



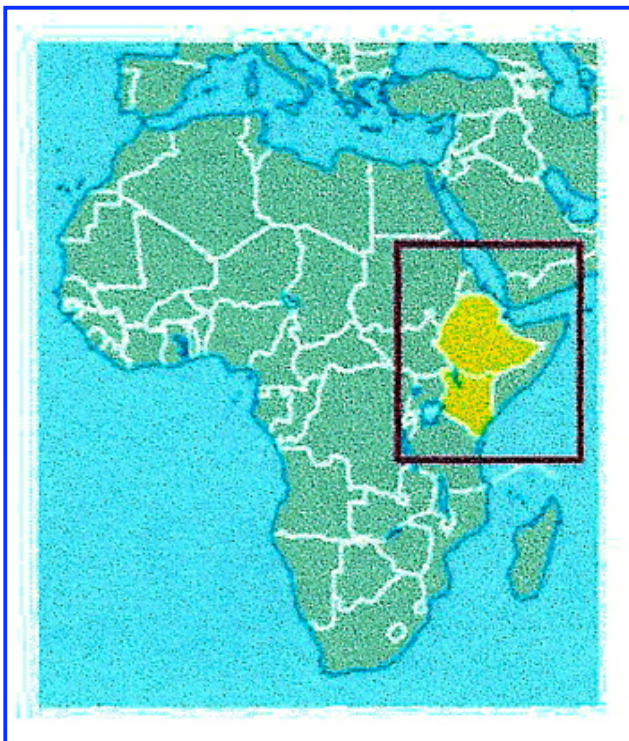
Bread for the World Louisiana

**The Twomey Center for Peace Through Justice
Loyola University New Orleans**

**VOLUME 30, NUMBER 6
OCTOBER 2011**

Food Crisis In The Horn of Africa

The food crisis in the Horn of Africa is the most severe humanitarian emergency in the world today. More than 12.4 million people in Somalia, Kenya, Djibouti, and Ethiopia are currently in need of urgent assistance as a result of the worst drought the region has seen in 60 years. The United States is working with



the international community to provide assistance to those in need as quickly as possible, including food aid, nutritional support, healthcare, water, and shelter.

The United States will continue to provide food aid during times of crisis, but it is not enough. There needs to be a long-term solution. This is why President Obama's innovative and forward-looking **Feed the Future Initiative** is so critical at this time.

Feed the Future Initiative is the U.S.

Government's strategy to support the international effort to increase the availability and accessibility of food and to improve nutrition and food safety.

Feed the Future addresses the root causes of chronic food insecurity by making targeted investments to improve agricultural systems, infrastructure, and markets. Working through our bilateral programs in 20 partner countries and through an innovative multi-donor trust fund – the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) – **Feed the Future** aims to make chronic food shortages and under-nutrition a distant memory for millions of people around the world.

“We do have the know-how.

We have the tools.

We have the resources.

We have the will to make chronic food shortages and under-nutrition a memory for the millions worldwide who are now vulnerable”

Hillary Clinton, August 2011

Although **Feed the Future** cannot prevent a drought, it can mitigate its effects on vulnerable populations by:

~ Increasing the commercial availability and accessibility of the staple crops on which pastoralist populations depend;

~ Reducing trade and transport barriers that impede the movement and sale of livestock;

~ Harnessing science and technology to assist populations to adapt to increasingly erratic weather patterns; and

~ Empowering women farmers and increasing their access to agricultural resources.

Almost one billion people around the world are currently estimated by the United Nations Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO) to be undernourished. A comprehensive approach to increase the food supply in food-insecure nations must promote sustainable, market-led growth across the entire food production and market chain. This growth must occur from the

laboratory to the farm to the market to the table. It also must prevent and treat under-nutrition and increase the impact of humanitarian food assistance. Consumers must have access to an affordable food supply and assurance that the available food is nutritious and safe.

Two billion people in the world do not consume enough nutrients to live healthy, productive lives. Nearly 200 million children under age 5 years suffer from chronic undernutrition. Poor communities in developing countries disproportionately bear this burden and its permanent consequences on health, well-being, and economic growth. Tracking this problem requires strong leadership and high-impact interventions in both health and agriculture.

“If you want to know how stable a country is, don’t count the number of advanced weapons, count the number of malnourished children.”

Hillary Clinton, 2010

Improving nutrition is a target for Millennium Development Goal #1, and is central to the achievement of all of the Millennium Development Goals. It is one of the critical drivers for economic growth and poverty reduction, making it a key component of promoting international stability and security. Good nutrition in early life builds human and economic capacity through improved learning

and productivity, and contributes to a robust, capable workforce. Nutrition programs empower women and girls by increasing their access to assets and education, lessen an individual's susceptibility to disease, and improve their adherence to treatment.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said, "The science of nutrition points to a strategy. If we target that brief critical period during which nutrition has the biggest impact and focus on improving nutrition for expectant mothers, new mothers, and young children, we can accomplish several things at once. We can save lives, we can help children start life on a better path, and we can bolster economic development and learning down the road.

Our principal concern is our children. Because ultimately, that's who we're working to protect – the children whose lives and futures are most vulnerable to the dangers and deprivations of poverty. Their health is a leading indicator of a nation's stability, security, and prosperity. I often tell people as I travel around the world, 'If you want to know how stable a country is, don't count the number of advanced weapons, count the number of malnourished children.'"

With U.S. support for health and agriculture programs, communities have improved access to diverse foods and increased consumption of quality foods for women and children.

For information go to:

www.feedthefuture.gov

www.ghi.gov

TAKE ACTION

It's important that members of Congress hear from you as they make decisions about spending cuts. Tell Congress **TO CREATE A CIRCLE OF PROTECTION AROUND FUNDING FOR PROGRAMS THAT ARE ESSENTIAL TO HUNGRY AND POOR PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY FOREIGN AID PROGRAMS NEEDED BY THOSE FACING FAMINE.**

Capitol Switchboard – (202) 224-3121

Domestic Hunger

Hunger is not confined to the Horn of Africa and other developing countries, hunger also exists in the United States. According to the U.S. Census Bureau data released on September 13, 2011: 46.2 million Americans (15.1% of population) live in poverty, an increase of 2.6 million people since 2009. Children continue to be the poorest age group in the country – 16.4 million (22%) of all children under the age of 18 years are poor.

To set the poverty level, the U.S. Census Bureau uses a set of income thresholds based on the Consumer Price Index. The income thresholds were originally set using the cost of a minimal diet (based on eating patterns in the 1950's), multiplied by 3. The poverty thresholds are the original version of the federal poverty measure. They are updated each year by the

U.S. Census Bureau although they were originally developed by Mollie Orshansky of the Social Security Administration. The thresholds are used mainly for statistical purposes, for example, preparing estimates of the number of Americans in poverty each year. All official poverty population figures are calculated using the poverty thresholds, not the guidelines.

The poverty guidelines are the other version of the federal poverty measure. They are issued each year in the Federal Register by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The guidelines are a simplification of the poverty thresholds for use for administrative purposes, for example, determining financial eligibility for certain federal programs.

The 2010 Poverty Guideline

48 Contiguous States & District of Columbia

Persons in Family	Poverty Guidelines
1	\$10,830
2	\$14,570
3	\$18,310
4	\$22,050
5	\$25,790
6	\$29,530
7	\$33,270
8	\$37,010

For families with more than 8 persons, add \$3,740 for each additional person

Speak Up For Poor and Hungry People

Bread for the World seeks to protect funding for programs that provide vital nutrition for nearly 1 in 4 children in the U.S. who face the threat of hunger. Our nation's domestic anti-poverty/anti-hunger programs also need a Circle of Protection. Tell Congress **TO ENLARGE THE CIRCLE OF PROTECTION AROUND PROGRAMS THAT PROVIDE FOOD AND ASSISTANCE TO POOR AND HUNGRY PEOPLE IN THE U.S. AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.**

Capitol Switchboard – (202)-224-3121



Published eleven times a year by

*Bread for the World Louisiana
Founded in 1982*

Bread for the World New Orleans



*The Twomey Center for Peace Through Justice
Loyola University New Orleans, Campus Box 12*

New Orleans, LA 70118-3565

504.864.7434

504.864.7438 ~ FAX

jfremson@loyno.edu



WWW.GLOBALNETWORK4JUSTICE.ORG



Publisher ~ Jane F. Remson, O.Carm.

Editor ~ Mary Blaise Fernando, O.Carm.



Opinions expressed in

Bread for the World Louisiana are the author's

and not necessarily representative of

Loyola University New Orleans or

Bread for the World

