

THE POOREST AND HUNGRY

Assessments,
Analyses, and
Actions



Edited by Joachim von Braun,
Ruth Vargas Hill,
and Rajul Pandya-Lorch

"This valuable book provides deep insight into the nature of the poverty trap for the ultra poor who live on less than 50 cents a day. It is admirably clear in identifying the policies, actions, and political and institutional changes if they are to be helped to escape from this poverty trap."

—Tom Arnold, CEO, Concern Worldwide, Ireland

"This is a valuable addition to IFPRI's many publications on food policy, poverty, and development. Like most other IFPRI publications, the 51 articles assembled in this book are based on high-quality research by well-known policymakers or professionals covering a wide range of countries. The insights and lessons presented here will be of considerable value to all stakeholders pursuing the Millennium Development Goal of halving poverty by 2015."

—Sartaj Aziz, Former Finance Minister and Foreign Minister, Pakistan

"This book combines state-of-the-art reviews, country and program case studies, and hands-on accounts of successes and failures to produce a rarity: a really useful and constructive book on reducing hunger and extreme poverty."

—Michael Lipton, Research Professor, Poverty Research Unit, University of Sussex, UK

"Countries that have over the last generation made great progress in reducing hunger and poverty are those that decided to pursue their own destiny and take charge of the future on their own terms. This book underscores that it is not just economic policies that matter for the poorest, but also social policies and inclusion underpinned by political and institutional change."

—Peter McPherson, President, National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges, USA

"Although a lot of research initiatives on poverty reduction have been undertaken by national governments and development partners over the last forty years, it is only recently that ultra poverty has become an area of focus. This book investigates and describes the nature and causes of ultra poverty in its many dimensions in a comprehensive and insightful manner. More importantly, it outlines a road map for addressing the challenges. I hope that all development practitioners and donors read this book."

—Haris Mule, former Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Kenya

"The findings of IFPRI's latest work are significant to the Asia and Pacific region and to the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in fulfilling its vision of Asia and the Pacific free of poverty. This book advocates that a new approach is needed to address persistent ultra poverty, through supporting inclusive growth, addressing the perverse dynamics of the ultra poor, and removing political barriers. Deeper knowledge and understanding about the ultra poor, who exist even in the growing economies of Asia, and the political economy that surrounds them, are essential for a multilateral finance institution like the ADB to address the complex challenges of eradicating ultra poverty."

—Ursula Schäfer-Preuss, Vice President, Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development, Asian Development Bank, Philippines

"The global food crisis, characterized by sharp increases in international commodity prices over 2005-2008, is presaging continued high prices and price volatility and will lead to a more uncertain world food security situation. Hunger and poverty will be a major policy concern of every government as well as of agricultural research and educational institutions. This book lays out the major issues in poverty reduction through the application of sound analytical methodologies. It will serve as an important source of information for policy makers and researchers, as well as practitioners, in their future work."

—Huqu Zhai, President, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, China

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RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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