



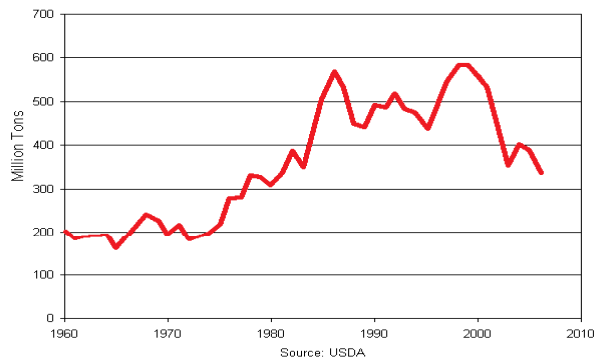
The Global Food Crisis:

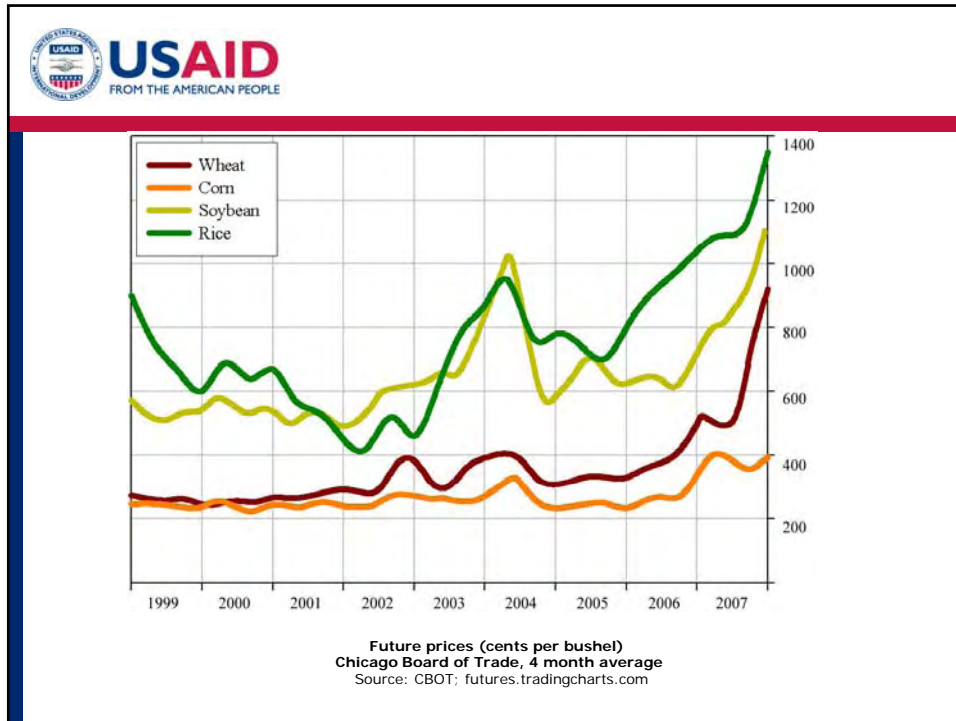
Gender Implications



Food security, vulnerability

World Grain Stocks, 1960-2006





Gender Implications

- Rising food prices are both a problem and an opportunity
 - A problem for the poor
 - An incentive to governments to promote agricultural production
- More of the poor are women
- Crises of all kinds affect the marginalized and vulnerable disproportionately
- Women more likely to lose their jobs
- Workloads at home likely to increase

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Household indicators

- Net sales of tradable food as a proportion of HH income
- Share of income from agriculture
- Poverty level
- Food consumption as a proportion of all HH consumption
- HH already vulnerable:
 - Conflict affected
 - Recent agricultural shocks
 - Demographic type (e.g., elderly, single parent HH)
 - Already reliant on food assistance

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Food and nutrition

- As prices rise, the poor spend more money on food and less on non-food expenditures
- Women may eat less to feed their children
- Quantity (caloric intake) and quality (dietary diversity) may decline
- Cooking time may increase with shift to cheaper grains (e.g., sorghum and millet)
- Urban poor may be more impacted than rural poor

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Impacts on other household activities

- Children may be pulled out of school, especially girl children
- Women may sell their assets (e.g., small stock, jewelry) while men's assets may not be sold
- Health and other issues may not be able to be addressed

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Ian Jones - Pool / Reuters

Impacts on children:

Short term and long term

Girl children may be pulled out of school more than boy children

Health care may be neglected

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Impacts on production

- Female farmers are often unable to respond rapidly to higher food prices because they lack access to cash and credit, seeds and other technologies
- Female livestock producers may have to sell all of their small stock
- Female farmers producing food crops may use these for household consumption and not be able make any sales

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Gender appropriate responses to the food crisis

- Recognize gender differences in food production and consumption
- Target poor male and female producers
- Identify and evaluate interventions that address women's differential needs

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Emergency assistance and social protection

- Expand food aid distribution
- Involve women as central actors in planning and distribution
- Introduce or expand social protection interventions (e.g., preventive health and nutrition programs)
- Target women as primary beneficiaries or target programs to their needs (e.g., food or cash for work)

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Assistance to women farmers

- Ensure that programs for small farmers include women
 - Extension programs and agents that will work for and with women
- Utilize proven interventions to ensure that women can be involved and stay involved
 - Rights to land
 - Access to credit and technologies
 - Access to irrigation and labor saving devices
 - Strengthen women's leadership and technical skills
 - Fertilizer and seed credits
 - New crop varieties

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Credit and market-related services

- Credit packages for women
- Identify gender-related barriers to market access:
 - Modes of transportation
 - Time constraints
 - Cost of permits
 - Harassment at the market place
 - Marital discord

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Women are:

- Unique victims of the crisis
- Key contributors to overcoming the crisis

Adapted from Helping Women Respond to the Global Food Crisis. IFPRI. October 2008

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Disclaimer: This presentation, delivered during the week of November 9-13, 2008, was prepared by the authors listed for review by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and does not necessarily reflect the views of USAID.



Thank you



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