



Food crisis effects on poverty and women

31 March, 2009

Overview

- ***The growth of hunger***
- ***The food crisis***
- **Its effects on poverty**
- **Its effects on women**
- ***Donor responses***

Timeline on Hunger

- **1974 – World Food Conference 500million people were hungry – pledge to eradicate hunger in ten years.**
- **1996 – World Food Summit 830million people were hungry – committed to half hunger.**
- **2000 - Millennium Summit – commits to half hunger by 2015.**
- **2008 – High Level Conference on World Food Security 862 million people hungry and the numbers rising.**
- **2009 - Madrid Food Crisis Conference – over a billion people hungry 1 in 6 people go to bed hungry. The number is expected to increase**

Food Prices soar and create a crisis

- ❑ **Food prices rise late 2007 into 2008**
- ❑ **Prices stabilise in many parts of the world in mid-08 but remain higher than before the crisis for many**
- ❑ **Prices for major food crops are expected to remain above 2004 levels into 2015**
- ❑ **Food price volatility is expected to continue**

The effects of the food crisis on poverty

- ❑ ***The poor spend a larger % of their resources on food***
- ❑ ***As prices rise they must eat so they cut back on expensive foods e.g. dairy, lentils – reducing quality and quantity eaten***
- ❑ ***Stop using health and education services – take kids out of school***
- ❑ ***Liquidate savings and assets.***
- ❑ ***The poor get poorer***
- ❑ ***Those on the margins fall into poverty***

The effect on female headed households

- ❑ **Tend to spend more on food**
- ❑ **Have less access to land**
- ❑ **Have less access to agricultural income generating activities**
- ❑ **With rising prices there ability to feed their children is declining. Child malnutrition and mortality is expected to increase greatly**
- ❑ **FAO and others are calling for special safety net programs for them and their children.**

Donor Responses

- ❑ **Some speak of suffering. Others of rising numbers of hungry people as the most 'urgent peace and stability issue of our time'**
- ❑ **Many asking all to meet .07% ODA target**
- ❑ **The MDGs remain a central focus**
- ❑ **World Bank calling for social protection programs including**
 - **Direct food distribution**
 - **Targeted food subsidies**
 - **Cash transfers**
 - **Nutrition programs including school feeding**
 - **Support to children, pregnant women and the elderly.**

The Right to Food

- What can FAO, WFP and IFAD do to support governments to
 - Ensure poor people – women, men and children have access to food
 - Consistent investment in agricultural development that promotes sustainable food security
 - Ensure expenditure on agriculture is linked to eradicating hunger and malnutrition

- What can we do to ensure this right is met.