



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS on the MDG and WFS hunger targets

1. Which countries are being recognized?

38 Countries from all regions in the world that have made outstanding progress in the fight against hunger. These are:

- 11 from Africa: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Djibouti, Ghana, Malawi, Niger, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, and Togo;
- 12 from Latin America and the Caribbean: Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Venezuela, and Uruguay;
- 13 from Asia and the Pacific: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Fiji, Georgia, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Samoa, Thailand, Turkmenistan, and Viet Nam;
- 2 from the Near East: Kuwait and Jordan.

2. Why are only these countries being recognized?

The countries are being recognized because, according to FAO estimates, they have been able to significantly reduce undernourishment among their population, thus achieving either the target agreed upon in the 1996 World Food Summit, or the one set in 2000 with the UN Millennium Declaration.

In all, 38 countries have reduced the percentage of people with insufficient access to food to less than half the value reported in 1990/92 (or to a level below 5%), thus meeting one of the targets set by MDG one. Out of these, 18 countries have succeeded in achieving the more demanding target of halving the absolute number of undernourished people, as agreed on at the 1996 World Food Summit.

3. On which evidence do you base the award?

The award is based on statistics produced by FAO using data provided by member countries and other international agencies. FAO computes the percentage of undernourished persons in the population by estimating the percentage of those who show – on a regular basis during the year – caloric consumption levels which are not sufficient to meet the requirements for a healthy and active life.

The calculations are done by analysing data on food availability in the countries and evidence on access to food across the population, as gauged from surveys of household data. The **percentage** of people undernourished among the total population is estimated first. Given population sizes, an estimated **number** of people undernourished is then computed.

4. What about the countries that are not being recognized? What is their situation?

There are several countries that have not reached the MDG or WFS targets today, but which are still on track to do so by 2015. These countries are encouraged to keep up the momentum. We hope that success stories celebrated at this FAO Conference will provide guidance and stimulus to all countries to forge ahead with the fight against hunger.

The event is also an occasion for FAO to demonstrate the importance of data as monitoring tools in all development processes. We would like to encourage individual countries and the international community to continue devoting the highest attention to improving the collection and analysis of data on agriculture, food and nutrition. An effective information basis is the key requirement for policies to be customized, and to address the right needs and targets.

5. How do these achievements relate to the Zero Hunger Challenge?

These achievements demonstrate that willingness and commitments by Governments and peoples throughout the world makes it possible to defeat hunger. Our improved understanding of the determinants of hunger and food insecurity makes us confident that it is possible to improve food security in a sustainable manner from a social and environmental point of view, provided proper actions are taken immediately.

It is worth reminding that the Zero Hunger Challenge, launched last year by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called for:

1. 100 percent access to adequate food all year round
2. Zero stunted children less than 2 years
3. All food systems are sustainable
4. 100% increase in smallholder productivity and income
5. Zero loss or waste of food

These five points require continue investment in improved agricultural productivity, especially where productivity is below its potential, as well as the adoption of resource-saving technologies. Limited resources and fragile environments need to be protected, while sounder consumption styles needs to be promoted, especially among wealthier populations.