



The State of **Food Insecurity in the World** 2006

Eradicating world hunger –
taking stock ten years after
the World Food Summit



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Eradicating world hunger—
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About this report

Ten years ago, world leaders met in Rome for the World Food Summit (WFS) to discuss ways to end hunger. They pledged their commitment to an ongoing effort to eradicate hunger in all countries and set themselves the immediate target of halving the number of undernourished people by 2015. To this purpose, they approved the World Food Summit Plan of Action. In October 2006, FAO's Committee on World Food Security is undertaking an assessment of the implementation of the Plan of Action and a mid-term review of progress towards achieving the target.

The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2006 reviews progress and setbacks in hunger reduction

since 1990–92, the established baseline period.

The first section of the report, *Undernourishment around the world*, reviews trends in hunger at the global, regional and subregional levels. It also presents FAO's most recent projections of undernourishment in 2015.

The second section, *Undernourishment in the regions*, reviews the food security situation in each of the major developing regions and the transition countries.

The third section, *Towards the Summit commitments*, summarizes lessons from past experience in hunger reduction and presents FAO's current thinking on how to accelerate progress towards meeting the WFS target.

Two tables (pp. 32–38) provide detailed information on levels of undernourishment in developing and transition countries and other indicators relevant to food security. The report also includes maps (page 31) illustrating the global food security situation and progress in hunger reduction.

The World Food Summit Plan of Action

Commitments

- 1 We will ensure an enabling political, social, and economic environment designed to create the best conditions for the eradication of poverty and for durable peace, based on full and equal participation of women and men, which is most conducive to achieving sustainable food security for all.
- 2 We will implement policies aimed at eradicating poverty and inequality and improving physical and economic access by all, at all times, to sufficient, nutritionally adequate and safe food and its effective utilization.
- 3 We will pursue participatory and sustainable food, agriculture, fisheries, forestry and rural development policies and practices in high and low potential areas, which are essential to adequate and reliable food supplies at the household, national, regional and global levels, and combat pests, drought and desertification, considering the multifunctional character of agriculture.
- 4 We will strive to ensure that food, agricultural trade and overall trade policies are conducive to fostering food security for all through a fair and market-oriented world trade system.
- 5 We will endeavour to prevent and be prepared for natural disasters and man-made emergencies and to meet transitory and emergency food requirements in ways that encourage recovery, rehabilitation, development and a capacity to satisfy future needs.
- 6 We will promote optimal allocation and use of public and private investments to foster human resources, sustainable food, agriculture, fisheries and forestry systems, and rural development, in high and low potential areas.
- 7 We will implement, monitor, and follow-up this Plan of Action at all levels in cooperation with the international community.



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Foreword

Despite setbacks, the race against hunger can be won

In November 1996, the world turned its attention to Rome, where heads of State and Government of more than 180 nations attending the World Food Summit (WFS) pledged to eradicate one of the worst scourges weighing on society's collective conscience: hunger. As an important step towards this noble and long overdue objective, world leaders committed themselves to what was considered an ambitious but attainable intermediate target: to halve by 2015 the **number** of undernourished people in the world from the 1990 level. Ten years later, we are confronted with the sad reality that virtually no progress has been made towards that objective. Compared with 1990–92, the number of undernourished people in the developing countries has declined by a meagre 3 million – a number within the bounds of statistical error. This is the situation facing representatives of the Committee on World Food Security, meeting in Rome this year to take stock of progress and setbacks experienced since the Summit and to propose further action.

Not all news is dismal, however. Despite disappointing performances in reducing the **number** of hungry people, a smaller **percentage** of the populations of developing countries is undernourished today compared with 1990–92: 17 percent against 20 percent. Furthermore, FAO's projections suggest that the proportion of hungry people in developing countries in 2015 could be about half of what it was in 1990–92: a drop from 20 to 10 percent. This means that the world is on a path towards meeting the Millennium Development Goal on hunger reduction. The same projections, however, also indicate that the WFS target could be missed: some 582 million people could still

be undernourished in 2015 versus 412 million if the WFS goal were to be met.

The news cannot come as a surprise. Time and again, through *The State of Food Insecurity in the World* as well as other channels, FAO has pointed out that insufficient progress is being made in alleviating hunger. This publication has highlighted the discrepancy between what could (and should) be done, and what is actually being done for the millions of people suffering from hunger. We have emphasized first and foremost that reducing hunger is no longer a question of means in the hands of the global community. The world is richer today than it was ten years ago. There is more food available and still more could be produced without excessive upward pressure on prices. The knowledge and resources to reduce hunger are there. What is lacking is sufficient political will to mobilize those resources to the benefit of the hungry. Past issues of this report have stressed the urgency of accelerating the pace in what has literally been termed as “the race against hunger”. They have reiterated the need to move from rhetoric to concrete action.

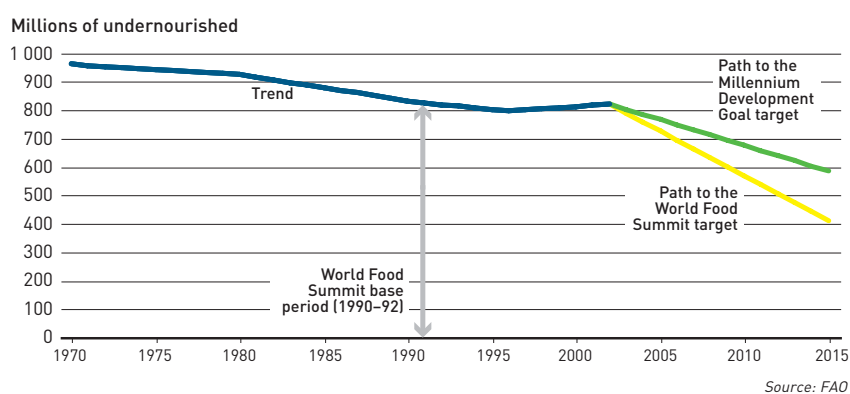
Hunger reduction: challenges and priorities

When observing global trends in the number of undernourished people, it is almost a natural reaction to dismiss the period since the WFS as a “lost decade”. To do so, however, would be a serious mistake. It would compound existing scepticism and would risk detracting from positive action being taken. It would also obscure the fact that much has been accomplished in securing a top place for hunger on the development agenda.



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Number of undernourished people in the developing world



What also warrants clarification is that the stagnation in the overall number of undernourished people reflects the net outcome of progress in some countries combined with setbacks in others. Even within a single country, it is not uncommon to find differences among regions.

Experiences documented so far show that hunger reduction is possible, even in some of the poorest countries in the world. There is much to be learnt from these successful cases. Countries experiencing setbacks, on the other hand, underscore the need for us to scale up proven models and strategies while, at the same time, sharpening the focus on problem areas where hunger is endemic and persistent.

Among the developing regions today, the greatest challenge is the one facing sub-Saharan Africa. It is the region with the highest prevalence of undernourishment, with one in three people deprived of access to sufficient food. FAO's projections suggest that the prevalence of hunger in this region will decline by 2015 but that the

number of hungry people will not fall below that of 1990-92. By then, sub-Saharan Africa will be home to around 30 percent of the undernourished people in the developing world, compared with 20 percent in 1990-92.

A number of countries suffering setbacks in hunger reduction are experiencing conflict or other forms of disaster. But, likewise, projections show a formidable task ahead for countries which may be free of conflict, but which rely on a poor agricultural resource base and exhibit weak overall economic and institutional development in the face of persistently high rates of population growth.

When assessing progress within countries, it is generally in the rural areas that hunger is concentrated. At present, it is in these areas that the majority of poor and food-insecure people live. In turn, urban poverty tends to be fuelled by people migrating towards the cities in an attempt to escape the deprivations associated with rural livelihoods. Partly due to the rural decline, the world is urbanizing at a fast pace

and it will not be long before a greater part of developing country populations is living in large cities. Therefore, urban food security and its related problems should also be placed high on the agenda in the years to come.

Twin track – a tried and effective approach

The concentration of hunger in rural areas suggests that no sustained reduction in hunger is possible without special emphasis on agricultural and rural development. In countries and regions where hunger remains widespread, agriculture often holds the key to achieving both economic progress and sustained reductions in undernourishment. History has taught us that, in general, those countries that have managed to reduce hunger have not only experienced more rapid overall economic growth but have also achieved greater gains in agricultural productivity than those experiencing setbacks or stagnation.

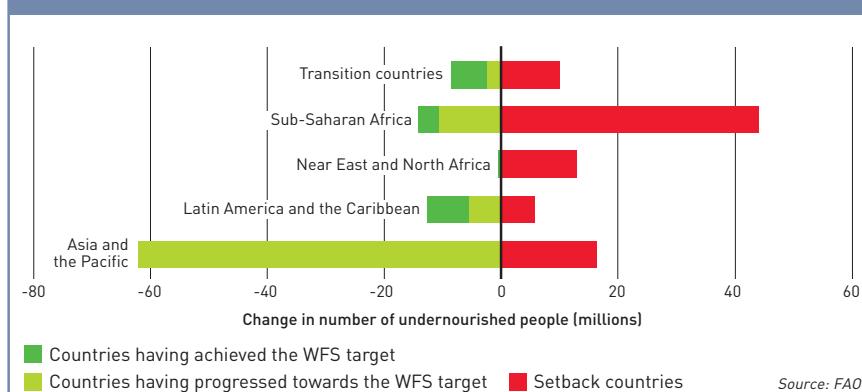
It follows that investments in agriculture, and more broadly in the

rural economy, are often a prerequisite for accelerated hunger reduction. The agriculture sector tends to be the engine of growth for entire rural economies, and productivity-driven increases in agricultural output can expand food supplies and reduce food prices in local markets, raise farm incomes and boost the overall local economy by generating demand for locally produced goods and services.

By now, it is well understood that hunger compromises the health and productivity of individuals and their efforts to escape poverty. It acts as a brake on the potential economic and social development of whole societies. It is no coincidence that more rapid advances have been made in poverty reduction as opposed to hunger alleviation. Indeed, escaping poverty seems to be much more difficult for hungry people, who are disadvantaged in their capacity to earn a livelihood. Accelerating hunger reduction consequently requires direct measures to help people who are both poor and ill-fed to escape the hunger-poverty trap. Empirical evidence from an

2

Progress and setbacks in hunger reduction from 1990–92 to 2001–03





increasing number of countries illustrates the powerful contribution that direct and carefully targeted measures can make to both hunger and poverty reduction.

A twin-track approach, emphasizing direct action against hunger along with a focus on agricultural and rural development, is effective in providing the most vulnerable and food-insecure people with new livelihood possibilities and hope for a better life. Efforts to promote the twin-track approach as the principal strategic framework for hunger reduction should therefore be at the centre of poverty reduction initiatives at all levels.

Reaching the WFS goal: it can be done

Conditions are currently ripe for hastening effective hunger reduction strategies and moving countries decisively towards the WFS target and beyond – towards the total eradication of world hunger. It is fair to say that the international community today pays more attention to hunger as an intrinsic and pressing development issue. Hunger has been raised to a more prominent position in national anti-poverty programmes and similar initiatives, and there is more widespread and vocal acknowledgement of the fact that the persistence of chronic hunger in the midst of plenty is an unacceptable contradiction. On the part of governments, civil society and other organizations, there is a greater awareness of the steps that need to be taken and, more importantly, the resolve to instigate and catalyse the necessary action appears to have been strengthened.

Today, ten years after the WFS we can resume the “race against

hunger” with renewed vigour, seeking to honour the commitments made ten years ago but, ideally, aiming well beyond the WFS target. We must dispel any complacency that may be engendered by the abundance of world food supplies, by the general increase in agricultural productivity, or by the expansion of international trade possibilities. The coexistence of food abundance or even overnutrition with food deprivation, even in the same countries or communities, has been a reality for decades and, unless conditions conducive to chronic hunger are eliminated, the two extremes will continue to coexist in the future.

Is the 2015 WFS target still attainable? The answer should be a resounding “Yes”, as long as concrete and concerted action, following the WFS Plan of Action, is taken and stepped up immediately. Already ten years ago, signatories to the Rome Declaration emphasized the urgency of the task “for which the primary responsibility rests with individual governments”, but for which cooperation with international organizations and civil society – including both public and private sectors – is vital. Today, we are confident that the race against hunger can still be won, but only if the necessary resources, political will and correct policies are forthcoming. We fully agree with the principal conclusion of the UN Millennium Project’s Hunger Task Force: **It can be done.**

Jacques Diouf
FAO Director-General

Undernourishment around the world

Counting the hungry: trends in the developing world and countries in transition¹

Ten years after the 1996 Rome World Food Summit (WFS), the number of undernourished people in the world remains stubbornly high. In 2001–03, FAO estimates there were still 854 million undernourished people worldwide: 820 million in the developing countries, 25 million in the transition countries and 9 million in the industrialized countries.²

Virtually no progress has been made towards the WFS target of halving the number of undernourished people by 2015. Since 1990–92, the baseline period for the WFS target, the undernourished population in the developing countries has declined by only 3 million people: from 823 million to 820 million. This contrasts starkly with the reduction of 37 million achieved in the 1970s and of 100 million in the 1980s. Moreover, the most recent trends are a cause for concern – a decline of 26 million between 1990–92 and 1995–97 was followed by an increase of 23 million up to 2001–03.

Because of population growth, the very small decrease in the number of hungry people has nevertheless

The World Food Summit and Millennium Development Goal targets

The World Food Summit in 1996 established the target of halving the **number** of undernourished people by no later than 2015. FAO uses the average of the period 1990–92 as the baseline for monitoring progress towards this target.

One of the two targets of the first Millennium Development Goal is to halve, between 1990 and 2015, the **proportion** of people who suffer from hunger.

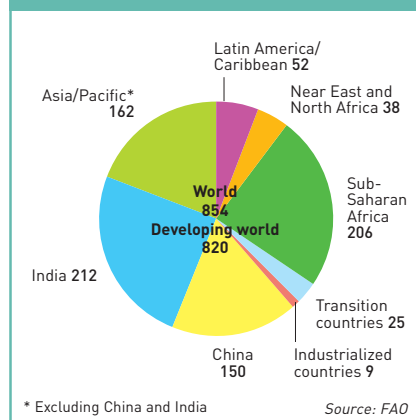
The WFS target is the more ambitious of the two. Indeed, continued population growth means that the proportion of hungry people in the developing countries will need to be cut by much more than half if the target is to be met. If the MDG target is achieved in 2015 by the developing countries as a group, current population projections suggest that we will still be left with around 585 million undernourished, far more (173 million) than the WFS target of 412 million. On the other hand, reaching the WFS target will require a reduction in the proportion of undernourished in the developing countries to 7 percent, which is 10 percentage points lower than the current level of 17 percent.

resulted in a reduction in the **proportion** of undernourished people in the developing countries by 3 percentage points – from 20 percent in 1990–92 to 17 percent in 2001–03. This means that progress has continued towards the first Millennium Development Goal (MDG 1) of halving the percentage of undernourished people by 2015. However, progress over this period

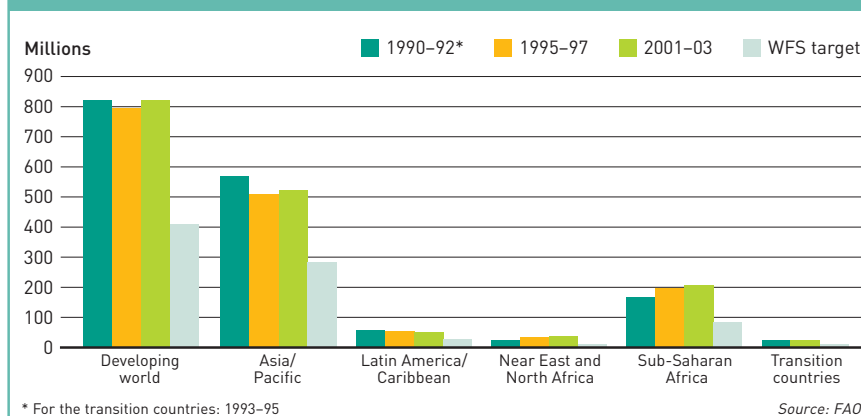
was slower than over the previous two decades, when the prevalence of undernourishment declined by 9 percent (from 37 percent to 28 percent) between 1969–71 and 1979–81 and by a further 8 percentage points (to 20 percent) between 1979–81 and 1990–92.³

Success in meeting the WFS target will require a reversal of recent trends in the number of hungry

3 Undernourished 2001–03 (millions)



4 Number of undernourished and the World Food Summit target





people and a sharp acceleration in the rate of reduction of the proportion of undernourished. Indeed, even if the MDG target were to be reached by 2015, the WFS target would still be far from being met (see box). In order to attain the WFS target in the developing countries, the number of undernourished people must be reduced by 31 million per year between 2001–03 and 2015.

Regional trends in undernourishment⁴

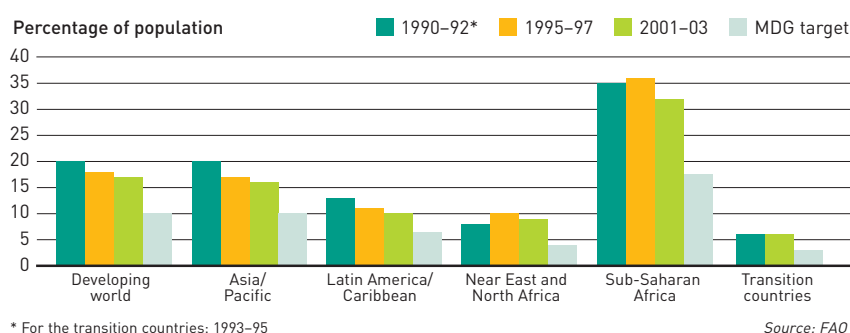
Global stagnation in hunger reduction masks significant disparities among regions: Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean have seen an overall reduction in both the number and prevalence of undernourished people since the WFS baseline period. Nevertheless, in both regions the average rate of reduction has fallen short of what would be required to halve the undernourished population by 2015. Furthermore, in the case of Asia and the Pacific the number of undernourished has reverted to an increasing trend over the latter part of the decade, although the prevalence has continued to decline. Underlying this reversal are larger absolute numbers in China and India in 2001–03 relative to 1995–97.

On the other hand, both in the Near East and North Africa and in sub-Saharan Africa the number of undernourished people has risen during the 11-year period following the WFS baseline. In sub-Saharan Africa, this represents the continuation of a trend that has been apparent over at least the last three decades.

In sub-Saharan Africa, recent progress in reducing the prevalence of undernourishment is noteworthy. For the first time in several decades,

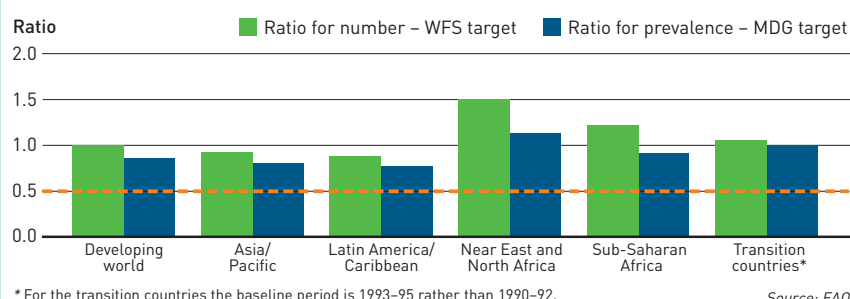
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Proportion of undernourished people and the Millennium Development Goal target



6

Ratio of undernourishment (number and prevalence) in 2001–03 to 1990–92



the share of undernourished people in the region's population saw a significant decline: from 35 percent in 1990–92 to 32 percent in 2001–03, after having reached 36 percent in 1995–97. This is an encouraging development, but the task facing the region remains daunting: the number of undernourished people increased from 169 million to 206 million while reaching the WFS target will require a reduction to 85 million by 2015.

The Near East and North Africa is the only region in which both the number and proportion of undernourished has risen

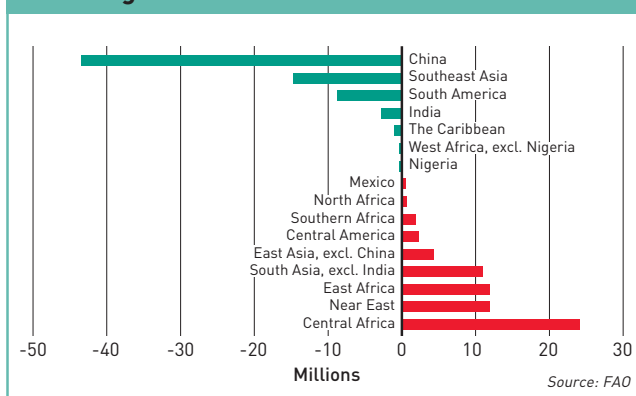
since 1990–92, albeit from a relatively low base. Following the significant reduction in the numbers of undernourished achieved during the 1970s, the trend in subsequent decades has been consistently upwards. The decade since the WFS baseline period constituted no exception, although the rate of increase slowed in the later years.

For the transition countries, the number of undernourished people has increased slightly, from 23 million to 25 million.⁵ This rise is attributed mainly to higher numbers in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), where the

Undernourishment around the world

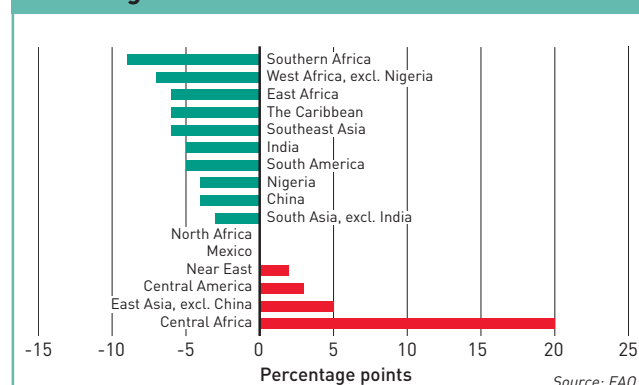
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Changes in number of undernourished in subregions from 1990–92 to 2001–03



8

Changes in proportion of undernourished in subregions from 1990–92 to 2001–03



majority of the region's undernourished people are found.

The WFS and MDG targets: regional progress and setbacks

The degree of regional progress towards the WFS and MDG targets is illustrated by Figure 6, which shows the ratio of the number and the prevalence of undernourished, respectively, in 2001–03 to that of 1990–92. A ratio of 0.5 or lower implies that the respective target (WFS target for the number and MDG target for the prevalence) has been achieved. A ratio of less than 1.0 indicates progress towards the target while a ratio of more than 1.0 indicates a setback. Only Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean have made progress towards the WFS target, but neither region is close to reaching it. The remaining regions have all moved away from the target by varying degrees.

Prospects for achieving the MDG target look more promising. All developing country regions except the Near East and North Africa have made inroads towards reducing the

prevalence of undernourishment, and in the cases of Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean progress has been quite significant.

Subregional trends in undernourishment⁶

Regional trends in undernourishment since the WFS baseline period conceal significant differences at the subregional level, as illustrated by Figures 7 and 8. Within the sub-Saharan Africa region, the subregions of Southern Africa, East Africa and West Africa all saw a decline in the prevalence of undernourishment (although not necessarily in the number of undernourished); by contrast, Central Africa experienced a dramatic increase in both the number of hungry people and prevalence of undernourishment.

In Asia (where China and India are treated as separate subregions in view of the size of their populations) significant progress in reducing the number of undernourished people was made in China and the populous subregion of Southeast Asia. In India, on the other hand, the

prevalence of hunger declined, but the outcome in terms of reducing the number of undernourished was small, as a reduction in the first part of the decade (1990–92 to 1995–97) was subsequently reversed. At the same time, the number of undernourished increased in the rest of East Asia (excluding China) and, particularly, in the rest of South Asia (excluding India).

A significant contribution to progress towards the WFS target in the Latin American and Caribbean region was made by South America, while the number of hungry people increased in Central America and Mexico. In the Near East and North Africa, the absolute number of undernourished is the smallest of all the developing country regions, but it increased both in North Africa and in the Near East, with the latter also seeing an increase in the prevalence of hunger.

Globally, most subregions experienced a reduction in the prevalence of undernourishment. However, any significant progress towards reducing the global number of undernourished was concentrated in very few, but populous,



subregions: China, Southeast Asia and South America.

The World Food Summit target: subregional progress and setbacks

Progress and setbacks in hunger reduction in the subregions are shown in Figure 9. For each subregion, the ratio indicating the distance from the WFS target is plotted against the prevalence of undernourishment. A ratio between 1.0 and 0.5 implies progress towards the target whereas one of 0.5 or less indicates the target has been achieved or surpassed. A ratio greater than 1.0 indicates setback.

The two extremes – the Baltic States and Central Africa – illustrate the wide disparity in progress in the fight against hunger. The Baltic States, with the lowest prevalence of undernourishment, have already reduced the numbers by more than half; Central Africa, with the highest prevalence (56 percent of the population), has been moving rapidly away from the WFS target as a result of a dramatically worsening

food security situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Apart from the Baltic States, only China, Southeast Asia, South America and the Caribbean have moved decisively towards the WFS target. The first three, owing to their large populations, are also the subregions that have provided the most substantive contribution towards a reduction in the number of undernourished. It is also worth noting that in all these subregions, except the Caribbean, prevalence of undernourishment is lower than the average of the developing countries.

In addition to Central Africa, also East Africa and Southern Africa call for priority attention in view of their high prevalence of undernourishment. In both subregions, the number of hungry people has continued to increase in spite of a reduction in the prevalence of hunger. Substantial acceleration of progress will be needed if the WFS target is to be met. The same applies to other regions with somewhat lower levels of undernourishment but with limited or no progress in

reducing the absolute numbers: South Asia (excluding India), West Africa and India.

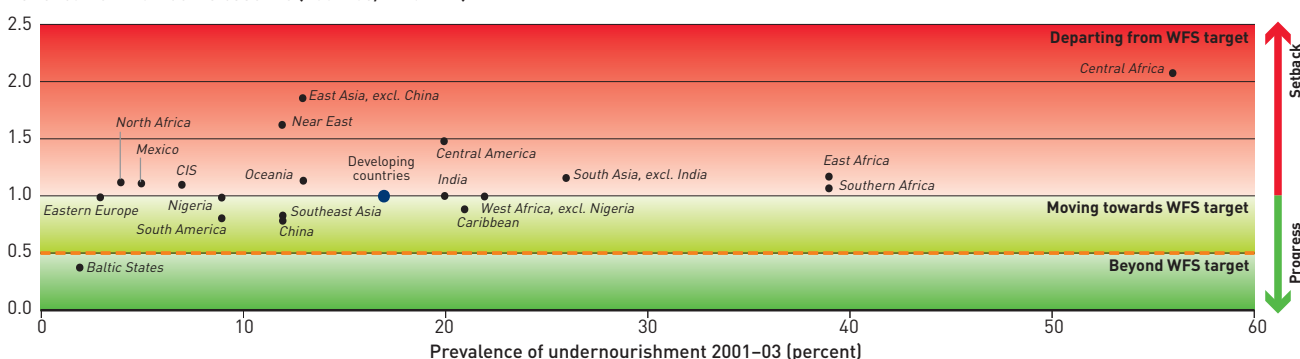
Other subregions with lower levels of undernourishment that show a worrying increase in both prevalence and numbers of undernourished are East Asia (excluding China) – mainly due to a worsening situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea – the Near East and Central America.

Clearly, progress towards the WFS target is concentrated in too few subregions and generally in those with a prevalence of undernourishment below the average for the developing countries. Global progress is largely determined by a few subregions with large populations, while too many others have seen virtually no progress or have even experienced setbacks. To accelerate the pace of global hunger reduction, it is essential to halt and reverse the rising trend in numbers where it occurs and to broaden success in hunger reduction to other subregions. This will evidently be critical in those subregions where the

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Progress towards the WFS target: ratio of number of undernourished in 2001–03 to 1990–92* and prevalence of undernourishment in 2001–03

Ratio: current number to baseline (2001–03/1990–92*)



* For the transition countries: 1993–95

Source: FAO

Undernourishment around the world

prevalence of undernourishment is most severe.

Undernourishment in the lead-up to 2015

Despite painfully slow global progress in hunger reduction over the last decade, a positive sign comes from some of FAO's latest projections, which indicate an acceleration in the future (see table).⁷ The prevalence of hunger in the developing countries as a group is

projected to drop by exactly half from the base rate (in 1990–92) of 20.3 percent to 10.1 percent in 2015. If this happens, the MDG hunger reduction target will be met. The same cannot be said for the WFS commitment, as the number of undernourished people in 2015 is expected to remain in excess of its target by 170 million hungry people.

A reduced number of undernourished people is not envisaged for all developing regions. Only East Asia is expected to reach the WFS

target. Sub-Saharan Africa and the Near East and North Africa, on the contrary, are expected to suffer an increase, reaching higher numbers in 2015 than in 1990–92.⁸ Latin America and the Caribbean and South Asia, while projected to reach the MDG target, are not on track for the WFS target. The recent increasing trends in the number of undernourished people in South Asia, sub-Saharan Africa and the Near East and North Africa are likely to be reversed, but, of these three, only South Asia is foreseen to reach the MDG target.

Projected undernourishment in the developing world

	Number of undernourished people (millions)			Prevalence of undernourishment (percentage of population)		
	1990–92*	2015	WFS target	1990–92*	2015	MDG target
Developing countries	823	582	412	20.3	10.1	10.2
Sub-Saharan Africa	170	179	85	35.7	21.1	17.9
Near East and North Africa	24	36	12	7.6	7.0	3.8
Latin America and the Caribbean	60	41	30	13.4	6.6	6.7
South Asia	291	203	146	25.9	12.1	13.0
East Asia**	277	123	139	16.5	5.8	8.3

Notes

The base period for projections is 1999–2001 and not 2001–03. Some small countries have also been excluded from the projections.

* Data for 1990–92 may differ slightly from numbers reported elsewhere in the report as the projections are based on undernourishment estimates that do not include the latest revisions.

** Includes Southeast Asia.

Source: FAO

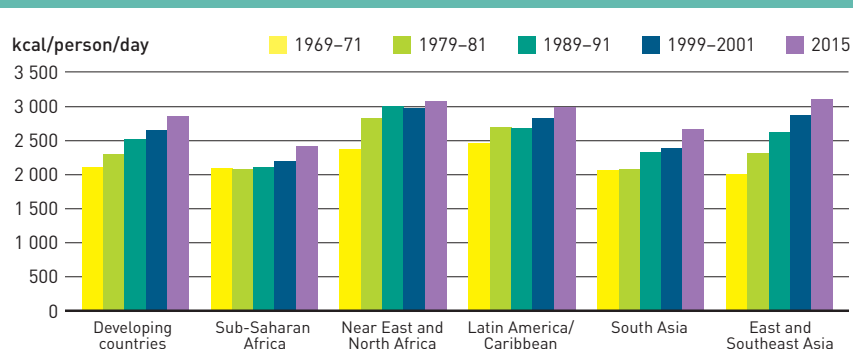
Food intake and population growth

Projected progress in hunger reduction mirrors significant increases in average per capita food consumption. Despite the overall gains in food consumption, in several countries the increases will not be sufficient to allow for a significant reduction in the number of undernourished people. In particular, sub-Saharan Africa will still have an average per capita daily calorie intake of 2 420 kilocalories (kcal) (2 285 kcal when Nigeria is excluded) in 2015 – close to that of South Asia at the turn of the century. Low initial levels of calorie intake, coupled with high population growth, will contribute to the slow reductions in the number of undernourished people.

Reducing hunger will be particularly difficult for countries characterized by historically very high levels of hunger prevalence, very low food consumption (under 2 200 kcal/person/day in 1999–2001), low economic growth prospects, high population growth rates and a limited agricultural resource base. Thirty-two countries fall into this category – with undernourishment

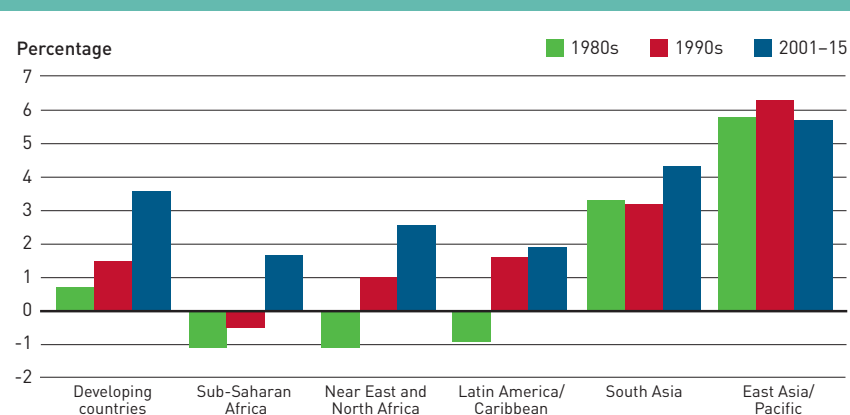
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Trends and projections in per capita food consumption



Source: FAO

Trends and projections for growth in per capita GDP



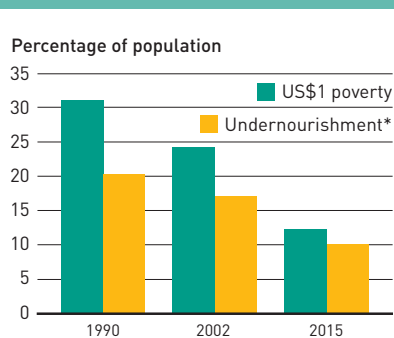
Source: World Bank. 2006. Global Economic Prospects 2006, Table 1.2. Washington, DC.

rates ranging from 29 to 72 percent of the population and an average prevalence of 42 percent. Their current population of 580 million is projected to rise to 1.39 billion by 2050. Their current average food consumption of 2 000 kcal/person/day has actually fallen below that of 30 years ago. Despite their poor historical record, however, several of these countries could achieve significant gains by prioritizing the development of local food production, as other countries have done in the past.

Undernourishment and poverty

Growth in per capita incomes will contribute to hunger alleviation by reducing poverty and increasing per capita food demand.⁹ Higher growth rates in per capita GDP relative to the 1990s are projected for all regions and country groups, with the exception of East Asia, which nevertheless remains the region with the highest growth rate (over 5.0 percent/year in per capita terms).

Poverty and undernourishment



* For undernourishment, historical data refer to 1990-92 and 2000-02.

Source: US\$1 poverty rates adapted from World Bank. 2006. Global Economic Prospects. 2006. Washington, DC. For undernourishment, see FAO. 2006. World agriculture: towards 2030/2050. Interim report. Prospects for food, nutrition, agriculture and major commodity groups, p. 19. Rome.

Figure 12 presents trends and projections for poverty and undernourishment rates, which, significantly, indicate that the poverty target of MDG 1 (halving the proportion of the poor by 2015) will be reached in the baseline scenario.

Different methodologies are used to estimate poverty and undernourishment and the figures are not directly comparable. However, a closer look at trends for both indicators in the developing countries reveals that poverty has tended to decline more rapidly than undernourishment. The World Bank and FAO projections for these indicators suggest that this trend will continue. In fact, the differences in calculations notwithstanding, there were 1.5 poor people for every hungry person in 1990-92; by 2015, the corresponding figures are projected to be 1.2 to one.

These past trends and projections suggest that poverty reduction does not benefit proportionately those among the poor who are also undernourished. Although the reasons for the slower rate of hunger reduction are not clear, an important factor may be that hunger itself acts as a barrier to escaping poverty (the hunger trap). Past editions of *The State of Food Insecurity in the World* as well as the World Food Summit: *five years later* have emphasized that hunger is not only a consequence but also a cause of poverty, and that it compromises the productive potential of individuals, families and entire nations. In the 2004 edition of this report, an extensive analysis of the social and economic costs of hunger was presented.

An important policy implication of this relationship would be that, in the absence of purposeful action, hunger will compromise efforts to reduce poverty globally. Income growth, while necessary, is not always sufficient for eradicating hunger. Specific measures targeted directly at ensuring access to food are an indispensable component of effective hunger eradication efforts.

Undernourishment in the regions

Asia and the Pacific

Asia and the Pacific region accounts for 68 percent of the developing world's population and 64 percent of its undernourished population. The prevalence of undernourishment – at 16 percent of the total population – is second only to Africa's among the developing country regions.

Between 1990–92 and 2001–03, the number of undernourished people in the region declined from 570 million to 524 million and the prevalence of undernourishment dropped from 20 to 16 percent. Every country except the Democratic People's Republic of Korea¹⁰ saw a decline in prevalence, but it was not sufficient in all cases to compensate

for population growth – only 9 of the region's 17 countries reduced the number of undernourished people. To reach the WFS target by 2015, progress must be accelerated.

The decline in the number of hungry people in Asia and the Pacific was driven mainly by China, which saw a reduction from 194 million to 150 million. India has the largest number of undernourished people in the world, 212 million – only marginally below the 215 million estimated for 1990–92. Bangladesh and Pakistan, both with high levels of prevalence, account for 15 percent of the hungry people in the region, with Pakistan showing an increase in both prevalence and in absolute number.

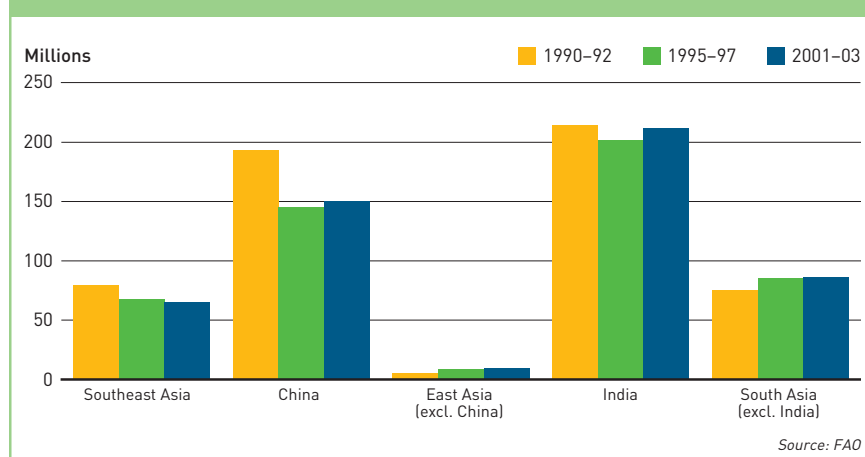
Individual country progress towards the WFS target is shown in Figure 15. No country in the region has yet met the target. Two countries, Myanmar and Viet Nam, have reduced the number of undernourished people by more than 25 percent. In addition to these, the most significant progress in relative terms has been achieved by China, Thailand and Indonesia. The most serious deterioration in food security has been experienced by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, where the number of undernourished people more than doubled: from 3.6 million to 7.9 million.

Fighting hunger: determinants of success and setbacks

In most countries of the region, the majority of the population – and most of the poor and food-insecure – live in rural areas. A vibrant rural economy is therefore a prerequisite for reducing undernourishment. Productivity-driven (yield-increasing) growth in agriculture can

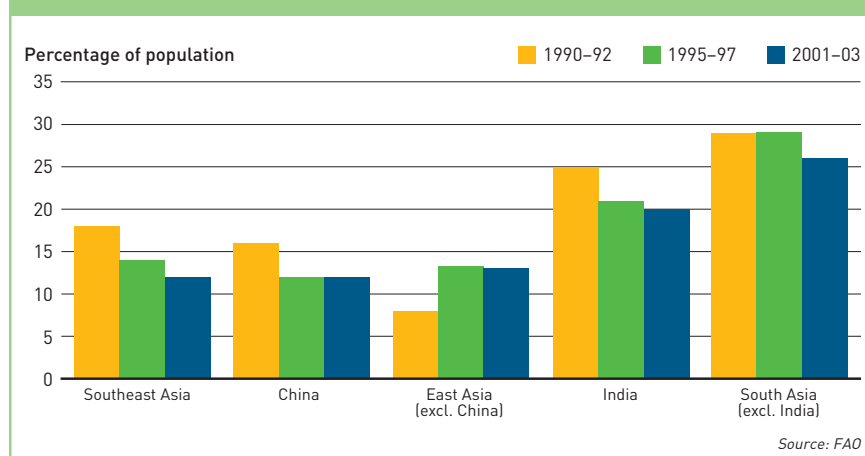
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Number of undernourished people: Asia and the Pacific



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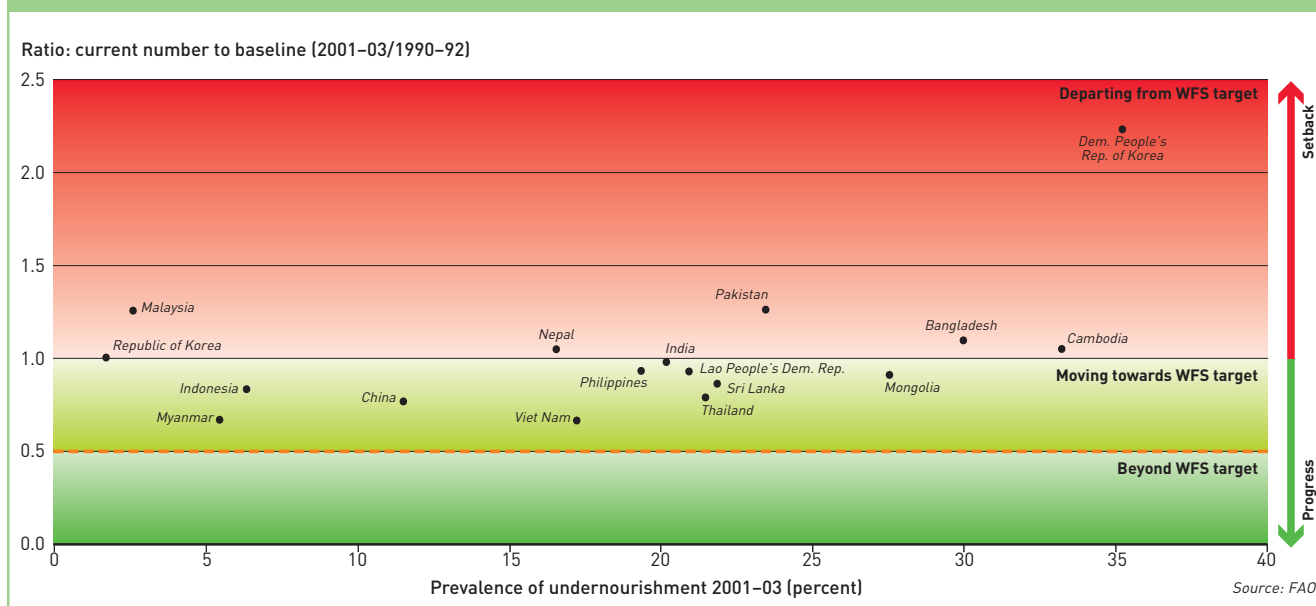
Proportion of undernourished people: Asia and the Pacific





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Number of undernourished: country progress and setbacks in Asia and the Pacific



have a strong positive impact on the rural non-farm economy through boosting demand for locally produced non-agricultural goods and by keeping food prices low. Increasing the productivity of small-scale farmers is especially

important as they, and rural labourers, are more likely to spend the additional income on food and basic non-farm products and services deriving from rural areas. Agricultural growth thus generates a virtuous cycle in which agricultural

and rural off-farm activities sustain each other. Such growth can make a powerful contribution towards reducing the numbers of undernourished, especially when initial income inequality is not too marked and population growth is moderate.

China and Viet Nam exemplify this process. From 1990–92 to 2001–03, the number of hungry people in China declined from 194 million to 150 million and the prevalence of undernourishment from 16 percent to 12 percent. This was achieved through strong economic and agricultural growth – real per capita GDP increased at an average annual rate of 8 percent between 1990 and 2003, while per capita agricultural GDP grew by 2.5 percent and per capita food production by 5.4 percent per year. At the same time, the annual population growth rate was only 1 percent.

Food insecurity in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has seen a sharp increase in both the prevalence of undernourishment and the number of hungry people over the period 1990–92 to 2001–03: the prevalence doubled and the absolute number more than doubled (to almost 8 million people).

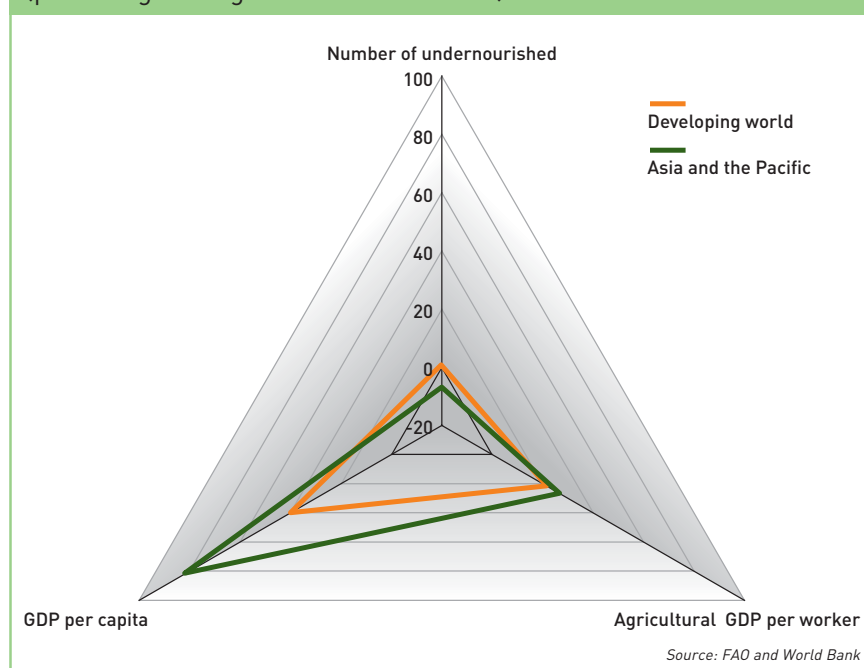
The underlying cause appears to have been negative trends in economic growth. Statistics on GDP growth

are not available, making it difficult to assess the extent of the problem. However, available data on food production indicate that this variable, in per capita terms, declined at a rate of 2.2 percent per year over this period. In 2003, the vast majority of the country's 23 million people were dependent on cereals received through the public distribution system.

Undernourishment in the regions

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Undernourishment, GDP per capita and agricultural GDP per worker
(percentage change 1990–92 to 2001–03)



In fact, the rapid reduction of hunger and poverty in China started much earlier, originating with two major agricultural reforms in 1978, when families were permitted to lease land from the collectives and state procurement prices for foodgrains, oilcrops and hogs were raised.¹¹ Agricultural output and incomes rose dramatically in response, with rural per capita income increasing by 90 percent between 1980 and 1985. From 1985 onwards, rural non-farm enterprises also began to expand rapidly. By 2000 they had absorbed about a quarter of the rural labour force and were contributing about 30 percent to national GDP, while farm households were deriving almost 50 percent of their incomes from non-farm sources.¹² The number of

poor people in rural China fell from about 490 million in 1979 to about 90 million in 2002 in terms of the World Bank's US\$1-a-day poverty line.¹³ The number of undernourished people was reduced from 387 million in 1969–71 to the current figure of 150 million.

The rate of hunger reduction in China slowed down during the second half of the 1990s.¹⁴ This, at least in part, is attributable to the weak economic performance of the relatively isolated and disadvantaged rural areas where the majority of the remaining undernourished people are located. The bulk of agricultural output comes from about 200 million very small (0.65 ha or less) farms.¹⁵ Recent steps by the Government of China to revitalize rural areas holds out the promise that hunger

reduction can accelerate over the next decade.

Between 1990–92 and 2001–03, Viet Nam reduced the prevalence of undernourishment from 31 to 17 percent and the number of undernourished people from 21 million to 14 million. As in China, accelerated hunger and poverty reduction originated with market-oriented economic and agricultural reforms, which were implemented in the 1980s. An economic reform programme gave farmers control over land, allowed them to increase sales to the market and reduced agricultural taxation. Also as in the case of China, the drivers were strong per capita growth in GDP (5.7 percent/year between 1990 and 2003) and agricultural GDP (2.5 percent/year) as well as rapid expansion in food production. A poverty eradication programme targeting investments in rural infrastructure also contributed to boosting agricultural production and hunger reduction. Viet Nam remains a low-income country, and keeping up the momentum in reducing hunger presents a formidable challenge.

Cambodia and India saw virtually no change in the total number of undernourished people despite strong growth in per capita income of 4 percent per year from 1993 to 2003 in Cambodia and 3.9 percent per year from 1990 to 2003 in India. However, the good overall economic performance was spread unevenly among sectors and was not underpinned by strong agricultural growth; per capita agricultural GDP increased at an annual rate of only 0.7 percent between 1993 and 2003 in Cambodia and by 0.9 percent from 1990 to 2003 in India.¹⁶



Latin America and the Caribbean

Latin America and the Caribbean is home to some 6 percent of the developing world's undernourished people and to 11 percent of its total population. At 10 percent of the region's population, the prevalence of undernourishment is the second lowest among the developing regions.

With a reduction in the number of undernourished people from 59 million in 1990–92 to 52 million in 2001–03, the region is making progress towards the WFS target, although the pace needs to be accelerated. Progress is uneven and mostly concentrated in the subregions of South America and the Caribbean. Central America, on the other hand, has witnessed an upward trend in both numbers and prevalence. In Mexico,¹⁷ prevalence remained unchanged at a relatively low level while the number of undernourished people increased.

Figure 19 reveals the wide divergence in country progress towards the WFS target. A few countries – Cuba, Guyana and Peru – have already met the target while Chile and Uruguay are very close. Ecuador and Jamaica have reduced

The World Food Summit target reached in Peru

Food insecurity deteriorated in Peru during the 1970s and, especially, 1980s. The prevalence of undernourishment doubled from 21 percent in 1969–71 to 42 percent in 1990–92. In the 1990s, the trend was finally reversed. Between 1990–92 and 2001–03, the number of undernourished fell from 9.3 million to 3.3 million people and the prevalence of undernourishment from 42 to 12 percent of the population.

The improved food security can be attributed, *inter alia*, to the reduction of inflation. Between 1990–92 and 2001–03, real per capita GDP grew by 2.1 percent per year, despite the setback caused by world financial

market upheaval in the late 1990s.

A key factor behind the success was strong agricultural growth. Peru introduced reforms in the agriculture sector, including legislation on land transactions and entitlements, which led to improvements in access to credit. Agricultural value added per worker increased by 4 percent annually between 1990–92 and 2001–03.

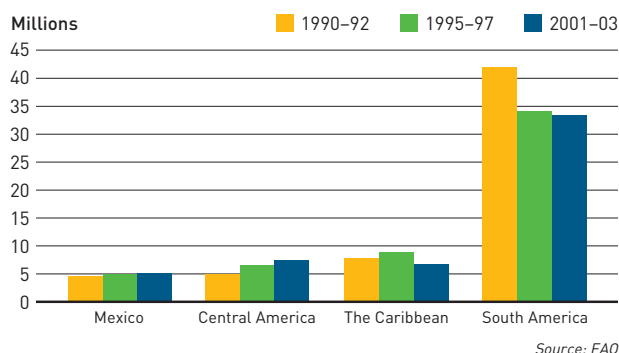
Nevertheless, significant levels of undernourishment and poverty remain. The challenge for the future is to maintain the pace of improvements in poverty and hunger reduction and broaden the gains to poorer regions of the country.

the number of undernourished people by around 25 percent. Brazil and Suriname have shown similar progress. Most countries in South America have advanced towards the target, but a significant increase in hunger was recorded in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Setbacks have

also been recorded for most Central American countries, especially Guatemala and Panama. Haiti saw a reduction in the number of undernourished people but, at 47 percent of the population, the prevalence of undernourishment remains by far the highest in the region.

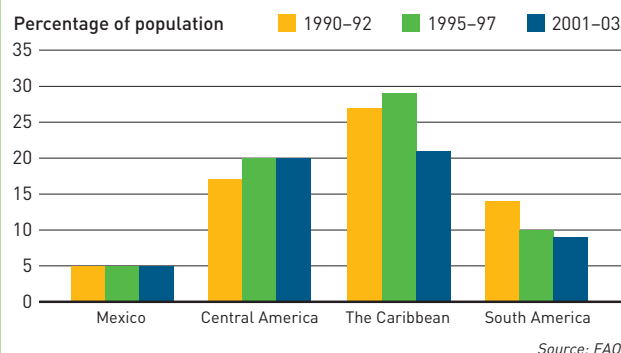
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Number of undernourished people: Latin America and the Caribbean



18

Proportion of undernourished people: Latin America and the Caribbean

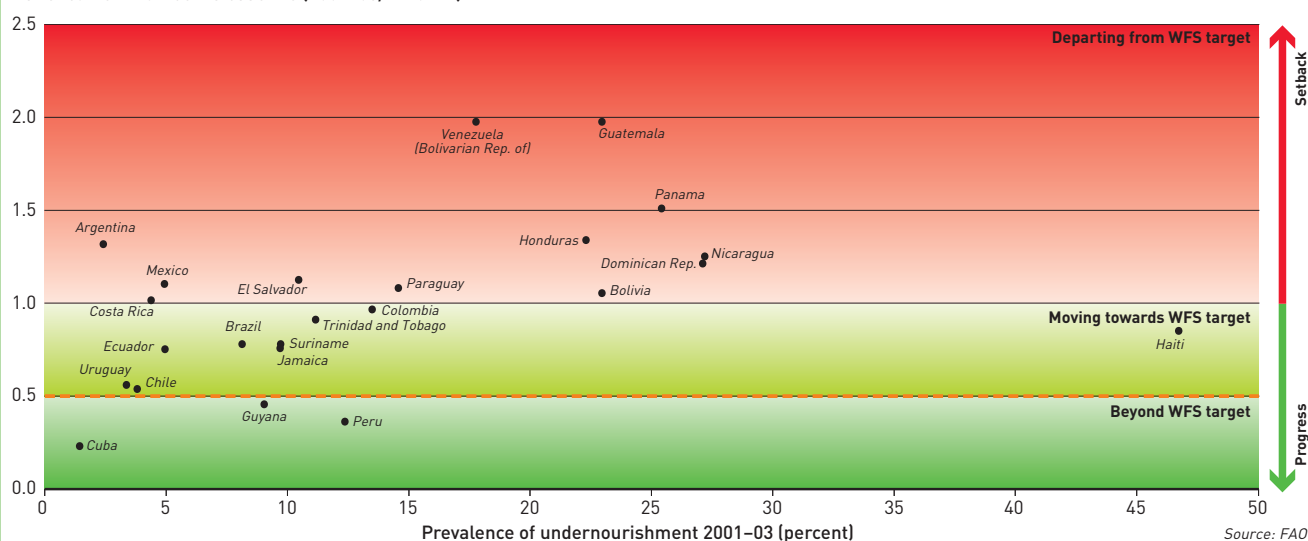


Undernourishment in the regions

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Number of undernourished: country progress and setbacks in Latin America and the Caribbean

Ratio: current number to baseline (2001–03/1990–92)



Source: FAO

Progress in Brazil

Between 1990–92 and 2001–03, the number of hungry people in Brazil decreased from 18.5 million to 14.4 million and the prevalence from 12 to 8 percent of the population. With an average energy intake of 3 060 kcal per day (in 2001–03), Brazil has adequate food supplies to feed its population, but access to food is hampered by highly skewed distribution of income and land.

In the early 1990s, Brazil experienced recession and a debt crisis. Major policy changes were introduced in an effort to stabilize the macroeconomic situation; these were accompanied by increased government expenditures on social programmes. Social indicators improved as a consequence, but the country still faces pervasive poverty and food insecurity among the lowest income groups.

In 2003, the government launched the Zero-Hunger Programme (Programa Fome Zero) with the aim of rapidly improving food security for 44 million people. Its main components set out to improve incomes, increase basic food supplies, enhance access to food and urgently alleviate hunger and malnutrition through targeted interventions.

A key social programme, launched in October 2003, is the Bolsa Família Programme, which provides conditional income transfers to poor families. Conditionalities include school attendance and health visits. The government plans, during 2006, to reach all eligible families – an estimated 11.2 million people.

Fighting hunger: determinants of progress and setbacks

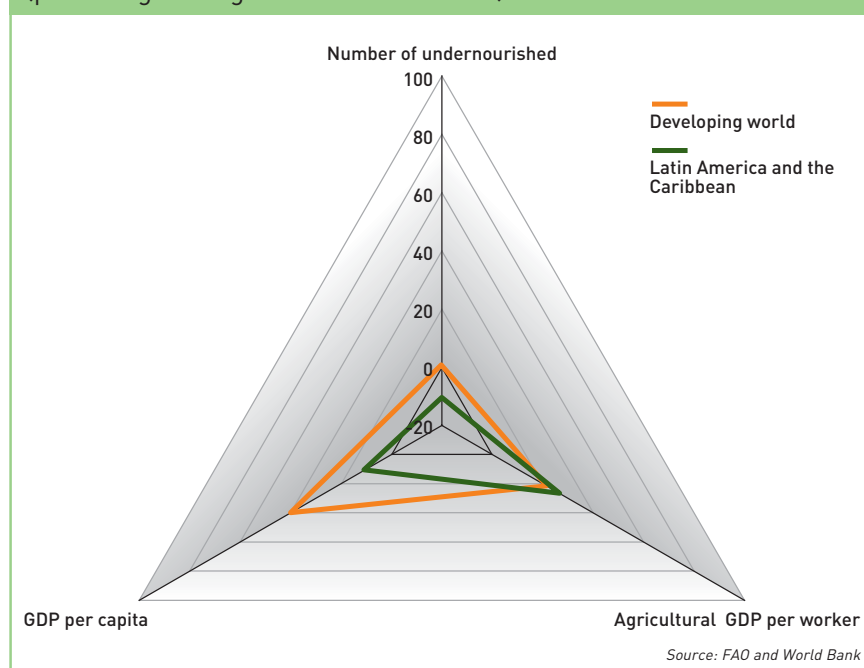
Overall, per capita dietary energy supplies are higher in the region than in both Asia and the Pacific and sub-Saharan Africa, and per capita GDP is the highest among developing country regions. A key factor underlying food insecurity in the region is high income inequality, which reflects unequal access to productive assets.¹⁸ Inequality causes an uneven distribution of the fruits of economic growth and acts as a brake on poverty reduction.

The region is more urbanized than other developing country regions, but in many countries the share of the rural population is still high. Furthermore, in most countries the incidence of extreme poverty and food insecurity is higher in rural areas than in urban ones. Rural and agricultural development has a



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Undernourishment, GDP per capita and agricultural GDP per worker (percentage change 1990–92 to 2001–03)



major role to play in alleviating hunger and extreme poverty, especially among small-scale producers and indigenous communities. Ensuring access by the poor to productive resources – land, capital, technology and education – is of particular importance.

The food economy is characterized by deep structural changes – the diffusion of new forms of food retail, including supermarkets and hypermarkets, and the consolidation of the food industry. Ensuring that smallholders and poorer farmers are not marginalized is a challenge to be faced.

In many countries, export earnings are critical for ensuring staple food imports. For countries with a high degree of export commodity concentration, export

earnings and the livelihoods of individuals who depend on agriculture and related activities are vulnerable to international price fluctuations. For instance, the dramatic decline in coffee prices in recent years had severe negative repercussions on food security in Central American countries.

In several countries in the region, susceptibility to natural shocks intensifies the vulnerability of the poorest sections of the population. Examples over the last decade include the El Niño phenomenon, which caused droughts and flooding in the Caribbean, Central America and the Andean countries in 1997 and 1998, and hurricanes Georges and Mitch, which destroyed lives, crops and infrastructure in many Caribbean and Central American countries in 1998.

Worsening food insecurity in Guatemala

Between 1990–92 and 2001–03, the number of undernourished people in Guatemala doubled to 2.8 million, and the prevalence of hunger increased from 16 to 23 percent of the population. Thirty-one percent of the population live in extreme poverty, almost 80 percent of whom live in rural areas.¹ Most of the rural poor are indigenous and depend on subsistence farming or agricultural work.

A longstanding constraint is unequal access to productive resources. An estimated 2 percent of the population own 72 percent of agricultural land while smallholdings of less than 7 ha in size (87 percent of all farms) control only 15 percent.² The productivity of small farmers is further constrained by poor infrastructure and low levels of education and social expenditure in rural areas. Social expenditures are among the lowest in the region, although they have increased since 1990.³

Food insecurity has also been aggravated by natural disasters. The effects of El Niño were followed by hurricane Mitch in 1998, drought in 2001 and hurricane Stan in October 2005. The latter caused losses corresponding to 3.4 percent of GNP.⁴

Coffee production in 2000 accounted for 18 percent of agricultural GDP, 4 percent of total GDP, 19 percent of export revenues and 30 percent of rural employment. The decline in international coffee prices from the late 1990s seriously affected profitability for both small producers, who predominate numerically, and large and medium-size farms, which account for 80 percent of total production. The reduced demand for farm labour led to employment losses equivalent to 78 000 full-time jobs and declines in rural wages.⁵

Notes: Please see page 40.

Undernourishment in the regions

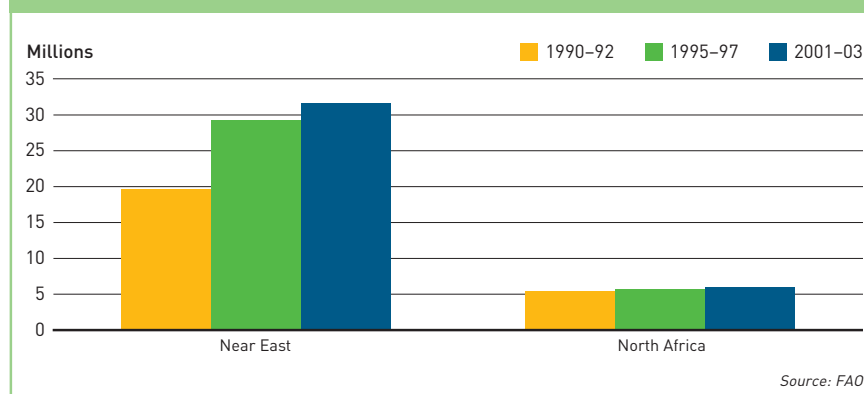
Near East and North Africa

With 9 percent of the population undernourished, the Near East and North Africa is the region with the lowest prevalence of undernourishment among the developing regions. Relatively higher incomes and/or a tradition of food support and subsidy policies in some countries account for a large part of the difference. The region is home to around 5 percent of the undernourished and around 8 percent of the population of the developing world.

Although relatively low, food insecurity in the region is persistent and actually rising both in absolute numbers and in prevalence. Between 1990–92 and 2001–03, the prevalence of hunger increased from 8 to 9 percent, which, combined with high population growth rates, led to an increase in the number of undernourished people from 25 million to 38 million. Excluding Afghanistan

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Number of undernourished people: Near East and North Africa



and Iraq (for which available data are very tenuous), the number of undernourished still increased from 15 million to 20 million and prevalence from 5 to 6 percent.

Among the countries in the region (excluding Afghanistan and Iraq), only

Yemen has very high levels of food insecurity; more than one-third of the population are chronically undernourished. In the remaining countries, except Jordan and Morocco, the prevalence of undernourishment lies below 5 percent.

Worsening food insecurity in Yemen

In Yemen, the number of hungry people increased from 4.2 million in 1990–92 to 7.1 million in 2001–03, and the proportion of undernourished people in the population from 34 to 37 percent. The country falls among the low-income grouping and is highly dependent on food imports. The average daily energy supply of 2 020 kcal per person (2001–03) has decreased slightly, from 2 040 kcal, in the decade since 1990–92. Yemen's population growth is among the highest in the world, exerting considerable pressure on poverty and food insecurity levels in the country and on its natural resource base. Generally, social indicators have improved since 1990 but still remain poor; Yemen ranked 151 out of 177 countries in the 2005 UNDP Human Development Index.

About three-quarters of the population and more than 80 percent of the poor live in rural areas, and agriculture employs close to 50 percent of the labour force. Agricultural production has been unable to keep pace with the rapidly growing population, and dependence on agricultural imports has increased significantly.

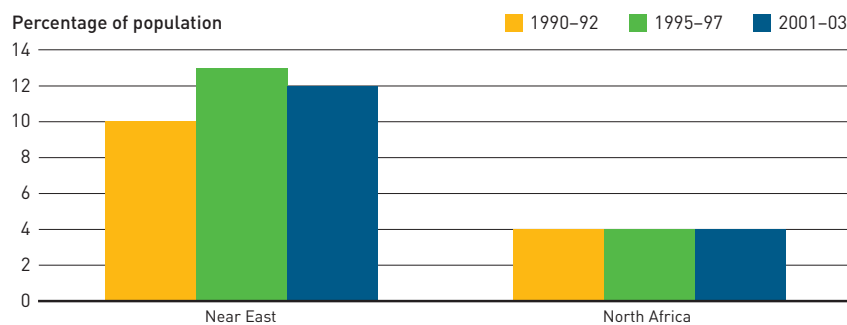
Rural development is critical for improving food security. The agriculture sector is faced with low productivity due to the lack of investment, inadequate water supply and scarce arable land. Rapid depletion of groundwater resources may be the most serious problem facing the country as a whole and the agriculture sector in particular. About 42 percent of the cropped land is irrigated and over 75 percent of irrigated land uses groundwater. Ensuring sustainable use of scarce water resources is crucial for the development of rural areas.

A further contributing factor often referred to regarding Yemen is the production and use of the stimulant leaf qat, which competes with food production for resources, including water, and household food expenditures. The government has begun a campaign against chewing the leaf, and farmers are being encouraged to switch to high-value export crops in an effort to improve water-use efficiency.



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Proportion of undernourished people: Near East and North Africa



Source: FAO

Progress of individual countries towards the WFS target is shown in Figure 23. Only Kuwait has reached the target, but the apparently impressive record in hunger reduction must be seen in the context of the exceptionally high

level of undernourishment at the WFS baseline period (1990-92) following the Iraqi occupation and the first Gulf war. The United Arab Emirates has significantly reduced the number of undernourished while bringing the prevalence to a very low

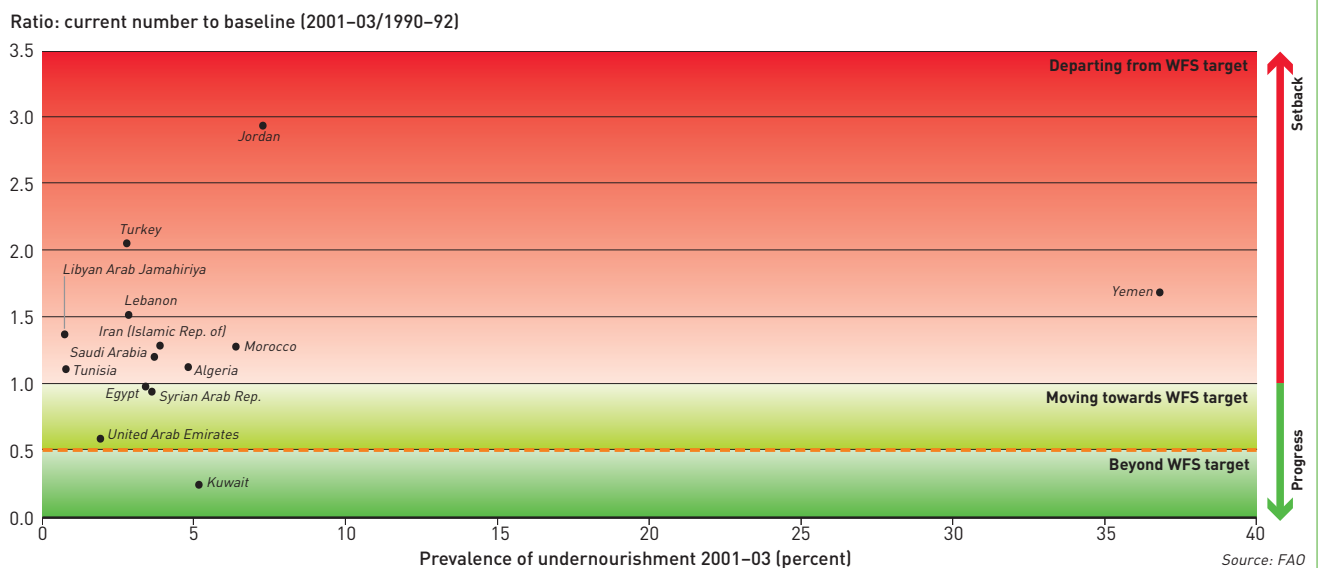
level. Egypt and the Syrian Arab Republic achieved small reductions in the number of hungry people and a somewhat more significant reduction in the prevalence, which in both countries is below 5 percent. The remaining countries (especially Jordan and Yemen) experienced increases in numbers.

Fighting hunger: determinants of progress and setbacks

The region relies heavily on food imports, and foreign exchange earnings constitute a major determinant of food security. Fluctuations in oil prices – the key source of export earnings – influence directly the economies of the exporting countries and indirectly the non-oil-exporting countries, especially through flows of remittances from intraregional

23

Number of undernourished: country progress and setbacks in Near East and North Africa



Source: FAO

Undernourishment in the regions

Rising undernourishment in Jordan

Between 1990–92 and 2001–03, the number of hungry people increased from 100 000 to 400 000 and the prevalence of undernourishment from 4 percent to 7 percent of the population. Limited resources, especially water, make Jordan highly dependant on food imports. Agriculture accounts for only 3 percent of GDP and employs only 10 percent of the labour force.

The Jordanian economy is highly influenced by external factors, and its performance has closely followed the fluctuations in oil prices over the past two decades as well as the conflicts in the region. After a long period of economic decline starting in the mid-1980s, Jordan is again experiencing

steady economic growth. Despite a large external debt, the government has succeeded in mobilizing public expenditures towards social activities such as health and education. However, unemployment is still high and poverty remains despite progress in reducing it. While fewer than 2 percent of the population are below the US\$1-a-day World Bank international poverty line, 7 percent live on less than US\$2 a day. With the labour force growing at 4 percent per year, the lack of job opportunities is currently considered the major threat to food security. In the longer run, serious water scarcity could constrain the country's growth and development prospects.

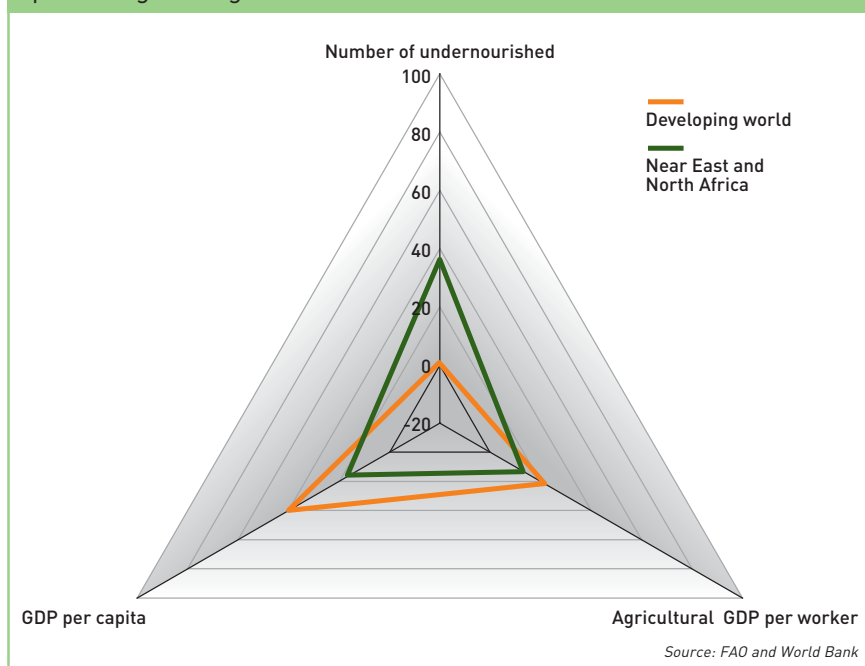
labour migration. Hence, the decline in oil prices during the 1990s had a negative impact on food security in the region, while their present rebound since 2002 is a powerful driving economic force.

The majority of the poor in the region – about 70 percent – live in rural areas, while the rural share of the population is 43 percent.¹⁹ For the rural communities, agriculture remains the main source of employment and income and represents the engine of the rural economy. The performance of the sector is subject to volatile climatic conditions, especially rainfall. With the exception of Egypt, where most agricultural land is irrigated, drought often results in severe production shortfalls, exerting heavy pressure on farm incomes and food import bills. Increasing scarcity of water in the region limits the scope for agricultural expansion and places the livelihoods of agricultural and rural people under heavy stress. Improvements in water-use efficiency and management practices are critical elements for improving the performance of agriculture and the rural economies.

A significant challenge for the region is that of meeting the growing food requirements arising from high population growth. Food imports are crucial for food security in this context, and represent a means of saving scarce water. However, the region has not yet been successful in developing export-oriented industries that could reduce its dependency on oil exports. A further challenge for several countries is that of ensuring levels of economic growth sufficient to absorb the rapid expansion in the labour force.

24

Undernourishment, GDP per capita and agricultural GDP per worker (percentage change 1990–92 to 2001–03)





Sub-Saharan Africa

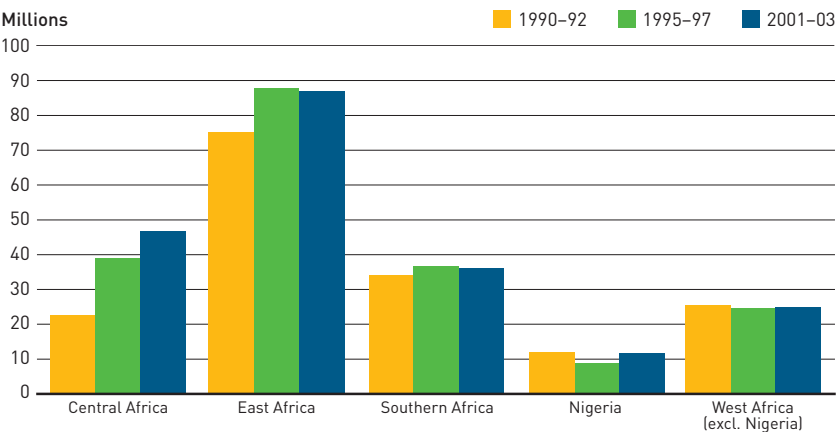
Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for 13 percent of the population and 25 percent of the undernourished people in the developing world. It is the developing region with the highest proportion – one-third – of people suffering from chronic hunger. In 14 countries in the region, 35 percent or more of the population were chronically undernourished in 2001–03.

Hunger in sub-Saharan Africa is as persistent as it is widespread. Between 1990–92 and 2001–03, the number of undernourished people increased from 169 million to 206 million, and only 15 of the 39 countries for which data are reported reduced the number of undernourished. At an annual rate of about 2.5 percent, the region's population has been rising more quickly than the number of hungry people, resulting in a reduction in the prevalence of undernourishment from 35 to 32 percent: it declined in 29 countries and increased in ten.

Efforts to reduce hunger in the region have been hampered by natural and human-induced disasters, including conflicts occurring during the 1990s and the spread of HIV/AIDS. Indeed, the increase in the number of undernourished people since the WFS baseline period was driven mainly by five war-torn countries: Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. These countries combined account for 29 million of the region's total increase of 37 million. Particularly dramatic is the worsening of food insecurity in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where the number of undernourished people tripled, from 12 million to 36 million, and the prevalence rose from 31 to 72 percent

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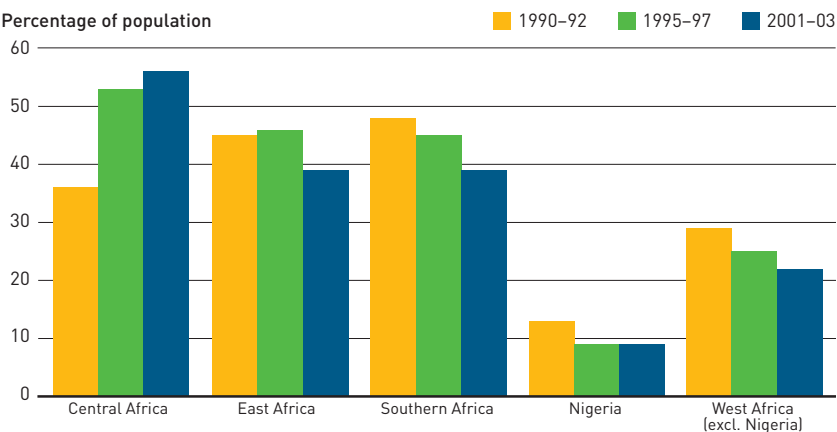
Number of undernourished people: Sub-Saharan Africa



Source: FAO

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Proportion of undernourished people: Sub-Saharan Africa



Source: FAO

of the population. The evident conclusion is that conflict is a major reason for lack of progress towards the WFS target in sub-Saharan Africa.

The persistence of hunger in the region is underlined by Figure 27, which shows individual country

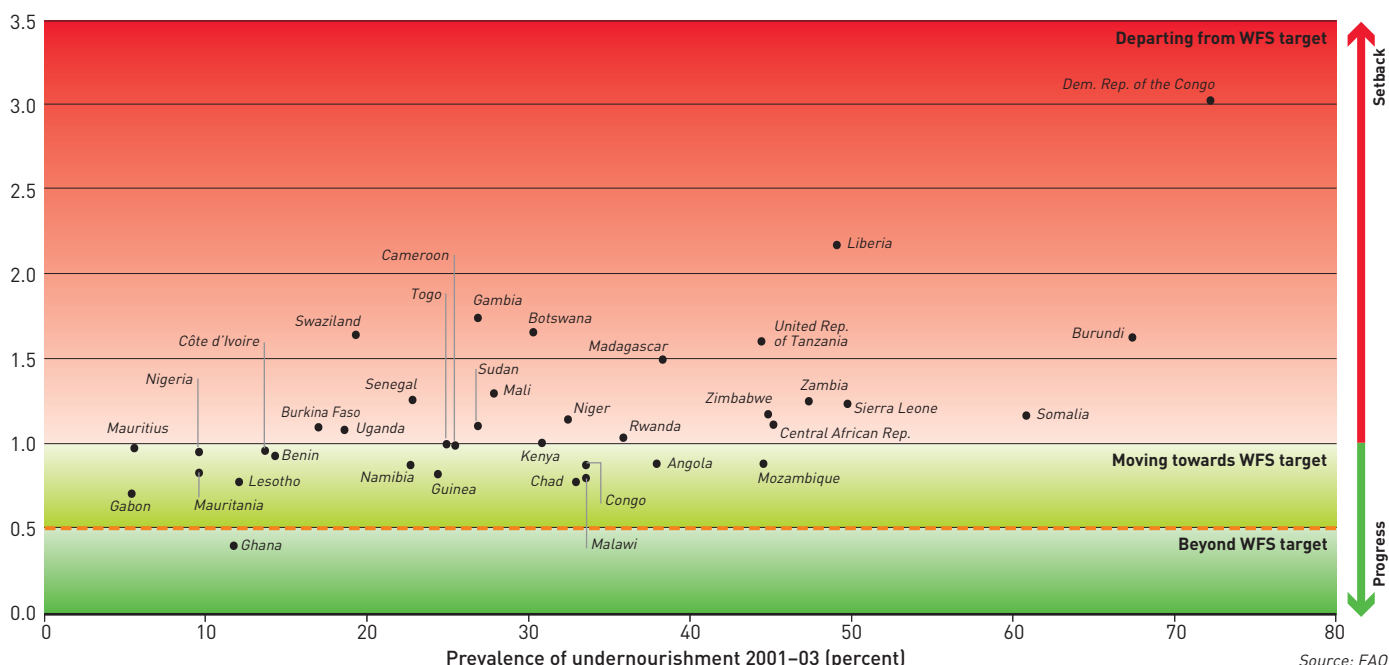
progress towards the WFS target. In addition to Ghana, which has already reached the target, only Gabon reduced the number of undernourished by 25 percent or more (and is thus halfway towards the target). Other countries that reduced the number of undernourished are:

Undernourishment in the regions

27

Number of undernourished: country progress and setbacks in sub-Saharan Africa

Ratio: current number to baseline (2001–03/1990–92)



Angola, Benin, Chad, Congo, Ethiopia, Guinea, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique and Namibia. Nigeria and Côte d'Ivoire saw only a marginal reduction in the numbers, while the prevalence declined.

Fighting hunger: determinants of progress and setbacks

Among the countries that stand out as having achieved a significant reduction in the number of undernourished are Ethiopia, Ghana and Mozambique. In Ethiopia, the number of undernourished people declined by 6 million (17 percent), from 38 million to 32 million, between 1993–95 and 2001–03,²⁰ with the prevalence falling from

61 to 46 percent. In relative terms, Ghana's performance was even more impressive. The number of undernourished people was reduced from 5.8 million to 2.4 million (59 percent) and the prevalence of undernourishment from 37 to 12 percent. In Mozambique, the number of undernourished people

declined by 900 000 (or by 10 percent) and the prevalence of undernourishment from 66 to 45 percent. Although the correlatives of success varied among highly successful countries, they seem to have combined good economic growth performances with a significant expansion of per capita

Economic and agricultural performance in Ethiopia, Ghana and Mozambique

	Average annual per capita growth rate, 1990–2003		
	GDP	Agricultural GDP	Food production
	(percentage)		
Ethiopia*	2.0	–1.0	2.3
Ghana	1.8	1.1	3.3
Mozambique	4.5	2.8	1.6

* For Ethiopia, growth rates shown are for the period 1993–2003.

Source: FAO and World Bank



agricultural or, especially, food production. The performance of the three countries is summarized in the table.

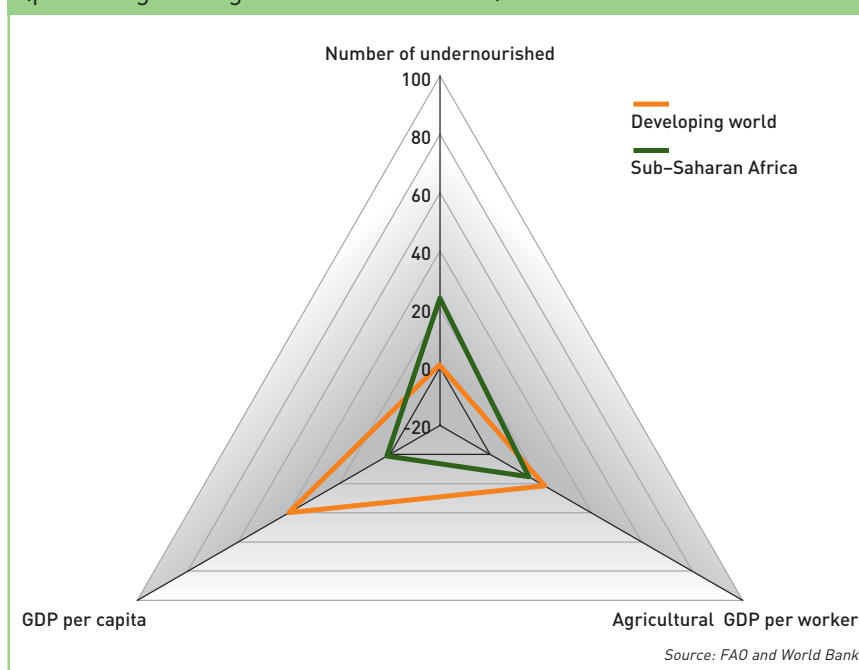
Growth in food production is indeed key to hunger reduction in sub-Saharan Africa. Productivity-driven increases in food production have been shown to have a strong positive impact on the rural economy, leading to increased food availability and a reduction of food prices in local markets. At the same time, the enhanced incomes of smallholders – the main producers of staples – provide a stimulus to rural economic activity by generating increased demand for the products of other sectors that are either linked to agriculture (e.g. processing and agricultural services) or supply consumption goods to farmers.

In 12 countries of the region, a fall in the prevalence of undernourishment has not been sufficient to translate into a reduction in the number of undernourished people. These countries are spread fairly evenly over the continent. In all but three exceptions, a common factor seems to be that per capita food production either declined or grew only slowly. The cases of Burkina Faso, Uganda and Zambia are examples.

In Uganda, the number of undernourished increased from 4.2 million to 4.6 million between 1990–92 and 2001–03, while the prevalence declined from 24 to 19 percent. This took place against a backdrop of strong per capita GDP growth, at an average annual rate of 3.8 percent, and a modest average growth rate of 1 percent in per capita agricultural GDP. Average dietary energy consumption also increased from 2 270 to 2 380 kcal/person/day, in spite of decreasing per capita food production. The increase in energy consumption was achieved mainly

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Undernourishment, GDP per capita and agricultural GDP per worker (percentage change 1990–92 to 2001–03)



through large increases in both commercial food imports and food aid. Although overall food supplies did expand, the increase in rural incomes that could be generated if the additional supplies originated in domestic production did not materialize.

In Zambia, prevalence remained virtually unchanged (from 48 to 47 percent), and the number of undernourished people increased from 4.0 million to 5.1 million. Overall economic and agricultural performance was mixed. Indeed, per capita GDP declined at an annual rate of 0.9 percent, while per capita agricultural GDP grew by 1.0 percent per year. Per capita food production, on the other hand, declined at an annual rate of 0.9 percent.

In Burkina Faso, the reduction in the prevalence of undernourishment

from 21 percent to 17 percent between 1990–92 and 2001–03 was insufficient to prevent an increase in the number of undernourished people from 1.9 million to 2.1 million. Food production increased in per capita terms at the same average rate as in the more successful Mozambique (1.6 per cent per year). On the other hand, per capita growth of GDP and agricultural GDP were more modest, at average annual rates of 1.7 and 1.1 percent, respectively. Food imports per capita also increased slightly. As a result, average dietary energy consumption increased slightly from 2 350 to 2 460 kcal/person/day during this period. This was sufficient to ensure a reduction in the prevalence, but not in the number, of undernourished people.

Undernourishment in the regions

Countries in transition

The transition economies are an extremely diverse group, a fact that should be kept in mind when analysing hunger trends in the region.²¹ The region is home to an estimated 25 million undernourished people, 21 million of whom live in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

In countries that have recently acceded to the European Union (EU),²² and in Romania, the level of undernourishment is generally low – 6 percent at the most. Somewhat higher levels are found in the Balkans (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro, and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia). Within the CIS countries, the range of prevalence of undernourishment varies widely: from about 3 percent in Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine to 61 percent in Tajikistan, which, along with Armenia and Uzbekistan, is one of the countries facing the most serious food insecurity problems.

Progress towards the WFS target for the countries in transition is measured using 1993–95 as the baseline period.²³ For the region as

a whole, there has been a slight increase in both the number of hungry people and the prevalence of hunger. While some countries showed progress to varying degrees, others have experienced a sharp deterioration in their food security situation.

Individual country progress towards the WFS target is shown in Figure 31. Of the countries that have achieved the target, the most successful are Azerbaijan, Georgia and Kyrgyzstan, all of which, starting from a high prevalence of hunger, have cut the number of undernourished by at least two-thirds. Armenia, which in 1993–95 had the highest prevalence of undernourishment (52 percent) in the region, has already halved its number of hungry people, but at 29 percent of the population the prevalence remains disturbingly high. Other countries that have met the WFS target are Croatia, Estonia, Lithuania and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Latvia, the Russian Federation, Slovenia and Turkmenistan have made strong progress, though they have yet to meet the target.

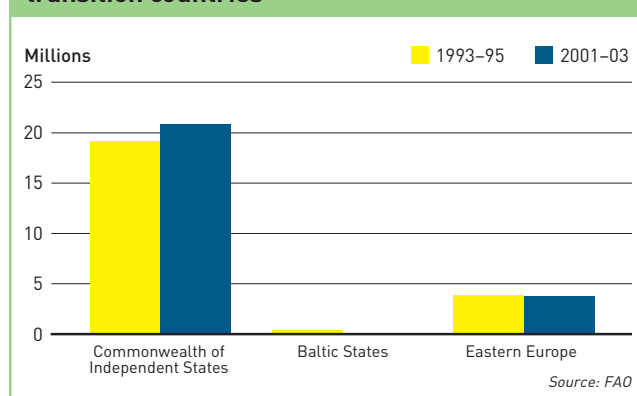
Progress in Azerbaijan and Georgia

Azerbaijan and Georgia – the two countries that have been most successful in reducing hunger from very high levels – emerged from armed conflict in the early 1990s. Their economies started expanding in the second half of that decade following a severe contraction in the early years. Economic growth, in turn, was a major factor behind the significant reduction in the numbers of hungry people – in both countries from about 2.5 million in 1993–95 to 0.7–0.8 million in 2001–03. Both have made strong progress since 1993 in implementing economy-wide reforms and those specific to the agriculture sector, including privatization of agricultural land and titling.

A few countries suffered setbacks, in some cases very severe. The largest relative increase was in Kazakhstan, but by far the most serious situation is in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, which have both seen a

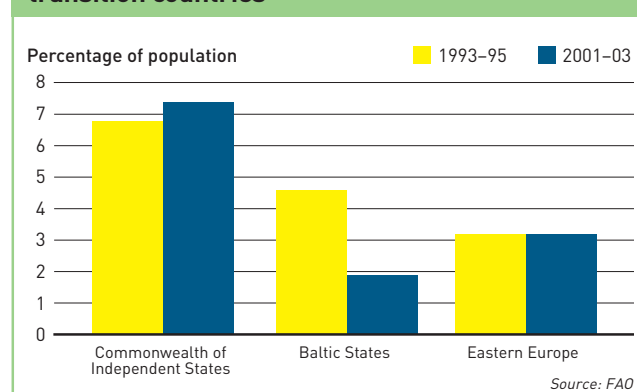
29

Number of undernourished people: transition countries



30

Proportion of undernourished people: transition countries

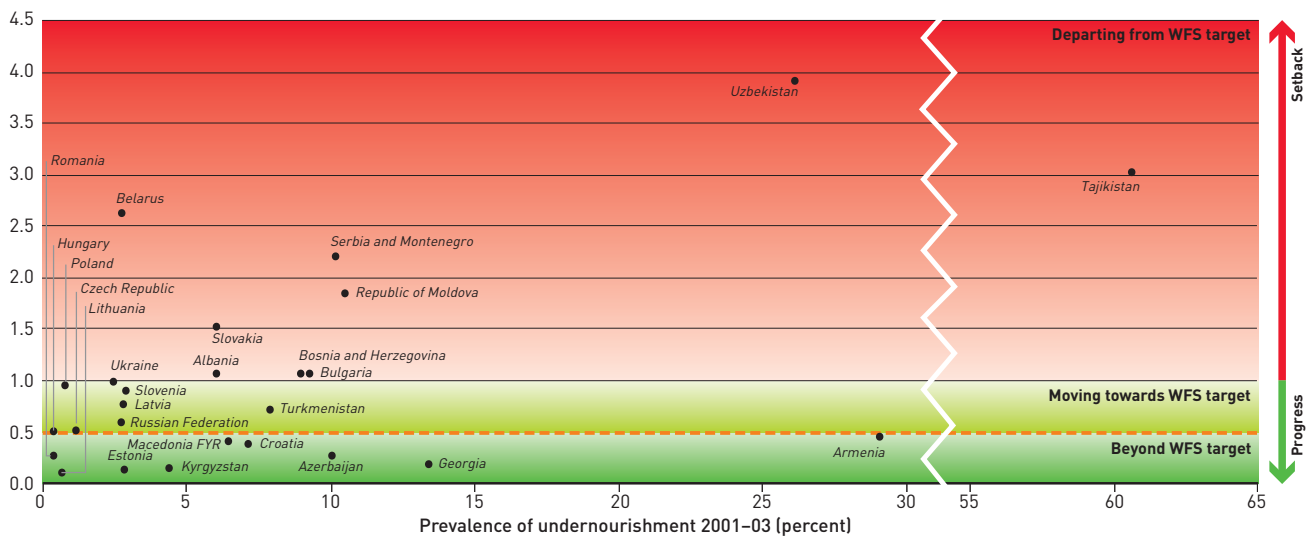




31

Number of undernourished: country progress and setbacks in the countries in transition

Ratio: current number to baseline (2001–03/1993–95)



Note: Not shown on graphic: Kazakhstan (ratio 7.2, prevalence 8 percent).

Source: FAO

serious worsening of food security and currently experience very high levels of undernourishment.

Fighting hunger: determinants of progress and setbacks

Factors influencing progress or setbacks in hunger reduction are diverse in the region. In many instances, food insecurity has been a direct consequence of human-induced disasters – war, conflict and political and economic instability with ensuing problems of refugees and displaced persons. Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation and many Balkan countries are among this group. Natural disasters (prolonged drought in parts of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova) have also played a role.

More generally, food insecurity in the region can be traced to factors such as weak economic development resulting from lack of support policies and infrastructure and the breakdown of social safety nets following the dissolution of the pre-1990s economic and political systems in Eastern Europe and the CIS.

Between 1990 and 2001, extreme poverty, measured as the share of the population living on less than US\$1 a day, increased from 0.4 to 5.3 percent in the CIS countries and from 0.2 to 2.0 percent in the transition countries of southeastern Europe.²⁴ However, the CIS average masks the existence of countries with exceptionally high rates of extreme poverty such as the Republic of Moldova (22 percent), Uzbekistan (14 percent), Armenia (13 percent), Turkmenistan (10 percent) and Tajikistan (7 percent).²⁵

Reversing the food security setbacks requires focused efforts on pro-poor development strategies, targeting rural areas especially, which are home to more than 50 percent of the population in countries such as the Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan and to large shares also in other countries where hunger is pervasive. While agriculture is not the predominant sector in the region as a whole, it remains important in the poorer countries, and agricultural performance will determine future progress in reducing poverty and food insecurity. In the three countries with the highest levels of undernourishment – Tajikistan, Armenia and Uzbekistan – agriculture accounts for 24, 23 and 31 percent of GDP, respectively.²⁶

Towards the Summit commitments

The way ahead: strengthening efforts for eradicating hunger

This report has shown that, although we are closer to the MDG target of halving the **proportion** of undernourished people by 2015, we are still very far from the WFS target of halving their **number**. Towards the latter goal no progress has been made, and the number of hungry people has remained virtually unchanged since 1990–92.

Despite the disappointing results so far, prospects for hunger reduction appear more promising today. Improved economic performance in developing countries, bolstered by increased international attention to the dual problem of extreme poverty and hunger, promises more rapid advances in the coming years. Still, the task in front of us is daunting: each year until 2015, the world must be able to count 31 million fewer hungry people²⁷ – ten times the total reduction achieved since 1990–92 – if we are to meet the pledge made during the WFS and reiterated during the WFS: *five years later*.

Furthermore, not all countries face equal challenges, and many risk being left behind in the fight against hunger. Those that face the most serious difficulties and need to make the largest efforts are often those that have the least means to do so. Without purposeful action by domestic stakeholders and without assistance from the world community, these countries risk further marginalization, making the hunger reduction effort even more difficult in the future.

Lessons learnt in hunger reduction²⁸

In stepping up our efforts to reach the WFS target and broadening the areas of progress, past experiences can provide indispensable guidance on general policy directions. The following are some of the policy lessons emerging from past successes and failures in hunger reduction.

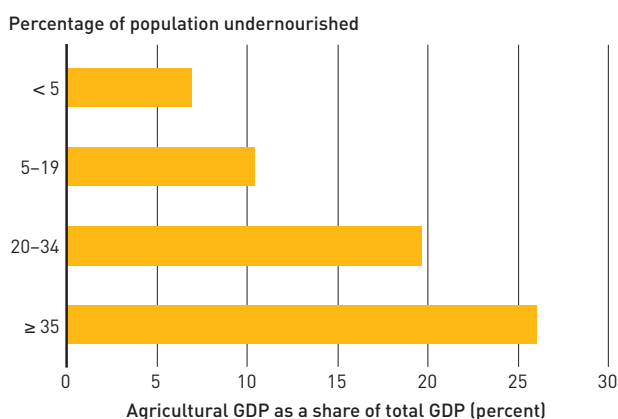
- **Hunger reduction is necessary for accelerating development and**

poverty reduction. Hunger is, at the same time, a consequence and a cause of poverty. Hunger negatively affects health, labour productivity and investment choices, perpetuating poverty. Therefore targeted interventions to ensure access to food are needed.

- **Agricultural growth is critical for hunger reduction.** Some 70 percent of the poor in developing countries live in rural areas and depend on agriculture for their livelihoods, either directly or indirectly. In the poorest of countries, agricultural growth is the driving force of the rural economy. Particularly in the most food-insecure countries, agriculture is crucial for income and employment generation (Figures 32 and 33). Combating hunger requires an expanded commitment to agriculture and rural development.
- **Technology can contribute, but under the right conditions.** Improved technology, adapted to

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Agricultural GDP and undernourishment in 2001–03



33

Agricultural employment and undernourishment in 2001–03





local conditions that favour small-scale farmers, hastens poverty reduction through increased farm incomes and lower food prices.

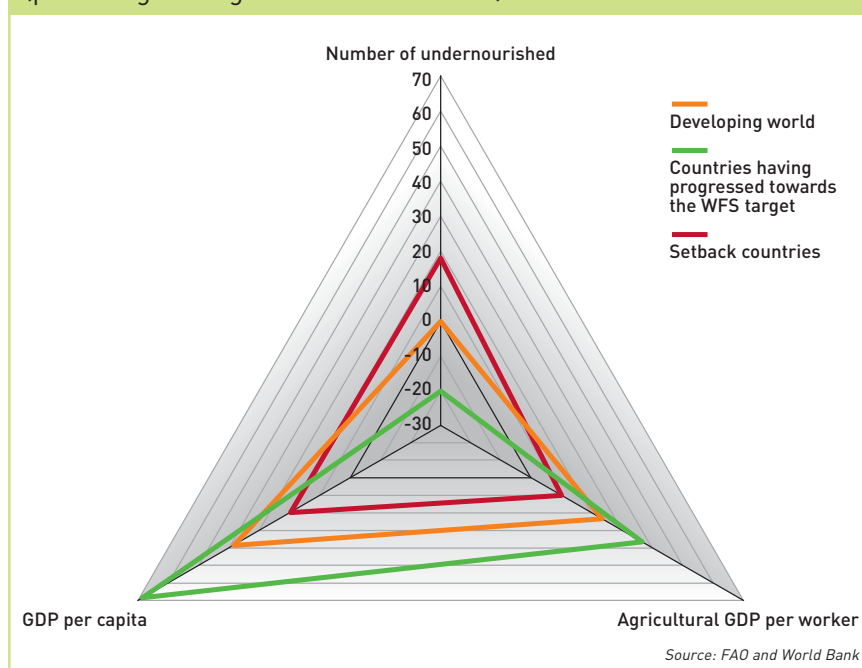
- **Trade can contribute to hunger reduction and poverty alleviation.** But gains from trade liberalization are neither automatic nor universal. Ensuring benefits for the poor requires attention to a range of other factors, including market infrastructure, institutions and domestic policy reforms and safety nets.
- **Public investment is essential for agricultural growth.** Public investment in infrastructure, agricultural research, education and extension is indispensable for promoting agricultural growth. Actual public expenditures on agriculture in many poor countries do not reflect the importance of the sector, particularly in those with high prevalence of undernourishment.
- **Development assistance does not target the neediest countries.** External assistance to agriculture and rural development has declined compared with the levels of the 1980s. It also tends not to target sufficiently the countries with low levels of undernourishment.
- **Peace and stability are a *sine qua non* for hunger and poverty reduction.** Protracted conflicts disrupt productive activities and destroy infrastructure and livelihoods, seriously undermining food security.

Towards a policy agenda for hunger reduction

Policy interventions for effective hunger reduction must also be designed in the context of emerging

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Undernourishment, GDP per capita and agricultural GDP per worker (percentage change 1990–92 to 2001–03)



global, regional and national trends and challenges. Globalization will not only open opportunities by expanding markets for agricultural commodities, but will also open domestic markets to foreign competitors. Rapid urbanization will increase urban demand for food as well as for food complying with more exacting quality and safety standards. Climate change and degradation of ecosystems will pose new challenges for expanding production and conserving natural resources. The spread of HIV/AIDS will add to the burden of long-lasting epidemics such as malaria. Transboundary pests and diseases risk endangering livelihoods.

Effective hunger reduction requires coherence among policies. Priority must be accorded to financing agricultural and rural

development. The importance of both overall economic growth and agricultural growth is illustrated by Figure 34. However, peace, stability and “good governance” are crucial. The specific policy agenda depends on individual country circumstances, but the following are some of the essential elements that could ensure better performance in hunger reduction in the remaining years until 2015.

Focus on hotspots. Programmes and investments must focus on poverty and hunger “hotspots” – those areas around the world and within a country where a significant proportion of people are afflicted by undernourishment and poverty.

Follow a twin-track approach to hunger reduction. Longer-term

Towards the Summit commitments

interventions to enhance productive potential must be combined with programmes and policies that respond to the immediate needs of the poor and the food-insecure. The former must especially emphasize agriculture and rural development and include a pro-poor focus by creating employment and ensuring access by the poor to productive assets – physical, human and financial. The latter include social safety nets, cash transfers, health interventions and food and nutrition programmes.

Enhance productivity of smallholder agriculture. Successful actions to improve the productivity of smallholder agriculture must be scaled up. Policies and programmes for agriculture should aim at strengthening the sector's economic impact on rural areas through the generation of off-farm activities, rural employment and wages.

Create an environment conducive to private investment. Public investments must be accompanied by policies that induce complementary flows of private investment. The quality and transparency of governance and public administration, political stability, reliable market institutions and macroeconomic discipline and stability are essential for this purpose.

Combine poverty reduction with increased provision of global public goods. The creation of markets for environmental goods and services and the resulting price mechanism will permit a more accurate valuation of global public goods and of trade-offs between agricultural activities and environmental goods and services. The resulting price

mechanism can be used to “buy” environmental services from farmers, i.e. create an incentives framework for farmers to adopt practices that, for example, preserve agricultural biological diversity, conserve wildlife or reduce carbon emissions in the atmosphere. Such market mechanisms (which are already at work in some countries), can contribute to both poverty reduction and environmental and natural resource sustainability.

Make trade work for the poor.

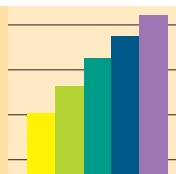
In view of the continuing liberalization of world markets, the developing countries must be granted “policy space” for developing their rural areas and their agriculture. To benefit from trade reform, developing countries should be assisted in enhancing domestic competitiveness through policy and institutional reform (aid for trade). Appropriate safety nets are important in order to protect vulnerable groups against the immediate impact of trade reforms.

Coordinate domestic and international resources for agricultural and rural development.

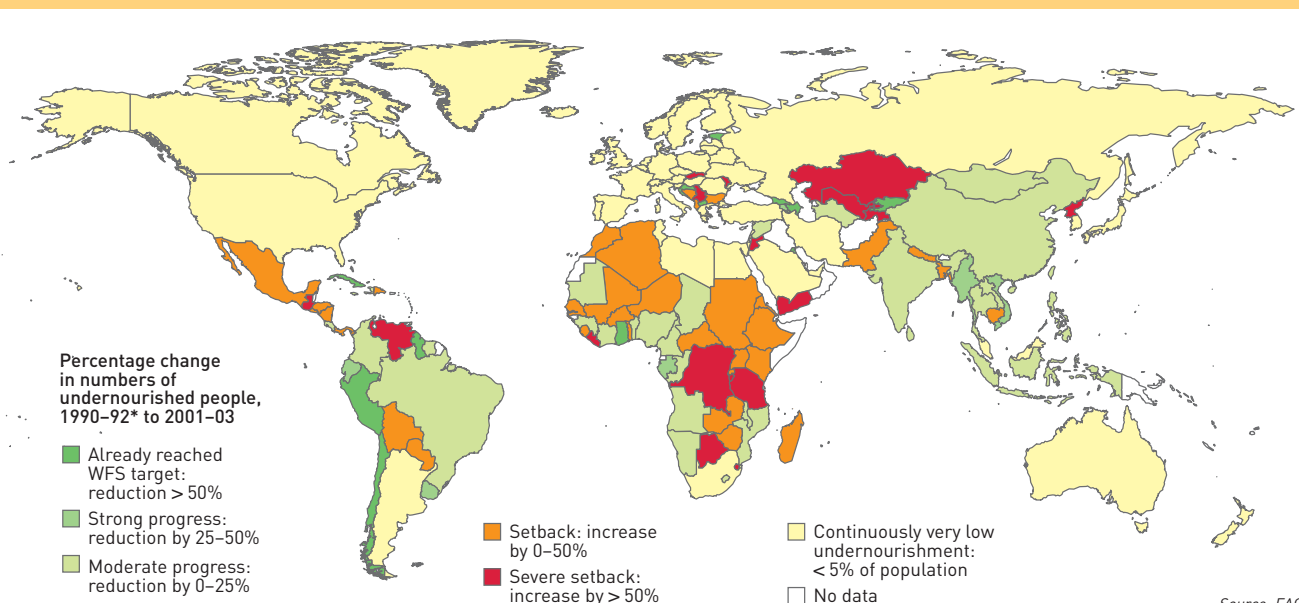
Increasing investments in agriculture and rural development is essential for improved food security. Governments of low-income countries can contribute by directing a greater portion of budgetary expenditures towards these two sectors. Donor countries must keep their promise of contributing 0.7 percent of gross national income to official development assistance (ODA). ODA and public domestic resources must be well coordinated and targeted, and efforts must be made to increase the effectiveness of ODA.²⁹

In a world that has the means for feeding its population, the persistence of hunger is a scandal. We have learnt from experiences. We know what needs to be done to accelerate progress towards a world free of hunger. There are more than 850 million people waiting for action. We must step up dramatically our efforts to reach the WFS hunger reduction target. If the political will is there, **we can** reach it.

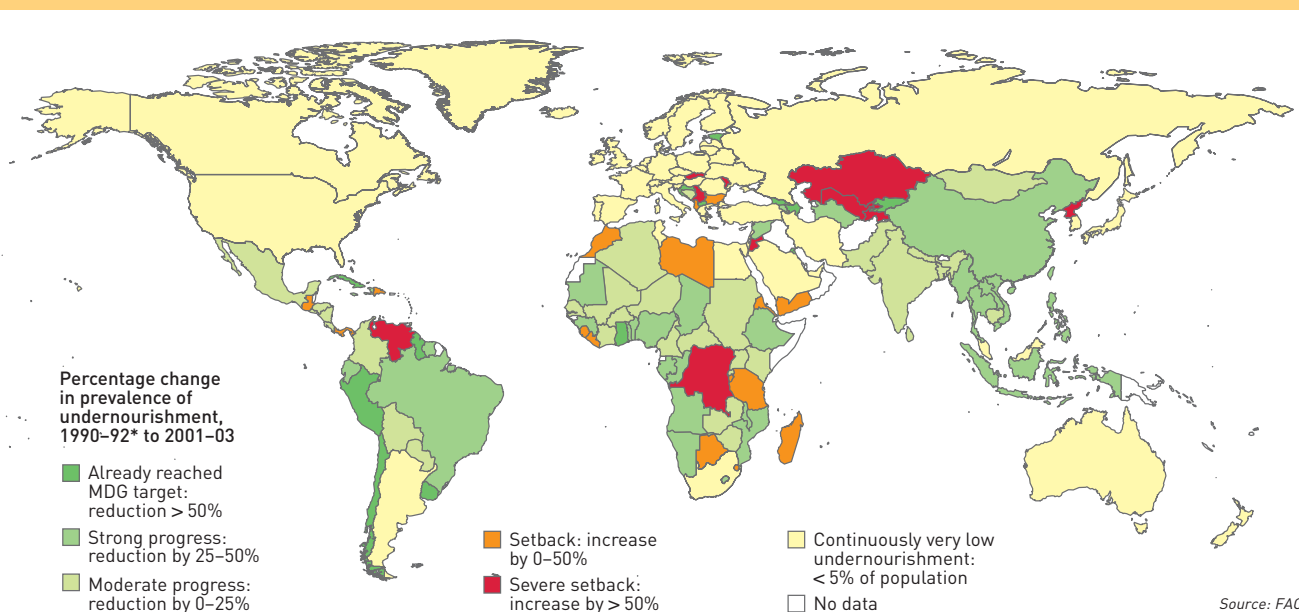
Maps



Progress towards the World Food Summit target since 1990-92



Progress towards the MDG target since 1990-92



* For the transition countries, Ethiopia and Eritrea the base period for calculating progress is 1993-95.

Tables

Table 1. Prevalence of undernourishment and progress towards the World Food Summit and Millennium Development Goal targets in developing countries and in countries in transition

DEVELOPING WORLD Region/subregion/country (undernourishment category)	Total population		Number of people undernourished		Ratio current/baseline number of undernourished* Ratio for WFS target = 0.5	Proportion of undernourished in total population		Ratio current/baseline prevalence of undernourished* Ratio for MDG target = 0.5
	1990-92 (millions)	2001-03 (millions)	1990-92 (millions)	2001-03 (millions)		1990-92 (%)	2001-03 (%)	
DEVELOPING WORLD	4 058.7	4 868.9	823.1	820.2	1.0	20	17	0.8
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**	2 815.2	3 297.4	569.7	524.0	0.9	20	16	0.8
East Asia	1 241.5	1 374.7	198.7	159.5	0.8	16	12	0.7
Dem. People's Rep. of Korea [5]	20.3	22.5	3.6	7.9	2.2	18	35	2.0
China [3]	1 175.7	1 302.2	193.6	150.0	0.8	16	12	0.7
Mongolia [4]	2.3	2.6	0.8	0.7	0.9	34	28	0.8
Rep. of Korea [1]	43.3	47.4	0.8	0.8	1.0	-	-	0.9
Southeast Asia	444.2	530.3	80.0	65.3	0.8	18	12	0.7
Cambodia [4]	10.1	13.8	4.4	4.6	1.1	43	33	0.8
Indonesia [2]	185.2	217.1	16.4	13.8	0.8	9	6	0.7
Lao People's Dem. Rep. [4]	4.2	5.5	1.2	1.2	0.9	29	21	0.7
Malaysia [1]	18.3	24.0	0.5	0.6	1.3	3	3	1.0
Myanmar [2]	41.2	48.8	4.0	2.7	0.7	10	5	0.6
Philippines [3]	62.5	78.6	16.2	15.2	0.9	26	19	0.7
Thailand [4]	55.1	62.2	16.8	13.4	0.8	30	21	0.7
Viet Nam [3]	67.5	80.3	20.6	13.8	0.7	31	17	0.6
South Asia	1 125.3	1 386.7	290.4	298.5	1.0	26	22	0.8
Bangladesh [4]	112.1	143.8	39.2	43.1	1.1	35	30	0.9
India [4]	863.3	1 049.5	214.8	212.0	1.0	25	20	0.8
Nepal [3]	19.1	24.6	3.9	4.1	1.1	20	17	0.8
Pakistan [4]	113.7	149.9	27.8	35.2	1.3	24	23	1.0
Sri Lanka [4]	17.0	18.9	4.8	4.1	0.9	28	22	0.8
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN	443.4	528.9	59.4	52.4	0.9	13	10	0.7
North America	84.8	102.0	4.6	5.1	1.1	5	5	0.9
Mexico [2]	84.8	102.0	4.6	5.1	1.1	5	5	0.9
Central America	28.8	37.7	5.0	7.4	1.5	17	20	1.1
Costa Rica [1]	3.2	4.1	0.2	0.2	1.0	6	4	0.8
El Salvador [3]	5.2	6.4	0.6	0.7	1.1	12	11	0.9
Guatemala [4]	9.0	12.0	1.4	2.8	2.0	16	23	1.5
Honduras [4]	5.0	6.8	1.1	1.5	1.3	23	22	1.0
Nicaragua [4]	3.9	5.3	1.2	1.5	1.2	30	27	0.9
Panama [4]	2.5	3.1	0.5	0.8	1.5	21	25	1.2
The Caribbean	28.5	32.0	7.7	6.7	0.9	27	21	0.8
Cuba [1]	10.7	11.3	0.7	0.2	0.2	7	-	0.2
Dominican Rep. [4]	7.2	8.6	1.9	2.3	1.2	27	27	1.0
Haiti [5]	7.0	8.2	4.6	3.8	0.8	65	47	0.7
Jamaica [3]	2.4	2.6	0.3	0.3	0.8	14	10	0.7
Trinidad and Tobago [3]	1.2	1.3	0.2	0.1	0.9	13	11	0.8
South America	301.3	357.1	42.0	33.3	0.8	14	9	0.7
Argentina [1]	33.0	38.0	0.7	0.9	1.3	-	-	1.1
Bolivia [4]	6.8	8.6	1.9	2.0	1.0	28	23	0.8
Brazil [2]	151.2	176.3	18.5	14.4	0.8	12	8	0.7
Chile [1]	13.3	15.6	1.1	0.6	0.5	8	4	0.5
Colombia [3]	35.7	43.5	6.1	5.9	1.0	17	14	0.8
Ecuador [2]	10.5	12.8	0.9	0.6	0.7	8	5	0.6
Guyana [2]	0.7	0.8	0.2	0.1	0.5	21	9	0.4
Paraguay [3]	4.3	5.7	0.8	0.8	1.1	18	15	0.8
Peru [3]	22.2	26.8	9.3	3.3	0.4	42	12	0.3
Suriname [3]	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.8	13	10	0.7
Uruguay [1]	3.1	3.4	0.2	0.1	0.6	7	3	0.5
Venezuela (Bolivarian Rep. of) [3]	20.0	25.2	2.3	4.5	2.0	11	18	1.6

(continued)

Table 1. Prevalence of undernourishment and progress towards the World Food Summit and Millennium Development Goal targets in developing countries and in countries in transition

DEVELOPING WORLD Region/subregion/country (undernourishment category)	Total population		Number of people undernourished		Ratio current/baseline number of undernourished* Ratio for WFS target = 0.5	Proportion of undernourished in total population		Ratio current/baseline prevalence of undernourished* Ratio for MDG target = 0.5
	1990-92 (millions)	2001-03 (millions)	1990-92 (millions)	2001-03 (millions)		1990-92 (%)	2001-03 (%)	
NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA**	322.8	407.4	25.0	37.6	1.5	8	9	1.2
Near East	202.5	260.4	19.6	31.6	1.6	10	12	1.3
Iran (Islamic Republic of) [1]	58.0	68.1	2.1	2.7	1.3	4	4	1.1
Jordan [2]	3.4	5.3	0.1	0.4	2.9	4	7	1.9
Kuwait [2]	2.1	2.4	0.5	0.1	0.3	24	5	0.2
Lebanon [1]	2.8	3.6	0.1	0.1	1.5	-	3	1.2
Saudi Arabia [1]	17.1	23.5	0.7	0.9	1.2	4	4	0.9
Syrian Arab Rep. [1]	13.1	17.4	0.7	0.6	1.0	5	4	0.7
Turkey [1]	58.7	70.3	1.0	2.0	2.1	-	3	1.7
United Arab Emirates [1]	2.1	2.9	0.1	0.1	0.6	4	-	0.4
Yemen [5]	12.5	19.3	4.2	7.1	1.7	34	37	1.1
North Africa	120.4	147.0	5.4	6.0	1.1	4	4	0.9
Algeria [2]	25.6	31.3	1.3	1.5	1.1	5	5	0.9
Egypt [1]	57.0	70.5	2.5	2.4	1.0	4	3	0.8
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya [1]	4.4	5.4	0.0	0.0	1.4	-	-	1.1
Morocco [2]	25.0	30.1	1.5	1.9	1.3	6	6	1.1
Tunisia [1]	8.4	9.7	0.1	0.1	1.1	-	-	1.0
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA**	477.3	635.3	169.0	206.2	1.2	35	32	0.9
Central Africa	63.4	84.1	22.7	46.8	2.1	36	56	1.6
Cameroon [4]	12.0	15.7	4.0	4.0	1.0	33	25	0.8
Central African Republic [5]	3.0	3.8	1.5	1.7	1.1	50	45	0.9
Chad [4]	6.0	8.3	3.5	2.7	0.8	58	33	0.6
Congo [4]	2.6	3.6	1.4	1.2	0.9	54	34	0.6
Dem. Rep. of the Congo [5]	38.8	51.3	12.2	37.0	3.0	31	72	2.3
Gabon [2]	1.0	1.3	0.1	0.1	0.7	10	5	0.5
East Africa	167.8	223.0	75.1	86.9	1.2	45	39	0.9
Burundi [5]	5.7	6.6	2.7	4.5	1.6	48	67	1.4
Eritrea*** [5]	3.2	4.0	2.2	2.9	1.3	68	73	1.1
Ethiopia*** [5]	55.6	69.0	38.2	31.5	0.8	61	46	0.8
Kenya [4]	24.4	31.5	9.5	9.7	1.0	39	31	0.8
Rwanda [5]	6.4	8.2	2.8	3.0	1.1	43	36	0.8
Sudan [4]	25.5	32.9	7.9	8.8	1.1	31	27	0.9
Uganda [3]	17.9	25.0	4.2	4.6	1.1	24	19	0.8
United Rep. of Tanzania [5]	27.0	36.3	9.9	16.1	1.6	37	44	1.2
Southern Africa	71.0	91.8	34.1	36.0	1.1	48	39	0.8
Angola [5]	9.6	13.2	5.6	5.0	0.9	58	38	0.7
Botswana [4]	1.4	1.8	0.3	0.5	1.7	23	30	1.3
Lesotho [3]	1.6	1.8	0.3	0.2	0.8	17	12	0.7
Madagascar [5]	12.3	16.9	4.3	6.5	1.5	35	38	1.1
Malawi [4]	9.6	11.9	4.8	4.0	0.8	50	34	0.7
Mauritius [2]	1.1	1.2	0.1	0.1	1.0	6	6	0.9
Mozambique [5]	13.9	18.5	9.2	8.3	0.9	66	45	0.7
Namibia [4]	1.5	2.0	0.5	0.4	0.9	34	23	0.7
Swaziland [3]	0.9	1.1	0.1	0.2	1.7	14	19	1.3
Zambia [5]	8.4	10.7	4.0	5.1	1.3	48	47	1.0
Zimbabwe [5]	10.7	12.8	4.8	5.7	1.2	45	45	1.0
West Africa	175.1	236.3	37.2	36.5	1.0	21	15	0.7
Benin [3]	4.8	6.6	1.0	0.9	0.9	20	14	0.7
Burkina Faso [3]	9.2	12.6	1.9	2.1	1.1	21	17	0.8
Côte d'Ivoire [3]	12.9	16.4	2.3	2.2	1.0	18	14	0.8
Gambia [4]	1.0	1.4	0.2	0.4	1.8	22	27	1.2
Ghana [3]	15.7	20.5	5.8	2.4	0.4	37	12	0.3

(continued)

Tables

Table 1. Prevalence of undernourishment and progress towards the World Food Summit and Millennium Development Goal targets in developing countries and in countries in transition

DEVELOPING WORLD Region/subregion/country (undernourishment category)	Total population		Number of people undernourished		Ratio current/baseline number of undernourished* Ratio for WFS target = 0.5	Proportion of undernourished in total population		Ratio current/baseline prevalence of undernourished* Ratio for MDG target = 0.5
	1990-92 (millions)	2001-03 (millions)	1990-92 (millions)	2001-03 (millions)		1990-92 (%)	2001-03 (%)	
Guinea [4]	6.4	8.4	2.5	2.0	0.8	39	24	0.6
Liberia [5]	2.1	3.2	0.7	1.6	2.2	34	49	1.4
Mali [4]	9.3	12.6	2.7	3.5	1.3	29	28	1.0
Mauritania [3]	2.1	2.8	0.3	0.3	0.8	15	10	0.6
Niger [4]	7.9	11.5	3.2	3.7	1.2	41	32	0.8
Nigeria [2]	88.7	120.9	11.8	11.5	1.0	13	9	0.7
Senegal [4]	7.5	9.9	1.8	2.2	1.3	23	23	1.0
Sierra Leone [5]	4.1	4.8	1.9	2.4	1.3	46	50	1.1
Togo [4]	3.5	4.8	1.2	1.2	1.0	33	25	0.7

COUNTRIES IN TRANSITION Region/subregion/country (undernourishment category)	Total population		Number of people undernourished		Ratio current/baseline number of undernourished* Ratio for WFS target = 0.5	Proportion of undernourished in total population		Ratio current/baseline prevalence of undernourished* Ratio for MDG target = 0.5
	1993-95 (millions)	2001-03 (millions)	1993-95 (millions)	2001-03 (millions)		1993-95 (%)	2001-03 (%)	
COUNTRIES IN TRANSITION	413.6	408.9	23.4	24.7	1.1	6	6	1.1
Commonwealth of Independent States	284.5	281.0	19.1	20.8	1.1	7	7	1.1
Armenia [4]	3.4	3.1	1.8	0.9	0.5	52	29	0.6
Azerbaijan [3]	7.7	8.3	2.6	0.8	0.3	34	10	0.3
Belarus [1]	10.3	9.9	0.1	0.3	2.7	-	3	2.8
Georgia [3]	5.4	5.2	2.4	0.7	0.3	44	13	0.3
Kazakhstan [2]	16.7	15.5	0.2	1.2	7.2	-	8	7.8
Kyrgyzstan [1]	4.5	5.1	1.0	0.2	0.2	21	4	0.2
Rep. of Moldova [3]	4.4	4.3	0.2	0.5	1.9	5	11	1.9
Russian Federation [1]	148.4	144.1	6.4	4.1	0.6	4	3	0.7
Tajikistan [5]	5.7	6.2	1.2	3.8	3.1	22	61	2.8
Turkmenistan [2]	4.1	4.8	0.5	0.4	0.8	12	8	0.7
Ukraine [1]	51.7	48.9	1.2	1.2	1.0	-	3	1.1
Uzbekistan [4]	22.3	25.7	1.7	6.7	4.0	8	26	3.4
Baltic States	7.6	7.1	0.4	0.1	0.4	5	-	0.4
Estonia [1]	1.5	1.3	0.1	0.0	0.3	9	3	0.3
Latvia [1]	2.5	2.3	0.1	0.1	0.8	3	3	0.9
Lithuania [1]	3.6	3.5	0.2	0.0	0.2	4	-	0.2
Eastern Europe	121.4	120.8	3.9	3.8	1.0	3	3	1.0
Albania [2]	3.2	3.1	0.2	0.2	1.1	5	6	1.1
Bulgaria [2]	8.5	8.0	0.7	0.7	1.1	8	9	1.2
Bosnia and Herzegovina [2]	3.6	4.1	0.3	0.4	1.1	9	9	1.0
Hungary [1]	10.2	9.9	0.1	0.0	0.6	-	-	0.6
Croatia [2]	4.5	4.4	0.7	0.3	0.4	16	7	0.4
The former Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia [2]	2.0	2.0	0.3	0.1	0.5	15	7	0.4
Czech Republic [1]	10.3	10.2	0.2	0.1	0.6	-	-	0.6
Poland [1]	38.5	38.6	0.3	0.3	1.0	-	-	1.0
Romania [1]	22.8	22.4	0.3	0.1	0.3	-	-	0.3
Serbia and Montenegro [3]	10.5	10.5	0.5	1.1	2.2	5	10	2.2
Slovakia [2]	5.3	5.4	0.2	0.3	1.6	4	6	1.6
Slovenia [1]	2.0	2.0	0.1	0.1	0.9	3	3	0.9

NOTES: Please see page 38.

Table 2. Food availability, poverty, food aid, agricultural resources and income in developing countries and countries in transition, classified by category of prevalence of undernourishment

CATEGORY OF PREVALENCE OF UNDERNOURISHMENT in total population 2001–03	Dietary energy supply (DES)		Poverty (population below US\$1 PPP per day)		Food aid received as a share of DES		Capital stock in agriculture		External assistance to agriculture		Gross domestic product per capita		Agriculture value added per worker	
	1990– 92	2001– 03	1991	2003	1990– 92	2001– 03	1990– 92	2001– 03	1990– 92	2001– 03	1991	2003	1991	2003
	(kcal/person/day)		[%]		[%]		(constant 1995 US\$ per worker)				(constant 2000 US\$)			
LESS THAN 5% UNDERNOURISHED														
Asia and the Pacific														
Malaysia	2 830	2 870	2	2	0	0	5	6	118	2	2 718	4 079	3 730	4 854
Rep. of Korea	3 000	3 040	na	2	0	0	3	8	10	0	7 169	12 245	5 530	9 985
Latin America and the Caribbean														
Argentina	3 000	2 980	2	3	0	0	21	21	38	7	6 214	6 932	6 849	9 627
Chile	2 610	2 860	6	2	0	0	16	18	296	14	3 280	5 205	4 096	3 253
Costa Rica	2 720	2 850	5	2	5	0	6	5	168	73	3 116	4 231	3 171	4 440
Cuba	2 720	3 190	na	na	0	0	11	11	0	16	na	na	na	na
Uruguay	2 660	2 850	2	2	1	0	34	34	13	61	5 083	5 332	5 569	7 578
Near East and North Africa														
Egypt	3 200	3 350	4	3	7	0	4	4	39	12	1 169	1 579	1 533	2 048
Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	2 980	3 090	2	2	0	0	9	8	4	5	1 368	1 802	1 880	2 480
Lebanon	3 160	3 170	na	na	4	6	20	33	145	1 228	4 168	5 327	na	26 088
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	3 270	3 330	na	na	0	0	54	71	125	7	na	7 218	na	na
Saudi Arabia	2 770	2 820	na	na	0	0	19	29	0	0	9 298	8 756	7 761	14 599
Syrian Arab Rep.	2 830	3 060	na	na	1	0	14	14	149	20	915	1 120	2 059	2 903
Tunisia	3 150	3 250	2	2	7	0	13	12	89	77	1 531	2 228	2 492	2 639
Turkey	3 490	3 340	2	2	0	0	5	5	6	23	2 471	2 977	1 764	1 766
United Arab Emirates	2 930	3 220	na	na	0	0	11	24	0	0	24 797	21 856	9 885	35 288
Countries in transition														
Belarus*	3 190	2 960	na	na	4	0	8	9	18	0	1 024	1 519	1 827	2 754
Czech Republic*	3 080	3 240	2	na	0	0	9	10	0	57	4 733	5 871	3 238	4 728
Estonia*	2 760	3 160	2	2	9	0	14	18	10	3	2 731	4 925	2 492	3 188
Hungary*	3 340	3 500	2	2	0	0	9	13	0	4	3 655	5 161	2 833	3 983
Kyrgyzstan*	2 400	3 050	8	2	10	3	12	12	60	28	243	306	575	956
Latvia*	2 960	3 020	2	2	8	0	9	11	58	2	2 356	4 095	1 374	2 429
Lithuania*	2 870	3 370	7	2	10	0	9	12	18	1	2 454	4 105	na	4 424
Poland*	3 340	3 370	2	2	0	0	5	6	36	0	3 145	4 636	954	1 445
Romania*	3 210	3 520	3	2	1	0	16	22	0	82	1 622	1 992	2 564	3 690
Russian Federation*	2 930	3 080	6	2	3	0	15	14	17	3	1 686	2 122	1 620	2 390
Slovenia*	2 950	2 970	2	2	0	0	49	132	0	6	7 501	10 392	13 907	30 667
Ukraine*	3 040	3 030	na	2	1	0	15	15	4	56	758	822	1 210	1 391
5 TO 9% UNDERNOURISHED														
Asia and the Pacific														
Indonesia	2 700	2 880	17	8	0	0	2	2	28	11	656	874	474	574
Myanmar	2 630	2 900	na	na	0	0	1	2	0	0	na	na	na	na
Latin America and the Caribbean														
Brazil	2 810	3 060	14	8	0	0	10	14	27	16	3 080	3 444	1 679	3 227
Ecuador	2 510	2 710	2	18	2	2	7	7	100	58	1 335	1 384	2 064	1 491
Guyana	2 350	2 730	8	3	24	15	17	18	725	294	644	976	2 144	3 538
Mexico	3 100	3 180	8	10	1	0	9	9	118	50	5 080	5 803	2 271	2 778
Near East and North Africa														
Algeria	2 920	3 040	2	2	0	0	6	5	58	53	1 721	1 914	1 887	2 113
Jordan	2 820	2 680	2	2	31	14	8	5	92	92	1 473	1 846	1 711	1 255
Kuwait	2 340	3 060	na	na	0	0	8	23	83	49	na	16 914	na	14 486
Morocco	3 030	3 070	2	2	4	1	5	6	80	29	1 170	1 339	1 757	1 711
Sub-Saharan Africa														
Gabon	2 450	2 670	na	na	0	0	2	2	190	32	4 190	3 867	1 574	1 805
Mauritius	2 890	2 960	na	na	2	0	3	4	148	53	2 644	4 157	3 915	4 659
Nigeria	2 540	2 700	59	70	0	0	2	2	18	12	364	387	595	890

(continued)

Tables

Table 2. Food availability, poverty, food aid, agricultural resources and income in developing countries and countries in transition, classified by category of prevalence of undernourishment

CATEGORY OF PREVALENCE OF UNDERNOURISHMENT in total population 2001–03	Dietary energy supply (DES)		Poverty (population below US\$1 PPP per day)		Food aid received as a share of DES		Capital stock in agriculture		External assistance to agriculture		Gross domestic product per capita		Agriculture value added per worker	
	1990– 92	2001– 03	1991	2003	1990– 92	2001– 03	1990– 92	2001– 03	1990– 92	2001– 03	1991	2003	1991	2003
	(kcal/person/day)		[%]		[%]		(constant 1995 US\$ per worker)				(constant 2000 US\$)			
Countries in transition														
Albania*	2 870	2 860	2	2	21	3	4	5	68	38	820	1 403	1 013	1 492
Bosnia and Herzegovina*	2 690	2 710	na	na	1	7	8	13	2	286	313	1 321	2 951	5 671
Bulgaria*	2 900	2 850	2	5	2	0	22	28	41	117	1 515	1 839	2 161	6 847
Croatia*	2 520	2 770	na	2	1	0	4	8	4	150	3 137	4 754	5 195	9 302
Kazakhstan*	3 280	2 710	na	2	0	0	34	34	22	55	1 095	1 671	1 348	1 447
Macedonia*	2 520	2 800	na	2	3	0	9	10	0	431	1 605	1 752	2 147	3 177
Slovakia*	2 920	2 830	na	2	0	0	13	12	1	104	2 982	4 263	0	na
Turkmenistan*	2 550	2 750	21	10	4	0	34	33	1	0	613	na	1 076	na
10 to 19% UNDERNOURISHED														
Asia and the Pacific														
China	2 710	2 940	33**	17**	0	0	1**	1**	2	2	422**	1 209**	252**	378**
Nepal	2 340	2 450	na	39	0	0	1	1	19	11	183	228	198	208
Philippines	2 260	2 450	20	15	1	1	2	2	63	20	894	1 041	908	987
Viet Nam	2 180	2 580	15	2	0	0	1	1	2	19	235	471	211	297
Latin America and the Caribbean														
Colombia	2 440	2 580	3	8	0	0	4	5	38	18	1 875	2 040	3 473	2 791
El Salvador	2 490	2 560	21	31	12	3	2	2	55	99	1 665	2 093	1 590	1 607
Jamaica	2 500	2 680	8	2	40	1	2	2	468	92	3 120	3 203	2 048	1 965
Paraguay	2 400	2 530	5	16	0	0	5	5	94	18	1 500	1 351	2 168	2 544
Peru	1 960	2 570	2	18	10	3	4	4	14	45	1 658	2 136	1 162	1 770
Suriname	2 530	2 660	na	na	13	0	14	13	113	167	2 118	2 280	2 982	3 007
Trinidad and Tobago	2 630	2 760	4	na	0	0	5	6	4	16	5 011	7 609	1 631	2 135
Venezuela [Bolivarian Rep. of]	2 460	2 350	3	14	0	0	14	17	320	20	5 176	3 968	4 552	5 880
Sub-Saharan Africa														
Benin	2 330	2 530	na	na	1	1	1	1	25	49	275	329	374	610
Burkina Faso	2 350	2 460	63	45	3	1	0	1	22	21	217	247	151	164
Côte d'Ivoire	2 470	2 630	10	11	1	0	2	2	70	33	633	573	600	763
Ghana	2 080	2 650	18	45	4	1	1	1	40	27	216	269	316	346
Lesotho	2 440	2 620	30	36	7	5	2	2	131	32	396	527	464	491
Mauritania	2 560	2 780	47	26	11	6	3	2	115	61	336	422	260	287
Swaziland	2 450	2 360	8	na	4	5	9	8	91	500	1 322	1 346	1 356	1 180
Uganda	2 270	2 380	88	85	1	2	1	1	15	20	177	262	189	231
Countries in transition														
Azerbaijan*	2 140	2 620	12	4	12	1	17	18	2	34	559	866	781	1 087
Georgia*	2 050	2 520	na	3	52	6	10	12	4	64	438	823	1 889	1 535
Rep. of Moldova*	2 930	2 730	na	22	11	3	8	9	18	61	338	371	547	703
Serbia and Montenegro*	2 910	2 670	na	na	13	4	4	5	1	23	768	1 189	na	1 424
20 to 34% UNDERNOURISHED														
Asia and the Pacific														
Bangladesh	2 070	2 200	36	36	4	1	1	1	18	7	277	386	246	313
Cambodia	1 860	2 060	na	34	2	1	1	1	2	30	na	321	na	302
India	2 370	2 440	42	35	0	0	1	1	4	4	312	511	337	406
Lao People's Dem. Rep.	2 110	2 320	8	26	1	1	1	1	34	38	232	364	348	460
Mongolia	2 060	2 250	na	27	2	6	35	36	9	80	337	423	644	679
Pakistan	2 300	2 340	48	13	2	1	4	4	35	15	473	545	580	696
Sri Lanka	2 230	2 390	4	8	7	2	1	1	60	46	595	921	713	746
Thailand	2 200	2 410	18	2	0	0	2	2	6	1	1 555	2 238	504	633
Latin America and the Caribbean														
Bolivia	2 110	2 220	6	14	15	4	3	3	108	63	895	1 018	701	771

(continued)

Table 2. Food availability, poverty, food aid, agricultural resources and income in developing countries and countries in transition, classified by category of prevalence of undernourishment

CATEGORY OF PREVALENCE OF UNDERNOURISHMENT in total population 2001–03	Dietary energy supply (DES)		Poverty (population below US\$1 PPP per day)		Food aid received as a share of DES		Capital stock in agriculture		External assistance to agriculture		Gross domestic product per capita		Agriculture value added per worker	
	1990–92	2001–03	1991	2003	1990–92	2001–03	1990–92	2001–03	1990–92	2001–03	1991	2003	1991	2003
	(kcal/person/day)		[%]		[%]		(constant 1995 US\$ per worker)				(constant 2000 US\$)			
Region/country														
Dominican Rep.	2 260	2 290	4	2	2	2	6	7	19	90	1 547	2 464	2 294	4 142
Guatemala	2 350	2 210	35	16	9	5	2	2	35	41	1 468	1 718	2 151	2 285
Honduras	2 310	2 360	38	21	10	3	3	2	116	48	888	943	984	1 209
Nicaragua	2 220	2 290	48	45	22	5	5	5	279	231	694	793	1 137	1 946
Panama	2 320	2 260	12	7	3	0	7	9	17	176	3 153	3 996	2 337	3 657
Sub-Saharan Africa														
Botswana	2 260	2 180	31	na	2	0	3	2	71	21	2 325	3 491	575	412
Cameroon	2 120	2 270	na	17	0	0	1	1	37	18	622	646	689	1 215
Chad	1 780	2 160	na	na	3	1	2	2	21	37	197	205	184	na
Congo	1 860	2 150	na	na	2	3	0	0	55	5	1 104	935	298	347
Gambia	2 370	2 280	54	na	5	3	1	0	47	27	324	320	226	220
Guinea	2 110	2 420	na	na	2	2	1	1	41	26	331	378	172	231
Kenya	1 980	2 150	34	23	3	3	1	0	37	8	443	418	337	319
Malawi	1 880	2 140	na	42	15	3	0	0	20	14	139	146	82	134
Mali	2 220	2 220	16	na	1	0	1	1	35	28	182	239	191	245
Namibia	2 070	2 260	35	na	4	4	5	6	80	55	1 686	1 943	863	1 122
Niger	2 020	2 160	42	61	3	1	1	1	28	18	177	160	182	174
Senegal	2 280	2 310	45	na	3	1	1	1	50	37	398	445	244	254
Sudan	2 170	2 260	na	na	9	2	8	10	14	5	282	417	302	na
Togo	2 150	2 320	na	na	2	0	1	1	20	3	261	243	351	405
Countries in transition														
Armenia*	1 960	2 260	11	13	44	8	13	17	78	187	422	886	1 526	2 780
Uzbekistan*	2 660	2 270	3	14	0	2	16	15	9	43	511	602	1 231	1 615
35% OR MORE UNDERNOURISHED														
Asia and the Pacific														
Dem. People's Rep. of Korea	2 470	2 150	na	na	0	22	3	3	0	2	na	na	na	na
Latin America and the Caribbean														
Haiti	1 780	2 090	na	na	8	8	1	1	24	28	626	441	794	426
Near East and North Africa														
Yemen	2 040	2 020	4	16	3	4	3	3	32	12	443	537	340	524
Sub-Saharan Africa														
Angola	1 780	2 070	na	na	7	9	1	1	19	6	771	740	200	175
Burundi	1 900	1 640	45	55	0	5	1	0	23	7	146	103	121	101
Central African Republic	1 860	1 940	67	na	1	1	1	1	35	3	261	225	292	423
Democratic Rep. of the Congo	2 170	1 610	na	na	1	1	0	0	4	14	179	85	230	na
Eritrea*	1 550	1 520	na	na	33	46	1	1	0	32	192	177	105	57
Ethiopia*	1 550	1 860	31	23	7	7	1	1	0	12	88	102	120	109
Liberia	2 210	1 940	na	na	30	7	1	1	1	2	176	128	na	na
Madagascar	2 080	2 040	46	61	2	2	3	2	14	26	247	224	184	173
Mozambique	1 730	2 070	na	38	25	6	0	0	13	14	167	261	115	147
Rwanda	1 950	2 070	na	52	2	4	0	0	23	24	254	244	190	224
Sierra Leone	1 990	1 930	57	na	5	7	0	0	10	20	273	151	na	na
United Republic of Tanzania	2 050	1 960	49	na	0	1	0	0	24	12	256	300	247	290
Zambia	1 930	1 930	65	64	13	3	1	1	37	23	351	327	184	210
Zimbabwe	1 980	2 010	33	56	9	7	1	1	46	3	655	479	265	241
Countries in transition														
Tajikistan*	2 310	1 840	4	7	9	14	11	10	1	87	196	204	339	418

NOTES: Please see page 38.

Tables

Notes for Table 1

World Food Summit goal: halve, between 1990–92 and 2015, the number of undernourished people.

Millennium Development Goal 1, target 2: halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.

Countries revise their official statistics regularly for the past as well as the present. The same holds for population data of the United Nations. Whenever this happens, FAO revises its estimates of undernourishment accordingly. Therefore users are advised to refer to changes of estimates over time only within the same *The State of Food Insecurity in the World* publication and refrain from comparing data published in editions for different years.

Figures in square brackets following the country names refer to the prevalence categories (proportion of the population undernourished in 2001–03):

- [1] < 5 percent undernourished
- [2] 5–9 percent undernourished
- [3] 10–19 percent undernourished
- [4] 20–34 percent undernourished
- [5] ≥ 35 percent undernourished

Developing countries for which there were insufficient data are not listed in the table.

* Current refers to 2001–03 estimates and baseline refers to 1990–92 for developing countries and 1993–95 for transition countries.

** Although not listed separately, provisional estimates for Afghanistan, Iraq, Papua New Guinea and Somalia have been included in the relevant regional aggregates.

*** Eritrea and Ethiopia were not separate entities in 1990–92, but estimates of the number and proportion of undernourished in the former People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia are included in regional and subregional aggregates for that period. Data shown for the two countries correspond to 1993–95 estimates.

KEY

- Proportion less than 2.5 percent of undernourished.

SOURCES

Total population: United Nations. 2002. *World Population Prospects*. 2002 revision. New York.

Undernourishment: FAO estimates.

Notes for Table 2

* Data correspond to 1993–95 instead of 1990–92 and to 1994 instead of 1991.

** Figures refer only to Mainland China. Other figures include data for Mainland China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Macao Special Administrative Region and Taiwan Province of China.

DEFINITIONS

Dietary energy supply (DES): Food available for human consumption, expressed in kilocalories (kcal) per capita per day. At the country level, it is calculated as the food remaining for human use after the deduction of all non-food consumption (exports, animal feed, industrial use, seed and wastage).

Poverty (population below US\$1 purchasing power parity [PPP] per day):

The proportion of people below US\$1/day is the percentage of the population with average consumption expenditures less than \$1.08/day measured in 1993 prices converted using purchasing power parity (PPP) rates. The US\$1.08/day standard was chosen to be equal to the median of the lowest ten poverty lines among a set of low-income countries. The PPP conversion factor used for this series is the number of units of a country's currency required to buy the same amount of goods and services in the domestic market as a US dollar would buy in the United States of America. Data showing as 2.0 signifies a poverty rate of less than 2.0 percent. Dates of the survey years vary. For each country, data were included for the year closest to 1990 (or 1993 for transition countries) from the period 1985–94 (or 1993–96 for transition countries) and for the last year available of the period 1995–2003, with a period of at least five years between the surveys.

Food aid received as a share of DES: Share of DES from food aid received (cereals and non-cereals) to DES from all commodities. Data on food aid in tonnes are converted into kilocalories using conversion factors by commodity. Food aid in tonnes from shipments represents a transfer of food commodities from donor to recipient countries, on a total-grant basis or on highly concessional terms. Purchases made in the recipient countries are excluded. Cereal food aid shipments are reported on a global trade year basis (July/June), while non-cereal food aid shipments are reported on a calendar year basis.

Capital stock in agriculture: The estimates of capital stock in agriculture have been derived indirectly by the FAO Statistics Division using physical

data on livestock, tractors, irrigated land and land under permanent crops, etc. and the average prices for the year 1995.

External assistance to agriculture: This is the concessional and non-concessional commitments made by bilateral and multilateral donors to developing countries, transition countries and some developed countries for the development of agriculture in the broad sense, which includes: land and water; research, training and extension; inputs; agricultural services; crop production, livestock, fisheries, forestry, agriculture (others, not elsewhere specified), environment protection, rural development/infrastructure, manufacturing of inputs, regional and river development, agro-industries.

Gross domestic product (GDP) per capita: GDP per capita is gross domestic product divided by midyear population. Data are in constant 2000 US dollars.

Agriculture, value added per worker: Agriculture corresponds to International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) divisions 1–5 and includes forestry, hunting and fishing, as well as the cultivation of crops and livestock production. Value added is the net output of a sector after adding up all outputs and subtracting intermediate inputs. It is calculated without making deductions for the depreciation of fabricated assets or the depletion and degradation of natural resources. The origin of value added is determined by the ISIC, revision 3. Data are in constant 2000 US dollars.

KEY

- na Data not available.
- 0 Zero or less than half the unit shown.

SOURCES

Dietary energy supply: FAO estimates.

Poverty (population below US\$1 PPP per day): Data are based on those published in World Bank. 2005. *World Development Indicators 2005* (available at <http://devdata.worldbank.org/wdi2005/Section2.htm>).

Food aid: FAO estimates based on information on food aid shipments provided to FAO by WFP.

Capital stock in agriculture and External assistance to agriculture: FAO Statistics Division and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

GDP per capita and Agriculture, value added per worker: World Bank National Accounts data, and OECD National Accounts data files.



Notes

- 1 Detailed information on short-term trends in undernourishment by region is presented in FAO Statistics Division. 2006. *Food deprivation trends: mid-term review of progress towards the World Food Summit target*. Working Paper Series WP007e (available at <http://www.fao.org/faostat/foodsecurity/Files/WP007e.pdf>).
- 2 The industrialized countries include Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. The under-nourishment figures for these countries are not estimated separately but as a group of countries.
- 3 Throughout this publication the terms “share of undernourished people” and “prevalence of undernourishment” are used interchangeably and refer to the proportion (in percentage terms) of the population suffering from undernourishment.
- 4 More information on trends in undernourishment within each region is presented on pages 14–27.
- 5 For the transition countries, FAO’s baseline period for measuring progress is 1993–95.
- 6 In view of the size of their populations, China, India and Nigeria are considered as separate subregions. Also Mexico is considered as subregion in its own right.
- 7 For further details on the projections and methodology applied, see FAO. 2006. *World agriculture: towards 2030/2050. Interim report. Prospects for food, nutrition, agriculture and major commodity groups*. Rome (available at <http://www.fao.org/es/esd/AT2050web.pdf>).
- 8 The WFS goal was set at global, not regional or country levels. Thus, strictly speaking it is not correct to talk about a region achieving the goal. The term is applied here to signify the reduction necessary for a region to contribute “a fair share” to the achievement of the goal. The same holds true for the Millennium Development Goal 1.
- 9 Population projections are drawn from United Nations. 2003. *World population prospects – the 2002 revision*, New York, USA. Projections of economic growth are from World Bank. 2006. *Global Economic Prospects 2006*, Washington, DC.
- 10 Also Malaysia and the Republic of Korea recorded no decline in the prevalence of undernourishment, which, however, is already at very low levels in both countries.
- 11 J.Y. Lin. 1997. The role of agriculture in the transition process in China. In J. Kydd, S. Davidova, M. Mackay and T. Mech, eds. *The role of agriculture in the transition process towards a market economy. Proceedings of a Symposium conducted in association with the Südost Institute and the Thyssen Foundation*. Economic Studies No. 9. New York and Geneva, United Nations.
- 12 C. Findlay. 2005. *China: country assistance evaluation agriculture sector*, pp. 1–4. Washington, DC, The World Bank Operations Evaluation Department. World Bank.
- 13 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. 2005. *Agricultural policy reform in China*. Policy Brief. Paris.
- 14 More recently, the number of undernourished has again started to increase, rising from 134 million to 150 million between 1997–99 and 2001–03, although the time period is still too short to establish a trend.
- 15 S. Rozelle and Jikun Huang. 2005. Rural development in China: New challenges in a new landscape. In L. Brandt, T. Rawski and G. Lin, eds. *China’s economy: retrospect and prospect*. Asia Program Special Report No. 129. Washington, DC, Woodrow Wilson International Center.
- 16 Both Cambodia and India have seen a reduction in the number of undernourished in recent years (from 1997–99 to 2001–03), although, as in the case of China, the time period may be too short to establish a trend. In Cambodia, the reduction was from 5.7 million to 4.6 million people (19.3 percent) while in India, it was from 223 million to 212 million people (4.9 percent).
- 17 Mexico is considered a subregion by itself, separate from Central America.
- 18 For a discussion of the role of inequality in the region, see Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). 2005. *The Millennium Development Goals: a Latin American and Caribbean perspective*, pp. 38–50. Santiago.
- 19 World Bank. 2002. *Reaching the rural poor in the Middle East and North Africa Region*. Washington, DC.
- 20 As Ethiopia and Eritrea were not separate entities in 1990–92, progress in these two countries is measured against the baseline period 1993–95.
- 21 For the composition of the region and the various subregions, please refer to Table 1 on page 32.
- 22 The Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.
- 23 For monitoring trends in the reduction of hunger in the transition countries, FAO considers the average of the years 1993–95 a more appropriate baseline period than the period 1990–92 used for the other country groups.
- 24 United Nations. 2005. *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2005*. New York, USA (available at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mi/pdf/MDG%20Book.pdf>).
- 25 United Nations. 2006. *Millennium Indicators Database*. New York, USA (available at http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mi/mi_worldmillennium_new.asp).
- 26 Data refer to 2004. World Bank, 2006. *World Development Indicators 2006*. Washington, DC.
- 27 This assumes constant annual numerical reductions. Reaching the target following an exponential rate will require a reduction of 42 million during the first year, falling to 22 million in the last year.
- 28 For a more detailed discussion of past experience and the future policy agenda, see FAO. 2006. *Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger: towards a coherent policy agenda*, by P. Pingali, K. Stamoulis and R. Stringer. ESA Working Paper No. 06–01 (available at <http://www.fao.org/docrep/008/af839e/af839e00.htm>).

- 29 The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, adopted in March 2005, calls for: ownership (i.e. aid should reflect recipient rather than donor priorities), alignment (i.e. aid should be aligned with recipient countries' budgetary cycles and support national strategies and programmes) and harmonization (i.e. there should be more donor coordination to exploit complementarities, combined with simplified procedures for disbursement).

Notes for box on Guatemala on page 19

- 1 ECLAC. 2005. *The Millennium Development Goals: a Latin American and Caribbean perspective*. Santiago.
- 2 The estimates should be used with caution, as the last comprehensive land survey occurred in 1979. More recent surveys suggest an increase in land inequalities. See R. Krznaric. 2005. *The limits on pro-poor agricultural trade in Guatemala: land, labour and political power*. Human Development Report Office Occasional Paper 2005/17 [available at http://hdr.undp.org/docs/publications/background_papers/2005/HDR2005_Krznaric_Roman_17.pdf].
- 3 ECLAC. 2005. *Social panorama of Latin America*, pp. 116–117. Santiago.
- 4 OCHA-Geneva Natural Disaster Highlights, No. 4 – April 2006 [available at <http://www.reliefweb.int/library/documents/2006/ocha-gen-30apr.pdf>].
- 5 M. Flores, A. Bratescu, J. Octavio Martínez, J.A. Oviedo and A. Acosta. 2002. *Centroamérica: el impacto de la caída de los precios del café*. ECLAC Serie Estudios y Perspectivas No. 9 [available at <http://www.eclac.cl/publicaciones/Mexico/7/LCMEXL517/L517.pdf>].



The FIVIMS Initiative and the hunger reduction commitments

As an active member of the food security community, I read this year's *State of Food Insecurity in the World* report with a sense of outrage. What makes the report even more disheartening is that, although in 1996 we made a commitment to halve the number of hungry people by 2015, in reality we went into reverse after the 1996 World Food Summit, with 23 million people added to the ranks of the hungry between 1995–97 and 2001–03. This dismal performance all but wiped out the progress, which had removed 26 million hungry people from the ranks of the undernourished during the first half of the decade. The report rightly points out that we could have achieved so much more in hunger reduction than we did.

Since 1996, we have seen the Millennium Declaration, the follow-up World Food Summit: *five years later* in 2002, and a commitment to realizing the Right to Food expressed in the Voluntary Guidelines adopted in 2004. If we are committed to putting our actions where our stated commitments lie, we will need to step up progress significantly in the fight against hunger and do a far better job than we have done so far following the World Food Summit. Paradoxically, countries with high population growth that have managed to prevent an increase in the number of hungry people are still moving in the right direction towards achieving the Millennium commitment; many of these countries are not making sufficient progress towards the World Food Summit target, which requires a reduction in the absolute number of hungry people. Globally, to reach the Millennium Development Goal on hunger reduction, we still need to double the rate of current progress. To achieve the World Food Summit target will require reducing the ranks of the undernourished **annually** by more than ten times the total reduction between 1990–92 and 2001–03.

This report should be a wake up call to us all. The findings in this report are all the more stark and all the more depressing given that, a few months ago, we learned there are now more obese people in the world than hungry people. There were some important successes in the 1990s, but overall our performance as food security practitioners has not been up to the task.

Making a sizeable dent in the numbers of hungry people by 2015, and even reaching the World Food Summit target, is not beyond us – between 1979–81 and 1990–92 more than 100 million people were removed from the ranks of the undernourished. Those of us in development organizations have a duty to ensure that the fight against hunger takes a place as prominent, if not more so, as the fight against poverty. Freedom from hunger is the very foundation of life. As citizens of our own countries, with voting rights, we have an obligation to ensure that our own governments are committed to the fight against hunger both within and outside our borders.

In this editorial I normally update you on the state of the FIVIMS Initiative. We have recently completed our business planning process, focused on retooling and reinvigorating our international partnership in food security activities. We have a draft business plan, which is under discussion among our members. I look forward to updating you in the future as to how the new interagency initiative will operate and what will be its specific mandate in the fight against hunger.

Lynn Brown (World Bank)
Chairperson, IAWG-FIVIMS

IAWG-FIVIMS members include bilateral aid and technical agencies, United Nations and Bretton Woods agencies, international agricultural research organizations, international non-governmental organizations and regional organizations. More information about FIVIMS and its member agencies is available at www.fivims.net or by e-mailing FIVIMS-Secretariat@fao.org.



The State of Food Insecurity in the World

Ten years have elapsed since the World Food Summit (WFS) in Rome pledged to halve the number of undernourished people in the world by no later than 2015, and in October 2006 FAO's Committee on World Food Security is conducting a mid-term review of progress towards this target. On this occasion, the eighth edition of *The State of Food Insecurity in the World* also examines progress towards the WFS target.

The main conclusion is that we have been standing still in terms of hunger reduction. The number of hungry people in the developing countries has not fallen relative to that of 1990-92, the established baseline period against which progress in reducing hunger is measured. Several countries have advanced towards the target but in many others the number of undernourished people has risen.

Progress has been made towards the hunger reduction target of Millennium Development Goal 1, which calls for a halving of the proportion of undernourished people by 2015, and prospects for reaching the MDG target are relatively promising. On the other hand, the more ambitious WFS target will clearly not be met without a very serious intensification of hunger reduction efforts.

The report presents a review of progress and setbacks in the various regions and discusses some of the constraints to hunger reduction efforts and challenges yet to be faced. It emphasizes the urgent need to broaden the areas of progress if we are to be successful in achieving the WFS target.

The final section of *The State of Food Insecurity in the World* highlights some of the main lessons learnt in hunger reduction and lays out a broad agenda for accelerated progress. It concludes with an appeal for stepping up action and emphasizes that, if the political will is harnessed, the WFS target **can** be met.



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