

## NEWS RELEASE

### World Vision statement on Greek referendum and Eurozone crisis:

**Sheri Arnott, World Vision Canada's senior policy advisor on food security said:**

"Tuesday's news from Greece has again captured the attention of the world and the G-20 leaders. Since 2008, 100 million people have been thrust into extreme poverty as the global economy faltered. The situation is complex and unjust in many ways. But when you strip away the various views of the reasons behind the Euro-zone crisis and the Greek referendum, one thing is clear: in the global south, there are billions of people directly affected by the financial crisis and the G-20's actions who won't have a direct voice in the proceedings.

World Vision wants the G-20 to take the lead in ensuring that agriculture and food security programs focus on better nutrition for children. Solving fiscal deficit issues is important, but it can't be done by ignoring development which represents just a fraction of G-20 budgets. It is immoral and unwise to put the financial future of some children above the lives of others.

Once again, Canada has a chance to show global leadership by making sure food security and nutrition remain on the table at the G-20, despite this week's news about Greece. Canada has blazed the trail on child and maternal health and was the first G-8 country to deliver on its L'Aquila food security promises—but right now, more needs to be done. A perfect storm of high food prices, a faltering global economy and the worst drought in 60 years is putting thousands of children at risk of starvation every day. Canada must step up again."

#### **Background on the Issue**

Today, the leaders of the world's largest economies will meet to tackle global issues. G-20 nations together represent two thirds of the world's population and as much as 90 percent of the global economy. This group of leaders has the means and responsibility to champion a global economic system that works for children and families living in poverty—a system that finally eradicates global tragedies like malnutrition, hunger, and preventable child and maternal deaths. All of these tragedies are related to poverty, and all of them are magnified by economic crises.

In 2008-09, people living in poverty around the world were hit hard by a deadly combination of high food prices and a financial crisis. The impact on poor people was clear: 100 million more people were thrust into extreme poverty, which often means less food for households to eat, poor nutrition for children, and fewer children in school.

The signs are here again. Fears of another global financial crisis are looming. Food prices remain high and spiked again earlier this year, adding 44 million more people to the ranks of the chronically hungry, according to the World Bank. The Horn of Africa food crisis was in part driven by higher food prices, and



the international response has been inadequate as many donor countries struggle to deal with declining economies at home.

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