

COMMITMENT TWO:

We will implement policies aimed at eradicating poverty and inequality and improving physical and economic access by all, at all times, to sufficient, nutritionally adequate and safe food and its effective utilization.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS.

OBJECTIVE 2.1: To pursue poverty eradication, among both urban and rural poor, and sustainable food security for all as a policy priority and to promote, through sound national policies, secure and gainful employment and equitable and equal access to productive resources such as land, water and credit, so as to maximize the incomes of the poor.

To this end, governments, in partnership with all actors of civil society, as appropriate, will:

(a) Review and adopt policies to pursue the eradication of hunger and attain sustainable food security at the household and national levels as a top policy priority, and make every effort to eliminate obstacles such as unemployment and lack of access to factors of production that adversely affect the attainment of food security, and implement the relevant commitments they entered into at the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen 1995;

Domestically:

According to the April 1995 Food Security Supplement to the Current Population Survey, about 12 percent of the approximately 100 million U.S. households experienced food insecurity to some degree. The United States adopted the goal of continued improvement of national nutrition security to achieve a healthier and more productive society in "Nutrition Action Themes for the United States," the 1996 U.S. response to the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN). The U.S. also accepts the World Food Summit goal of reducing the number of undernourished people in the United States to half their present level no later than 2015. The USDA has added food security to its strategic objectives.

Food security in the United States exists largely due to the nation's agricultural production, processing, and distributing sectors that have provided abundant supplies of food in a variety of forms during all seasons of the year at increasingly affordable prices. The average American spends a smaller proportion of income on food than the citizen of any other country, and this percentage continues to decline. The declining real cost of food is largely due to long and continuous investment in agricultural research and extension, which is responsible for increasing productivity rapidly enough to allow farming to remain profitable even while prices declined and supply increased faster than demand. A competitive food industry supported by a public market information system and physical and institutional infrastructure has demonstrated the ability not

only to provide abundant supplies of food for the U.S.

Internationally:

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has revised its strategic framework to establish food security and agricultural development as priority areas and is developing a food security strategy to reflect the complex and multi-sectoral nature of food security. The Department of State has adopted food security as a strategic objective, working with USAID overseas. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has added food security to its strategic objectives.

A number of U.S. PVOs have a long history of experience in food aid programs. They are focusing on programs that promote household food security, maternal/child nutrition, school feeding, and food-for-work.

population, but also to make the United states the largest exporter of agricultural products in the world.

The continuous capacity of the U.S. food system to contribute to both domestic and international food security has been improved by the recent adoption of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform (FAIR) Act of 1996, which increases the flexibility of the farm sector to respond to changing market conditions, continues public support for research, and continues to provide incentives for conservation and sustainable resource use.

The contribution of the food and agriculture sectors to food security is augmented by food assistance programs targeted at low-income individuals, programs to promote healthy eating, and actions to promote food safety and quality. A series of income and medical safety net programs also indirectly affect household food security by maintaining adequate incomes for the elderly, disabled, and economically vulnerable.

See 1.4 (a).

(b) Develop human skills and capacities through basic education and pre- and on-the-job training;

The United States provides universal basic education to all its residents through the first 18 years of life (Supreme Court case Plyler vs. Doe).

See 1.2 (a).

(c) Adopt policies that create conditions which encourage stable employment, especially in rural areas, including off-farm jobs, so as to provide sufficient earnings to facilitate the purchase of basic necessities, as well as encourage labour intensive technologies where appropriate;

The Full Employment Act of 1978 sets the tone to assure stable employment for its citizens. New legislation introduced into Congress in 1997 attempts to expand on these efforts.

See 1.2 (b), 1.3 (b), 1.4 (b), 2.1 (e) and 3.5 (e).

(d) Pursue sound economic, agriculture, fisheries, forestry and land reform policies that will permit farmers, fishers, foresters and other food producers, particularly women, to earn a fair return from their labour, capital and management, and encourage conservation and sustainable management of natural resources including in marginal areas;

All citizens, including women, have equal access to all productive resources, as provided for in legislation and reinforced by the judicial system.

(e) Improve equal access, by men and women, to land and other natural and productive resources, in particular, where necessary, through the effective implementation of land reform and the promotion of efficient utilization of natural and agricultural resources and resettlement on new lands, where feasible;

Many civil society groups continue to pursue lobbying and litigation activities to assure gender equality in access to resources.

n.a.

The Broadening Access And Strengthening Input Market Systems (BASIS) CRSP program in Ethiopia involves the mapping and identification of key agricultural resources areas and zones of potential competition between different land use systems. The goal is to provide comparative data on both high and low potential areas and to identify

(f) Promote access, by farmers and farming communities, to genetic resources for food and agriculture.

USDA programs in research, development, education and extension provide germplasm and released cultivars, research on biotic and abiotic stresses which limit production, and ensure that the private sector has access to the germplasm and technologies which deliver new products to farmers.

appropriate resource strategies for fragile lands.

See also 1.2 (b), 1.3 (b), 1.4 (b), and 3.5 (e).

USDA research programs interact with many national programs in bilateral and multilateral ways to provide germplasm and information to other countries and international agricultural research centers for crop and livestock improvement to help farms and their communities around the world.

OBJECTIVE 2.2: To enable food insecure households, families and individuals to meet their food and nutritional requirements and to seek to assist those who are unable to do so.

To this end, governments, in partnership with all actors of civil society, as appropriate, will:

(a) Develop and periodically update, where necessary, a national food insecurity and vulnerability information and mapping system, indicating areas and populations, including at local level, affected by or at-risk of hunger and malnutrition, and elements contributing to food insecurity, making maximum use of existing data and other information systems in order to avoid duplication of efforts;

Domestically:

Has a very active program of nutritional monitoring which is defined as "the set of activities necessary to provide timely information about the role and status of factors that bear on the contribution that nutrition makes to the health of the people of the United States." Food security monitoring is defined as a set of activities undertaken to provide information on the access by all people at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life. Both activities are grounded in the National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Program (NNMRRP) which was strengthened in 1990 through Public Law 101-445 and includes Federal and State interconnected surveys, surveillance systems, and other monitoring activities that provide information about the dietary, nutritional, and nutrition-related health status of Americans; the relationship between diet and health; and the factors that influence dietary and nutritional status.

The National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Act of 1990 mandated the formation of a National Nutrition Monitoring Advisory Council which serves as a scientific and technical advisory group to the Federal government for nutrition monitoring. The Act also required the formation of the Interagency Board for Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research. This Board has developed the Ten-Year Comprehensive Plan which serves as the basis for planning and coordinating activities

Internationally:

The United States is in the process of developing an Action Plan for the implementation of World Food Summit commitments. The U.S. has a continuing interest in improvement of national "information infrastructure" and related work being done by other agencies of the U.S. government, specifically NASA work in the area of satellite data, and extensive work on climate forecasting (particularly in the context of the current El Nino event). The U.S. government is also actively involved in numerous ways in the process of generating improved food security indicators. It is prepared to collaborate with and support IGAD (in cooperation with Italy) in the development of a Regional Integrated Information System for the IGAD member countries, including relating this effort to FIVIMS.

See 5.2 (a), 7.1 (f), 7.2 (b), and 7.3 (c).

of 22 Federal agencies responsible for nutrition monitoring and/or related research activities for the period 1992-2002. Relevant activity areas delineated within the Plan include the need to use monitoring data to identify high-risk groups and locations that need food assistance and nutrition intervention programs; evaluate these programs; provide information about the relationships between diet, nutrition, and disease and their the effects on the general public and by sub-populations, including the food insecure; and evaluate economic aspects of food consumption. The program serves as an early warning system for potential problem areas and their severity. Using this information, policymakers can better identify intervention options and reach agreement on nutrition monitoring or research initiatives. Current efforts include:

A Food Security Working Group (NCHS/FCS led) was established in 1993 to insure Federal agency collection related to defining and using survey methods to measure and interpret food insecurity. The Conference on Food Security Measurement and Research, held in January 1994, was one activity of the group. The working group also participated in interpretation of the results of the first Food Security Survey (see below).

The Food Security Survey, a national household survey of food security and hunger, was first administered in the U.S. in April 1995. The survey questions cover food expenditures, food assistance program participation, food sufficiency and related concerns, and strategies for food shortage coping. This survey marks the first time a stand-alone U.S. government survey was exclusively designed to measure the existence of food security and hunger. The survey, planned by Federal agency staff and civil society experts, is a self-contained supplement to the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey which collects information on economic and demographic topics. This survey uses the definitions adopted by the U.S. government.

The Working Group on Welfare Reform, Nutrition, and Data Needs was established in 1997 and charged with reviewing the 10-year Plan to determine the ability of the NNMRRP to capture the nutritional impact of changes to the welfare programs, through its various surveys and

(b) Implement, where appropriate, cost-effective public works programmes for the unemployed and underemployed in regions of food insecurity;

(c) Develop within available resources well targeted social welfare and nutrition safety nets to meet the needs of the food insecure, particularly needy people, children, and the infirm.

surveillance systems. The Working Group is comprised of members who represent a number of Federal agencies and NGO's and will serve to improve communication and coordination among member agencies and relevant organizations in the area of welfare reform and nutrition monitoring. Data users and survey planners, for example, will be more closely linked to ensure appropriateness of survey data collection methods and comparability, Federal-state linkages, and information dissemination.

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Largely though the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the U.S. has developed a strong programmatic response to problems of domestic food insecurity. USDA administers 16 food-assistance programs whose goals are to improve nutritional status by providing access to a more nutritious diet, improving the eating habits of the nation's children, and help America's farmers by providing an outlet for the distribution of foods purchased under farmer assistance authorities. An average of more than 45 million people per month, or 1 in 6 Americans, are now served by the nutrition programs. The Food Stamp Program alone serves almost 27 million people each month, more than half of whom are children. Another 7 percent are elderly.

PVOs and WFP implement Title II food aid program targets of over \$350 million annually for development efforts to enhance food security. Of this approximately one-third of the resources are focused specifically on maternal and child health activities.

See 1.1(a)

USDA works in partnership with the states and the private sector in all its programs. The Federal government is generally responsible for food costs for the programs and shares administrative costs with the states. States are responsible for determining the eligibility of needy persons to participate in the programs, as well as for the delivery of services. Non-governmental institutions, such as food banks, soup kitchens, and emergency food assistance sites, work with Federal and state authorities to provide access to nutritious foods.

Outlays for USDA's food-assistance programs totaled almost \$38 billion in fiscal 1995. Designed as a safety net to help meet the basic nutritional needs of eligible low-income people, USDA's food-assistance programs take a variety of forms, differing by size, form of benefit, and target population. Three programs -- the Food Stamp

Program, the National School Lunch Program, and the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program -- account for 88 percent of total food-assistance outlays.

The cornerstone of USDA's food assistance programs is the Food Stamp Program. It supplements the food purchasing power of eligible low-income households by issuing monthly benefits through coupons or Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards, which are redeemable at authorized retail food stores.

The National School Lunch Program provides subsidized lunches to children in public and nonprofit private schools and residential child care institutions. Low-income children receive free or reduced-price lunches.

The WIC program is designed to improve the health of nutritionally at-risk, low-income pregnant and post-partum women, infants, and children up to 5 years old by providing nutritious supplemental food and nutrition education, and by serving as an adjunct to health care.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program gives food to income eligible persons through local emergency feeding organizations. The Commodity Supplemental Food Program delivers foods to pregnant women, new mothers, infants, children and elderly people. The Nutrition Program for the Elderly, administered Federally by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, with cash and commodities from USDA FCS, supports meals served to elderly people in their homes or in communal settings. The Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations provides commodity food packages to some low-income American Indian families living on a reservation.

There are other Federally-sponsored components to the food safety net. Through the Fund for Rural America CSREES provides competitive grants directed at examining ways to promote gleaning and food recovery. The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), Bureau of Indian Affairs offers general assistance for food, shelter, and clothing on a temporary, emergency basis to the subgroup of American Indians who do not qualify for other assistance.

USDA also has a targeted Food Distribution Program on

Indian Reservations, the nation's oldest food assistance program, dating back to the 1930s. The FDPIR functions as an alternative to food stamps for those who do not have easy access to food stores.

The DOI Office of Insular affairs provides funding to the territories for wide-ranging programs, including the supplemental food programs in the Marshall Islands. The HHS Administration on Aging (AOA) Nutrition programs, authorized by the Older American Act (OAA), provide grants to State agencies on aging and eligible Indian Tribal Organizations to support congregate and home-delivered nutrition services to older Americans. In addition, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides a community healthcare model of treatment and services for homeless veterans that integrates healthcare with housing, support services including nutritional support, and social rehabilitation with work therapy and on-the-job training.

Following a 1995 conference on food access issues, the USDA has supported an exploratory study to identify communities working to improve food access and to evaluate which community activities are effective in removing barriers to food. The qualitative report, A Study of Access to Nutritious and affordable Food was released in 1997.

In August 1996, the 104th Congress enacted, and the president signed into law, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act. Through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Block Grant program or TANF, legislation has replaced federal payments under the Aid to Families with Dependent Children Program with block grants and given greater flexibility to States.

Under TANF, Federal welfare benefits are limited to five years per participant lifetime and States may set shorter time periods. States also determine benefit levels, what services to fund, and eligibility standards provided that recipients meet compliance requirements. The new law rewards States with a performance bonus for moving welfare recipients into jobs and also includes State maintenance of effort requirements; a stronger child support enforcement program; supports for families

moving from welfare to work, including increased overall funding for child care and guaranteed medical coverage; reduced duration of receipt of food stamp benefits by able-bodied adults without dependents and bans receipt of food stamps by legal immigrants; and tightened eligibility requirements for disabled children under the Supplemental Security Income program. Finally, States may make legal immigrants ineligible for federal TANF benefits and new arrivals are banned from these benefits for five years. Some categories of legal immigrants, such as veterans and those who have worked in the U.S. for at least 10 years, are exempt from the bans.

And groups such as the Christian Relief Service, Second Harvest and its network of food banks, Share our Strength, the Famine Relief Fund, and Feed My People provide food assistance, beyond what government offers, to low-income Americans and deepen the network of individuals dedicated to food security in the United States. Non-governmental institutions play a particularly vital role in food recovery. For example, Second Harvest distributed 811 pounds of food with a market value of over \$1 billion in 1995.

There are a number of lessons learned from the 20-30 years of U.S. experience with nutrition programs that have applicability to developing countries. First, even in developed countries such as the United States, there exist subgroups of the population that are often at risk of hunger and food insecurity. Targeted nutrition programs, such as the Food Stamp Program and WIC, are an efficient, effective way of reaching these vulnerable groups. National U.S. data from 1965/66 to 1977/78 indicate that the diets of low-income households participating in the Food Stamp Program improved more during this time period than did the diets of other income groups. Targeting of benefits based on income and/or nutritional risk increases the effectiveness for reaching vulnerable households and individuals.

OBJECTIVE 2.3: To ensure that food supplies are safe, physically and economically accessible, appropriate and adequate to meet the energy and nutrient needs of the population.

To this end, governments, in partnership with all actors of civil society, as appropriate, will:

(a) Monitor the availability and nutritional adequacy of food supplies and reserve stocks, giving particular attention to areas at high risk of food insecurity, to nutritionally vulnerable groups, and to areas where seasonal variations have important nutritional implications;

(b) Apply measures, in conformity with the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and other relevant international agreements, that ensure the quality and safety of food supply, particularly by strengthening normative and control activities in the areas of human, animal and plant health and safety;

Domestically:

Recognizing the importance of eliminating food insecurity in all segments of the U.S. population, the proposed budget for FY 99 restores some of the previous cuts made in food stamp benefits to legal immigrants. Annually, the United States dedicates nearly \$40 billion to food assistance initiatives including food stamps, the Special Supplemental Program for Women, Infants, and Children, the National School Lunch Program, and other programs which provide a safety net for needy children and others at risk.

See description under 2.2 (a).

Federal, state, and local governments and the food industry work together to provide safe and abundant food and water supplies. As a result, food and drinking water in the United States is generally safe for human consumption. Yet, despite advances in technology, public health problems such as food-borne disease occasionally do occur.

The U.S. Government assures the safety of the food supply in several ways, including the promulgation of regulations, in-plant inspections, regulations of food additives, regulation of chemical compounds used in agricultural production, laboratory analyses for contaminants, and enforcement actions. The Government also regulates offerings by foreign firms and countries for import into the United States.

At the Federal level, the USDA, the Food and Drug

Internationally:

The role of policy in improving food security is being studied by the United States, emphasizing the roles of regional stocks, food import insurance programs, and free trade zones in ensuring food security in southern Africa. In a project entitled, "Estimation and Projection of the Food Purchasing Power Threshold Relative to Income as an Indicator of Food Security," methodologies are also being developed which may be used to estimate and project the gap between the purchasing power needed for an adequate diet and the available per capita income as an indicator of food security. The U.S. is also continuing its annual Food Security Assessment which examines food security issues in 66 low income countries over a five and ten year projection period. Food gaps are estimated by measuring the difference between consumption targets and available domestic food supplies.

Several major organizations that provide food aid, including Catholic Relief Services and CARE, have undertaken drought and disaster mitigation programs to ameliorate the impact of El Nino.

General Principles for Food Hygiene and A Code of Practice were established by the Codex Alimentarius which facilitates international trade in food and other agricultural commodities through the establishment and promotion of international standards in food safety, quality, and storage and transportation.. The United States hosted four the Codex Committees: Food Hygiene, Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Food, Processed Fruit and Vegetables, and Cereals, Pulses, and Legumes.

Administration (FDA), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are primarily responsible for ensuring the safety of food supplies. USDA is responsible for inspection of meat and poultry products at the processing level, for egg and egg-related product safety, and for on-farm efforts to improve food safety and quality. The FDA is responsible for the safety of all other foods. The EPA is responsible for regulating the use of pesticides and other farm chemicals that may pose a health risk to consumers when residues are present in the foods they eat.

Several Federal programs are in effect to address food safety and quality. The USDA's Pathogen Reduction Program focuses on the prevention and reduction of microbial pathogens in food production. The program includes activities that study the relationships among pathogens in animals on the farm, changes occurring in the pathogen profile in animals during transit, and changes occurring in the slaughterhouse. In another initiative, the USDA, EPA, and FDA recently announced the formation of the Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program. Through this voluntary partnership, the Federal Government will promote the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) technologies that develop site- and crop-specific pesticide use and reduction strategies. The goal of the program is to enroll 75 percent of U.S. agricultural acreage in IPM risk-reduction strategies by the year 2000.

As an improved means to identifying and preventing food safety problems before they reach consumers, the United States is actively championing the food industry-wide use of the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) system. The system shifts from the traditional and-point testing, which relies upon the inspectors' sense of sight and smell to identify unsafe foods. While effective at identifying some forms of degraded food product, these traditional testing methods do not identify microbial pathogens that may cause illness when present in products eaten by consumers. The HACCP system uses a science-based analysis to identify potential hazards and establishes critical control points where the hazards can be prevented, eliminated, or reduced to acceptable levels during food production and processing. The FDA recently required the establishment of HACCP plans for improving the quality of

(c) Encourage, where appropriate, the production and use of culturally appropriate, traditional and underutilized food crops, including grains, oilseeds, pulses, root crops, fruits and vegetables, promoting home and, where appropriate, school gardens and urban agriculture, using sustainable technologies, and encourage the sustainable utilization of unused or underutilized fish resources;

fish and shellfish products in the United States. The USDA has proposed such a system for meat and poultry inspections. This proposal is currently under review, with a final decision on implementation due in 1996.

See 2.3 (d).

n.a.

Through the work of its partners, and in particular, the efforts of private voluntary agencies, the United States helps promote a variety of culturally acceptable food-based approaches to the reduction of micronutrient deficiencies. Programs encouraging dietary diversification and home gardening are complemented and reinforced with social marketing and education campaigns. The objective of these interventions is to improve the health and nutritional status of the most vulnerable groups, particularly mothers and children.

Indonesia is an example where extensive and successful promotion of increased consumption of vitamin-rich local foods and home gardening has taken place. Promotion of the use of eggs started as a pilot test in Central Java and has expanded province-wise (about 26 million people). promotion of dark green leafy vegetables in other island locations impacted another 17 million people. The model of taking pilot programs to scale through existing government structures is now used in other countries. Home gardens are a focus in Nepal, where counterparts work closely with women's groups to promote school/home gardening and complementary education. Here the agriculture and nutrition sectors meet to improve food security. In Nicaragua, partners are working on identifying inexpensive, locally available and consumed food to adapt to nutritious recipes for the family.

A large part of the Title II development food aid program implemented by PVOs, in partnership with local NGOs and communities and national ministries and research institutions, is directed to increased production of food and related crops. Efforts by the PVOs range from testing drought resistant varieties of grains, oilseeds and legumes to adapting high yielding varieties to local conditions, including optimum use of local inputs.

See also 2.3 (f), 2.3 (g), 2.4 (d), 3.5 (n), 5.4 (a), 6.2 (k), 7.1 (f), 7.1 (g), and 7.1 (h).

(d) Develop and promote improved food processing, preservation and storage technologies to reduce post-harvest food losses, especially at the local level;

(e) Encourage rural households and communities to adopt low-cost technologies and innovative practices;

Gleaning, or food recovery, is the collection of wholesome foods for distribution to the poor and hungry and is an effort to reduce food waste. In 1996, The Good Samaritan Food Donation Law was passed to protect food faith donors of food from liability. The Administration directed all federal departments to incorporate food recovery activities into their programs; is examining innovative ways to transport donated food to those in need; and is working to clarify U.S. tax code deductions to encourage food donation. The USDA has established a food gleaning hot line, published a "Citizen's Guide to Food Recovery, and held a National Summit on Food Recovery and Gleaning in 1997.

An excellent example of innovative food utilization and processing to reduce post-harvest losses is the Breedlove Dehydration Plant in Lubbock, Texas operated by the South Plains Food Bank. The Breedlove Plant takes fresh produce which would otherwise go to waste, and dehydrates and packages it for year-round use by the food bank. The dehydrated foods are then distributed to needy people nationally and internationally.

(f) Promote and support community-based food security and nutrition programmes that encourage self-reliance, utilizing participatory planning and implementation processes;

The USDA's Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service provide technical assistance, education, and outreach through an extensive network of field offices to assist rural households, farms, and communities to learn about an adopt appropriate technologies and innovative practices for sustainable agriculture.

(g) Implement the goals of preventing and controlling specific micro-nutrient deficiencies as agreed at the ICN.

The U.S. Government has programs which assist eligible private nonprofit entities to increase the food self-reliance of communities; promote comprehensive responses to local food, farm and nutrition issues; develop innovative linkages between the for-profit and nonprofit food sectors; encourage long-term planning activities and multi-system interagency approaches. The programs are also designed to enhance the linkages between local producers and low income people with the idea of increasing their access to more nutritious, fresher food stuffs. Additionally, projects have an entrepreneurial aspect to help ensure long-term sustainability of the project, and projects often contain a

The purpose of the Postharvest Collaborative Agribusiness Support Program is to increase agribusiness and sustainable agriculture in developing countries by increasing the quality and quantity of agricultural products coming to the market. The program communicates, demonstrates, and replicates postharvest science and technology to reduce losses and resolve postharvest problems.

See also 3.4 (h)

n.a.

The Title II food aid development portfolio emphasizes sustainable development which is built on the premise of community involvement from problem analysis, planning, to execution. Community participation is at the core of the PVO programs for CARE, CRS, Africare, and ADRA, to name a few. The ability of these initiatives to be sustainable and participatory is at the core of the results packages for activities funded under the Title II programs.

job training component usually in food production, processing or marketing to enhance self sustainment

Included in the national health promotion and disease prevention initiative, Healthy People 2000, is an objective to reduce iron deficiency among children and women of childbearing age, with an emphasis on low-income populations.

In addressing micronutrient deficiency programming, U.S. partners strive to develop interventions with local participation in all project phases with the end objective of being self-reliant. Capacity-building is increasingly becoming an integral component of every project. One such example is in the Philippines, where community groups, ministries, field staff, and the community itself, are mobilized to advocate for increased nutritional services. The U.S. funds activities to carry the decision-making to the local level. A successful model of sustainable home gardening in Bangladesh, reaching millions, is being shared with wider audiences. Here, communications/behavior change has all the right elements: local partners were created to work hand-in-hand with agricultural and health sectors, commitment from the target audience and partners was engendered from the onset, and the project remains flexible to the needs of villagers.

The U.S. is working actively in international micronutrient research and program implementation. It has funded research on vitamin-A deficiency and its proven impact on reducing morbidity and mortality. The important link between scientific research and program implementation was then made, sponsoring numerous expert meetings, drawing the support of technical associations, bringing micronutrient interventions to scale in three Asian nations, the Philippines, Nepal, and Indonesia. A major recent achievement and model for other countries is the fortification of all wheat flour with iron, B complex, and folic acid in ten Latin American countries which is anticipated to have positive impact on reducing anemias.

The U.S. has provided funding through the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) to CGIAR Centers, including IRRI and CIMMYT, to evaluate germplasm micronutrient content variability as a first step toward genetic selection of vitamin A, iron, zinc "enriched" staple foods. It has provided subsequent funding for the breeding programs for the micronutrient-rich staple foods which has been picked up by other donors.

OBJECTIVE 2.4: To promote access for all, especially the poor and members of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, to basic education and primary health care provision in order to strengthen their capacity for self-reliance.

To this end, governments, in partnership with all actors of civil society, will:

(a) Promote access for all people, especially the poor and members of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups to primary health care, including reproductive health services consistent with the Report and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo 1994;

(b) Promote access to clean water and sanitation for all people, especially in poor communities and rural areas;

Domestically:

In addition to food assistance programs, Federal social insurance, disability insurance, welfare, and medical programs provide retirement income and medical insurance to virtually all the elderly, transitional assistance to individuals and families facing temporary economic hardship, and a social safety net for the most economically vulnerable populations.

The largest Federal income support program is the Old Age, Survivor, and Disability Insurance program (OASDI) operated by the Social Security Administration and popularly known as "Social Security." Social security accounted for 22.1 percent of all Federal outlays in 1995, and its benefits amounted to 6.4 percent of total personal income nationwide. The program is funded by a payroll tax on all wage, salary, and self-employment earnings. Supplemental Security Insurance (SSI) provides income support to low-income blind and disabled persons and to low-income elderly persons not covered by Social Security.

Through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Block Grant program or TANF, legislation has replaced federal payments under the Aid to Families with Dependent Children Program with block grants and given greater flexibility to States. The Federal Medicare program provides subsidized health insurance for the elderly (aged 65 or older) and certain disabled persons under age 65. Medicaid is a combined Federal-State program that provides medical assistance for certain categories of the poor, including disabled persons, families with dependent children, and elderly not covered by Medicare.

The United States assures clean water and sanitation for all people. In order to maintain and improve water quality in all areas of the nation, the President last year launched the Clean Water Initiative.

Internationally:

U.S. bilateral support for health and nutrition programs in developing countries, including reproductive health, approaches \$1 billion annually. Programs are strongly focused on promoting access for underserved groups and include family planning, child survival, maternal health and nutrition, and HIV/AIDS prevention and mitigation. Emerging diseases are also receiving increasing priority. Community-based approaches are a prominent feature of U.S. health and population programs, with over half of all in-country expenditures channeled through non-governmental organizations. The U.S. also works with countries to improve the policy environment for expanded health services and to improve allocation of health resources to better serve disadvantaged groups. In addition to bilateral programs, the U.S. contributes annually to health programs supported by UNICEF, the World Health Organization, UNAIDS, and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

The U.S. assists overseas missions and bureau and other development organizations to address improved access to clean water and sanitation for all people, especially in poor communities and rural areas. The major interventions are preventative, that is reduction and prevention of illness by reducing exposure to adverse environmental conditions and promoting behavioral change. These are carried out at the

(c) Promote access to, and support for, complete primary education, including, where appropriate, school feeding programmes, with particular attention to children in rural areas and to girls;

(d) Provide nutrition, sanitation, and health education for the public and promote technologies and training programmes on nutrition, home economics, environmental protection, food supply and health.

The United States provides universal primary education for all its citizens. The National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program provide school children of all income levels with subsidized meals, and low-income children with meals for free or at reduced prices.

In the United States, the typical American diet is high in fat, saturated fat, and sodium and too low in fiber and complex carbohydrates. Such diets are associated with increased risk of chronic health conditions such as heart disease, cancer, stroke, diabetes, hypertension, obesity, and osteoporosis -- conditions estimated to cost the United States \$250 billion in annual medical care costs and productivity losses.

Federal policies to promote healthy eating in the United States are guided by the recommendations in the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, published jointly by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Department of Health and Human Services. Put together by a panel of experts based on the preponderance of scientific and medical evidence at the time they are published, the Dietary Guidelines provide general recommendations for healthy people 2 years and older. To ensure the recommendations keep pace with scientific developments, the Dietary Guidelines are updated ever 5 years. The 1995 Dietary Guidelines make seven recommendations: Eat a variety of foods; balance the food you eat with physical activity -- maintain or improve your weight (i.e., adjust toward your recommended healthy weight); choose a diet with plenty of grain products, vegetables, and fruits; choose a diet low in fat, saturated fat, and cholesterol; choose a diet moderate in sugars, salt, and sodium; and if you drink alcoholic beverages, do so in moderation.

The Food Guide Pyramid and the Nutrition Facts label serve as educational tools to put the Dietary Guidelines into practice. The Food Guide Pyramid, developed jointly

family, community, and institutional levels. Such interventions complement and fortify health-facility based child survival programs, reduce the burden on the health care system, and lower the costs that households pay for treatment of Environmental related diseases.

School feeding is a significant activity under the PL 480 Food for Peace program.

The Title II development food aid portfolio stresses the integration of various sectors to achieve food security at the household level. Behavior change through peer counseling and other techniques for improvements to health and nutrition is part of the package that draws on extensive experience in child survival interventions. Hemocrit, a rapid, low-cost tool to assess iron deficiency anemias has been tested and promoted in six countries. The U.S. has been highly supportive of an NGO-led effort to eradicate polio and worked to combine polio vaccination with distribution of Vitamin A in countries where national distribution is necessitated. By piggy-backing on the efforts of one health intervention, cost-efficiency is maximized. In an effort to improve the quality of efforts to iodize salt and to monitor the effectiveness of delivery systems, the Iodized Salt Program Assessment Tool (ISPAT) was developed and pilot-tested in Malawi. It will soon be introduced in other African countries for testing and use.

See 2.4 (a).

by USDA and DHHS, translates the recommendations in the Dietary Guidelines into the kinds and amounts of foods to eat each day. It aggregates foods into five major food groups and provides a recommended number of daily servings for each food group. The Nutritional Facts label, now required on most processed foods and available on a voluntary basis for the most commonly consumed types of raw fish, meat, poultry, vegetables, and fruits, provides information on the major nutrients to help consumers place each food into an overall healthy diet. In addition, the 1993 nutrition labeling regulations provide definitions for nutrient content claims so as to prevent label information from being false or misleading, and authorize specific health claims about diet/disease relationships. USDA's "Team Nutrition," launched in 1995, includes over 200 public and private partners in an effort to improve the health and education of children by creating innovative partnerships that promote food choices for a healthful diet through the media, schools, families, and the community. Other governmental strategies for improving eating patterns in the United States include updating nutrition standards for established programs to conform to the Dietary Guidelines, as has been done in the School Meals Initiative for Healthy Children; developing public-private partnerships, such as the 5-A-Day for Better Health (a joint effort by the National Cancer Institute of DHHS and the Produce for Better Health Foundation, with the aim of increasing average consumption of fruits and vegetables to at least five servings daily by the year 2000); expanding and improving current nutrition education approaches; and improving policy action through research and evaluation.