Press Release

Mbabane, Swaziland

A New Partnership to Improve Food Security in Southern Africa

The Partnership - World Vision International and the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) have launched a joint project that seeks to enhance the quality of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of relief and development programmes in World Vision sites. The pilot phase of the project launched in Mbabane, Swaziland on 29 May 2008, will be implemented in Lesotho, Swaziland and Zimbabwe over a two year period. Implementation of the project will incorporate rural communities and technical experts from World Vision, FANRPAN and national universities.

The Challenge - The task of ensuring food security for the world’s growing population in the face of declining global food resources is daunting and requires more efficient and objective relief food programming and targeting that will ensure that the little food available goes where it is needed most. While the necessary role of food aid to respond to the “new emerging face of hunger” is not optional, it is critical to explore medium and long term solutions to make Southern Africa food secure.

The Tool - A statistical index developed by FANRPAN – the Household Vulnerability Index (FANRPAN-HVI), introduces an objective basis for beneficiary selection and programme design in both relief and development interventions. The index quantifies vulnerability introduced into households by various factors which may be internal, such as human and livelihood assets; and/or external, as a result of HIV/AIDS and other diseases, climate changes, the macro-economy, and others. The FANRPAN-HVI enables the categorisation of vulnerable households into three levels (1) Emergency - needing prolonged welfare support, (2) Acute - those in desperate need of short term welfare and development support and (3) Coping - needing development support. The tool uses a livelihoods approach and enables communities to participate in data collation and analysis. The FANRPAN-HVI was developed with support from the European Union (EU) through the Southern African Development Community (2003 – 6) and field tested with support from the Southern African Trust (2007).

FANRPAN-HVI for Food Aid - The index enables the effective targeting of households thereby ensuring that the little food available goes only to those households that need food the most.

FANRPAN-HVI for Development Programming - The index allows for the identification of the source of vulnerability within a household thereby making it possible to come up with intervention programmes that are specific to the identified problems.

FANRPAN-HVI for Policy Analysis and Advocacy - The tool creates opportunities for policy advocacy. World Vision will be able to convert its many years of field-level presence into a robust and dynamic grassroots’ livelihoods database. With appropriate analysis, World Vision will be able to generate and package compelling evidence for policy advocacy. Evidence generated from the pilot sites will be shared at the FANRPAN national multi-stakeholder dialogue platforms, with the synthesis from the three countries shared with senior policy makers through the SADC, COMESA and AU-NEPAD platforms.

FANRPAN-HVI for tracking impact - This HVI database will provide World Vision with quality baseline and longitudinal data for measuring and tracking the impact of its interventions.

“"The food crisis has already sparked riots in some countries... It is therefore imperative that we develop better and more objective targeting mechanisms that not only help to mitigate conflict but also enable us to be efficient, cost-effective and rational in maximising the impact of food aid programs in the lives of the poor, particularly children”

Walter Middleton
Vice President, World Vision International

“Identifying deserving beneficiaries in a community when resources are a constraint requires appropriate tools, partnerships and community participation. FANRPAN appreciates the collaboration with World Vision as a demonstration of smart partnerships”

Lindiwe Majele Sibanda
Chief Executive Officer, FANRPAN

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