

ENDING CHILD HUNGER AND UNDERNUTRITION INITIATIVE



CONSULTATION

12 FEBRUARY 2007

World Food Programme
Rome, Italy

DRAFT DECISION

Having considered the document “Ending Child Hunger and Undernutrition Initiative: Global Framework for Action” (WFP/EB.2/2006/4-A) and approved decision 2006/EB.2/2 and subsequently reviewed “Ending Child Hunger and Undernutrition Initiative ” (WFP/EB.1/2007/5-A), the Board:

- authorizes WFP to participate in the Ending Child Hunger and Undernutrition Initiative as outlined in the Global Framework for Action (see Addendum WFP/EB.1/2007/5-A/Add. 1), including participation in the Partners Group, the Steering Committee and the Secretariat, and approves WFP’s participation in a revision of the strategy document;
- approves WFP’s role in the work plan for 2007–2008 with an estimated budget of US\$2.2 million annually on a cost-sharing basis for WFP’s participation in the work plan, which will be funded from non-PSA sources; and
- notes the status of the Partners Group, the milestones for 2007–2008, and the corresponding timetable for developing the Partners Group work plan and responsibilities, and welcomes the draft work plan for the Initiative, including the terms of reference for the Partners Group, the Steering Committee and the Secretariat of the Initiative.

BACKGROUND

1. At its 2006 Second Regular Session, the Board approved draft decision points (a) to (e) and added point (f), which requested the Secretariat to submit for approval at the 2007 First Regular Session a paper containing:
 - a statement on WFP's role in the Ending Child Hunger and Undernutrition Initiative (ECHUI) work plan for 2007–2008; and
 - an estimated budget for WFP's participation in the work plan.
2. The Board also asked for more information on:
 - a draft ECHUI work plan, including terms of reference for the Partners Group, the Steering Committee and the ECHUI Secretariat;
 - the status of the Partners Group;
 - milestones for 2007–2008, the timetable for developing the work plan and the responsibilities of the Partners Group;
 - a revised version of the Global Framework for Action.

ECHUI WORK PLAN 2007–2008 AND WFP'S ROLE

3. Current United Nations reform efforts and the international consensus afforded by the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) provide an opportunity for United Nations agencies supporting food and nutrition-related programmes to strengthen their capacities and serve as catalysts in the work of stakeholders on the global problem of child hunger and malnutrition.
4. In this context, and in keeping with their mandates and memoranda of understanding, WFP and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) have constructed a common platform on which a broad and inclusive partnership can be built. The ECHUI requires a strong global partnership with a common focus on action to achieve sustainable progress for children. The primary role of WFP in ECHUI – like that of its co-sponsoring partner, UNICEF – is to work with others to achieve the goals outlined in the Global Framework for Action (GFA), the main ECHUI strategy document.
5. In accordance with the draft ECHUI work plan in Annex I, WFP and UNICEF will jointly and separately advocate for increased synergies among partners to achieve the four goals of the ECHUI work plan:
 - increased awareness of the problem and understanding of potential solutions;
 - strengthened national policies and programmes;
 - increased capacities for direct community action on hunger; and

- increased efficiency and accountability of global efforts to reduce child hunger and undernutrition.
6. With regard to the first goal, WFP will review with United Nations country teams the flow of information and evidence to policy and programme decision-makers to ensure an increasing awareness of child hunger and undernutrition issues. WFP will also participate in global advocacy and other activities as outlined in the terms of reference of the Partners Group and Secretariat below.
 7. To help to achieve the second goal, WFP will continue to work with its partners to increase national and local capacity for analysing country situations in support of policy formulation on issues of child hunger and undernutrition. This will include WFP's continued participation in country planning processes such as United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs), Common Country Assessments (CCAs), Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and WFP country programmes to strengthen national policies and programmes where needed.
 8. In support of the third goal, WFP will review its capacity to identify and monitor hungry, undernourished and vulnerable children with a view to supporting increased capacities for direct action among affected communities. This will include, in the first instance, filling any funding gap in programmes already approved by the Board.
 9. WFP will also offer its analysis and assessment capacities to assist governments and partners in identifying and addressing remaining food gaps. Vulnerability analysis and mapping (VAM), for example, will be used to help partners to target interventions to the neediest households; this will involve analysis of ways in which the information needed to target a wider range of complementary interventions can be gathered and shared.
 10. With regard to the fourth goal, WFP already has accountability mechanisms in place to cover its responsibilities, but it will seek to strengthen effectiveness, efficiency and accountability through its participation in the Partners Group and especially its periodic reviews of the Results Matrix.
 11. WFP and UNICEF will not themselves seek to attract or channel new resources to meet the estimated resource gaps for national action. This will be the responsibility of the countries themselves, in conjunction with donors. Instead, WFP will focus on advocacy and on leveraging resources with decision-makers at the national and international levels to promote increased and more effective investments.
 12. The draft ECHUI work plan is attached as Annex I. The major milestones for 2007-2008 are summarized below.

MAJOR MILESTONES

13. The main milestones for the first and second quarters of 2007 will include establishment of the full secretariat team, identification of the two vice-chairs of the strategic Partners Group, the inaugural meeting of the full Partners Group, another meeting of the Steering Committee, mobilization of additional partners from the private and public sectors and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and organization of technical or scientific fora such as the United States Centers for Disease Control (CDCs) and the United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition (SCN) for updates. A list of the milestones for 2007–2008 is provided in Annex IV.

14. For other aspects of ECHUI development, strategy and oversight, WFP and UNICEF will collaborate under the guidance of the Partners Group and the Steering Committee, for which WFP and UNICEF are expected to provide the Secretariat.

GOVERNANCE, TERMS OF REFERENCE AND SECRETARIAT BUDGET

15. Four groups will work to reduce child hunger and undernutrition over the next ten years: the Steering Committee, the Partners Group and the Secretariat will be responsible for the operation and governance of ECHUI. Their main roles are summarized below and in Annex II.

- a) **Individual Partners**, including WFP and UNICEF, can join the ECHUI by becoming members of the Partners Group, initially at the invitation of the Steering Committee. Partners seek to strengthen linkages across disciplines, institutions, sectors and countries, building alliances, promoting attention and focus, exchanging experiences, and mobilizing resources to end child hunger and undernutrition. Partners will be drawn from agencies, institutions, private-sector and civil-society organizations, and others who are willing to contribute to ECHUI. Partners who commit funds and resources to ECHUI can also join the Steering Committee.
- b) **The Steering Committee** is responsible for oversight and direction of ECHUI and for authorizing the allocation of resources. It consists of the Executive Directors of the Initiating Partners, WFP and UNICEF. The committee convenes the Partners Group and facilitates its work by providing a joint secretariat. To date, the Steering Committee has:
 - (i) developed the Concept Note, completed in November 2005;
 - (ii) formed and resourced a joint task force to develop ECHUI;
 - (iii) convened three technical working groups to design ECHUI;
 - (iv) overseen the development of a Global Framework for Action (see WFP/EB.1/2007/5-A/Add. 1);

- (v) convened an advisory group to review the proposed initiative; and
- (vi) overseen the development of a draft work plan for ECHUI (Annex I).

During the start-up phase to commence in 2007, the Steering Committee will oversee the establishment of the joint secretariat and will convene the Partners Group, whose chair will join the Steering Committee as a permanent member. The committee will be extended to include other members of the Partners Group who commit funds and resources.

- c) **The Partners Group** is the advisory body responsible for strategic guidance of ECHUI. The group will advise the Steering Committee on issues related to policy, programme management and communication for advocacy and resource mobilization. The Partners Group is the forum for developing the global-level partnerships required to end child hunger and undernutrition. It will define its own annual work plan with results to be achieved based on the GFA, especially the four major outcomes and the results matrix.

The Partners Group is expected to meet at least once annually, beginning in 2007. It will issue an annual report on the progress of ECHUI to its members. Its work plan will be supported by the secretariat; the SCN will serve as its technical advisory body on issues related to food and nutrition.

The Partners Group should provide strategic guidance and ensure ownership of ECHUI by national governments, with support from regional and international bodies and institutions, NGOs, the private sector and professional, technical, academic and civil-society entities. The parameters of the roles of governments in the global partnership group will be specified by the Partners Group.

- d) **The Secretariat's** function is to carry out its work plan under the oversight of the Steering Committee and to work to achieve the four major outcomes outlined in the GFA, under the guidance of the Partners Group. A team consisting initially of WFP and UNICEF personnel will support ECHUI and service the Steering Committee and the Partners Group. Responsibilities will include:

- (i) carrying out its approved work plan;
- (ii) supporting high-level advocacy with Executive Directors, the Secretary-General and the G8 among others;
- (iii) partnership development, including support for the Partners Group;
- (iv) policy coordination, including support for the Steering Committee, in conjunction with the SCN;
- (v) updating and monitoring the GFA and work plans;

- (vi) best practice and “how to” documentation, joint policy and guidelines, in conjunction with the SCN;
- (vii) establishment and maintenance of strategic partnerships;
- (viii) development of community approaches;
- (ix) development and implementation of communications for advocacy strategy;
- (x) development and maintenance of online resources for ECHUI; and
- (xi) costing and resource-tracking.

16. **Secretariat Budget.** The secretariat, based in Rome, will initially comprise a team leader at the D-2 level provided by UNICEF and five other programme and administrative support staff provided by WFP and UNICEF. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has recently offered to join the secretariat in a technical capacity; other potential partners are expected to join or otherwise support it. The secretariat’s budget is estimated at US\$2.2 million per year, including staff and administration costs (see Annex III).

17. Until other partners come forward, the costs of the secretariat will be shared by WFP and UNICEF. A small internal coordination unit of two to three WFP staff will monitor and update operational and institutional practices in WFP as guided by the ECHUI partnership. The costs of WFP’s participation in the secretariat and the internal coordination unit will not be part of core PSA funding but will be provided by supporting foundations, the private sector or other partner organizations.

18. The estimated draft budget for the Secretariat is attached in Annex III.

19. **Other potential costs.** Once national strategies for addressing child hunger and undernutrition have been identified or strengthened, governments will expect global partners to provide resources to address any shortfalls. For WFP, this will mean full commitment to projects and programmes approved by its Board so that the gap is closed between children WFP is committed to reaching and those it can actually reach.

20. WFP may also call on internal departments to harmonize with the goals of ECHUI, in keeping with WFP's mandate and mission. Some reorientation will be expected, as described in the work plan; additional resources may be required, for example to enhance capacities in information technology (IT), VAM, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and advocacy and communications capacity. Resources may also be needed to establish new partnerships, increase capacity to help countries to develop new country plans and possibly to establish a fellowship programme. As implementation of ECHUI begins, these costs will be estimated and accounted for in the existing strategic planning framework and regular budget and programme submissions.

STATUS OF THE PARTNERS GROUP

21. In preparation for the establishment of the Partners Group in the first quarter of 2007, WFP and UNICEF staff have been mobilizing stakeholders such as NGOs, the private sector, academic institutions, United Nations agencies and regional development banks. Meetings have been held with several organizations willing to join the Partners Group.

22. A preparatory meeting of the offices of the Partners Group chair – the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees – and two potential vice-chairs will be held in early February to determine and approve terms of reference and governance structure of ECHUI. The first annual Partners Group meeting will be held in the second quarter of 2007.

23. Thereafter, the chair will convene meetings every six months with the Steering Committee and ECHUI secretariat, annually with lead partners, and every six months with the Partners Group.

24. The role of the vice-chair will be to facilitate connections with existing regional and international bodies in relation to child hunger and undernutrition, to manage working groups developing thematic areas or other aspects of the global work plan, and to facilitate collaboration and harmonization among working groups.

ANNEX I

DRAFT WORK PLAN FOR THE ECHUI SECRETARIAT – 2007 and 2008		
GOAL:	Dramatically reduce child hunger and undernutrition within a generation	
EXPECTED OUTCOME 5:	Functioning, cost-effective Secretariat for the Initiative	
EXPECTED RESULT (OUTPUT) 5.1:	Support provided to Partners Group and Steering Committee, and required actions initiated to launch, accelerate and sustain the Initiative	
ACTIVITIES	TIME FRAME	ANTICIPATED PARTNERS
Engage, place required staff for secretariat	Q1 2007	CDC, private-sector companies, health institutes
Initiate technical partnerships related to the main intervention areas promoted by ECHUI and hold initial meetings	Q1 2007	CDC, private-sector companies, health institutes
Engage <i>with The Lancet</i> on ECHUI-relevant research and publications and update priority interventions based on <i>The Lancet</i> research	Q1, Q2 2007	<i>The Lancet</i> , SCN
Establish Partners Group (chair and vice-chair positions) and agree on convenors	Q1 2007	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), World Economic Forum, key "champion" companies and technical companies; NGOs
Identify 7-10 private-sector and NGO "champions"	Q1 2007	Private-sector relations units in WFP and UNICEF
Hold first Partners Group meeting	Q1 2007	UNHCR, vice-chairs
Update Global Framework for Action	Q1 2007	FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Partners Group
Manage planning processes related to partnership development and inter-agency consultations	2007, 2008	Chair, Vice-Chairs of Partners Group; NGOs
Consider issues arising from the Partners Group and Steering Committee processes	2007, 2008	Partners Group; Steering Committee
Prepare background documents, research, papers and position statements to facilitate discussion, communication and consensus-building	2007, 2008	Partners Group; Steering Committee
Support high-level advocacy by Steering Committee	2007, 2008	Steering Committee

DRAFT WORK PLAN FOR THE ECHUI SECRETARIAT – 2007 and 2008

GOAL:	Dramatically reduce child hunger and undernutrition within a generation	
EXPECTED RESULT (OUTPUT) 5.2:	Global advocacy campaign to increase public mobilization and support national-level policy advocacy is initiated and managed	
ACTIVITIES	TIME FRAME	ANTICIPATED PARTNERS
Hold ECHUI event(s) at Davos	Q1 2007	World Economic Forum, Unilever, TNT
Hold ECHUI event at World Social Forum	Q1 2007	NGO partners, George Washington University
Plan international launch of ECHUI	Q3 2007	United Nations Secretary-General
Develop and maintain stand-alone website	2007, 2008	In-house units
Create web-based inventory of major relevant existing advocacy initiatives	Q1, Q2 2007	NGO coalitions
Develop ECHUI "brand" and global advocacy, media and programme communications strategies	Q1, Q2 2007	WFP, UNICEF, private-sector media
Ensure that child hunger and undernutrition are on the agenda at appropriate high-level political and economic forums	2007, 2008	World Economic Forum and Regional Summits; inter-governmental organizations (IGOs); private-sector and other "champions"
Negotiate and plan alignment of key advocacy messages and strategies with relevant partners	2007	Partners Group
EXPECTED RESULT (OUTPUT) 5.3:	WFP and UNICEF internally mobilized to support ECHUI and integrate ECHUI goals into programmes of cooperation, operations and organizational priorities as necessary	
ACTIVITIES	TIME FRAME	ANTICIPATED PARTNERS
Brief and mobilize senior staff of WFP, UNICEF and other agencies at the regional and country levels	Q1, Q2 2007	WFP, UNICEF, other agencies
Integrate ECHUI in WFP Strategic Plan process and biennium budget	Q1, Q2 2007	In-house units
Consult regularly with regional directors, programme officers, and country office staff	2007	WFP, UNICEF, other agencies
Produce regular ECHUI e-newsletter for WFP and UNICEF staff	2007	Communications units
Ensure coherence between internal agency processes divisional work planning, internal change processes, Executive Board functions, individual agency bilateral relations and agency communications	2007	In-house units

DRAFT WORK PLAN FOR THE ECHUI SECRETARIAT – 2007 and 2008

GOAL:	Dramatically reduce child hunger and undernutrition within a generation	
EXPECTED RESULT (OUTPUT) 5.4:	Policy and programmatic links developed with other relevant initiatives and with priority countries	
ACTIVITIES	TIME FRAME	ANTICIPATED PARTNERS
Identify 15-20 countries for priority ECHUI focus	2007	Governments, United Nations country teams (UNCTs)
Assist 15-20 countries in developing country-level strategies for engaging partners around child hunger and undernutrition	2007	Governments; UNCTs; World Bank; Regional Development Banks; NGOs
Hold technical launch of ECHUI	Q1 2007	SCN
Negotiate partnerships and harmonize approaches with global, regional and national entities and processes	2007, 2008	Partners Group, Governments
Develop relationships with country-level initiatives to promote good practices and application of lessons learned	2007, 2008	

MAJOR GROUPS – ROLES AND TORs

Individual Partners

1. Organizations can join ECHUI by becoming members of the Partners Group, initially at the invitation of the Steering Committee.
2. Partners seek to strengthen linkages across disciplines, institutions, sectors and countries, building alliances, promoting attention and focus, exchanging experiences and mobilizing resources to end child hunger and undernutrition.
3. Partners will be drawn from agencies, institutions, private-sector and civil-society organizations, and others who are willing to contribute to ECHUI. Partners who commit funds and resources can also join the Steering Committee.
4. Private-sector engagement through public and private partnerships can have a sustainable impact on improving health. This has been demonstrated with respect to nutrition in salt iodization and flour fortification. Global private-sector “champions” can draw attention to hunger and undernutrition and ways of addressing them, and advance the goals of ECHUI in their sector; they can collaborate in broader partnerships and help to mobilize the technologies, expertise and resources to address child hunger.
5. NGOs, field-based or involved in advocacy, are central to the network of partnerships needed to deliver ECHUI. United Nations and inter-governmental organizations, governments of programme countries, multilateral and bilateral donor organizations, civil-society and faith-based organizations, and academic and trade associations all have a role to play. All partners must speak with a common voice in support of a shared commitment: to work together to end child hunger and undernutrition in our lifetime.

Initiating Partners

6. The existing WFP/UNICEF partnership that began in 1976 was strengthened in May 2005 with the Memorandum of Understanding, which commits both agencies “to the elimination of Child Hunger and Undernutrition” and to work “wherever possible . . . on nutrition in the same geographic locations aiming for synergistic effects of complementary resources and activities. The goal is to increase, with urgency, efforts to resolve the massive scale of undernutrition worldwide.”
7. In this context, UNICEF and WFP are contributing their technical, managerial, communication and advocacy resources to support the evolving global ECHUI partnership.

The Steering Committee

8. The Steering Committee is responsible for oversight and direction of ECHUI and for authorizing the allocation of resources. It convenes the Partners Group and facilitates its work by providing a secretariat.
9. The Steering Committee has driven the initiative from the outset. During the development phase beginning in mid-2005, the Steering Committee consisted of the Executive Directors of WFP and UNICEF. To date the Steering Committee has:
 - developed the Concept Note, completed in November 2005;
 - formed and resourced a joint task force to develop ECHUI;
 - convened three technical working groups to design ECHUI;
 - overseen the development of a Global Framework for Action;
 - convened an advisory group to review ECHUI; and
 - overseen development of a draft work plan for ECHUI, to be released in February 2007.
10. During the start-up phase to commence in 2007, the Steering Committee will oversee the establishment of a joint secretariat and will convene the Partners Group, whose chair will join the Steering Committee as a permanent member. The Steering Committee will be extended to include members of the Partners Group who commit funds and resources to ECHUI.

The Partners Group

11. The Partners Group is the advisory body responsible for strategic guidance of ECHUI.
12. The Partners Group will advise and guide the Steering Committee on issues related to policy, programme management and communication for advocacy and resource mobilization. It will define its own annual work plan with results to be achieved based on the GFA, especially the Four Major Outcomes and the Results Matrix. The Partners Group is expected to meet at least once annually, beginning in 2007. It will issue an annual report on the progress of ECHUI to its members. Its work plan will be supported by the secretariat; the SCN will serve as its technical advisory body on issues related to food and nutrition.
13. The Partners Group is the forum for developing the global-level partnerships required to end child hunger and undernutrition. It should ensure ownership of ECHUI by national governments, with support from regional and international bodies and institutions, NGOs, the private sector and professional, technical, academic and civil-society entities. Participation by national governments in the global partnership group will be facilitated by the Partners Group.

14. There is no limit on the number of partners. All must meet basic criteria, including:

- participation in ECHUI and/or resource provided to support it;
- acknowledged leadership in an area relevant to child hunger and undernutrition;
- an interest in working with partners to build common advocacy approaches; and
- willingness to advocate common points of agreement and messages about child hunger and undernutrition, as outlined in the Global Framework for Action.

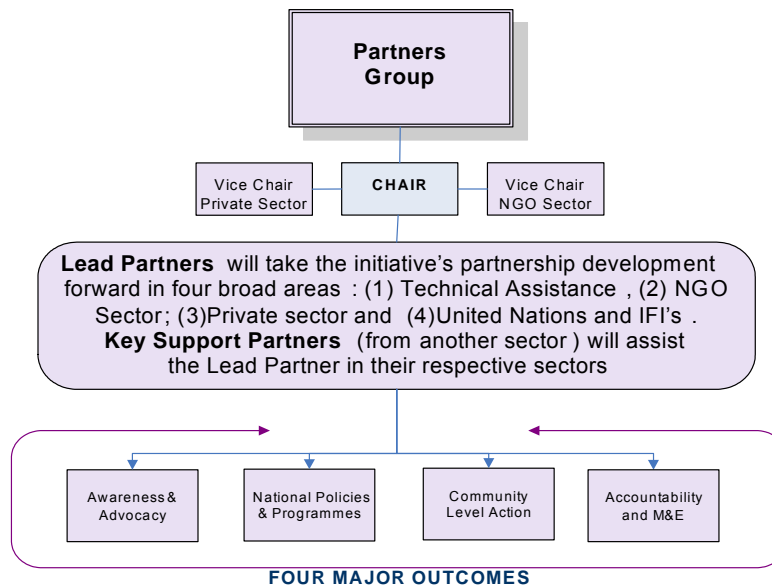
15. The chair will convene meetings twice a year with the Steering Committee and ECHUI secretariat, annually with lead partners and twice a year with the Partners Group.

16. The Partners Group will have two vice-chairs, one from the private sector and the other from an NGO. Their role will be to facilitate connections with existing regional and international bodies in relation to child hunger and undernutrition, to develop and manage thematic working groups and to facilitate connections and harmonization among working groups.

17. Lead partners develop strategies for engaging partners in their area of expertise. Initially, they will develop the ECHUI partnership in four areas:

- development of technical interventions;
- the NGO sector;
- the private sector; and
- the United Nations and international financial institutions (IFIs).

18. Following the partnership model of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, each lead partner will support one of the other lead partners.



Secretariat

19. The Secretariat will carry out its work plan under the oversight of the Steering Committee and work to achieve the Four Major Outcomes outlined in the Global Framework for Action, guided by the Partners Group. A team consisting initially of WFP and UNICEF personnel will support ECHUI and service the Steering Committee and the Partners Group.

20. Responsibilities will include:

- carrying out its approved work plan;
- supporting high-level advocacy with Executive Directors, the Secretar-General and the G8 among others;
- partnership development, including support for the Partners Group;
- policy coordination, including support for the Steering Committee, in conjunction with the SCN;
- updating and monitoring the GFA and work plans;
- best practice and “how to” documentation, joint policy and guidelines, in conjunction with the SCN;

- establishment and maintenance of strategic partnerships;
- development of community approaches;
- development and implementation of communications for advocacy strategy;
- development and maintenance of online resources for ECHUI; and
- costing and resource-tracking.

ANNEX III

ECHUI JOINT SECRETARIAT		
ECHUI joint support/execution team	Year 2007	Year 2008
	Annual rate	Annual rate
Staff	818 760	880 480
Non-staff (consultants and temporary staff)	203 694	203 694
Other costs		
Support to partners group and steering committee	80 000	60 000
Support to NGO, technical and private-sector consultations	50 000	30 000
Field / regional consultations and networking	80 000	80 000
Strategic information and evaluation	60 000	60 000
Communications core budget	70 000	50 000
Fellowships in focus countries	20 000	30 000
Costing and resource tracking	120 000	120 000
Unit operating costs	70 000	40 000
Travel and daily subsistence allowances	202 164	257 019
Total other costs	752 164	727 019
WFP Internal Coordination Unit	422 760	422 760
Total other costs	752 164	727 019
Sub-Total	1 774 618	1 811 193
TOTAL	2 197 378	2 233 953

ANNEX IV

2007	ECHUI MILESTONES
Q1	<p>Full secretariat team in place</p> <p>Partners Group vice-chairs identified, one private sector, one NGO sector</p> <p>Additional NGO partners mobilized at World Social Forum; Nairobi, January</p> <p>Additional private-sector partners mobilized at World Economic Forum; Davos, January</p> <p>Technical partners in intervention areas meet at CDC; Atlanta, February</p> <p>Partners Group planning meeting sets out governance structure and approves terms of reference (TORs); Geneva, February</p> <p>SCN Annual Meeting; ECHUI and SCN work plans harmonized; Rome, February</p> <p>Steering Committee meeting identifies initial priority focus countries</p> <p>Initial focus countries for information system development identified</p> <p>Global costing estimates refined</p>
Q2	<p>Inaugural Annual Partners Group meeting held to approve 2007–2008 ECHUI work plan</p> <p>Consultation with field staff on child hunger efforts and mobilization</p> <p>Communications and advocacy strategy finalized</p> <p>Discussions with initial focus countries on action plan development; country conferences on child hunger</p> <p>ECHUI website launched</p> <p>Regional and national private-sector partners identified at World Economic Fora on Latin America (Santiago, April) and Africa (Cape Town, June)</p> <p>Inputs made to G8 summit communiqué; Heiligendamm, June</p> <p>First of three regional consultations on regional strategy development; region to be decided</p> <p>Focus interventions refined based on new evidence from <i>The Lancet</i></p>
Q3	<p>WFP Strategic Plan released reflecting ECHUI inputs</p> <p><i>Progress for Children: Report Card on Nutrition</i> for 2007 released</p> <p>Second of three regional consultations held on regional strategy development; region to be decided</p> <p>Steering Committee meeting held</p> <p>International media launch of ECHUI</p> <p>Steering Committee begins high-level advocacy campaign to establish child hunger as priority</p>
Q4	<p>Focus countries identify national priority actions and support needs for 2008 on the basis of <i>Progress for Children: Report Card on Nutrition</i></p> <p>National civil-society advocacy supported in initial focus countries</p> <p>Information system development needs review in focus countries completed</p> <p>Committee on World Food Security convened; Rome</p> <p>Third of three regional consultations on regional strategy development held; region to be decided</p>

2008	RECURRING MILESTONES
Q1	World Social Forum World Economic Forum SCN Annual Meeting ECHUI Annual Report to Partners' Executive Bodies Steering Committee Meeting
Q2	Second Annual Partners Group meeting to review progress, refine strategy and approve work plan for 2008–2009 Three regional strategies released
Q3	<i>Progress for Children: Report Card on Nutrition</i> for 2008 released Steering Committee meeting held
Q4	Focus countries identify national priority actions and support needs for 2009 on the basis of <i>Progress for Children: Report Card on Nutrition</i> ECHUI evaluation done Committee on World Food Security meets; Rome

Joint Statement on ECHUI

Mr. Chairman,

Canada, the United Kingdom, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark, Austria, France, Japan, Switzerland, and the European Commission share the fundamental objective of ending child hunger and undernutrition in a generation. We also share the view that child undernutrition, and the long term costs of not addressing it - including forgone economic growth, have to date received inadequate attention in development policy articulation. We therefore welcome the attention that ECHUI brings to the issue.

Since first suggested in August of 2005, it is clear that there has been a substantial evolution in thinking on what such an Initiative might entail, and that this evolution is the result of concerted inter-agency collaboration. That heightened collaboration is in fact an early and tangible benefit of ECHUI, and bodes well for the ability of the involved agencies to ramp up progress on child hunger and under-nutrition.

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to comment and seek further clarification on certain elements of the proposed Initiative. (Individual countries that have joined this statement may follow up with additional written comments).

Country Ownership, PRSs, and ECHUI's "advocacy" role:

The joint WFP-UNICEF "Global framework for action" points out that food security and nutrition, but particularly child under-nutrition, are insufficiently addressed in current national Poverty Reduction Strategies. Country ownership, and a rooting of the ECHUI in Poverty Reduction Strategies, must therefore in our view be the fundamental building block of the proposed Initiative. This implies that "advocacy" efforts undertaken by the Initiative must be quite carefully conceived, and focused on encouraging and advising national governments in explicitly recognising, and where necessary elevating, child nutrition in their development policy frameworks. Given scarce resources, as well as ongoing global advocacy by many others on hunger issues, we believe that this national policy support function will be the right niche for ECHUI.

Sustainable solutions:

The articulation of the ECHUI to date, and the discussion that we have had of it, have highlighted both the immediacy of the child hunger problem, and the importance of addressing underlying problems and finding long term solutions. Such long term sustainable solutions however usually imply systemic improvements. As the Framework document points out to us, there are health,

education and food security dimensions that need to be addressed. In a world of limited resources, we believe there will be an inevitable tension between immediate responses with commodity packets, and investments in system capacities that will have longer term payback. The answer will not be all one or the other, but an appropriate balance between the two. This will of course need to be based on assessment of individual country needs and to be constantly refined as we go along, but our reaction to the currently proposed costing model is that it is relatively overweight on the packet and particularly food aid approach, and underweight in the systems investment approach. (We note with some concern the statement on page 24 of the Framework that “The incremental costs ... include only the cost of delivering the intervention, and not the cost of any necessary capacity increases to do so.”)

Distributed leadership, need for wide buy-in:

Another implication of the need to sustainably improve health, education, and food security systems is that Agencies responsible for these themes need to be committed to and centrally involved in the Initiative. There is good evidence that they have been. We believe that this kind of distributed leadership model will be important as we go forward, and that Agencies with important thematic roles, and in particular UNICEF, will need to maintain and even enhance their contribution to this leadership. The FAO’s role in promoting food security will also need to be appropriately factored in.

As well, “Aligning UN and international assistance strategies around hunger and malnutrition” as suggested on page 36 of the Framework document will require buy-in from a wide array of international agencies and national authorities. A strategy for meeting this challenge will need to be clearly spelled out.

Also of interest will be an indication of how the Initiative intends to engage with large funding providers, and in particular the Development Banks.

Target group:

As thinking on the Initiative has evolved, questions have been raised regarding a precise definition of the target group. The current documents refer to 100 million families, but it would be useful to have more insight on the thinking around what, if any, segment of the child population will be targeted, their characteristics, and indeed what prioritisation may be possible within such a large target population. It will also be important to clarify whether and how child hunger can be programmatically distinguished from family hunger.

Relation to existing programs - WFP and other:

WFP has considerable child-focussed programming, so the intentions either with respect to change of approach or scaling up will need to be clear. Fundamentally, we expect that there will not be any rebalancing away from WFP’s current core focus on emergency programmes, but that ECHUI will as the Q&A document

states: “contribute to improving emergency preparedness and response for the entire humanitarian community”.

Further, are there implications for the geographic focus of WFP activities and allocation of staff resources? If so these should be made explicit.

Clearly other actors are already engaged on child nutrition - the Framework has documented some of their efforts, and there is promise of an expanded web-based inventory. The Initiative will want to have a clear view of what gaps in the existing efforts of others it intends to fill.

Implementation arrangements, role of community and non-governmental organisations:

More information on the specific role of WFP in this initiative, particularly at country level and in cooperation with other UN agencies would be welcome.

There would be benefit in clearly defining how non-governmental, faith-based, and community organisations will relate to the initiative.

As well, there is reference to a Steering Committee; a Secretariat with a \$3 million annual budget; and a Partners’ forum. We would recall earlier statements of caution over mounting new institutional arrangements, and ask that terms of reference for these proposed bodies be provided.

Resource Implications:

While it is suggested that the implications of the Initiative for the PSA budget will be spelled out in Management Plan documents, we believe it would be appropriate to provide some order of magnitude statements at this planning stage for Board consideration. The same would hold true for anticipated increased call for programme resources, if any.

Mr. Chairman,

We believe that the next stage in articulation of the ECHUI should be clarification of the forgoing conceptual elements.

Finally, we would not like to miss this opportunity to recognise the personal vision and exceptional commitment of the Executive Director in bringing this Initiative forward, placing it squarely on the international development agenda, and energising the inter-Agency community to work out its details.

Thank you.

RESPONSES TO JOINT STATEMENT ON ECHUI

This paper addresses issues raised by WFP Board members from List D countries in a joint statement at the Second Regular Session in November 2006.

I. Issues of Country Ownership, Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers and ECHUI'S "Advocacy" Role

After consultation with technical partners, NGOs and the Board, the Secretariat has revised several parts of the *Global Framework for Action*. One of the requests was for improved articulation of the ways in which ECHUI will operate at the country level to establish ECHUI in poverty-reduction strategies (PRs) and other national planning instruments as a means of ensuring sustainability.

Reducing child hunger requires coordinated effort by international donors and aid agencies; governments also have a major role in this process. National development frameworks and policies have overwhelming importance in dealing with chronic child hunger, which results from complex long-term development problems. A problem of such magnitude can only be resolved efficiently if the strategy for remedial action outlines a long-term process incorporated into a coherent framework.

A commitment to work through governments and to strengthen them at all levels is outlined in Outcome 2: Strengthened national policies and programmes affecting hunger and nutrition (pages 36–41 of the *Global Framework for Action*). Pages 36–39 describe (i) how ECHUI partners will support national policy by facilitating the articulation of a strategy to reduce child undernutrition in the framework of national development programmes and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and (ii) how the work of United Nations, NGOs, donors and other partners will be aligned with such strategies and priorities through Common Country Assessments (CCAs) and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs). On page 57, reference is made to the responsibility of the Partners Group "to ensure ownership of the Initiative by national governments".

The authors of the *Global Framework for Action* appreciate that national ownership and local political commitment to strategies to reduce child hunger are fundamental to the success and sustainability of ECHUI.

Advocacy for ECHUI will encourage host countries to prioritize child hunger and undernutrition in their policies, programmes and budgets. The United Nations and in-country partners will advocate such prioritization through United Nations country management teams, UNDAFs and country programme reviews.

The approaches outlined for Outcomes 1 and 2 in the *Global Framework for Action* and the draft workplan to be presented to the Board at the 2007 First Regular Session contribute to this country-focused advocacy, including:

- improving the information available to decision-makers about:
 - ◇ the importance of addressing child hunger and undernutrition;
 - ◇ links to the MDGs and other development priorities;
 - ◇ available solutions; and
 - ◇ progress being made;
- mobilizing support for national advocacy aimed at building and sustaining political commitment; and
- promoting wider collection of national and sub-national data on hunger and undernutrition.

ECHUI advocacy will also support prioritization of child hunger and undernutrition in international resource allocations. The international development community has done poorly in competing for resources to reduce child hunger and undernutrition, which is serious because the problem is a fundamental hindrance to development. A significant proportion of the costs of reducing child hunger is expected to come from national resources; but there will be additional costs, and a country making a serious effort to reprioritize its children will need to know that support from the international development community is available. The magnitude of additional resources needed is discussed in sections 2.4–2.6 of the *Global Framework for Action*.

II. Sustainable Solutions: Satisfying Immediate Needs While Addressing Systemic Problems

The ECHUI *Global Framework for Action* highlights the immediacy of the child hunger issue and the importance of addressing underlying problems and identifying long-term solutions. A balance between the two approaches is required. The problem of child undernutrition occurs in countries at various stages of social, economic and political development, so ECHUI partners will use assessments of country needs to promote a tailored set of interventions based on a combination of immediate-impact commodity-based interventions and long-term interventions and investment in health, education and food security.

Board members are correct to point out the need to strike a balance. ECHUI is designed to do so over the course of a generation. If the impression is given that the immediate focus at the community level is deployment and scaling up of proven interventions, it is because these are the immediate needs of today's undernourished children before they reach adulthood diminished by the effects of under-nourishment – if they reach adulthood at all. It is estimated that 18,000 children die every day from diseases that they may have been able to withstand if they had not been undernourished. We recognize that action will only be

effective in the long term if it is supported by sustained efforts to tackle the root causes of hunger and undernutrition: ECHUI is designed to complement, stimulate and promote leadership by other organizations and initiatives on the structural causes of food insecurity, hunger and undernutrition. The annexed Target Chart shows how the focus areas supported by ECHUI complement longer-term interventions (see also section 2.5 of the *Global Framework for Action*).

III. Distributed Leadership; Need for Wide Buy-In

Partnerships at all levels are at the core of ECHUI: it would not exist without them. The goal of eradicating child hunger and undernutrition can be achieved only through partnerships that utilize each partner's comparative advantage and through advocacy to place child hunger and undernutrition on the policy agendas of the countries affected.

Approaches for aligning partners at the country level include:

- working with the United Nations Resident Coordinators and other members of the ECHUI Partners Group (see section 7.3), including WHO, FAO and UNFPA, United Nations country teams, the World Bank and NGOs, to promote child hunger and undernutrition on national policy agendas;
- using instruments such as Common Country Assessments to promote analysis – including assessment and causal analysis – of child hunger and undernutrition with national research institutions and government and NGO partners;
- promoting collaboration with the United Nations and partners on child hunger and undernutrition through UNDAFs and joint United Nations programme initiatives on the basis of priorities informed by the suggested *National Programming Framework*, Figure 9, p. 40;
- focusing on PRSPs and similar national and sub-national development policy frameworks as the context for country action plans on child hunger and undernutrition;
- using United Nations and government/United Nations theme groups on hunger and nutrition to mobilize stakeholders; and
- strengthening national and local monitoring systems by improving the coordination of United Nations efforts.

“Buy-in” by partners – including governments and international financial institutions (IFIs) – is anticipated as a result of ECHUI's emphasis on identifying known solutions, scaling them up and advocating for increased priority for them in international assistance programmes.

With regard to IFIs, collaboration in activities related to child nutrition among United Nations agencies and development banks is already a reality in most countries where WFP is present. The ECHUI secretariat will consolidate such

relationships by engaging with leaders of regional development banks and funds. The *Global Framework for Action* has been revised to reflect the importance of household food security: ECHUI supports FAO leadership in achieving long-term food security. FAO has also offered a staff member for the ECHUI Secretariat, as noted in the paper provided to the Board.

IV. Target Group

As the *Global Framework for Action* indicates, the problem of child hunger and undernutrition is enormous but highly concentrated: 73 percent of the world's underweight children live in ten countries; 85 million families affected by child hunger and undernutrition live in countries where the prevalence of underweight among children under 5 is greater than 10 per cent. These are powerful facts to support the case that the problem can be tackled operationally. As outlined in key Milestones, ECHUI will probably focus on the most affected countries during the first two years, but strategies and priorities will subsequently be decided by the Partners Group on the basis of countries' interest and commitment.

In terms of distinguishing between "child hunger" and "family hunger", ECHUI will promote various interventions targeting family households to enable needy families to bring up healthy children. The annexed Target Chart shows how different age groups will be affected by the main interventions to be promoted by ECHUI and what other interventions led by partners are necessary at different stages in children's lives (see section 2.5 of the *Global Framework for Action*).

V. Relation to Existing WFP Programmes

Because WFP is a catalyst and advocate for ECHUI, its concerns about the precarious nutritional status of children will be most effectively addressed in policy dialogues that enhance collaboration among partners at the national and global levels. WFP's interventions will therefore be implemented with a view to creating synergies, in keeping with the complementary interventions described in the Target Chart.

ECHUI has no interest in advocating that WFP should change its focus on humanitarian emergencies: the geographic focus of WFP activities and the allocation of staff resources should not be affected beyond what is required to meet WFP's regular programme commitments. ECHUI's first task in terms of WFP operations is to help to identify ways in which WFP can actually reach all the child beneficiaries targeted in current programmes – the "gap" between what WFP is committed to doing and what it actually does.

In terms of filling gaps that other initiatives do not cover, ECHUI will advocate that they be filled by ECHUI partners, other initiatives and civil-society organizations.

VI. Implementation Arrangements; the Roles of Communities and NGOs; Resource Implications

WFP and UNICEF will be advocates and catalysts in pursuit of the goals outlined in the *Global Framework for Action*, in keeping with their mandates and Memorandum of Understanding. With regard to ECHUI development, strategy and oversight, WFP and UNICEF will work jointly as guided by the Partners Group and the Steering Committee, for which WFP and UNICEF are expected to provide a secretariat. Beyond that, divisions of labour among the many ECHUI partners may evolve as plans develop; partners will contribute at different levels according to their resources and comparative advantages.

Community and faith-based organizations and NGOs are also expected to advocate for ECHUI and provide operational support, as discussed in sections 5 and 7 of the *Global Framework for Action*.

VII. Resource Implications

The direct and indirect costs of failing to address child hunger and undernutrition are immense.

The Standing Committee on Nutrition estimates that the direct cost of inaction on child hunger and undernutrition is between US\$20 billion and US\$30 billion per year. The estimated annual cost of providing a set of interventions for 85 million families in countries with severe child underweight problems is US\$8 billion. This does not mean that this level of resources could be absorbed immediately: in fact the secretariat believes that it cannot. However, it is estimated that an additional US\$1 billion raised internationally could be programmed immediately. ECHUI will advocate for resource allocations and reallocations to address child hunger and undernutrition on the basis of refined cost estimates. The scale of the additional resources needed is discussed in sections 2.4–2.6 of the *Global Framework for Action*.

Terms of reference and an estimated budget of approximately US\$2 million per year for the joint UNICEF/WFP secretariat will be presented to the 2007 First Regular Session of the Board.

ANNEX V c)

TARGET GROUPS BY AGE	INTERVENTIONS FOR IMMEDIATE IMPACT		INTERVENTIONS FOR LONGER-TERM IMPACT
	ECHUI focus areas	Complementary interventions	
-9 – 0 months/ pregnant women	<p>Health, hygiene and nutrition education and promotion</p> <p>Micronutrients:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ supplements ➤ in-home fortification <p>Household food security:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ homestead food production ➤ cash transfers ➤ supplementary feeding <p>Household water treatment</p> <p>Parasite control</p> <p>Handwashing with soap</p>	<p>Immunization</p> <p>Disease prevention and control</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ HIV prevention ◇ Birth spacing promotion ◇ Safe motherhood ◇ Reproductive health ◇ Micronutrient fortification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ staple foods (e.g. wheat, rice) ◇ Food security: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ agricultural production ➤ national food-security policies ◇ Water and sanitation systems ◇ Social mobilization
0–6 months	<p>Health, hygiene and nutrition education and promotion, especially promotion of exclusive breastfeeding</p> <p>Handwashing with soap (caregivers)</p>	<p>Immunization</p> <p>Acute respiratory infection (ARI) and diarrhoea treatment</p>	<p>HIV prevention (PMTCT)</p>
6 months – 2 years	<p>Health, hygiene and nutrition education and promotion, especially promotion of complementary feeding</p> <p>Micronutrients:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ supplementation ➤ in-home fortification <p>Household food security:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ homestead food production ➤ cash transfers ➤ supplementary feeding <p>Handwashing with soap</p> <p>Household water treatment</p> <p>Parasite control</p>	<p>Immunization</p> <p>ARI and diarrhoea treatment</p> <p>Disease prevention and control</p>	<p>Micronutrient fortification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Supplementary feeding products <p>HIV prevention</p> <p>Food security:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ agricultural production ◇ national food security policies <p>Water and sanitation systems</p>

TARGET GROUPS BY AGE	INTERVENTIONS FOR IMMEDIATE IMPACT		INTERVENTIONS FOR LONGER-TERM IMPACT
	ECHUI focus areas	Complementary interventions	
2–5 years	Health, hygiene and nutrition education and promotion Micronutrients: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ supplements ➤ in-home fortification Household food security: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ homestead food production ➤ cash transfers ➤ supplementary feeding (remedial) Handwashing with soap Household water treatment Parasite control	ARI and diarrhoea treatment Disease prevention and control	Micronutrient fortification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◊ staple foods (eg. wheat, rice) Education Food security: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◊ agricultural production ◊ national food-security policies Water and sanitation systems
6–12 years	Health, hygiene and nutrition education and promotion Micronutrients: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ in-home fortification Household food security: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ homestead food production ➤ cash transfers Handwashing with soap Household water treatment Parasite control		Education, including school feeding Disease prevention and control Micronutrient fortification Food security: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◊ agricultural production ◊ national food security policies Water and sanitation systems
12–18 years	Health, hygiene and nutrition education and promotion Micronutrients: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ in-home fortification Household food security: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ homestead food production ➤ cash transfers Handwashing with soap Household water treatment Parasite control		HIV prevention Education, including promotion of secondary education Teenage pregnancy prevention Reproductive health Disease prevention and control Micronutrient fortification Food security: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◊ agricultural production ◊ national food-security policies Water and sanitation systems Social mobilization

ACRONYMS USED IN THE DOCUMENT

ARI	acute respiratory infection
CCA	Common Country Assessment
CDC	Center for Disease Control
ECHUI	Ending Child Hunger and Undernutrition Initiative
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GFA	Global Framework for Action
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFI	international financial institution
IGO	inter-governmental organization
IT	information technology
M&E	monitoring and evaluation
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OED	Office of the Executive Director
PMTCT	Prevention of mother-to-child transmission
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
SCN	United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition
TOR	terms of reference
UNCT	United Nations country team
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VAM	vulnerability analysis and mapping