

***ACTIONAID
INTERNATIONAL***

RIGHT TO FOOD

***STRATEGIC PLAN
2006-2010***

Right to Food Strategic Plan - 2006-2010

1) INTRODUCTION

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates that 852 million people worldwide were undernourished in 2000–2002. Of these, 815 million lived in developing countries. This catastrophe occurs daily in a world that produces enough food for all. It is within this context that ActionAid International will deepen its critical work on the Right to Food over the next five years.

ActionAid International (AAI) has been working with poor women and men vulnerable to hunger for decades. All our country programs have undertaken activities related to the right to food. Working with communities, we have implemented projects to support poor small scale farmers; to increase access to and control over land, seeds and biodiversity; to realize the right to food and to influence food aid and nutrition policies, as well as other national and international food policies such as those governing trade and agricultural support.

ActionAid International's global strategy for 2005-2010 "Rights to End Poverty" highlights the right to food as one of the six thematic areas and identifies the following strategic actions:

- advocate and campaign for farmers' rights to land, water and seeds
- support local communities to develop sustainable livelihoods
- build and support civil society networks to secure the right to food
- promote constitutional change and/or legal actions to secure the right to food
- promote change on trade rules, advocate for food security for people and food sovereignty for nations
- advocate for greater control of corporations and mitigation of climate change.

In 2005 ActionAid International decided to take our food rights work further, launching an international campaign on the Right to Food and against Hunger. This campaign will be implemented at all levels. In order to strength the synergies with our food rights program work worldwide, we will actively engage and mobilise thematic resources in support of the international campaign.

This strategic plans draws on a number of other AAI documents including the food rights campaign reviews, the questionnaire on food rights, Taking Stock II , the food and hunger framework and Rights To End Poverty. In 2005, a food and hunger team was created and developed the structure and approach of this Food Rights strategic plan. Following consultations with external partners in August 2005, a first draft was prepared and sent to the F&H team, which prepared another draft for wider consultation within AAI and beyond. This current draft takes all views into account.

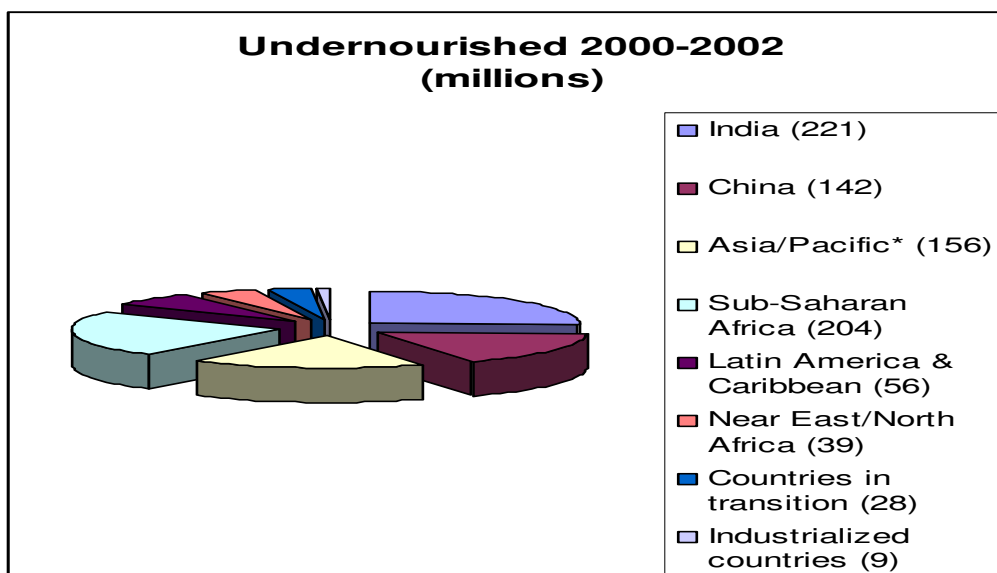
2) CONTEXT: SITUATION ANALYSIS

Hunger is increasing

According to FAO, "every year that hunger continues at present levels costs more than five million children their lives and costs developing countries hundreds of billions of dollars in lost productivity and earnings." Between 1996 and 2004, despite progress made on fighting hunger and malnutrition in many countries, particularly China, the total number of hungry women, children and men, worldwide, has increased by 18 million. At the current rate of progress, it will take 120 years to reach the Millennium Development Goal and WFS commitments to halve hunger by 2015. With current food production of food enough to feed all human beings, the causes of hunger and malnutrition go beyond issues of production and supply. The main causes are the inequitable distribution of food, land, and other productive resources.

Some estimates indicate that even more people, around two billion, suffer from what some experts call "hidden hunger." This is characterized by insufficient intake of vitamins and minerals, and can cause various diseases, from blindness to anemia. While acute hunger is generally publicized in the media and provokes public and private reactions to mitigate it, chronic hunger and malnutrition are lesser known evils which nevertheless take a toll of around 12 million children each year.

Regional distribution of hunger in 2000/2002 is highlighted below:



Source: FAO
* except China and India

India, China and the rest of the Asia and Pacific region accounted for 61% of all hungry people in the world by 2001. Sub-Saharan Africa houses 204 million hungry people, the second largest concentration, just behind India.

The proportion of hungry people in relation to overall population is a key indicator in orienting national and international policies to address the hunger problem. In 2000, the worst situations are found in Central, East and Southern Africa, with the proportion of hungry people almost 60% in the first region and a little under 40% in the other two regions. Overpopulation is much more predominant in Asian countries, placing great strain on natural resources and the environment. In China, for instance, only 20% of land is arable and all of it is already farmed.

People vulnerable to and suffering most from denial of the right to food

Of the 852 million people affected by hunger, 80% live in rural areas. In addition, a significant portion of the urban hungry are rural migrants, who have simply moved their poverty and distress into the cities. ActionAid country programs drew on our field experience in 18 countries to identify the following groups affected by hunger and malnutrition:

Agricultural laborers, landless producers of own food;

- Resource poor farmers, particularly those with small land holdings, those who farm in uplands and highlands, those with poor soils, and those farming in areas of repeated natural disasters (floods, droughts, pests)
- Ethnic minorities and indigenous peoples, and people living in remote areas
- Low income earners
- People employed in the informal sector
- Unemployed people, street children, the homeless
- Small scale artisans and fishers
- People living in areas of conflict or at risk from conflict
- People living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA)
- People living in areas of poor sanitation and public health, or disease infested areas
- Refugees, migrant workers, settlers, the internally displaced

- Within these groups, women and children, especially girls, disabled people, the elderly, and female-headed households are the most vulnerable. Some country programs also identified people living with AIDS, orphans and abandoned children as most vulnerable.

Root causes of hunger and denial of food rights

Poor and excluded people are losing their access and control over resources and means of subsistence:

The ability of poor people to access and control land, seeds, pastures, forests and water is crucial to combat hunger and food insecurity. But there is an increasing trend toward privatizing such resources and means in developing countries. Agrochemical and oil companies have bought many traditional seed-producing companies. Intellectual property rights (IPR) systems that provide monopoly privileges over what was once common property are being promoted in international and national arenas. Such rights facilitate control by a few over genetic material and life forms such as seeds and livestock breeds. The situation is affecting millions of poor people, particularly women and girls. Water has been increasingly privatized in poor countries, often threatening the livelihoods and rights to food of poor people as a result.

In many countries, land is extremely concentrated in the hands of few landlords and companies. In others, a similar land concentration process is beginning. Poor farmers are either excluded from land or forced to marginal areas with worse infrastructure, soil fertility or water access. Governments are failing to promote equitable and just land reforms. The World Bank's market approach to land reform has worsened the situation.

Trade rules, constraints imposed by international financial institutions, corporations' power and the self-interest of national elites are the underlying causes for this increasing loss of control by poor people over the natural resources on which they depend.

Food security related policies have been undermined:

States have a fundamental role in implementing public policies that promote food security. A huge number of food insecure people depend on their earnings to access food. These include the urban poor, informal workers, homeless and landless people and rural laborers. Public policies which regulate employment and set minimum wages are therefore very relevant to the fight against hunger within these communities. Other food security policies such as food storage and distribution and social safety nets are equally important. However, over the past two decades, developing countries' capacity to implement these policies has been severely constrained by the neo-liberal model for economic development. On the one hand, policies related to generating jobs and rules to protect fair wages and labor rights have been weakened by the de-regulation trend. On the other, food security policies have been undermined by the lack of domestic spending power available after governments adhered to strict structural adjustment policies.

Agricultural development policies have been weakened:

Most people affected by hunger live in rural areas as rural labourers, landless people and poor farmers. Agricultural policies affect directly ability of these people to access food through increased wages and/or production. Public policies such as rural extension, price guarantees, rural credit, trade protection, agricultural research, strategic grain reserves and competition (anti-trust) rules are either under-resourced or disappear altogether under neo-liberal policies. At the same time international aid to rural development has decreased substantially.

As a result of such policies, support for rural development and agricultural production has been reduced by more than half since the early 1990s. Recently international organizations have begun to recognize that the policy shift away from rural development policies was too radical and the trend is now being reversed - still without much success.

Current industrial agriculture model is flawed:

Rural people vulnerable to hunger are also deeply affected by the dominant agricultural model. Since the so-called green revolution, new patterns of industrial agricultural development have spread widely. These are based on the use of high yield varieties (in many case hybrids and more recently GMOs), large quantities of

chemical fertilisers and pesticides, mechanisation and monocropping. Generally this model has been implemented in large farms, encouraged by public policies and corporations. Despite an initial increase in productivity, the spread of industrial agriculture has concentrated land, increased corporate control, promoted widespread environmental damage (erosion, water contamination by pesticides, biodiversity loss) and undermined farmers' access to and control over water and seeds. In many countries poor farmers were excluded by the implementation of these new farming systems.

This model has impacted the global food system by ensuring that poor countries produce raw cheap materials to supply the consumption demands of rich countries. It has reinforced the "plantation" model whereby local markets and food security are largely disregarded.

Corporatisation and corporate control of agriculture and food:

Global food companies have become too powerful and are undermining the fight against poverty in developing countries. They are draining wealth from rural communities, marginalizing small-scale farming, and infringing people's rights. Trans-national food corporations (TNCs) now operate at the global level and through their sheer size and scale of operations and the swiftness with which they can relocate their operations, choose suppliers globally, cancel contracts and hold governments to ransom. There is a growing need for international oversight and regulation to hold them to account.

Large-scale industrial TNCs also exert increased control over different parts of the food system, its markets, and worldwide food production. This process of concentration is also visible in other associated sectors such as the pesticide production industry, the food trade and the food processing industry.

As a result of these trends, small scale producers with little access to production support structures, credit, land and water, seeds, livestock breeds and fertilizers (particularly smallholder farmers in Africa, mainly women) are often competing unfairly with subsidized large-scale farmers from industrialized countries. Corporatisation of food is also changing the consumption patterns of poor consumers, causing widespread poor quality diet and undermining the cultural dimension of the right to food. Commodity trading companies try to out-source internationally at as low a cost as possible. Open market arrangements are favourable for the international food processing industry and less so for local food processing units or farm-based activities.

Trade liberalization:

Trade policies became binding for many countries when the World Trade Organization (WTO) was created in 1995. The trade rules agreed in the agricultural package (Agreement on Agriculture – AoA) were not significantly different from policy recommendations given previously by the World Bank and IMF. The difference was that the trade rules now became fixed in a binding international agreement, which member countries had to obey or face penalties or sanctions through the dispute settlement procedure. Trade policy rules have since become increasingly important since they set not only the terms for tariffs, but also stringent conditions and regulations for national policies. From food safety regulations to intellectual property protection, from agricultural subsidies to price support for basic staple foods, WTO regulations are deeply affecting national policy frameworks. Developing countries are being forced to open up their economies through trade agreements, while rich countries continue to practice food dumping. Poor farmers in developing countries are bearing the brunt of these two trends and in many cases are being forced to abandon their traditional livelihoods. In 2005, the Doha Round continues to be negotiated at the World Trade Organization. At the same time, rich countries are forcing developing countries to accept bilateral trade deals on very unfavourable terms. Examples include the Central American Free Trade Area, between the United States and Central American countries and the EPA between African Countries and EU.

Trade negotiations are also affecting poor people's access to and control over, resources and even jobs. For instance, rich countries' proposals on services promote water privatization whilst those on industrial tariffs undermine jobs growth in nascent industrial sectors in the South.

Climate change, environmental degradation and food aid:

Climate change and environmental degradation have increased the vulnerability of the poor people that depends on natural resources to earn their livings. Floods and droughts became more often generating food crisis and undermining the rights to food and livelihoods of millions of poor people. The climate change occurs due the current development model, where industrialised countries account for the biggest

responsibilities on emissions. The agricultural industrialised model also damages the environment through erosion, desertification, water contamination, etc.

Current food system development patterns also associated with conflict and/or other natural disasters. In most cases there is enough food in the affected regions, but poor people cannot access it. Often food aid is deployed in such situations. However, such aid tends to deepen the causes of hunger in the longer run as it is not purchased in the affected region and undermines local production and poor people's livelihoods.

Peoples' action and alternatives

Resistance and struggle:

Despite all these negative trends, we also recognize that farmers around the world are organizing themselves to fight for their rights at local, national, regional and international levels. In Africa, farmers' organizations have resisted the privatisation of seeds and land. In Latin America, landless people have organized themselves in various movements and following decades of struggle are now securing their rights to land. In Asia, mobilization and alliance building among poor people has resulted in official recognition of the rights to work and food. Women's groups around the world are fighting for their rights to land, water and seeds. Civil society around the world is campaigning for trade justice. Peasants' organisations have created a global moment – Via Campesina – scaling up their struggle for food sovereignty.

Building alternatives:

Millions of women and men on every continent are initiating sustainable agricultural development, based on small-scale farming and the provision of food security. Thousands of NGOs and farmers' organizations have come together to build on such individual successes and experiences. Farmers' knowledge and participatory research have generated a large number of promising technologies on soil and water management, breeding of local varieties, seed production and irrigation, all of which promote sustainable development. Cooperatives and farmers' associations have empowered poor people to increase their control over trade and supply chains. Together, these initiatives have helped reduce rural poverty and inequality and increase food security within thousands of communities. In recognition of the key role played by small-scale farming in sustainable development in all countries, a strong international movement for the promotion of small-scale and family farming has emerged. A focus on local markets, local consumption and food security has also emerged.

Holding states accountable:

Civil society mobilization has succeeded in influencing public policy in several cases. The Indian Supreme Court ruling on the Right to Food, the Brazilian Zero Hunger program and the Venezuela Land Reform laws are all the result of such mobilization. At international level, networking between different movements resulted in the formal recognition of farmers' rights within the FAO Genetic Resources Treaty, as well as further development of the concept of the Right to Food within the UN Human Rights framework (ICESCR).

3) OUR VISION:

Women and men living with and threatened by hunger have access to and control over all resources required to secure the right to food.

4) STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:

Poor people and communities will exercise power to secure their rights to food and to gain access to and control over associated resources and means of subsistence;

Poor women will gain power to secure their rights to food and gain access to and control over associated resources and means of subsistence;

Citizens and civil society across the world will fight together for the right to food;

States and their institutions will be democratic and accountable in promoting, protecting and fulfilling the right to food, and international constraints that constrain poor country governments from fulfilling these obligations will be removed;

Poor people and communities will implement sustainable agricultural development models based on small scale farming and agro-ecology and we will work with them to generate critical knowledge; People's right to food and control over associated resources and means of subsistence are no longer undermined or denied by corporate power and trade liberalization.

5) OUR APPROACH TO FOOD AND HUNGER:

The Right to Food: our starting point:

The right to food and the right to freedom from hunger are fundamental social and economic human rights. Article 11.1 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recognizes "the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing and to the continuous improvement of living conditions". Article 11.2 refers to "the fundamental right to freedom from hunger and malnutrition". Despite this recognition, the right to food is often violated.

Every day poor people around the world suffer from food-related oppression. There are two categories of such oppression. The first involves actions that destroy people's access to food or food-producing resources. The second category refers to acts or omissions that keep people excluded from food or food-producing resources. AAI will work with poor people to address both lack of access to food and exclusion.

Fighting the root causes of hunger:

Hunger is not caused by scarcity of food, except in certain specific situations. In fact hunger and malnutrition mostly coexist alongside food surpluses. The root causes of hunger lie in the lack of ability of women and men to access food. As FIAN states: "People are deprived of food because they have no opportunity to produce it or because they cannot earn a sufficient income to buy the food they need, or because they are unable to work at all."

Denial of the right to food is caused by poor people's lack of access to and control over the means of subsistence and resources required to produce food or generate livelihoods. To fight the main causes of hunger effectively we therefore must address inequalities in access to and control over land, water, pasture, forests and seeds. Violations of the right to work and right to livelihoods must also be addressed. States have an obligation to fulfill the right to food, therefore we will hold governments accountable. However the capacity of poor countries' governments to fulfill this obligation has been reduced severely by international constraints such as trade rules and structural adjustment policies. Thus, we will also address international constraints to the right to food.

Taking sides with the poor:

We identified in the previous section the groups most affected by hunger and malnutrition and highlighted women and girls as the most vulnerable members of all these groups. ActionAid International takes sides with these vulnerable people to fight hunger.

We will continue to support these groups as they organize themselves and struggle for their rights to food through social movements. We will take sides with landless people in their fight to rights to land; we will take sides with women in their fight to access and control natural resources; we will take sides with poor farmers in their fight for fair agricultural and trade policies; we will take sides with the unemployed and low paid workers in their fight for the right to work in dignity and for just remuneration. We will also support alliances and movements and will promote networks to connect these movements with wider civil society.

Making the right real: achieving trade justice, food sovereignty and the right to work and livelihoods

Current agricultural and food policies in both North and South promote a food system that undermines the right to food. ActionAid international will work with our partners, especially poor farmers' organizations, to challenge such policies.

In the North we will challenge unjust agriculture policies that benefit big businesses and cause dumping in developing country market. We will mobilize citizen's of developed countries to end export subsidies and trade distorting agricultural support in Europe and USA. We will oppose trade policies that limit poor countries policy space, regulations that allow corporate control over markets, and current trends on food aid and rural development aid.

In the South we will work with poor people to build food sovereignty by promoting people's rights to define their own and culturally adequate food and agriculture policies. We will also work with poor people to: protect and regulate domestic agricultural production and trade in order to achieve sustainable development objectives; determine the extent to which they want to be self reliant; restrict the dumping of products in their markets and assist fisheries-based communities in seeking rights over the use of aquatic resources. Food sovereignty does not negate trade. Rather it promotes the formulation of trade policies and practices that serve the people's rights to food, and to safe, healthy and ecologically sustainable food production. Food sovereignty is a key component of people's right to self-determination. The four core elements of food sovereignty are: the right to food; access to productive resources, mainstream agro-ecological production and fair trade and promotion of local markets.¹

Food sovereignty will be a key approach to all AAI's work on the right to food. We aim to promote food security from a rights perspective and in a sustainable manner. The food sovereignty approach provides a set of policies capable of promoting sustainable and long-term food security. Food sovereignty encompasses the most empowering and sustainable means to promote the right to food.

An increasing number of people denied the right to food live in urban areas. We will work with them to achieve legal recognition of the right to food and to claim its realization through public policies. As the basic cause of hunger in urban areas is poor people's inability to earn enough to access food, we will also focus on the right to work and livelihoods, including just employment policies, and minimum wage levels.

Promoting just and equitable agricultural development policies:

Such policies are the key to achieving the right to food for most food insecure people: the landless, rural laborers and poor farmers. ActionAid International works with thousand of local communities supporting agricultural and rural development. Most of our work is supporting small-scale farming. We will continue to undertake agricultural and rural development field initiatives based on small-scale farming, agro-ecology² and local markets. It is AAI's belief that current industrial agriculture undermines the right to food. We will build with our partners alternative models based on land reform, family farming, employment generating technologies and sustainable practices. We will also emphasise local markets, local processing, the

¹ In accordance with AAI's food sovereignty core principles we should aim to: a). promote the adoption of a rights-based approach to food and agricultural policies that will lead to an end to violations of the right to adequate food and will reduce, and progressively eliminate, hunger and malnutrition. b). promote continued access of smallholder farmers, pastoralists, fisherfolk and indigenous peoples to, and the equitable sharing of benefits from, the sustainable use of their land, water supplies, and genetic and other natural resources used for food and agricultural production. A genuine agrarian reform is required to give landless and farming people – especially women – ownership and control of the land they work and to return territories to indigenous peoples. In the case of genetic resources, civil society organizations are calling for continued access unrestricted by intellectual property rights to seeds and livestock breeds and to wider agricultural biodiversity. They are also urging that the integrity of genetic resources is not compromised by the spread of GMOs and genetic engineering technologies. c). promote family and community-based agro-ecological models of food production, in practice and through policy, research and development, in order to help ensure peoples' food security, especially those who are vulnerable to hunger and malnutrition, through the production of sustainable food supplies for predominately local markets. d). promote equitable trade policies which enable communities and countries vulnerable to hunger and malnutrition to produce sufficient quantities of safe and secure food supplies and which militate against the negative effects of subsidized exports, food dumping, artificially low prices and other characteristics of current agricultural trade.

² Altieri (1995) defines agroecology as: '... the application of ecological concepts and principles to the design and management of sustainable agroecosystems. ...' and continues '... agroecology. ... is the discipline that provides the basic ecological principles for how to study, design and manage agroecosystems that are both productive and natural resource conserving, and that are also culturally sensitive, socially just and economically viable. Agroecology goes beyond a one-dimensional view of agroecosystems to embrace an understanding of ecological and social levels of co-evolution, structure and function. ... Agroecology is the holistic study of agroecosystems, including all environmental and human elements.'

strengthening of cooperatives and local people's control over supply chains. These processes should enhance women's rights. We strongly support inclusiveness of farmer-led approaches to public research and the development of local solutions. We will implement sustainable approaches on our agricultural work in the poor countries. We recognise that the North can also learn from these approaches.

Connecting local to global

We work in food rights in local poor communities as well as influencing national and international policies. Our continuing rights based approach to food will be rooted in local experiences and in high quality program work in areas such as agricultural development, access to land and seeds access, rights to work, food and livelihoods and support for small-scale farming.

We will address the root causes of poverty through the empowerment of poor people's movements and through strong policy and advocacy work. Our work will be based in strong policy research and capacity building programs. We will also develop campaigns to mobilize poor people and civil society to challenge the dominant trends that maintain and reproduce hunger.

The context of the right to food sets a challenge that goes way beyond our capacity as a single anti-poverty organization. On the other hand, we have accumulated significant experience and expertise in specific areas of program and policy that constitute an added value that ActionAid International can bring to the global fight for the right to food. Based on our capacity and expertise we will focus our work in the following sub-themes: Access to and control over natural resources; agricultural development; rights to work and livelihoods; trade justice; corporate control of agribusinesses and natural resources.

6) SUB-THEMES AND PLAN

Sub-theme 1: Access to and control over resources and means of subsistence

AAI has implemented a number of initiatives on access to and control over food producing and livelihoods generating resources and means of subsistence. Most of our country programs undertake activities related to access and control over such resources. We have developed a number of initiatives on **Access to Land**, including supporting landless people's movements, local land campaigns and land reform settlements. In our advocacy work in this area we oppose market led land reforms and support land reform initiatives led by poor people. In our work on **Seeds, patents and biodiversity** we have developed activities including advocacy on patents and IPRs, the implementation of seed banks and conservation and biodiversity protection projects, anti-GMO campaigns and the promotion of sustainable seed use. Our program also promotes **access to water** in several countries. **We will continue to promote these initiatives with reinvigorated and high quality program and advocacy work on access to and control over resources and means of subsistence at local level.**

Building on food sovereignty approach, we will also **advocate for national public policies that promote poor people's access to and control over resources** and means of subsistence. We will continue to place particular emphasis on national laws and policies regarding access to and control over land. We will also advocate for people's access to and control over local biodiversity. We will work in alliance with the many networks and movements that are advocating people's control over water. We will work in alliance with poor people to claim and secure the right to self-determination.

Action to overcome the discrimination that women face in relation to access to land is a fundamental issue for food security and human rights. **Women's access to land** means women's empowerment to make decisions as well as improvement on food security. We will develop a joint initiative on women's access to land with AAI's Women's Rights Theme. We will aim to: deepen our knowledge on women's rights to land and raise the profile of this issue at national and international levels; create national and international networks to campaign on women's rights to land, and directly support women's groups in their struggle for land. This initiative may be expanded to other resources, such as seeds and water, during the lifetime of this strategy. At present, AAI country programs involved in this work include Bangladesh, India, Ghana, Brazil and Kenya.

We will also address **international constraints** to people's access to and control over resources. We will advocate for farmers' rights to biodiversity within the FAO and WTO contexts, for a people's led agrarian reform within FAO and against the World Bank's market land reform program and water privatization.

Strategic actions:

Promote capacity building and shared learning initiatives and build coherence in our program work on access to and control over resources and means of subsistence;

Support poor people's claims to the right to land, seed, water, forest, fishing and pasture. Support the national and international mobilization and efforts of women's groups to access and control land. Create and strengthen local poor people's organizations and movements (landless, rural labourers, fishers etc) and work with them to claim and secure their rights through mobilization, capacity building, advocacy and campaigning;

Advocate for national public policies that ensure the right to land and seed, and hold states accountable on implementing such policies;

Together with poor people's organizations, influence international institutions that affect the rights to land, water and seeds (FAO; WTO, WB);

Build national and international networks on women's access to land;

Undertake research at local and national levels on legal and customary constraints to women's access to land as well as case studies of successful women's movements on accessing and controlling land and publish reports raising awareness of issues surrounding women's access to land;

Support and initiate joint campaigns regarding specific cases of violation of women's land rights.

Outcomes:

A high quality rights based program on access to and control over resources and means of subsistence with a focus on seeds, land and water will be implemented;

A high quality program on women's access to and control over land will be implemented;

Poor people will be mobilized to claim and secure their rights to land, seeds and water and their movements will be strengthened;

Poor women and man groups will secure their access to and control over land and seeds.

Poor women will be mobilized and organized to claim and secure their rights to land, seeds and water;

National policies to ensure the rights to seeds, water and lands will be implemented;

International constraints to these rights (such as World Bank market land reform; WTO patents and proposed services agreements) will be challenged;

National networks working on women's rights to land will be created in several countries as well as one international network.

Sub-theme 2: Agricultural development

A strong program of work on agriculture can benefit rural people vulnerable to hunger. This work, however, must be based on sustainable development agriculture models that also promote the rights of rural laborers, landless people and poor farmers. ActionAid International has been implementing initiatives on agricultural development for decades in almost all the countries where we work. Most of these interventions support

small-scale farming, which includes agriculture extension, credit schemes, irrigation, soil and water conservation, integrated pest management, improved seeds and so on. We will **expand this program and build coherence in working towards just and equitable sustainable agricultural development**. Our local work will demonstrate the feasibility of an alternative agriculture development model based on small-scale farming and sustainable agriculture. A solid program of local work on food will give us legitimacy to campaign and advocate for national and international food related policies that can expand such a model. It will also create the opportunity to link our local level work with national and international initiatives and to bring local poor people's movements into decision-making processes.

Our strategy on this sub-theme will be develop further our understanding of a sustainable agricultural model and the practical meaning of a rights based approach to food work at community level. We will also set up processes to ensure a high quality local food program with an emphasis on shared learning and capacity building. We will develop networks to enable shared learning and connect local experiences to national and international processes. We will also identify and advocate for the public policies required to further implement such sustainable agricultural development. We will also advocate at international level for the removal of international constraints that prevent the implementation of these policies.

Our work on agriculture must also take into account the deepening impacts of climate change on agriculture and livelihoods in poor countries. Recurrent floods, droughts and hurricanes strongly impact poor people's capacity to produce and/or access food. Our agriculture work will aim to build more resilient systems and reduce poor people's vulnerability to natural disasters.

Strategic actions:

Deepen and build coherence in our program work on agricultural development through shared learning and capacity building. This program work will be centred around a rights based approach and an alternative agricultural development model. Initiatives to assess our current work and identify best practices will be implemented;

Deepen our work on agricultural sustainability and on developing resilience to climate change and natural disasters:

Increase public awareness on climate change and environmental degradation impacts on the right to food and livelihoods and hold governments accountable to implement policies to mitigate such an impacts

Implement a policy initiative to identify and share the public policies required to achieve sustainable and equitable agricultural development;

Strengthen and support poor farmers and landless people's and rural labourers organisations and movements;

In alliance with poor farmers, their organisations and networks, advocate for the implementation of supportive public policies including credit to small-scale farmers, agricultural research and extension, government procurement, etc.

Campaign for the removal of fiscal constraints that affect the ability of developing country governments to implement these policies;

Develop effective impact assessment mechanisms;

Advocate for more and better aid for rural development and for the removal of international constraints to agricultural policies set by the international finance institutions and the WTO.

Outcomes:

A strong sustainable agricultural development program will be implemented at local level;

Movement of poor farmers, landless people and rural laborers will be strengthened and connected through networks;

Adequate public policies to promote sustainable and equitable agricultural development will be in place and governments will be accountable for their implementation;

Poor small scale farmers will be more resilient and less vulnerable to environmental change;

International constraints to agricultural development will be reduced and related aid will increase in volume and quality.

Sub-theme 3: Right to Food, Work and Livelihoods

This sub-theme will develop initiatives to achieve effective public policies to enable urban poor people and rural labourers to access nutritious and culturally adequate food. We will focus on the right to work and livelihoods and on promotion of food policies that deliver the right to food for all.

AAI's non agricultural work on food related rights include: recognition of the rights to food, livelihood and employment; legal actions to implement the right to food, livelihood and employment; advocacy on food aid and nutrition **and** food aid and restocking; advocacy on national food policy, including grain banks, midday meals for children and food for work Our continuing program work will build on this experience.

We will strengthen people's movements and organisations and in alliance with them claim the implementation of public policies such as a fair minimum wage, just employment policies, social safety nets, and food distribution and storage. We will also strengthen these mobilisations by connecting them with international processes and initiatives. A number of examples demonstrate how countries have reduced hunger and food insecurity through implementing such policies. In most developing countries, however, governments are not accountable to poor people and have no political will to implement the policies that would meet their obligations regarding the right to food.

Strategic actions:

Promote legal actions and campaigns to secure the right to food, work and livelihoods and/or constitutional changes that embrace full recognition of the rights to food, work and livelihoods;

Build national and international Food Security and Food Sovereignty networks, with civil society and social movements, to increase the capacity of poor people to hold government accountable to implement the required public policies; These networks will campaign for fulfilment of the right to food by governments and for the implementation of agreed international covenants and treaties. We will build on the capacity of existing networks to implement our international campaign;

Undertake policy research at national level to identify the key policies that should be implemented to fulfil the right to food;

Promote shared learning between different countries on the effectiveness of public policies related to the right to food, work and livelihoods;

Mobilize networks, partners and movements to influence World Food Summit processes and achieve the implementation of concrete plans to end hunger.

Outcomes:

The right to food work and livelihoods will be recognized and governments will be legally challenged when they fail to fulfil these rights;

Eleven national networks in the core food rights countries and AAI's international network will be consolidated; Twenty-one further networks will be created and (or) supported in non core countries;

Campaigns for the right to food will be implemented in all developing countries where we work;

Research will be undertaken and recommendations made regarding the public policies required to fulfil the rights to food, work and livelihoods;

Key public policies on labour rights, employment, livelihoods, minimum wage, and food security policies will be implemented;

A global platform will be mobilized to campaign for the eradication of hunger; this will include the World Social Forum process.

Sub-theme 4: Removing international constraints to the right to food

All the sub-themes above have identified international constraints to the role of developing country governments in fulfilling the right to food. Building on its experience of the past six years dealing with international food issues, AAI will **focus on trade and corporate control in its food rights work at international level.**

ActionAid's strategy on trade is to engage and seek to reform trade institutions and policies through research, lobbying, public mobilization, and networking. In doing so we influence developing country governments constructively by providing technical expertise while keeping the necessary critical distance. We also put pressure on developed country governments to ensure that their policies do not harm developing countries and that they work proactively to deliver pro-poor commitments. We challenge decision-making that is non transparent, corporate driven or excludes poor countries and civil society. Our trade strategy also involves making alliances with, and building the capacity of, farmer's movements so that they can influence national government positions and international institutions' policies. Finally, we will build on the momentum of wider civil society campaigns for trade justice.

Through our work we will aim to: establish WTO reforms compatible with the realities faced by poor countries as the most important issue to address in the global trading system; establish an authentic pro-poor development agenda at the centre of the global trading system; mainstream women's rights within the trade context; mainstream the issues of Intellectual Property Rights in the global trade arena; campaign against free trade agreements (FTAs); campaign for international mechanisms which would address the commodities issue by ensuring better prices for producers in poor countries.

In 2003, AAI started to challenge the growing control of large, multinational corporations over agribusiness and natural resources. This initiative currently involves 11 country programs. Our Stop Corporate Abuse initiative emerged from AAI's trade work and from countries identifying corporate control of agriculture and natural resources as a threat to farmers' rights and livelihoods. Our strategy on corporate control involves: refusing to enter into endless dialogues with corporations regarding our position that voluntary regulation of corporate power and corporate social responsibility is insufficient; challenge transnational corporations (TNCs) and the current design of the global food production and supply chain; advocate and campaign for regulation of TNCs; empower social movements, build alliances with poor people's organizations affected by corporate power; ensure governments' accountability and demand more participation of civil society in decision-making regarding corporate control; challenge the collusion of TNCs and national governments; raise public awareness on this issue: build national campaigns against corporate abuse; elaborate and negotiate, in partnership with rural social movements and other civil society organizations, concrete proposals on the regulation of TNCs and their impacts on food rights.

Strategic actions

Support and strengthen poor people's organizations affected by corporate abuse and trade liberalization, with an emphasis on poor farmers and womens' organizations;

Campaign for trade justice in WTO negotiations, with a focus on agriculture, non-agriculture market access, cotton, services and intellectual property rights (TRIPS). We will campaign in alliance with social movements and wider civil society platforms. We will also work to revitalize the campaign against patents on life forms in order to influence processes within WTO and WIPO.

Strengthen political groupings of poor countries through technical and political support. We will lobby and conduct research aimed at national governments in developing countries, targeting the delegations to both WTO and FTAs negotiations. We will place particular emphasis on critical engagement with the following groups of developing countries: Least Developed Countries (LDCs), G90, G33 and G20.

Increase public awareness on current free trade negotiations and on corporate control of agriculture in relation to women's rights, poor farmers rights and food sovereignty. Research and case studies will be produced in alliance with our partners. These will be published as part of wider campaign efforts to mobilize public opinion against unjust trade and corporate abuse.

Advocate against current bilateral and regional FTAs, which are even more harmful to the poor than WTO policies. A strong policy research, networking, lobbying and campaigning efforts will aim to halt ongoing negotiations, such as the FTAA or to reform existing agreements (EPAs, CAFTA etc). We will emphasize the strengthening or creation of regional mobilizations and networks to campaign against unjust regional and bilateral free trade agreements.

Draw on AAI field experiences and other organizations' efforts in order to work on the issues of agricultural commodities and supply management.

Deepen existing AAI partnerships with women's rights organizations working on trade.

Strengthen and create national networks campaigning for trade justice and corporate regulation which hold governments accountable to the poor. These networks will also link with our local food work. We will promote the active participation of farmers' movements and organizations in these networks.

Campaign with other CSOs for reform of the European Union Common Agricultural Policy and the US Farm Bill in order to eliminate mechanisms that harm poor farmers in the South and further promote corporate interests in the North.

Mobilize citizen's of developed countries to end export subsidies and trade distorting agricultural support in Europe and USA.

Campaign with other CSOs against corporate abuse, using clear targets and themes (e.g. buyer power, access to natural resources, fair prices/ wages).

Build support for national and international mechanisms to address issues including the concentration of buyer power, abuses in supply of goods, and the role played by TNCs in the commodity crisis.

Influence and reform relevant legislation (competition, patent, trade, company law, human rights etc.) to protect farmers' and workers' rights by making TNCs legally accountable for their impacts at both national and international level.

Outcomes

Poor people's organizations will be strengthened and mobilized to claim and secure trade justice and corporate regulation;

Several national trade justice networks will be created and will monitor and influence governments' positions on trade negotiations;

Regional initiatives will be created and or strengthened to stop unjust FTAs;

Developing countries and their groupings will be empowered to resist anti-poor agendas pursued through the WTO and free trade agreements;

Social movements will be mobilized and active at all levels to hold governments and international institutions accountable for the consequences of trade deals and corporate abuse;

The relationship between trade and women's rights will be mainstreamed in the work of civil society trade networks and in trade negotiations;

A strong network working on agricultural commodities will be created and will influence multilateral institutions;

Public opinion will be mobilized in support of trade justice and corporate regulation;

Governments in the south and north will recognize the need to regulate TNCs and national and international laws will make corporations accountable;

Communities will feel empowered in acting against TNCs to protect their right to food.

CROSS THEMATIC WORK

Women's Rights: we will work together with AAI's women's rights theme teams on women's access to land. The food and hunger theme will also develop activities to mainstream gender in the other sub-themes;

Governance: We will work together with AAI's governance theme teams in addressing WTO governance issues and in our corporate regulation work;

HIV and AIDS: We will work together on the food rights of people living with HIV/AIDS, on WTO negotiations regarding intellectual property rights and on access to medicines.

Emergencies: We will work together on food aid issues..A pilot initiative to monitor and influence responses to food crises will take place in southern Africa. This joint initiative will involve AAI's Southern Africa country programs, SAPP, Africa Region and the Human Security and Food themes. We will pursue the same outcomes as the Human Security theme in relation to food: where food aid programmes are in place, we will seek to ensure that they will not undermine local economies; people will have more resilient livelihoods in areas where we have worked and policies that promote resilient livelihoods as a way of adapting to climate change will be in place.

Education: We will work together with the education theme in WTO negotiations and possibly on the school meals issue.

7) ORGANIZATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

During 2005-2010, the lifetime of this strategic plan, the food right theme will focus on:

- Consolidate and build the Food and Hunger theme teams at all levels and build AAI staff and partners' capacity on food rights;
- Increase shared learning on our food initiatives within the organization at all levels;
- Increase our thematic fundraising;
- Increase and implement internal communications capacity on food rights issues as well as strengthen our external communications capacity;
- Increase our food rights policy research capacity;
- Connect our food work at local, national and international levels and implement the thematic strategy in all countries.

Team building

This strategic plan will require the following international team:

Head of Food and Hunger;

International Food Security Networks Coordinator;

Trade Coordinator;

Corporate Abuse Coordinator;

Policy Analysts (Brussels and Rome)
Regional Food Coordinators (Africa, Asia, Americas)
IPD Coordinator (Rome)

In addition to the core team, there will be some support positions and/or specific project coordinators. Staff from international functions also support the theme, including the Americas Regional Coordinator on financial management and the Impact Assessment Coordinator for the Americas region.

Each of the sub-themes is building a team composed of country program staff. They are also part of our thematic team, and country programs are required to allow 25% of their time to be dedicated to the international theme. In addition other CP staff, particularly at DA level, will be expected to get involved with food thematic activities. We will also implement a capacity building program on food rights for all thematic team members working at all levels.

Fund Raising

The Food and Hunger theme has raised the following funds over the past two years:

Ford Foundation project on WTO decision making (will end in December 2005); DFID Import Surges project (will continue in 2006); EC Food Security Networks project: (will continue until 2007).

Major fundraising objectives are to seek funding from Rome based agencies; renew the EC support to IFSN, continue negotiations with the EC at regional level (America, Asia and Africa) and renew the DFID and Ford Foundation projects. AAI's Brussels office will play an important role regarding EC fundraising efforts and will assist regional coordinators in working with EC regional and national delegations.

Stronger connections between our food work and voluntary fundraising will be pursued, with the aim of informing supporters about these initiatives and mobilizing them when campaigning opportunities arise.

Connecting local field programme with policy work

This connection is fundamental to the effective working of the food rights team. Integrating country program staff into the theme is critical to enabling links to be made between our local, national and international work. It is therefore crucial that CP staff have time available to perform thematic work and interact with the food rights team. National staff delivering multi-country projects should report directly to the project coordinator, to allow effective implementation of such initiatives. These projects should be managed in accordance with best practice and in a manner that ensures all those involved are clear about what element of the project they will deliver. Regional thematic meetings will be also important to bridge the micro-macro divide. However, our international work on the food rights theme and sub-themes must all be framed and influenced within the context of AAI's local food work.

It is crucial that we integrate work programs between international functions, theme and country programs in order to effectively deliver this strategic plan. The food and hunger theme will organise meetings with CPs before the planning cycle in order to integrate work plans successfully. While strengthening the micro-macro connection we will also adequate our operational capacity to support poor people to represent themselves.

8) BUDGET

Income

Income	Forecast	Plan	Plan	Plan	Plan	Plan	% of growth				
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	05-06	06-07	07-08	08-09	09-10
Unrestricted fund	310	318	334	351	362	372	3%	5%	5%	3%	3%
Restricted fund	332	504	512	180	185	191	52%	2%	-65%	3%	3%
Total	642	822	846	531	547	563	28%	3%	-37%	3%	3%
Unrestricted fund	48%	39%	39%	66%	66%	66%					
Restricted fund	52%	61%	61%	34%	34%	34%					
Total percentage	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%					

Plan will be support by unrestricted fund with an increase from 3% from 2005 to 2008, increase 3% from 2008 to 2010.

Restricted confirmed income plan for 2006 and 2007 of £403K and £413K with funding from EC food security network. The funding of EC will come to end in 2007.

Plan partnership income with increase 52% in 2006, 2% in 2007, reduce by 65% in 2008 and annual plan increase 3% from 2009 to 2010. Potential fundraising will be mainly in research and studies.

Expenditure

Expenditure	Forecast	Plan	Plan	Plan	Plan	Plan	% of total					
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Grants and communities input	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Staff costs	109	215	221	135	139	143	17%	26%	25%	25%	20%	20%
Travel and transportation	26	25	25	25	26	27	4%	3%	5%	5%	3%	3%
Office/services/activities	272	302	320	371	382	394	42%	37%	70%	70%	63%	63%
Capital	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
	407	542	566	531	547	563	63%	66%	100%	100%	86%	86%
Transfer out	235	280	280	-	-	-	37%	34%	0%	0%	14%	14%
Total	642	822	846	531	547	563	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Grants and communities input		0%	0%	0%	0%	0%						
Staff costs		97%	3%	39%	3%	3%						
Travel and transportation		-3%	-1%	0%	3%	3%						
Office/services/activities		11%	6%	16%	3%	3%						
Capital		0%	0%	0%	0%	0%						
		33%	4%	-6%	3%	3%						

			-		
			100		
Transfer out	19%	0%	%	0%	0%
			-		
Total % of growth	28%	3%	37%	3%	3%

Overall 2006 operational plan increase from 28% from 2005, 3% in 2007 and reduce by 37% due to ending of EC funding and 3% increase plan for 2009 and 2010.

Staff number plan is 7 from 2006 to 2007; subsequently reduce as EC funded project coming to end in 2007 and staff number reduce to 5. Staff not paid by project funding are International Head of Food, PA, International Campaigner for trade, Corporate campaign coordinator, Campaign assistant, 1/3 finance. Project funded staff are Global Coordinator and 3 region food coordinator.

Transfer out included transfer of EC FSN projects to country programmes.

9) RISK ASSESSMENT

Prob /Imp	Risk	Risk Holder	Actions taken in this plan to minimise risk
H/M	Food Sovereignty decreases in poor countries due to international constraints – particularly trade issues	Trade Team – Agr. Sub thematic team	All activities on trade
H/H	Food plans are too ambitious lots of work– One person in CP – 3 demanding subthemes	Sub thematic coordinators & Head of the theme	Recruitment of thematic heads and regional coordinators, integration of CP staff
H/H	Food & Hunger theme vis a vis other thematic initiatives in CPs (competition between themes – loss of efficiency)	Thematic heads & CDs	Regional meetings, clarity on CSPs focus,
L/H	Risk of ActionAid being sued by companies	Managers responsible to sign off documents; Sub-theme coordinator;	Solid corporations research; Enforcing sign-off process
H/H	Risk of violence in communities – struggle over land and forests Partners/staff lives	Theme leader, CDs, researchers, Trustees.	Strengthening local social movements and building capacity
H/H	Risk of company withdrawing leaving people/workers without jobs a result of the campaign	Campaign Head in the Country, Community/AA staff/campaign, sub theme head	
H/H – H/M	General lower level of implementation of the IFSN project	Global coordinator/ CDs/Regional Directors	Strengthening of IFSN team (3 regional coordinators); Better integration between IFSN and Food Theme.
L/ H	Right to food is undermined in the international arena	Head of Food	Investment on following the WFS process.

10) Annex

Organizational Chart – Right to Food Theme

