

FAO data sources used in this report include the following:

- FAOSTAT is an online multilingual database currently containing over 1 million time-series records from over 210 countries and territories covering statistics on agriculture, nutrition, fisheries, forestry, food aid, land use and population and is available at: <http://faostat.fao.org/default.aspx>
- The GIEWS *National Basic Food prices data and analysis tool* contains monthly data on domestic food prices in a broad range of countries around the world and is available at: <http://www.fao.org/giews/pricetool/>
- The RIGA (Rural Income Generating Activities) database contains internationally comparable data on rural household income sources using data from existing household living standards surveys and is available at: [http://www.fao.org/es/ESA/riga/english/index\\_en.htm](http://www.fao.org/es/ESA/riga/english/index_en.htm)

- 1 Throughout this publication, "economic crisis" is used to refer to general global economic conditions in 2008 and 2009, including both recession and the financial crisis. "Food crisis" refers to the period in 2006–08 that saw the prices of almost all major food commodities (as well as the cost of fuel) increase to levels that were unaffordable for a great number of the world's poor.
- 2 More detailed food security data are provided in the FAOSTAT statistical database (available at [www.fao.org/es/esa/faostat/foodsecurity/index\\_en.htm](http://www.fao.org/es/esa/faostat/foodsecurity/index_en.htm)).
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## Sources for graphics

**Figure 9:** Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos (Argentina). 2009. *Porcentaje de hogares y personas bajo las líneas de pobreza e indigencia* (available at [http://www.indec.mecon.ar/principal.asp?id\\_tema=534](http://www.indec.mecon.ar/principal.asp?id_tema=534)); National Economic and Social Development Board (Thailand). 2004. *Thailand's official poverty line*. Paper presented at the International Conference on Official Poverty Statistics: Methodology and Comparability, 4–6 October, 2004, Manila, Philippines (available at [http://www.nscb.gov.ph/poverty/conference/papers/7\\_Thai%20official%20poverty.pdf](http://www.nscb.gov.ph/poverty/conference/papers/7_Thai%20official%20poverty.pdf)); World Bank. 2005. Mexico: *Income generation and social protection for the poor*. Washington, DC.

**Figure 16:** Based on data from S. Bhalotra and M. Umaña-Aponte. 2009. *Distress work amongst women? Micro data evidence from 66 developing countries on women's work participation as an insurance device*. Bristol, UK, Department of Economics, University of Bristol.

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**Figure 24:** U. Gentilini and S.W. Omamo. 2009. *Unveiling social safety nets*. Draft. Rome.

## ■ NOTES for Table - 1

- 1 World Food Summit goal: halve, between 1990–92 and 2015, the number of undernourished people.
- 2 Millennium Development Goal 1, target 1C: halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger. Indicator 1.9: Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption (undernourishment).
- 3 Latest report period refers to 2004–06 estimates, and baseline refers to 1990–92. For countries that did not exist in the baseline period, the 1990–92 proportion of undernourished is based on 1993–95 and the number of undernourished is based on their 1990–92 population and this proportion.

Countries revise their official statistics regularly for the past as well as the latest reported period. The same holds for population data of the United Nations. Whenever this happens, FAO revises its estimates of undernourishment accordingly. Therefore, users are advised to refer to changes in estimates over time only within the same edition of *The State of Food Insecurity in the World* and refrain from comparing data published in editions for different years.

Figures following country names refer to the prevalence categories (proportion of the population undernourished in 2004–06):

- [1] < 5 percent undernourished
- [2] 5–9 percent undernourished
- [3] 10–19 percent undernourished
- [4] 20–34 percent undernourished
- [5] ≥ 35 percent undernourished

Developing countries for which there were insufficient data are not listed in the table.

- \* Ratio current/baseline number of undernourished – ratio for WFS target = 0.5.
- \*\* Ratio current/baseline prevalence of undernourished – ratio for MDG target = 0.5.
- \*\*\* Although not listed separately, provisional estimates for Afghanistan and Iraq (Near East and North Africa), Papua New Guinea (Asia and the Pacific) and Somalia (East Africa) have been included in the relevant regional aggregates. Developed countries have been included in world estimates.
- \*\*\*\* Eritrea and Ethiopia were not separate entities in 1990–92, but estimates of the number and proportion of undernourished in the former People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia are included in regional and subregional aggregates for that period.

### KEY

- Proportion less than 5 percent of undernourished.
- na Not applicable.
- 0.0 Zero or less than half the unit shown.
- ns Not statistically significant.

### SOURCES

Total population: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. 2007. *World population prospects: the 2006 revision*. New York, USA.

Undernourishment: FAO estimates.

## ■ NOTES for Table - 2

- 1 DES = dietary energy supply available for human consumption.
- 2 The data reported in this column include workers' remittances, compensation of employees and migrants' transfers.
- 3 Net official development assistance (ODA) consists of disbursements of loans made on concessional terms (net of repayments of principal) and grants by official agencies of the members of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC), by multilateral institutions, and by non-DAC countries to promote economic development and welfare in countries and territories in the DAC list of ODA recipients. It includes loans with a grant element of at least 25 percent (calculated at a rate of discount of 10 percent).
- 4 Foreign direct investment (FDI) is net inflows of investment to acquire a lasting management interest (10 percent or more of voting stock) in an enterprise operating in an economy other than that of the investor. It is the sum of equity capital, re-investment of earnings, other long-term capital and short-term capital as shown in the balance of payments (BoP). Figures shown represent the average for 2003–07. This series shows total net FDI, that is, net FDI in the reporting economy from foreign sources minus net FDI by the reporting economy to the rest of the world. Data are in current US dollars.
- 5 Current account balance is the sum of net exports of goods and services, net income and net current transfers.
- 6 Total reserves comprise holdings of monetary gold, special drawing rights, reserves of International Monetary Fund (IMF) members held by the IMF, and holdings of foreign exchange under the control of monetary authorities. The gold component of these reserves is valued at year-end (31 December) London prices. This item shows reserves expressed in terms of the number of months of imports of goods and services that could be paid for.
- 7 Cash surplus or deficit is revenue (including grants) minus expense, minus net acquisition of non-financial assets. In the 1986 government finance statistics (GFS), manual non-financial assets were included under revenue and expenditure in gross terms. This cash surplus or deficit is closest to the earlier overall budget balance (missing is lending minus repayments, which is now a financing item under net acquisition of financial assets).

Figures following country names refer to the prevalence categories (proportion of the population undernourished in 2004–06):

- [1] < 5 percent undernourished
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- [5] ≥ 35 percent undernourished

Afghanistan and Iraq (Near East and North Africa), Papua New Guinea (Asia and the Pacific) and Somalia (East Africa) are not listed separately.

### KEY

- a 2003
- b 2005
- c 2006
- d 2001
- e 2004
- f 2002
- na Not available

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# The State of Food Insecurity in the World

## Economic crises – impacts and lessons learned

*The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2009* presents the latest statistics on global undernourishment and concludes that structural problems of underinvestment have impeded progress toward the World Food Summit goal and the first Millennium Development Goal hunger reduction target. This disappointing state of affairs has been exacerbated by first the food crisis and now the global economic crisis that, together, have increased the number of undernourished people in the world to more than one billion for the first time since 1970.

The report describes the transmission channels through which the economic crisis has affected developing countries and presents a series of country case studies that show how the poor are struggling to cope with a severe shock that is not of their own making. This crisis is different from the crises developing countries have experienced in the past, because it is affecting the entire world simultaneously, because it comes on top of a food crisis that has already strained the coping mechanisms of the poor, and because developing countries today are more integrated into the global economy than in past decades.

In the context of the enormous financial pressures faced by governments, the twin-track approach remains an effective way to address growing levels of hunger in the world. Stepping up investment in the agriculture sector, especially for public goods, will be critical if hunger is to be eradicated. In addition, safety nets designed to protect the most poor and food-insecure are an essential complement to such investment because the poorest should be given the opportunity to feed themselves now, even if the full impact of longer-term investment has not yet been realized.

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