

**MANAGING BETTER THE WORLD FOOD
SYSTEM AND ADDRESSING THE
CHALLENGES OF FOOD SECURITY IN THE
21ST CENTURY:
CONTRIBUTION OF THE UN SYSTEM HIGH
LEVEL TASK FORCE ON THE
GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY CRISIS**

ODI: 11 MARCH 2009

QUESTIONS FOR DEBATE

- How can the world food system be managed better?
- How can this contribute to reducing hunger and malnutrition?
- What is the role for international public agencies, and the UN in particular?
- How can this role be fulfilled?

CONTENT OF PRESENTATION

- ❑ Context
- ❑ High Level Task Force on the Global Food Crisis (HLTF) – *structure, mandate, programme of work, activities, support mechanism (HLTF Secretariat, Coordination Network, Senior Steering Group)*
- ❑ High Level Meeting on Food Security for All (Madrid, January 2009)
- ❑ Challenges



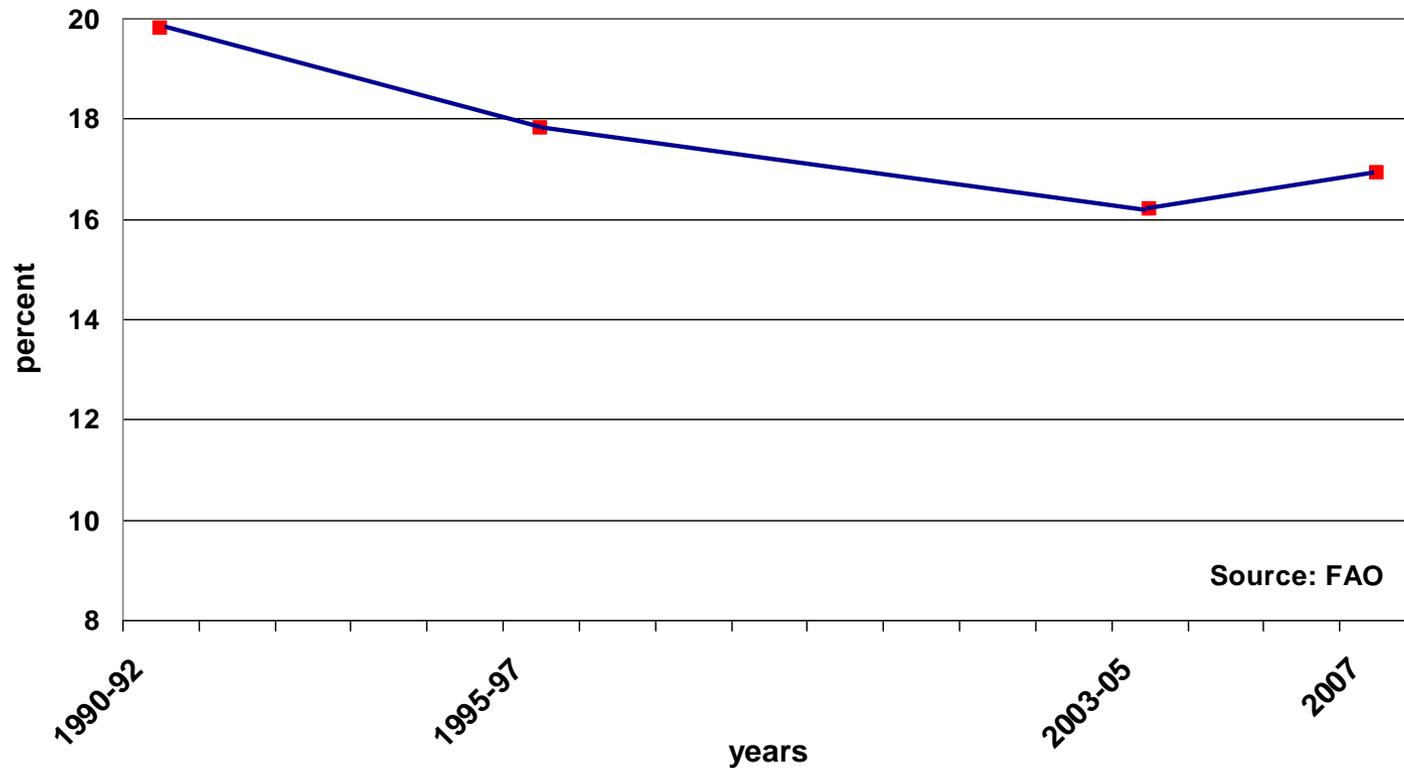
CONTEXT

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- From the perspectives of the world's two billion poorest people food and nutrition systems have been in crisis long before food prices shot up in 2009
 - ▣ High levels of malnutrition, hunger
 - ▣ Increasing numbers unable to realize their right to food, access the food they need when they need it, and requiring food assistance
 - ▣ Production, processing and distribution systems not serving interests of small-scale producers
 - ▣ Differences between price paid to producer and paid by consumers
 - ▣ Volatility in prices and variations in supplies
- Progress towards the Millennium Development goals is compromised

Progress Towards MDGs is Compromised

proportion of undernourished in the developing world (%)
1990-92 to 2007

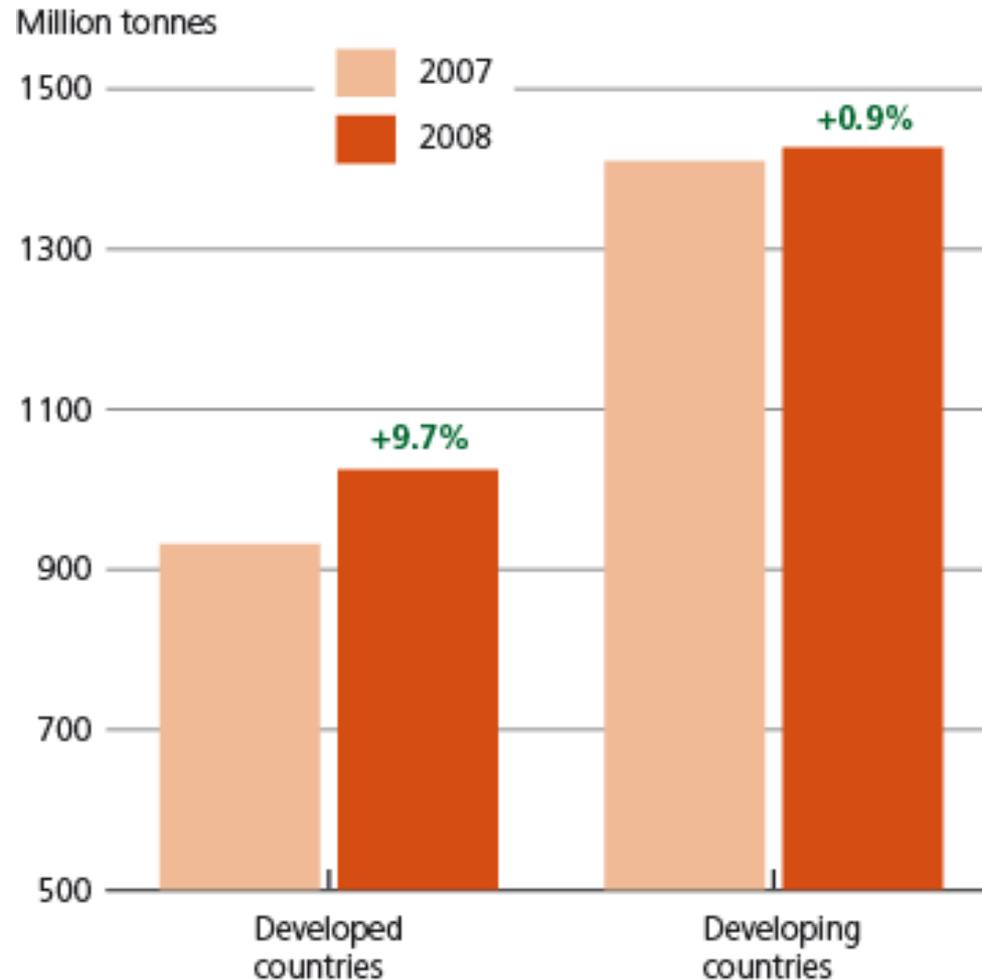


In first half of 2008, Food Security attracted widespread attention...

...when the purchase price of staples soared:

- 923 million (14% of humanity) undernourished (75 million increase) and as many as 200 million people in need of food assistance
- Rural and urban poor, landless farmers and female-headed households are the worst affected
- Limited supply response of producers in developing countries – unable to take full advantage of better incentives offered by high food prices

Supply Response to High Prices Mainly in Developed Countries



WORLD FOOD PRICES HAVE FALLEN DURING THE LAST FEW MONTHS, BUT...

- Prices for poor people in poor countries are still around twice what they were in 2002, and
- Volatile prices and uncertainty discourage the needed investment in agriculture, whether from public or private sources

CONTRIBUTING TO EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF THE RESPONSE

- National, regional and global movements designed to improve resilience and reduce hunger: focused encouraging outcome focus, coherence and alignment
- Meeting immediate needs and build longer-term resilience
- Seeking to sustain political engagement in the need to investing in [and deliver results on]
 - Well functioning food security systems that improve nutrition and reduce hunger
 - Smallholder food production and marketing systems that manage risk, drive prosperity and lead to sustained development of the rural space
 - Links between the two



The High Level Task Force on Global Food Security (HLTF)

HTLF STRUCTURE

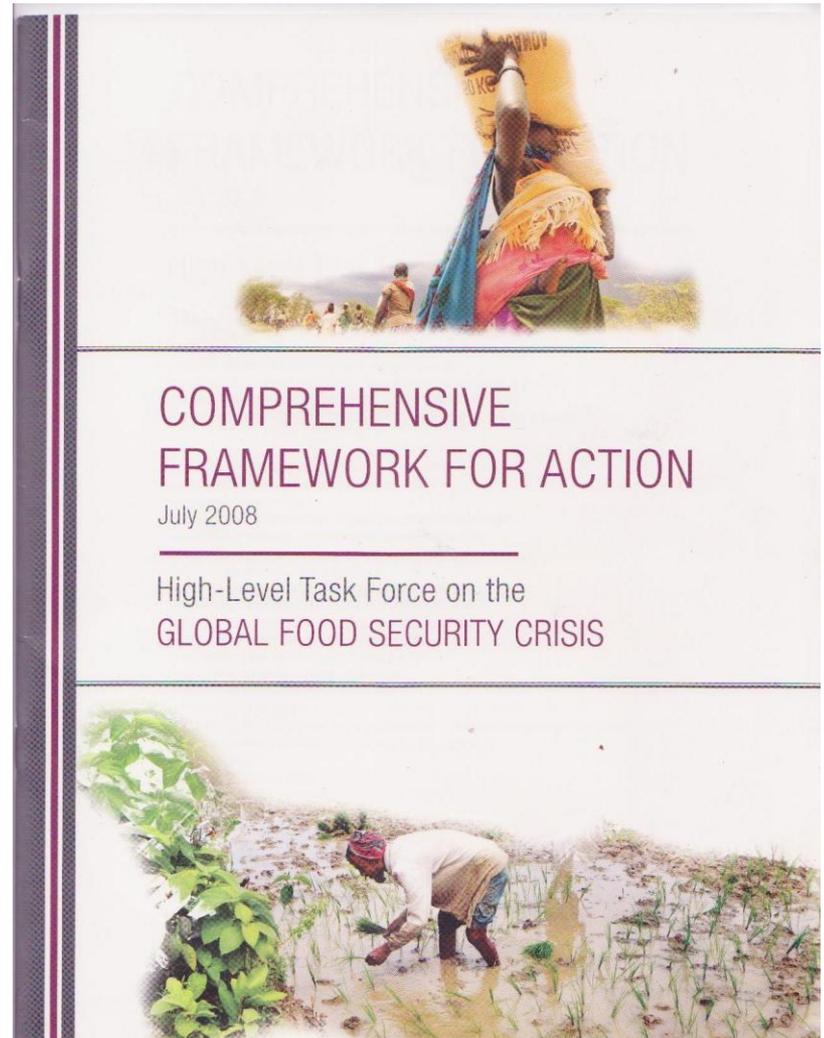
- High Level Task Force is a **time-limited entity** established at the end of April 2008 by the UN Chief Executive Board in Bern (UN system Top Management)
- Includes FAO, WFP, IFAD, World Bank, IMF, UNICEF, UNDP, WTO, UNCTAD and 14 other UN entities (Funds, Programmes, Departments).
- UN Secretary General as Chair: FAO Director General as Vice Chair
- Initially two coordinators designated, now one

HLTF MANDATE

- Avoid creating new bureaucratic and intergovernmental layers
- Provide the fullest possible concerted support to National Authorities and National Governments
- Link with Regional political entities, Banks, Economic Commissions
- Focus on reducing vulnerability by enabling:
 - 1) access to food - improving nutrition, social protection and food systems, and
 - 2) Availability of food - emphasis on small scale agriculture and making markets and systems for trading foods function for poor people
- Promote concerted action with a focus on MDG 1 and the needs of poor people
- Bridge short and longer term responses, humanitarian and development assistance

HLTF MANIFESTO: COMPREHENSIVE FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION

The HLTF developed the CFA as a means for organizing **collective actions in pursuit of immediate and longer terms outcomes**, to be taken forward by different stakeholders working in partnership (not limited to the HLTF membership) under the leadership of national authorities.



COMPREHENSIVE FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION

OBJECTIVE

Improve access to food and nutrition support and take immediate steps to increase food availability

OUTCOMES

Meet immediate needs of vulnerable populations

- ▣ Emergency food assistance, nutrition interventions and safety nets enhanced and made more accessible
- ▣ Smallholder farmer food production boosted
- ▣ Trade and tax policy adjusted
- ▣ Macro-economic implications managed

OBJECTIVE

Strengthen food and nutrition security in the longer-run by addressing the underlying factors driving the food crisis

OUTCOMES

Building longer term resilience and contributing to global food and nutrition security

- ▣ Social protection systems expanded
- ▣ Smallholder farmer food production growth sustained
- ▣ International food markets improved
- ▣ International biofuel consensus developed

HOW WILL THE HLTF MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN 2009?

PROGRAMME OF WORK(1)

Support realization of CFA outcomes in countries: HLTF members will respond both to country needs, and requests from national authorities

- ▣ Providing prioritized and **coordinated policy support and technical assistance** (focusing on the full range of outcomes in the CFA),
- ▣ Working together to help **strengthen capacity and mobilize funds** for the pursuit of agreed national priorities, in conjunction with relevant national, regional and global bodies
- ▣ **Building on work already initiated** in as many as 60 countries, intensively in 27 countries, in support of the EC 1 billion Euro initiative;
- ▣ Stimulating **systematic links between knowledge, policies and investments**, and encouraging the best use of existing and emerging research capabilities

HOW WILL THE HLTF MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN 2009?

PROGRAMME OF WORK(2)

Advocating for funds needed for urgent action and long term investment based on Right to Food, Nutritional need and reducing vulnerability :

Focusing together on **priority issues needing urgent action within the next six months** (such as urgent needs to ensure access to food through food assistance and social safety nets, plus agricultural inputs and market access for smallholder farmers in coming planting seasons);

- ▣ Intensifying **advocacy for an urgent increase in investments for longer term resilience** through systems to sustain improvements in smallholder agricultural productivity and markets, and for social protection (paying attention extra ;
- ▣ Encouraging **high level political attention to investment in food security for economic development of the rural space, community resilience and social protection;**
- ▣ Ensuring **better coordination of financial support for food security** that galvanizes additional private and public investments for (a) food assistance and (b) investing in smallholder agricultural production

HOW WILL THE HLTF MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN 2009? PROGRAMME OF WORK(3)

Inspiring a broader engagement: HLTF members will encourage the full involvement of hundreds of stakeholders in a concerted movement for food security

- ▣ by **disseminating elements of the Comprehensive Framework for Action** and encouraging wide-ranging debate on its contents at local, national and international level (through face to face meetings and the www):
- ▣ **By building and sustaining links with stakeholders** within civil society (farmers associations, producer organizations, social protection groups and cooperatives), with regional and international NGOs and with private entities
- ▣ **By providing support for the processes** (conversations, debate and convergence) **to establish partnerships for for Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition at the country and regional levels, and to explore** with its aim of a sustained reduction in world hunger

HOW WILL THE HLTF MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN 2009? PROGRAMME OF WORK(4)

Ensuring accountability: HLTF members will assess achievements, review progress, demonstrate results, and adjust activities that are sub-optimal

- ▣ By **mapping** issues, **tracking** progress, **synthesizing** data, **information sharing and reporting**
- ▣ By **engaging with other groups involved in monitoring progress** (right-to-food trackers, nutrition surveillance initiatives, and other intergovernmental, private sector, NGO and research-based tracking)
- ▣ By **contributing to the Annual Report** that is to be prepared by the Secretary General in the light of the December 2008 General Assembly resolution on Food Security

HLTF ORGANIZATION

- The **HLTF Coordination Secretariat** has been established, headed by the Coordinator with around 10 staff based in Geneva, New York, Washington and Rome (principal hub).
- The **HLTF Coordination Secretariat Network** is being initiated (with 100 – 200 members), also headed by the Coordinator.
- The expanded **HLTF Senior Steering Group (SSG)** will have a central role in directing the Secretariat and steering the Network
- **HLTF time-limited “Focus Teams” (FT)**, based within the SSG, will pursue specific issues with full involvement of NGOs and other stakeholders (eg Advocacy, Mapping and Tracking, Nutrition and Food Security, Country Challenges)

NEXT STEPS FOLLOWING
THE HIGH LEVEL MEETING
ON FOOD SECURITY FOR
ALL (MADRID JANUARY
2009)



THE HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON FOOD SECURITY FOR ALL IN MADRID JANUARY 2009

- Co-convened by Prime Minister Zapatero and the UN Secretary General to:
 - take stock of progress since the June 2008,
 - establish the additional resources needed
 - agree on a financial mechanism to coordinate funding
 - launch consultations on government-private sector-civil society partnerships.

- Outcomes:
 - Clear consensus that the way forward was the twin track approach of the CFA, with addition of right to food as a basis for analysis, action and accountability with the need:*
 - For a mechanism to properly coordinate financing
 - For extensive and open consultations for establishing partnerships
 - *To mobilise new financial resources.*

COORDINATED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

- The HLTF recognizes the needs to improve funding of food assistance, smallholder production and social protection and is working on:
 - ▣ Setting up a single point to which countries can come in search of assistance;
 - ▣ Bringing together existing funding channels (World Bank, IFAD, WFP, FAO, regional banks, Bilateral donors and Foundations) to respond in an integrated way.
 - ▣ Rapid, transparent, independent appraisal of country requests for assistance, matching with ongoing agency projects, distribution of funds and careful monitoring of their use

Those who donate funds either give direct to agencies, or the UN Secretary General creates a single “receiving point” from which funds are disbursed to countries (via agencies) on priority basis

PARTNERSHIPS ON AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

- Proposed by President Sarkozy in Rome Summit on Food Security in June 2008 to raise the profile of food security and engage private sector, civil society, farmers' organizations
- The G8 took the initiative with the creation of an expert group: a *political* partnership is the key
- Rome-based ambassadors to the UN will take the work further during March – April 2009
- HLTF ready to support this process, starting at country and regional level, and ensure increased participation of Private Sector, civil society and farmers' organizations

Mobilizing Resources for Action

- The European Community launched a 1 billion EURO initiative to boost smallholder agricultural production
- Spain pledged 1 billion Euro over 5 years to address food insecurity
- Possible other funding being pursued by Spain and the UN Secretary General
- Critical importance of systems for coordinating financial support for food security and smallholder production

Policy issues

- Maintaining a focus on
 - Humanitarian access
 - Options for price stabilization
 - Right to Food
 - Trade
 - Conservation agriculture
 - Highly marginal populations (especially pastoralists)
 - Bio-Fuels



CHALLENGES

As the world moves into a prolonged period of economic downturn...

...national authorities and international organizations have real concerns that the **needed private and public investments in agriculture, social protection and a fair trade system are not going to be forthcoming** – at least in the immediate future. The structural problems in food and agriculture may persist, as will the risk of extreme volatility in prices

What we can do better

- Increase recognition of likely magnitude and duration of Food Security Crisis in countries
- Adapt response to changing circumstances (*emerging threats to food security such as volatility in food, energy, and financial markets, climate change and water scarcity*)
- Mobilize and use the necessary resources
- Foster sustained political commitment