


Of all the regions, Latin America and the Caribbean have experienced the smallest decline of just 1.1 percent. The fact that there has only been a slight decrease in the number of undernourished people can be attributed to the region’s slower growth during the period 2008–10; its vulnerability, as a net exporter of food, to the decline in food commodity prices following the global food crisis and the slow recovery of reduced remittance flows to the region as a result of the United States recession.


The 10 percent threshold represents the global average proportion (1995–2008) of ODA (excluding debt relief) in the form of humanitarian assistance.

The Crisis States Research Centre defines a “failed state” as a state that can no longer perform its basic security and development functions and that has no effective control over its territory and borders (http://www.crisissates.com).

The factors analysed include those that make up measures of poverty found in the Human Development Index (HDI) and of governance found in the Worldwide Governance Indicators (compiled by the World Bank Institute).

Chambers and Conway (1991) provided the following definition of livelihoods that has been adopted by this report: “A livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets (including both material and social resources) and activities required for a means of living. A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks.” See R. Chambers and R. Conway. 1991. *Sustainable rural livelihoods: practical concepts for the 21st century*. IDS Discussion Paper 296. Brighton, UK. Institute of Development Studies.


M. Buchanan-Smith, and A.A. Fadul. 2008. Adaptation and devastation: the impact of the conflict on trade and markets in Darfur, Medford, USA, Feinstein International Center, Tufts University.

Little (2008), see note 16.

Raeymaekers (2008), see note 15.


As termed by Young et al. (2009), see note 21.


Little (2008), see note 16.

Raeymaekers (2008), see note 15.


See, for example, Pantuliano (2009), see note 23.


37 Tefft (2005), see note 30.


40 Tefft (2005), see note 30.


48 Peeters et al. (2009), see note 46.


54 World Bank, World Development Indicators 2009, Global links, Table 6.15 – Aid dependency. pp. 376–379. Washington, DC.

55 The statistical analysis for this chapter was prepared for FAO by Development Initiatives International and is based on the data sets from the Creditor Reporting System (CRS) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development’s Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC) and on the Financial Tracking System (FTS) managed by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The rationale for using two different data sets is that while OECD-DAC statistics are based on clear and consolidated procedures they are limited to OECD countries and offer only a limited disaggregation of humanitarian assistance. FTS data sets are still under consolidation but are more comprehensive and offer a more detailed analysis of sector allocation of humanitarian assistance.

56 Least-developed countries (LDCs) are those countries that, according to the United Nations, exhibit the lowest indicators of socio-economic development, with the lowest Human Development Index ratings of all countries in the world. The current list of LDCs includes 49 countries: 33 in Africa, 15 in Asia and the Pacific and one in Latin America.

57 This includes all aid disbursements (not including humanitarian assistance and debt relief).


60 This section is based on data from the Financial Tracking System (FTS) of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), which is based on current prices and is based on commitments. See note 55 for an explanation of the difference between FTS and OECD-DAC data.

61 The CAP is an advocacy and planning tool for humanitarian financing, in which projects managed by the United Nations, NGOs and other stakeholders come together to approach the donor community funding international development activities on a yearly basis. As of 2006, the CAP is divided into “clusters” representing the various groups of implementing agencies in humanitarian aid. Humanitarian principles drive the formulation of the CAP. The humanitarian need on the ground is assessed by the stakeholders, to ensure that appeals’ funding requests are grounded in solid evidence.

62 This estimate includes carry-over funds, i.e. contributions made at the end of the year in which they are registered but that are actually for the requirements for the following year. This may distort the estimates. WFP estimates that the actual level of funding of food aid is 82 percent and not 96 percent as estimated by FTS.

63 The European Union’s recent definition of food assistance also includes the transfer or provision of relevant services, inputs, skills and knowledge.


71 FAO and WFP (2009), see note 45. See also M. Grosh, C. del Ninno, E. Tesluc and A. Ouerghi. 2008. For protection and promotion: the design and implementation of effective safety nets. Washington, DC, USA, World Bank.


79 For example, as part of the IDA eligibility process, the World Bank measures social protection as the simple average of values (ranging from 1 to 6) assigned to five sub-indicators covering labour markets, pensions, safety nets and social funds. Scores for those domains are based on questionnaires compiled by World Bank offices in client countries. Such composite index informs the calculation of the broader IDA Resource Allocation Index, which, in addition to social protection, is the result of the average rating of another 15 social and economic dimensions (World Bank, 2009, see note 54). For quantitative assessments of social protection coverage and incidence see, for example, the ADEPT toolkit (www.worldbank.org/adept).

80 See WFP’s Food Aid Information System, Quantity Reporting (available at http://www.wfp.org/faits/quantity-reporting).


83 A related debate revolves around “entitlement-based” versus “incentive-oriented” approaches. These are often lumped together as “developmental” initiatives (essentially because of the predictability and longer-term vision), while they may entail different outcomes and costs, see U. Gentilini. 2009. Social protection in the “real” world: issues, models and challenges. Development Policy Review, 27(2): 147–166.


86 In terms of lesson sharing and capacity building, see, for example, the UNDP-supported Africa–Brazil Cooperation Programme on Social Protection (http://www.ipc-undp.org/ipc/africa-brazil.jsp).


The “cluster approach” has been a key element of humanitarian responses and coordination since 2005. Clusters exist at the global level and the country level, with WFP serving as a lead for the food clusters and FAO for the agriculture clusters. At the moment FAO and WFP are considering establishing a global level food security cluster. A global food security cluster (food security clusters already exist in some countries) would bring under the same framework short term and immediate needs concerns that are typical of the food cluster(s) with longer term consideration that characterize the agriculture cluster(s).

The High Level Task Force on the Global Food Crisis, chaired by the UN Secretary-General, and the Government of Afghanistan, supported the establishment of the Agriculture Task Force, supported by UN agencies (FAO, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, UNAMA) and the World Bank.

USAID and DFID provided almost US$6 million to support this activity.

Key messages

- Implementing and supporting programmes should be based on people’s livelihoods, not on humanitarian principles.
- Supporting people’s livelihoods is the key to avoiding protracted crises. But regular crises undermine the institutions that are necessary to contain and recover from crises.
- Protracted crises, whether human-induced or the result of repeated natural disasters, often reduce the effectiveness of people’s livelihoods and coping mechanisms.
- Local institutions often remain or emerge to fill crucial gaps when national institutions have failed, and these have the potential to play a key role in addressing protracted crises.
- In countries in protracted crisis, however, there is a need to re-composition the architecture of external assistance in order to protect and provide people’s livelihoods over the longer term.
- The current aid architecture needs to be modified to better address both humanitarian needs and the structural needs of protracted crises.
- Humanitarian food assistance not only saves lives, but is also an investment in a country’s future, because it preserves and strengthens the human assets and livelihoods on which future generations will rely on to achieve a dignified standard of living.
- The Human Development Index (HDI) generated by UNDP is a summary composite index that measures average achievements in key dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life; being knowledgeable; and having a decent standard of living.
- Humanitarian food assistance is procured (including local purchase), helps to ensure that the food is on the national market, and that the net purchase price is passed on to farmers and producers.

Recommendations

- Recommendation 1. Support the promotion and strengthening of livelihoods, in order to address the needs of protracted crises.
- Recommendation 2. Support the promotion, protection and rehabilitation of livelihoods, and the mobilization of existing resources and services to address the needs of protracted crises.
- Recommendation 3. Reconsider the architecture of external assistance in order to address both the immediate and structural needs of protracted crises.
The State of Food Insecurity in the World

Addressing food insecurity in protracted crises

Following more than a decade of seemingly inexorable increases in the number of undernourished people, estimates for 2010 presented in this edition of The State of Food Insecurity in the World show a slight glimmer of hope, with the first fall since 1995. But that still leaves nearly a billion people going hungry, and it is too early to know if this is the beginning of a downward trend or merely a momentary dip in the number of undernourished.

This year, The State of Food Insecurity in the World focuses on a particular group of countries, known as protracted crises, where levels of undernourishment are estimated to be at least 30 percent. A decade’s long trend is in danger of reversing in many of these countries, not least the difficulty of moving beyond the mindset of humanitarian intervention towards a broader-based development agenda.

The report highlights actions that can be taken to rationalize the way protracted crises are handled. These include more holistic assessment of the crisis itself, including a deeper understanding of the drivers of crises; building on local community responses and institutions; introducing or supporting social protection mechanisms such as food-based safety nets; and moving from food aid to a broader-based food assistance approach.

The final section of the report provides recommendations on ways to improve engagement with countries in protracted crises. These focus on improving the analysis and understanding of protracted crises, supporting the protection, promotion and rebuilding of livelihoods and the institutions that support and enable livelihoods; and changing the architecture of external intervention in protracted crises to match the reality on the ground.

As this edition of The State of Food Insecurity in the World shows, there are many challenges facing countries and societies, but they are not insurmountable – there is hope. Through improved understanding of the nature of protracted crisis comes the ability to respond more effectively. Lessons from the experience of many countries show that with careful attention to livelihoods, strengthening longer-term resilience in rural institutions, investing in social protection mechanisms, and fundamental cuts for addressing the root causes of protracted crises. This report demonstrates that there are many positive experiences from which to draw. It is hoped that the lessons of this report as well as the many positive experiences, can help to address the multiplicity of causes, including lack of availability, high unemployment, etc., as well as the root causes of undernourishment.
Following more than a decade of seemingly inexorable increases in the number of undernourished people, estimates for 2010 presented in this edition of *The State of Food Insecurity in the World* show a slight glimmer of hope, with the first fall since 1995. But that still leaves nearly a billion people going hungry, and it is too early to know if this is the beginning of a downward trend or merely a momentary dip in the number of undernourished.

This year, *The State of Food Insecurity in the World* focuses on a particular group of countries, countries in protracted crises, where levels of undernourishment are estimated to be at or above 30 percent. It examines the difficulties faced in trying to turn around the situation in such countries, not least the difficulty of moving beyond the mindset of humanitarian intervention towards a broader-based development agenda.

The report highlights actions that can be taken to rationalize the way protracted crises are handled. These include more holistic assessment of the crisis itself, including a deeper understanding of the factors at work, dealing with local community responses and institutions; introducing or supporting social protection mechanisms such as food-based safety nets, and moving from food aid to a broader-based food assistance approach.

The final section of the report provides recommendations on ways to improve engagement with countries in protracted crises. These focus on improving the analysis and understanding of protracted crises, supporting the protection, promotion and rebuilding of livelihoods and institutions that support and enable livelihoods; and changing the architecture of external intervention in protracted crises to match the reality on the ground.

As this edition of *The State of Food Insecurity in the World* shows, there are many challenges facing countries in protracted crises, but they are not insurmountable. Through improved understanding of the nature of protracted crises, we have the ability to respond more effectively. Lessons from the experience of many countries show that with sustained attention to livelihoods, strengthening longer-term resistance to natural disasters, investing in social protection mechanisms such as food-based safety nets and addressing the root causes of protracted crises, there is hope. This report illustrates that there are many positive experiences from which to better address the multiplicity of issues, including but not limited to extremely high undernourishment, in countries in protracted crises.