

## **Country Prioritization for Multi-Year Assistance Programs Proposal for Consultation**

### Background

The FFP Strategic Plan, approved in 2005 after being developed in close cooperation with Private Voluntary Organizations (PVOs), seeks to make the best use of food aid resources. The plan refocuses attention and resources on the most vulnerable groups to help build resiliency so, for example, they will be more resilient in dealing with the next drought or flood in a region and therefore it should require less emergency food aid than would otherwise be needed.

To implement the plan, FFP is working with USAID Missions and PVOs to focus future resources available for development-oriented multi-year assistance programs (MYAPs) on the most vulnerable people in the most food insecure countries. (Note – This will not impact emergency food aid.)

### Methodology

To identify the most food insecure countries, FFP developed criteria to rank countries by level of food insecurity based on quantitative indicators. Countries with current MYAPs were ranked based on a weighted average of the country's ranking under three food insecurity indicators: percentage of children stunted, percentage of population living under \$1 per day, and percentage of population undernourished. These three criteria were chosen because they addressed three aspects of food security – utilization, access and availability. Information was drawn from USAID and World Bank databases as of December 2005.

### Results

The analysis identified the fifteen most food insecure countries with current programs as Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Chad, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Haiti, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zambia (in alphabetical order).

Those countries with current programs that are not among the most food insecure are Benin, Cape Verde, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Honduras, Indonesia, Kenya, Nicaragua and Senegal.

Five countries with current programs were not ranked. Prior to the country prioritization effort, FFP had been in discussions on phasing down programs in Peru and India. Also, FFP is in discussions on phasing down programs in three countries – Rwanda, Tajikistan and Mali – in which circumstances make it extremely difficult to continue programs as currently planned.

### Program Implications

FFP intends to focus future funding on the most food insecure countries. In these (currently) fifteen countries, FFP will work with USAID Missions and Cooperating Sponsors to review and, as necessary, redesign ongoing programs to conform to the new Strategic Plan.

In other countries, programs due to end in 2006 and 2007 will be allowed to end as planned, if funding is available. For programs ending in 2006, extensions for a reasonable time period may be possible if it is determined that it is necessary for an orderly, successful close-out. In these cases, submission of amendment requests will be due on May 15, 2006. Programs ending in 2008 and 2009 will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

As programs phase-out in the coming years, resources will become available to increase programming levels in priority countries.