

Briefing Note

Thirty-eighth Session of the FAO Conference Rome, (15 - 22 June 2013)

Special Event: “Recognizing outstanding progress in fighting hunger”

(Plenary Hall, Sunday, 16 June 2013, 15:00-18:00)

The countries participating in the World Food Summit, convened by FAO in Rome on 13 November 1996, pledged their “*political will and their common and national commitment to achieving food security for all and to an ongoing effort to eradicate hunger in all countries, with an immediate view to halve the number of undernourished people no later than 2015.*” (World Food Summit Declaration)

In 2000, 189 Nations at the United Nations’ General Assembly pledged to free people from multiple deprivations, recognizing that every individual has the right to dignity, freedom, equality, and a basic standard of living that includes freedom from hunger and violence, and encourages tolerance and solidarity. This pledge translated into the formulation of eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which were then made operational by setting targets to be achieved by 2015, and selecting indicators to track progress. MDG one states the wish to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.

In light of FAO’s vision and mandate towards a world free of hunger and malnutrition, the Organization is at the forefront in both contributing to the goal of eradicating hunger, and monitoring progress towards the achievement of the two targets. Since 1999, FAO presents estimates of the *prevalence of undernourishment* and of the *number of undernourished people* for virtually all countries in the world.

The prevalence of undernourishment measures the likely proportion of the population with insufficient caloric intake, averaged over a three-year period. The prevalence is then multiplied with the resident population to provide an estimate of the number of people likely to suffer from chronic hunger in a given country.

FAO has decided to honour achievements in combating hunger and to recognize countries that have made outstanding progress in improving food security for their citizens by awarding them a Diploma. A Special Event on “Recognizing outstanding progress in fighting hunger” will be held at FAO headquarters in Rome on Sunday, 16 June 2013 from 15:00 to 18:00 hours, during the 38th Session of the FAO Conference.

The event will recognize:

- (i) Countries that have already attained the World Food Summit (WFS) target, having reduced by half or more the number of undernourished estimated in 1990/92; (18 countries) *Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cuba, Djibouti, Georgia, Ghana, Guyana, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Nicaragua, Peru, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Thailand, Turkmenistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.*
- (ii) Countries that have already attained the Millennium Development Goal One (MDG) Target 1.C, having reduced the prevalence of undernourishment by 50 percent or more compared to the level of 1990/92, or reduced it below 5 percent; (20 countries): *Algeria, Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Brazil, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chile, Dominican Republic, Fiji, Honduras, Indonesia, Jordan, Malawi, Maldives, Niger, Nigeria, Panama, Togo and Uruguay.*

Countries in the two groups were identified on the basis of FAO estimates of the Prevalence of Undernourishment and Number of People Undernourished published in 2012 issue of the State of Food Insecurity in World, as well as additional information that has become available since the publication of that report.

Detailed data on the FAO estimates of the Prevalence of Undernourishment, the Number of People Undernourished as well as other food security indicators are accessible from the FAO Food Security Indicators website <http://www.fao.org/economic/ess/ess-fs/ess-fadata/en/>.

All FAO member countries are invited to participate in the event.