

Famine and Food Security in Africa

Commitment

“Although harvests improved in 2003–04, substantial emergency assistance will still be required for Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia, and Sudan, in part because of political instability and displacement of populations due to conflicts... Working with other donors, we will do our part to ensure that emergency needs, including food, are met.”

Ending the Cycle of Famine in the Horn of Africa, Raising Agricultural Productivity and Promoting Rural Development in Food Insecure Countries.

Background

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, an estimated 800 million people are malnourished. Experts estimate that this problem will only increase immensely in the future unless significant action is undertaken on a global level.⁸⁹⁵ At the 2004 Sea Island Summit, leaders of the G8 countries renewed their commitment to build a global partnership to prevent famine in the 21 century, specifically in Africa, where over 200 million people still face famine and food insecurity.⁸⁹⁶ Specific to this commitment was the pledge by G8 leaders to accept three initiatives: Breaking the Cycle of Famine in the Horn of Africa; Improving Worldwide Emergency Assessment and Response Systems; and Raising Agricultural Productivity in Food Insecure Countries and Promoting Rural Development Especially in Africa. Working with organizations such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the UN World Food Programme, this commitment focuses specifically on 4 African countries: Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan, where these issues are of particular urgency.

Assessment

Score	Lack of Compliance -1	Work in Progress 0	Full Compliance +1
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy		0	
Japan			+1
Russia	-1		
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Overall: 0.67			

⁸⁹⁵ “The Special Programme for Food Security,” Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (Rome) 2004. Date of Access: 15 January 2005 [www.fao.org/spfs/objectives_en.stm].

⁸⁹⁶ Summit Document: Ending the Cycle of Famine in the Horn of Africa, Raising Agricultural Productivity, and Promoting Rural Development in Food Insecure Countries, Sea Island Summit 2004 (Sea Island) 8 June 2004. Date of Access: 14 January 2005 [www.g8usa.gov/d_061004k.htm].

Individual Country Compliance Breakdown

1. Canada: +1

Canada has demonstrated successful compliance with the Sea Island Summit's commitment to food security and emergency aid by contributing nearly C\$75 million to the World Food Program, assisting in the crisis in Darfur, providing debt relief and establishing new tariffs for trade with Lesser Developed Countries (LDCs). In Ethiopia specifically, Canada contributed over C\$20 million to the World Food Program (WFP) for new initiatives to address poverty and hunger. C\$15 million will go to WFP's *Managing Environmental Resources to Enable Transitions for Sustainable Livelihoods*, which will improve food security for over one million Ethiopian families, while protecting and improving environmental assets. The remaining C\$5.57-million will be provided to WFP's school feeding programs.⁸⁹⁷ With respect to the crisis in Darfur, the Canadian Government pledged C\$9-million in food aid in the fall of 2004.⁸⁹⁸ During this period Canada also contributed C\$1.5-million to the WFP's general food appeal for Sudan and an additional C\$1-million to help with road demining and clearance of key transport routes in Sudan to allow for the delivery of emergency food supplies.⁸⁹⁹ In the end, the WFP was successful in feeding over 1.3 million children in the Darfur region — surpassing even its own estimates.⁹⁰⁰ Elsewhere in the region, in late-2004/early-2005, Canada provided C\$1.5-million in emergency food aid to Eritrea and C\$1-million through the WFP for emergency food rations in Somalia to help re-establish household food security.⁹⁰¹ Canada's compliance can also be seen through its decision to provide debt relief for several countries. All debts owed to Canada by Senegal, Ghana and Ethiopia were cancelled, amounting to nearly \$9 million dollars. "The relief provided today will enable these countries to spend more on priorities such as health and education, rather than debt payments" said Minister of finance Ralph Goodale.⁹⁰³ As another means of ensuring food security, Canada extended tariff-free access to Least Developed Countries (LDCs) for an additional 10 years. This will benefit all LDCs, 34 of which are in Africa, by providing duty-free and quota-free access to the Canadian market for all products with the exception of certain supply-managed agricultural products.⁹⁰⁴

⁸⁹⁷ "Canada Boost Food Assistance for Ethiopia," Canadian International Development Agency (Ottawa) 20 December 2004. Date of Access: 07 January 2005 [www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/cida_ind.nsf/vLookupNewsEn/45517A45AC74602185256F70005E2A87?OpenDocument].

⁸⁹⁸ Address by Prime Minister Paul Martin at the United Nations, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 22 September 2004. Date of Access: 07 January 2005 [www.pm.gc.ca/eng/news.asp?id=266].

⁸⁹⁹ Private Consultation.

⁹⁰⁰ "WFP surpasses Target, feeding more than 1.3. million people in Darfur," World Food Program (Khartoum) 06 October 2004. Date of Access: 11 January 2005 [www.wfp.org/index.asp?section=2].

⁹⁰¹ Private Consultation.

⁹⁰² "WFP surpasses Target, feeding more than 1.3. million people in Darfur," World Food Program (Khartoum) 06 October 2004. Date of Access: 11 January 2005 [www.wfp.org/index.asp?section=2].

⁹⁰³ "Canada Cancels all Debt Owed by three African Nations," Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 22 September 2004. Date of Access: 03 January 2005 [www.fin.gc.ca/news04/04-055e.html].

⁹⁰⁴ Canadian Statement: UNGA Debate on NEPAD, Canadian International Development Agency (Ottawa) 18 October 2004. Date of Access: 07 January 2005 [www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/cida_ind.nsf/vLUallDocByIDEn/7BE40E0E86E1EDB885256F33004E0EC3?OpenDocument].

2. France: +1

France has registered compliance with regards to its Sea Island Summit commitments to famine and food security in Africa. In accordance with the summit's commitment to send food and non-food aid to politically unstable regions, France has responded to the conflict in Darfur by sending its military capabilities. This has included the airlift services of two C-160s moving 32 tones of aid materials daily, puma helicopters shipping aid to refugee camps, and ground patrols of 200 men to reinforce the African Union. The aircraft used to deliver these materials to refugee camps cost €2 million.⁹⁰⁵ "In the space of two weeks 234 tones of humanitarian aid (equipment, medicines, nutritional supplements) has thus been conveyed mainly to UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, MSF, OXFAM and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies."⁹⁰⁶ The World Food Program reached their target of feeding 1.3 million people in Darfur with a contribution from France of \$3.68 million.⁹⁰⁷ President Jacques Chirac reaffirmed his commitment to fight poverty and hunger in a meeting with Brazilian president Luiz Inacio Lula. "We emphasized the need to adequately address the plight of the victims of extreme poverty and hunger."⁹⁰⁸ France has, in coordination with international financial institutions, reduced Madagascar's debt by 617 M€. ⁹⁰⁹ France also cancelled Ethiopia's 5,532,621€ debt. The money which would have been used for debt payment will be redirected towards development and poverty reduction initiatives.⁹¹⁰

3. Germany: +1

"The German government attaches great importance to the G8 Africa Action Plan."⁹¹¹ As German President, Horst Koehler's first trip outside of Europe was to Africa, where he spoke to the African Union and reiterated the importance of fighting hunger and the role that the G8 and the international community can play in helping combat this problem.⁹¹² World Food Programme Executive Director James T. Morris referred to Germany as one of the programme's most important contributors. By December 13, 2004, Germany had donated \$65,125,716 to the

⁹⁰⁵ Interview given by M. Michel Barnier Minister of Foreign Affairs to the weekly magazine "Paris Match", Ministère des Affaires Etrangères (Paris) 05 August 2004. Date Of Access: 09 January 2005 [www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/actual/declarations/bulletins/20040806.gb.html].

⁹⁰⁶ Updates to Foreign Aid in Darfur, Ministère des Affaires Etrangères (Paris) 16 August 2004. Date of Access: 09 January 2005 [www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/actu/article.gb.asp?ART=43833].

⁹⁰⁷ "WFP surpasses Target, feeding more than 1.3. Million people in Darfur," World Food Program, (Khartoum) 06 October 2004. Date of Access: 11 January 11 2005 [www.wfp.org/index.asp?section=2].

⁹⁰⁸ New York Declaration on Action Against Hunger and Poverty, Présidence de la République, (US) 20 September 2004. Date of Access 09 January 2005 [www.elysee.fr/ang/disc/disc_.htm].

⁹⁰⁹ Accord sur L'annulation de la Totalité de la dette publique de Madagascar vis a vis de la France, Ministère de l'économie, des finances, et de l'industrie (Paris) 17 November 2004. Date of Access: 09 January 2005 [www.finances.gouv.fr/minefi/minefi_ang/actualites/index.htm].

⁹¹⁰ "France Cancels Debt," Walta Information Centre (Addis Ababa) 25 December 2004. Date of Access: 09 January 2005 [www.waltainfo.com/].

⁹¹¹ "Not a forgotten continent: German government policy on Africa," Die Bundesregierung (Berlin) 12 November 2004. Date of Access: 05 January 2005 [www.bundesregierung.de/en/News-by-subject/International/News-10990.744227/artikel/Not-a-forgotten-continent-Germ.htm].

⁹¹² Speech by Federal President Horst Köhler to the African Union in Addis Abeba, Bundespräsident, (Addis Abeba) 15 December 2004. Date of Access: 05 January 2005 [www.bundespraesident.de/en/-5.621150/Speech-by-Federal-President-Ho.htm].

World Food Programme in the year 2004, making it the seventh largest contributor to the program.

An international conference titled “Policy against Hunger III” was hosted in Berlin in October. Focus was on the effects that deregulating trade would have on developing countries. The German Consumer Protection Minister Renate Kuenast was among those speaking at the conference where much emphasis was put on the importance of good governance, which would enable people in the developing world to develop food production and thus fight hunger and poverty. World Vision’s South Sudan’s Food Security sector as well as recent emergency interventions in the area were both funded by the German government.⁹¹³

4. Italy: 0

Italy receives a score of 0, representing a work in progress for its achievements towards the Famine and Food Security Commitment identified at the Sea Island Summit. In a joint UK-Italy summit held on July 13, 2004, Prime Minister Berlusconi “Agreed that Africa is a priority and reaffirmed their commitment to fostering Africa’s inclusion in the global economy.”⁹¹⁴ The Hon. Alberto Michelini, Personal Representative of the Prime Minister for Africa, reaffirmed Italy’s support for NEPAD to the 59th General Assembly of the United Nations.⁹¹⁵ In a statement at the Summit of World Leaders for the Action Against Hunger and Poverty, the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs Hon. Franco Frattini reaffirmed that Italy fully supported the Action Against Hunger and Poverty and “its commitment to effectively promote innovative financial sources to attain this laudable goal.”⁹¹⁶ Furthermore, Frattini stated that Italy was active in combating fiscal evasion and capital flight to off-shore financial centres which impact developing nations by reducing their ability to fight hunger and poverty.⁹¹⁷ However, Italy has yet to make any substantial contributions or actions towards providing emergency needs to the affected areas.

5. Japan: + 1

Japan has demonstrated compliance with the Famine and Food Security Commitment identified at the Sea Island Summit, primarily in the form of financial contributions. A shipment of \$13.8 million worth of wheat was donated to Eritrea from the European Commission, Ireland, US, and Japan in December, 2004. Over 42,500 tons of wheat was expected to aid over 600,000 Eritreans

⁹¹³ Food Security Programme in Sudan, Worldvision (Dan Teng’o) 19 October 2004. Date of Access: 05 January 2005 [www.worldvision.ie/News/News_Archive/Food_Security_Programme_in_Sudan.html].

⁹¹⁴ UK-Italy Summit, Joint Statement: Executive Summary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Rome) 13 July 2004. Date of Access: 13 December 2004 [www.esteri.it/doc/rev2.pdf]

⁹¹⁵ Statement by Hon. Alberto Michelini to the 59th General Assembly of the United Nations on item 38 New Partnership for Africa’s Development: Progress in Implementation and International Support (Geneva) 18–19 October 2004. Date of Access: 13 December 2004 [www.italyun.org/statements/2004/October18-19Michelini.htm].

⁹¹⁶ Statement by Minister of Foreign Affairs the Honourable Franco Frattini to the Summit of World Leaders for the Action Against Hunger and Poverty, 20 September 2004. Date of Access: 13 December 2004 [www.italyun.org/statements/2004/Frattini%20poverty.htm].

⁹¹⁷ Statement by Minister of Foreign Affairs the Honourable Franco Frattini to the Summit of World Leaders for the Action Against Hunger and Poverty (NYC) 20 September 2004. Date of Access: 13 December 2004 [www.italyun.org/statements/2004/Frattini%20poverty.htm].

suffering from the effects of drought and war.⁹¹⁸ Another effort by the Japanese government to fight food security can be seen through its \$1.3 million contribution towards a Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations project in the fall of 2004. Japan's contribution funds a project which helps over 6000 households in the drought-prone region Ethiopia increase agricultural production and earnings.⁹¹⁹ With respect to the crisis in Sudan, Japan has contributed by donating £500 000 to the UN's effort in the Darfur region since April, 2004.⁹²⁰ Apart from its financial involvement, Japanese compliance can also be seen through its participation at a meeting with the Executive Director of the World Food Programme. In October, 2004, Japan's Advertising Council, whose members are made up of Japanese corporate leaders involved with the WFP's school feeding programme, met with James T. Morris, Executive Director of the UN WFP. During the course of the meeting, Morris stressed the need for a solid partnership between the WFP and the Japanese business community to help end world hunger.⁹²¹

6. Russia: -1

Russia has failed to contribute funds towards the Famine and Food Security Commitment identified at the Sea Island Summit, thus it receives a score of -1, indicating non-compliance. Effort has been seen, however, through Russia's participation in the InterAcademy Council, a global organization of science experts whose members provide advanced knowledge to international bodies such as the UN. In June 2004, a study, "Realizing the promise and potential of African agriculture: Science and technology strategies for improving agricultural productivity and food security in Africa," was published by the InterAcademy Council. Russia sits on the 15-member governing board.⁹²²

7. United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom upheld a high level of compliance in 2004 towards the Food Security and Famine commitments proposed at the Sea Island Summit. This has been achieved through donations for various initiatives that target both the elimination of famine in the Horn of Africa and efforts to raise agricultural productivity.

⁹¹⁸ "Hit by drought and effects of war, Eritrea will need food aid well into 2005 — UN," UN News Centre (NYC) 06 December 2004. Date of Access: 15 January 2005

[www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=12724&Cr=eritrea&Cr1=&Kw1=japan&Kw2=ethiopia&Kw3=].

⁹¹⁹ "Special Programme for Food Security expands in Ethiopia," Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations: NewsRoom (Rome) 17 September 2004. Date of Access: 16 January 2005

[www.fao.org/newsroom/en/news/2004/50515/index.html].

⁹²⁰ "UK's Darfur aid efforts praised," BBC News: UK Edition: Online (London) 10 August 2004. Date of Access: 15 January 2005 [news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/3552114.stm].

⁹²¹ "WFP Chief Appeals to Japanese Corporate Leaders to help fight Rising Global Hunger," United Nations World Food Programme, Press Releases (NYC) 27 October 2004. Date of Access: 15 January 2005

[www.wfp.org/index.asp?section=2].

⁹²² "Study on potential of African agriculture presented to UN," UN News Centre (NYC) 25 June 2004. Date of Access: 15 January 2005

[www.un.org/apps/news/storyAr.asp?NewsID=11162&Cr=agriculture&Cr1=&Kw1=Russia&Kw2=famine&Kw3=Africa].

At the second meeting of the Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Prime Minister Tony Blair restated that Africa would be one of the priorities for the United Kingdom's presidency of the G8.⁹²³ Furthermore, the UK government reaffirmed its support for NEPAD.⁹²⁴ Hilary Benn, Secretary of State for International Development, announced that food needs will be addressed under the additional £28 million that the Department for International Development (DFID) will donate for humanitarian needs in Darfur.⁹²⁵ Since the Sea Island Summit, the government funded £6 million for the World Food Program's (WFP) emergency food assistance for internally displaced people in Darfur, £1.25 million for emergency food assistance to Sudanese refugees in North East-Chad and £1 million for the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) emergency program.⁹²⁶ The October 2004- March 2005 Revised Forward Humanitarian Strategy for Darfur reiterates the United Kingdom's commitment to supporting the WFP to address urgent humanitarian needs as well as strengthening post impact distribution monitoring along with the targeting of recipients.⁹²⁷ In addition, the Humanitarian Strategy states that the United Kingdom will work with the European Commission (EC) for food aid support and evaluate possible contributions by the EC in 2005.⁹²⁸

In order to meet post-drought needs in Somalia, Benn committed an additional £1 million for the United Nations Humanitarian Response Fund.⁹²⁹ DFID has been working in conjunction with the World Bank, WFP, EC, CIDA, USAID, DCI and the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (GFDRE) to design a safety net that would "transit approximately five million predictably (formerly known as chronic) food insecure people out of annual emergency relief (mostly food aid) under the protection of a multi- annual safety net."⁹³⁰

⁹²³ Speech by Prime Minister Tony Blair, at the Second Meeting of the Commission for Africa, 10 Downing Street (London), 07 October 2004. Date of Access: 22 December 2004 [www.number-10.gov.uk/output/Page6452.asp].

⁹²⁴ Report by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on measures taken to support the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification with a particular focus on affected developing country parties in Africa, Department of International Development (London) October 2004. Date of Access: 17 December 2004 [www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/reportdesertificationoct2004.pdf].

⁹²⁵ "Hilary Benn announces additional £28M humanitarian aid for Sudan," Department for International Development (London) 13 July 2004. Date of Access: 13 December 2004 [www.dfid.gov.uk/news/files/pr-humaidforsudan13july04.asp].

⁹²⁶ UK Government -Funded Humanitarian Interventions in Darfur, Sudan, Department for International Development (London) 11 October 2004. Date of Access: 13 December 2004 [www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/darfurprojecttable.pdf].

⁹²⁷ Darfur: Revised Forward Humanitarian Strategy October 2004- March 2005, Department for International Development (London), 11 October 2004. Date of Access: 13 December 2004 [www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/darfurforwardhumstrategy.pdf].

⁹²⁸ Darfur: Revised Forward Humanitarian Strategy October 2004- March 2005, Department for International Development (London), 11 October 2004. Date of Access: 13 December 2004 [www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/darfurforwardhumstrategy.pdf].

⁹²⁹ "UK provides more funding to Somalia's humanitarian needs," Department for International Development (London) 03 December 2004. Date of Access: 13 December 2004 [www.dfid.gov.uk/news/files/pressreleases/pr-somalia-full.asp].

⁹³⁰ "UK provides more funding to Somalia's humanitarian needs," Department for International Development (London) 03 December 2004. Date of Access: 13 December 2004 [www.dfid.gov.uk/news/files/pressreleases/pr-somalia-full.asp].

8. United States: +1

The United States has registered a high level of interim compliance with the commitment made at Sea Island regarding famine and food security in Africa. The United States has focused primarily on providing humanitarian assistance to the crisis in Darfur, Sudan. In late June, Secretary of State Colin Powell visited Darfur and brought heightened awareness to the ongoing crisis.⁹³¹ The US closely supports the African Unions' monitoring missions in Darfur and on September 9, 2004, Secretary Powell announced, "the State Department has identified \$20.5 million in FY04 funds for initial support of this expanded AU mission."⁹³² In October, the US Agency for International Development (USAID) donated \$57 million in food and supplies to the area, increasing the US' total contribution to \$302 million as of October 14, 2004.⁹³³ Furthermore, the USAID's Office of Food for Peace donated food valued at nearly \$44 million US to the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) for two emergency food aid operations in Sudan and Chad; this total includes \$30 million for WFP distribution in Darfur, and \$13.7 million for WFP distribution supporting Darfurian refugees in Chad.⁹³⁴ According to USAID, the combined emergency food aid of more than 50,000 metric tons will allow for mass shipments of food.⁹³⁵

9. European Union: +1

By December 13, 2004, the European Commission had donated US\$187,102,068 to the World Food Programme in 2004, making it the second largest contributor after the United States. Through a number of initiatives, the EU has registered a high level of compliance with respect to the commitment made at the Sea Island Summit.

In December of this year, the European Commission, in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, announced a 3-year long plan where 15 M€ would be used for a programme covering 20 countries, with the aim of improving "the ability of decision makers to target food insecurity and vulnerable people and to take effective action to reduce hunger." Among the countries receiving assistance are Eritrea and the Democratic Republic of Congo, which have experienced food insecurity problems due to ongoing conflict

⁹³¹ "Documenting Atrocities in Darfur," US Department of State (Washington, D.C.) September 2004. Date of Access: 18 December 2004 [www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/36028.htm].

⁹³² Statement by Colin Powell Secretary of State to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, US Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 09 September 2004. Date of Access: 03 January 2005 [www.state.gov/secretary/rm/36042.htm].

⁹³³ "USAID Expedites Humanitarian Funding for the People of Darfur," US Agency for International Development (Washington, D.C.) 14 October 2004. Date of Access: 05 January 2005 [www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2004/pr041014.html].

⁹³⁴ "USAID Expedites Humanitarian Funding for the People of Darfur," US Agency for International Development (Washington, D.C.) 14 October 2004. Date of Access: 05 January 2005 [www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2004/pr041014.html].

⁹³⁵ "USAID Expedites Humanitarian Funding for the People of Darfur," US Agency for International Development (Washington, D.C.) 14 October 2004. Date of Access: 05 January 2005 [www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2004/pr041014.html].

and political instability in their regions.⁹³⁶ In recognizing that issues of food security in Eritrea and Ethiopia are largely due to the ongoing dispute between these two countries, The EU has reiterated its firm commitment to achieving sustainable peace between Ethiopia and Eritrea, on the basis that security and successful national development will only then be possible in the entire region.⁹³⁷

During the *Africa-Europe Dialogue* which took place in Ethiopia at the beginning of December, the EU discussed peace and security across the continent, with the crisis in Sudan, the conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea, and the ongoing peace process in Somalia, being at the forefront. “Ministers expressed satisfaction at the progress made on the issue of food security particularly with regard to the study for the evaluation of existing Early Warning Systems...and expressed the wish to extend the project to include regions not yet covered.”⁹³⁸

Compiled by Orsolya Soos, Lavinia Lee, Nadia O’Brien,
Ines Popovic, Sadia Rafiquddin

⁹³⁶ “European Commission and FAO extend food security programme,” Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (Rome) 21 December 2004. Date of Access: 29 December 2004 [www.fao.org/newsroom/en/news/2004/52521/].

⁹³⁷ Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the peace process between Ethiopia and Eritrea, The Official Website of the Dutch EU Presidency (Brussels) 17 December 2004. Date of Access: 03 January 2005 [www.eu2004.nl/default.asp?CMS_ITEM=F79A8DEC9A0A4A72879CAC6BC88B13A9X1X68173X02].

⁹³⁸ Africa-Europe Dialogue: Third Meeting of the Troikas, Council of the European Union (Addis Ababa) 06 December 2004. Date of Access: 03 January 2005 [europa.eu.int/comm/development/body/eu_africa/docs/comm_addis_4_12_2004.pdf#zoom=100].