



Dealing with the world's largest humanitarian crises:

Sudan: WFP supports some 5.9 million people in Sudan, including conflict-displaced in Darfur and those seeking to return to southern Sudan at the end of the long civil war.

Horn of Africa: In 2009, WFP plans to provide emergency food and nutrition assistance to more than 16 million people in the Horn of Africa, where the effects of drought and civil strife have been compounded by high food prices.

Afghanistan: WFP has worked in Afghanistan for years. At the height of its operations, in 2001, it reached ten million Afghans suffering war and drought.

Iraq: WFP managed the world's largest-ever humanitarian operation in 2003, ensuring that all 26 million Iraqis were fed for more than a year.

Haiti: WFP has been present in Haiti since 1969. It currently supports hurricane-affected populations as well as runs extensive school feeding, food-for-work and other programmes for vulnerable people.

Myanmar: Since Cyclone Nargis struck Myanmar in May 2008, WFP has reached more than a million of the most vulnerable victims in the affected areas, providing them with vital food assistance to prevent malnutrition and restore livelihoods.

Southern Africa: WFP combats the triple threat of HIV/AIDS, poor governance and repeated cycles of drought and floods affecting millions of people.

Fighting Hunger Worldwide

- WFP is the world's largest humanitarian organisation and the United Nations frontline agency in the fight against global hunger.
- Over the years, WFP has reached hundreds of millions of people in about 80 countries, using food assistance to meet emergency needs and support economic and social development.
- WFP is also the UN logistics lifeline, saving lives through fast, efficient and effective emergency response. At any given time, WFP has 30 ships at sea, 70 aircraft in the sky and 5,000 trucks on the ground, moving food and other assistance to where it is needed most.
- WFP has developed sophisticated early warning techniques to assess the need for food aid in emergencies and instances of chronic hunger, meaning that its assistance is targeted to the poorest and most malnourished people.
- Since it was founded in 1963, WFP has fed more than 1.6 billion of the world's poorest people, and invested more than US\$41.8 billion in development and emergency relief.
- When its help is no longer required, WFP hands over its projects to governments. Nearly 30 countries have taken over WFP programmes in the past 10 years.
- WFP partners with more than 2,800 non-governmental organisations to distribute food.
- WFP is funded completely by voluntary donations. Denmark's contribution in 2008 was US\$56.6 million, making it WFP's 15th largest donor.
- WFP has nearly tripled its donations from emerging donors in the public and private sectors. In 2007, WFP received contributions from 82 governments and 150 private-sector corporate donors.
- Out of 2.8 million metric tons of food (valued at US\$1.4 billion) that WFP purchased in 2008, 78 percent was bought in developing countries. In 2008, the value of WFP purchases of food in developing countries nearly doubled, from US\$612 million in 2007 to US\$1.1 billion.
- WFP serves as a powerful advocate for the hungry poor at every level, carrying the message from the grassroots to the political leadership across the world.
- In addition to emergency work, WFP feeds more than 20 million schoolchildren in 70 countries with school meals and take-home rations. Child enrolment increased on average by 14 percent in schools with WFP school feeding programmes.
- WFP has gradually increased nutrition programming in global, regional and national responses to HIV and is supporting HIV prevention, treatment and care in 20 of the 25 countries with the highest HIV prevalence.

WFP Food Procurement in Developing Countries

The Top 20 in 2008

Country	Value US\$
South Africa	163,713,077
Ecuador	99,906,505
India	98,239,852
Peru	62,784,127
Turkey	54,454,094
Uganda	53,006,581
Malaysia	44,677,455
Sudan	42,723,736
Indonesia	36,830,918
Ethiopia	30,212,540
Sub-total	686,548,884

Country	Value US\$
Ukraine	30,195,516
Kenya	29,595,282
Myanmar	21,951,936
Kazakhstan	21,644,962
China	17,340,730
Bangladesh	17,506,856
Malawi	15,334,167
Honduras	14,220,837
Mozambique	14,149,827
Vietnam	14,063,865
Grand Total	882,552,862

WFP Food Procurement in Developing Countries

2008

Of WFP's total food procurement (US\$ 1,407,899,530), 78% is sourced in these developing countries:

Country	Quantity mt	Value US\$	Country	Quantity mt	Value US\$
Algeria	1,973	2,309,226	Colombia	10,001	8,589,634
Argentina	10,794	11,261,937	Côte d'Ivoire	126	97,797
Armenia	618	408,562	Cuba	544	1,053,345
Azerbaijan	829	851,890	Dem.Rep.Congo	7,824	4,561,315
Bangladesh	24,096	17,506,856	Dominican Rep.	1,107	969,421
Belize	737	422,765	Ecuador	66,582	99,906,505
Benin	3,543	1,733,617	Egypt	6,451	6,381,456
Bhutan	648	336,704	El Salvador	6,869	11,637,818
Bolivia	9,664	9,060,390	Ethiopia	49,209	30,212,540
Brazil	4,450	2,212,142	Gambia	57	11,371
Burkina Faso	12,381	4,271,550	Georgia	1,381	977,883
Burundi	2,615	1,275,709	Ghana	10,828	7,093,493
Cambodia	20,432	9,113,318	Guatemala	7,873	5,882,865
Cameroon	8,861	4,156,115	Guyana	884	919,360
Cape Verde	78	129,095	Haiti	900	1,026,000
China	21,647	17,340,730	Honduras	17,901	14,220,837

WFP Food Procurement in Developing Countries

2008

Of WFP's total food procurement (US\$ 1,407,899,530), 78% is sourced in these developing countries:

Country	Quantity mt	Value US\$	Country	Quantity mt	Value US\$
India	283,180	98,239,852	Nicaragua	7,757	4,981,360
Indonesia	35,554	36,830,918	Niger	1,046	560,192
Kazakhstan	47,549	21,644,962	Pakistan	35,869	13,375,418
Kenya	57,538	29,595,282	Palestinian Terr.	9,730	8,269,113
Kyrgyzstan	759	651,441	Peru	37,689	62,784,127
Laos	8,338	4,003,352	Philippines	3,422	1,916,525
Lesotho	11,808	3,800,474	Rwanda	23,875	13,213,079
Malawi	30,597	15,334,167	Senegal	3,631	1,259,855
Malaysia	38,542	44,677,455	Somalia	761	485,265
Mali	5,177	1,839,935	South Africa	472,492	163,713,077
Mexico	2,059	1,967,867	Sri Lanka	9,689	4,137,389
Morocco	79	115,579	Sudan	104,876	42,723,736
Mozambique	35,407	14,149,827	Syria	2,500	1,810,699
Myanmar	54,976	21,951,936	Tajikistan	266	17,353
Namibia	4,685	1,113,526	Tanzania	22,413	9,652,995
Nepal	17,354	11,274,070	Thailand	31,109	13,556,104

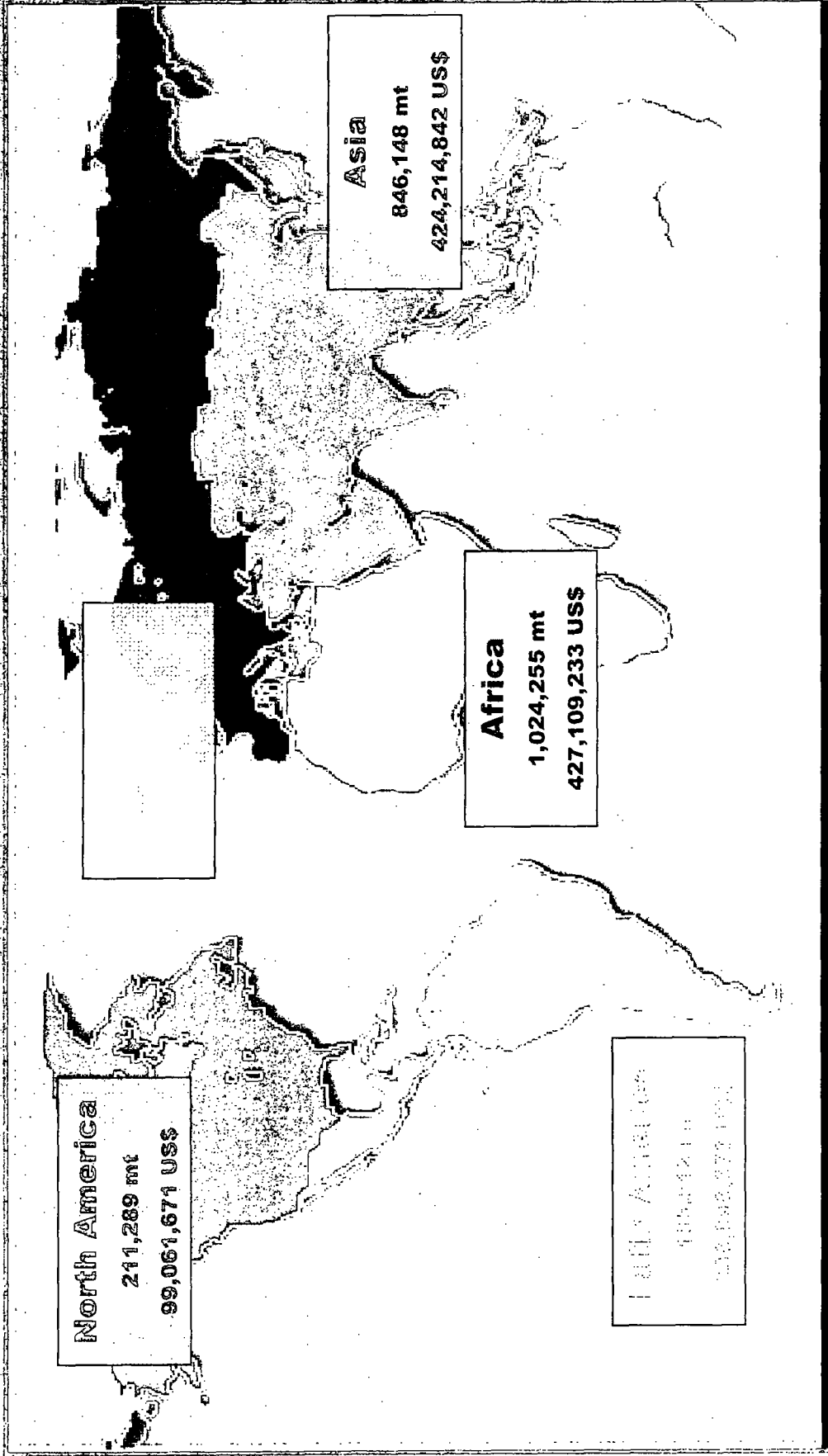
WFP Food Procurement in Developing Countries

2008

Of WFP's total food procurement (US\$ 1,407,899,530), 78% is sourced in these developing countries:

Country	Quantity mt	Value US\$
Togo	200	74,850
Turkey	104,815	54,454,094
Uganda	109,689	53,006,581
Ukraine	139,061	30,195,516
Uzbekistan	799	659,175
Vietnam	29,041	14,063,865
Yemen	1,084	670,891
Zambia	29,846	10,571,215
Zimbabwe	6,191	3,666,314
Grand Total	2,133,355	1,092,941,677

Where did we purchase in 2008?



85 Countries: 73 Developing 12 Developed

Visit: Rural Poverty Portal

updated: 11

March 2009



Remarks by WFP Executive Director to the 32nd session of IFAD's Governing Council

It is an honor to address this esteemed governing council – ministers, leaders and agricultural and food security experts from around the world.

We are gathered here in Rome at a critical moment in history – a moment when three converging crises – food, fuel and financial have forced us to ask the most basic of questions. Can we ensure basic food security? Can we be sure enough food will be produced and that the world's population will be able to access adequate food for survival?

Despite heroic efforts by many to meet emergency hunger and seed and fertilizer needs, we know hunger is on the march, with an additional 115 million added to the ranks of the hungry. Today, nearly one billion, or one in seven people go to bed hungry.

As we gather, in addition to honoring a great and beloved leader in the battle for global food security, Lennart Båge – I would like to make three points:

- Food security is now one of the top peace and security issues of our time.
- We can – and must – win the battle against hunger and for global food security. We can do this.
- This challenge is bigger than any one nation or one institution – we must act together or fall together.

Point one: we are not out of the woods, and destabilization of food access is a matter of global stability. No one can predict the length or depth of the current economic crisis. But history teaches us two things.

First, the world's poorest will be the hardest hit. And second, we are all in this together and we ignore the call of hunger at our own peril.

As the global situation has improved since the last session



Read more

- Keynote addresses and general statements
- Governing Council roundtables: Smallholder agriculture and food security in the twenty-first century
- Unpredictable markets, high food price volatility to feature at IFAD Governing Council
English | French | Italian | Spanish
- List of documents placed before the thirty-first session Session of the Governing Council

As the global situation has worsened over the last year many have compared it to the dark days of the Great Depression. Banks closing, unemployment rising, and millions of families driven into desperate poverty and hunger- in nation after nation.

At that time, almost a century ago, nations chose to draw inward, withdrawing from the global community, establishing isolationist policies that fuelled the growing Depression. This fostered a decade of political instability and rising dictatorships.

In the years after 1929 the world was plunged into war and millions of lives were lost. After the food crisis in 1974, many governments were toppled as rising hunger fuelled popular discontent. During last year's food price crisis there were food riots in more than 30 countries. Last year, many were driven to hunger as food prices soared beyond their reach. This year, many are being driven to hunger as their family incomes rapidly decline or disappear.

Hunger and food insecurity must no longer be the exclusive purview of humanitarians, technical experts and do-gooders - this challenge is, once again, about global peace and security, and about the stability of nations.

Just days ago, U.S. President Barack Obama's new Director of National Intelligence, retired Admiral Dennis Blair, told the United States Senate that the economic crisis, not terrorism or nuclear proliferation, now tops the list of U.S. security concerns.

He said: "Roughly, a quarter of the countries in the world have already experienced low-level instabilities such as government changes because of the current slowdown." And, he said that the "primary near-term security concern of the United States is the global economic crisis and its geopolitical implications."

As outlined by former USAID Administrator Andrew Natsios in a new paper entitled "The Coming Food Coups," "Though it is unlikely that famine will sweep across the globe, causing revolution, upheaval, and mass starvation, the consequences of the increase in food prices since 2004 could still be dire if prices continue to increase and a severe worldwide recession drastically reduces family income in developing countries."

In a world even more interconnected than the 1930s we need to resist isolationist tendencies, and an "every nation for itself" environment.

Providing for your own nation is not an irrational action after last year's food crisis. Not only were key staple prices beyond the reach of the poor, but even nations with money were unable to purchase commodities with stocks at historic lows.

Unfortunately all signs point to the fact that last year's food crisis is far from over. A new study from Chatham House released last month warns of the coming "global food crunch."

Financial Times warns that many nations are entering into a "secret web of barter deals as a substitute for global commodity markets" because financing for the international food trade is drying up or becoming too expensive. Some report they cannot get lines of credit to buy food for their nations.

The fifth area concerns access to adequate supplies. We are beginning again to see nations shutting down food exports as many have just done in West Africa to ward off food inflation and protect supply. Others are importing more and many are trying to rebuild depleted stocks; there is again the specter of hoarding. Once again we must ask ourselves if we are witnessing a fundamental breakdown in some aspects of the global food markets where nations cannot be sure that they can secure enough supply or the access to credit to fund the purchases they need.

To address these critical challenges requires the highest level attention from presidents, prime ministers, kings, queens, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the High Level Task Force, Vice-Chaired by FAO, and all of you. The G8 hosted by Italy this year, the G20 and others must and are planning to keep food security high on their agenda.

But we must not despair. This is a battle that is winnable. Between 1969 and 2004 we cut the proportion of hunger by half. Nations who emerged from poverty during this time include China, Brazil, Ghana, Malawi, Thailand and many others. This follows a path of success set just a few generations ago by Ireland, Finland, Sweden, Japan and others.

In fact we have every reason to be encouraged by our joint efforts last year which proved our effectiveness when nations, agencies, NGOs and the private sector cooperated to meet an unprecedented challenge. Last year, thanks to the enormous generosity of many nations, WFP ramped up to reach 100 million people in need, helping more than 80 nations cool down food instability and helping prevent massive suffering.

This was the quickest and largest emergency scale-up in history. We lost 14 people in the line of duty, ships were attacked by pirates, as were our truck convoys and drivers. But nothing got in the way of WFP and a hungry child.

These efforts, complemented the scientific and long-term efforts by FAO, IFAD, CGIAR, the World Bank and others. I thank nations for helping ensure we are more effective. President Obama has made clear hunger and security are high on his agenda, as America funds 40 percent of emergency action. Many nations gave two or three times the amount they gave previously.

And this is not your grandmother's food aid – with the leadership of Belgium, Canada, the European Commission, the

The long-term drivers of high prices such as climate change, lack of investment in agriculture and fuel production as well as rising rates of food consumption will continue.

Though down from last year's highs, prices remain at historically high levels. Global cereal prices are 71 percent higher than they were in 2005 and 7.5 percent higher than in 2007, according to the IMF's latest figures. And local market prices in many countries, driven by short supply, continue to ramp up. For example, maize prices in Malawi are up over 100 percent year on year, and 45 percent higher in Benin.

Philippines' Agricultural Secretary, Arthur Yap, in a statement for the high-level meeting on Food Security For All in Madrid, raised the alarm that stock-to-use ratios are at 30 year lows. He called this the calm before the storm, urging measures such as calling on WFP to consider emergency food stocks for nations, to instill a level of certainty and stability.

As Prime Minister Zapatero pointed out in Madrid, the financial crisis is compounding the plight of the hungry as family incomes are cut, further marginalizing those who live on less than a dollar or two a day.

At WFP there are five factors we are watching to indicate how the financial crisis may affect hunger among the most vulnerable. The first is dependence on remittances. As the global economy slows so can remittances sent home. This is already hitting hard. For example, it is estimated that in 2008, 19% of the Kyrgyz Republic's GDP was made up of remittances. That is a lower rate than in 2007 and it could fall further in 2009. The slowdown has thrown 600,000 into urgent hunger. The government has requested WFP to come back for the first time since 1992.

Remittances are a vital part of economies throughout the world. Haiti has an average of 20 percent, and a number of Central American countries have an average of 25 percent of GDP dependent on remittances. Africa receives nearly \$20 billion in remittances.

The second factor we are looking at is export dependence. Last year vulnerability was caused by food import dependence. In this time of economic difficulty, dependence on exports is creating a new kind of vulnerability. As exports slow so do incomes in poor countries. The IMF estimates that sub-Saharan Africa exports will decline by half in 2009, cutting off a vital source of employment, income and foreign capital.

The third factor is growing unemployment and poverty rates which threaten to push more of the working poor into the ranks of the hungry poor. The ILO estimates that the number of unemployed may rise by 50 million this year.

The fourth factor is declining investment and access to credit. In an editorial this month entitled "Barter Beware" the

scandinavian nations, AGRA, the Gates Foundation and the Howard Buffett Foundation we launched Purchasing for Progress, or P4P. Today WFP buys 80 percent of its food from developing nations – and a quarter of that figure in southern Africa – helping break the cycle of hunger at its root. This is designed to support the AU and national efforts at food independence.

WFP, IFAD and FAO have just launched P4P with the government of Mozambique to ensure the farmers we purchase from are getting better seeds and fertilizer. One Mozambique farmer, Alfredo, used the money he earned through P4P to purchase school supplies for his children, clothes for his family, and tools. He is also planning to grow more than five times the amount of cowpeas this year, knowing he has a buyer. He told one of our staff members: "Now that there is a secure buyer, I will produce a lot more."

In fact, WFP and IFAD have worked for more than three decades, along with FAO, to solve problems together. Today we are working together on 18 projects in 14 countries, the majority of which are in Africa and Asia. The strategy has been to combine WFP food and nutrition assistance with IFAD's financing to comprehensively address rural hunger and poverty. Through food-for-work, food-for-training and micro credit programs we are building resiliency and self-sufficiency.

I can't end my comments without offering a tribute to Lennart Båge and the significant legacy that he leaves after his eight year tenure. I met Lennart when Kofi Annan appointed us both to the High-Level Panel on UN Coherence. It was clear then that he is driven by a heart-felt desire for a UN that effectively combats poverty and hunger, and promotes self-sufficiency for the world's most vulnerable.

He comes from a country that three generations ago had significant poverty and malnutrition, he exemplifies Sweden's can-do outlook, matched with incredible generosity. As President of IFAD, he has put that commitment into action. Lennart's leadership can be described by four D's:

- Dedication
- Decency
- Determination
- Drive

These four D's have helped Lennart lead IFAD to become an even more effective agency. One of the hallmarks of his time at IFAD includes successfully increasing the effectiveness, efficiency and relevance of IFAD. Lennart has also been a leader here in Rome, building bridges between donor nations, other UN agencies, and those we serve in the field.

This collaboration helps deliver on a UN-wide twin track approach to food security: 1. Direct, immediate action to provide access to nutritious food. 2. Longer-term agricultural

development to eliminate the root causes of hunger.

They say that when you leave a position, your work continues on through your greatest admirers. I am one, and the WFP stands ready to build on Lennart's accomplishments to help reduce poverty and hunger.

A big part of that legacy is the understanding that no person, no agency or no nation can do this alone. We must all work together to ensure as we focus on Wall Street and Main Street, that we do not forget the places with no streets.

Obama intelligence chief Dennis Blair said that among the most immediate impact of the economic crisis will be nations not being able to fully meet their humanitarian obligations.

We cannot let that happen. We must stay the course.

Let history remember that at a time of unprecedented challenge the world did not withdraw, but stood together for the most vulnerable.

Thank you.

Rome, 18 February 2009