

**Hunger Envoy Report  
Report to the Government of Ireland**



Cover: Mildred Malanga and son Kwamas (2) from Zambia received high quality cassava clippings with the support of Irish Aid. Photo: Daniel Rowan

## Preface

In January 2009, I was honoured to be asked by Minister for Foreign Affairs Micheál Martin and Minister of State for Overseas Development Peter Power to take on the role of Ireland's Special Envoy for Hunger. Prior to that I had been a member of the Irish Government's Hunger Task Force whose report, launched in September 2008, had clearly set out a number of actions which it was felt should be taken to make Ireland's response to the global hunger crisis more effective.

In particular it proposed a special focus on:

- Increasing the productivity of smallholder farmers, mainly women farmers in Africa;
- Implementing programmes focused on maternal and infant undernutrition; and
- Ensuring real political commitment, at national and international levels, to give hunger the priority it deserves.

My remit as Special Envoy for Hunger has been to work with both Ministers in bringing forward the Report of the Hunger Task Force, and to advise on lessons that could serve to inform Irish hunger reduction activities and policy in the future.

In the course of my work I have had the opportunity to visit Irish programmes in Ethiopia, Lesotho, Malawi and Tanzania; I have had discussions with host government representatives, with donors, NGOs, academics and officials of the Irish Government Departments most directly engaged in hunger reduction efforts; I have held discussions with the main UN food agencies with a view to having a closer alignment of priorities identified by the Hunger Task Force within their programmes; and I have visited some of the key international agricultural research institutes engaged in food security issues and which are partnered with Irish Aid. Throughout, I have sought to help develop a coordinated response to the Hunger Task Force Report, and to give advice on the implementation of most of its recommendations.

This report attempts to provide a synthesis of the key elements of Ireland's response so far, and identifies some of the areas where I believe even stronger attention would be appropriate in the future.

The experience of the past two years has strongly confirmed my view that Ireland has a critical role to play in efforts to tackle global hunger. Already very active, both in a wide range of programme and research initiatives, and widely recognised as a very strong international political leader on the issue, Ireland is, I believe, very well positioned to make a real difference in future efforts to eliminate one of the great scandals of our time.



**Kevin Farrell**

Special Envoy for Hunger  
November 2010





Kevin Farrell with Tigrayan woreda agriculture officers in Sessie Tsade Amba, Ethiopia, May 2009. Photo: Simon Clements

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## Executive summary

The launch of the report of Ireland's Hunger Task Force (HTF) in September 2008 set in motion several significant developments in Ireland's approach to the global food security crisis. The adoption by the Irish Government of hunger as a cornerstone of Ireland's foreign policy, and a particular priority of its overseas development programme, as well as the pledge to spend at least 20% of its ODA on hunger by 2012, were both crucial in this regard.

A Hunger Unit was established in Irish Aid specifically to manage the Government's response, and a strong policy direction was adopted throughout the overseas aid programme and more broadly within the Department of Foreign Affairs to reflect this new prioritisation. At the same time, Ireland greatly increased its efforts on several fronts to advocate for improvements in the global response to the crisis.

And significantly, most Irish Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) began a similar process with a much stronger focus on programmes and advocacy efforts designed to tackle the causes and effects of hunger.

Nevertheless, in late 2010, the global food situation remains bleak. No real inroads have yet been made in reducing any of the key indicators of hunger. Still, over 925 million people or 14% of the world's population are undernourished, a very marginal reduction from the figure in 2009. This means that as many as 10,000 children a day still die as a consequence of being undernourished.

The small overall annual increases in food production globally are unfortunately being offset by even higher rates of growth in population. And on top of this, the effects of climate change are being especially felt in many of the marginal or over cultivated areas of the world, precisely the areas where food insecurity and undernutrition have been most critical.

But not all is negative; some encouraging things are beginning to happen. For example investment in agriculture, which over the last two decades of the previous century had declined quite catastrophically, is once again showing some modest increase. This is the result both of national governments' own increases in their budgetary allocations, and from external donors who have begun to show some seemingly genuine commitment to reverse the trend of the previous years' underinvestment in the sector.

Similarly we find that in several developing countries and among key donors, steps are at last being taken to tackle undernutrition more directly - a recognition of the now well accepted fact that spending on nutrition is the single investment which is most likely to bring the greatest return in terms of poverty reduction.

So what of Ireland's efforts?

Firstly, in respect of programme response, what is especially important is that the prioritisation of hunger has now very largely been accepted and is already being actively adopted within both the bilateral aid programme and by most NGO partners.

Development programmes in several of Ireland's partner countries already reflect this strong hunger and food security focus with some very innovative and effective work already underway. In others, where food security had not previously been a high national or programme priority, it is evident that efforts are now being made to reorient programmes to include a stronger hunger response.

Secondly, in what is a very important indication of reprioritisation, Ireland has, ever since the launch of the HTF report, been increasingly active in efforts to 'make a difference' in respect of nutrition. This has included encouragement for its prioritisation in the planning and budgeting of governments, the promotion of programmes and projects with clear nutrition outcomes, the incorporation of nutrition objectives into existing agriculture and livelihoods programmes, and support for efforts to put undernutrition at the top of various international agenda.

Thirdly, alongside programme interventions and the complementary work being done to promote policy modifications at country level, the past two years have seen an increased advocacy effort with donor partners. It is arguably in this sector, as a catalyst for change in the global approach to hunger, that Ireland has maximised its impact. Recently, and perhaps most significantly, has been the forging of a very strong partnership with the United States of America in prioritising hunger and food security within development efforts, and especially in the focus on prevention and reduction of chronic undernutrition.

To a very large extent, the evolving approach to poverty reduction being taken by most Irish NGOs has likewise reflected the now clearer focus given by the Hunger Task Force. Attention to some of the specific recommendations and prioritisations, e.g. on women farmers, on micro financing and market development, on promoting better access to food, on prevention of undernutrition, are all now very evident in NGO thinking.

Similarly, several NGOs continue to play a strong and valued role as advocates, inter alia for increased resources to be made available internationally and within Ireland to tackle hunger, for greater policy coherence, for stronger and more coordinated responses from multilateral bodies, and most importantly for the higher prioritisation of food security and nutrition within developing country governments.

While reaffirming the continued relevance of the three broad themes for Ireland's hunger response as recommended by the Hunger Task Force, the current report lists a number of recommendations or suggestions for actions which it is felt could enhance the efforts of both Government and NGOs in their response.

These include a more robust effort to understand the impact of, and draw lessons from, ongoing programmes in both agriculture and nutrition, a strong endorsement of the key role which Ireland is playing in respect of a scaled up nutrition response, and further encouragement to government and non government bodies alike to continue to give voice to issues seen to inhibit an effective resolution of this massive global catastrophe.



# Chapter 1 Background

## 1.1 Ireland's Hunger Task Force

The 2006 White Paper on Irish Aid identified hunger and food security as fundamental elements of the global development challenge. On foot of this the Irish Government established a Hunger Task Force, bringing together Irish and international expertise, to identify the additional, appropriate and effective contributions that Ireland could make to international efforts to reduce global hunger, with a particular focus on Africa<sup>1</sup>.

Throughout 2007 and 2008 the HTF carried out its work, and its Report was successfully launched in September 2008 at United Nations (UN) Headquarters in New York in the presence of the Taoiseach and the UN Secretary-General.

The Task Force identified **three specific priorities** which it considered could have a real impact in terms of reducing hunger:

- **Increase smallholder agricultural productivity** particularly in Africa – underlining the fact that the vast majority of African smallholders are women;
- **Target maternal and infant undernutrition** – recognising the importance of nutrition, especially during pregnancy and in the first 24 months of a child's life;
- **Focus on governance and leadership priorities** – this was an overarching theme which has three key elements:
  - the importance of leadership and the adoption of effective policies in developing countries;
  - the necessity for developed countries to honour their commitments to reduce hunger and undernutrition; and
  - the need to increase the priority given to hunger and undernutrition at the international level.

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<sup>1</sup> A list of the members of the HTF is included in Annex 2.

## **1.2 Special Envoy's Role**

A recommendation of the HTF was that Government '*appoint a Special Envoy for Hunger to ensure that the recommendations of the Hunger Task Force are implemented. The Special Envoy would engage across Government and with relevant NGOs in Ireland and could represent Ireland in important international fora*'. Acting on this recommendation, in January 2009 I was appointed as Special Envoy for Hunger by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of State for Overseas Development<sup>2</sup>.

## **1.3 Current Report**

The purpose of this document is to provide an independent overview of the scale and effectiveness of both the national and international response to global hunger and food insecurity in the context of the recommendations contained in Ireland's Hunger Task Force Report; and to advise on lessons that could serve to inform hunger reduction activities and policies in the future.

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<sup>2</sup> Terms of Reference as shown in Annex 3.

## 2 Global Hunger – What has happened since the publication of the Hunger Task Force Report?

### 2.1 The Situation in 2010

The HTF Report in 2008 highlighted the fact that 860 million people were going hungry. Two years later, the problem is now even more serious. According to the latest estimates by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), currently over 925 million people or some 14 % of the world's population are undernourished. Seven out of ten of these are women and girls.

The international community seems to be unable to meet any of its targets. Take the two most important as examples:

- The 1996 World Food Summit set the target of halving the *number* of hungry people during the period from 1990 to 2015;
- In 2000, the UN's first **Millennium Development Goal** (MDG) was more modest. It was to halve the *proportion* of hungry people during the same period from 1990 to 2015.

On current form, it is now evident that neither of these hunger targets is going to be achieved.<sup>3</sup> Instead, for much of South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa in particular, the trend is clearly in reverse.

What is particularly disturbing in the context of the MDG target is that it is precisely those regions which account for the largest *absolute numbers* of undernourished, (South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa) where progress has been slowest:

- In South Asia, some 48% of children under five years of age are currently underweight as compared with 46% in 2005;
- In Sub-Saharan Africa 28% are underweight – a tiny improvement from 29% in 2005<sup>4</sup>.

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3 IFPRI 'Halving Hunger; Meeting the First Millennium Development Goal through Business as Unusual' 2010

4 UN 'The Millennium Development Goals Report' 2009

## **2.2 What has happened in the key focus areas identified in the HTF Report - Smallholder agricultural productivity; Maternal and infant undernutrition; and Governance & Leadership?**

Overall progress has been generally slow, although a few recent developments have given rise to some cautious optimism.

**Smallholder agricultural productivity:** We are witnessing some modest increases in global production, though critically the growth rate is still less than that of population growth - and significantly below growth in global demand for food. The hike in global food prices in the past few years, and especially the very steep rises in 2008 and in recent months, have led to real hardship and consequent food riots in some parts of the world.

At the same time, however, it appears that we are witnessing the beginnings of an increased worldwide investment in agriculture: by national governments; by private sector interests; and by donors. This marks an important reversal of the downward trend in investment in agriculture which we witnessed over the previous 20 years. However, the extent to which this is impacting on the most vulnerable smallholders, and in particular women farmers, remains problematic.





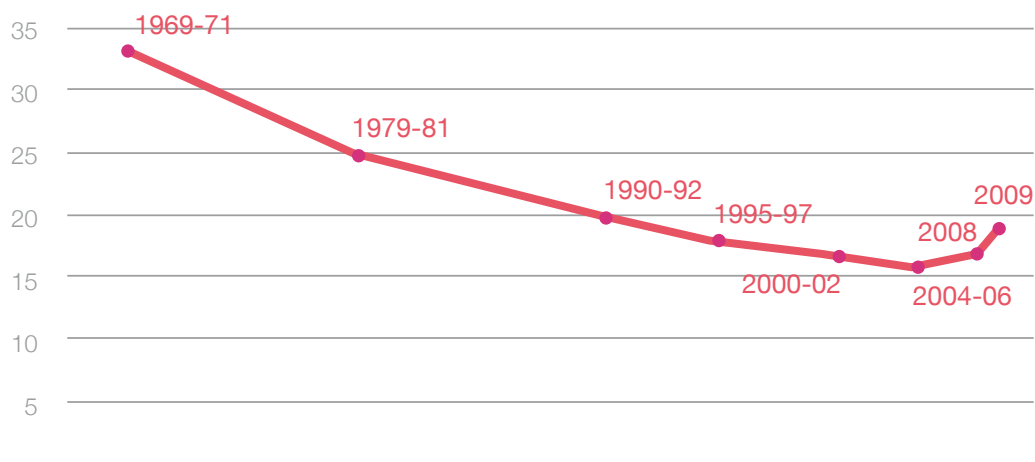
Beneficiaries of the Productive Safty Net Programme in Ethiopia doing public works in Sassie Tsade Amba, Tigray Region, May 2009.  
Photo: Fiona Quinn.



**Maternal and infant undernutrition:** the picture continues to be one of a continuing crisis, but one which until very recently was still being spoken of in ‘whispers’ rather than in ‘shouts from the rooftops’. A staggering 10,000 children per day are still dying from causes brought about by undernutrition. Globally, nearly one third of all children under five grow up chronically undernourished which damages them for life. Particularly disturbing is that previous improvements up until 2004 in the proportion of undernourished in developing countries has begun to show signs of reversal – see Table 1.

Table 1. The declining trend in the proportion of undernourished in developing countries has been reversed.

### Percentage of undernourished



Source: FAO

**Governance & leadership:** Here we can see signs of positive developments. As well as the apparent increased prioritisation of agriculture (see paragraph above), there is now much greater international attention being given to the hitherto silent crisis of undernutrition. This includes:

- The “1,000 Days” Campaign launched jointly by the United States (US) Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Minister Micheál Martin at the recent MDG Summit in New York – highlighting internationally that the period of greatest vulnerability to nutritional deficiencies is the ‘first 1,000 days’ - and hence that interventions targeted at prevention during this period are of such critical importance.
- International recognition of the particular importance of tackling the root causes of *chronic* undernutrition – particularly involving issues of agricultural diversification, general health and sanitation, food utilisation, fortification, and the encouragement of better weaning practices.

- The highlighting of undernutrition as a key component of the United States' commitment to a new food security strategy (Feed the Future) aimed at accelerating progress toward MDG 1. US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has very strongly emphasised undernutrition as a vitally important common thread that cuts across every sector in development assistance, and particularly in relation to their food security strategy.
- The inclusion of a strong nutrition focus in the new European Union (EU) Policy Framework to Assist Developing Countries in Addressing Food Security Challenges, and in the recent paper on Humanitarian Food Assistance in emergency and post-emergency situations.
- The recent Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN) Framework, with its associated roadmap, which has now been endorsed by over 100 agencies, governments - including Ireland - bodies, academic institutions, and NGOs. This framework aims to deliver on a set of targets, through actions in a wide range of sectors, and particularly in countries where the burden of chronic undernutrition is highest. It may well mark a real opportunity for a global movement to work towards increasing investment in nutrition.

### 2.3 Other factors of growing importance during the period under review

Since the publication of the Report of the HTF, a number of factors have come more into focus and have added to the complexity of tackling the problem of global hunger. These include:

- **Climate change** is now identified as a growing global challenge and perhaps its greatest impact will be an increase in the scale and intensity of hunger<sup>5</sup>. Again it is those countries that today face the greatest challenge in feeding themselves that are likely to suffer most from the impact of climate change.
- **The international financial and economic crisis** is having an especially negative effect on income levels in developing countries. The effects of the rapid fall in investment and employment are obvious. However, perhaps its greatest immediate impact is in terms of the dramatic reduction in remittances from emigrants to their families in developing countries. Coupled with this is the recent volatility in world food prices, in part a result of increased demand from 'emerging states', and partly a result of export restrictions, especially by countries affected by climatic upheavals such as drought and flooding.
- **The continuing rapid population growth** across the world is adding significantly to the challenge. The UN estimates that the world's population will increase from 6.8 billion today to surpass 9.1 billion by 2050, and that most of this growth will take place in developing countries, and most critically that rates of migration from rural to urban areas are likely to accelerate rapidly. The net result of this is that, according to the FAO, simply to meet the increased global demand for food in 2050, agricultural production would need to increase by over 70%.

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5 Oxfam Briefing Paper 'Suffering the Science: Climate Change, People and Poverty', July 2009

## 3 How has Ireland responded to the Report of the Hunger Task Force?

***“The analysis is there; the commitments are there; but as long as we do not act on those commitments, we will never eradicate hunger and starvation from our world.”*** Hunger Task Force Report

This chapter will look at the key elements of the response to the recommendations of the Hunger Task Force, both by Government and by Ireland as a whole. It is based on a series of visits to some of Ireland’s Programme Countries and to key International Organisations, and on meetings with stakeholders in Ireland. In the course of these visits, I had meetings with a wide range of interlocutors in Government; International Organisations; Academia; Civil Society & NGOs.

The context of discussions was the question - What is Ireland doing to prioritise the three key areas identified by the Hunger Task Force as having the potential to have a real impact on hunger reduction?

- **Increase smallholder agricultural productivity, with a particular focus on women, in sub-Saharan Africa**
- **Target maternal and infant undernutrition**
- **Focus on governance and leadership priorities**

Annexed to this report is my work programme (Annex 1) which provides a more detailed account of my field visits to the Irish Aid programmes.

In this section I would propose to highlight the main themes of what I found.

### 3.1 Increase Smallholder Agricultural Productivity

Recognising that an agriculture-led poverty reduction strategy is one key way to address persistent food unavailability, Ireland is now supporting, through both bilateral, NGO and multilateral channels, a broad range of initiatives targeting smallholder producers in Africa – many of these are covered in Annex 1. As well as this range of specific projects and programmes, Ireland has prioritised two major initiatives targeted at sub-Saharan Africa:

### **(i) Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)**

CGIAR is a coordinating mechanism linking the fifteen main international agricultural research institutes. For several years Ireland has provided substantial support to CGIAR, with core funding to eight of its fifteen regional centres as well as specific in-country support to CGIAR programmes in Malawi and Ethiopia.

The Hunger Task Force identified investment in agricultural research and innovation as a key component of an effective hunger response. This was not just a call for research, but also a call for its effective dissemination. It is essential that substantially greater efforts are taken to ensure that smallholder farmers benefit from the results of research. I found it very encouraging that Ireland continues to treat this as a priority and continues to strongly support both research and its effective dissemination to smallholders in Africa.

Ireland has been actively engaged in the ongoing reform of CGIAR, the aim of which is to improve coherence between individual research centres, better application of research findings/knowledge transfer, and in ensuring that the research itself is more demand-driven. In this connection, I very much welcome the very important link which has recently been forged between Ireland and CGIAR with the appointment of Concern Worldwide's Chief Executive, and former member of Ireland's Hunger Task Force, Mr Tom Arnold as a member of the Board of CGIAR.

### **(ii) Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)**

Among the newer initiatives providing financial assistance to the agriculture sector is the African Union's – New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). As part of this new Economic Partnership, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme has been established. I believe that this initiative has great potential for generating agricultural-led growth in Africa.

CAADP works on four main pillars or programmes:

- (i) improving and extending land and water management;
- (ii) increasing market access through improved rural infrastructure and trade-related interventions to improve competitiveness;
- (iii) increasing food supply and reducing hunger across the region by increasing smallholder productivity and improving responses to food emergency crises; and
- (iv) improving agricultural research and disseminating appropriate new technologies.

Consistent with the priorities of the HTF, Ireland has supported the CAADP process at both international and national levels, providing funds through the Multi Donor Trust Fund and working to ensure that there is more widespread donor commitment to the Programme. This is in addition to support for national CAADP programmes aligned to the objectives and priorities of the agricultural frameworks in Malawi and in Tanzania.

### 3.2 Target Maternal and Infant Undernutrition

Consistent with the findings of the Hunger Task Force, Ireland has essentially adopted a three pronged approach to addressing undernutrition:

- Supporting programmes designed to address chronic and acute undernutrition;
- Advocating for a more central position for “nutrition” within governments; and
- Strong global advocacy for a higher prioritisation, including increased resources, for nutrition efforts.

I was pleased to note that in all the countries which I visited Ireland is now a strong advocate for a more central role for nutrition within government – a message which is, I believe, being generally well received. It includes encouraging a better balance in policy between increased production, availability, and access to food, the importance of a multisectoral approach to nutrition, and hence the need for a more comprehensive strategy to be adopted in tackling food insecurity generally.

In terms of programme response, I would like to highlight one particular programme funded by Ireland which is already having a major impact. Ireland, through support to a partnership between Valid International (a commercial company run on a not-for-profit basis) and Concern Worldwide, has helped pioneer the development of an important system to treat severe acute malnutrition.

The approach, now known as Community-Based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) emphasises the early identification of acutely malnourished children, and their treatment in a community setting, using simple sachets of Ready-To-Use-Therapeutic Food manufactured and distributed by Valid International. This approach – replacing hospital care with a less expensive community care model - has proven to be very successful in increasing the numbers of children treated in a more cost effective manner and has now been endorsed as best practice by the UN.

The key element in the programme is the development and, where feasible, local production of (RUTF). Already, local production in Africa, using local ingredients, has sharply reduced the costs of RUTF. Currently, the possibility of introducing a CMAM programme to the Indian sub-continent is being explored - a development which could have a massive impact on undernutrition in a region where rates of undernutrition are among the highest in the world.





Women waiting to weigh their children at Mtengowanthenge Hospital, Malawi.  
Photo: Daniel Rowan.

### **3.3 Promoting Governance and Leadership action**

It is arguably in this sector, as a catalyst for change in the global approach to hunger, that Ireland has maximised its impact over the past two years. Since the publication of the Report of the Hunger Task Force in late 2008, the Government has been playing a pivotal leadership role in the fight against global hunger. It has designated hunger as a cornerstone of Ireland's foreign policy and a particular priority of its overseas development programme, and made a commitment that 20% of ODA would be used to combat hunger by 2012. This clear prioritisation of hunger at political level has certainly reinforced Ireland's stature and credibility on the hunger agenda, which has been underpinned by the strong personal commitment of Minister for Foreign Affairs, Micheál Martin and Minister of State for Overseas Development, Peter Power.

Perhaps the most public illustration of Ireland's global leadership on hunger was during the Millennium Development Goals Summit at the United Nations in New York in September 2010. US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Minister Micheál Martin co-hosted a very high profile meeting of international leaders, including the UN Secretary-General, to galvanise international action to combat undernutrition in pregnant women and children under the age of two – the "1,000 Days" Campaign. This was followed by a discussion involving key international experts, moderated by Minister of State Peter Power and Dr Rajiv Shah, the head of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), on overcoming the challenges to combating undernutrition.

I have also been encouraged to note that the central messages of the Hunger Task Force have been regularly presented by Government Ministers and by other senior representatives in discussions at EU level, with partner Governments, at high level meetings of the UN, World Bank and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and with other donor Governments including the US, UK and Spain.

At the EU, Ireland has been especially active in advocating that greater priority be attached to achieving the first MDG on hunger, and has worked with others to bring about the adoption of a recent EU Policy Framework to Assist Developing Countries in Addressing Food Security Challenges.

It may be noted that not all EU Member States have the same focus on the first MDG as Ireland, and I believe Ireland's efforts have been important in keeping hunger issues high on the EU's agenda.

Several Irish NGOs have also been very active in this and other advocacy work around hunger, at the international policy level, among fellow NGOs, with partner governments, and with the general public in Ireland and abroad. This work is well recognised as playing a very important role in the overall effort to eliminate hunger.

## 4 Conclusions and Recommendations

It is evident that the three broad themes set out by Ireland's HTF remain highly relevant, and should be maintained as the guiding principles of Ireland's effort to combat hunger. What I have attempted in this section is to flag or reinforce a few particular points which I believe could be given an increased emphasis in the coming years. They are presented as suggestions for actions which could enhance the already very effective and comprehensive efforts of Ireland, both of Government and of NGOs.

- 1 It is essential that as new programmes are being developed in agriculture and nutrition, whether bilaterally or through partners, that these themes continue to be given due priority. In this respect, I would again merely underline the focus on the smallholder farmer sector, on the special needs of women – both in their capacity as farmers, non-farm income earners, and frequently as household heads - and also that we give even more attention than heretofore to issues around the reduction and prevention of chronic undernutrition. This applies both to programmes being designed to address specific aspects of food insecurity but also, and perhaps more so, in respect of sector wide agriculture programmes where, as a donor, we may have less of an opportunity for direct oversight.
- 2 To ensure that priorities are addressed, and particularly to know what 'difference' we are making, more work will be needed to demonstrate programme achievements. In this regard, and while recognising the firm commitment of Irish Aid to a results based approach to aid effectiveness, I would simply restate the imperative of:
  - A robust evidence-based analysis of the problems being addressed, and a very thorough identification and clear understanding of the strategies being adopted within programme areas.
  - The vital necessity, despite well recognised difficulties, of building into all programme interventions a thorough monitoring system so that the *real impact*, especially at household or family level, can be better understood.
- 3 While programme appraisal and monitoring are essential components across the spectrum of programme responses, I would especially encourage their strong incorporation into NGO programmes, in that these often start on a relatively smaller scale, are usually local rather than national in coverage, and in some cases may not be so closely aligned with national government priorities. Greater emphasis on both

a strong research foundation, baseline data and an understanding of impact would help avoid creating relatively small scale 'oases' of excellence, programmes which for different reasons are often not scaled up or extended into other areas, and whose lessons are often not being adequately incorporated into national policy.

#### **4.1 Increase Smallholder Agricultural Productivity**

- 4 Ireland's particular priorities in the agriculture sector are now well established and are broadly accepted both within existing programmes and in those being developed. At this point only some minor additions are suggested. These would include further encouragement for the scaling-up of measures designed to assist communities adapt and respond to climate change, such as the promotion of conservation agriculture, agro-forestry, and crop diversification, as well as in the development and promotion of crop and livestock varieties better able to withstand climate shocks.
- 5 Also in the context of climate change response, consideration could be given to:
  - Supporting the development of national and local Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) strategies and encouraging their inclusion within the planning and budgeting processes of partner countries;
  - Encouraging, in conjunction with development partners, new and innovative programmes such as those which help improve national and regional weather forecasting, providing timely information to farmers, and improving agro-meteorological early warning systems.
- 6 Given the high returns known to flow from investment in global agricultural research, I would encourage Ireland to continue to give strong priority to such efforts, both at a bilateral level through national research institutions, and through CGIAR centres with whom Ireland already has a close relationship. Specifically in relation to CGIAR and its ongoing reform, I would underline the importance of Ireland advocating for:
  - Stronger linkages between CGIAR and national agriculture research institutes and systems so that research is more needs-driven and can be applied rapidly, effectively, and at scale;
  - Even closer engagement by CGIAR centres with smallholder farmers, and especially with women farmers, so that as far as possible research is focused on Ireland's priority target groups;
  - Further research to be undertaken on how agriculture can in various contexts be adapted towards achieving stronger nutrition outcomes at a local level;
  - Closer alignment between CGIAR and other global efforts to address the massive challenges of climate change and energy shortages. This could for example include collaboration on research into some currently contentious areas such as on the use of land and other resources for the production of biofuels, and even in the development of genetically modified crops. Both of these scientific



developments are already having a huge impact on the global food situation and hence their potential benefits and risks need to be very well understood in the context of global efforts to tackle hunger.

- 7 Collaboration between Ireland's agricultural research sector and CGIAR, although growing, remains somewhat limited especially when compared to the linkages enjoyed by research institutions in other comparable donor countries. This is an area which would appear to offer some potential for development, notwithstanding the significant initial work required to identify and open up appropriate areas for cooperation, and especially in accessing the financial resources to make such an engagement feasible. Such a development would, however, add value to Ireland's direct engagement with both CGIAR bodies and with other institutions engaged in global agriculture research.
- 8 NGOs should likewise explore possibilities for even closer collaboration with the research community in the design, implementation and evaluation of programmes. There appear to be real opportunities to link more closely with both national research institutions and with CGIAR Centres as potential 'knowledge partners'. From discussions with several of the latter, I believe most would welcome such an approach - particularly in that such collaboration would provide them with a closer linkage to field operations.

#### **4.2 Target Maternal and Infant Undernutrition**

- 9 The very significantly increased prioritisation being given to nutrition in the past two years, in large part an outcome of the report of the Hunger Task Force, should be maintained. Ireland's efforts, including both the advocacy referred to elsewhere, as well as the work being done to develop a range of appropriate programmatic responses, should be further encouraged, with opportunities also explored to include an even stronger nutritional dimension in existing agriculture and livelihoods programmes.
- 10 Ireland's particular efforts could in the immediate future focus on:
  - Further advocacy to have nutrition and nutritional objectives more strategically positioned within governments, emphasising the importance of inter-sectoral strategies, and particularly in ensuring the closer integration of nutrition in the work of both Agriculture and Health Ministries;
  - Identifying stronger programmatic interventions which might have an immediate impact on the prevention and reduction of chronic undernutrition. Such efforts could include support for food fortification and micronutrient supplementation, education on nutrition and hygiene - particularly for girls, promotion of exclusive breast feeding, as well as support for well planned and implemented social safety net programmes which can demonstrate a clear impact on the reduction/prevention of chronic undernutrition.



- Continuing support both for further research on developing appropriate RUTF to prevent chronic undernutrition, as well as for the rapid geographical expansion of ongoing programmes treating acute malnutrition within a community setting - the CMAM approach. In the case of the latter, support should include the further development of RUTF products which are based on locally-grown foods.

### 4.3 Focus on Governance and Leadership Priorities

11 The central messages and priorities of the Hunger Task Force should continue to be kept up front and central in Ireland's engagement on hunger. This is an area where Ireland can and does make a difference, and with our own history of famine we have a particular credibility internationally on this issue. Ireland should now further build on its relationship with the United States as joint advocates for global efforts to fight hunger and especially in the prioritisation of nutrition responses. Ireland should also continue to take a leading role at the EU level, advocating for greater priority to be given to achieving the first MDG on hunger, and particularly for the allocation of the resources necessary to achieving the goal.

12 To underpin this strategy, it is important that Ireland continue to prioritise hunger within its own development cooperation programme. Crucially, the pledge made on several occasions to spend at least 20% of ODA on hunger by 2012 would appear to be on track and this is to be warmly welcomed. What would, in my view, send a further very important signal of leadership on the issue would be a declaration that, despite the challenging economic environment in which the country now finds itself, spending on hunger would be ring-fenced or maintained at current levels.

### 4.4 Other

Finally three recommendations which relate more broadly across sectors.

#### Staff Resources

13 With the now increasing programmatic focus on hunger, both Irish Aid, and where appropriate the Irish NGO community, might well consider further developing staff capacity, both generally in food security issues and practices and particularly in the area of nutrition. As indicated elsewhere, there is already a strong level of practical field-based experience in nutrition among staff in both the bilateral and NGO sectors, an experience which could be further developed to support the planning, execution and evaluation of an even stronger programme response in the future.

14 It is noted that recent discussions have taken place between the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food exploring the potential to effect a skills set transfer between the two Departments, and in partner countries. Such initiatives should be supported and encouraged as a means to achieving better use of staff capacities and expertise in relation to hunger priorities.

## **Research**

15 The next phase of the Department of Foreign Affairs' Programme of Strategic Cooperation with Higher Education Institutes would appear to provide an opportunity to include hunger/food security as an explicit thematic area. This would reinforce the capacity of southern academic institutes to undertake research in the areas of food and livelihood security, nutrition, agriculture and rural development. It would also offer an opportunity to promote new partnerships and academic exchange between Irish and partner country institutes. It is therefore recommended that Irish Aid give careful consideration to the possibility of having hunger/food security as an explicit thematic focus within the Programme.

## Annex 1 Work Programme

Since my appointment I have:

- Worked closely with Minister Martin and Minister of State Power and staff of the Department of Foreign Affairs, in particular with the Hunger Unit in Irish Aid, to help develop a coordinated response to the HTF Report and advise on the implementation of its recommendations;
- Visited four of Ireland's Programme Countries (Ethiopia, Lesotho, Malawi and Tanzania) in order to better understand the challenges in responding to the priorities identified. Held discussions with host government representatives, donors, NGOs and Irish Embassy staff in these countries on issues arising, and on possible and appropriate responses to hunger in these countries;
- Held discussions with key NGO's in Ireland on what actions they have undertaken, or contemplate, in response to the HTF Report, and the challenges they face in this regard;
- Met with several international donors to encourage a stronger level of support for a hunger and food security response;
- Held discussions with the main UN food agencies with a view to having a closer alignment of priorities identified by the HTF within their programmes;
- Visited some of the key International Agricultural Research Institutes partnered with Irish Aid engaged in food security issues to discuss how the recommendations of the HTF were of relevance to their work; and
- Participated as member of Ireland's delegation at the World Food Summit in Rome in November 2009, and attended other relevant international meetings.

### Smallholder agriculture

#### Irish Aid's bilateral programme response

The following are some observations from missions undertaken to four Programme Countries - Ethiopia, Lesotho, Malawi and Tanzania - together with some brief comments on programmes in countries not visited. They should not be seen as a comprehensive listing of the large range of actions being undertaken with Irish support, but merely to give an indication of some important responses in the agriculture sector following, and in large part as a result of, the Hunger Task Force Report.

In **Malawi, Tanzania and Ethiopia**, Irish funding to the agriculture and food sectors is directed towards the intensification of smallholder agriculture, the promotion of crop

diversification and dietary diversity, small scale irrigation, and the improvement of both availability, and access to, inputs and services.

Programmes include both direct budgetary support for government-led agricultural sector plans, as well as inputs and assistance for specific projects within an overall agriculture sector plan. Most include a strong element of strengthening the capacity of both farmer organisations and government institutions.

Ireland's bilateral programme in **Malawi** is particularly well-aligned with the main themes of the HTF Report. The programme is based on three main pillars: sustainable improvement in smallholder farmer productivity and crop diversification; enhancing household resilience through improved nutrition and social support; and strengthening governance systems as a means to improve food security. Linking agriculture and nutrition outcomes, the programme has sought especially to improve nutritional impact in the country. For example, Irish support is helping:

- finance the provision of legume seeds to improve dietary diversification;
- promote the development of improved and better yielding varieties of both potato and sweet potato high in beta-carotene, a “retinol precursor” or source of Vitamin A;
- develop a variety of improved ground-nut, pigeon pea and soya-bean seeds for smallholders, especially women farmers; and
- research efforts into, and promotion of, nitrogen-fixing vegetation which is proven to greatly improve soil structure and fertility and increase crop yields, in particular the ‘fertiliser trees’ *Faidherbia albida* and *Gliricidia sepium*.

In **Tanzania**, Ireland is playing a leading role in helping develop a coherent national programme for agriculture, and is currently chair of the Agriculture Donors Working Group. Ireland is supporting the Agriculture Sector Development Programme (ASDP) which is understood to be making progress in increasing the production of both staple foods and livestock. The main thrust of the ASDP is on improving input supplies, irrigation cover, credit and marketing systems, as well as in developing a strong local implementation capacity in the sector. Irish support, both financial and technical, has also helped establish an innovative pilot project in Tanzania promoting access to small amounts of fertiliser for poor farmers.

Similarly in **Ethiopia**, a country with a history of significant food problems, agriculture is seen as the key to hunger and poverty reduction. Ireland is supporting a Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) being implemented in most areas considered highly food insecure. The PSNP targets the most needy rural families through the provision of food and/or cash in return for work in public programmes (or direct support in the case of those unable to work). An International Food Policy Research Institute evaluation of the PSNP found significant impact in terms of protecting the assets of vulnerable households, even during recent years of erratic rains. The PSNP, arguably the largest

safety nets scheme in Africa, is a pioneering programme which could be a valuable learning source for others, and is a crucial tool for Government in making progress on the MDGs.

A complementary mechanism also receiving Ireland's support in Ethiopia is the Protecting Basic Services Programme, which amongst other services such as education and health, also helps improve agricultural extension services and rural roads.

While Irish support in **Lesotho** is primarily in the health and education sectors, an innovative project is being supported through the NGO, Catholic Relief Services, under which poor families, in particular those affected by HIV and AIDs, are helped to grow nutritious vegetables in small 'keyhole' gardens near their homes. A big attraction of the gardens project is that they require a relatively low level of physical labour in their upkeep, a very important consideration for these families.

In Ireland's Programme Countries which I was not in a position to visit, among the projects which I found noteworthy are the following:

- In **Sierra Leone**, where agriculture accounts for almost 50% of GDP, Ireland is supporting an FAO programme with a strong focus on women farmers which aims to increase smallholder food production and agro-processing capacity;
- In **Mozambique** and **Tanzania**, programmes in the cashew nut and cocoa sectors (respectively) are designed to develop the product value-chain, including addressing constraints to increasing market access. These initiatives are very much in line with the recommendation of the Hunger Task Force which identified market development and an enabling environment as priorities within the agriculture/food security sectors.

**Climate Change** As indicated in Chapter 2, the widely foreseen impacts of climate change on agriculture and food availability include the strong probability of a reduction in overall land area suitable for food production, increased desertification, and falling yields. Such a scenario would obviously have serious implications for the food security of vulnerable smallholder farmers and their families.

With its strong focus on sub-Saharan Africa, it is encouraging to note that Ireland's development programme already supports efforts to increase the capability of local communities to become more resilient to the vagaries of climate and environmental degradation. They include developing and encouraging the use of crop varieties better able to withstand climate shocks, diversification of crops to lessen risks and improve diet, conservation farming and agro-forestry as well as the promotion of water management techniques especially in ecologically vulnerable and drought prone areas.

**In Ethiopia**, there is support for programmes which promote integrated watershed management including tree planting, terracing, soil conservation, small scale irrigation, as well as water conservation and harvesting. **In Malawi**, Ireland is



supporting programmes to increase productivity by limiting soil erosion and improving soil fertility, as well as in the provision of training and advice to some 100,000 farmers in the practice of conservation agriculture.

### **Response of NGOs**

While most Irish NGOs have been active in hunger-related programmes for many years, it is evident that the HTF report has begun to significantly influence their work and priorities in both agriculture and nutrition. Many, including all the Multi-Annual Programme partners, are now active in smallholder agriculture as an important component of their work, and there is evidence that increasing proportions of NGO budgets are now being spent on food security programmes, in rural livelihoods, in agriculture, in nutrition, health, education and social protection.

Here it may be noted that, relative to other OECD donors, Ireland allocates a higher percentage of its overseas development assistance to NGOs, and much of this funding is in support of programmes in both agriculture and nutrition. This work could be further assisted by Irish Aid establishing a Challenge Fund for hunger and food security programmes of NGOs which could over time assist in that work.

In the course of my work I have had discussions with many Irish NGOs and visited a few projects being implemented or supported by them in different countries. Among the many significant developments in the sector which I have noted are:

- Various direct project interventions, such as conservation farming and other programmes promoting sustainable agriculture technologies; improvements in input availability and access; small scale irrigation schemes; assistance to pastoral communities, and the encouragement of crop rotations and diversification.
- Capacity building of community governance structures as an aid to improving the management of water and land resources;
- Support for off-farm income earning, including the promotion of small scale food processing and local market development.

Within the agriculture sector I am happy to note the development of new approaches by some NGOs that take on board techniques and practices being developed in the sector. These include the innovative work now being undertaken, particularly in southern Africa, in conservation farming – a range of planting, tending and harvesting techniques which have been demonstrated to improve yields very significantly, while at the same time being a highly appropriate response to some of the challenges imposed by climate change. Likewise I note an increasing openness by NGOs to collaboration through partnerships and networks, with other NGOs, as well as with local government, some research institutes and the private sector.

**Gender and Agriculture** The Hunger Task Force emphasised the particular role of women smallholder farmers in ensuring household food security. It is increasingly recognised that to redress the marginalisation of many poor rural women it is vital to include a strong gender component in all programmes. It is therefore encouraging to note that issues such as women’s access to inputs including land and credit, as well as their role in agricultural diversification for improved household nutrition, are now increasingly being factored into programming by governments, and in the work of several NGOs. Here I also note programmes promoting off-farm income, such as in food processing and value-addition, and in creating opportunities for local marketing of surplus.

However the onus often remains to better understand how many of the programmes actually impact upon women. In this regard I am happy to note the recent commissioning by Irish Aid of a study on the links between gender and agriculture, and the emphasis which both Irish Aid and several NGOs have placed on the disaggregation of data by gender across relevant programmes. I was also pleased to learn that Ireland is advocating that gender be adopted as one of the cross-cutting platforms within the reorganisation of the CGIAR system.

## **Undernutrition**

### **Irish Aid’s bilateral programme response**

While **Sierra Leone** was not one of the Programme Countries visited, it is of particular interest that a new country strategy being developed there has nutrition as its main focus. The programme will assist the Government of Sierra Leone to implement its national nutrition policy, which focuses especially on capacity building and on the prevention of undernutrition among children under five, and mothers, particularly through better screening and referral to health facilities.

Other Ireland-supported programmes which I have noted include:

Support for a UNICEF project in **Tanzania**, which builds capacity at national and district levels to scale up the promotion of breastfeeding and complementary feeding;

Funding for the Government of **Ethiopia**’s Health MDG Fund, which specifically focuses on maternal and child health interventions, which include the strengthening of human resource capacity to deliver direct nutrition and health services, as well as the provision of free primary health care for the poorest women and children;

Support being provided to the Government of **Malawi**’s Nutrition Programme, which is based around Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM), Nutrition Education and Vitamin A fortification. These programmes are integrated with complementary activities in the agriculture sector that seek to improve dietary diversification of smallholder farmers.

During 2009, Ireland supported the execution of a national survey in Malawi, designed to collect and analyse reliable micronutrient information, used for policy and programme development. The survey specifically measured the prevalence of deficiencies in Vitamin A, iron, iodine and zinc, and was a key input in identifying high risk populations, informing intervention strategies and establishing a baseline for future information gathering in the country. Interventions like this, supporting the establishment of baseline data, are essential to developing appropriate programming as well as in both evaluation and impact measurement.

Also in the context of a nutrition response, I was pleased to note that Ireland is a strong supporter of **Social Safety Net Programmes** in a number of countries, a recognition that when such programmes are properly focused and managed they can have a very positive impact on nutrition in poor and vulnerable households. Small but regular cash or food transfers have been shown to improve both the quality and quantity of food which people eat.

For example the Government of **Ethiopia's** PSNP, referred to above, is based on cash and food transfers which are either free (for households in which no member is capable of working) or in exchange/payment for labour-intensive public works.

In **Zambia**, Ireland has piloted a new cash transfer scheme in three districts through UNICEF and the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services. Following the success of the pilot, and using the evidence provided from it, the scheme expanded in 2010 to additional districts, targeting households with young children where child survival and maternal morbidity rates are extremely poor.

In northern **Uganda**, Ireland is supporting an innovative social protection programme for pastoralists in Karamoja, one of the first of its kind for a pastoralist community, and of which approximately 90,000 people, mainly women, are direct beneficiaries.

### **Response of NGOs**

Significant work has for many years been carried out by several Irish NGOs in the nutrition sector. Traditionally much of this had been in the form of humanitarian assistance delivered in response to major food emergencies. Currently more of the work in nutrition is being done as part of more broadly focussed programmes, e.g in education or in livelihoods, which have a strong nutrition dimension within their objectives.

Of particular note are several projects which promote the integration of nutrition with health services, capacity building for nutrition staff at various levels and departments of government, as well as work in hygiene promotion, in nutrition awareness, and in the provision of improved water and sanitation facilities. In addition, I note some excellent work in delivering safety net programmes using combinations of cash and food, as well as the recently initiated research on improving the nutrition outcomes of a variety of agricultural interventions. This latter research is being supported by Irish Aid.

In all of our work in nutrition I have been struck by the huge amount of field level experience which has been gathered by thousands of NGO staff over the years, often initially in emergency feeding programmes, and later in more long-term development work in the sector. This is a real asset that I am happy to note is already being used to spearhead Ireland's increasing role in delivering on commitments in this sector.

As with agriculture, the excellent work being done by different actors in the field of nutrition can be even more relevant and effective when grounded in strong research, and by further developing the capacity to collect and analyse appropriate information on programme impact. Both of these components can provide a more informed basis on which to help positively influence strategies and policies of governments, a key to having a much greater overall impact at national, and ultimately at household level.

**HIV and AIDs** The Hunger Task Force exhorted Ireland to continue to support measures aimed at preventing the further spread of HIV and AIDs and other diseases, while promoting the positive benefits of good nutrition as a means to mitigate their impact. Much of Ireland's ongoing support for HIV and AIDs programmes now includes a strong nutrition component.

For example, in **Mozambique and Lesotho** our teams are working with the Clinton Foundation to support national plans to tackle the HIV and AIDs pandemic. It has been agreed that the next phase of this partnership, starting in 2011, will have an even stronger focus on maternal and child health and nutrition. The partnership has recently begun to support the nutrition programmes of the Ministries of Health in both countries, including the roll out of CMAM programmes.

I have had discussions with Irish officials about the proposed new HIV and AIDs Policy and Strategy, developed over the course of 2010, which highlights domestic food insecurity as a major driver of the epidemic, gives a special focus to hunger and HIV and AIDs, and confirms that Irish supported HIV and AIDs programmes will in future be appraised through a 'hunger lens', and be better-coordinated with hunger reduction programmes, particularly with targeted nutritional interventions.

### **Promoting governance and leadership action**

In each of the four Programme Countries visited, I found that Ireland is working closely with government and other partners to help develop stronger and more appropriate policies to address hunger. Indeed, the priorities in agriculture and undernutrition identified by the Irish HTF have proven to be an excellent menu for those advocacy efforts and have been found to fit well with the priorities of others including governments, donors, NGOs and UN agencies with whom we engage.

For example, in meetings arranged with host Government representatives during my visits, I have joined with Irish officials in advocating especially for:

- Governments to make special efforts to reach the target set at the African Union conference in Maputo in 2003 to spend at least 10% of their budgets on agriculture;
- A more central positioning of nutrition within government structures and for stronger linkages between agriculture and nutrition outcomes;
- A stronger emphasis on investment in the smallholder sector and especially to promote more positive outcomes for women farmers;
- Greater monitoring of the impact of programmes in all food security related sectors to determine their cost effectiveness.

As a relatively small but very focused donor, Ireland now has in many countries a well positioned 'seat at the table', which is being used to present particular priorities and influence important policy discussions, all with a critical bearing on national and, most importantly, on household level food security.

Progress in respect of institutional reform of the agricultural sector in Ireland's Programme Countries has, however, been somewhat mixed. In some countries, perhaps especially those that have signed up to CAADP priorities and processes, there has been progress in developing policies and frameworks necessary to tackle hunger in a comprehensive manner. In others, this coherence can be lacking and policies somewhat disjointed. Similarly, progress in relation to achieving a stronger or more central positioning of nutrition within government structures has been slow, though this will hopefully be given more impetus with the recent strong prioritisation of the sector among key players.

On the domestic front, I believe that considerable progress is already being made in promoting interdepartmental coherence in delivering Ireland's aid programme. In this respect I would recognise the work of the recently established Hunger Task Team, as well as the ongoing role of the more broadly based Interdepartmental Committee on Development. These efforts are to be strongly encouraged.

With regard to a broader question of government-wide coherence on, for example, trade negotiations (and specifically on their impact on the poor and hungry in developing countries), what has struck me from several discussions on the topic, particularly with civil society, is the need for a clearer and more evidence based analysis and identification of the issues, and particularly for research into areas where positions being taken appear to be 'incoherent'. On the back of such evidence it would then be possible to have a more open and informed dialogue with those particular interest groups in Ireland most directly affected e.g. the farming and food sectors. Such a dialogue should in turn help to better inform future negotiations.



A particular recommendation highlighted by the Hunger Task Force was the issue of accountability and specifically the holding of governments to account for their stated commitments to addressing hunger. The HTF noted that a reliable mechanism to monitor and report on such commitments was unfortunately lacking. In this regard I am pleased to note that Ireland has commissioned the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), working with a number of civil society partners, to develop such an accountability mechanism, in what I believe is a further positive indication of commitment to respond positively to the HTF recommendations.

### **The International Architecture**

With over a third of Ireland's Official Development Assistance channelled through multilateral organisations, Ireland naturally places a high level of importance on ensuring as strong and coherent as possible a response from the UN and other multilateral bodies engaged on hunger issues. Three Government Departments viz Foreign Affairs, Agriculture Fisheries and Food, and Finance, are together responsible for managing this engagement on food and agriculture issues and as indicated above I believe that this work is generally well coordinated. In addition to the very significant funding provided to multilateral bodies engaged on hunger issues viz FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Bank, I especially note the following efforts to promote a more coherent and stronger overall response:

- Support for the **UN High Level Task Force** (HLTF) established in 2008 to coordinate the UN agency response to the global food crisis. Ireland was one of the first countries to provide funding for the HLTF Secretariat and since then has been one of its strongest advocates. This included the recent co-hosting with Concern Worldwide and the HLTF itself of an international consultation with civil society organisations which revised and updated the UN's Comprehensive Framework for Action, a strategy document offering guidance for countries and international agencies on the realisation of the hunger MDGs. The document incorporates a renewed focus on integrating nutrition outcomes, an acknowledgement of the challenges of climate change, and an emphasis on a right-to-food approach;
- The continuing very strong support for the work of the **WFP** the UN's frontline humanitarian and emergency agency;
- The more proactive role now being played by Ireland as a member of the Board of **IFAD**, with a strong effort to encourage the Fund to adopt a more pro-poor stance, (i.e. in favour of smallholders), to focus increasingly on sub-Saharan Africa, and to position itself to promote climate change adaptation and mitigation;
- Advocacy at the **World Bank** for increased resources to be invested in agriculture and nutrition.

**World Food Programme** In a welcome new initiative, WFP has recently reoriented its operations by developing a more comprehensive food assistance strategy using a wider variety of tools to impact on food security. This strategy has included the development of its Purchase for Progress (P4P) Programme endorsed by the Hunger Task Force, wherein WFP seeks to leverage its already very large global food purchasing programme to help connect farmers to markets, and in the process to stimulate local supply and income in the smallholder agriculture sector. Ireland is providing support to this programme in Sierra Leone and Liberia, specifically supporting the development of food processing and of farmers' access to markets.

Ireland's relationship and work programme with WFP is a critical one in addressing both the short-term needs of hungry populations through a very sizeable support for emergency interventions, and in encouraging further innovation in WFP's ways of working. As an upcoming member of the Executive Board, Ireland now has the potential to play a more central role in these developments.

**Architectural Reform Processes** In line with a recommendation of the HTF, Ireland has been a strong advocate for reform processes now in train in several bodies and institutions involved in hunger and food security responses. These include:

- Promoting greater coherence in the work of all **UN system agencies** in developing countries including through the Comprehensive Framework for Action;
- The **FAO** in making it more effective and responsive;
- The **Committee for World Food Security (CFS)**, in order to help it promote more coherent policies, and coordinate global actions in both agriculture and food;
- The **UN Standing Committee on Nutrition (SCN)** with a view to having an improved global nutrition body helping coordinate and harmonise nutrition responses.

In light of the gravity of need, and the important roles which these bodies can play, the pace of reform still appears slow. Ireland's role should therefore be to continue close engagement in the various processes and to work with other governments to seek more rapid and appropriate reform.

## Annex 2 Members of the Hunger Task Force

### **Mr Joe Walsh**

*Chair*

Former Minister for Agriculture and Food, Government of Ireland

### **Ms Nancy Aburi**

Development Communications Specialist

### **Dr Pamela Anderson**

Director General, International Potato Center, Lima, Peru

### **Mr Tom Arnold**

Chief Executive, Concern Worldwide

### **Bono**

U2 lead singer and activist

### **Mr Kevin Farrell**

Former Country Director and Representative, WFP Zimbabwe and WFP Somalia

### **Professor Michael Gibney**

Institute of Food and Health, University College Dublin

### **Professor Lawrence Haddad**

Director, UK Institute of Development Studies

### **Mr Justin Kilcullen**

Director, Trócaire

### **Professor Denis Lucey**

University College Cork and Chairman, Gorta

### **Mr Aidan O'Driscoll**

Assistant Secretary General, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

### **Professor Jeffrey Sachs**

Director, Earth Institute, Columbia University and Special Adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General

### **Ms Josette Sheeran**

Executive Director, WFP

### **Ms Sheila Sisulu**

Deputy Executive Director, WFP

### **H.E. Brendan McMahon**

*Secretary to Task Force*  
Ambassador of Ireland to South Africa

## Annex 3 Terms of Reference of special envoy for hunger

- 1 Work closely with Ministers and the Department of Foreign Affairs in bringing forward the Report of the Hunger Task Force and assist in efforts at national, regional and international levels to reduce hunger and food insecurity. Attend meetings and conferences as requested;
- 2 Forge relationships with key individuals in relevant partner organisations (including partner governments, UN specialised agencies, funds and programmes, other intergovernmental or international organisations and agencies, Irish and foreign NGOs, and other civil society groups and networks);
- 3 Assist in defining international agendas relevant to global hunger and food insecurity, and shape effective responses to internationally agreed goals and targets, and in particular the MDG hunger target;
- 4 Report to the Ministers on progress in relation to the implementation of the Hunger Task Force recommendations and progress on hunger reduction interventions internationally;
- 5 Advise the Ministers on possible hunger reduction initiatives which could add value to Ireland's efforts to reduce hunger;
- 6 Produce by mid 2010 a concise Report on Hunger which sets out;
  - an overview of the scale and effectiveness of the international and national response to addressing global hunger and food insecurity in the context of the Hunger Task Force Report; and
  - advice on lessons that could serve to inform hunger reduction activities and policy in the future.

## Acronyms / Glossary of Terms

**ASDP** Agriculture Sector Development Programme

**CAADP** Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme

**CFS** Committee for Food Security

**CGIAR** Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research

**CMAM** Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition

**DRR** Disaster Risk Reduction

**EU** European Union

**FAO** Food and Agriculture Organisation

**GDP** Gross Domestic Product

**HIV / AIDS** Human Immunodeficiency Virus / Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

**HLTF** High Level Task Force

**HTF** Hunger Task Force

**IDS** Institute of Development Studies

**IFAD** International Fund for Agricultural Development

**IFPRI** International Food Policy Research Institute

**MDG** Millennium Development Goal

**NEPAD** New Partnership for Africa's Development

**NGO** Non-Governmental Organisation

**ODA** Official Development Assistance

**OECD** Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

**PSNP** Productive Safety Net Programme

**P4P** Purchase for Progress

**RUTF** Ready to Use Therapeutic Foods

**SUN** Scaling Up Nutrition

**SCN** Standing Committee on Nutrition

**UK** United Kingdom

**UN** United Nations

**UNFPA** United Nations Population Fund

**UNICEF** United Nations Children's Fund

**US** United States

**USAID** United States Agency for International Development

**WFP** World Food Programme



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