



# Reaching Sustainable Food Security for All by 2020

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Getting the Priorities and  
Responsibilities Right

# The Human Tragedy

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- Each day 800 million people go hungry
- Among them are 170 million children under 5 years of age



# The World Food Summit Goal

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Halve the number of hungry people by 2015

- **22 million** must achieve food security every year
- Since 1990, only **6 million** a year have left “the prison of hunger”



# IFPRI's 2020 Vision: A World Free from Hunger

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- Every person has access to sufficient food to sustain a healthy and productive life
- Malnutrition is absent
- Food originates from efficient, effective, and low-cost food systems
- Food production is compatible with sustainable natural-resource use

# Progress in the Developing World Since 1970

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- Number of food-insecure people has fallen from 959 million to 780 million
- Percentage of food-insecure people has fallen from 37% to 17%
- Progress has been uneven
  - major reduction in East and Southeast Asia
  - slight increase in South Asia
  - number of hungry people in Sub-Saharan Africa has more than doubled

## Even Less Progress without China

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Between 1991 and 1998

- The number of food-insecure people declined in China by 76 million
- In all other developing countries the number of food-insecure people increased by 40 million

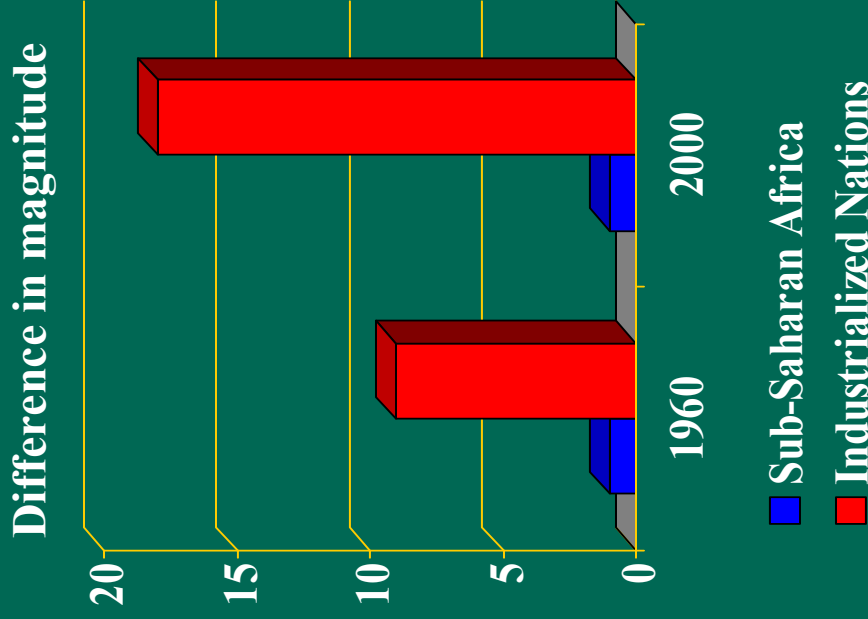
# Uneven Income Distribution

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- 20% of the world's population lives on the equivalent of less than US\$1 a day
- Fully half of the human race earns less than US\$2 a day
- The income of the richest 1% of our planet equals that of the poorest 57%

# The Gap Is Widening

- In 1960 average per capita income in industrialized nations was 9 times the average of Sub-Saharan Africa
- Today it is 18 times



# A Focus on Children

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- One-third of preschool children in developing countries are malnourished
- Malnutrition among preschool children
  - impairs their mental and physical development
  - compromises their future health, productivity, and food security
  - undermines economic growth and social justice

# The Cost of Child Malnutrition

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## Malnutrition

- Is a factor in more than 5 million deaths of children under five
- Accounts for 20-25% of the economic impact of childhood diseases in developing world
- Reduces gross domestic product by 0.7% annually in India and 0.5% in China

# Indicators of Human Development

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In developing countries in the past 30 years

- Life expectancy rose from 56 to 64 years
- Mortality rates of preschool children fell from 167 per 1,000 live births to 89
- Adult literacy rate rose from less than 65% to 73%
- Incomes per capita more than doubled

# Food Availability

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- Improved dramatically in developing countries as a whole during past 30 years
- Daily per capita calorie availability
  - rose from 2,100 to 2,700 in all developing countries, or more than enough to meet minimum needs
  - lags behind in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia
  - remains below minimum requirements in Sub-Saharan Africa

# Agricultural Productivity Increases

## Benefits

- Improved per capita production
- Reduced unit costs and prices
- Increased incomes and purchasing power for farmers and consumers
- Restrained expansion into forests, grasslands, and wildlife habitats, helping to avert natural resource degradation

## Costs

- Increased soil salinity and lowered water tables in irrigated areas
- Exacerbated health and environmental problems through inappropriate use of fertilizer and pesticides



# Where Are We Headed?

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With business as usual there is no possibility of achieving food security for all by 2020

- Number of malnourished children will decline by only 20% by 2020
- Number of food-insecure people will decline from 780 to only 675 million by 2015
- The goal of cutting hunger in half will only be reached by 2050

# Confronting the Causes

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We must address

- food insecurity
- malnutrition
- unsustainable resource management

within the context of nine driving forces

# Nine Driving Forces (I)

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1. Accelerating globalization, including further trade liberalization
2. Sweeping technological changes
3. Degradation of natural resources and increasing water scarcity
4. Emerging, reemerging, and continuing health and nutrition crises

## Nine Driving Forces (II)

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5. Rapid urbanization
6. Changing structure of farming
7. Continued conflict
8. Climate change
9. Changing roles and responsibilities of key actors

# Getting the Priorities Right

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- Rapid pro-poor economic growth
- Effective provision of public goods
- Empowerment of poor people

# Seven High-Priority Policy Actions (I)

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1. Invest in human resources
2. Improve access to productive resources and remunerative employment
3. Improve markets, infrastructure, and institutions

## Seven High-Priority Policy Actions (II)

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4. Expand appropriate research, knowledge, and technology
5. Improve natural resource management
6. Promote good governance
7. Support sound national and international trade and macroeconomic policies

# 1. Investing in Human Resources

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- Improve access to healthcare
- Assure clean water, safe sanitation, and low-cost quality child care
- Fight “hidden hunger”
- Ensure food safety
- Educate girls as well as boys

## 2. Improve Access to Productive Resources and Paid Employment

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- Promote broad-based agricultural and rural development
- Foster secure urban livelihoods
- Promote civil society organizations
- Empower women

### 3. Improve Markets, Infrastructure, and Institutions

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- Ensure that markets are not biased against small farmers, less-favored areas, or food-insecure consumers
- Develop private competitive markets with supporting institutions and infrastructure
- Build competent public administration
- Invest in public goods

## 4. Expand Appropriate Research, Knowledge, and Technology

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- Invest in pro-poor agricultural research
- Make use of the agroecological approach
- Tap the potential of conventional agricultural research
- Explore the potential of modern agricultural biotechnology
- Bridge the “digital divide”
- Pursue affordable alternative energy technologies

## 5. Improve Natural Resource Management

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- Overcome water-related constraints
- Manage soil fertility
- Promote sustainable development in less-favored areas
- Assure property rights and collective action
- Address global climate change

## 6. Promote Good Governance

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- Institute rule of law
- Protect and promote human rights
- Prevent and resolve conflict
- End corruption

## 7. Support Sound National and International Trade and Macroeconomic Policies

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- Make globalization work for poor people
- Expand development assistance
- Undertake debt relief
- Conserve plant genetic resources

# Roles and Responsibilities (I)

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- Governments of developing countries have primary responsibility for
  - creating conditions to end hunger
  - forging partnerships with other sectors
  - ensuring local governments have necessary resources and authority
- Governments of developed countries should
  - put resources behind their pledges
  - relieve unpayable debt of poor countries
  - restructure global trading system

## Roles and Responsibilities (II)

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- Parliaments and judiciaries
  - assure poor people have a political voice
  - promulgate pro-poor policies
  - prevent arbitrary government action
  - ensure that governments fulfill their obligations
- International organizations and multilateral institutions
  - provide development finance, technical assistance, and information
  - provide global public goods
  - facilitate/strengthen international agreements

## Roles and Responsibilities (III)

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- Global and civil society
  - design and implement development activities
  - promote open, vigorous, and peaceful debate
- Transnational business and industry
  - make useful proprietary technologies available
  - provide innovative financial support to sustainable development
  - practice social responsibility

# Roles and Responsibilities (IV)

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- Domestic private sector, including farmers
  - produce food
  - develop markets
  - support credit institutions
  - invest in small enterprises that employ people and develop skills

Food-insecure people are important actors in achieving food security, not passive victims

# Food Security for All Is Affordable

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Public and private investments will be needed to achieve IFPRI's 2020 Vision

- Investments to reduce number of malnourished children by 34 million by 2020 amount to just 3.6% of total spending by developing-country governments
- A more optimistic future with 72 million fewer malnourished children by 2020 requires that investments increase to 4.9%

# Costs and Benefits

Global investment 1997-2020`	Number of malnourished children in 2020 compared to 1997
US\$323 billion	12 million more
US\$579 billion	<b>34 million less</b>
US\$802 billion	<b>72 million less</b>

# The Need for Political Will

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## Political will means

- Placing food security higher on the agenda
- New partnerships, new programs, new institutions, and new ways of thinking
- Economic and political empowerment of poor people
  - governments must be held accountable to their own citizens and to international public opinion
  - institutions are needed that represent the interests of food-insecure people
  - national governments, the private sector, and civil society must put the well-being of poor and hungry people at the top of their priority lists
  - global advocacy effort is needed to push for food security for all



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