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Feed the Future At A Glance

The Opportunity

More than one billion people - one sixth of the world's population - suffer from chronic hunger. Each year, more than 3.5 million children die from undernutrition. Hunger robs the poor of a healthy and productive life and stunts the mental and physical development of the next generation. Reducing chronic hunger is essential to build a foundation for investments in health, education and economic growth. It is critical to the sustainable development of individuals, communities and nations.

Global Action

At the G8 Summit in L'Aquila, Italy in July 2009, global leaders responded to the combined effect of underinvestment in agriculture and food security, the steep rise in global food prices, and the economic crisis by committing to "act with the scale and urgency needed to achieve sustainable global food security." They established a framework for coordinated and comprehensive action among host governments, donors, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders. This collaborative global effort centers around country-owned processes and plans to improve food security.

U.S. Commitment

While the challenges are significant, so are our tools for success. President Obama's pledge at L'Aquila of at least $3.5 billion over three years helped to leverage and align more than $18.5 billion in support of our common approach. We are working with partners and stakeholders to advance action that addresses the needs of small scale farmers and agri-businesses, and harnesses the power of women to drive economic growth. Our efforts will build on our comparative advantage in research, innovation and private sector-led growth. We will increase our investment in nutrition and agriculture development while maintaining our support for humanitarian food assistance.

Sustainable Solutions

We are working with other governments, multilateral institutions, NGOs, private companies, and others to sustainably reduce global hunger and poverty by tackling their root causes and employing proven strategies for achieving large scale and lasting impact. We aim to accelerate progress toward the poverty and hunger Millennium Development Goal, as measured by:

- Reducing the prevalence of poverty
- Reducing the prevalence of underweight children

To achieve these goals, we will:

- Accelerate inclusive agriculture sector growth through improved agricultural productivity, expanded markets and trade and increased economic resilience in vulnerable rural communities.
- Improve nutritional status by increasing access to diverse and quality foods and by strengthening the prevention, identification and treatment of undernutrition.

Principles for Advancing Global Food Security

- Invest in country-owned plans
- Strengthen strategic coordination
- Ensure a comprehensive approach
- Leverage the benefits of multilateral institutions
- Deliver on sustained and accountable commitments

Supporting Country Ownership

Sustainably reducing hunger and poverty begins with vulnerable countries, which should decide on their own needs, priorities and development strategies. Country ownership provides the most effective means to coordinate development efforts and achieve sustainability. Through FTF, we deepen the U.S. commitment to aligning our investments with country priorities and building country capacity to engage in results-based planning and robust stakeholder consultation.

Benefiting from Multilateral Institutions

Multilateral institutions leverage global resources and complement bilateral assistance. The U.S. is investing in and encouraging contributions to multilateral institutions, such as the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program, a new World Bank-administered multi-donor trust fund.

Holding Ourselves Accountable

A robust system to measure progress and enhance accountability is central to improving aid effectiveness. In addition to setting our own benchmarks and targets for investments and being held publicly accountable to them, we support the development of common monitoring and evaluation systems at the country, regional, and multilateral levels to track the progress of our investments and the investments of others.

The Way Forward

The challenge of reducing global hunger and building sustained agricultural-led growth cannot be accomplished alone. Our actions and those of others must be sustained, transparent, measurable and inclusive.

***Feed The Future* is the U.S. Government's global hunger and food security initiative**