

NEWS RELEASE

World Vision’s final statement and Report Card on the G-20

CANNES, France (Nov. 4, 2011)—Today the G-20 wrapped up in Cannes, France and development was underrepresented in the discussions and the global attention. Here are comments from World Vision spokespeople in this final hour of the summit:

On Canada’s involvement: (Sheri Arnott, World Vision Canada’s senior policy advisor for food security)

“Canada has been a leader on food security and child and maternal health, however at this G-20 summit, there appears to be no evidence of Canada using its leverage as a leader on these issues to push through the dominant focus on the Greek crisis and encourage the G-20 to make sure that development issues stayed on the agenda. Canada was the first to deliver on its L’Aquila food security commitments and has blazed a trail on child and maternal health with the Muskoka Initiative and Prime Minister Harper’s chairing role on the WHO Accountability Commission, so there is an opportunity to be an advocate for development at the G-20.”

On "the real 99 percent": (Adam Taylor, World Vision)

“Around the world, there is a growing protest movement putting the issue of inequity squarely on the public agenda. I believe there is another 99 percent we need the G-20 to remember and prioritize. 99 percent of children who die every year of preventable deaths live in developing countries. They are the real 99 percent.”

On what the G20 missed: (Mauricio Cunha, World Vision Brazil, operations director)

"The G-20 had a unique opportunity this week because some of these leaders are facing the huge challenge of fighting hunger and poverty in their own countries. Unfortunately, this G-20 will be remembered as a missed opportunity. 'New world, new ideas' is a hollow slogan in light of how little has actually been accomplished. I hope that Mexico will write a truly new story, with new ideas."

On the Eurozone crisis dominating the Summit: (Adam Taylor)

"G-20 and G-8 leaders have a history of letting their agendas be derailed by unexpected crises that emerge in the days leading up to a Summit. Certainly the ambitious G-20 slogan that “History will be written in Cannes” rings hollow in light of how little was actually achieved on their original agenda."

On food security and nutrition: (Mauricio Cunha, World Vision Brazil, operations director)

"44 percent of the world's malnourished children live in G-20 countries, and two-thirds of the world's population lives within their borders. These issues deserve the dedicated attention and leadership of all G-20 countries."

World Vision’s Report Card at the close of 2011 G-20 Cannes Summit

World Vision’s calls leading up to the G-20 Summit	What the leaders delivered	Grade

<p>Work with governments, UN, NGOs and the private sector to develop a global strategy and ways to ensure early and effective response to prevent acute food insecurity and malnutrition.</p>	<p>WV welcomes that the G-20 has taken up the issue of people facing severe food crises, like in the Horn of Africa at the moment. We are pleased that the G-20 has endorsed the piloting of emergency food reserves as this will help fill a critical gap in getting food resources to severely food insecure people in a timely manner. However, we are disappointed that the specific nutritional needs of women and children, who are most vulnerable in a food crisis, will not be addressed during the pilot phase.</p>	<p>B-</p>
<p>Ensure agriculture and food security policies and programs include improved nutrition goals for women and children as a key objective.</p>	<p>Despite references in the Development Ministers' and Agriculture Ministers' statements, the final communiqué failed to recognize the importance of nutrition in all aspects of food security. To reduce hunger and unacceptable levels of child malnutrition, improved nutrition outcomes for women and children—especially in the first 1000 days (from conception to 2 years)—must be a key objective of food security initiatives supported by the G-20.</p>	<p>F</p>
<p>Put systems in place that reduce extreme and volatile food prices that leave poor children hungry by increasing market transparency and reducing the impact of biofuels on food prices.</p>	<p>World Vision is pleased the G-20 is seeking to improve functioning of agriculture commodity markets. Improved transparency through the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) is a good first step in addressing destructive levels of volatility in global food markets, but to truly address the most destructive aspects of excessive speculation, the G-20 will need to take much bolder action in future. We are disappointed that the G-20 has failed to act on biofuels as evidence is clear that it's contributing to pushing basic food prices beyond the reach of many families.</p>	<p>C-</p>
<p>Provide increased and better coordinated support for small-scale farmers.</p>	<p>Despite the fact that support for small-scale farmers, particularly women, is widely recognized as a key to global food security, the G-20 failed to even mention small-scale farmers.</p>	<p>F</p>
<p>World Vision supports the concept of innovative forms of finance to ensure adequate resources for development, the achievement of the MDGs and the response to climate change. However we do not think such finance should replace existing and achievable development assistance commitments.</p>	<p>We applaud the fact that it was a dedicated agenda topic, and applaud a number of its recommendations, including the emphasis on identifying new sources of funding and the insistence that these be in addition to current aid commitments, the need for developing countries to do more to raise resources domestically (through improved taxation, for example) and the emphasis on innovation to solve the challenges faced by poor countries. There was a lack of consensus on innovative financing coming into the Summit, but the G-20 was successful in moving forward with some concrete steps.</p>	<p>B</p>



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