



**World Food
Programme**

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FOR THE DECADE 2001-2010

The Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) continue to provide a backdrop to the World Food Programme's (WFP's) work as a United Nations organization and a leader in the fight against hunger.

WFP's aim for 2006–2009 is to contribute to meeting the MDGs through food-assisted interventions targeting poor and hungry people.

In order to achieve this, WFP operations focus on five Strategic Objectives:

- save lives in crisis situations;
- protect livelihoods in crisis situations and enhance resilience to shocks;
- support the improved nutrition and health status of children, mothers and other vulnerable people;
- support access to education and reduce gender disparity in access to education and skills training; and
- strengthen the capacities of countries and regions to establish and manage food-assistance and hunger reduction programmes.

These Strategic Objectives fall within the framework of WFP's mandate and mission statement, and contribute to the global effort to achieve the MDGs. WFP's mission statement stipulates that WFP will concentrate its efforts and resources on the neediest people and countries. This is in line with the decision of WFP's governing body, at that time the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes (which became the Executive Board in 1996) that WFP provide at least 90 percent of its development assistance to low-income, food-deficit countries (LIFDCs) and at least 50 percent of its development assistance to least developed countries (LDCs) by 1997.

WFP's programmes are: (i) **in emergencies** : - saving lives of the people at risk of starvation and malnutrition. Emergencies are usually a result of natural disasters or are man-made. (ii) **Development**: sustainable programmes to reduce poverty and hunger by investing in human capital, especially women and children. Once marginalized communities overcome hunger, they can start to participate in the economic and social development of their countries. (iii) **Post-conflict or post-disaster recovery** – to assist communities regain their livelihoods and achieve self-reliance and dignity. Programmes are community-based, attending to priority areas decided by the communities themselves – food for work helps rebuild assets and skills. Food for education is used to enhance school enrolment, especially for girls.

WFP has operations in over 84 percent of the world's LDCs, of which the majority - nearly 70 percent - are located in Africa, where the poorest reside. In order to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, 73 percent of WFP's overall operational



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expenditure during 2004 went to LDCs.¹ In 2005, some 27 percent of WFP's food purchases were made in LDCs.

WFP works in partnership with other UN agencies and International Organizations to support the African Union (AU) Commission, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and Regional Economic Communities, focusing on capacity-building in areas such as early warning systems, emergency preparedness and response, and vulnerability and needs assessments. WFP also works with implementing partner NGOs and civil society organizations when implementing food aid programmes at the country level. In addition, WFP supports the implementation of AU/NEPAD's flagship programme, namely the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) which was adopted by the AU Summit in Maputo, Mozambique, in 2003, focusing on the pillars regarding food security and hunger.

Poverty and hunger remain the most important and urgent challenges facing the international community. If implementation efforts are to be successful in halving extreme poverty and hunger by 2015, humanitarian and development efforts must focus more on the poorest people.

The Millennium Project's Task Force on Hunger was tasked with developing a strategy for halving world hunger by 2015. A key message of its final report is that halving world hunger is well within the world's means; what has been lacking is action to implement and scale up known solutions. The challenge for LDCs seeking to end hunger, or child hunger, is to address their limited capacity to implement these known solutions since, by definition, LDCs are low-income, human resource-weak and highly economically vulnerable. Furthermore, a number of the factors that determine LDC status are themselves both the cause and evidence of the very problem that MDG1 attempts to address.

The "Ending Child Hunger and Undernutrition Initiative" aims to put together a global alliance of actors sufficient to mobilize the intellectual, political, financial and operational resources required to address child hunger through known solutions, together with governments. The Initiative emphasizes working with and helping countries to mainstream the elimination of child hunger within national policies and programmes, providing sufficient technical and strategic support to them in order to do this, and helping countries attract and leverage the necessary political support and financial resources. The conclusion of the Task Force on Hunger is that the hunger MDG can only be achieved if unprecedented levels of effort are made by all concerned. This is no less true in the case of LDCs, which are home to over 35 percent of hungry children.

¹ This figure is not yet available for 2005.