Fourth Development Dialogue Forum
Food Security: A Regional Perspective
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Main Messages: Where we Are

- In much of Sub-Saharan Africa people are trapped in a vicious cycle of low food security and human development.
- Two disturbing paradoxes: 1) Recent significant economic progress has not had commensurate impact on malnutrition, and 2) Food insecurity exists and persists despite abundant natural resources.
- This is mainly due to misguided policies, weak institutions and failing markets. Importantly, two biases persist: one against rural areas and one against women.
- Changing course implies breaking with past practices while facing down new threats of population growth, environmental pressures and climate change.
Main Messages: What to Do

• **Improve agricultural productivity** by bringing yields up sustainably, to increase food production and to generate income and employment on and off the farm

• **Advance nutrition** outcomes through interventions that intercept malnutrition in children and mothers to stop forfeiting the future of families and countries

• **Enhance the resilience** of families and countries by implementing social protection to stabilize food systems

• **Empower the rural poor and women** by providing access to information, markets and knowledge, in order to unleash their transformative power
Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest prevalence of hunger in the world

Percentage of undernourished population, 2006-2008

Linking Food Security and Human Development

**FOOD SECURITY**

- **STABILITY**
  - **AVAILABILITY**
  - **ACCESS**
  - **USE**

**HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

- **EDUCATION AND HEALTH**
- **PRODUCTIVITY**
- **INCOME**
- **SOCIAL PARTICIPATION**
- **EMPOWERMENT**

Nutrition outcomes

Opportunities for improvement
Less success reducing malnutrition in Sub-Saharan African than in Asia

Proximate and deeper causes of food insecurity

• High levels of rural poverty, low agricultural yields, poor infrastructure, limitations in access to health and education services in rural areas are key proximate causes.

• Food price volatility, erratic weather patterns and violent conflict add to instability in food systems.

• Deeper causes of food insecurity include:
  – high levels of inequality, skewed control over resources and access to opportunities;
  – policy bias especially against rural areas and against women;
  – detrimental international practices, including the lingering effects of structural adjustment, lavish agricultural subsidies, the rise of bio-fuels and neglect of agriculture in ODA.
Emerging threats

- **Changing population dynamics** as the world’s fastest growing population is in SSA: from 856 million in 2010 to 2 billion in 2050, migration and urbanization

- **Environmental challenges**: in mid-1990s almost one quarter of agricultural land was degraded, up to 40% loss in yields

- **Perils of climate change** could increase water stress for 250 million people and halve yields from rain-fed agriculture, maize yields could fall by 30% by 2030; 25-40% of species habitats could be lost
Destabilizing effects of climate change

**AVAILABILITY**
Direct effects (for example, from higher carbon dioxide levels, variation in temperature and precipitation, and more pests and diseases).
Indirect effects (for example, from increased use of marginal lands).

**CLIMATE CHANGE**

**USE**
Effect on the nutrient content of food (for example, protein and toxin levels).
Effect on human health and ability to absorb nutrients (for example, increased vulnerability to HIV/AIDS and malaria).

**ACCESS**
Impact of entitlements (for example, through lower growth and rural incomes).
Behavioral responses (for example, land use and adaptation).
Overarching policy focus

• No **blue print for development**—no silver bullet—but guidelines for countries and many examples that must be tailored to country needs and circumstances

• Food sector is not a narrow issue for line ministry or specialized agency alone—should be at the **centre of national development**

• **Need to bring on board the Office of President or Prime Minister**, and coordinated by ministries of finance, planning and/or economic development

• If addressed effectively the result can be **profound structural change and human development**
Cereal yields have stagnated for decades


Africa Human Development Report 2012  Towards a Food-Secure Future
Increase agricultural productivity

• Faster and more sustainable uptake of inputs
• Smart subsidies for fertiliser, new seed varieties and improved access to credit/insurance
• Investing in rural infrastructure (storage, roads, irrigation) to remove bottlenecks in marketing
• Investing in R&D and adapting new knowledge which is the key to raising productivity and engaging the youth
Strengthen nutrition

- **Nutrition interventions** such as school meal programmes, awareness raising, improve micro-nutrient (e.g. Vitamin A, iron and zinc)
- **Fortification**, including bio-fortification
- **Improve basic services**: health care, safe water and sanitation
- **Remove inequalities** in access to resources and opportunities, especially for women
- **Integrate nutrition** into national development policy
Change dynamics in food systems

SHOCKS that affect households and communities

TRENDS PREDICTABLE

UNPREDICTABLE

SHOCKS that affect the food system as a whole

LESS PREDICTABLE

Cycles

Communities and Households

Food Systems
Food price seasonality drives child malnutrition in Malawi

Seasonal changes in food prices and admissions to child nutrition and rehabilitation units

Build resilience

• **Population growth** can be slowed by addressing unmet needs for contraception and improving girls’ education

• **Agro-ecological approaches** can relieve environmental pressures under specific conditions

• **Conflict prevention and recovery** is critical and interlinked with population and environmental dynamics

• **Social protection** can reduce vulnerability to shocks and improve risk management. Can also be a tool to leverage interventions for food security, human development and social justice
Equal ownership and inheritance rights

Share of countries with equal ownership and inheritance rights between men and women

Empower women and the rural poor

• **Empowerment** is intrinsic to human development but it can also be instrumental for food security
• **Unleashing the power of markets** by investing in infrastructure, encouraging innovation and harnessing new technologies
• **Boosting participation and voice** through local government, producer organizations and civil society groups
• **Advancing social justice and accountability** by defining rights, improving equity in land access and managing land acquisitions
• Unleashing the **transformative power of women**