

FROM THE G-20 SUMMIT IN CANNES, FRANCE

World Vision comment on the pending release of Bill Gates' report on innovative financing

Statement by World Vision Canada's Food Security Policy Advisor, Sheri Arnott:

"A great deal of the discussion so far at this summit on development has been on innovation in financing and programming. While we appreciate the great work the Gates Foundation has done to bring needed attention and investment to food security and maternal and child health, we can't help but note how ironic it is that we are responding to a report commissioned by the 20 richest countries by one of the world's richest people to find innovative ways to fund poverty reduction."

"It should be humiliating to the G-20 countries that 44 percent of world's stunted children live within their borders. We think these G-20 leaders should focus on solving their own child health and nutrition problems."

"Of course innovation will improve our ability to meet global poverty reduction commitments, but what we need most is for the G-20 countries to spend the money they promised to spend. Through the L'Aquila process for food security, several countries—some of which are G-20 countries—have committed \$22 billion and only about a quarter of that money has been spent so far, they've promised more for health through the Muskoka Initiative and the UN's fund for Every Woman Every Child. Innovative financing would make more sense if the G-20 were already doing their part."

"For example, spending \$11.8 billion a year in already-promised funding on nutrition would save 1.1 million children and prevent stunting in 150 million children."

"We know what works and whether the financing comes through donor governments or innovative sources, it's critical that it supports developing country governments to deliver measurable results for women and children."

"Five of the 10 most cost effective development interventions are nutrition interventions aimed at the first 1000 days of a child's life, such as, micronutrient supplements for children, like vitamin A and zinc, micronutrient fortification with iron and salt iodization, biofortification of crops, deworming and other nutrition programs at school and community-based nutrition and breastfeeding promotion."

Media Contact:

Tiffany Baggetta in Cannes, France at the G-20

Tel. 416-305-9612

Tiffany_Baggetta@worldvision.ca