish a monitoring framework to assess progress in the percent of salt and wheat flour fortified during production and to assess the percentage of families with access to fortified food products.
- Integrate fortification programs into national strategies and policies to reduce poverty, raise the quality of human resources and support the survival, growth, psychosocial and cognitive development of all children, especially those of early ages.
- Promote an expanded public sector-private sector dialogue on fortification of salt and cereal flour and organize advocacy events to increase program and donor support.
- Develop and implement a communications strategy and campaign to raise public awareness and improve the child caring skills of parents on the importance of fortified salt, wheat flour and wheat flour products and promote increased consumer demand for these products. These activities will be led by non-governmental organizations in collaboration with the private sector, national experts, the media, local authorities and communities.
- Promote mechanisms to exchange information and experiences within and across the countries of the project using the world wide web and other modern communication tools.
- Obtain, update and disseminate information on the prevalence of micronutrient deficiencies by including micronutrient-related data collection in Demographic and Health Surveys, Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys and other nutrition, health and education surveys.

Regional Actions

- Develop a framework for drafting and proposing harmonized regional and international trade standards and guidelines for fortified foods.
- Develop regional activities such as roundtables, joint reports and inter-country training focusing on legislation, communications strategies and partnerships among the civil society and the private and public sectors.
- Demonstrate through regional policy dialogue to economic planning agencies and the general public the large economic damage caused by poor nutrition and the proven low-cost solutions available to the region.
- Advocate for greater resources mobilization by governments from domestic budgets, public and private, and strategic investments from development partners, and share country experience in regional fora.
- Review and recommend financial and capacity building incentives to sustain food fortification and its expansion to other essential foods widely consumed by the poor.
- Set up sentinel sites in at least three project countries to monitor progress of continuing efforts to fortify all salt and wheat flour.
- Create communication mechanisms, including a web site, that allow project countries to share advocacy, technical and promotional activities among themselves and with the global community.

- Include micronutrient malnutrition issues into the agenda of regional expert group consultations such as associations of paediatricians, nutritionists and reproductive health specialists.
- Prepare progress reports toward elimination of micronutrient malnutrition to the Regional Health Ministers Council.

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AUSTRALIA

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In August 2001, the Australian Health Ministers Conference endorsed the national public health nutrition strategy, *Eat Well Australia* and its indigenous component, the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nutrition Strategy and Action Plan*. The document together with its four priority action areas—maternal and child health, minorities' nutrition, vegetable and fruit consumption and healthy body weight—will guide public health nutrition action at the national level over the next ten years.

A number of initiatives have already begun under these four priority areas. Under the maternal and child health priority area, a review of the national dietary guidelines, including those for children and adolescents, and for infant feeding is under way and due for release in mid 2002. Children in rural and remote areas, in socio-economically disadvantaged and minority communities will benefit from funds totalling AUS15 million provided under the National Child Nutrition Program. The issue of overweight and obesity is being tackled through the development of clinical guidelines for the prevention, management and treatment of overweight and obesity and by increasing the awareness of these issue among key stakeholders and organizations. The priority area of vegetable and fruit consumption has been boosted by the appointment of a national program manager to facilitate and coordinate the national efforts of industry, health and other relevant sectors in this area. Guidelines for promoting increased consumption of vegetables and fruit are being developed. Finally, an example of work towards improving nutrition for indigenous Australian communities is the development of an indigenous food selection guide based on the national food selection guide, the Australian Guide to Healthy Eating.

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BASICS II

Workshop on Post-NIDs Vitamin A Supplementation Options in Africa sponsored by BASICS II and MOST, The USAID Micronutrient Program

Broad-based vitamin A supplementation was launched over the past several years in many countries by linking vitamin A capsule distribution with National Immunization Days (NIDs). These activities have been well accepted and have consistently achieved high coverage rates among children. However, NIDs are being progressively phased out in many countries as the incidence of

polio declines giving rise to an urgent need to develop and institutionalize alternative strategies to sustain the delivery of vitamin A to children six to 59 months. To date, many countries have explored different mechanisms to deliver vitamin A independently of NIDs and there are promising results. (For more information, see *Twice-yearly Vitamin A Supplementation: Time for Action*, at www.mostproject.org).

At this workshop, held in Senegal in June 2001, discussions on 'special child health weeks' and other ways of achieving outreach by district health teams were discussed to sustain high rates of vitamin A supplementation. The workshop brought together government nutrition, immunization, and maternal-child health specialists and their counterparts from BASICS and MOST offices in Benin, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Madagascar, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Senegal, Uganda, and Zambia. During the workshop, MOST and MOH staff in Zambia and Ghana shared their recent child health week experiences which achieved vitamin A supplementation coverages of over 80%.

At the end of the meeting, participants issued the Goree Declaration affirming their commitment to eliminating vitamin A deficiency and recommending that countries adopt more sustainable alternatives to NIDs. "The rationale behind this declaration is to draw the attention of our decision makers to the need to make child health routine services more active and systematic and to reach the unreachable," said Albertha Nyaku, MOST field co-ordinator in Ghana.

Goree Declaration (Excerpted)

- Considering that vitamin A is essential for building resistance against infectious diseases, and is vital for protecting the vision of individuals, critical for child survival, and that
- Vitamin A supplementation has been proven to reduce under five mortality, reduce mortality from measles and reduce mortality from diarrhoea: *all children under-five should be covered with adequate vitamin A particularly in Africa where efforts to reduce high childhood mortality have been difficult and have not achieved desired results.*
- Although activities for vitamin A supplementation have been successfully implemented in our countries and have resulted in an average 80% coverage (using a campaign approach), despite the development of ad-hoc policy guidelines, protocols, and tools; the training of thousands of implementers and volunteers; the mobilization and sensitization of communities to the importance of vitamin A; the strengthening of local level structures and support systems; and the building of a network of partners including the private sector and the media: *there still remain gaps that should be filled, support systems need to be consolidated and gains achieved in high coverage need to be sustained in order to realize the full benefits of reducing childhood mortality in Africa.*
- Further, the passive routine supplementation through health care delivery systems and the low exclusive breastfeeding rates have resulted in very poor national child health indicators, severe vitamin A deficiency and high levels of morbidity and mortality among under five children in our countries. Infants up to six months are not well covered and lactating mothers have low vitamin A intake. Many communities have no access to

health centres. Therefore: *with NIDs being phased out and not being really sustainable because of high resource needs, we need to adopt more sustainable alternatives including setting aside special days and weeks for active outreach activities to bring child health services—including vitamin A supplementation—closer to the communities.*

- We, the undersigned participants from 11 African countries urge governments, donor agencies, NGOs, political and community leaders, and others who are committed to improving child health in Africa to take the following urgent actions: *Adopt policies and implementation guidelines based on experience from our countries that focus on organizing Child Health Weeks or Days that will help increase immunization coverage, increase growth promotion activities, increase prenatal iron/folic acid supplementation, increase de-worming, increase malaria control activities, increase HIV awareness creation, and increase vitamin A supplementation.*

In sum, while strengthening the health centre-based routine system, there is also a need to look for more active outreach mechanisms to effectively cover children one to five years old especially children in outlying communities. Setting aside twice-yearly specific weeks or days can ensure that at least two doses of vitamin A are sustainably provided to children six to 59 months. The regular and sustained availability of vitamin A supplements must be assured through appropriate financing mechanisms as an integral part of procurement and logistics systems in the Ministry of Health. Progress needs to be monitored to improve performance and ensure that gains made are sustained. Postpartum vitamin A supplementation must be combined with exclusive breastfeeding promotion to serve as a cover for the age group 0-6 months.

We are hopeful that increased resources will be made available and that governments and donors will ensure sustained support for these actions at this time.

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FIVIMS

Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping Systems

As one of the key steps towards achieving the 1996 World Food Summit (WFS) goals, the Plan of Action called for the establishment of an inter-agency programme to be called Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping Systems (FIVIMS). FIVIMS is now well established and has members representing international and bilateral donors, technical UN agencies and NGOs. The Inter-Agency Working Group on Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping Systems (IAWG-FIVIMS) is supported by a Secretariat housed in FAO in Rome. FIVIMS seeks to increase awareness of the interrelationship of food security issues with other issues at the national and international level. It also seeks to improve the co-ordination and communication amongst agencies working in food security and poverty alleviation.

At the international level, FIVIMS implements diverse activities in support of national information sys-



ICCIDD

International Council for the Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders

tems so that they become part of an international information exchange network. At the country level, FIVIMS works with a network of information systems that gather and analyse relevant national data concerning food insecurity and vulnerability. The principle behind FIVIMS is that improved information can be effectively used in support of efforts geared towards reducing malnutrition.

The involvement of civil society in national FIVIMS is critical to achieve sustainable reductions in the numbers malnourished. Civil society organisations often hold valuable information on the incidence/prevalence of malnutrition and the location of vulnerable groups, in addition to carrying out activities in support of poverty and food insecurity alleviation. To be successful, a national FIVIMS needs to empower civil society to participate in gathering information on food insecurity, to better understand the implications of the information gathered and to use the information to carry out actions that address the underlying and basic causes of malnutrition. Ideally, civil society is an active participant in the FIVIMS process, not a passive recipient of improved information and better designed information gathering tools. However, their current level of involvement in national FIVIMS in most countries needs to be increased.

One of the crucial elements promoted by FIVIMS national programmes is the decentralisation of information gathering systems. This allows for improved representation of civil society both in data analysis and in formulating recommendations related to food security in many local contexts. FIVIMS is firm on the notion that it is not enough to improve the quality of information overall. Mechanisms to incorporate the views and decisions of civil society need to be streamlined as well.

In Kenya and Bangladesh FIVIMS activities have been incorporated into two key UN initiatives, namely the Common Country Assessments (CCA) and the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). With FIVIMS national and sub-national data inputs, these national documents will be integrated into an existing institutional mechanism. The FIVIMS Secretariat, the FAO Representation in the country and the national FIVIMS co-ordinator are involved. A workshop on the design and implementation of a national FIVIMS for China was held in late November 2001. The workshop defined the most suitable format, participating agencies and end users for China. The role of civil society in the Chinese FIVIMS was also covered.

A meeting of national nutrition coordinators took place in Grenada in November 2001. This meeting, hosted by the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute, focused on the development of country-specific plans for technical co-operation to support national food and nutrition programmes. The final day of the conference was dedicated entirely to FIVIMS and the development of a workplan for a FIVIMS programme in the Caribbean.

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Innovative partnerships: role of civil society in IDD elimination activities in India

The iodization of salt, while undoubtedly a simple technique for an immeasurably important social benefit, is only the first step towards the goal of IDD elimination. Many other steps are needed before IDD can be prevented from making a comeback.

Historically, in India, there have been three main professional interests in the elimination of IDD: the government, medical professionals and researchers working in the field of IDD and in the salt industry. These three stakeholders need the participation of others. The success of the programme calls for participation from NGOs, from the grassroots level, and from ordinary people, who have the most to win. Commitment to and ownership of the solution to the IDD problem by this wider network of stakeholders is essential.

To understand how civil society is best involved as a stakeholder in the formulation of health programmes, one needs to look at the world in which policies are made. First, the problem has to be recognized as a public health problem. Then, one has to assess the information available nationally, as well as the values and beliefs of the population. Next, one has to understand the formal and non-formal structure of decision-making that will be called upon to take action. All these factors influence the final decisions made. Informal networks and coalitions of stakeholders are, therefore, an important part of the decision making process.

The International Council for Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders (ICCIDD) in close partnership with the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, UNICEF and the Micronutrient Initiative (MI), have played a significant role in strengthening IDD elimination efforts made by the government and iodized salt producers in India. In its work, ICCIDD has forged a collaborative partnership with a network of NGOs all over the country. Schools are also enlisted for monitoring the programme. This article documents the efforts of ICCIDD to collaborate with two national level non-governmental organizations, the Bharat Scouts and Guides and the Voluntary Health Association of India.

In 1997-98, ICCIDD used these two channels to collect information about iodised salt availability, pricing and its use from all the districts of the country. These collaborators were requested to ask their district people to collect and dispatch salt samples for analysis. Almost 500 districts in the country received letters seeking cooperation. Booklets and pamphlets on IDD were also mailed to them. Each NGO selected was sent ten prepaid self-addressed envelopes which contained a ziplock polythene bag for sending the salt samples from the field to the ICCIDD laboratory in Delhi. Each district sent 20 samples from retail shops, ten urban and ten rural. All NGOs were also sent iodine testing kits so they could obtain immediate results and use the information to organize and plan needed community education activities.

A total of 147 NGOs and 39 sub-units of Scouts and Guides participated; 2100 samples were received. More than half of the samples from NGOs and the scouts and guides tested adequate for iodine content by the kit (63% and 56% respectively). By titration, 51% of the NGOs and only 15% of the scouts samples tested adequate. As regards prices, iodized salt prices ranged from three to seven Rupees as opposed to one to three for un-iodized salt.

This experience showed that partnership with NGOs to collect data regarding iodized salt is feasible and effective although there were some non-responders. The partnership now needs to be strengthened and enlarged so that a nationally representative sample can be used, to assess availability of iodized salt at retail and household level.

The effort described here is important, but has to be complemented with efforts to better understand the demand and supply issues involved in salt iodization.

Creating demand requires improving community perceptions, proactive education, exposure to more and better media messages and more supportive legislation. Education has to be directed to schools, health providers, traders, salt manufacturers, consumer organizations and others.

Discussions and interviews with communities in many localities are needed to determine people's knowledge, attitudes, practices and behaviour about the problem of iodine deficiency and to explore perceptions about the importance of regular consumption of iodized salt. This has often been neglected.

On the supply side, one has to focus on salt producers' (and associations of salt producers) economic and social incentives and their need for technical support.

Transport costs are a key factor and need to be addressed as a priority. The government and international agencies need to continue contributing resources and expertise to ensure that salt production is of the highest quality.

The creation of demand for iodized salt and the provision of an adequate supply of iodized salt are thus necessary, but not sufficient, for IDD elimination programmes to succeed. Good data are also needed to track progress and to influence decision makers. NGOs, can be good providers of such data and can also be involved in lobbying.

A strategy for the good management of sustained IDD elimination should, therefore, focus on:

- Continuous political and financial commitment
- Clear communications strategies involving professionals and the public
- Persistent quality control processes to assure a high quality product, i.e. appropriate iodine levels
- Monitoring and tracking biological progress with respect to IDD status
- Ensuring that the management process is in place to carry out these activities

The global community is at a turning point in the battle against iodine deficiency. Never before has the goal been so clear or so near. But forging the necessary alliances with civil society simply has to become part of the equation.

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IFAD

International Fund for Agricultural development

*IFAD launches new website:
Gender and Household Food Security
www.ifad.org/gender*

With the financial support from the Government of Japan, IFAD launched a new website dedicated to issues of gender, household food security and nutrition. All the IFAD regional divisions and the office of evaluation collaborated in identifying and selecting relevant source materials.

The purpose of the site is to communicate IFAD's policies, strategies and accumulated knowledge to the public, IFAD staff and partners. The site contains operational tools developed by IFAD to address gender, nutrition and household food security (HFS) issues in its projects and programmes. The website also contains published materials, new documents and a series called Learning Notes. The Learning Notes have been prepared specifically for the website based on original field research and evaluation reports, as well as on the IFAD Rural Poverty Report 2001 (see *SCN News* 22, p.55). The site provides a space for posting future publications and outputs from the regional gender programmes, as well as on-going work on HFS and nutrition.

The website is also available as a CD-ROM for distribution to projects in the field or areas where internet access is problematic.

IFAD hosted a workshop on Malnutrition in Developing Countries: Generating Capabilities for Effective Community Action in Fiuggi, Italy in September 2001

The following is a summary of conclusions and recommendations:

Malnutrition and poverty:

- Chronic malnutrition is inextricably linked to endemic poverty and gender discrimination.
- Measures of chronic malnutrition among children and women are included in international development goals, and should be included in the evaluation of development interventions.
- A key indicator is stunting (height-for-age) among children, using international references.
- Measures of chronic malnutrition should be complemented with qualitative information and other quantitative data on income, education and gender.

Responsibility for action:

- Adequate nutrition is a human right, and states are responsible and accountable for eliminating malnutrition.
- Community action is critical for generating the capabilities to fight malnutrition and poverty.
- Communities should lead the process of identifying causes of malnutrition, propose solutions and take actions.
- Community-based organizations should be the key actors supported by NGOs, national governments and the international community

Next steps:

- Strengthen inter-agency collaboration: include malnutrition and rural development in country-level planning such as the UN Development Assistance



Framework (UNDAF), Poverty Reduction Strategy papers (PRSP) and sector wide approaches (SWAPs).

- Raise the profile of nutrition linkages to poverty reduction and gender discrimination at international, national and project level (promote increased development assistance, research and information exchange).
- Recognise and build on the existing capabilities of community based organizations to address malnutrition.
- Create a network to review and share lessons learned.
- Initiate demonstration projects that primarily focus on effective community action in reducing malnutrition.

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IFPRI

International Food Policy Research Institute

IFPRI tackles measuring childcare and feeding practices

The role of care in critically influencing child nutrition, health, and development has received increasing attention in the last decade. In the early 90s UNICEF took a lead role in articulating a conceptual model of child welfare that includes care, and in promoting the important role of care in nutrition programmes. However, progress in identifying tools to measure care has been slow because of the lack of simple, valid, and reliable measurement tools. With financial assistance from the Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance (FANTA) project, IFPRI is beginning to sort out these methodological and measurement issues.

Measuring hygiene

Using interviews and recall methods to measure hygiene practices is discouraged, because responses tend to be biased towards over-reporting of good practices. This happens because most populations have at least a minimum knowledge of what good hygiene practices should be, so they tend to report good practices even if they do not apply them. Observational methods are preferred although these are subject to problems of reactivity, i.e. people will behave differently in the presence of an observer. Reactivity decreases after one day of observation. Some researchers recommend discarding data obtained on the first day. Repeated observations also help address the common problem of day-to-day variability in hygiene behaviors.

An increasingly popular alternative to structured observation techniques is the use of spot-check observations. These consist of observing a pre-determined list of aspects and conditions at one point in time during a home visit. Spot check observations are much less time consuming, less costly and are not subject to reactivity. Additional research is needed to validate these methods.

Measuring feeding practices

Child feeding practices (i.e. breastfeeding and complementary feeding) are usually measured by maternal recall. However, there is little empirical evidence of the reliability and validity of maternal recall for measuring these practices. Recall errors are likely, especially when

long recall periods are involved and when recall periods vary widely between respondents (e.g., when mothers of all children under five years of age are asked to recall early breastfeeding behaviors). This can be avoided by restricting the sample to mothers of children within a narrower age range (< 12 months, for example). Another approach is to use longitudinal studies, but these are not always feasible and tend to be costly. Recall bias may also occur, especially following educational interventions, when individuals know what the desired answer is. Such bias can be minimized through careful questionnaire design and by dissociating the survey process (evaluation) from program implementation. This can be achieved by using different teams of field workers.

Measuring caregiver-child interactions during feeding

The importance of the non-dietary aspects of child feeding, which include a variety of caregiver-child interactions, is now increasingly recognized. Interactions include responsive feeding, encouragement to eat, response to poor appetite, and adaptation of feeding to the child's developmental stage. Structured observations are the method of choice for measuring these interactions. Various measurement scales have been developed, though not yet validated. Experience with survey approaches is very scanty; it is probable that many aspects of these interactions, especially those related to maternal involvement, will never be amenable to survey assessment. However, IFPRI experience in Accra suggests that simple questions can capture some aspects of caregiver-child feeding interactions. For example, attempts to operationalise and measure child appetite have been successful and it appears that maternal perceptions of infant and young child appetite are valid and useful. A simple analogue approach (i.e. asking the mother to rank her child's appetite on a scale compared to other children the same age) has proven to be a useful tool.

Additional considerations for programming and research

A recurrent theme in IFPRI's review is that good (or bad) practices tend to cluster, both within dimensions of care (such as hygiene or feeding) and across dimensions. Also, there seems to be a threshold or a minimum number of good practices necessary for health benefits to accrue to the child. Therefore, composite indices or summary measures that combine various practices in one index seem promising. Limited experience suggests that hygiene indices from spot check observations, and feeding indices using a variety of child feeding indicators measured through recall, can be constructed and are useful to study associations with child nutritional outcomes.

Program planning and design should be preceded by qualitative work in order to provide well-grounded and detailed knowledge of practices, relevant norms and potential constraints to the adoption of good practices. In addition to guiding program design, this information should be used to inform the selection of indicators and of monitoring and evaluation methods.

The use of mixed methods (combining qualitative and quantitative approaches) is also recommended both at the planning stage and during monitoring and evaluation in order to maximize opportunities to confirm findings.

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ILSI

International Life Sciences Institute

Forging effective strategies to combat iron deficiency

More than 200 participants from 45 countries attended a 3-day international conference in Atlanta to discuss strategies to address the world's most common nutritional deficiency: lack of adequate iron. The conference, held in May, 2001, was sponsored by ILSI, Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the MI and Emory University.

Country-level experiences were reported describing successful efforts to improve iron status. The importance of effective communications with policy makers and consumers was stressed, as was the need to form partnerships and to utilize multiple strategies adapted to the needs of specific populations. Research is needed that addresses not just what to do, but also how to do it well. This implies a need for funding program evaluation activities. Some significant successes and promising new intervention approaches were reported. For example, the introduction of iron-fortified formula was shown to have a significant impact on the iron status of infants from low-income families in the United States. A highly effective program of fortification and supplementation has been implemented and sustained over many years in Chile. In China, a promising intervention is being field tested using iron-fortified soy sauce, and recent studies in Vietnam suggest that iron fortified fish sauce can have a positive impact on iron status. Effective, broad-based community interventions for iron deficiency were reported in Thailand.

The concluding session of the conference considered key action steps needed to address iron deficiency, as follows:

1. Government and non-governmental organizations, multi and bilateral agencies, the private sector and civil society need to recognize the health and economic consequences of iron deficiency and prioritize its alleviation as a major public health initiative by allocating appropriate resources.
2. National governments have an economic, social and moral obligation to implement and support the effective and affordable measures now available for prevention of iron and related micronutrient deficiencies.
3. Piecemeal and pilot efforts alone are insufficient. Culturally appropriate interventions must be multifaceted, e. g. integrating fortification of cereal flours and other foods with preventive multi-nutrient supplementation of vulnerable groups complemented by dietary diversification and public health measures.
4. Prevention and control programs of iron, folate and other appropriate micronutrients should be implemented in all developing countries by fortification of cereal flours and other suitable vehicles and by the supplementation of infants and children, adolescent girls and women of childbearing age, especially during pregnancy. Such programs can provide substantial health, social and economic benefits.

Abstracts of the papers presented in the plenary, concurrent and poster sessions of the conference can be ac-

cessed via the ILSI website at www.projectidea.ilsii.org Publication of the conference proceedings is planned.

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INACG

International Nutritional Anaemia Consultative Group

The International Nutritional Anemia Consultative Group (INACG) is delighted to welcome Dr. Olivia Yambi, Regional Nutrition Advisor for UNICEF to the INACG Steering Committee. Dr. Yambi brings with her years of experience and dedication to the goal of eliminating micronutrient deficiencies.

INACG is planning a one-day symposium to immediately follow the 21st IVACG meeting scheduled for February or March of 2003 in Morocco. INACG has released a call for abstracts for the symposium and will be accepting abstracts through 31 May 2002. The symposium will provide participants an opportunity to share expertise on program implementation and research dedicated to significantly reducing iron deficiency and iron deficiency anemia in the world.

Poster topics should be related to anemia, iron deficiency, iron deficiency anemia and cover:

- infectious diseases (e.g. malaria, HIV/AIDS)
- reproductive health
- interventions (supplementation, food fortification and dietary modifications) and their effect on health outcomes, in particular, child development, including foetal growth, childhood growth, and mental and physiological development
- integration of control programs with other public health interventions.

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IVACG

International Vitamin A Consultative Group

IVACG has issued a call for abstracts for its next international meeting in Morocco. The tentative theme is *Improving the Vitamin A Status of Populations*. IVACG will be accepting abstracts through 31 May 2002.

Abstracts for oral and poster presentations describing new data on the following topics are welcome:

- successful interventions to prevent and treat vitamin A deficiency:
- delivery of vitamin A supplements: Innovative delivery methodologies, alternative delivery systems, costs
- food-based strategies to reduce vitamin A deficiency: effectiveness of dietary diversification, successful local initiatives with food fortification, increasing the vitamin A content of foods (genetically modified foods through traditional breeding or biotechnology-derived processes)
- behavioural changes, from theory to practice, strategic approaches that work at the community level using supplements or food-based activities
- new assessment methods to identify vitamin A deficiency and evaluating programme effectiveness
- efficacy of multiple micronutrients delivered through



supplements or food fortification: Biological interactions, stability, public health impact

The meeting will be co-sponsored with the local organizing committee in Morocco, with funds through Micronutrient Global Leadership (USAID) and others.

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ISPN

International Society of Public Nutrition

On August 28 2001 at the Vienna International Convention Centre, *The International Society of Public Nutrition* was launched. Dr Aaron Lechtig was asked to take charge of the Secretariat.

The Society will deal with issues of policy-making and programme development as they influence problems of human nutrition, such as:

- nutrition and human rights (the right to food, health and care),
- implications of recent advances in biotechnology for public nutrition,
- development of human resources for policy making and for program development in nutrition,
- comprehensive public nutrition planning and programming involving agriculture, education, industry, energy, economics, health, community development and other sectors,
- programme implementation issues from their design to their evaluation as related to public nutrition interventions, and
- translation of research findings into policies and programmes.

The Society is open to professionals active in the field of human rights, policy-making and analysis, agriculture, economics, law, education, labour policies and labor relations. The Society aims to provide a forum where like-minded professionals can meet, be inspired and work together in order to make an effective contribution to the science and practice of nutrition. The list of members is growing. Work will be conducted by Email. Suggestions for discussion topics are welcome. Focal points to facilitate interaction, circulate summaries of discussion and proposals for action by EMail will be appointed.

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IUNS

International Union of Nutritional Sciences

A small group of public health and nutrition scientists and advocates, met at the Rockefeller Centre, Bellagio, Italy in August 2001 under auspices of the IUNS. The purpose of the meeting was to further understand the nutrition transition and discuss ways to push forward both research and program and policy work. The meeting was organized by Barry Popkin of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Participants drafted this Declaration.

Bellagio Declaration

Nutrition and Health Transition in the Developing World: The Time to Act

The control and prevention of undernutrition is unfinished work in many countries. At the same time, nutrition-related chronic diseases are now the main causes of disability and death, not only globally but also in most developing countries.

Evidence presented at our meeting supports and reinforces evidence already accepted by the World Health Organization and many national governments that proves that the patterns of disease throughout the developing world are rapidly changing.

Changes in food systems and patterns of work and leisure, and therefore in diets and physical activity, are causing overweight, obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure, cardiovascular disease including stroke, and increasingly cancer, even in the poorest countries. Malnutrition early in life, followed by inappropriate diets and physical inactivity in childhood and adult life, further increases vulnerability to chronic diseases.

Evidence from many developing countries shows that nutrition-related chronic diseases prematurely disable and kill a large proportion of economically productive people—a preventable loss of precious human capital. This trend is also seen in countries where HIV/AIDS is a dominant problem. Four out of five deaths from nutrition-related chronic diseases occur in middle and low-income countries. The burden of cardiovascular disease alone is now far greater in India and in China than in all economically developed countries in the world put together. Low income communities are especially vulnerable to nutrition-related chronic diseases; they are not only diseases of affluence.

Obesity, itself a disease, is a predictor of more serious diseases. For most developing countries, current rates of overweight and obesity—most of all in children, young adults and women—predict rapidly increasing disability and premature death from nutrition-related chronic diseases. Social and economic changes, on a scale and speed unprecedented in history, have resulted in an epidemic of nutrition-related chronic diseases that must be contained.

Prevention is the only feasible approach to nutrition-related chronic diseases. The cost of their treatment imposes an intolerable economic burden on developing countries. There is an urgent need for governments—in partnership with all relevant constituencies—to integrate strategies that promote healthy diets and regular physical activity throughout life into all relevant policies and programmes including those designed to combat undernutrition.

Chronic diseases are preventable. This has already been demonstrated in a few developed countries. Their main determinants are smoking, inappropriate diets and nutrition, and a lack of physical activity. Exposure to these determinants is largely a result of political, economic and commercial policies and practices that reflect decisions made at national and transnational level.

Effective programmes and policies to counter these trends will include not only health promotion and education, but also community empowerment and actions to overcome the environmental, social, and economic con-

straints to the improvement of diets and a reduction of sedentary lifestyles. (Over a relatively short time span, Finland and Norway have succeeded in reversing extremely high levels of nutrition-related chronic diseases through comprehensive food policies and active community involvement).

Several examples of innovative and promising approaches in developing countries were presented at the meeting. These include: Promotion of daily physical activity through massive community participation in Brazil; protection of the healthy aspects of the traditional low-fat high-fibre diet in South Korea; selective price policies promoting the consumption of soy products in China; development of food-based dietary guidelines in several countries based on local disease patterns and available foods.

School-based programmes to promote healthy diets and physical activity are an especially important early opportunity for action. Examples are the national school food programme in Brazil that provides fresh unprocessed foods to school children and the new national physical activity program in Thailand.

Immediate action to control and prevent nutrition related chronic diseases is not only a public health imperative, but also a political, economic, social necessity. Successful programmes will have to be multidisciplinary and inter-sectoral, and will include government, industry, the health professions, the media and civil society, as well as international agencies.

We—a group of scholars and representatives of selected international organizations from Africa, the Middle East, Asia, Europe and the Americas—present at this meeting, provided ideas for pushing forth a broader public health agenda in this area. We pledge ourselves to be part of this process.

This Resolution was agreed at the Rockefeller Centre at Bellagio, Italy in August 2001. (Barry Popkin organized the meeting which was convened under the auspices of the International Union of Nutritional Sciences). The 25 papers from this meeting will be published in the February 2002 issue of *Public Health Nutrition*. They will also be available as pdf files on www.nutrans.org.

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LINKAGES

Training modules on breastfeeding and related topics developed by or with the assistance of the LINKAGES Project—USAID's global breastfeeding promotion programme—can be adapted to support health facilities and community-based breastfeeding activities. They are designed to draw on the knowledge and experience of learners to engage them in the immediate application of skills through a mix of discussions, role plays, case studies, field visits, and "take home" action steps. The modules cover five topics.

Infant Feeding Basics Various modules introduce key concepts related to breastfeeding and complementary feeding. Examples are:

□Freedom from Hunger and LINKAGES have field tested behaviour change modules in Madagascar and the

Philippines for use in credit-with-education groups. These modules employ adult learning techniques to improve infant feeding practices.

□In Ghana, LINKAGES field tested a ten-day course for facilitators of women's groups. The course focuses on the methodology of mother-to-mother support groups.

□In Madagascar, the Ministry of Health, UNICEF, WHO, and LINKAGES produced four practical modules for health personnel of Baby Friendly Hospitals. A discussion guide at the end of each module can be used at monthly meetings of hospital personnel.

□A four-day module for training trainers of community volunteers concentrates on enhancing skills in identifying suboptimal feeding practices, negotiating new behaviours with mothers, and appropriately using IEC materials.

Lactational Amenorrhea Method This training module for health service providers features basic LAM concepts and case studies directed at problem solving. The module includes a counseling practicum in a clinic or community-based site.

HIV and Infant Feeding Through its Demonstration Project in Zambia, LINKAGES developed three courses: one on the prevention of mother-to-child transmission for clinic and community-based health personnel, one on training of trainers, and one on clinical counseling.

Infant Feeding in Emergencies LINKAGES collaborated with WHO, UNICEF, IBFAN, and the Emergency Nutrition Network in the development of a module for emergency relief staff designed to raise awareness of the importance of sound infant feeding practices in emergencies and to advocate for improved practices. A second module, under development, will emphasize practical measures to support breastfeeding women in emergency situations.

Maternal, Infant, and Young Child Nutrition These Essential Nutrition Actions training modules include six orientation sessions directed at six service delivery contact points: antenatal, delivery and immediate postpartum, postnatal, well-baby and immunization, sick child, and family planning services. The sessions inform, prepare, and motivate health workers to implement priority nutrition actions as part of their routine health contacts with women and children.

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PROGRAMME NEWS

—we welcome items for inclusion
under PROGRAMME NEWS

—write to us at:
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MI

Micronutrient Initiative

The Micronutrient Initiative evolves into a new organization

On December 1st 2001 the Micronutrient Initiative became a legally independent organization with an international Board of Directors. This step fulfils one of the goals set for the MI at the time of its inception as a secretariat within The International Development Research Centre in Ottawa in 1992.

Drawing on nine years of experience, the new MI will continue to operate with the same mandate, i.e. facilitating the expansion of food fortification and supplementation programmes in developing countries to eliminate micronutrient malnutrition. The change of status of MI will make it more responsive to the needs of its partners and enhance operational effectiveness. The new organization will operate through four regional units and a global programmes unit.

These are highlights of the MI's recent work:

- Enhanced support for vitamin A supplementation programmes: during 2001 the MI provided more than half a billion vitamin A capsules through UNICEF, WHO and national governments to reach children and lactating mothers in 68 developing countries. Since 1996, more than 1.5 billion vitamin A capsules have been provided by the MI. In many countries supplements are integrated with national polio immunization campaigns. MI is now working towards the progressive integration of vitamin A supplementation using routine primary health care delivery mechanisms.
- Strengthening national capacities to assess micronutrient status: the MI is working with Tulane University, CDC and research institutions from ten Asian, African and Latin American countries.

Information and advocacy:

- Support to the UNU Iron Deficiency Project Advisory Service (called IDPAS Iron World) to create a proactive network and a clearinghouse with information on the assessment and prevention of iron deficiency. The MI's support allowed IDPAS to expand its international advocacy for developing an internationally accepted decade goal on iron nutrition that can guide countries in efforts to reduce the prevalence of iron deficiency anaemia.
- Support to Tulane University for the creation and maintenance of a database on micronutrient deficiencies and control programmes in the developing world.
- Creation of an educational computer module on iodine deficiency disorders. This module was completed in collaboration with McMaster University. The programme is to be used as an educational resource for public health professionals working on IDD control programmes.
- In partnership with UNICEF and local salt producers, the MI is now scaling up the production of double fortified salt in Nigeria and Kenya. Sensory tests in the two countries have shown encouraging results. The MI's technical consultants provide engineering services to salt producers to design and install fortifi-

cation equipment.

- Support for vitamin A fortification of sugar of India's Targeted Public Distribution System which distributes food commodities to households below the poverty line.
- Assistance to the Department of Nutrition in Nepal for the development of a national anaemia control strategy. Several initiatives on staple food fortification are also being pursued.
- Assistance for the fortification of cooking oils in Bangladesh.
- Technical and financial support to the Ministry of Agriculture in Brazil for flour fortification with iron. As a direct result of this project, iron fortification of wheat and corn flour is now mandatory in Brazil.
- Technical and financial assistance to the South African National Fortification Task Force and the Ministry of Health's Directorate of Nutrition for the establishment of mandatory micronutrient fortification of wheat flour and maize meal with vitamin A, thiamin, niacin, B6, iron, zinc and folic acid.

The MI's achievements over the past nine years are summarized in a new report entitled *The Micronutrient Initiative: a decade of progress, a lifetime of hope* published this month with a foreword by Maureen O'Neil, President of IDRC.

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UNICEF

Monitoring progress toward the World Summit for Children Goals

The World Summit for Children (WSC) has perhaps had the most systematic and rigorous follow-up and monitoring of all the major UN Conferences and Summits of the 90s.

In 1998, UNICEF accelerated work to review the indicators, prepare data collection tools, line-up expert assistance and reinforce the political momentum required for this complex global undertaking. A high priority was placed on providing countries with data collection instruments of high technical standards as well as with direct assistance in data collection and analysis, at both country and regional level. The challenge was to ensure that the end-decade assessment was grounded in data that truly reflected the situation of the world's women and children and gave indication of the trends on which the 21st century's agenda for children has to be based.

For this assessment, UNICEF relied on Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) as the main data collection instrument. MICS is a household survey methodology that generates data on key indicators not adequately monitored by other data collection systems in use. It does so quicker and inexpensively. Working closely with other agencies, UNICEF harmonized MICS with other major survey programmes to generate comparable and complementary data, in particular with the USAID-sponsored Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS).

A technical manual was developed covering all aspects of survey design and implementation, including a model

questionnaire, sampling, fieldwork, data collection, data processing, data analysis and report writing. In addition, standardised data processing programmes, as well as model reports were made available. To provide technical assistance in the implementation of the MICS surveys, UNICEF conducted a total of eighteen regional workshops in six regions. In addition, UNICEF is supporting countries to make the MICS data available for further analysis through the creation of micro datafiles.

MICS surveys were conducted in a total of 66 countries. An additional 35 countries obtained end-decade data from DHS and other national household surveys. The MICS surveys were primarily implemented by government statistics agencies or ministries of health.

The MICS surveys collected data not only on nutrition, health and education, but also on birth registration, living arrangements, water and sanitation, child work and knowledge and attitudes toward HIV/AIDS. MICS collected data on anthropometric indicators of child malnutrition, breastfeeding, complementary feeding, birth weights, vitamin A supplementation, and salt iodization.

A website (www.childinfo.org) was created to disseminate technical tools for the design and implementation of the surveys. In addition, the website contains UNICEF's key statistical databases with detailed country-specific information that was used for the end-decade assessment. This major statistical and monitoring effort has resulted in a vast improvement in the quality and availability of data.

The MICS and DHS also for the first time calculated the percentage of births for which no weights were recorded or the mother did not recall the birthweight (more than two thirds of birthweights are either not recorded or not known). Available data on low birthweight are thus not representative of the population at large. A major effort is needed to ensure that all babies are weighed at birth and their birthweights are recorded.

In summary, one of the most important achievements of the end-decade review process has been an improved national capacity for data collection and analysis and the increased awareness of the importance of monitoring. This improved capacity plus the new and updated information challenges the international community to better use data to improve the condition of the world's children.

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Mobilizing for Action on Infant and Young Child Feeding: Key Outcomes of the Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO) Nutrition Network Meeting, Harare 15-19 October 2001

This four day network meeting focused on infant and young child feeding with sessions on the WHO/UNICEF global strategy, development of national policies, the Code, Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative, HIV and infant feeding, communications, and training. Field visits to baby friendly facilities, prevention of mother-to-child transmission project sites and code monitoring sites provided an opportunity to put theory into practice.

□ Most countries in the region have now been oriented on the new UNICEF/ WHO Global Strategy on In-

fant and Young Child Feeding. It was emphasized that implementation of the various elements of the strategy can proceed and does not have to await formal adoption by the World Health Assembly in May 2002.

□ Country teams made commitments to endorse the Global Movement for Children and to accelerate actions to improve infant and young child feeding. Specifically, the following commitments were made:

- All countries without written policies will work on developing policies and strategies on infant and young child feeding. Existing policies will be reviewed to assure they are comprehensive and up to date. New and updated policies will appropriately reflect infant feeding in the context of HIV/AIDS.

- All countries with draft legislation (the majority in the region) on Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes will work to have these enacted into law by July 2002. Following the example of Zimbabwe, all countries with national laws will work on improving their enforcement. Local language translations of the International Code will be made available as needed.

- A re-assessment of existing Baby Friendly facilities will be undertaken.

- Large-scale orientation and training strategies on infant and young child feeding practices for different cadres will be developed in all countries.

□ These commitments call for concrete mechanisms of support by different regional bodies including UNICEF country offices and the Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office. Among partners who committed support for the implementation of the new Infant and Young Child feeding initiative were the Commonwealth Regional Community Health Secretariat, The Regional Centre for Quality Health Care, WHO/AFRO and IBFAN Africa. UNICEF ESARO, in collaboration with UNICEF Headquarters as needed, will provide support on technical and financial resources mobilization. This is especially important given that the nutritional aspects of country programmes have been chronically under-funded and it has been difficult to raise funds to support infant and young child feeding in general.

□ There was very good exchange of country experiences. Critical to further sharing of lessons will be more systematic documentation and the sharing of best practices.

□ It was agreed that South Africa will host the Nutrition Network Meeting for 2002 and the theme will be *Nutritional Care and Support in the Context of HIV/AIDS*. The theme of infant and young child feeding will continue to be on the agenda of the network meetings for the next 3 years.

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WHO

Improving the management of severe malnutrition

An estimated 50 million children under five are severely wasted. They mostly live in 27 developing countries and they face a case-fatality rate of 30-50%. As described in these new WHO guidelines, with appropriate management this unacceptably high death rate can be reduced to less than 5%. WHO has completed the development and testing of a seven-module training course on hospital-based care to accompany recent manuals on assessment, management, and rehabilitation of severely malnourished children. Wide dissemination of the course, and training in its application, are among the next urgent steps. The completed modules are now available for distribution to institutions interested in conducting training to improve the case management of severe malnutrition.

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WHO and WFP work together to provide food aid in HIV/AIDS

The third coordinating and planning meeting between WHO and WFP was held in November 2001 in an attempt to complement actions in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Assisted by a contribution from the Italian government, the objectives of the current effort focus on achieving coordination in country level actions. The first planning meeting resulted in a Letter of Intent to this effect signed by both agencies. WHO will assist WFP to develop appropriate food packages for people living with HIV/AIDS, as well as providing other types of technical assistance, notably training for WFP staff and partners in the field. WFP is making the Vulnerability Analysis Mapping system (VAM) available to WHO for enhanced targeting of activities. Both organizations will prepare joint funding proposals. In addition, the ongoing activi-

ties in Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda will be documented to provide models for an expansion of this initiative in the near future.

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Complimentary feeding

There is far less knowledge, experience and consensus about effective approaches to improve complementary feeding than there is in relation to breastfeeding. To address this imbalance, the WHO's Department of Child and Adolescent Health and Development in collaboration with the Department of Nutrition for Health and Development, convened a global consultation on complementary feeding, December 10-13, 2001 in Geneva. Since a consensus had been reached earlier in the year on the optimal duration of exclusive breastfeeding, the need to move more energetically to increase understanding of how to promote better complementary feeding practices in developing countries is obvious. One of the main objectives of the consultation was to define key messages for programmatic approaches to improve complementary feeding. Kathryn Dewey and Ken Brown of the University of California/Davis presented an update on technical issues and implications for intervention programmes. Professor Brown noted that FAO, WHO and UNU are in the process of revising energy requirements (see p 17) in infancy based on new data from longitudinal studies of energy expenditure and body composition of USA children. Revised energy requirements for older children (12-23 months) are also being prepared. These new requirements will have an impact on recommended energy densities of complementary foods as well as feeding frequency. The consultation debated the value of a ten-steps approach for complementary feeding, akin to the ten steps to successful breastfeeding. The full report of the consultation will be issued shortly.

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Pregnancy Intentions, Breastfeeding and Infant Health: Is there a causal relationship?

Analyses of data collected in Ecuador and the USA have found an association between unplanned pregnancies (mistimed and/or unwanted) and suboptimal prenatal care behaviors such as smoking and alcohol consumption. These findings are consistent with recently published 1994 data documenting that women with unwanted pregnancies were significantly more likely to deliver low birthweight infants. A retrospective study conducted in New York and two analyses from Peru (1992) and Ghana (1993) indicate that women with unplanned pregnancies are more likely to breastfeed for shorter periods of time. This may be explained at least in part by studies that have identified low birthweight as a risk factor for suboptimal infant feeding practices. Thus, a potential pattern is emerging that justifies conducting longitudinal studies to test whether unintended pregnancies lead to low birthweight by increasing the chances of untimely prenatal care, and/or prenatal alcohol consumption and smoking. Low birthweight in turn is a risk factor for suboptimal breastfeeding practices. Both, low birth weight and lack of breastfeeding are well known risk factors for poor child health outcomes. Unintended pregnancies may thus be linked with a higher risk of child morbidity and mortality. The implications of this model are enormous from a public health point of view as in many places as much as half of all pregnancies are unplanned.

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Fórum mundial
sobre
**SOBERANÍA
ALIMENTARIA**
3 - 7 SEPTIEMBRE 2001
La Habana, Cuba



WORLD FORUM ON FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

Some 400 delegates from peasant and indigenous organizations, fishing associations, non-governmental organizations, social agencies, academics and researchers from 60 countries met in Havana in September 2001 to analyze the reasons why hunger and malnutrition grow every day throughout the world, why the crisis in peasant and indigenous agriculture, artisanal fisheries and sustainable food systems has worsened, and why the people are losing sovereign control over their resources. This Forum was convened in Cuba by the Cuban National Association of Small Farmers and a group of international movements, networks and organizations with the aim to collectively develop viable alternatives for action on a local, national and global scale, aimed at reversing current trends and promoting new policies that can guarantee a hunger-free present and future for all men and women of the world. The Final Declaration reads:

For the peoples' right to produce food, feed themselves and exercise their food sovereignty.

Five years after the World Food Summit, seven years after the agricultural agreements of the Uruguay Round, and following two decades of the application of neoliberal policies, the promises and commitments made to satisfy the food and nutritional needs of all are far from being fulfilled. Actually, the economic, agricultural, fishing and trade policies imposed by the World Bank, IMF and WTO, and promoted by the transnational corporations, have widened the gap between the wealthy and poor countries and accentuated the unequal distribution of income within countries. They have worsened the conditions of food production and nutrition of the majority of the world's people, even of some in the developed countries. As a consequence, the right to food and nutritional well-being enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, is not guaranteed for the world's poor.

The sustainability of food systems is not merely a technical matter. It constitutes a challenge demanding the highest political will of states. The profit motive has led to the unsustainability of food systems often surpassing the limits on production imposed by nature.

The hope for a new millennium free of hunger has been frustrated, to the shame of all humanity.

The real causes of hunger and malnutrition

Hunger, malnutrition and the exclusion of millions of people from access to productive goods and resources are not a result of fate, of geographical location or climatic phenomena. Above all, they are a consequence of deliberate policies that have been imposed by developed countries and their corporations to maintain and increase their hegemony within the current process of global economic restructuring.

In the face of the neoliberal ideology behind these policies we affirm that:

- Food is not a merchandise and that the food system cannot be viewed mainly according to a market logic.
- The liberalization of international agricultural and fishing trade does not guarantee the people's right to food.
- Trade liberalization does not necessarily facilitate economic growth and the well-being of the poor.
- The underdeveloped countries are capable of producing their own food now and in the future if external constraints are lifted.
- The neoliberal concept of comparative advantage negatively affects food systems. The importing of cheaper food commodities leads to the dismantling of domestic production and the reorienting productive resources towards export crops for the First World markets.
- Peasant, indigenous farmers and artisanal fisherfolks are indeed able to meet the growing needs of food production. Intensive industrial agriculture and fishing are ill-suited to solve the world's hunger problems.
- Current efforts to privatize agricultural and fisheries natural resources are steps in the wrong direction.
- Privatization leads, among other, to massive migration to the cities and abroad supplying cheap labor to corporations and exacerbating urban unemployment.
- Transnational food models being imposed threaten the diversity of peoples' food cultures.
- Developed countries use food as a weapon. We recognize the efforts of Cuba which, despite a four decades US blockade has managed to guarantee the right to food for all of its people.
- All of the above is taking place while we see a weakening of the real participation of the rural population in the discussion and adoption of public policies.

The consequences of neoliberal policies

- Developed countries have reaped most of the benefits while the peoples of the Third World have seen a growth of their external debt and heightened levels of poverty and social exclusion. The international agricultural market is cornered by a small number of transnational corporations while dependence and food insecurity is the reality for the majority of the rural poor.
- A number of countries continue to heavily subsidize their export crops giving no protection to small farmers who produce for the domestic market.
- Neoliberal policies are promoting a process of forced deruralization.
- Artisanal fishing communities have been increasingly losing access to their own resources.
- Hunger and malnutrition are growing, not because of an absence of food, but rather because of an absence of rights.



But the eradication of hunger and malnutrition and the exercise of lasting and sustainable food sovereignty are possible. We have seen in practically every country countless examples of sustainable food production in peasant and indigenous communities, as well as sustainable and diversified management of rural areas.

In view of the foregoing, the participants in the World Forum on Food Sovereignty declare:

1. Food sovereignty is the peoples' right to define their own policies and strategies for the sustainable production, distribution and consumption of food. This sovereignty centers on supporting small and medium-size producers; it respects farmers' own cultures and diversity and their own forms of fishing and agricultural production in which women play a fundamental role.
2. Food sovereignty is primarily oriented towards the satisfaction of the needs of the local and national markets.
3. The rights, autonomy and culture of indigenous peoples is a prerequisite for combating hunger and malnutrition as is the recognition of their right to autonomous control of their territories and natural resources
4. Food sovereignty further implies guaranteed access to safe and sufficient food for all individuals.
5. Food sovereignty implies the implementation of comprehensive land reform which will also give equal opportunities to women. It has to entail equitable access to land, water and forests, as well as to the means of production, financing, training and capacity building. Where needed, land reform is an obligation of national governments, but must be controlled by peasant organizations. We oppose the policies and programs for the commercialization of land promoted by the World Bank.
6. We support the Code of Conduct on the Human Right to Adequate Food (put forward for consideration at the upcoming World Food Summit: Five Years Later (WFS FYL) as an instrument for the implementation and promotion of this right.
7. We support the ratification and application of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (UN, 1966).
8. We support the adoption by the UN of an "International Convention on Food Sovereignty and Nutritional Well-being" to rule over decisions on an international food trade that serves human beings. [Food sovereignty does not mean autarchy, full self-sufficiency or the disappearance of international agricultural and fishing trade].
9. We oppose any interference by the WTO to unduly influence national food, agriculture and fishing policies. We categorically oppose its agreements on intellectual property rights over plants and other living organisms. WTO has to be kept out of food.
10. We propose the creation of a new democratic and transparent order for the regulation of international trade, the creation of an international appeals court independent of the WTO, as well as the strengthening of UNCTAD as a forum for multilateral negotiations on fair trade in food. At the same time, we propose the promotion of regional networking among producers' organizations opposing the negative effects of the neoliberal practices depicted above.
11. We demand an immediate end to the unfair subsidies being given to agricultural exports in the North.
12. We condemn biopiracy and the patenting of living organisms, including the development of sterile varieties through genetic engineering processes. Seeds are the patrimony of all of humanity. The monopolization genetically modified organisms (GMOs) technologies represents a grave threat to the peoples' food sovereignty. We demand a ban on open experimentation and marketing of GMOs until there is conclusive evidence of their impact (precautionary principle).
13. We oppose the imposition of food models alien to the food cultures of sovereign nations. Food sovereignty should be founded on diversified systems of production, based on ecologically sustainable technologies.
14. We consider the protection of the environment and biodiversity and of cultural diversity a priority.
15. We support the struggles of women for access to productive resources and for passing on their food cultures to their children.
16. Artisanal fisherfolks and their organizations are not to relinquish their rights to free access to inland and coastal fishing grounds and the establishment and protection of reserve areas for the exclusive use of artisanal fishing.
17. Food aid policies and programs must be reviewed. They cannot inhibit the development of local food production capacities. They should also not lead to dependence, to corruption, or to the dumping of foods that are harmful to health.
18. Food sovereignty can only be achieved, defended and exercised through the mobilization of all of society. It requires an effective democratization of decision-making and the development of national and international solidarity networks.
19. We condemn the US policy of blockading Cuba and other peoples and the use of food as a weapon of economic and political pressure against countries and popular movements.
20. Achieving food sovereignty and eradicating hunger and malnutrition are possible in all countries and for all peoples. We express our determination to continue struggling against the negative effects of globalization, maintaining and increasing our role as social mobilizers, building strategic alliances and adopting firm political agendas.
21. We propose declaring October 16 (known until now as World Food Day) as World Food Sovereignty Day.
22. FAO has to fully assume its mandate and responsibility to, in all fora including WTO, fight for the interests and right to food and nutrition of the poor.

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NUTRITION IN EMERGENCIES



Dispelling myths about breastfeeding in emergencies

Myths about breastfeeding can undermine both a mother's confidence and the support she receives. The four most common myths are:

- ❑ *Stress makes milk dry up* While extreme stress or fear may cause milk to momentarily stop flowing, this is usually temporary. Breastfeeding produces hormones that reduce tension, and calm the mother and the baby.
- ❑ *Malnourished mothers cannot breastfeed* Foods should go to the lactating mothers so that they can feed their babies and maintain the strength to care for older children. In severe malnutrition, the use of a breastfeeding supplement can ensure increased breastmilk production.
- ❑ *Babies with diarrhoea need water or tea* As breastmilk is over 90% water, exclusively breastfed babies with diarrhoea do not usually need additional liquids. What is more, water is often contaminated in emergency situations. In the case of severe diarrhoea with dehydration, oral rehydration therapy administered by spoon may be required.
- ❑ *Once breastfeeding has stopped, it cannot be resumed* With an adequate relactation technique, it is possible to help mothers to restart breastfeeding. This is sometimes vital in emergencies.

Women in displacement and emergency situations are at increased risk of breastfeeding problems. They need help, not just motivational messages.

Source: *BFHI News, UNICEF, September/October 1999. www.unicef.org/bfhi/sepoct99.pdf*

Interagency collaboration to address infant feeding in emergency situations

The importance of breastfeeding is well recognized in emergency and relief situations. Artificial feeding in these conditions is difficult and hazardous and leads to increased infant mortality rates. The basic resources needed for artificial feeding such as water, fuel and breastmilk substitute products, are scarce in these situations. Breastmilk substitutes donated as humanitarian aid often end up in the local market and can have a negative influence on feeding practices of infants.

The changing context of humanitarian crises have presented relief workers with new challenges. For instance, there may be a high prevalence of HIV infection and this may affect breastfeeding practices and make wet nursing less advisable; there may be infants without mothers or carers; the crisis may have occurred in an already bottle feeding culture; or some therapeutic feeding programmes may have been admitting significant numbers of malnourished infants under six months for whom traditional treatment regimens are not appropriate.

Many agencies face problems with the appropriate management of infants in emergencies. The Emergency Nutrition Network (ENN) ran a special issue of *Field Exchange* on this topic in its first publication in May 1997. Many of the common problems experienced by field workers were covered in that issue, for example:

- ❑ Lack of experience and technical training in emergency work especially on appropriate maternal and child care practices.
- ❑ Lack of interest in the special challenges of infant feeding in emergencies.
- ❑ Lack of guidelines in the field for appropriate infant feeding practices in emergencies.

Since that time, much work has been done through inter-agency collaboration. An ad hoc group on Infant Feeding in Emergencies (IFEG), co-ordinated by SCF/UK, held a series of meetings from 1997 to 1999. IFEG involved individuals and representatives from a wide range of agencies concerned with promoting positive and appropriate in-



infant feeding practices in emergency and relief settings. IFEG produced a document that helps agencies develop policies and strategies in this area, as well as providing them with useful practical tools to overcome some of the problems encountered by field personnel. This preparatory work fed into an international meeting hosted by IBFAN in Split, Croatia in October 1998.

By then, a huge gap was evident in the areas of training and disseminating guidelines for humanitarian workers. One of the key recommendation from the meeting in Split was that training materials be developed.

Work on these training materials began in 1999, facilitated by WHO and by LINKAGES. A core group took the main responsibility; the group included staff from LINKAGES, WHO, UNICEF, IBFAN and the ENN. A first module training pack was produced by March 2001. The Module is intended for all relief staff, both international and locally recruited. It is appropriate for decision-makers, regional managers, logistics officers, camp administrators and all those whose work involves caring for mothers and children. The training pack was presented to the ACC/SCN Working Group on Nutrition in Emergencies in Nairobi in April 2001. UNICEF has since distributed the packs to its country offices. The pack is available for download-

ing from the ENN web site or in hard copy directly from ENN.

The core group responsible for the development of the training pack was later joined by UNHCR and WFP. It met in September 2001 and is now completing Module 2 for health and nutrition workers. The objective of this second set of materials is to provide this personnel with up to date technical knowledge on appropriate infant feeding, as well as equipping them with the knowledge and skills to positively effect feeding practices.

Another important step in this work has been the development of an Operational Guidance on Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies (often called the Inter-agency Operational Guidance). This document was drafted by members of the Inter-agency Working Group (SCF/UK, LINKAGES and IBFAN). It provides quick and accessible references for non-technical personnel on the "do's and don'ts" in infant feeding in emergencies. In the interest of strengthening best practices, agencies were asked to show their support for the Operational Guidance—this can be done on line.

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Module 1 and the Operational Guidance can be found at
www.ennonline.net*



Plans for revising the Sphere Project Manual

SCN News 22 reported that a workshop was held in Oxford in July 2001 under the auspices of the Sphere Project. Participants included representatives from NGOs, UN agencies, donors, and academic and independent institutions. Attempts were made to determine the need to set minimum standards for food security and what the nature of them should be. The interface between food aid and food security was also explored.

All agreed that minimum standards for food security are necessary. Some standards were formulated and indicators for monitoring and evaluation identified. It was clear to all that immediate food needs and livelihood support were two different challenges.

Food security in emergencies is somewhat different. Information needs to be analyzed quickly and specifically to determine the severity of the food insecurity. Both food and non-food interventions are needed to address food insecurity and save lives. Some of what was discussed will form the basis of future food security standards and indicators.

There was general agreement on the need to revise the food aid chapter of Sphere's Humanitarian Charter and Standards in Disaster Response. Food aid issues may be incorporated in the food security chapter. However, some participants felt that there are some unique aspects to food assistance programmes, in particular logistics, which need to be covered in a separate chapter.

The revised Sphere Handbook will be available late 2003. Next steps will include the identification of a focal point for revising the chapters, the establishment of a working group and peer review group, the production of draft chapter and field testing in 2002, and a final review by the first quarter of 2003.

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DORIS HOWES CALLOWAY

1923-2001

***teacher, mentor scholar,
humanist, friend***



On August 31, 2001, in Seattle, Doris Calloway passed away after a long battle with Parkinson's disease; she was 78. Doris Calloway was an outstanding nutrition scientist, perhaps most widely known for her work, often with Sheldon Margen, on protein and energy metabolism and requirements. That was only one of Doris' many contributions and perhaps not the most important heritage she leaves behind.

At a Memorial Service held in Berkeley on October 7, it was clear that another of her contributions was the role model she set—for her students and for her colleagues—both in terms of personal values and scientific rigor. Doris had an encyclopedic knowledge and the ability to apply information to real human needs. While holistic in her outlook, she was noted with envy as a meticulous scientist, highly respected for honesty and objectivity in her work. She led the development and application of new methodologies for the quantification of intake and for the collection of body losses in balance studies. Many of her innovative approaches were subsequently adopted in research facilities around the world. The results of the research conducted under her direction have had marked impact on human requirement estimates.

Doris also championed the issue of nutrition and human function, moving out of the laboratory to ask what "adequate nutrition" really meant in terms of the life and function of individuals and households in the developing world. This led her to also ask "what is the human cost of inadequate food and nutrient intake?". She broke new ground at a time when conventional science was still entrenched in highly-controlled laboratory experiments. Earlier, she had spent a sabbatical working with a native Indian population in Arizona, assessing dietary intakes and attempting to preserve those dietary and other practices that favored health and survival. This was an activity and contribution in which she took considerable personal satisfaction.

As Dr. Janet King said of her, "One of Doris' missions in life was to improve opportunities for women and members of minority groups. The scientific issues she undertook were often linked to their needs."

Doris Calloway was the first woman to break into the senior administrative ranks at UC Berkeley where she became Provost for the Professional Schools and Colleges (1981-87). Throughout her career she sought equality of opportunity for women. She was also concerned with human rights. During the anti-war protests at Berkeley, Doris Calloway jeopardized her staff position by arguing for students' right to peaceful demonstration.

Born in Canton, Ohio, in 1923, she earned her BS degree at Ohio State University and her PhD, at the University of Chicago. Her initial research, on protein and energy, was conducted in Chicago. She was persuaded to move to California by a telephone call in the midst of a Chicago winter storm. After a brief period at the Stanford Research Institute, in 1963 she joined the Department of Nutritional Sciences at Berkeley and remained on staff until her retirement in 1990.

In 1972, she was appointed to the WHO Expert Panel on Nutrition and to the Technical Advisory Committee of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research in 1989. She served on many other international committees and advisory groups as well. In the United States, she participated in several revisions of the National Research Council Recommended Dietary Allowances and, in 1995, was appointed chair of the USDA Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee.

Doris Calloway was elected as a Fellow of the American Institute of Nutrition and received the prestigious Conrad Elvehjem Award of that Institute; she was elected to membership in the US National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine and was recognized with the Bristol-Myers Squibb/Mead Johnson Award for Distinguished Achievement in Nutrition. With both wry humor and pride, she hung her first award (for work with the US Army labs in Chicago) on the wall in her office for many years: it read "*Outstanding Man of the Year*".

Doris is survived by two children from her marriage to Nathaniel Calloway, and by her husband of 20 years, Robert Nesheim and his two children, as well as by nine grandchildren.



SPEAKERS' CORNER

Human Rights and the Right to Adequate Food —An update on SCN News 18

Adequate Food—A Human Right

The ACC/SCN symposium ‘The Substance and Politics of a Human Rights Approach to Food and Nutrition Policies and Programmes’ of April 1999, indeed had a triggering effect on the attention given to the right to food at the international level.

In our early work on this topic there were not many supportive voices. In 1989, a study I carried out as a special rapporteur for the UN Sub-Commission on the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights, managed to bring the debate on economic and social rights out of the ideological morass of the Cold War. With my colleagues at the Norwegian Institute of Human Rights and the Institute for Nutrition Research at the University of Oslo, I then also presented what has since been referred to as the “right to food matrix”, intended as an educational tool to help in assessing, planning and implementing the right to food. In 1999, the study for the Sub-commission was updated.

It still took a long time before the concept took hold. Crucial was the World Food Summit (WFS) of 1996, where heads of state reaffirmed the right of everyone to have access to adequate, safe and nutritious food—consistent with the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger. They invited the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (HCHR) to lead work to clarify the content of the right to food and to suggest steps for the progressive realization of this right as a means of achieving food security for all. In the follow-up of WFS, consultations were held by the HCHR in Geneva in 1997 and in Rome in 1998, but it was the symposium during the ACC/SCN session in 1999 which really revitalized the process allowing further developments.

The UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) was already working on the adoption of a “general comment” related to Article 11 of the Covenant which would better interpret the right to adequate food and to be free from hunger. The SCN symposium added further ideas and suggestions which helped to move the process forward. In May 1999, the Committee adopted its “General Comment No.12” (GC12)—the most authoritative interpretation to date of the right to food, the corresponding obligations, and steps to be

taken at the national and international level to implement it.

GC12 affirms that the right to adequate food implies the availability of and sustainable access to food in sufficient quantity and quality to satisfy the dietary needs of individuals, being free from adverse substances and acceptable to a given culture; it adds that this right should not interfere with the enjoyment of other human rights. Fulfilling dietary needs implies that the diet as a whole is balanced for optimal growth, development and maintenance throughout the life cycle and according to gender and occupation.

The CESCR further noted that the right to adequate food, like any other human right, imposes three types or levels of obligations on State parties: the obligations to *respect*, to *protect* and to *fulfil*, the latter incorporating both an obligation to *facilitate* and to *provide*. To *respect* here means not taking any measures that result in preventing access to food. To *protect* means ensuring that enterprises or individuals do not deprive individuals of their access to adequate food. To *fulfil (facilitate)* means proactively engaging in activities that strengthen people’s access to and utilization of resources and means that ensure their livelihood, including food security. Finally, whenever individuals or groups are, for reasons beyond their control, unable to enjoy the right to adequate food by the means at their disposal, States have the obligation to *fulfil (provide)* that right directly. This obligation also applies for persons who are victims of natural or other disasters.

In terms of national implementation, GC12 called on states to adopt a strategy for the realization of the right to food, including the establishment of a legislative agenda for that purpose.

The General Comment laid a solid basis for further work. An International Project on the Right to Food in Development was established at the University of Oslo in April 2000. It engages in research, capacity-building and advisory functions related to the right to adequate food. For dissemination and outreach, it works in close co-operation with the World Alliance on Nutrition and Human Rights. In 2000, the Project held two international encounters, one of which was in co-operation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Hu-

man Rights and the ACC/SCN Working Group on Nutrition, Ethics and Human Rights.

Also in 2000, the UN Commission on Human Rights took an important step by appointing its own Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food. His task has been to monitor the existing situation and to propose steps for better implementation. He has been especially active in establishing contacts with parliamentarians around the world and has developed some first guidelines for legislative action.

In March 2001, experts met in Germany for a third round of consultations organized by the

HCHR; the focus was on implementation. One major recommendation was to convene a set of national seminars with politicians and local decision-makers from the legislative and executive branches together with human rights experts, nutritionists, agriculturalists and other professionals. The purpose is to spark internal dialogues on national strategies on the right to food. Such seminars are being planned in 2002 in South Africa, Uganda, Mali, Nepal and Norway.

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Nutrition and Agriculture —An update on SCN News 20

Where are we with nutrition and agriculture and where are we going?

Over the past 25 years, improvements in children's nutrition have been significant yet uneven and slow in coming. International recognition of this shortcoming is reflected in one of the Millennium Development Goals that calls for halving hunger by 2015. To reach this goal, all our policy, programme and advocacy strategies and tools must be used to maximal effect.

Agriculture is receiving new attention as a contributor to improved nutrition. This interest is manifest when we look at the growing number of fora that include discussions pertaining to the linkages between nutrition and agriculture. After the World Food Summit (1996) such meetings were held in Ghana (1996), Eritrea and Kenya (1998), Ethiopia (1999), Philippines (1999), Germany (1999, 2001), South Africa (2000), Switzerland (2000), US (2000, 2001), and Kenya (2001). These meetings have built on efforts to demonstrate the pathways that link the two sectors. These linkages are most clearly seen when the focus is on the people – men and women alike – who express a need for and use technologies, practices and accumulated knowledge. Do we know if improved processes, technologies and practices have led to nutritional benefits?

There is a growing body of evidence that agricultural interventions do yield timely results in nutritional well-being. Examples exist for dietary diversification and micronutrients, as well as for increased yields of nutrient-rich and staple foods. One would expect that with such evidence, one would see increased investments in promoting and using such strategies. Yet, that is not the case. This paradox prompted the International Centre for Research on

Women (ICRW) and IFPRI to investigate what was causing this under-investment. A worldwide survey was carried out of over 600 agriculture, nutrition and gender specialists. In Nairobi April 2001, discussions were held with stakeholder representatives from Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Uganda and the US. A second discussion with stakeholders was held in Washington in June 2001.

Survey findings suggested that while there is much common ground, there is sufficient divergence in viewpoints among stakeholders to explain why opportunities to link agriculture and nutrition have been missed. Further, while there is general recognition that addressing gender issues is important for maximizing impact of agricultural development and nutritional outcomes, there are wide differences in understanding as to how to do that. Some of these constraining factors include the lack of agreement on terms; narrow, too sector-specific training curricula; differing institutional priorities; vertical financial decision-making and budgetary allocations; and lack of political will. All these contribute to under-investment.

With support from USAID, a three-year multi-country study that builds on the findings from the survey and stakeholder meetings began implementation in December 2001. It covers three levels of activities: (a) actions to promote gender-sensitive linkages between nutrition and agriculture in five African countries; (b) similar actions at the broader international level; and (c) strengthening the capacity of nutrition and agriculture specialists in gender approaches and methodologies, strategic planning and advocacy strategies. The intended outcome is to foster greater investment in strategies that maximize the contributions agricultural interventions make to nutritional outcomes.



Other initiatives that are under way to link nutrition and agriculture include efforts by the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA)'s FoodNet project, as well as the "Partnership to Cut Hunger in Africa" initiative that links African and US-based actors.

The alarming spread of HIV/AIDS in rural areas and the interaction between nutrition and HIV/

AIDS creates an additional urgent need to act expeditiously.

With the increased visibility and the expanded application of the accumulated experience and knowledge we have regarding gender-sensitive linkages between nutrition and agriculture, we should be in a better position to reach the Millennium Goal of reducing poverty and hunger.

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Nutrition Goals and Targets

—An update on SCN News 22

Achieving UNICEF Nutrition Goals—Some New Game Plans

It was hoped that the nutrition goals set out in the 1990 World Summit for Children and supported by nearly every country would have been achieved by the year 2000. These goals were and still are important and were well discussed in SCN News 22. They set out targets for nutritional achievement for children and their mothers. Globally, 11 years later, they have not been achieved despite some remarkable successes, namely in rates of low birthweight, stunting, vitamin A and iodine deficiency. Health and development benefits of these have followed. The lives of millions of children have been saved and their development enhanced. However, in too many countries the prevalence rates of malnutrition have not changed or have even deteriorated.

Much of the discussion at the recent IUNS Vienna meeting was around why the successes in some countries have not been achieved in others, and what new strategies are necessary to achieve global improvements. Several sessions at the Vienna meeting examined ways forward. A UNICEF symposium on the 1990s nutrition goals for women and children looked at progress and future challenges. There were also three concurrent sessions on Africa and Nutrition that included issues on policy and programmes. Each of them gave opportunity for discussion on problems and solutions.

Challenges to Overcome

□ Nutrition has often been left out of health sector reform policies and programmes. Many governments now focus on community financing, private/public sector interface and fee for services. The move is towards those services which can be charged for including EPI, maternity services, birth spacing, infection control programmes, the provision of antibiotics and curative care. With the

greater emphasis on fees, many of the low cost nutrition-related activities have been discontinued. Therefore, growth monitoring, nutrition interventions in pregnancy and vitamin A supplements cannot be found in many governments' health sector reform policies.

□ Many donors now concentrate on sector wide approaches and support their partners in priority setting and in consolidating programmes and budgets. They insist on using indicators that can be checked and give priority to reinforcing national capacities in management. Many health ministries have problems in prioritizing programmes when faced with many competing demands. The additional burden of HIV, the increasing epidemic of TB, malaria control, diarrhoeal and respiratory diseases and others make it difficult to choose. Additionally, the provision of health services with poorly developed infrastructure and poorly motivated staff makes the challenge even greater. Many of the programmes finally chosen are obviously important, but in too many cases nutrition interventions fall through the cracks. There are notable exceptions such as the integrated management of childhood illness (IMCI) in which nutrition plays a key role. But IMCI has yet to include a truly community based approach.

□ There is confusion on infant feeding messages for HIV positive mothers. Some warn about the potential infectivity of human breastmilk; others are less clear. Infant formula is often promoted with health staff often giving conflicting advice. WHO and UNICEF have produced guidelines to clarify these issues and there are some indications that exclusive breastfeeding for six months may decrease the rate of transmission of the virus through the milk. Moreover, EPI coverages have fallen in certain areas. Measles is reappearing in increasing numbers. The detrimental effects of measles on nutrition and on vitamin A status is well documented.

□ Iodine deficiency control is still often seen as a low priority compared with other programmes. Legislation has not been passed for salt iodization despite the clear public health benefits of iodization. There is sometimes poor implementation of national IDD programmes and failure to ensure that the salt in the market is adequately iodized.

The news is not all bad though. There are many countries that have improved the nutritional status of their people and have either achieved or very nearly achieved the set nutrition goals. Learning from success can occur if countries focus on the reasons why some players have been more successful than others.

There have been some important lessons learned:

□ Set achievable goals and targets. There seems little point in setting goals and targets that cannot be achieved. It demotivates staff. We have thus to design nutrition interventions that are well costed and endowed with the needed resources. These need to be approved centrally and become part of sector wide approaches. For this, the nutrition community needs to be more vocal in its advocacy. Our colleagues who focus on vaccines, on HIV/AIDS, TB or malaria are often more focused than we who seek to place nutrition in national policies. The ICN-sponsored National Plans of Action for Nutrition (NPANs) are a good place to start. However, many of these still sit on desks and have not been implemented. A fresh look at them is needed now with a greater emphasis on being more focused recognizing that not all can be implemented at the same time. The nutrition community needs to prioritize its actions rather than become dismayed when nothing occurs.

□ Focused programmes. There are good examples of ways in which we can focus key nutrition interventions. The reduction in the prevalence of low birthweight is one of them. Infection control (including malaria, intestinal helminths and STDs) and micronutrient interventions, have proven to reduce low birthweight in several countries. The point here is that we need to adapt these well proven and focused approaches to solve critical nutrition problems. Setting and monitoring appropriate indicators will then tell us if we are on track.

□ Publicise successes. Many countries have excellent programmes of which they are legitimately proud. But they fail to publicize them to wider audiences. Success breeds success. HIV, TB and malaria advocates are doing a better job. The challenge is to more aggressively put nutrition success stories on the map again.

Participants at the Vienna conference made all these points very clearly and quite repeatedly at the sessions focusing on nutrition goals. The tragic events of September 11 resulted in a delay of the UN Summit for Children, now to be held in May 2002. In Vienna, it was agreed that the next Summit meeting will provide an excellent opportunity for putting nutrition on the map again. The way in which countries use the UN Summit goals and how they develop their own strategies for implementing action programmes will be crucial.

The message from the participants was clear: There have been missed opportunities, there have been some new threats, but there are many more opportunities than weaknesses. Participants agreed to focus on and highlight success stories. You should start doing just that. *SCN News* is an excellent vehicle to do so.

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The rhetoric of international development targets and the reality of official development assistance

There is an alarming gap between the rhetoric of poverty reduction and the size and characteristics of ODA. All International Development Targets are linked to the provision of basic social services for every child. The cost of giving every child access to such services is estimated at around \$ 70-80 billion per year. But barriers to new exports from developing to industrialized countries, linked to agricultural subsidies in the North cost the developing countries more in lost export opportunities and revenues than the nearly \$50 billion that they receive in ODA each year. There is an urgent need for consistency and coherence between aid policy and other policies in industrialized countries. Without this, worldwide poverty reduction may remain a mirage.

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Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

Editor's note: As many readers of *SCN News* know, the nutrition-related MDGs are intended to complement (or replace?) the goals set at the World Summit for Children now being monitored by UNICEF using multiple indicator cluster (MIC) surveys (see UNICEF, Programme News). We invite your comments or critiques of the MDGs. We will publish them in the Speakers' Corner in *SCN News* 24.

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)	
Goals and Targets	Indicators
Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	
Target 1: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proportion of population below \$1 per day (PPP-values) 2. Poverty gap ratio [incidence x depth of poverty] 3. Share of poorest quintile in national consumption
Target 2: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Prevalence of underweight children (under-five years of age) 5. Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption
Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education	
Target 3: Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Net enrolment ratio in primary education 7. Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5 8. Literacy rate of 15-24 year olds
Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women	
Target 4: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005 and to all levels of education no later than 2015	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education 10. Ratio of literate females to males of 15-24 year olds 11. Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector 12. Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament
Goal 4: Reduce child mortality	
Target 5: Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Under-five mortality rate 14. Infant mortality rate 15. Proportion of 1 year old children immunised against measles
Goal 5: Improve maternal health	
Target 6: Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 16. Maternal mortality ratio 17. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel
Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases	
Target 7: Have halted by 2015, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV/AIDS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 18. HIV prevalence among 15-24 year old pregnant women 19. Contraceptive prevalence rate 20. Number of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS
Target 8: Have halted by 2015, and begun to reverse, the incidence of malaria and other major diseases	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 21. Prevalence and death rates associated with malaria 22. Proportion of population in malaria risk areas using effective malaria prevention and treatment measures 23. Prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis 24. Proportion of TB cases detected and cured under DOTS (Directly Observed Treatment Short Course)
Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability	
Target 9: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proportion of land area covered by forest 2. Land area protected to maintain biological diversity 3. GDP per unit of energy use (as proxy for energy efficiency) 4. Carbon dioxide emissions (per capita) [Plus two figures of global atmospheric pollution: ozone depletion and the accumulation of global warming gases]
Target 10: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved water source
Target 11: By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Proportion of people with access to improved sanitation 7. Proportion of people with access to secure tenure [Urban/rural disaggregation of several of the above indicators may be relevant for monitoring improvement in the lives of slum dwellers]

Goals and Targets	Indicators
Goal 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development	
<p>Target 12: Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system</p> <p>Includes a commitment to good governance, development, and poverty reduction – both nationally and internationally</p>	<p><i>Some of the indicators listed below will be monitored separately for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Africa, landlocked countries and small island developing states.</i></p>
<p>Target 13: Address the Special Needs of the Least Developed Countries</p> <p>Includes: tariff and quota free access for LDC exports; enhanced programme of debt relief for HIPC and cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous ODA for countries committed to poverty reduction</p>	<p><i>Official Development Assistance</i></p> <p>8. Net ODA as percentage of DAC donors' GNI [targets of 0.7% in total and 0.15% for LDCs]</p> <p>9. Proportion of ODA to basic social services (basic education, primary health care, nutrition, safe water and sanitation)</p> <p>10. Proportion of ODA that is untied</p> <p>11. Proportion of ODA for environment in small island developing states</p> <p>12. Proportion of ODA for transport sector in land-locked countries</p>
<p>Target 14: Address the Special Needs of landlocked countries and small island developing states</p> <p>(through Barbados Programme and 22nd General Assembly provisions)</p>	<p><i>Market Access</i></p> <p>13. Proportion of exports (by value and excluding arms) admitted free of duties and quotas</p> <p>14. Average tariffs and quotas on agricultural products and textiles and clothing</p> <p>15. Domestic and export agricultural subsidies in OECD countries</p> <p>16. Proportion of ODA provided to help build trade capacity</p>
<p>Target 15: Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term</p>	<p><i>Debt Sustainability</i></p> <p>17. Proportion of official bilateral HIPC debt cancelled</p> <p>18. Debt service as a percentage of exports of goods and services</p> <p>19. Proportion of ODA provided as debt relief</p> <p>20. Number of countries reaching HIPC decision and completion points</p>
<p>Target 16: In co-operation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth</p>	<p>21. Unemployment rate of 15-24 year olds</p>
<p>Target 17: In co-operation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable, essential drugs in developing countries</p>	<p>22. Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis</p>
<p>Target 18: In co-operation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications</p>	<p>23. Telephone lines per 1000 people</p> <p>24. Personal computers per 1000 people</p>

Extracted from: *Roadmap towards the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration. UN General Assembly, A56/326, 2001.*
<http://www.un.org/documents/ga/docs/56/a56326.pdf>

Socioeconomic inequalities in child malnutrition in the developing world

Malnutrition is concentrated among the worst off. Yet targets are still defined in terms of population averages. It is not just that the poor have higher rates of malnutrition. The rate of malnutrition declines continuously with rising living standards. The fact that poorer children have higher rates of stunting and underweight is not due to chance or sampling variability. Inequalities in stunting and underweight are statistically significant in almost all countries. Inequalities in underweight tend to be larger than inequalities in stunting. Egypt and Vietnam have the most equal distributions of malnutrition, and Nicaragua, Peru and Morocco have highly unequal distributions. Egypt and Romania do well in terms of both the average prevalence of malnutrition and its distribution (an indicator of equity). Peru has a higher average level of stunting than Egypt and higher poor-nonpoor inequality. But many countries do well on one count and badly on the other. Brazil, has a far lower (<20%) stunting rate overall than Bangladesh (>50%), but has four times as much inequality. This analysis leads to some interesting rank reversals in the country league table...

Wagstaff A and Watanabe N (2000) Poverty and Human Resources. Development Research Group, World Bank.



Letters Letters Letters Letters Letters Letters Letters Letters Letters Letters Letters Letters Letters Letters



Dear *SCN News*,

I appreciated the July 2001 issue of *SCN News* very much, particularly since I am in the thick of reviewing the Philippines six-year Plan of Action for Nutrition.

There are nutrition goals/targets and there are nutrition goals/targets...

Formulated in the manner that they were by international experts, and in the absence of accompanying mechanisms and resources at the national level to analyse and reset them—as seen fit on the basis of the country's own perspective—we should not be surprised that the goals/targets were not met. It is ludicrous to expect countries with different starting points in terms of their nutrition problems and contexts to get to the same finish line in the same period of time. That the countries themselves made such commitments is another matter.

Further, it would be naive to expect decision-making in public nutrition (e.g. the setting of goals and targets) to be a simple step-by-step procedure. Socio-political factors and the perceptions and interests of key individuals and institutions influence what situations are considered problematic, how problems are defined, which causes are given attention, why certain actions are taken, and what indicators are used to monitor progress. The latter because, to measure progress, many institutions use *averages* which only tell us about overall progress. The *deprivation* perspective is more often than not missing, so we are left in the cold as to who the most deprived groups are hidden in that average (by income, gender, ethnicity...) and if they have progressed over time. But this is not all. The same institutions seldom bother with the *inequality* perspective which asks what the disparity between groups is and the progress made in narrowing that inequality.

So, you see, there also are nutrition indicators and nutrition indicators...

Sincerely yours,

Dr Cecilia Florencio
University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City
cecilia.florencio@up.edu.ph □

Dear *SCN News*,

I wanted to share with you some of the work we are doing here in India, because of its interest to *SCN News* readers. We are working on school nutrition and health particularly on a combination of deworming + vitamin A + iron supplementation in the classroom. Results have been most successful and cost-effective (20-25 US ct/yr). Since 1994, we have covered three million children in Gujarat. The health package is piggy-backed on the Mid-Day-Meal Program adding no extra cost. Micronutrient status, school attendance, attention span and school performance have significantly improved. The state of Karnataka has just adopted our approach for 1-4 million school children. We think FRESH (Focus Resources for Effective School Health) may have an interest in this programme (see *SCN News* 21, p 50).

We are using the same deworming + micronutrient delivery package to improve the health, productivity and earnings of plantation and industrial female workers. We think ILO may have an interest in this programme.

We are also involved in complementary feeding of under twos. In most South Asian communities, exclusive breastfeeding is continued until the baby is about two years of age. Much more attention needs to be paid to complementary feeding patterns that are appropriate, affordable and accessible. We have for long been using amylase-rich-foods (ARF). The Government of Karnataka is incorporating 7% millet ARF into its processed complementary food which is being distributed to two million under-twos in its Integrated Child Development Services Programme. We are now working on the concept of a sachet/sprinkler containing both ARF + the baby's daily requirement of vitamins/minerals for about 10 US ct/sachet. We are looking for funding to upscale this project.

Sincerely yours,

Professor Tara Gopaldas
Director, Tara Consultancy Services, Bangalore
keroo@vsnl.com □

Dear SCN News,

Whilst the basic role of the International Union of Nutritional Sciences is to support and advocate for the science of nutrition, nutrition's imprimatur among the sciences is that it has more to do with the well-being and health of people and their environments. So, although itself a multidisciplinary science, nutrition has great opportunities to project its role by reaching out to civil society. Partnerships with civil society are thus very much on the agenda of IUNS for the next four years.

As IUNS President for the period 2001-2005, I intend for IUNS:

- To be involved in the development of a new nutrition science underpinned by evidence-based research findings and community development.
- To harness old and new technologies and communication techniques to advance nutrition, health and overall economic development.
- To reconceptualize the role of food and health both in socio-cultural and bio-medical terms.
- To place a major emphasis on a sustainable supply and access to food, paying adequate attention to food security and bio-security issues.
- To give priority to IUNS work addressing Africa's problems, because of its immediate urgency and importance for future generations.

For these reasons and with this vision IUNS will:

- Establish taskforces and reference groups on eco-nutrition, nutrition and long-term health (rather than chronic disease), evidence-based nutrition, nutrition and technology, nutrition and infection, food-borne diseases, and harmonization of culturally relevant nutrition standards.
- Develop further partnerships with other agencies, NGOs, the education, and corporate sectors.
- Use telecommunications and information technology to develop needed educational linkages and effective networking mechanisms worldwide.
- Regionalize the work of IUNS for greater engagement and effectiveness of its members.
- Disseminate information on success stories.

IUNS will play an ongoing and active role in the SCN, especially in relation to capacity building and the application of the best available science and technology to ensure safe, adequate and sustainable nutrition for all.

Sincerely yours,

Mark Wahlqvist, Monash University, Australia
mark.wahlqvist@med.monash.edu.au

□

Book Announcement —Call for Interested Contributors

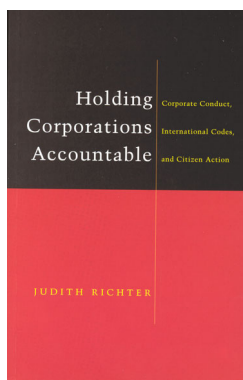
At the recent International Congress of Nutrition in Vienna, a symposium was held on National and Regional Household Nutrition and Health Surveys: Use of Information for Program Planning, Implementation and Policy Formation. Surveys from Haiti, Georgia, the Dominican Republic, The Gambia, Guinea, Mozambique, as well as CDC and DHS surveys were presented. Michael Latham delivered the keynote address.

It is planned that a book on this subject be published, it will include the symposium presentations and other contributed papers. Papers can deal with a variety of nutrition and health surveys from around the world, including, for example, national, regional or smaller-scale surveys implemented by governments, UN or bilateral agencies, NGOs, refugee agencies, educational institutions, private organizations and others. The contributions should emphasize how collected data have been used. Surveys historically have been criticised for collecting data without adequate plans for follow-up. Manuscripts should be less than 5,000 words. Interested contributors are invited to email up to two pages of description for consideration of inclusion in the book to the editors by April 1, 2002.

Contact: Irwin J. Shorr: ijshorr@erols.com or
Michael Latham: mcl6@cornell.edu

PUBLICATIONS

Editor's note—Over the past six months the Secretariat has again received a large number of publications, more than space allows in this section of SCN News. We are very grateful to the many authors, printers and publishers who have sent copies of their work.



Holding Corporations Accountable: Corporate Conduct, International Codes and Citizen Action

Judith Richter, Zed Books Ltd, 2001, 241 pp.

In today's world, partnership and dialogue between the private and public sector are very much the order of the day. Whether these partnerships do right or wrong is subject to a heated debate. *Holding Corporations Accountable* by Judith Richter is an interesting contribution to this debate and exposes the complex factors and risks involved plus the implications often hidden behind the scenes. For example, the full story behind corporate public relations strategies and activities is relatively unknown to the public. The book focuses on the question of how to effectively regulate large transnational corporations in the interest of public health.

Richter stresses the need to review the usefulness of international regulatory codes as effective tools for raising public awareness and maintaining pressure on corporations to change practices that are clearly detrimental to the health and well being of society. Issued on the 20th anniversary of the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes, the book focuses on the Code as a case study. Richter describes in some detail how the Code came into being and how socio-political and commercial factors influenced its development. The roles of the various actors—including the international UN agencies and civil society organizations such as the International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN)—in the preparation and implementation of the Code are highlighted.

While it may seem discouraging that only 24 out of 191 countries have so far implemented most of the Code and subsequent World Health Assembly resolutions as national legislation, Richter shows how the Code's implementation has been delayed and in some cases derailed by industry influence.

The book reawakens the debate on the effectiveness of self-regulatory and co-regulatory mechanisms as applied by large corporations versus the effectiveness of international regulation by governments, international agencies and civil society. Self-regulation implies the formulation of voluntary industry codes that, more often than not, fall short of international standards and are difficult to monitor externally.

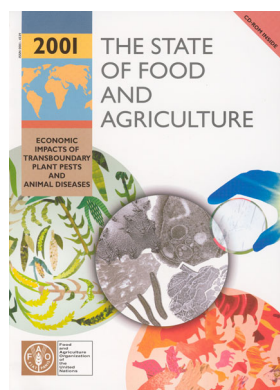
The book uses clear and easy language. It explains rather difficult concepts such as globalization and global governance in simple terms. The complexity of international trade organizations, the power structures involved both nationally and internationally, as well as how they reflect prevailing social dynamics are carefully discussed and clarified. Past and present examples are fittingly given. The book is well referenced, a fact that adds to the credibility of its arguments.

In our personal contacts with the private sector, we should all perhaps ask ourselves the questions "who is who?, what interests do they represent?, who should be doing what?, and with whom?". Richter gives several concrete suggestions for new ways to encourage the public accountability of corporations based on more democratic decision-making processes.

Reviewed by Amal Omer-Salim, Nutritionist, Department of Women's and Children's Health, Uppsala University, Sweden

THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE 2001: Economic Impacts of Trans-boundary Plant Pests and Animal Diseases

FAO, 2001, 295 pp.



The State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) monitors the global agricultural situation and overall economic environment surrounding world agriculture. This year's report presents a study on the cost of hunger and features the issue of trans-boundary plant pests and animal diseases.

The report notes that by raising the per capita energy intake to 2770 kcal in countries where it is below that level could increase the per capita GDP growth in some countries by between 0.34 and 1.48 percentage points per year. The report also notes that during the 1996-98 period, some 826m people worldwide faced a shortfall in their basic daily energy requirements of 100-400

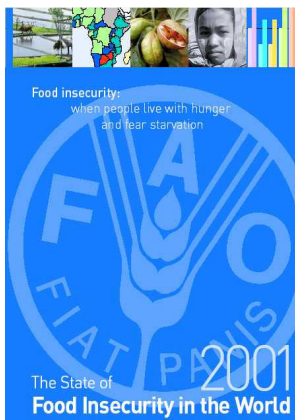
kcal. A chapter on the cost of hunger argues that improved nutrition could have a substantial impact on welfare and economic growth. Moreover nutrition raises returns on investments in education and health care. The impact of nutrition on labour productivity, on health and school performance and economic growth are reviewed. Notes at the end of each chapter provide references to the research literature, as well as comments on some of the controversies concerning nutrition indicators and cut-offs.

In a special chapter on trans-boundary plant pests and animal diseases, FAO warns that the spread of emergent diseases and invasive spe-

cies has increased in recent years. These threats result in major economic losses for crop and livestock producers. Even though significant technological progress has been made in combating trans-boundary plant pests and diseases, FAO reports it is not enough. The organization calls for increased regional and international co-operation in these areas.

The book comes with a CD-ROM that contains time series data for 150 countries, country groups and regions in English, French and Spanish. The book is also available from the FAO website: www.fao.org.

**THE STATE OF FOOD
INSECURITY IN THE WORLD
2001**
FAO, 2001, 58 pp.



This report is quoted in several of the feature articles in this issue of *SCN News*. Now a yearly publication, it is very readable and contains a large number of practical examples of actions against food insecurity and poverty. It also contains FAO's estimates of numbers underfed, which are revised annually as more information becomes available. There were 815m underfed people in the world in the 1997-99 period: 777m in developing countries, 27m in transition countries and 11m in the industrialized world. For developing countries, the average annual decrease now stands at about 6m people.

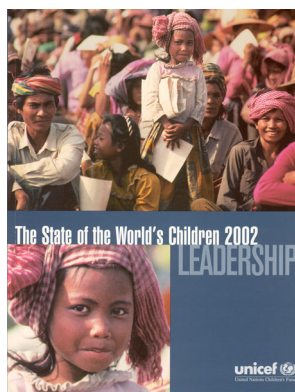
The report argues that world food production must continue to grow so that the Summit target can be met in all countries, however, a smaller increase in production would suffice if its growth were accompanied by more equitable access to food. This could be achieved through redistribution—of food itself, of the means of

producing it or of the purchasing power needed to buy it. Unfortunately, the experience of the past thirty years shows no significant decline in inequity of access among households in most countries.

The report stresses that countries that performed best in terms of reducing hunger, had made significantly higher investments and achieved greater productivity in agriculture than others. The worst performers even failed to prevent a decline in the capital stock per agricultural worker during the 90s, compounded by a steep decline in the flow of external assistance to their agriculture.

The full report is downloadable at: http://www.fao.org/sofi/sofi/index_en.htm

**THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S
CHILDREN 2002: Leadership**
UNICEF, 103 pp., with a
Foreword by Kofi Annan



“Can there be a greater test of leadership than the task of ensuring these freedoms for every child, in every country, without exception?” asks Kofi Annan in the foreword of the latest *The State of the World's Children*. This year's report focuses attention on the leadership that turned commitments made at the 1990 World Summit for Children (WSC) into actions to improve the lives of children and families and the leadership still needed to ensure the right of every child to live in health, peace and dignity.

The opening section, *Birth and the broken promises*, reviews the progress made since the 1990 WSC when the cause of children was put at the top of the world's agenda. Although there have been a number of success stories concerning reductions in child mortality, polio and vitamin A and iodine deficiencies, many goals have

fallen short of their mark. The report stresses that there still remains much work to be done. “Ensuring the rights and well-being of children is the key to sustained development in a country and to peace and security in the world. Meeting this responsibility, fully consistently and at any cost, is the essence of leadership”, the report states.

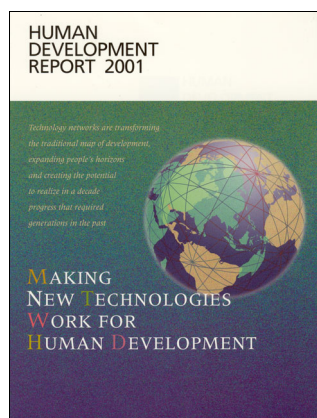
The next section, *To change the world with children*, stresses the importance of children's participation in transforming the environment in which they live. Based on rights established in the 1989 Convention of the Rights of the Child, children are seen as active and contributing members of the family, community and society. Recently, The Global Movement for Children, an initiative by six leading aid organizations, promoted actions to ensure that children's voices are heard through the ‘Say Yes for Children’ campaign, launched in March 2001. The campaign encourages public discussion about the rights of the child and gathers pledges from millions of people who believe that every child has the right to live in health, peace and dignity.

The final section, *Actions that can change the world*, outlines a number of steps that can significantly improve the quality of a child's life. In all countries there are a number of actions leaders can take to promote the rights of the child. Investing in children through basic social services is noted as a key strategy to sustained development. UNICEF quotes the World Bank as saying that, along with good macroeconomic management, one of the significant reasons that the countries of East Asia were so much more successful (in sustained development) than those of Sub-Saharan Africa is that they had invested heavily in children in the preceding decades.

The full report is downloadable at: www.unicef.org



**HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
REPORT 2001: Making New
Technologies Work for Human
Development**
UNDP, 2001, 264 pp.



This year's *Human Development Report* takes a provocative look at the potential uses of technology in improving people's lives in developing countries. As in previous years, this UNDP report ranks the level of human development in 162 countries.

The report claims that the 20th century's unprecedented gains in advancing human development and eradicating poverty came largely from technological breakthroughs. Further, that the reduction in under-nutrition in South Asia from 40% in the late 70s to 23% in 1997, and the end of chronic famine, was made possible by technological breakthroughs in plant breeding, fertilizers and pesticides in the 60s that doubled world cereal yields in just 40 years. The report notes that, in contrast, it took 1000 years for English wheat yields to quadruple.

The report argues that new technologies can play an important role in reducing world poverty, and refutes the view that technology is primarily a luxury for people in rich countries. The report challenges those sceptics of technology and points to the potential of such advances as biotechnology and information and communications technology (ICT). UNDP acknowledges the disputes over intellectual property rights, the shortage of skilled personnel, and weak ICT strategies as some of the major challenges facing developing countries.

The report encourages the development of public policies that manage these unknown risks and make sure inequalities are not widened within developing countries. The report ar-

gues that without receptive and innovative public policies, these technologies could become a source of exclusion rather than a tool of progress. The report is downloadable at the UNDP website: www.undp.org.

**AIDING RECOVERY?
The Crisis of AID in Chronic
Political Emergencies**
Joanna Macrae, Zed Books in association
with ODI, 2001, 191 pp.

JOANNA MACRAE



THE CRISIS OF AID IN
CHRONIC POLITICAL EMERGENCIES

In *AIDING RECOVERY*, Joanna Macrae calls for a new framework to deal with the management of aid in countries suffering chronic political emergencies. The book begins by giving a historical background of aid from decolonization to the Cold War and presents the 'New' Aid Orthodoxy that emerged during the 90s. The author notes that, "...insecurity and failures of governance are now the major obstacles to aid reaching those most in need."

The author then goes on to make a comparative analysis of how war in Cambodia, Ethiopia and Uganda impacted on their public health systems and focuses on the international organizations' response in providing aid to sustain them. The author finds that most aid agencies wrongly assume the presence of a stable, sovereign state. In fact, in the absence of public policy-making authorities, aid actually becomes fragmented and cannot contribute to build locally sustainable programmes.

Macrae concludes that improving aid procedures alone will not resolve the problem. A fundamental review of aid strategies is needed. Aid can and should play a role in the management of conflict.

This book is available by contacting Zed Books Ltd., 7 Cynthia Street, London N1 9JF, UK.

Web: www.Zedbooks.demon.co.uk

**A BETTER WORLD IN 2020:
Wake-up Calls from
the Next Generation**

International Food Policy Research Institute, 2001, 32 pp.

For IFPRI's *Sustainable Food Security For All By 2020* international conference in Bonn, Germany in September 2001, young people were invited to show in pictures and words how they saw the world in 2020. They were asked what should be done about it.

More than 600 youngsters from about two dozen countries participated in the poster and essay competition. This creative and colourful booklet contains the winning posters and essays, as well as excerpts from other submissions showing a wide range of perspectives on the world of 2020.

This booklet is available from IFPRI, 2033 K Street NW, Washington DC, 20006-1002 USA. Email:

ifpri@cgiar.org. Web: www.ifpri.org

**EMPOWERING WOMEN TO
ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY:
A 2020 Vision for Food,
Agriculture, and the
Environment, Focus 6**

Edited by Agnes Quisumbing and Ruth Meinzen-Dick, 2001, 24 pp.

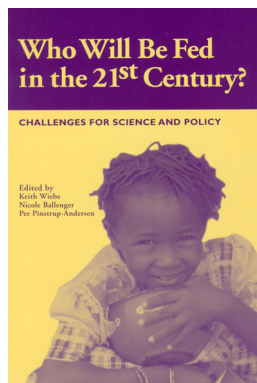
This set of policy briefs focuses on the role women play in food security and the entitlements women need to be effectively empowered to achieve food security. Policies proposed consider different strategies for empowering women by strengthening their asset base – natural and physical capital, human capital, social and financial capital – and by providing the legal and institutional framework to guarantee their command over resources.

The package includes 2-page write-ups on land rights, rights to livestock, technology, education, micro-finance and others. Quoting extensively from the ACC/SCN's 4th Report on the World Nutrition Situation (2000), the section on health and nutrition argues that a adopting a life-cycle approach to both the analysis of nutrition problems and the choice of interventions helps to emphasize that nutritional status is cumulative over time.

This book is available from IFPRI, 2033 K Street NW, Washington D.C., 20006-1002, USA. Email:

ifpri@cgiar.org Web: www.ifpri.org.

**WHO WILL BE FED
IN THE 21ST CENTURY?**
Challenges for Science and Policy
IFPRI, 2001, 102 pp.



“Global food production has more than doubled over the past 40 years, growing faster than population, and will likely keep pace with demographic growth into the 21st century,” states this new book edited by K. Wiebe, N. Ballenger, and P. Pinstrup-Andersen. But one-eighth of the world’s people remain food insecure, leaving us with the question *Who will be Fed in the 21st Century?*

Contributions to this book were first discussed at a symposium in February 2000 organized by the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

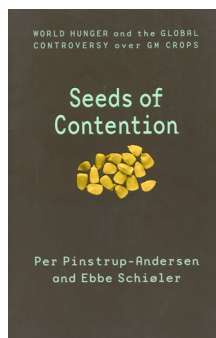
Contributors to this book show how soil degradation, biotechnology and conflict affect the future supply of food of the poor. Markets will also continue to supply sufficient food to those with money to spend, but getting food to the poor will require that government policies and investments protect the natural resources on which agriculture depends. They must also focus on the benefits of agricultural research and ensure that access to food, resources, and income-generating opportunities are equitable and secure.

The book concludes by stating “A food-secure world is reachable if revolutionary developments in information technology and biotechnology can be mobilized for the benefit of the poor and the food insecure in developing countries.”

This book is available by contacting The Johns Hopkins University Press, P.O. Box 50370, Baltimore, Maryland, 21211, USA. Web: www.press.jhu.edu

**SEEDS OF CONTENTION:
World Hunger and the Global
Controversy over Genetically
Modified Crops**

Per Pinstrup-Andersen and Ebbe Schioler, The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2001, 164 pp.



This book takes a critical look at the potential costs and benefits of genetically modified (GM) crops for developing countries. The authors set out to provide a broad-based assessment of the debate between such groups as agribusiness, farmers, and consumers. The authors choose to locate themselves in solidarity with poor people.

With a foreword by David Beckmann, President of Bread for the World, the book covers uses of agricultural research and the need to expand its boundaries, alternatives to GM crops and the actors involved in setting the agenda for poor people and countries. The authors make the case that people in developing countries should have the right to make their own informed decisions about the use of GM crops. Pinstrup-Andersen and Schioler conclude by acknowledging that GM crops alone will not solve the world’s food problem, but could very well be part of the overall solution. They note also that what works in one part of the world will be different from what works somewhere else.

This book is available from www.press.jhu.edu

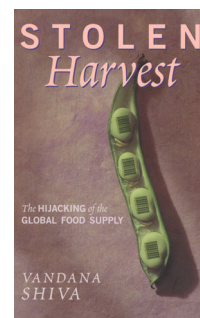
**GLOBAL FOOD PROJECTIONS
TO 2020: Emerging Trends
and Alternative Futures**

M Rosegrant, M Paisner, S Meijer, J Witcover, 2001, 206 pp.

This large book, another contribution to IFPRI’s 2020 *Vision For Food, Agriculture, and the Environment Initiative*, provides updated forecasts of global food supply and demand, taking into account short-term trends in

global markets, but also long-term growth in income, population, agricultural technology and a host of other pressing potential changes. The projections are based on a global food projection model, called IMPACT, developed in the mid 90s. World population is expected to grow from 5.8b people in 1997 to 7.5b people in 2020. Although this represents a slowdown compared to past estimates, it raises serious concerns about whether the world’s food production system will be able to feed so many people. A number of alternative scenarios are examined; these explore the effects of policy, technology, and lifestyle-driven changes in global food markets and the poor. A section on child malnutrition finds that “inevitable, steady progress” is not apparent, although a downward trend in numbers malnourished is evident in developing countries as a whole. This book is available separately in executive summary form (18 pages), entitled *2020 Global Food Outlook: Trends, Alternatives and Choices*, by the same authors. Available from IFPRI, 2033 K Street NW, Washington DC, 20006-1002, USA. Email: ifpri@cgiar.org. Web: www.ifpri.org

**STOLEN HARVESTS
The Hijacking of the Global
Food Supply**
Vandana Shiva, 146 pp.

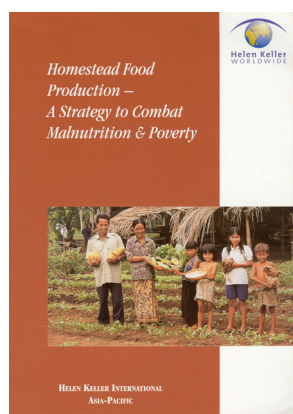


Vandana Shiva was one of India’s leading physicists before becoming a renowned environmental thinker and activist. She won the Alternative Nobel Peace Prize (the Right to Livelihood Award) in 1993. In *Stolen Harvests*, Shiva charts the impacts of globalized, corporate agriculture on small farmers, the environment, and the quality of the food we eat. The book is organized in a series of short essays and covers genetically engineered seeds, patents on life, mad cows and sacred cows, shrimp farming, the soy industry (“soy imperial-

ism”) and food democracy. Shiva adds enormously to the debate about genetic engineering and commercial agriculture from a developing-country perspective.

This book is available from Zed Books.
<http://www.zedbooks.demon.co.uk>

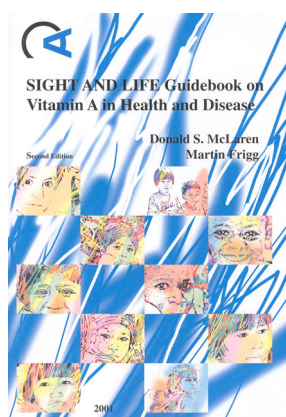
HOMESTEAD FOOD PRODUCTION – A Strategy to Combat Malnutrition and Poverty
Helen Keller Worldwide, 2001, 129 pp.



This publication highlights the extensive work of HKI staff and their collaborators throughout the Asia Pacific Region in the area of food based approaches. It is really a resource book for use in advocacy for homestead food production programmes. An overview chapter covers evaluating impacts of food-based programmes, impacts of HKI’s food-based programmes on production and consumption, potential direct and indirect ways for these programmes to decrease micronutrient malnutrition, bioavailability and revised conversion factors, and additional impacts of homestead food production programmes. This is followed by a thematic article by Lynnda Kiess and others on the role of food based strategies in poverty alleviation. Some dozen appendices provide reprints of key articles published in the peer-reviewed scientific literature. The publication concludes that homestead food production and social marketing campaigns for increased consumption of vitamin A-rich foods contribute to combating vitamin A deficiency. In addition, the infrastructure that is created or strengthened by these programmes can also be used to deliver other health and nutrition interventions.

Available via www.hkworld.org

SIGHT AND LIFE: Guidebook on Vitamin A in Health and Disease, 2nd edition
Donald McLaren and Martin Frigg, 2001, 39 pp.



This booklet is published by the Task Force SIGHT AND LIFE, a humanitarian initiative sponsored by Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd, the Swiss pharmaceuticals giant and manufacturer of vitamin A capsules. This is a guidebook designed for health workers and other professionals for whom an understanding of the basic facts and most recent advances in the field of vitamin A is of great relevance to their work. It serves as a companion to the *Manual on Vitamin A Deficiency Disorders* mentioned in *SCN News 21*. It gives key messages, with less emphasis on details. The biochemistry of vitamin A, units of measurement, food sources, how the vitamin works, tests for vitamin A deficiency and eye diseases are all covered in simple, clear language. There is a useful glossary. The last chapter deals with control programmes; here, rather more emphasis is given to dosage schedules than to other means of control.

Available by contacting the Task Force SIGHT AND LIFE through their website: www.sightandlife.org

MICRONUTRIENT SUPPLEMENTATION THROUGHOUT THE LIFE CYCLE

Edited by Rainer Gross, undated, 22 pp.

This report is based on a workshop held by the Ministry of Health of Brazil and UNICEF in November 1999 in Rio de Janeiro. Thirty-six representatives from government agencies, NGOs, universities and the private sector from 12 countries of South and North America, Africa and Europe participated. The aim of the workshop was to provide the basis for a comprehensive micronutrient supplementation programme for

populations in developing countries who suffer simultaneously from several micronutrient deficiencies. Discussions focused on preventive rather than curative approaches. There was agreement that the age group most in need of supplementation is children 6-24 months. Although *supplementation* is only one of several options to improve nutritional status of children, a supplementation formulation, the report states, “should be developed because it is useful in a variety of settings and is increasingly requested by authorities in developing countries”. However, the workshop cautioned that a strong case would need to be made when considering compositions other than those currently used in industrialized countries.

Available from UNICEF: www.unicef.org

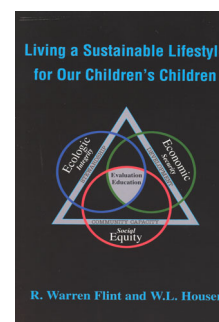
TARGETING FOR NUTRITION IMPROVEMENT: Resources for Advancing Nutritional Well-being.
FAO, Food and Nutrition Division, 2001, 106 pp.

Poorly targeted nutrition programmes can be both ineffective and costly. Therefore, *Targeting for Nutrition Improvement* fills the need for a practical, general reference guide to the incorporation of targeting techniques into nutrition programmes. This book provides a comprehensive approach to the most common targeting methods and their potential costs and negative effects. It covers methods of planning, design, assessment and monitoring of targeted programmes, including school feeding, food fortification, nutrition education and others. The book concludes with country examples.

Available at the FAO website:
www.fao.org/es/esn/nutri.htm

LIVING A SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLE FOR OUR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN

Warren Flint and Lisa Houser, Authors
Choice Press, 2001, 288 pp.



Protecting global natural resources for future generations is the main theme of this book. The authors put forth a comprehensive sustainable development framework where humans find the means to coexist in a manner that maintains biodiversity and decent environments while also achieving economic prosperity.

The book challenges ordinary people to look at how they live and how that in turn affects nature. The first section presents "the big picture" of what is meant by sustainability. Sections two and three give overviews of ecological processes in danger and how they impact humans. Sections four and five provide recommendations for future actions and solutions. The authors' concerns are to diminish the material inequity and declining resources by offering alternatives.

The book is available by contacting iUniverse.com, Inc. 5220 S 16th, Ste. 200 Lincoln, NE 68512 USA. Web: www.iuniverse.com

IRON DEFICIENCY ANAEMIA ASSESSMENT, PREVENTION AND CONTROL

A guide for programme managers UNICEF/UNU/WHO, document number WHO/NHD/01.3, 2001, 114 pp.

This publication is based in large part on a consultation convened in Geneva in 1993, jointly organized by the three UN agencies cited as author. Since the consultation significant new data have emerged in key areas (for example, knowledge of the consequences of iron deficiency even in the absence of anaemia), while fortification technology has improved considerably. The book develops the concept that iron status is a continuum from iron deficiency with anaemia, to iron deficiency with no anaemia, to normal iron status with varying amounts of stored iron, and finally to iron overload. There are sections on functional consequences of iron deficiency, economic implications of iron deficiency, prevalence, assessment and choice of indicators, and finally control strategies, including integration of iron control with other micronutrient programmes.

Available from WHO. www.who.int

THE STATE OF WORLD POPULATION 2001 Footprints and Milestones: Population and Environmental Change UNFPA, 2001, 76 pp.

Population and the environment are of course closely related, but the links between them are complex and varied, and depend on specific circumstances. Generalizations about the negative effects of population growth on the environment are often misleading, this report states. Population scientists long ago abandoned such an approach, yet policy in some cases still proceeds as if it were a reality. This report surveys the good news and the bad. There are chapters on environmental trends, women and the environment, health and the environment (including a sections on heavy metals and nuclear contamination), and actions for sustainable and equitable development. A very helpful annex summarizes global agreements and treaties relevant to the environment. Statistical tables provide an update on progress towards population and development goals.

Available from www.unfpa.org

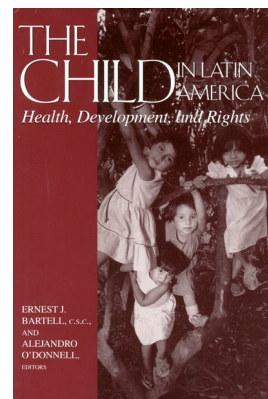
TECHNICAL CONSULTATION ON LOW BIRTHWEIGHT UNICEF, undated, 54 pp.

This consultation was organized by the Human Development Network of the World Bank, the US Department of Agriculture and UNICEF and took place in Washington DC in March 2000. Keynote addresses were given by Carol Bellamy of UNICEF, Eduardo Doryan of the World Bank and Eileen Kennedy of the US Department of Agriculture. The purpose of the consultation was to review the scientific literature on the causes and consequence of low birthweight, but also to explore how to work together. The meeting concluded that activities to address the problem of low birthweight need to take place within the context of the life cycle approach to programming, concentrating on three fundamental time frames: pregnancy, childhood and adolescence. Regarding pregnancy, a continuum of interventions is required, aimed at improving nutritional status, before, during and after pregnancy. The consultation concluded that improving nutritional status of women during pregnancy is unlikely, in field conditions, to have a negative impact on the outcome of

the pregnancy, but more information is needed in this area, especially in countries where women are traditionally smaller.

Available from UNICEF. www.unicef.org

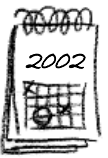
THE CHILD IN LATIN AMERICA: Health, Development, and Rights Edited by Ernest Bartell, and Alejandro O'Donnell, 2001, 378 pp.



Although most Latin American countries are considered middle-income, child health and well-being outcomes are still poor. This Helen Kellogg Institute publication brings together contributors from the US, Latin America and UNICEF to consider the physical, educational, social, legal and economic status and progress of children throughout Latin America with a special focus on health and rights issues.

The contributors show that, as long as children in Latin America remain vulnerable to poverty, malnutrition, injustice and violations of human rights, development must be addressed in ways that will protect children as well as support growing economies. Chapters on nutrition deal with trends in child undernutrition, micronutrient malnutrition, iron deficiency anaemia and community intervention programmes.

The book is available from the University of Notre Dame Press, Notre Dame, Indiana, 46556, USA. Web: www.undpress.nd.edu



BULLETIN BOARD

The Nutrition Society of South Africa (NSSA) will host a Symposium on Nutrition for Adults with HIV/AIDS in Pretoria, 25-26 February 2002. The symposium will focus on the role of nutrition and diet in the promotion of wellness among adults living with HIV, the impact of nutritional status on immunity, and treatment guidelines for adults with AIDS (practical feeding, especially where drug treatment is unavailable).

More information from: nutsoc@hotmail.com or penny@austware.com Visit: www.nutritionssociety.co.za

ITANA 2002: IT in the Advancement of Nutrition in Africa: The way forward for Africa. Pan-African Conference, 21-25 July, 2002, Nairobi.

For more information visit www.itana2002.org

IX Asian Congress of Nutrition, February 23-27, 2003, New Delhi: Nutrition Goals for Asia—Vision 2020. The ACC/SCN 30th Session will follow this Congress, in Chennai.

For more information visit www.acn2003india.net or write to acn2003@yahoo.com

A FIVIMS International Scientific Conference will be held in 2002 to develop improved guidance on methodologies for the measurement of food insecurity and vulnerability in relation to poverty-based causes and food deprivation.

For more information contact annalea.jenny@fao.org

Summer 2002 Course on Nutrition Rights (I English): The course The Human Right to Food and Nutrition: Principles and Policies will be offered in Budapest from July 22 to August 2, 2002. It will be preceded and followed by distance learning modules via the internet. Successful applicants from developing countries will be funded.

Contact Dr George Kent: kent@hawaii.edu

Iron Deficiency Project Advisory Service (IDPAS) Iron World is a service developed by the International Nutrition Foundation and the United Nations University, with support from the Micronutrient Initiative. It serves those working to improve iron nutrition in developing countries. IDPAS will help individuals and projects obtain information on matters related to iron nutrition and interventions to prevent and control iron deficiency.

To access IDPAS Iron World on the internet, visit <http://www.micronutrient.org> and click on the "Iron Deficiency Project Advisory Service" link on the left side of the screen. If you have difficulty accessing the site send an email to idaibes@idrc.ca

Management Course for Food and Nutrition Programme

May to June 2002, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

The Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre (TFNC) is organizing the 7th management course for food and nutrition programme implementers at district level. It is designed to strengthen the ability of participants in planning, managing, administering and evaluating such activities in their own settings. The course is designed for African countries. Personnel dealing with nutrition from sectors such as Community Development, Health, Agriculture, Education, Planning and other related areas are eligible. Participants should have a first degree or diploma and a working experience of two or more years. As part of the learning experience, participants are expected to design a proposal for the integration of a nutrition activity into a district development plan.

The course is residential and will cost US\$ 2,656. Applications have to be in by 1st April 2002.

More information: Course Co-ordinator, Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre: tfnc@muhs.ac.tz

Save the dates!

WABA GLOBAL FORUM 2, 23-27 September 2002, Arusha, Tanzania

Nurturing the Future—Challenges to Breastfeeding in the 21st Century

The WABA Global Forum 2 will bring together a diverse group of individuals and organizations to discuss, review and formulate strategies to improve infant and young child health, nutrition and care through the protection, support and promotion of breastfeeding, with the focus on the community. Key issues to be covered will be HIV/AIDS, maternity protection, the Code, mother support, BFHI and birthing practices. The Forum 2 aims to provide an opportunity for rallying worldwide participation in the movement to protect, support and promote breastfeeding and childcare, and spread awareness on the rights of children and women to adequate food, health and care especially in developing countries.

Forum 2 will focus on: —Research which provides the evidence base for appropriate actions,—Capacity building to enable groups to implement more effective actions,—Popular mobilization to ensure that actions are community and people-centered.

WABA Secretariat, Penang, Malaysia secr@waba.po.my <www.waba.org.br>. Please share this announcement with those interested.

A quarterly electronic newsletter: "Just the BASICS" focuses on child survival topics.

To subscribe, contact basics@lb.bcentral.com

Invitation to submit proposals for research using nuclear and isotopic techniques in Applied Human Nutrition Assessment research.

Contact G.V. Iyengar at the International Atomic Energy Agency for details. v.iyengar@iaea.org



Stop press!

WHO Moves for Health On January 17, 2002 the Executive Board of WHO approved a resolution on diet, physical activity and health. In effect, the Executive Board urges member states to collaborate with WHO in developing a global strategy on diet, physical activity and health for the prevention and control on noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) based on evidence and best practices. Special emphasis should be given to integrated approaches. These approaches would promote health and reduce the common risks of NCDs that stem from poor diet and physical inactivity through essential public health action and integration of preventive measures in the functions of health services. Strategies would involve all sectors, including civil society and the food industry. WHO will identify and address major international issues that influence nutrition and physical activity, including advertising and mass communication, world trade agreements, food labelling, novel foods, urban planning and transportation - not a small task. The adoption of this resolution is follow-up to an informal consultation on diet and physical activity in prevention of NCDs convened in Geneva in September 2001, chaired by Phil James. WHO's Department of Noncommunicable Disease Prevention and Health Promotion has recently announced that the theme for World Health Day in May 2002 will be *agita mundo*, or move for health!

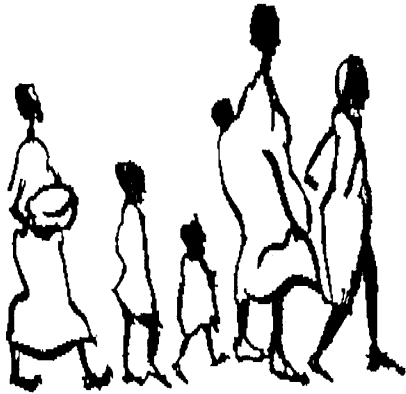
Contact information: www.who.org

Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria Just as *SCN News* goes to press, The Global Fund has announced the first round of grants to be awarded in April, 2002. The Fund was set up last year to combat these three diseases that kill a daunting six million people every year. The Fund brings together private donors, NGOs, foundations, national governments and intergovernmental organizations. The Fund will finance plans developed through country partnerships in severely affected countries as well as in areas with growing epidemics. It will also support plans in countries that have demonstrated the highest level political commitment to eradicating these diseases. Its approach will be integrated, covering prevention, treatment and care and support. Proposals will be funded rapidly, with minimum red tape, but with enough safeguards to make sure funds are used responsibly and effectively. Some \$1.9b has been pledged to the Fund so far. Although an earlier press release had indicated that one tenth of the Fund's resources would be earmarked for nutrition security, *SCN News* has been unable to obtain any more information on the Fund's interest in nutrition.

Contact information: www.globalfundatm.org

SCN NEWS has not covered issues of food safety in any depth in recent years. News from the first ever **Global Forum on Food Safety**, which just closed in Marrakesh, is a reminder that perhaps this is an oversight. The Global Forum on Food Safety was convened to seek ways to improve the safety of food worldwide at every step of the food production chain, from farmers, through processors and retailers, to consumers. Some 300 participants from 120 countries and organisations presented and discussed their successes and mistakes in fighting foodborne disease. The overall aim is to capture lessons learned and help countries improve their food safety strategies and systems, and ultimately reduce the large foodborne disease burden. According to FAO and WHO, more than two million people, principally children, die every year from diarrhea caused by consuming contaminated food and water. Even in industrialized countries, as much as one third of the population experiences foodborne disease every year. Dr. Brundtland, WHO Director General, noted that many countries are reporting significant increases in foodborne disease. The main hazards are well identified and there are proven, cost-effective measures that protect populations against them. Some countries have intensified efforts against certain pathogens, and have obtained good results in five to ten years. The first step is for a government to set food safety high on the political agenda. Food safety problems can have serious consequences on a country's economy (Mad Cow disease cost the UK £3.4b between 1996-2000); they can hinder economic development. Food exports, an important source of foreign exchange and revenue, are refused if they do not meet the standards of importing countries resulting in the loss of jobs in the food and agricultural industries of developing countries. Productivity suffers because workers fall ill and international tourism cannot achieve its full potential.

Contact : www.foodsafetyforum.org/global



Vacancy Announcement

Refugee Nutrition Information System (RNIS) Coordinator

Position available from 1 July 2002. This is a P-3, short term, 11-month professional post. The RNIS Coordinator works as part of the SCN Secretariat team, with special responsibility for emergency nutrition issues. She/he reports to the SCN Technical Secretary. Some field travel is required. The SCN Secretariat is hosted by the World Health Organization, located in Geneva. Terms of Reference are:

1. Research and write Refugee Nutrition Information System (RNIS) bulletins, published in hard copy quarterly by the SCN Secretariat, as well as electronic updates to the bulletins three to four times per year on rapidly emerging situations; research and write supplements on special topics. This work comprises compiling and interpreting data, managing a database, maintaining professional contact with survey data providers (NGOs, UN agencies, some bilateral organizations and others), assessing data quality; coordinating peer review of draft reports, keeping in touch with the readership and with donors to ensure that the RNIS remains relevant and current. The RNIS Coordinator also regularly reviews the dissemination of RNIS reports and helps to improve and extend outreach and circulation.
2. Provide analysis and text for the SCN's Fifth Report on the World Nutrition Situation, due to be published in 2003. This work is already underway. The RNIS Coordinator will work closely with the research fellow responsible for the Fifth Report; and will be responsible for conceptualizing, data analysis, writing, and coordinating peer review.
3. Manage the RNIS project budget; keep under review project costs and income; raise funds to meet the on-going needs of the RNIS project by maintaining current contacts as well as developing new prospects; provide timely reports to donors.
4. Provide material on refugee and emergency issues for the *SCN News*, published twice yearly. This involves working closely with the *SCN News* Editor to identify topics of interest to the *SCN News* readership; some writing and editing.
5. Assist in the preparation of agendas and minutes for meetings of the SCN's Working Group on Nutrition in Emergencies.
6. Other duties as required by the Technical Secretary, to include, assisting with technical editing and proofreading SCN publications; attending annual SCN sessions, taking notes and writing parts of the annual session report; answering routine correspondence and email inquiries; providing creative suggestions for the maintenance of the SCN web site.

Requirements: PhD in nutrition, or MSc and some field experience; excellent writing skills and a flair for networking; ability to work as part of a small, dynamic team. Keen interest in emergency nutrition and humanitarian issues.

Applications should be sent by 30 April 2002 to:

Dr Sonya Rabeneck, Technical Secretary, ACC/SCN

c/o World Health Organization, 20 Avenue Appia, CH 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland

or by EMail to accscn@who.int

Latest ACC/SCN Publications

Nutrition: A Foundation for Development. 2002.

This set of briefs is a result of the work of a number of individuals and reflects the international collaboration fostered by the ACC/SCN. The briefs are designed to facilitate dialogue between nutrition and development professionals. They are organized both as a complete packet of information and as stand-alone documents that make the case for integrating nutrition into the work of the development community.

Nutrition and HIV/AIDS. Nutrition Policy Paper No. 20. October 2001.

Edited by S Rabeneck.

This Nutrition Policy Paper is based on the ACC/SCN Symposium on Nutrition and HIV/AIDS held in Nairobi in April 2001, and is co-published with UNAIDS. The objective of the symposium was, firstly, to stimulate collaboration between the nutrition and HIV/AIDS communities. The second objective was to examine a broad range of nutrition issues that have a direct bearing on policies and programmes aimed at stemming the spread of HIV and mitigating the worst effects of AIDS. This report provides technical information, policy guidance and informal reflections.

What Works? A Review of the Efficacy and Effectiveness of Nutrition

Interventions, by L Allen and S Gillespie. Nutrition Policy Paper No. 19. September 2001.

Improving nutrition in developing countries is both a humanitarian and an economic imperative. This publication, which is published in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank, provides a systematic evaluation of what works and what does not with a review of the major nutrition problems in Asia, a review of supplementation and fortification efficacy and effectiveness trials, as well as an impact assessment of food-based approaches to improve maternal and child nutrition. It calls for a sensible level of investment in operations research and cost-effectiveness analysis to improve nutrition programming throughout the donor community and national budgets in developing countries.

Download or order these publications on line:

<http://acc.unsystem.org/scn/>