



FOOD SECURITY

The current crisis is pushing up the number of undernourished people. In L'Aquila, the G8 decided to commit financial resources and improve coordination of international initiatives to help the most vulnerable.

THE CHALLENGE

- The number of **people who suffer from hunger** is increasing: more than 1 billion people are today undernourished, 100 million more than in 2008.
- The situation is worsened by a lack of sufficient investments in agriculture during recent decades, the sudden rise of commodity prices in 2008 and the current economic crisis.
- In 2009, food prices returned to the levels of early 2008, but **remain significantly higher than those of two years ago** (+60%), and at the highest levels within recent decades. Food stocks are insufficient and this is likely to contribute to price volatility.
- According to the FAO, US\$ 30 billion per year are needed to double current global food production and feed the 9 billion people that will inhabit the Planet in 2050.

G8 RESPONSE

The Italian Presidency has invited the Leaders of 40 States and International Organisations to take part in the meetings on hunger eradication.

ACTIONS

- **Launching the L'Aquila Food Security Initiative:** 40 Leaders signed a Joint Statement on Food Security and committed **significant financial resources to support agriculture and eradicate hunger in developing countries.**
- Promotion of a **Global Partnership** to keep agriculture at the core of the international agenda, re-launch investments and boost aid efficiency and international coordination, to be possibly launched at the FAO World Food Summit (Rome, 16-18 November)¹.

FIGURES

- The G8 disbursed US\$ 13 billion between January 2008 and July 2009. **With the L'Aquila Food Security Initiative, an additional pledge of at least US\$ 20 billion was made, within a 3-year period and through multilateral programmes, with Italy contributing around US\$ 450 million.**

¹ The Global Partnership on Agriculture and Food Security will consist of a process - not be a new organisation as such - through which all relevant actors (governments, international organisations, the private sector, civil society as well as the scientific community) will meet on a regular basis, discuss and promote joint implementation actions in low-income countries. It will work closely with the UN High Level Task Force to promote in-country coordination among stakeholders.