

April 1, 2008

Jill Lester

President and Chief Executive Officer

Global Board of Directors

Peter G. Bourne

*Chair of the Global Board,
The Hunger Project
Former UN Assistant
Secretary-General*

Joaquim A. Chissano

*Former President, Mozambique
1997 Africa Prize Laureate*

Mohini Giri

*Former Chair, National Commission
for Women, India*

Joan Holmes

*Founding President,
The Hunger Project*

Cecilia Loría Saviñón

Former Director, INDESOL, Mexico

George Mathew

*Director, Institute of Social
Sciences, India*

Queen Noor of Jordan*

Javier Pérez de Cuéllar*

Former UN Secretary-General

Amartya Sen*

*Lamont University Professor,
Harvard University
1998 Nobel Laureate in Economics*

Steven J. Sherwood

Chairman, CWS Capital Partners LLC

Sheree S. Stomberg

*Head, Operations and Technology,
Citi Global Wealth Management*

Speciosa Wandira

Former Vice President, Uganda

George M. Weiss

President, Beechtree Capital Group LLC

M. S. Swaminathan*

Chair Emeritus

** Honorary*

Letter to the Editor

In response to "A 'perfect storm' of hunger," Los Angeles Times,
April 1, 2008

Re: A 'perfect storm' of hunger

Sadly emergencies, food-related and other, are inevitable. They can, however, be mitigated.

Consider the droughts that ravaged Malawi in 2005. Amid widespread famine, certain communities emerged unscathed. What set them apart? The answer is they were not 'beneficiaries' of the current aid model. Instead, they were active partners in a development process focused on sustainable self-reliance.

People there had received skills training and access to microcredit. Women (who farm 80% of Sub-Saharan Africa's food) had gained access to agricultural training that improved productivity. In addition to increasing their individual crops, they had created community farms, and had processed and stored that food in community food banks. When drought hit, they had the capacity to cope.

Targeting international aid to empower people at the grassroots level to successfully meet their challenges will pay long-term dividends.

Jill Lester
President & CEO
The Hunger Project