



# **THE INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE AGAINST HUNGER**

## **Joining Forces to End World Hunger**

### **Strategy Paper**

This strategy paper for the International Alliance Against Hunger (IAAH) has been formulated by representatives of the following institutions and organizations participating in the ad hoc Rome-based working group that has been providing organizational leadership for the IAAH during the start-up phase: FAO, IFAD, IPGRI acting on behalf of the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), WFP, International NGO/CSO Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty and the Ad Hoc Group of International NGOs.

The original draft was revised on the basis of views expressed at the Side Event of the IAAH on the occasion of the meeting of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in September 2004. The paper is intended to guide the further development of the IAAH in the months ahead. However, it will remain a living document, evolving as the Alliance grows, develops and discovers how it can become a truly effective force in the global fight against hunger.

# **The International Alliance Against Hunger**

## **Joining Forces to End World Hunger**

### **1. Why does the world need an International Alliance Against Hunger?**

- The means to eradicate hunger exist but undernourishment and malnutrition continue to deprive hundreds of millions of our fellow humans from the opportunity to lead a full and dignified life. This is morally unacceptable and an infringement of human rights. Hunger also puts a brake on economic growth in countries striving to end poverty, and fuels conflict and global instability. Success in reducing hunger will contribute directly to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for poverty reduction, education, health (especially maternal and child health but also HIV/AIDS and malaria), gender and the environment. It is in everyone's interest to end world hunger quickly, and everyone can play a part in this.
- An International Alliance Against Hunger (IAAH) is needed to generate the necessary combination of political will and practical action required to bring about rapid reductions in the incidence of hunger in all its manifestations. An International Alliance can add value and momentum to the work of many institutions which are firmly committed to reducing hunger but often work without the benefit of linkages between each other. It can offer an essential framework for the collective and equal participation of all key actors, whether from civil society in all its dimensions or the public sector, national and international. By coordinating their actions and reinforcing each other, IAAH members can increase the possibility that the World Food Summit target of halving the number of undernourished people is achieved by 2015 or before.

### **2. Basic Principles and Aims**

- The IAAH is a voluntary association of international organizations and National Alliances Against Hunger (NAAH) who share a common commitment to the rapid eradication of hunger in the world and who know that their actions will be all the more effective through working together. Membership is open to all – civil society organizations, social and religious movements, private sector and international organizations – but particularly to institutions which are truly representative of the poor and hungry. Most IAAH members, other than National Alliances, would already be engaged in actions at an international level, whereas institutions operating mainly within their own country would become part of the IAAH through their membership in National Alliances.
- All members of the IAAH, whether United Nations Agencies, inter-governmental organizations (IGOs), international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), international civil society organizations (ICSOs) or National Alliances Against Hunger, have an equal status in the International Alliance and can participate in its leadership, direction and activities. Alliance members recognize the value of diversity and pluralism in their approaches to achieving the common goal of hunger reduction.
- The only obligations on members are that, upon joining the IAAH, they subscribe in writing to the basic principles and aims of the IAAH, provide information about their mandates and existing activities which demonstrates their engagement in the campaign to end hunger now,

indicate how they intend to contribute to the work of the Alliance and make time-bound commitments (*Ending Hunger Pledges*) to undertake specific actions for which they will hold themselves accountable, reporting periodically to the Alliance on the extent to which they have fulfilled their pledges.

- The same principles also apply to National Alliances Against Hunger, whose members will normally be drawn from governmental institutions, national NGOs and local branches of international NGOs, national civil society organizations and local branches of international civil society organizations (e.g., educational institutions, social and religious movements, private sector organizations, farmers' and workers' organizations, community-based organizations, and other organizations that represent and give voice to the poor and hungry).
- The IAAH recognizes two categories of associate membership, namely funding partners and contributing partners. Funding partners are national or international institutions and agencies and private sector firms that wish to provide and make public their financial support for the activities of the IAAH and its members, but do not qualify for, or do not wish to assume the obligations of full membership. Contributing partners are single individuals or small groups that wish to make an Ending Hunger Pledge, but have no other organizational affiliation through which to make their pledge known.
- The aims of the IAAH, as set out in the document presented to the 29<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in May 2003, are to:
  - Strengthen national and global commitment and action to end hunger;
  - Facilitate dialogue on the most effective measures to be taken to reduce hunger;
  - Amplify and add value to the contributions and capacities of Alliance members;
  - Promote the emergence of mutually supportive action involving governments and other stakeholders in the fight against hunger.
- The IAAH is results-oriented, aiming to have a real impact on the scale and effectiveness of measures to combat hunger and malnutrition throughout the world. Through focusing on MDG 1 – eradication of extreme poverty and hunger and halving the proportions of poor and hungry people by 2015 – it will make a fundamental contribution to the achievement of all the Millennium Development Goals. It will also lead to a reduction in political exclusion, especially of ethnic minorities, rural people in general, women and youth. Its ultimate success will depend on its ability to give expression to the aspirations of the poor and hungry and to engage them as full partners in finding and implementing solutions that make a real difference to their lives and the lives of generations to come.
- A principal function of the IAAH is to nurture the emergence and growth of strong National Alliances Against Hunger in both developing and developed countries, which will adhere to the same principles. NAAHs will be encouraged to enter into direct linkages with each other and to provide mutual support for each others' activities within the IAAH framework.
- At the international level, the IAAH, through the initiatives of its members, will emerge as a powerful and effective advocate for hunger and poverty eradication throughout the world, strengthening political commitment, unlocking the necessary resources and adding value through coordination, networking and reporting on achievements. The IAAH will work closely with other international movements and campaigns that are active in contributing to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

### 3. National Alliances Against Hunger

- The initiative to form an NAAH can come from any institution, organization, or group of institutions or organizations, whether governmental or non-governmental, which is committed to ending hunger. The IAAH Secretariat and members of the IAAH will encourage and support the formation of NAAHs, but in ways which fully respect national sovereignty, local leadership, ownership and cultural values. The Secretariat will maintain a register of members as well as a list of nascent National Alliances. It will formally register an NAAH as a member of the International Alliance on the request of its founders when the following conditions have been met:
  - The NAAH is able to demonstrate that it has been constituted and includes major stakeholders from both government and civil society, ideally with co-chairs from each constituency. Civil society members must have a track record of engaging the participation of the most needy members of society and responding to their aspirations and include organizations which directly represent populations affected by food insecurity.
  - The NAAH has subscribed to the IAAH Statement of Principles, formulated a plan of action and identified one or more timebound targets or goals to be recorded in the form of an *Ending Hunger Pledge*.

A list of countries in which governments and/or civil society institutions have expressed interest in establishing a National Alliance Against Hunger is attached as Annex 1.

- Each National Alliance will need to adapt its strategy to local conditions, developing programmes that are likely to include some or all of the following main elements:
  - Creating a truly national sense of commitment to eradicate hunger both within the country and world-wide, and offering a framework within which everyone can make a contribution to this goal;
  - Partnership building to expand the number of stakeholders that participate in the National Alliance and commit to concrete action to reduce hunger and poverty,
  - Advocacy for policy frameworks, action plans and resource commitments to ensure that all people can enjoy their right to food – a process which must involve the full engagement and participation of the sectors of the population most directly affected by food insecurity;
  - Communication and public affairs activities aimed at increasing awareness of the need to focus on the poor and hungry and on addressing the issues involved, and publicizing the impact of actions taken to reduce hunger and poverty;
  - Supporting effective monitoring and tracking of results in reducing hunger through such mechanisms as national Millennium Development Goal reports and country food security monitoring and reporting systems;
  - Promoting, coordinating and supporting direct assistance programmes, whether ongoing or new, for the benefit of the hungry which combine measures for sustainable livelihood improvements with actions to broaden access to food.
  - Developing links and reciprocal arrangements with other National Alliances, whether within the same region or between Alliances in developing and developed countries.
- All NAAHs are encouraged to have a strong action orientation. This could be achieved by adopting the concept of Ending Hunger Pledges and putting in place a monitoring and reporting system, linked to the IAAH website.

- NAAHs would report in-country to bodies responsible for monitoring the food security situation, the implementation of Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP) and the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. Subject to government agreement, the NAAH would serve as the forum in which national reports are prepared on progress towards the achievement of the World Food Summit goal and the Hunger MDG.
- They would work closely with other existing coordination mechanisms, including National Thematic Groups of the UN System Network on Rural Development and Food Security, Regional Organizations as well as NGO coordination systems. Internationally, they would report to the IAAH.

#### **4. Global Activities**

The global activities of the IAAH will focus on four major themes: Advocacy, Accountability, Resources Mobilization and Coordination.

- **Advocacy**

The main objectives of the advocacy work of the IAAH are, first, to raise public awareness of the extent of hunger in the world and of its impact on the lives of hundreds of millions of people, and secondly, to create and reinforce the political will to end global hunger. International advocacy efforts would give special emphasis to strengthening the provision of global public goods related to hunger and poverty eradication. This could include, for instance, advocacy for a stronger international engagement in pro-poor agricultural research and for trading arrangements which support the efforts of developing countries to reduce the incidence of hunger and malnutrition. The Alliance would add its voice to the calls for innovative international financing mechanisms and deeper debt relief to combat hunger and poverty. Providing a forum for dialogue among members on strategic issues of this nature will be an important function of the IAAH.

The IAAH, drawing on proposals and inputs from its members, will develop a number of common themes for international advocacy, communication and educational activities which can be taken up by its members. These will emphasize the attainability of the goal of a hunger-free world and the global benefits which would flow from this. Members, including National Alliances, will be encouraged to develop and share information materials and experiences relative to each selected theme, as well as to generate new and persuasive lines of advocacy.

A preliminary list of possible thematic areas for initial advocacy aimed at broadening the constituency of support for action against hunger includes:

- Eradicating hunger is not simply a moral issue. It will create huge economic benefits and contribute to global stability and human security;
- Reducing hunger and malnutrition opens the way for achieving other Millennium Development Goals – for poverty reduction, health and education, gender and the environment;
- A hunger-free world is a perfectly attainable goal: the means exist to end hunger;
- The twin-track approach to hunger eradication: combining measures aimed at addressing the underlying causes of the problem of chronic undernourishment, especially ones aimed at improving access of the rural poor and small farmers to resources, technologies and the building of their own institutions, with direct assistance programmes for the hungry and poor, including the development of safety nets;
- Human rights, food sovereignty, social inclusion and hunger eradication, especially amongst marginalized groups and those living in remote areas;

- Mothers, children, youth and the hungry;
- Policies which reduce hunger;
- *Ending Hunger Pledges*: how everyone can play their part in the war on hunger, make a commitment to direct action, and stand by it;
- Periodic reports on national and global achievements in hunger reduction, drawing on latest statistical information.

All members are invited to contribute their thinking and ideas towards the development of advocacy materials, related to the above and to other themes which can create greater awareness of hunger-related issues and the need for action and which can be used both at international and national levels.

The IAAH will encourage its members to come together under its banner so as to play a highly visible role at international conferences and meetings in calling attention to the importance of policies and programmes to reduce hunger and poverty. The Alliance will identify such events and promote combined action by members.<sup>1</sup> Annual World Food Day events can be used by the IAAH and NAAHs to reinforce the need for joint action against hunger.

- **Accountability**

- Each member of the International Alliance will prepare and periodically update a plan of action. It will declare its own goals and time-bound commitments in the form of an *Ending Hunger Pledge* and hold itself accountable to the Alliance for their achievement. Pledges and achievements of all international organizations and national alliances that are members of the IAAH will be posted on the website. IAAH member organizations and alliances may, at their own discretion, also request their own staff and/or membership to set goals and make individual pledges that can be recorded and monitored as part of the IAAH pledging process.
- National Alliances will also submit reports to the IAAH Secretariat on progress made and difficulties encountered in fighting hunger at country level, especially obstacles of international origin.
- Monitoring of pledges and achievements, as well as other sources of information on the world hunger situation, will be used by the IAAH Secretariat in compiling its reports to the CFS. These reports may also be used by Alliance members in reporting to their own management and governing bodies.

- **Resource Mobilization**

- The Alliance will be active in encouraging and facilitating the mobilization of resources for hunger and poverty reduction programmes. It will identify both needs and possible sources of funds and other forms of assistance and promote the necessary linkages, including the creation of twinning frameworks. The Secretariat will not, however, serve as a financial intermediary in channelling funds in support of hunger eradication programmes. Instead, it will promote direct funding arrangements between members, including the international financing institutions, and monitor and report on flows.
- Resource mobilization efforts will be built around the principle of reciprocal obligations and partnerships between developing and developed country Alliances. When a National Alliance

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<sup>1</sup> The proposed international event in 2005 commemorating the fifth anniversary of the Millennium Declaration is one example of where the IAAH could collectively organize coordinated actions to ensure the fight against hunger is given high priority in future action to achieve the MDGs.

in a developing country firmly commits itself to hunger and poverty eradication, puts forward feasible proposals towards achieving this and allocates significant national resources, it should feel confident that this would trigger a reciprocal release of funds or other forms of assistance by developed country National Alliances and the international financing institutions.

- The IAAH Secretariat will be responsible for raising resources to meet its own immediate capital, operating and special projects costs from voluntary contributions of Alliance members and other donations.

- **Coordination**

- The IAAH Secretariat will serve as the central node for communication and coordination amongst Alliance members. The IAAH website will provide the main mechanism through which coordination and sharing of information will be carried out. All members of the Alliance will be able to post material on the website and to have links opened to their own websites.
- The Secretariat will encourage direct contacts and networking among IAAH members.
- The Secretariat will assume lead responsibility for coordinating the work of the Alliance with other development processes, especially those especially those related to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals at the regional and international level, while National Alliances will assume this responsibility at national level.

## **5. Functioning of the Secretariat**

The IAAH Secretariat is currently provided by the Office of the Special Adviser to the Director-General of FAO on Follow-Up to the World Food Summit. Guidance is offered to the Secretariat by an interim committee, composed of representatives of its founder members<sup>2</sup>. Founder members are also contributing staff and resources to enable the Secretariat to become operational.

- The intent expressed by the founder members is that the Secretariat should remain small. The implication is that most of the substantive work of the Alliance will have to be undertaken by its members, acting largely through their own initiative within the “space” and framework created by the Alliance.
- Members are encouraged to use the IAAH Logo in connection with any activity undertaken by them on behalf of the Alliance, under the sole condition that relevant information, including presentations and publications, is posted on the website and is available for use, without restriction, by other members. When using the IAAH Logo at events and in publications, members are required to include a disclaimer to the effect that its display does not imply endorsement by all IAAH members.

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<sup>2</sup> The four Rome-based United Nations organizations concerned with food and agriculture – the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI) acting on behalf of the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and the World Food Programme (WFP) – as well as the International NGO/CSO Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC), which has been mandated to carry forward the action plan adopted by the NGO/CSO Forum held in parallel to the WFS: *fyl*, and the Ad Hoc Group of International NGOs in formal status with FAO.

- Although located in FAO and able to make use of the services of the Organization and its network of Representations as well as its privileged contacts with governments, the Secretariat is principally accountable to the collectivity of its members rather than to FAO or to any other single member.
- The arrangements for ensuring broad member participation in the oversight of the IAAH as well as the eventual institutional and legal status of the Secretariat are issues which will need to be considered by IAAH members through a consultative process to be orchestrated by the Secretariat.
- The functions of the Secretariat are expected to evolve over time as the IAAH grows and its members articulate their requirements. At this early stage in the life of the Alliance, the principal functions of the Secretariat are to:
  - Maintain a register of Alliance members (IGOs, INGOs, ICSOs and NAAH), funding partners and contributing partners, as well as a list of nascent NAAHs;
  - Prepare documents which explain the goals and purposes of the Alliance and draw these to the attention of governments and civil society organizations committed to ending hunger;
  - Facilitate the continuing evolution of the Alliance’s strategy so that it responds to members’ perceptions of evolving needs and opportunities;
  - Engage partners in the work of the Alliance, focusing in the first instance on nurturing the formation of National Alliances Against Hunger in both developing and developed countries;
  - Develop mutually supportive linkages with other alliances, partnerships and mechanisms contributing directly or indirectly to hunger reduction, and, more generally, to achievement of all the Millennium Development Goals;
  - Support Alliance members’ engagement in advocacy for hunger and poverty eradication, including arranging events as platforms for Alliance members and ensuring Alliance representation at major relevant international events and conferences;
  - Create and maintain an interactive multilingual website to enable members of the Alliance to share information, ideas and experiences and to seek partners. All Alliance members are expected to post their Ending Hunger Pledges on the Alliance website and to report on achievements;
  - Develop standard monitoring frameworks and reporting systems which can be used by all Alliance members;
  - Orchestrate e-fora and virtual debates amongst Alliance members on major issues related to hunger reduction;
  - Report on behalf of the IAAH to the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), which is the primary mechanism for involving governments in the governance of the IAAH. Mechanisms will need to be agreed with the CFS to ensure that all categories of Alliance members are enabled to participate in global discussion and decision-making regarding the IAAH;
  - Report, as considered appropriate by members, to other international bodies responsible for monitoring progress towards the achievement of the MDGs.

**Countries in which governments and/or civil society institutions have expressed  
interest in establishing a National Alliance Against Hunger  
as at 20/10/04**

Africa:

1. Botswana
2. Burkina Faso
3. Cameroon
4. Chad
5. Congo, Dem. Rep. of
6. Côte d'Ivoire
7. Ethiopia
8. Gambia
9. Ghana
10. Guinea
11. Kenya
12. Liberia
13. Madagascar
14. Malawi
15. Mali
16. Morocco
17. Mozambique
18. Niger
19. Nigeria
20. Rwanda
21. Senegal
22. Sierra Leone
23. South Africa
24. Sudan
25. Swaziland
26. Tanzania
27. Togo
28. Uganda

Asia & Pacific:

29. Australia
30. Cambodia
31. China
32. Cook Islands
33. Fiji
34. India
35. Indonesia
36. Kiribati
37. Marshall Islands
38. Micronesia
39. Nauru
40. Niue
41. Pakistan
42. Palau
43. Papua New Guinea
44. Philippines
45. Samoa
46. Solomon Islands

47. Thailand
48. Tonga
49. Tuvalu
50. Vanuatu
51. Vietnam

Europe:

52. Austria
53. Azerbaijan
54. Belgium
55. France
56. Germany
57. Ireland
58. Italy
59. Spain
60. Switzerland
61. Turkey

Latin America & Caribbean:

62. Argentina
63. Bahamas
64. Belize
65. Bolivia
66. Brazil
67. Colombia
68. Dominican Rep.
69. Ecuador
70. El Salvador
71. Guatemala
72. Guyana
73. Haiti
74. Honduras
75. Jamaica
76. Nicaragua
77. Panama
78. Peru
79. Uruguay

Near East:

80. Algeria
81. Egypt
82. Jordan
83. Kyrgyz Republic
84. Syria