

## Summary

---

Food security, as measured by the number of hungry people, improved slightly in 2003 compared with 2002 in the 70 low-income countries studied in this report. Overall, the estimated number of people in these countries consuming less than recommended nutritional requirements dropped from more than 1 billion in 2002 to just over 900 million in 2003.

Although food security is expected to improve in all regions over the coming decade, this improvement will vary. Food security is projected to improve most significantly in Asia, followed by Latin America and the Caribbean. Although some improvement is also expected in Sub-Saharan Africa, the deep poverty at the root of hunger problems in the lower income population will remain unchanged.

### **North Africa**

In North Africa, per capita food consumption is comparable to levels in many developed countries, and is not expected to change in the next decade. However, food security is expected to remain a problem for the lowest income group in Algeria, Egypt, and Morocco.

### **Sub-Saharan Africa**

Although the number of hungry people in Sub-Saharan Africa is expected to rise from 381 million in 2003 to 490 million in 2013, the share of hungry people as a part of the entire population is expected to stay at 59 percent over the same period.

### **Asia**

Increased grain production rates and slowing population growth are expected to help improve food security in Asia over the next decade. Afghanistan, despite its recovering agricultural sector, will remain the most vulnerable country in the region.

### **Latin America and the Caribbean**

A favorable economic outlook should improve food security in most nations in the region, with the exception of Haiti and Nicaragua. Food aid is expected to continue to play a vital role in the food security outlook in these two nations. Efforts to reduce hunger in Brazil would benefit from investments in education and other long-term strategies aimed at reducing income inequality.

### **Commonwealth of Independent States**

Positive grain harvests in 2003 have helped to close food gaps in this region. Only Tajikistan is expected to experience food gaps over the coming decade. In Russia, access to food is a problem for a minority of the population with low income, large households, and no garden plot on which to grow food-stuffs. Overweight and obesity affect about half the population.

Food aid has been and continues to be an important tool for the international community to fight hunger in low-income countries, and the United States is the dominant food-donor country. However, the effectiveness of food aid could be improved by increased coordination between donor groups, more transparent eligibility criteria, and fewer fluctuations in year-to-year aid levels.