



April 23th – 30th, 2009

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KEY ARTICLES

US 'on track' to double aid to Sub-Saharan Africa, *Agence France Presse, April 26*

The United States is "on track" on its pledge to double development aid to Sub-Saharan Africa by next year, US Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner told world finance officials Sunday. US overseas development aid reached 7.6 billion dollars in 2008, "putting us close to our goal of 8.7 billion dollars by 2010," he said in a statement.

http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5i6ZXpH_ZwRTR1OhgLwarx0C587lg

See Also: Statement by Secretary Tim Geithner at the International Monetary Fund and World Bank Group Development Committee Meeting, U.S. Department of the Treasury, April 26

<http://www.treas.gov/press/releases/tg103.htm>

Berman Introduces Bipartisan Legislation Requiring U.S. Foreign Assistance Strategy, *House Committee on Foreign Affairs, April 28*

Congressman Howard L. Berman (D-CA), chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, today introduced bipartisan legislation requiring a comprehensive strategy for U.S. efforts to reduce global poverty and promote broad-based economic growth in developing countries.

http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/press_display.asp?id=614

The Global Threat from Hunger, *Agence Global, April 24*

Over one billion people go hungry every day -- that is to say, one sixth of the world's population of 6.5 billion. They are not just hungry from time to time. They are *chronically* hungry. They can never find enough food to feed their children or meet their own needs. Their number is growing. What is the world doing about it? The answer is: very little.

<http://www.agenceglobal.com/Article.asp?Id=1980>

“Land Grabbing” by Foreign Investors in Developing Countries: Risks and Opportunities, *Joachim von Braun and Ruth Meinzen-Dick, International Food Policy Research Institute, April 2009*

Increased pressures on natural resources, water scarcity, export restrictions imposed by major producers when food prices were high, and growing distrust in the functioning of regional and global markets have pushed countries short in land and water to find alternative means of producing food.

<http://www.ifpri.org/pubs/bp/bp013.pdf>

Table on overseas land investments to secure food supplies, 2006-09:

<http://www.ifpri.org/pubs/bp/bp013Table01.pdf>

Obama's many challenges overshadow Africa, *Reuters, April 28*

Despite the joy and high expectations inspired across Africa by Barack Obama's election, issues on the world's poorest continent have hardly featured at all on the new U.S. president's agenda in his first 100 days. A tidal wave of domestic priorities ranging from the worst financial crisis for decades to floods and now a public health emergency triggered by swine flu, plus a series of foreign policy challenges, have left little time for Africa.

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/businessCompany/idUKTRE53R1TT20090428>

EU promises to keep commitment to Africa, *Xinhua, April 28*

The EU recently promised to keep aid and other commitments to Africa during the financial crisis, and pledged closer ties with the African Union. The Joint Africa-EU Strategy provides a long-term framework for relations between the AU and the EU, based on equality and shared interests. The strategy is meant to be an umbrella for all existing and future cooperation between the two organizations, and has a plan of action with specific priorities and outcomes to be achieved by 2010.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-04/28/content_11275816.htm

World Bank launches new infrastructure funds, *Reuters, April 25*

The World Bank launched two new funds with expected financing of \$55 billion over the next three years to try and ensure that infrastructure projects in developing countries do not dry up in the financial crisis. The bank's Infrastructure Recovery and Assets (INFRA) platform and the Infrastructure Crisis Facility (ICF), managed by the bank's private sector financing arm, the IFC, are expected to focus for a large part on projects in Africa.

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/mideast/idUKTRE5302NA20090425>

Few ideas proposed to solve worldwide hunger, *Des Moines Register, April 26*

Grain prices have fallen sharply from last year's historic highs, but the world is losing the battle against hunger, and something has to be done about it to avoid unleashing social unrest. That much, the world's leading farm ministers could agree on at their recent summit in Italy. Exactly what should be done about it is another matter.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20090426/BUSINESS03/904260366/1029/BUSINESS>

Obama defends US spending on foreign countries, *Associated Press, April 29*

President Barack Obama says U.S. aid to other countries isn't only ethical and moral, but that it's sound strategy as well. At a town hall-appearance in Missouri marking his 100th day in office, Obama said he knows foreign aid is very unpopular with the public, especially when there are such pressing needs at home. But by showing an interest in the well-being of people in other countries, Obama said the United States can meet its national interests. Obama said that if people in other countries see America spending money on them or sending doctors, teachers and Peace Corps workers to help, for instance, it would be easier to win their support when needed.

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5iPasCvXHN9oiHDX4Fi_PBhFV2gPQD97S88183

Farm Futures: Bringing Agriculture Back to U.S. Policy, *Foreign Affairs, May/June 2009*

By Dan Glickman and Catherine Bertini

It is not easy for Americans to understand the starvation that afflicts much of the developing world. Families in the poorest parts of Africa and Asia spend up to 80 percent of their incomes on food; for the average U.S. household, that would mean an annual grocery bill of \$40,000. Yes, there are hungry Americans in the millions, and the U.S. food-stamp program is operating at record levels. But hunger in the United States does not put tens of thousands of infants into hospitals and require them to be hooked up to feeding tubes. Nor does it lead to stunting, wasting, and debilitating forms of malnutrition, such as kwashiorkor and marasmus. Yet even if Americans strain to comprehend the depth of hunger that plagues much of Africa and Asia, they do care about it. They know that chronic hunger among Afghans, Congolese, or North Koreans can pose a threat to their national security. Surveys conducted by the Pew Research Center have consistently revealed that Americans want to make ending hunger and poverty a priority for U.S. foreign policy. A recent survey conducted by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs showed that the American public feels aid to poor farmers overseas should play a more prominent role than any other form of U.S. development assistance.
<http://www.maxwell.syr.edu/FA.pdf>

NEW REPORTS/POLICY BRIEFS

The United Nations Must Manage a Global Food Reserve, *UN Chronicle, April 2009*

In this paper, we examine the underlying causes of the recent rice crisis and assess the effectiveness of organizational efforts to address world rice crises. We provide some recommendations for a global food reserve as an alternative to the existing regional rice reserves. We also suggest measures to improve rice productivity in rice-producing countries, strengthen market information in order to increase stocks, and better determine the production capacity and demand for each participating country and their consequent contribution to the global food reserve.

http://www.un.org/Pubs/chronicle/2008/issue2_3/2_308p58.html

Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security in Asia and the Pacific, *United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, April 2009*

In Asia and the Pacific, people who are food insecure are largely hidden. Occasionally, food shortages will hit the national headlines. But outside immediate emergencies, food has a much lower public profile. This is largely because achieving 'food security' means not just ensuring that sufficient food is produced, but also that everyone has access to it – and failures of access to food, particularly for the most marginal communities, are largely hidden from the public view.

<http://www.unescap.org/65/documents/Theme-Study/st-escap-2535.pdf>

See Also: **UN calls on Asia to protect poor from food crisis**, *Associated Press, April 24*

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gynOqpjVsozST0NxoEmq7861W4QD970R9300>

Crop Prospects and Food Situation, *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, April 2009*

High food prices persist in developing countries despite an improved global cereal supply situation and sharp decline in international prices. This is affecting access to food of large numbers of low-income vulnerable populations. A recent analysis of domestic food prices for 58 developing countries shows that latest prices are higher than a year earlier in 78 percent of the cases, and in 43 percent of the cases are higher than 3 months earlier. Mostly affected are sub-Saharan African countries.

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/011/ai481e/ai481e00.HTM>

See Also: **Food prices remain high in developing countries**, *FAO Newsroom, April 23*

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/12660/icode/>

The Future of Science: Food and Water for Life, *American Society of Plant Biologists, The Plant Cell, Vol. 21, February 2009*

Throughout the world, an estimated one billion people lack access to clean fresh water, and almost as many suffer from hunger and malnourishment. Plant science has a central role in addressing many of these issues, especially those related to food and agriculture.

<http://www.plantcell.org/cgi/reprint/21/2/368.pdf>

Improving Food Security in Arab Countries, *World Bank, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and the International Fund for Agriculture Development, April 2009*

Arab countries import at least 50 percent of the food calories they consume. As the largest net importers of cereal, Arab countries are more exposed than other countries to severe swings in agricultural commodity prices, and their vulnerability will probably be exacerbated in coming years by strong population growth, low agricultural productivity, and their dependence on global commodities markets.

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTMENA/Resources/FoodSecfinal.pdf>

Crop Subsidies in Foreign Countries: Different Paths to Common Goals, *Cotton Economics Research Institute, April 2009*

U.S. agriculture has been openly criticized by international organizations and eminent academicians for its subsidies and protection programs. This study refutes these perceptions by presenting information on agricultural subsidies and protection currently applied to seven major crops—corn, cotton, rice, sorghum, soybeans, sugar, and wheat—by a group of 21 countries representing both developing and developed nations.

http://www.aaec.ttu.edu/CERI/NewPolicy/Publications/StaffReports/CropSubsidiesInForeignCountries_2009.pdf

Preferential Trade Agreements between the Monetary Community of Central Africa and the European Union: Stumbling or Building Blocks? A General Equilibrium, *Guyslain K. Ngeleza and Andrew Muhammad, International Food Policy Research Institute, April 2009*

This paper uses a computable general equilibrium approach to simulate two opposing views describing regional trade agreements either as building blocks for or stumbling blocks to multilateral trade liberalization. This study focuses on the free trade agreement (FTA) between the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC) and the European Union (EU). Results show that although a regional trade agreement may slightly raise welfare among the members of the agreement, the cost to nonmembers can be high.

<http://www.ifpri.org/pubs/dp/IFPRIDP00859.pdf>

Trade Creation and Diversion Effects of Preferential Trade Associations on Agricultural and Food Trade, *David Lambert and Shahera McKoy, Journal of Agricultural Economics, Vol. 60, No. 1, 2009*

Agricultural market distortions remain a major focus of contention in world trade negotiations. Estimates of the effects of liberalising current agricultural trade restrictions indicate an approximately \$385 billion increase in global welfare, with the disproportionate share of the benefit being enjoyed by developing countries. In response to difficulties in adopting agricultural trade reforms, individual groups of countries have formed multiple bilateral and regional preferential trade agreements (PTA) to enhance trade among members.

<http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/cgi-bin/fulltext/121529571/PDFSTART?CRETRY=1&SRETRY=0>

Losing 25,000 to Hunger Every Day, *John Holmes, UN Chronicle, April 2009*

During the past two decades, population growth, improvement in incomes, and diversification of diets have increased the demand for food. Prior to 2000, food prices were in decline, largely through record harvests. At the same time, however, public and private investment in agriculture, decreased, which led to declining crop yields in most developing countries. Long-term unstable land use has also caused land degradation, soil erosion, nutrient depletion, water scarcity and disruption of biological cycles, resulting in a loss of 25,000 lives a day.

http://www.un.org/Pubs/chronicle/2008/issue2_3/2_308p14.html

What Is Poverty Reduction?, Owen Barder, *Center for Global Development*, April 2009

In this paper, the author raises fundamental questions about the purpose of aid transfers. For many donors the purpose is “poverty reduction” but in the relatively narrow sense of growth that reduces poverty. The author’s key concern is that the focus on poverty reduction through growth ignores such key tradeoffs as that between reducing current and future poverty, and between addressing the causes and symptoms of poverty.

http://www.cgdev.org/files/1421599_file_Barder_Poverty_Reduction.pdf

Infrastructure Recovery and Assets (INFRA) Platform - A Response to Support Infrastructure during the Crisis, *The World Bank*, April 2009

The current global economic crisis is severely hitting developing countries. In order to prevent this there is a clear need for counter-cyclical spending in these areas. One of the World Bank’s tactics in achieving this is maintaining long-term infrastructure investment programs. INFRA provides suggestions for a coordinated Donor response to the crisis in the areas of infrastructure and options for various modalities of donor participation and financing of such activities.

http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTSDNETWORK/Resources/WBG_INFRA_apr09.pdf

Right to Survive: The humanitarian challenge in the twenty-first century, *Oxfam International*, April 2009

By 2015 more than 375m people are likely to be affected by climate related disasters – a projected increase of 54% – and this threatens to overwhelm the world’s current capacity to respond. The world must be better prepared to cope with helping more vulnerable people facing worsening disasters and rich countries must stop the worst of future harm by signing a global deal to tackle climate change.

Summary: <http://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/right-to-survive-summary-eng.pdf>

Full Report: <http://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/right-to-survive-report.pdf>

Background Paper: <http://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/right-to-survive-changing-climate-background.pdf>

Forecasting the numbers of people affected annually by natural disasters up to 2015:

<http://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/forecasting-disasters-2015.pdf>

The Economics of Climate Change in Southeast Asia: A Regional Review, *Asian Development Bank*, April 2009

The study aims to deepen the understanding of the implications of climate change in Southeast Asia. It attempts to contribute to the regional debate on the costs and benefits of actions on climate change; raise awareness on the urgency of climate change and their potential socioeconomic impacts; and indirectly support government and private sector actions within the region that incorporate adaptation and mitigation into national development planning processes.

<http://www.adb.org/Documents/Books/Economics-Climate-Change-SEA/PDF/Highlights-Climate-Change.pdf>

Regional Economic Outlook: Sub-Saharan Africa, *International Monetary Fund*, April 2009

The global financial crisis has worsened significantly the economic outlook for sub-Saharan Africa. Demand for African exports and commodity export prices have fallen, and remittance flows may be weakening. Tighter global credit and investor risk aversion have led to a reversal of portfolio inflows, less favorable conditions for trade finance, and could lower foreign direct investment.

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/reo/2009/AFR/eng/sreo0409.pdf>

Asian Development Outlook 2009: Rebalancing Asia’s Growth, *Asian Development Bank*, March 2009

ADB’s flagship annual economic publication forecasts economic growth in Asia will slide to 3.4% in 2009, down from 6.3% last year and 9.5% in 2007. If the global economy experiences a mild recovery next year, the outlook for the region will improve to 6% in 2010. Deteriorating economic prospects will hinder the efforts to reduce poverty. With the slow growth, more than 60 million people in 2009, and close to 100 million people in 2010, will remain trapped in poverty.

<http://www.adb.org/Documents/Books/ADO/2009/ado2009.pdf>

Population Challenges for Bangladesh in the Coming Decades, *Peter Kim Streatfield and Zunaid Ahsan Karar, 2009*

Bangladesh currently has a population approaching 150 million and will add another 100 million before stabilizing, unless fertility can soon drop below replacement level. This level of fertility decline will require a change in marriage patterns, which have been minimal so far, even with increasing female schooling. In addition to the consequence of huge population size, the density of population is already five times that of any other 'mega' country, a very challenging situation for an agricultural society.

http://www.icddrb.org/images/jhpn263-Population_Challenges_for_Bangladesh_.pdf

UPCOMING EVENTS

Implications of the Financial Crisis for Developing Countries (hosted by IFPRI)

Date: April 30, 2009

Time: 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Location: 2033 K Street, NW, Washington, D.C.

Speakers: Máximo Torero (Director, Markets, Trade, and Institutions Division, IFPRI); Ousmane Badiane (Africa Director, IFPRI); John Hoddinott (Senior Research Fellow and Deputy Director, Poverty, Health and Nutrition Division, IFPRI)

The panel will discuss the effects on trade by and investments in developing countries resulting from the global recession related to the financial crisis; the impact on future agricultural growth and poverty reduction; and the consequences for meeting the needs of the poor and vulnerable people. Perspectives from Africa, Asia, and Latin America will also be shared.

<http://www.ifpri.org/events/seminars/2009/20090430financial.asp>

45th Annual Conference and 2009 Future Leaders Forum: “The Global Food Crisis” (hosted by the Association of International Agriculture and Rural Development)

Date: May 31-June 3, 2009

Location: 550 C Street SW, Washington, D.C.

Our 45th Annual Conference will attract a wide array of leaders, field-based experts, students, scholars, and many others from government, academia, business, foundations and elsewhere. The program will consist of presentations by speakers who have been front and center in implementing strategies to alleviate the current crisis as well as long term planners who will think ahead to ways to prevent such a crisis.

<http://aiard.org/meetings/2009annual/invitation.htm>

Joint International Agricultural Conference

Date: July 6-8, 2009

Location: Droevendaalsesteeg 2, 6708 PB Wageningen, Netherlands

The main objective of the joint conference will be to form a platform for cooperation between different fields of research and to provide an opportunity to join forces with representatives from the agricultural industry and policy makers. A second objective will be to exchange research efforts focusing on precision agriculture, precision livestock farming and information technology in agriculture, food and the environment.

<http://www.jiac2009.nl/Home/tabid/362/Default.aspx>

International ISHS/ProMusa Symposium Global Perspectives on Asian Challenges

Date: September 14-18, 2009

Location: Guang Dong, China,

ProMusa, in collaboration with the Guang Dong Academy for Agricultural Sciences (GDAAS), the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS) and Bioversity's Banana and Plantain Regional Network for Asia and the Pacific (BAPNET), has announced the “International Banana Symposium: Global Perspectives on Asian Challenges.”

http://www.promusa.org/symposium_2009/home.html

http://www.farmpolicy.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/04/fischerboel-hill-event_may-06-09-invite-final-3.pdf

AGRICULTURAL ISSUES
Opening Statement by Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Designate Johnnie Carson, Senate Foreign Relations confirmation hearing, April 29

We must place renewed and sustained emphasis on Africa's agricultural sector, where more than seventy percent of Africans directly or indirectly derive their income. To spur development, create jobs and end hunger, we must help Africa transform its farming sector to achieve a green agricultural revolution similar to the one that has improved the lives of millions of people across Asia.

<http://www.america.gov/st/texttrans-english/2009/April/20090429170028eaifas0.2521784.html?CP.rss=true>

Japan to aid agriculture in developing countries, Financial Times, April 29

The Japanese government is drawing up plans to finance investments in agricultural production in developing countries, in the latest sign of nervousness about food security among countries that import agricultural commodities. Tokyo is looking to identify regions that could benefit from Japanese investment to increase food production, according to the country's agriculture ministry. Tokyo is planning to sell crops on the global food market.

http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/eefe5c6e-3456-11de-9eea-00144feabdc0.html?nclick_check=1

See also: **Japanese jitters grow over food security, Financial Times, April 28**

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/ff81ec02-3417-11de-9eea-00144feabdc0.html>

Corn fortified with vitamins devised by scientists, Los Angeles Times, April 28

Scientists have engineered vitamin-fortified corn designed to boost consumption of three key nutrients that are sorely lacking in the diets of millions of people in developing countries. The genetically modified African corn has bright orange kernels, reflecting the 169-fold increase in beta carotene, a precursor of vitamin A. The corn also has six times the normal amount of vitamin C and double the usual level of folate.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-sci-genetic-corn28-2009apr28,0,4693471.story>

AGRA launches fund for seed industry, Africa Science News, April 27

The Nairobi-based Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, in partnership with the [African Agricultural Capital](#) group, recently launched the African Seed Investment Fund. Over the next five years, it will invest in at least 20 small- and medium-size seed companies in Southern and Eastern Africa, infusing equity and expertise into an industry that has languished for decades, and paving the way for raising the productivity and incomes of at least one million farm households.

http://africasciencenews.org/asns/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1196&Itemid=2

Do we need a new green revolution?, Guardian, April 27

The Green Revolution produced food on an unprecedented scale but it also produced inequitable results and environmental problems. According to the UK Department for International Development, a change in agriculture's performance in the world's poorest countries must be achieved if people are to escape poverty. Do GM crops provide the answer to the world's hungry? Or, do we need a substantive change in production patterns where agriculture is not just viewed as yield maximisation but is viewed in a wider economic, environmental and social context?

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/journalismcompetition/theme-green-revolution>

Expert tasks African countries on agricultural biotechnology, Africa Science News, April 27

Speaking at the launch of the Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology in Africa the Director-General of the National Biotechnology Development Agency, Bamidele Solomon, said that agricultural productivity could be increased by using inorganic and organic fertilizers, improved seedling, pest and weed control, soil and water conservation, and using improved plant varieties. He said these varieties can be developed either traditionally or through agricultural biotechnology.

http://africasciencenews.org/asns/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1195&Itemid=2

Put farming first in Africa, *Lindiwe Majele Sibanda, Guardian, April 27*

What can Africans do to put food on the table and money in their pockets? The answer is simple – invest in agriculture. After decades of stagnation in agricultural yields and little investment in rural economies, African countries are beginning to prioritize the development of agricultural production and markets. Rural development and agricultural productivity improvement now feature prominently on the agenda of national governments. More work in this direction needs to be done.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/katineblog/2009/apr/27/farming-in-africa>

Reassurance must be sown in foreign fields, *Financial Times, April 27*

Driving south-east out of Riyadh, the highway soon snakes its way through scruffy desert and offers a glimpse of something of the unexpected in Saudi Arabia. There you find “fields” where once there was only desert, with huge irrigation pivots that appear longer than a football pitch is wide, spraying water on to crops. Saudi Arabia has neither rivers nor lakes, yet the desert-kingdom boasts a thriving dairy and arable industry.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/64e57572-333d-11de-8f1b-00144feabdc0.html>

UN Calls For More Agriculture Spending In Asia, *Ron Corben, VOA News, April 25*

The United Nations Asia Pacific regional economic mission is calling for more investment in sustainable agriculture to ease the region’s food security levels as the global financial crisis pushes more people in the region into poverty and hunger. A new U.N. report on food security is also pressing governments to spend more on rural development as part of recovery efforts from the current economic downturn.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/2009-04-24-voa40.cfm>

U.N. frets on farmers' right as foreigners buy, *Reuters, April 22*

The United Nations is concerned that farmers' rights in developing nations could be compromised as rich countries buy farmland to secure food supplies. Much of the \$15 billion that Gulf Arab countries spent on Africa in 2007-2008 was dedicated to food security, according to the UAE Ministry of Economy. China, India and South Korea have also turned to overseas farms, particularly in Africa. Pakistan is also offering a million acres of its farmland to investors and is targeting Gulf Arab demand.

<http://in.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idINLM72356920090422>

Heifer International Fights Hunger and Poverty with Gifts of Livestock, *VOA News, April 22*

For more than fifty years, the organization Heifer International has been fighting poverty and hunger by giving people livestock. The foundation says 9.2 million families in more than 125 countries have received gifts of livestock and have been trained in effective agricultural techniques. White says his organization recognizes the role of women in developing countries and one of Heifer's main goals is to promote gender equality by empowering women.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/Africa/2009-04-22-voa19.cfm>

Decline in cereal output 'unlikely to fuel price rise', *Financial Times, April 24*

Global cereal production will fall 3.1 per cent to 2,217m tons this year, according to the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization, which said the decline was unlikely to push prices significantly higher. In its first assessment of the upcoming harvest, the FAO said lower production in 2009-10 could largely be offset by the rise in stocks, which was expected following record output in 2008-09.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/b5ba99b4-3068-11de-88e3-00144feabdc0.html>

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE**Foreign Aid Reform: Comprehensive Strategy, Interagency Coordination, and Operational Improvements Would Bolster Current Efforts**, *U.S. Government Accountability Office, April 2009*

Since June 2006, in its efforts to consolidate State and USAID foreign assistance processes, State/F has implemented certain key practices that are characteristic of successful organizational transformations—for example, developing a mission statement and involving employees. Despite this progress, State/F faces challenges that could constrain its efforts to reform foreign assistance.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09192.pdf>

See Also: Report: U.S. foreign aid needs overhaul, USA Today, April 23

http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2009-04-23-aid_N.htm

CGD's Steve Radelet Testifies on U.S. Assistance to Africa and Calls for Reform, *Sarah Jane Staats, Council on Global Development, April 27*

The global economic crisis presents a challenge and an opportunity to do better with U.S. assistance to Africa said CGD senior fellow Steve Radelet in testimony before the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health last week. Meanwhile, testimony from Secretary of State Clinton, a new GAO report calling for foreign aid reform, and a promise from Rep. Berman to introduce legislation for a comprehensive U.S. development strategy indicate a lot of toe tapping, one step forward, and some missing partners in the U.S. foreign aid reform dance.

<http://blogs.cgdev.org/globaldevelopment/2009/04/cgds-steve-radelet-testifies-on-us-assistance-to-africa-and-calls-for-reform.php>

Aid Critic Supports IMF Help for Africa during Global Downturn, *William Eagle, VOA News, April 24*

An economist and critic of long-term aid to Africa, Dambisa Moyo, says she approves of IMF support for developing countries—at least to help mitigate fall-out from the global financial crisis. A few weeks ago, officials of the world's largest economies, the G-20, promised over a trillion dollars to the IMF to help cushion developing and emerging economies from the global recession.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/Africa/2009-04-24-voa29.cfm>

U.S. Assistance to Africa: A Call for Foreign Aid Reform, *Hearing before the House Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health, April 23, 2009*

Testimony

The Honorable Donald M. Payne: <http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/111/payne042309.pdf>

Earl Gast: <http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/111/gas042309.pdf>

Ousmane Badiane: <http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/111/bad042309.pdf>

Steven Radelet: <http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/111/rad042309.pdf>

Meredeth Turshen: <http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/111/tur042309.pdf>

Bill O'Keefe: <http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/111/oke042309.pdf>

ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

Climate scientists warn of looming disaster, *Financial Times, April 29*

Scientists have worked out how much greenhouse gas the world can emit in total without tipping climate change towards catastrophic levels of warming and have warned the world is on course for disaster. At more than 2°C of warming, climate change becomes irreversible and in many cases catastrophic, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Sea level rises, droughts, floods, heatwaves and more intense storms would result, and large swaths of land, including parts of southern Europe, would become unsuitable for agriculture.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/6e0372f6-34d4-11de-940a-00144feabdc0.html>

See Also: The Road to Copenhagen/The Climate Crunch, Nature, April 2009

<http://www.nature.com/news/specials/roadtocopenhagen/index.html>

UN gathers experts to help West African farmers cope with climate change, *UN News Centre, April 28*

A United Nations-backed workshop aimed at identifying ways for West African farmers to limit the damaging effect climate change has on their livelihoods kicked off in Burkina Faso today. The four-day climate change adaptation workshop, held in Burkina Faso's capital of Ouagadougou, will determine action that can be taken to alleviate the impact of global warming for farmers in the region.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30623&Cr=africa&Cr1=west+africa>

Study: SE Asia will be hit hard by climate change, *Michael Casey, The Associated Press, April 27*

Southeast Asia will be hit hard by climate change, causing the region's agriculture-dependent economies to contract by as much as 6.7 percent annually by the end of the century, according to a study released Monday. The Asian Development Bank study identified four countries as especially vulnerable: Indonesia and the

Philippines with large coastal populations facing rising sea levels, and Thailand and Vietnam where rice yields could drop 50 percent due to water shortages.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5i-sTl8vYvkb72n7bXc-eo9hmCzjgD97QIJJ80>

See Also: **Study Says Warming Poses Peril to Asia**, Thomas Fuller, *New York Times*, April 26

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/27/world/asia/27climate.html?ref=world>

Stemming the water wars, *Guardian (UK)*, April 26

Many conflicts are caused or inflamed by water scarcity. The conflicts in Africa and Asia lie in a great arc of arid lands where water scarcity is leading to failed crops, dying livestock, extreme poverty and desperation. Governments lose their legitimacy when they cannot guarantee their populations' most basic needs: safe drinking water, staple food crops, and fodder and water for the animal herds on which communities depend for their meager livelihoods.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/cif-green/2009/apr/26/water-shortage>

Obama's Power Plays, *Op-Ed, The New York Times*, April 25

The Obama administration can direct USAID to ship simple solar-powered cooking stoves to villages in Africa and Asia to replace the omnipresent twig-and-dung-burning stoves that turn even the most remote settlements into major producers of black carbon — a fine soot that increases global warming. The solar stoves cost as little as \$20 each, and USAID could distribute 100 million of them under already existing programs.

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/25/opinion/25becker.html?_r=1&th&emc=th

Experts Probe Urban Growth, Climate Change Links in Africa, *VOA News*, April 24

A new project has united researchers exploring the connection between rapid urban growth in Africa and climate related emergencies, in an effort to safeguard vulnerable urban populations from the effects of climate change. The Climate Change and Adaptation in Africa program, or CCAA, aims to increase the capacity of African people and organizations to cope with the effects of climate change.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/2009-04-24-voa28.cfm>

GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD

The IMF's Gold Gambit, *Judy Shelton, The Wall Street Journal*, April 28

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) deserves credit, figuratively speaking, for cleverly manipulating the financial troubles of emerging and low-income nations to procure a fresh infusion of capital for itself. But its tactics at this month's G-20 summit in London -- where President Barack Obama signed off on tripling the IMF's lending resources -- should not hoodwink anyone, least of all American taxpayers who pay the largest share of IMF expenses.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124078772568857401.html>

Economic crisis puts even more pressure on developing world, *Deutsche-Welle*, April 27

Industrialized nations have to provide more aid and open their markets to developing nations to have a chance at limiting increases in the number of people suffering from absolute poverty.

http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,,4209831,00.html?maca=en-en_nr-1893-xml-atom

World Bank demands poverty action, *BBC*, April 27

The head of the World Bank has warned of a "human catastrophe" in the world's poorest countries unless more is done to tackle the global economic crisis. Speaking at the end of the World Bank's spring meeting, Robert Zoellick also called on rich nations to do more to help tackle global poverty. The World Bank says an extra 53 million people are at risk of extreme poverty.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/8019942.stm>

Cannot be saved by world's rich, *Marian L. Tupy, Op-Ed, Washington Times*, April 26

The G-20 will be no better at reducing African poverty than the G-8. Aid disbursements and debt reductions over the past few decades saw incomes in African countries stagnate or even decline. Domestic reforms, including unilateral trade liberalization, are more likely to reduce African poverty in the long run.

<http://washingtontimes.com/news/2009/apr/26/cannot-be-saved-by-worlds-rich/>

Africa to lag recovery from crisis: AFDB, Agence France Presse, April 26

Africa was hit more quickly than expected by the global financial crisis and will pick up more slowly when the recovery eventually comes, the head of the African Development Bank Donald Kaberuka said Sunday. African representatives have repeatedly said that their countries are among the most vulnerable to the crisis, with development gains made over the past 10 years, especially in poverty reduction, at risk.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jzuqL0rLXmCtJKFFJ3fyUrdqdBfg>

Battered by Crisis, African Growth to Fall Sharply, IMF Survey Magazine, April 24

Hurt by the impact of the global economic recession, growth in sub-Saharan Africa is projected to decline from just under 5½ percent in 2008 to 1½ percent in 2009 before recovering to about 3¾ percent in 2010—still below its precrisis level, the IMF says in its regional outlook for the subcontinent.

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/survey/so/2009/CAR042409A.htm>

See Also: Regional Economic Outlook: Sub-Saharan Africa, International Monetary Fund, April 2009

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/reo/2009/AFR/eng/sreo0409.pdf>

Economy: Crisis Pushing Key Poverty Goals Out of Reach, Inter Press Service, April 24

The global economic crisis has created a "development emergency" that will put at least some of the U.N.'s key poverty-reducing 2015 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) out of reach for many countries, especially in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, according to a new report released Friday by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=46628>

Bob Geldof urges IMF to divert cash to Africa from sale of gold reserves, Guardian (UK), April 23

The IMF is facing intense pressure from a coalition led by Bob Geldof to set aside more of the proceeds of a planned sale of its gold reserves to help Africa. Speaking at a press conference inside the IMF's headquarters in Washington, Geldof said Africa had been left out of the G20 agreement at the London summit this month, and urged the IMF to find ways of devoting more resources to protecting the poor from the credit crunch.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2009/apr/23/bob-geldof-imf-gold-africa>

IMF Adviser Urges Extra Funds for Ailing Nations, Wall Street Journal, April 23

The head of the International Monetary Fund's top advisory committee said the IMF should look for ways to help countries weather financial problems related to the recession without forcing them to make severe budget cuts.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124051211213948959.html>

Africa could be worst hit by crisis: World Bank, Reuters, April 22

The impact of the financial crisis may be much more severe in Africa than in developed economies as falling income pushes families below the poverty line, the World Bank said. Africa was at first thought to be at least partially insulated from the crisis as a result of its relative isolation from the global banking system, but the effects of falling aid, investment, remittances and export income could damage the world's poorest continent deeply.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/gc06/idUSTRE53L4ZH20090422>

World Bank to Triple Protection for the Vulnerable in Wake of Economic Crisis, World Bank, April 21

The World Bank today announced that its investments in safety nets and other social protection programs in health and education are projected to triple to \$12 billion over the next two years in order to protect the most vulnerable people from the worst effects of the global economic crisis. As part of this step-up in support, the Bank is increasing its fast track facility for the food price crisis to US\$2 billion from US\$1.2 billion to further help countries with the on-going food crisis.

<http://go.worldbank.org/240L9UEVS0>

FOOD CRISIS

Improving food security in eastern Africa, *Guardian (UK), April 28*

The most severe poverty in the world is in sub-Saharan Africa. Nearly half of all the people there live in absolute poverty, with a shocking 200 million people in this area surviving on incomes of less than one US dollar a day. If the growth of those in poverty continues in this area the world will miss the opportunity to end the detrimental impact of poverty and hunger on the world.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/journalismcompetition/theme-food-security>

UN's new development chief aims to cut poverty despite crises, *UN News Centre, April 28*

The new administrator of the UNDP vowed today to sharpen her agency's focus on cutting poverty despite the multiple crises currently facing the world. "A new deal for the world economy and a new deal for the environment should also be capable of tackling poverty, including tackling energy poverty and providing a low carbon footprint route to development," Helen Clark said as she was welcomed to the UN's New York Headquarters in a Maori ceremony of her native New Zealand.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30624&Cr=undp&Cr1=>

Food For A Hungry World, *VOA News, April 26*

At the recent G-20 Summit, President Obama announced he will work with Congress to double U.S. financial support for agricultural development in poor countries to more than \$1 billion in 2010. In cooperation with its international partners, the U.S., said Secretary Vilsack, seeks to reassure a billion hungry people "that there are people who care and people who are working each and every day to try to reduce that number."

<http://www.voanews.com/uspolicy/2009-04-28-voa3.cfm>

Food crisis in Kenya, *European Commission - Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO), April 22*

Fears are being expressed that another poor rainy season could lead to a 'severe' humanitarian crisis in Kenya. The Kenya meteorological department is already predicting the long rains will be poorly distributed and too little. It follows an appeal from the government for food aid for up to ten million people.

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/ASHU-7RD8HZ?OpenDocument>

WOMEN

Empowering and protecting Darfur's women focus of new UN initiative, *UN News Centre, April 29*

Ensuring gender equality and promoting the participation of women in the search for peace in Darfur are among the aims of a new initiative launched by the United Nations in the strife-torn Sudanese region. Under a cooperation agreement announced today, police serving with the joint African Union-UN hybrid operation in Darfur (UNAMID) will team up with the UN Development Fund for Women to support innovative measures to boost the standing of women in the region.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30637&Cr=darfur&Cr1=>

Good news from Afghanistan: FAO dairy scheme boosts farm incomes, *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, April 27*

A dairy project started by FAO in Kabul and four Afghan provinces: Logar, Wardak, Mazar and Kunduz, has proved so successful that the 1,600 farming families taking part have seen their incomes increase fivefold, from \$130 to \$650 a year. And as it's women who do most of the work involved, they keep 95 percent of the money.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/12568/icode/>

Women bear brunt of African hunger crisis, *The Associated Press, April 26*

Ancient traditions and modern circumstances in Africa often combine to place the burden on women to feed their poor families. Researchers say women do as much as 80 per cent of the farm work in poor countries. And, with food and fertilizer prices rising, and AIDS and the global financial meltdown taking their toll, women are straining under growing responsibilities.

<http://www.cftktv.com/news/56/918408>

Q & A: “Poor Countries Struggle to Mainstream Gender in Trade”, *Inter Press Service, April 25*

Trade influences the labor market, migration flows, small and medium enterprises and the agricultural sector. Changes in these sectors are more likely to have negative impacts on women than on men. But trade policies and agreements are gender-blind and “neutral”. In regards to trade liberalization and agriculture, these problems tend to be more serious in Africa since women work in subsistence farming, an area which does not bring in much income.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/africa/nota.asp?idnews=46624>

Cape Verde: Richer but still anemic, *IRIN, April 24*

According to a 2005 government survey, almost one-third of women in Cape Verde aged 15 to 49 and more than 40 percent of pregnant women were anemic. As measured by their diets and access to food, 8,500 rural families – out of a half-million population – were classified as food-insecure in a 2006 government survey.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=84099>

African First Ladies Tackle Health, Women's Issues at Los Angeles Summit, *VOA News, April 21*

First ladies from Africa met in Los Angeles where they have been discussing women's health and education, AIDS and others challenges facing their continent. The meeting convened by the groups African Synergy and U.S. Doctors for Africa drew on Hollywood star power to promote its message.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/2009-04-21-voa82.cfm>

MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

U.S. Trade Chief Says Obama Will Push Ahead on Pacts, *The New York Times, April 23*

In his first policy speech, the top United States trade official said that President Obama would work to revive global trade talks and complete three bilateral accords as part of an aggressive trade agenda.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/24/business/economy/24trade.html>

G-20 Warned on Restricting Trade, *Wall Street Journal, April 23*

World Bank President Robert Zoellick said that the Group of 20 countries continue to restrict trade flows despite vowing to resist protectionist policies. Since the G-20 summit earlier this month, nine countries have either taken or considered 23 restrictive trade measures.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124051181634748949.html>

AGRIBUSINESS

Almarai prospers on diet of dairy, *Financial Times, April 29*

While many companies in the region have delayed projects and expansion plans as they feel the pinch of the global economic crisis, Almarai intends to invest SR6bn (\$1.6bn) on expansion and development in the next five years. It is also plans to move beyond its home market in the Gulf by forming a joint venture with PepsiCo that will set up entities to produce and sell dairy products and fruit juice in Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/6c17e568-34dd-11de-940a-00144feabdc0.html>

Monsanto takes Germany to court over GM maize battle, *John Vidal, Reuters, April 28*

Monsanto Co., the world's leading seed seller, is seeking a court injunction and suing the German government for banning its genetically engineered MON810 corn. Agriculture Minister Ilse Aigner last week banned the sale and planting of the genetically altered seeds saying they present a danger for the environment.

*See also: Monsanto seeks injunction against German ban, *Forbes, April 22**

<http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2009/04/22/ap6321612.html>

Germany to permit trials with GMO potato, *Thorsten Severin, Michael Hogan and Dave Graham, Reuters, April 27*

Germany's Agriculture Minister Ilse Aigner said on Monday she will permit test cultivation of a potato containing genetically-modified organisms. Open air trials of the GMO potato Amflora, developed by German chemicals group BASF presented no threat to public health or the environment, she said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/environmentNews/idUSTRE53Q46620090427>

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