

# Food for Life



Paul Jeffrey / EAA

## Why the campaign

An estimated one billion people in the world live with constant hunger. At the same time, another billion people, those in developed countries, consume on average over 60 percent more than is needed.

Hunger is an appalling reality in our world, especially because there is no need for it. We currently grow enough food to feed everyone. Hunger today is due not to the physical limits of our planet but to the social limits in the ways we have chosen to produce, share, buy and sell food.

The good news is that this means we can change this reality and ensure that everyone has enough food to live in dignity. Do we have the courage to change our own lives and our own societies to make this possible?

From 2009-2012, the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance (EAA) is focusing on food – in order to overcome hunger and to improve livelihoods in harmony with creation and social justice.

## Approach of the campaign

The Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance is a broad international network of churches and Christian organizations cooperating in advocacy on food and on HIV and AIDS. Alliance members represent tens of millions of Christians around the world who share the conviction that advocacy against unjust structures, practices and attitudes should not be a task we engage in when it is convenient, but must be a fundamental requirement of living out our faith.

Through awareness raising, public campaigning, and policy engagement, EAA members will advocate for:

- Just and sustainable food production, trade and distribution systems
- Just and sustainable consumption
- The realization of the right to food for all people

How we produce food, how we distribute it and how we ensure that all people have access to culturally-appropriate nourishment is a fundamental matter of justice towards people, the Creation and God.

## What we will do

When the campaign was officially launched in May 2009, over 140 church-related organizations and individuals signed onto a letter to United Nations' Secretary General Ban Ki-moon calling on him to take tangible steps in realizing the right to food for all people. Our commitment to speak out and take action together with a clear vision of what is needed for a just, peaceful and sustainable world is central to our work on this campaign. In 2009, the EAA will:

- Plan and promote a Churches' Week of Action on Food, 11-18 October 2009.
- Hold a Food Campaign Slogan Contest to raise awareness of the campaign and its goals.
- Engage in political analysis that will set the detailed context for our campaign.
- Collect and develop resources, including theological reflection and worship materials, on the right to food and on just consumption.



- Develop model letters for churches to write to governments to ask what they are doing on the right to food.
- Support members and coordinate common advocacy, in policy engagement at national and international levels, such as at the High Level Conference on How to Feed the World to 2050 in October in Rome and at a proposed World Food Summit late this year.
- Contribute to building popular mobilization for ecumenical actions around the United Nations Climate Change Conference in December in Copenhagen.
- Partner with others in developing a human rights toolkit, join the Right to Food and Nutrition Watch consortium, and follow up on the trade and food conference the EAA co-organized in November 2008.
- Assess capacity building needs among members for further advocacy, such as in monitoring governments on the right to food.

In addition, the EAA will collect and share resource material for education and campaigning, distribute information bulletins updating the network on events and resources, and issue action alerts to galvanize advocacy around common concerns.

The latest campaign information and resources are posted on the EAA's website: [www.e-alliance.ch](http://www.e-alliance.ch)



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## How to get involved

As an organization or an individual, you can get involved! Here are just a few ways:

- Share and recommend resource material for education, awareness raising and campaigning.
- Plan actions in your church, community and country for the Churches Week of Action on Food.
- Contribute to a working group: policy analysis, planning for the Week of Action, theological reflection and worship resources.
- Link food to climate change with ecumenical actions around the Copenhagen Summit in December.
- Get your networks involved in developing a creative slogan for the Food Campaign.
- Write to governments to ask what they are doing on the right to food.
- Consider your own personal eating habits, particularly if you live in a country with per capita over-consumption, and make necessary changes in light of global food security.
- Subscribe to the Food Campaign Bulletin and Action Alerts at: [www.e-alliance.ch/en/s/resources/subscribe/](http://www.e-alliance.ch/en/s/resources/subscribe/)

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