

GLOBAL NETWORK FOR JUSTICE

A Project of New Orleans Bread for the World at the Twomey Center for Peace Through Justice
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WORLD FOOD DAY TELEFOOD 2003 “INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE AGAINST HUNGER”

Each year on 16 October, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations celebrates World Food Day in commemoration of its founding on that day in 1945. The World Food Day/TeleFood theme for this year, **International Alliance against Hunger**, is a call to action - to encourage all those concerned about the problem of hunger to join forces in a common effort.

Over the years, millions of people have graduated from the ranks of the hungry. But 840 million remain crippled by the indignity of not having enough to eat. The goal of cutting by half the number of hungry people by 2015—a target adopted at the World Food Summit in 1996 and reflected in the Millennium Development Goals—still lies out of reach.

What is lacking is political will. Many nations have made verbal commitments to fight hunger, but few have done enough and on the scale required. Nations will need to work harder to create the policy environment, provide the funding and implement the programs to allow people to overcome hunger and poverty. For this reason, the global community has resolved to work together within an **International Alliance against Hunger**.

An alliance brings together the strengths of different groups to gain greater power to achieve a common goal. The formation of such an alliance envisions all partners working in concert, from food producers and consumers to international organizations from private firms, scientists and academics to individuals, religious groups and non-governmental organizations. It also includes donors and policymakers from both rich and poor countries.

As this Alliance takes shape, leaders in an increasing number of countries are boldly putting the fight against hunger at the forefront of national priorities, realizing that only when people are well-fed can take part in their nation's economic and social advancement. FAO applauds their courage and urges others to join them.

The Alliance does not foresee the creation of new mechanisms to fight hunger. Major conferences have galvanized support among governments and international organizations and set clear goals for the road ahead. And a wide range of development partners is using time-tested techniques to boost nutrition and income. Instead, the Alliance will strengthen political initiatives. At the same time it will help partners to develop a common vision on measures to take and build cooperation among diverse groups. It will provide a forum for advocacy, promote joint actions by its members and facilitate information exchange - through web sites, newsletters and progress reports. Partners of the Alliance can offer assistance in

their spheres of competence, which may include **advocacy, technical training, policy advice and monitoring the progress of hunger reduction strategies**. Together, these activities will help to attract increased funding from finance institutions, the private sector and other donors.

While everyone has a role to play in the Alliance, the main responsibility for reaching goals lies with a nation and its people. Each country should set its own national targets through its legislative bodies and lay out the steps to move forward, including implementing programs that target the hungry.

The creation of an **international Alliance** is a pledge by all to work together to eliminate hunger. World Food Day and TeleFood activities around the globe will help deliver this message while promoting the overall objective of this annual event: **to raise awareness about the problems of hunger and to work towards long-term solutions to guarantee food for all**.

In this time of ample world food production it is unacceptable that more than 840 million people remain hungry. This year's World Food Day theme, International Alliance against Hunger, will serve as a call for further action. Together, we must take the concept of a **global partnership** and make it a reality, with a view to guaranteeing the world's citizens a basic human right – to be free from hunger. (For information go to [URL:www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org) or email World-Food-Day@fao.org

HEADLINES--- News from the Jesuit Social Apostolate
July, 2003

Brazil: Church and State Against Hunger

Brazil's ongoing, heartbreaking drama of hunger and inequity, a challenge for Christians, led the Brazilian National Conference of Bishops (CNBB) to launch a

national initiative against indigence and hunger in April 2002. Government estimates put the number of poor at 46 million; 22 million more are in a wretched condition, and all this out of a total population of 170 million. The government of Luis Inacio Lula da Silva, through a specially created Ministry for Food Security and Struggle against Hunger, has undertaken food distribution on an emergency basis. "Mutirao'," the Brazilian name for the Church response, is a collective initiative of solidarity moves through pastoral interventions in dioceses and parishes, aimed at empowering and organizing the poor and bringing them in from the fringes of society. The President of the Bishops Commission for the "mutirao' " is Dom Luciano Mendes de Almeida, SJ. Martinho Lenz, SJ, the Commission's Executive Secretary, offers counseling, information and organizational help. Through the educational support and income generation schemes, the Commission attempts to restore self-esteem in those who live in slums and in semi-arid regions. Fr. Lenz represents the CNBB in the National Council of Food Security, which has to implement the "Zero Hunger Program" of the government. His question is: "How involved is the Society of Jesus in this project?" article written by Martinho Lenz, SJ smf@cnbb.org.br

Prayer for the Millennium Goals

In a world where so many go hungry,
Let us make the fruits of Creation available for all.
In a world where one billion of our brothers and
sisters do not have safe drinking water,
Let us help the waters run clear.
In a world where so many children die so young and
so many mothers die in childbirth,
Let us bring health and healing.
In a world where women carry such heavy burdens,
Let us recognize and restore the rights of all.
Let us join together, with a new sense of global
community, a new awareness of our need for one
another and for this fragile planet, to meet the clear
challenges of the Millennium Goals, to bring hope as
substantial as bread, to make human dignity as
visible as wheat in the fields. – *U.S. Catholic Mission
Association Update, Spring 2003*

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