Towards the Eradication of Child Under nutrition in Latin America & the Caribbean by 2015

Delivered by:
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Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Bureau
For the The Sardar Patel University & the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs
Between 2002 and 2005, the poor and indigent population declined by 12 and 16 million respectively. However, the absolute number of poor people remains too high.

Source: ECLAC

Poverty rates in the region have gone down to early 1980s level, but with a 17% higher average per capita GDP

Source: ECLAC, on the basis of special tabulations of household surveys in the relevant countries.

a/ Estimates for 19 countries of the region, including Haiti.
b/ Projection.

Source: ECLAC, Social development division, database on social expenditure.
Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean

Objective #1 of Millennium Development - Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Target #2 - Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger

Indicator 1 – Global Malnutrition in Children under five years (Weight/Age)
Indicator 2 – % of Population Undernourished

Possibilities of Achieving the Target:
- Green: Would achieve both indicators
- Light Blue: At least one indicator
- Red: May not achieve any indicators
- Yellow: Not analyzed in this study

World Regions: GINI coefficient, data circa 2002
(degree of inequality in income distribution)

Source: World Bank, World Development Indicators & ECLAC
Inequalities in the Region

Latin America: Household Shares of Total Income, by Income Quintile, around 2002

Uruguay, Mexico, Ecuador, Argentina, Guatemala, Chile, Venezuela, Costa Rica, Peru, El Salvador, Paraguay, Honduras, Nicaragua, Colombia, Panama, Dominican R., Brazil, Bolivia.

Poorest quintile
Richest Q./ Poorest Q.
Aver. LA: 52.3
Aver. Caribbean: 44.6
Anemia and Chronic Undernutrition in Latin America and the Caribbean

**Anemia**
(Hb<11g/dl) in children under five in LAC

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**Stunting**
Height/Age -2SD, children under five in LAC

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National averages mask significant regional differences in malnutrition prevalence and deep pockets of hunger within the countries. High prevalence of chronic malnutrition is closely associated with high concentrations of Afro-descendant and indigenous populations.

Source: UNICEF SOWC 2006
% Stunting in School Children

- **50.0 - 89.0**
- **25.0 - 49.9**
- **0.0 - 24.9**

- **% Indigenous Population 2001**
- **% Non-Indigenous Population 2001**
Undernutrition Affecting Indigenous and Afro-descendants in Rural Areas

Latin America (11 countries): Undernutrition among children under 5 years of age, by place of residence, around 1999 (Percentages)

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of special tabulations of results from the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) conducted in the relevant countries.
Undernutrition in Middle income countries

Over 45 million undernourished people living in middle income countries

Less than 7 million undernourished people living in low income countries

Source: FAO-SOFI 2006 and ECLAC Panorama Social 2006
Undernutrition; a DEATH Sentence


Children death rate in LAC for causes associated to malnutrition

345,648 a Year

Did you hear the news Today?

Undernutrition; a DEATH Sentence

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Did you hear the news Today?
Chronic undernutrition, the best indicator of the quality of life, is a sign of a structural problem.

**Nourished**
- Age: 17
- Total IQ: 134
- CC: 57.4 cm
- Z-CC: 1.64
- VE: 1.592 cm³

**Malnourished**
- Age: 19
- Total IQ: 80
- CC: 50.8 cm
- Z-CC: -2.88
- VE: 1.119 cm³

Chronic undernutrition; a LIFE Sentence
Increasing Number of Emergencies Affecting The Most Vulnerable Populations

**WFP Emergency Interventions In Latin America 2000-2007**

(Beneficiaries)

![Graph showing emergency interventions in Latin America from 2000 to 2007.](image)

**WFP interventions Worldwide 1963-2004** (Emergencies Vs Development)

![Graph showing emergency interventions worldwide from 1963 to 2004.](image)
Under Nutrition in Central America Compared With Global Trends

Projections averaged from ECLAC Stunting in children under 5 years Trends by Region, 1980-2000
Undernutrition has a High Economic Cost...

COST OF HUNGER: CENTRAL AMERICA & DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Estimated cost of child undernutrition for 2004 (US$ mill)</th>
<th>Total (US$ mill)</th>
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<td>CRC</td>
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<td>DREP</td>
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<td>GTM</td>
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<td>HND</td>
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<td>PAN</td>
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<tr>
<td>SLV</td>
<td>1,175</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,659</strong></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Compared to GDP:
- CRC: 1.7%
- DREP: 3.6%
- GTM: 11.4%
- HND: 10.6%
- NIC: 5.8%
- PAN: 2.3%
- SLV: 7.4%

Instead we could have...

- **Health** (US$ Mill.): 434
- **Education** (US$ Mill.): 31
- **Productivity** (US$ Mill.): 6,194

Remittances to LAC have increased dramatically over the past 25 years.

- **Security**
  - Private armies plaguing the region

- **Social Unrest**
  - 5 governments deposed in the streets

- **Economic migration**

...And other Unexpected costs
The silver bullet
Inequalities cause hunger but……

Per capita Public Social Expenditure & Prevalence of Underweight Children

Per capita (USD)

Countries in Central America

CRI  ELS  GUA  HON  NIC  PAN  RDO  Total

Per Capita Social Expenditure  Undernutrition

Investing in Undernutrition: a Prerequisite for Reducing Poverty

A decrease of 1% in malnutrition rate, achieves a 4% decrease in poverty

A decrease of 1% in poverty rate, achieves a 0.25% decrease in malnutrition rate

5% decrease in malnutrition rate

20% decrease in poverty rate

An efficient way of fighting poverty is to address hunger, especially child chronic undernutrition

The Initiative Towards the Eradication of Child Chronic Undernutrition in Latin America and the Caribbean by 2015

Building on existing national efforts, strengthening champion programs, promoting best practices in tackling child chronic undernutrition

1. **Preventive approach** with a focus on children under 3 years of age and on pregnant and nursing woman
2. **Attention to cultural reality and vulnerable groups, specifically indigenous and afro-descendant populations**
3. **Promotion of breast feeding**
4. **Integration of vitamin and mineral deficiencies**
5. **Guaranteeing adequate nutritional contribution to target populations**
6. **Promotion of local nutritional habits**
7. **Promotion of growth control programs and integral health care**
8. **Empowering local communities** to become the main player in the fight against chronic malnutrition
9. **Inter-institutional collaboration in support of government efforts**
Process is advanced in **Central America** (jointly supported by WFP and IDB) – national plans being finalized

Partnerships forged for institutionalization of national initiatives in the **Andean region**

**Strong UN inter-agency support**
Complementary Efforts

100% Hunger Needs
100% Food Needs

Immunization
Primary & Secondary Education

Water and Sanitation Systems
Birth spacing & safe motherhood

Communicable Disease Control

Additional Initiative Efforts
Health & Nutrition Education
Micronutrient Supplementation
Household Water Treatment
Hand washing
De-worming

International Food Assistance
National Food Assistance
Household Food Security
Non-food Interventions
Food Interventions

8,660,975 children <5% Of Children Undernourished
0 children <5

100%
The Initiative to Eradicate Child Undernutrition in LAC by 2015

Rough Annual Costs to assist 8.6 million undernourished Children in LAC (US$ per annum)

Three wholesome meals a day everyday of the year: US $979 million

Base Household Health & Nutrition Education US $ 7 million
Household Water Treatment US $ 8 million
De-worming: US $ 15 million
Micronutrient Supplementation: US $ 28 million
Hand-washing Soap: US $ 49 million
If national governments and the international community act now in support of targeted interventions, Latin America and the Caribbean could be the first region to achieve the hunger target of the first MDG by 2015.

¡GRACIAS!