



The **Hunger-Free Latin America and Caribbean Initiative** is a joint effort of countries, organizations, socially responsible businesses and societies that share the urgent necessity to root out hunger, that strive to improve the life of every citizen, that understand the huge price of extreme poverty and hunger and their consequences, and that trust that this problem can be solved once and for all.

**Hunger-Free Latin America
and the Caribbean**
a reachable goal

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i n i t i a t i v e

HUNGER-FREE
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

three | basic objectives

1 To create a **high profile** of the hunger problem and **Right to Food issue** in national, sub-regional, and regional agendas, including those of international organizations. The Right to Food should be State Policy, and society must be informed of its relevance and encouraged to support its implementation.

2 To strengthen national **capabilities** to carry out **public policies** and programs **to eradicate hunger** while guaranteeing the Right to Food of its citizens in a proper institutional framework.

3 To develop a **Regional Hunger Observatory** that follows the state of Food and Nutritional Security and monitors national progress towards the ultimate goal of **eradicating hunger**.

In 2005, approximately 45 million people in Latin America and the Caribbean suffered from hunger and malnutrition. As a result of rising food prices, the number of hungry rose to over 51 million between 2005 and 2007. These are not numbers, but women, men and children who are part of a human tragedy that could and should be solved.

The Latin America and Caribbean region is the biggest exporter of food on the planet, and, even after that, it still has an estimated food surplus of 30%. The main cause of hunger is not due to lack of food, but its unequal distribution and the lack of access by the poorest people.

Prior to 2005, the Region was well on its way to reach the first **Millennium Development Goal (MDG)**, which is to reduce poverty and hunger in half by 2015.

There is room for hope, as all Latin American and Caribbean countries are committed to guarantee everyone's right to food. Hunger-Free Latin America and Caribbean Initiative supports these efforts and strives to go beyond the MDG, completely eradicating hunger and malnutrition and guaranteeing food security in the region within one generation.

Proposed in 2005 by the President of Brazil, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, and the former President of Guatemala, Oscar Berger, the Hunger-Free Latin America and Caribbean Initiative was defined in 2006 as a priority for FAO's action in the Region. In December 2008, the leaders of all Latin American and Caribbean countries decided, in their first ever regional summit, to "combine efforts in support of the Latin America and the Caribbean without Hunger 2025 Initiative".

the initiative

The **Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative** belongs to all countries in the region and, at their request, is supported and coordinated by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

This Initiative is working to achieve a **very specific goal**: reduce chronic child malnutrition to a minimum level, below 2.5%, in all participating countries.

