

EuropeAid

Press Pack: EU €1 billion Food Facility for developing countries



**EUROPEAN
COMMISSION**

EU €1 Billion "Food Facility"

In 2009, the European Union (EU) through its "€ 1 Billion Food Facility" gave a rapid and massive support to tackle the urgently increasing hunger in the world. The EU Food Facility provides support to 50 vulnerable developing countries to help them cope with worsening food insecurity caused by volatile food prices. The funded projects impact positively on the lives of millions of the poorest people in Africa, Asia and Latin America by improving availability of and access to food.

The 2008 food crisis severely worsened the livelihoods of millions of people in development countries. To provide a fast response to the urgent situation, the EU adopted a Regulation establishing the so called 'Food Facility' in December 2008. This new instrument provides for € 1 billion funding to be applied over three years, nearly half of which in 2009.



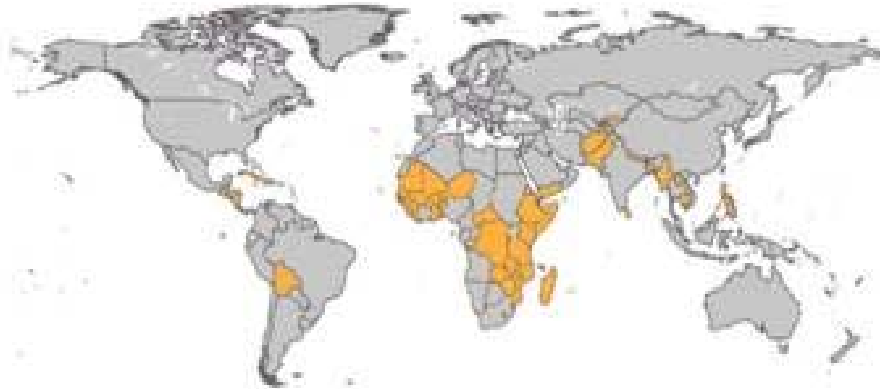
What does the EU Food Facility support?

The Food Facility aims to increase rapidly agricultural production and secure supply of food in developing countries by supporting:

- measures to improve access to agricultural inputs and services including fertilizers, seeds and training
- safety-net measures to maintain or increase agricultural production capacity and help meet the basic food needs of the most vulnerable populations, including children
- other small-scale measures such as microcredit, investment, equipment, infrastructure and storage as well as vocational training and support for agricultural professionals

Where does the EU Food Facility act?

50 countries most affected by the food crisis have been selected for assistance. The selection was based on a number of indicative criteria, number of inhabitants, including poverty levels and reliance on food. The Food Facility takes account of country-level realities and needs. Reacting to the food crisis and operating over a 3-year period from 2008-2010, this instrument bridges the gap between emergency aid and medium to long-term development aid.



Countries where the Food Facility is operating

A Real Global Partnership

The EU Food Facility prompted an exemplary international coordination, in a spirit of partnership and complementarity, involving a variety of grassroots organisations, UN agencies, Member States and Partner Countries.

The Food Facility is a rapid reaction mechanism and the delivery channels are chosen with this in mind. Many funds are channelled through International Organisations that were already involved in the UN High Level Task Force on Global Food Security Crisis. These organisations have established frameworks for policy dialogue and assistance in place that can be easily supported and scaled up.

In order to promote the involvement of the Non-State Actors, Member States, private companies and other relevant entities, a Call for Proposals is being organised with a budget of around 200 M€. For certain activities with a regional value added such as trade facilitation and harmonisation of policies, funding is channelled through Regional Organisations. Another part of the programme is also implemented via national channels of the beneficiary countries through sector budget support.

More information on EC policies and strategies on food facility:

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/how/finance/food-facility_en.htm

First Results and Case Studies:

A Timely and Fast Response

The Food Facility Regulation was adopted on 16 December 2008. In October 2009, only 10 months later, 56 projects in partnership with International Organisations are already ongoing in 41 developing countries. Programming, identification and appraisal were managed in record time in a tightly coordinated environment. Through these first projects the Facility estimates to reach directly as well as indirectly over 33 million people.

Zimbabwe: Helping farmers grow food

Seeds and fertilizers to 176 000 farmers

A major operation started in support of small scale farmers in Zimbabwe as part of joint efforts by the European Union and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO). 26,000 tons of seeds and fertilizers were procured for distribution to 176,000 vulnerable farmers — representing between 10 to 15 percent of communal farmers in the country. With good seasonal rains, timely implementation and effective coordination, this support will almost double the traditional food production.



Bangladesh: Enhancing livelihood among agricultural workers

The EU's and the United Nations World Food Programme's (WFP) food facility project in Bangladesh started in late March 2009. In July workers from 39,500 households were already engaged. The objective is to improve the food security of vulnerable agricultural households, by generating employment in risky areas and notably by giving 78,000 poor men and women opportunity to work in the rehabilitation and construction of irrigation schemes, construction of seed-beds and access roads. Some concrete results after 6 months:

43,000 additional people now have access to fishing opportunities; 60,000 people live in areas now protected from salt water intrusion; 26,000 additional people have access to markets; 7,000 children have access to school during the flood season; 4,000 m² of land around homesteads have been created for vegetable cultivation; over 8,000 people no longer fear having their home washed away every flood season.



In Bangladesh 4,000 m² of land around homesteads have been created for vegetable cultivation

Mali: strategic response to the nutritional crisis

In Mali, the EU and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) support nationwide implementation of nutrition activities through the Food Facility. The project also focuses on awareness raising at national, regional and local level, in order to make sure that the right nutrition strategies are taken into account in national, sectoral and local development plans.

Based on current available information the project targets 30,000 severely malnourished children. Their family members, estimated to 180,000 individuals will receive counseling on sustainable prevention of acute malnutrition.

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