

ASIA and the PACIFIC

ONE WORLD ONE HOPE

“The Millennium Development Goals is Common Vision and Global Commitments”

Asia and the Pacific need assessment to meet poverty and hunger targets by 2015

Asia and the Pacific has made dramatic progress in regional poverty reduction. The region as a whole is expected to meet the poverty reduction target by 2015, and may even far exceed it. However, significant disparities still exist within and among countries. A number of countries are expected to miss the income-poverty and hunger targets – mostly those countries classified as least developed, landlocked, or small island developing states. The transition from a planned to a market economy has also stalled progress in a number of the Central Asian republics.

Extreme poverty is often associated with various ethnic groups, indigenous populations and, increasingly, the urban poor (the burgeoning number of people living in urban slums has reached an estimated 513 million globally). The growing vulnerability of the poor to natural disasters, such as the recent tsunami tragedy, is becoming a significant concern in the region. The poor are also particularly susceptible to a whole range of communicable diseases, such as AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, due to malnutrition and a host of other factors.

The economic growth rates in the world, the Asia and Pacific region continues to have the largest number of poor people. Estimates for 2001 show that more than 700 million people there live on less than \$1 a day,



The Asian-Pacific experience shows that there are three elements necessary to achieve the poverty reduction and hunger targets in the region: sustained growth that benefits the poor; resources for investment in critical areas, including physical infrastructure, education, health and agriculture; and institutional changes and innovations.

WFO's programming in this region recognizes the importance of indigenous knowledge, ethnic minorities, and the participation of youth and women in decision-making and development processes to support the MDG's objectives