

Famine and Food Security in Africa

Commitment

“Although harvests improved in 2003-04, substantial emergency assistance will still be required for Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia, and Sudan, in part because of political instability and displacement of populations due to conflicts... Working with other donors, we will do our part to ensure that emergency needs, including food, are met.”

Ending the Cycle of Famine in the Horn of Africa, Raising Agricultural Productivity and Promoting Rural Development in Food Insecure Countries.

Background

At the 2004 Sea Island Summit, G8 leaders committed to Ending the Cycle of Famine in the Horn of Africa. In their pledge, leaders agreed to help 5 million food insecure people attain food security by 2009.¹¹³⁵ This commitment is particularly important in Africa, where over 200 million people face hunger and food insecurity issues.¹¹³⁶ As such, G8 nations pledged to sustain a global partnership to fulfil this commitment, which includes supporting organizations such as NEPAD. In this commitment, G8 leaders accepted three components: Breaking the Cycle of Famine in the Horn of Africa; Improving Worldwide Emergency Assessment and Response Systems; and Raising Agricultural Productivity in Food Insecure Countries and Promoting Rural Development Especially in Africa. Working with organizations such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the UN World Food Programme, this commitment focuses specifically on 4 African countries: Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan, where these issues are of particular urgency. According the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the issue of famine and food security will heighten in its intensity unless significant action is launched on an international scale. For the purposes of this compliance assessment, this report will adopt a conception of food-security writ large, in which it is acknowledged that the providing security and resolutions to conflicts can be as important for food security in war-torn areas as the providing of food relief and that these in themselves can be considered ‘emergency needs’ as detailed in the commitment. Nevertheless, each report below does contain a concerted focus on food relief as well as military, medical and debt relief support as evidence of compliance with the commitment.

Please Note: This commitment involves aid to the Horn of Africa, which itself includes Sudan and the conflict-ridden territory of Darfur. Further detail on the G8’s military and humanitarian aid to Darfur can be found in the “Peace Building in Africa” and “Regional Security: Darfur” sections of this report. The content in those reports can be considered complementary to the evidence detailed below of each country’s commitment to 2004 Sea Island Famine and Food Security in Africa commitment.

Assessment

Country	Non-Compliance -1	Work in Progress 0	Full Compliance +1
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy		0	
Japan			+1
Russia	-1		
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Overall: 0.67			

Individual Country Compliance Breakdown

1. Canada: +1

Canada receives a score of +1 as it has demonstrated full compliance with the Famine and Food Security Commitment identified at the Sea Island Summit. The Hon. Aileen Carroll, Minister of International Cooperation, announced that the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) will donate over \$80 million to the World Food Program (WFP) and the Canadian Food Grains Bank (CFGB) in an effort to meet the Millennium Development Goal for the eradication of poverty and extreme hunger.¹¹³⁷ In response to food-aid emergencies, \$2.5 million will go to Eritrea, \$3 million to Somalia, and \$3.6 million to Ethiopia.¹¹³⁸ This funding is in addition to the over \$20 million allocated by CIDA for the WFP to address chronic food shortages in Ethiopia.¹¹³⁹ In May, 2005, Prime Minister Paul Martin announced that Canada will increase its contribution in Sudan to alleviate the ongoing suffering.¹¹⁴⁰ In order to assist drought and war affected populations, the government of Canada has allocated \$40 million for food and non-food aid in Sudan of which \$24 million will directly go to food and non-food aid in Darfur.¹¹⁴¹ Furthermore, under the CIDA Canadian College Partnership Program, Canadian institutions are working with organizations in developing countries.¹¹⁴² One project under the program is aimed at promoting environmentally sustainable agricultural practices in Ethiopia which will encourage long term food security within the region.¹¹⁴³

2. France: +1

France upheld a high level of compliance in 2004 towards the Food Security and Famine commitments proposed at the Sea Island Summit. In regards to the commitment's plan of sending aid to politically unstable regions, France responded to the conflict in Darfur primarily through military aid. In the summer of 2004, "234 tones of humanitarian aid (equipment, medicines, nutritional supplements)...[was transported]...mainly to UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, MSF, OXFAM and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies."¹¹⁴⁴ France's contribution to the WFP in 2004 was calculated at \$32.7 million US, twice the amount donated in 2003.¹¹⁴⁵ During a meeting between France's Foreign Secretary Renaud Muselier and the UN WFP's senior deputy executive director Jean-Jacques Graise, France's priorities with respect to increasing development assistance was discussed, as well as President Chirac's recommendations regarding reforms of a humanitarian force within the UN.¹¹⁴⁶ Another

indication of France's commitment to the famine and food security commitment identified at the Sea Island Summit was demonstrated by an official visit of the Ethiopian Prime Minister to France. "The visit reflects the high calibre of France's relations with Ethiopia, headquarters of the African Union, an active member of NEPAD, and a country involved in conflict resolution and peace-keeping missions on the African continent."¹¹⁴⁷ During the meeting, the regional situation in the Horn of Africa was discussed, specifically with respect to Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia and Sudan.¹¹⁴⁸ France receives a score of + 1, indicating full compliance to the famine and food security in Africa commitment.

3. Germany: +1

Germany has demonstrated full compliance with the famine and food security in Africa commitment identified at the Sea Island Summit. On February 5, 2005, the finance ministers of the G8 nations met in London to approve a decision which would enable up to 100 percent of the debt of the world's 27 poorest countries to be cancelled. The German Minister of Economic Cooperation and Development, Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul, stressed that this decision by the G8 is an important step and that it "underscores the need to provide further funding for development assistance", which would affect many countries in Africa.¹¹⁴⁹ Germany is also committed to dealing with the conflict in Sudan which is crucial to ensuring that humanitarian aid is able to reach refugees in this region. On April 13, the German cabinet approved a decision to send military observers and personnel for the United Nations Mission to Sudan. In 2004, the German government provided 32.5 million Euros in emergency aid to the region of Sudan and has promised to provide a comparable amount in 2005 as well.¹¹⁵⁰ The German government has also pledged to use 0.33 percent of its gross national income for development purposes.¹¹⁵¹ A conference titled, "The Future of Smallholder Agriculture in Eastern Africa: The Roles of States, Markets, and Civil Society", was held on May 2. and May 3 in Entebbe, Uganda this year. The purpose of the conference was to analyze the accomplishments of the network's seven year existence, and to meet with food and agricultural policy makers and stakeholders in the region in order to examine the ongoing projects and plan new ones. The conference was in part funded by the "German Committee for Technical Cooperation", in cooperation with the German government.¹¹⁵²

4. Italy: 0

Italy receives a score of 0, representing a work in progress for its achievements towards the Famine and Food Security commitment made at the Sea Island Summit. In a joint UK-Italy summit held on July 13, 2004, Prime Minister Berlusconi "agreed that Africa is a priority and reaffirmed their commitment to fostering Africa's inclusion in the global economy."¹¹⁵³ The Hon. Alberto Michelini, Personal Representative of the Prime Minister for Africa, reaffirmed Italy's support for NEPAD to the 59th General Assembly of the United Nations.¹¹⁵⁴ At the Thirteenth Session of the United Nations Commission for Sustainable Development, Aldo Mantovani, Deputy Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations stressed Italy's commitment to the eradication of poverty and sustainable development objectives.¹¹⁵⁵ In a statement at the Summit of World Leaders for the Action Against Hunger and Poverty, the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs Hon. Franco Frattini reaffirmed that Italy fully supported the Action Against Hunger and Poverty and "its commitment to effectively promote innovative

financial sources to attain this laudable goal.”¹¹⁵⁶ However, Italy has yet to make any substantial contributions or actions towards providing emergency needs to the affected areas.

5. Japan: +1

Japan has demonstrated full compliance with the Famine and Food Security Commitment identified at the Sea Island Summit, primarily in the form of financial contributions, cooperative efforts and bilateral meetings which have focused upon issues surrounding the commitment. Japan’s total contribution to the UN WFP in 2005 as of May, 2005 ranks third, totaling \$93 851 324 million US.¹¹⁵⁷ In a cooperative effort with the European Commission, Ireland, US and Japan, \$13.8 US million worth of wheat was donated to Eritrea in December, 2004.¹¹⁵⁸ Over the course of the year since the Sea Island Summit, Japan has held two meetings with representatives from Sudan. In September, 2004, Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and the then Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi met with the Sudanese Foreign minister, during which time the Japanese representatives encouraged the resolution of the Darfur crisis.¹¹⁵⁹ In December, 2004, Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Ichiro Aisawaw visited Sudan, during which time he also encouraged the Sudanese government to improve the situation in the Darfur region.¹¹⁶⁰ Another effort by the Japanese government to fight food security can be seen through its \$1.3 million contribution towards a Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations project in the fall of 2004.¹¹⁶¹ In April, 2005, the Japan Platform (JPF), an organization established in cooperation with the Japanese government, the Japanese business community and non-governmental organizations, provided 280 million yen to the humanitarian crisis in Darfur.¹¹⁶² This contribution was primarily targeted towards emergency water supply and sanitation projects, and is based upon research concerning the need for specific assistance projects.¹¹⁶³

6. Russia: –1

Russia has not complied with the Famine and Food Security Commitment identified at the Sea Island Summit, thus it receives a score of –1. Russia has not provided any financial support towards emergency assistance needed in the Horne of Africa. Russia is not included in the list of 50 nations that have contributed funds towards the UN World Food Programme in 2004 or 2005.¹¹⁶⁴ However, in February, 2005, President Vladimir Putin agreed to send troops as part of a UN peacekeeping operation in Sudan, as part of a resolution that was adopted by the UN in March, 2005.¹¹⁶⁵ Russia’s military contribution can be interpreted as working towards providing assistance for the politically unstable region of Darfur, in adherence to the commitment’s objective. As well, Russia does sit on the 15-member governing board of the InterAcademy Council, an international organization of science specialists who provide information to transnational organizations such as the US.¹¹⁶⁶ Nevertheless, Russia has failed to provide the necessary support pledged by the G8 regarding the Famine and Food Security Commitment in Africa and as such, receives a score representing non-compliance.

7. United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has demonstrated a high level of compliance with the Famine and Food Security Commitment identified at the Sea Island Summit. This has been achieved through donations for various initiatives that target both the elimination of famine in the Horne of Africa

and efforts to raise agricultural productivity. On March 11, 2005, Prime Minister Tony Blair re-emphasized his commitment to Africa when he launched the Commission for Africa report.¹¹⁶⁷ Furthermore, the UK government reaffirmed its support for NEPAD.¹¹⁶⁸ The 2005 Humanitarian Strategy for Sudan & Eastern Chad states that £40 million of the total £50 million donated to the UN's 2005 Work Plan for Sudan and Eastern Chad has been allocated towards humanitarian components.¹¹⁶⁹ Of this, £1.5 million has been donated to the World Food Program (WFP) and £1 million to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).¹¹⁷⁰ Furthermore, the UK Department of International Development (DFID) "has been monitoring the effect of drought in Ethiopia."¹¹⁷¹ DFID's partnership with Ethiopia provides technical assistance on food security and is based on the government of Ethiopia's Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction Program.¹¹⁷² In order to meet post-drought needs, Secretary of State for International Development, Hilary Benn committed an additional £1 million for the United Nations Humanitarian Response Fund for Somalia.¹¹⁷³

8. United States: + 1

The United States has registered a high level of compliance with the famine and food security in Africa commitment identified at the Sea Island Summit. The US's involvement has been primarily focused upon the humanitarian crisis in Darfur. In September, 2004, former Secretary of State Colin Powell announced the State Department's allotment of \$20.5 million in FY04 funds for the African Union's peacekeeping mission in Sudan.¹¹⁷⁴ Recently, the US donated \$50 million to fund a larger African Union force in an effort to end the fighting in the Darfur region of Sudan.¹¹⁷⁵ With respect to financial contributions, the US has been a leader in monetary support towards the UN's World Food Programme. In October, the USAID's Office of Food for Peace provided \$44 million US worth of food to the WFP for two emergency food operations in Sudan and Chad.¹¹⁷⁶ In 2005 alone, the US had donated \$489 598 432 US to the UN's World Food Programme, making it the largest contributor of 50 nations.¹¹⁷⁷ In addition to its financial contribution, the US and other donors agreed to supply helicopters, armored personnel carriers, trucks and fuel towards the effort.¹¹⁷⁸ In 2005, USAID pledges to continue to provide food aid and humanitarian assistance in Somalia, an ongoing project of the USAID's Humanitarian Assistance program in Somalia.¹¹⁷⁹ In addition, the USAID's food security mission in Ethiopia for 2005 plans to "implement applied agricultural research and extension, natural resources management, environmental rehabilitation, and capacity building activities to enhance food security."¹¹⁸⁰ In 2004, the USAID's food security mission in Ethiopia boasts of numerous programs geared towards improving agricultural productivity and implementing programs and infrastructure which assisted in providing food security.¹¹⁸¹

9. European Union: +1

Through a number of initiatives, the EU has fully complied with their commitment made at the Sea Island Summit regarding famine and food security in Africa. By December 13, 2004, the European Commission had donated \$187,102,068 US to the World Food Programme in 2004, making it the second largest contributor after the United States. "It is essential that public aid for new needs resulting from the Asian Tsunami is not taken from existing crises which have fallen out of the spotlight", stressed the European Union Commissioner Louis Michel, as the Commission announced that it had adopted a humanitarian package for Africa worth more than €80 million. He explained that, "The forgotten crises of Africa need our continued support", and

that the Commission has allocated funds for Coastal West Africa, Uganda, Burundi, Tanzania, and various other countries.¹¹⁸² On March 18, 2005, the EU Commissioner welcomed the priority being given to Africa by the UK Presidency of the G8. He stressed the importance of the report of the Commission on Africa as well as the efforts being made to increase international support for development.¹¹⁸³ The European Community also took part in the 31st session of the Committee on World Food Security which took place in Rome from May 23-26. This session focused on assessing the world food security situation and reviewed the arrangements for the 2006 World Food Summit plan of action.¹¹⁸⁴ In April of 2005, following floods in Madagascar, the EU released another US \$12 million from its Food Security Programme in order to alleviate perpetual food shortages. Roughly US \$1.6 million will be used for developments in rural areas, while the remaining funds will be channelled toward improving food security.¹¹⁸⁵

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