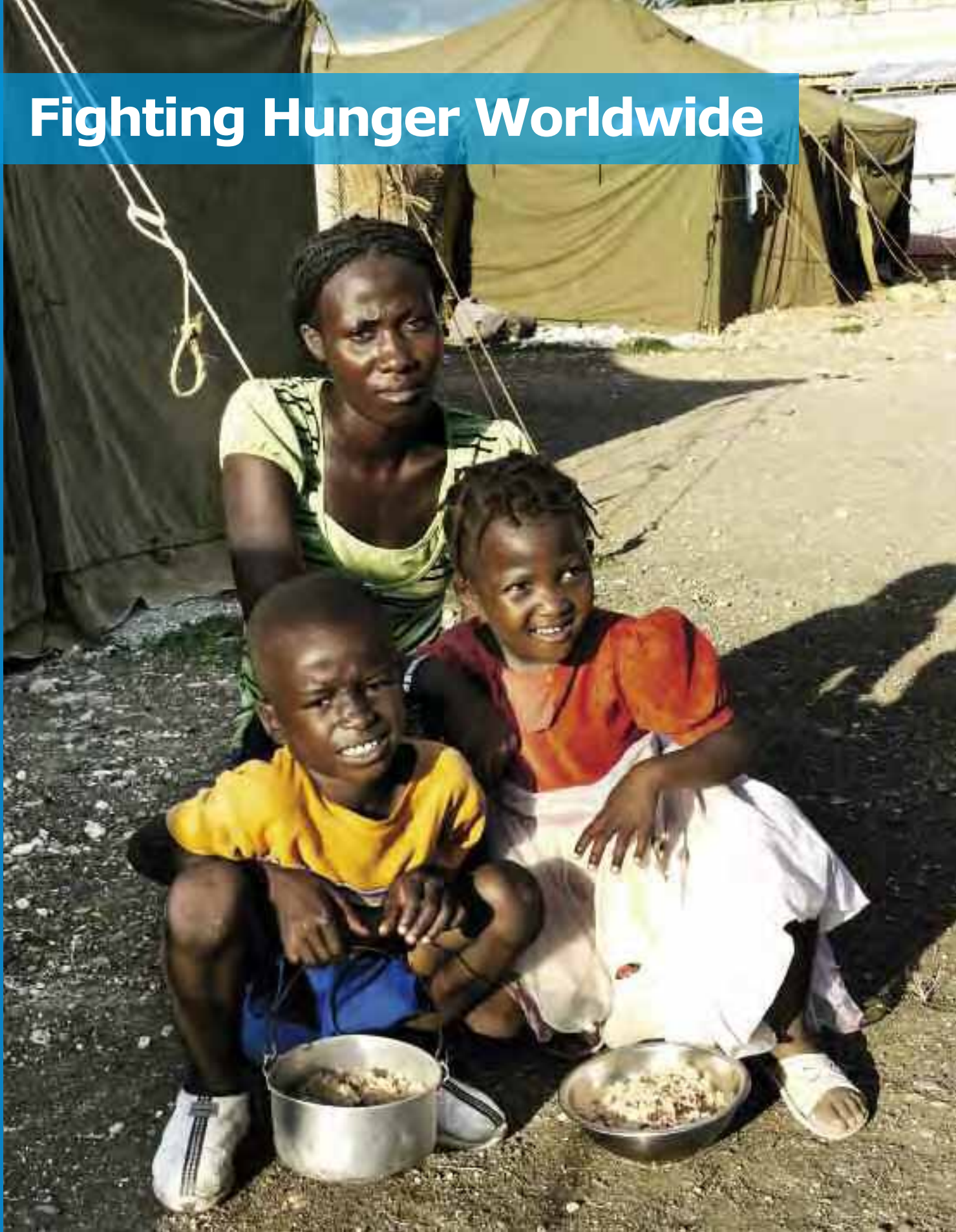


Fighting Hunger Worldwide



World Food Programme

On a Monday in March 2010, WFP pulled 130 mules and horses into service to quickly bring an aerial delivery of rice into Haiti's Moussambe District.

Cover: WFP provides food for the once-a-day hot meal served in Pinchinat, Port-au-Prince's largest tent city. Children line up first; this young girl waited in her Sunday best, then rejoined her mother and brother at their tent to eat. Pinchinat had been the city's soccer field before the January 2010 earthquake.



The World Food Programme's 2010 Annual Report uses data, photos and stories from the prior year to chronicle WFP's operations during calendar year 2009.

Annual Report 2010

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Executive Director Josette Sheeran distributes high energy biscuits to residents of typhoon-ravaged Candaba in the Philippines in October 2009.

Foreword by the Executive Director

2009 proved to be another challenging year for WFP. Just as the number of hungry people worldwide grew to more than 1 billion – the highest number on record – we also faced shrinking humanitarian safe space to reach people, with unprecedented attacks on WFP staff and other humanitarian workers.

Despite these challenges, WFP was able to provide life-saving food and nutrition assistance for 101.8 million people affected by conflict, storms, droughts, displacement, financial crises and other shocks that left them without food; 84 million of these beneficiaries were women and children. WFP could not have reached these hungry

and vulnerable people without the generous support of nations, private donors and individuals who gave \$4 billion during a time of economic hardship.

The explosion in hunger needs over the past few years has made it clear that we are living in a world where risk is the new normal: The food, fuel and financial crises show how vulnerable many nations are to outside shocks that can cast millions of people into dire hunger and put an entire generation at risk of stunting. And stunting – the failure to grow – leads to irreversible developmental damage that affects children’s health, cognitive ability and future economic productivity.



meals and 20 million people with food in exchange for asset creation such as improved community infrastructure and reclaimed land, while also helping to meet household food needs. WFP continues to focus on getting better at providing “the right food to the right people at the right time” so that we generate maximum effectiveness nutritional impact for those we serve.

There is growing support for comprehensive, country-led food security strategies: the African Union is working to promote African investment in comprehensive food security and adaptation programmes through the New Partnership for Africa’s Development and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme. In L’Aquila in the summer of 2009, leaders of the G8 nations pledged to support country-led food security strategies, and we are seeing many new regional and national initiatives. Moreover, 2009 saw unprecedented strategic cooperation between the Rome-based food agencies, including agreement on a joint Secretariat to support the revitalized Committee on Food Security.

Our response to this risk is to meet urgent needs and to help nations build resilience. In Pakistan, for example, we are providing 5.5 million people affected by high food prices with assistance. When violence broke out last year, within weeks we scaled up to reach an additional 2.6 million people affected by the conflict. In the Philippines, when a series of devastating storms hit, we quickly scaled up the provision of food in support of the peace treaty in Mindanao from 1 million people to an additional 1.1 million people affected by flooding. This ability to quickly scale up to reach vulnerable people is essential to reaching people affected by disasters.

We in WFP must continue our work with nations to ensure that our emerging interventions are deployed more effectively and efficiently to support the recovery of population and economies. In 2009, WFP supported 21 million children with school

WFP’s Strategic Plan positions us to respond to hunger shocks in ways that support country-led food security strategies. WFP has a trusted toolbox of proven hunger solutions from the Purchase for Progress initiative that connects smallholder farmers with markets to the focus on nutrition.

This year’s report shows the impressive scope and scale of WFP’s hunger solutions. The continued support from donors reflects the trust so many nations place in our ability to reach hungry and vulnerable people.

Josette Sheeran
Executive Director

2009 in Review

WFP confronted a succession of challenges in 2009, each one demanding new approaches in the struggle to bring a measure of relief to the world's hungry poor.

Chief among these was the changing face of hunger itself, which continued to evolve over the course of the year as the numbers of hungry people in the world climbed to record highs, exceeding one billion. Their ranks were swelled by entirely new sectors of society, including millions of unskilled urban workers driven into poverty and hunger by the twin afflictions of a global economic crisis and persistently high food prices.

For WFP, the sharp increase in the scale and nature of worldwide hunger posed a double-edged dilemma. Not only did it include people beyond the agency's traditional beneficiaries among the rural poorest of the poor, but it also occurred at a time when international food supplies were available. The message, in brief, was stark: Many people were unable to feed themselves in 2009 not because they could not find food, but rather because they could no longer afford it.

WFP responded by delivering more food with less money. The agency reached 101.8 million people — 84 million of them women and children — in 75 countries in 2009. An unprecedented 4.6 million metric tons were delivered, higher than the 3.9 million metric tons distributed in 2008, when slightly more people — 102 million — were reached.

But WFP managed to achieve this feat with fewer resources. Donors were generous in 2009, contributing \$4.2 billion, well above WFP's \$3.7 billion target but below the record sum of more than \$5 billion

contributed in 2008. Mobilizing such massive levels of funding, particularly against the backdrop of an economic downturn, proved to be one of WFP's more complex challenges during the year.

If funding posed problems in 2009, other difficulties arose as a result of the deteriorating security climate for WFP staff and installations around the world.

The agency, along with the United Nations and other humanitarian organizations, was targeted during the year by various armed groups and disenfranchised elements. The situation was further exacerbated by a disinformation campaign waged by militants urging violence against humanitarian organizations in general and against UN agencies in particular.

More than 600 security incidents involving WFP staff or installations were reported during the year, including intimidation, harassment, detention, theft, abduction and violent death. The most serious occurred in October, when a suicide bomber killed himself and five WFP staff at WFP's office in Islamabad, Pakistan. In all, 15 people lost their lives while working for WFP in 2009, and another 35 were injured.

For WFP, staff security remained paramount, then and now. At the same time, WFP also recognized its mandate as a front-line humanitarian agency with responsibility for the lives of millions of victims of war and civil unrest. In response to these two competing concerns, the agency chose to adopt, as far as practicable, a "how to stay" security culture to ensure that WFP could continue to address the critical hunger needs of affected populations anywhere in the world.



A resident of Santa Cruz in the Philippines' Laguna province wades through floodwaters that displaced more than half a million people.

While man-made disasters occupied WFP in 2009, the agency also coped with the effects of catastrophes provoked by nature. The UN's International Strategy for Disaster Reduction recorded 245 natural disasters during the year, of which 224 were weather-related and accounted for 7,000 deaths.

For WFP, the greatest challenge occurred as 2009 drew to a close and the new year dawned. Early in January 2010, Haiti was struck by a 7.0 magnitude earthquake, which devastated the island country's capital city and surrounding regions. In seconds, Port-au-Prince lay in ruins, creating the conditions for the most complex emergency operation WFP had ever mounted.

Never before had the agency been called upon to deliver relief in an urban environment that had been so damaged — shorn almost completely of infrastructure, with operations further hampered by the government's severely restricted capacity to respond. Despite the difficulties, WFP managed to reach more than two million beneficiaries with more than 9,000 metric tons of rice within the first two weeks.

The Haiti quake came on the heels of a multiple disaster on the other side of the world. In late September and throughout October, the Philippines was pummeled by a string of typhoons, which submerged 80 percent of the capital city of Manila in fetid floodwaters and laid waste to the country's rice bowl in northern Luzon.



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