

ActionAid USA  
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## **Analysis of 2012 G8 Summit on Food Security: A Step Forward, A Step Back, and A Very Big Question**

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The 2012 Camp David G8 summit has recently concluded. With food security the only development issue on the G8 agenda this year, ActionAid USA and other hunger advocates, especially in the US, prioritized advocacy and campaigning around the summit. This analysis attempts to unpack key outcomes, provides links to the key documents for more information, and at the end includes a summary of media coverage of the summit with ActionAid's perspective included. Key highlights of the summit include:

- **A Step Forward: The US and UK made commitments of new aid and pledges to the GAFSP.** President Obama delivered a [major speech](#) on global food security at the Chicago Council symposium on Friday, May 18. Obama committed the US to increase its aid to smallholder farmers and pledged new funds to the GAFSP. The [UK government also made its first pledge to GAFSP](#), committing \$120 million over three years, though the precise mix between the Public and Private Sector Windows has not yet been announced. The G8 also committed to a goal of securing a total of \$1.2 billion in new resources for the GAFSP over the coming three years.
- **A Step Back: The G8 collectively failed to pledge to simply sustain L'Aquila levels of public investment in agriculture.** ActionAid had insisted that a minimum standard to judge the G8 summit as success would be a clear commitment in the [G8 communiqué](#) to sustain current levels of public investment. This did not occur. This means that the 2009 L'Aquila G8 summit – rather than the Camp David meeting - will now be seen as the high point in donor commitment to agriculture. And we may now see declining public levels of aid to agriculture going forward.
- **A Very Big Question: The New Alliance –Old Wine in New Bottles?** The major focus for the G8 was the announcement of the [“New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition,”](#) an effort to leverage private sector support to agricultural development including commitments of \$3 billion in private investments from 45 companies. ActionAid is concerned that the private sector may be seen as a replacement to sustained public investment. We are also concerned that to date the New Alliance has largely been a conversation between business and governments. But remarks from President Obama and USAID Administrator Shah indicate that this alliance will include CSOs, farmer groups, and small cooperatives. What will be the reality?
- Finally, the G8 [Camp David Accountability Report](#) (CDAR) is a remarkable improvement over past years, with more data and, for the first time, a close look at how G8 donors are supporting developing countries' own priorities and targeting women smallholders. The report also identifies a huge unfinished agenda -- three years after L'Aquila, as G8 pledges are set to expire, half of all poor county agricultural development plans remain unfunded. But [ActionAid's analysis](#) finds that the G8 are relying on a false premise that the private sector can fill this gap when in fact sustained and expanded public investment in smallholder farmers is urgently needed.

### **Brief Background**

In 2009, at the G8 summit in L'Aquila, Italy the G8 and other donors committed to the L'Aquila Pledge, which included both a financial commitment, of \$22 billion over 3 years, and a non-financial commitment to the Rome Principles, which calls for agricultural investments to align behind country investment plans (CIPs) and to be comprehensive, coordinated and sustained. The Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP), an innovative and inclusive trust fund that supports long-term pieces of CIPs also came out of the L'Aquila Pledge. The L'Aquila Pledge expires at the end of 2012 so the Camp David summit came at a vital moment in efforts to address global hunger.

### **What Did ActionAid Call on the G8 to Do?**

ActionAid called on the G8 to:

1. **Sustain (and preferably expand) the levels of public investment that they included in the L'Aquila Pledge.** ActionAid wanted to see continued strong public investment to support agriculture, which before 2009 had received very little investment. Given the fiscal troubles of G8 countries it was unlikely that a financial pledge would be viable this year so ActionAid insisted that at a minimum current aid levels should be continued.
2. **Make new commitments to the public sector window of GAFSP.** ActionAid strongly supports the public sector window of the GAFSP which has an innovative governance model that includes three civil society representatives (ActionAid has been serving as the northern CSO representative since it began; there are also two southern CSO representatives).
3. **To ensure that the New Alliance is inclusive and includes smallholder farmers, cooperatives, and small and medium enterprises in its definition of private sector.** ActionAid knew ahead of the G8 that they were likely to introduce a "New Alliance" which focuses on public-private sector partnerships for smallholder agriculture in Africa. We were calling for this Alliance to include civil society and to ensure that the "private sector" was broadly defined to include smallholder farmers, cooperatives and SMEs and to ensure that the private sector not be seen as a replacement for vital public support, nor a "silver bullet" for agricultural development.

### **Outcomes of the G8 meeting**

- **Summit Had Strong Focus on Food Security:** Food Security was included as one of the top five agenda items for the G8. On Friday, May 18 [the Chicago Council for Global Affairs hosted a one day symposium focused on food security](#) at which President Barack Obama, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and a number of other US officials spoke. African governments, including the AU President Yayi Boni from Benin, Prime Minister Meles of Ethiopia, President Mills of Ghana and President Kikwete of Tanzania also spoke. Others on the agenda were large multinational corporations. Food security was discussed the next day at Camp David over lunch.
  - **As Henry Malumo, ActionAid International's Africa Advocacy Coordinator, said in reaction to President Obama's speech,** "With raging food crises and rising prices, President Obama deserves credit for putting global food security at the heart of this year's G8 summit.
- **A Step Forward: New commitments from the US and UK to GAFSP.** President Obama announced in his Chicago council [speech](#) that the US would increase public investment in agricultural development and he also announced that the US would renew and make an additional pledge to GAFSP, which ActionAid understand will be for \$475 million over three years. A [factsheet](#) provided on food security at the G8 said that the G8 has a "goal of securing commitments of \$1.2 billion over three years from existing and new donors" to the GAFSP.

Andrew Mitchell, UK Development Minister, also announced that the UK would support GAFSP at \$120 million over three years. We understand that in the first year, \$30 million will be committed to the Public Sector Window, which ActionAid supports but that in future years, UK support is intended for the private sector window. ActionAid is not supportive of the private sector window which does not have the same inclusive governance structure as the public sector window. Absent a major overhaul of the private sector window ActionAid would urge the UK to put funds only behind the Public Sector Window. ActionAid USA's reaction to the President's speech is [here](#).

- **A Big Step Back: No G8 Commitment to Sustain L'Aquila.** No pledge was made by the G8 to sustain public investment in agriculture at even L'Aquila levels. President Obama stated that the US would continue strong investments in agriculture but the G8 as a whole did not make that commitment. The [communiqué](#) language was as follows: *"As part of that effort, we commit to fulfill outstanding L'Aquila financial pledges, seek to maintain strong support to address current and future global food security challenges, including through bilateral and multilateral assistance, and agree to take new steps to accelerate progress towards food security and nutrition in Africa and globally, on a complementary basis."* Without a clear recommitment, we can expect that aid to agriculture may well decline in the coming years – and that in retrospect, the L'Aquila period may be seen as a high water mark in public support. This is a real failure of leadership by the G8 at Camp David. [ActionAid's reaction to the G8 communiqué](#) can be found here.
- **A Very Big Question: The New Alliance –Old Wine in New Bottles?** The major news on food security coming out of the G8 was the creation of the ["New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition."](#) It is meant to "accelerate the flow of private capital to African agriculture, push technological innovations, increase "sustainable agricultural productivity" and reduce risk. It will also seek to lift 50 million people out of poverty over 10 years through increase private investments. Also announced was \$3 billion from the private sector for investment in Africa. The New Alliance is starting in Ghana, Tanzania and Ethiopia and will move to 6 countries and eventually to 40+. It is clear that in order to participate in the New Alliance that African governments will have to agree to policy changes, such as removing export bans and land reforms.

#### **Key issues and questions on the "New Alliance":**

- **Exclusive or Inclusive Approach?** The role of civil society and especially smallholder farmers and producer organizations must be made clear and enhanced in this initiative. President Obama defined the New Alliance in his Chicago Council speech as a collaboration between government, the private sector, NGOs, African small businesses and cooperatives. On the other hand, the AU Chair and Martin Bwalya of NEPAD championed this as a private sector and government alliance. It was clear that after a lot of push back from ActionAid and Oxfam and other civil society actors including an online letter calling for an inclusive alliance – President Obama and Secretary Clinton openly acknowledged that they are listening to concerns for an inclusive approach and we have adopted that route. We need to register concern at all forums and ensure the more inclusive approach suggested by the US President be the way forward.

- **Linkage between the New Alliance and CAADP.** There doesn't seem to be anything new in the Alliance apart from the private sector boost. This could be duplicative. The New Alliance should strengthen and be accountable to CAADP and ensure greater accountability and coordination. The Grow Africa Initiative, AGRA and others all remain a challenge for Africa – each demanding its own space. It is time for us to ask these difficult questions at all levels. We must help regulate the appetite of government to be a signatory to all initiatives and an actor of none.
- **Leadership Council.** The New Alliance proposes the creation of a leadership council. This is only welcome if it will help in pushing the implementation of CAADP. The composition of this structure must ensure that civil society, farmer organizations, governments from North and South, as well as civil society from North and South has a seat in the council. The leadership council could act as an advocacy platform to champion best practices and ensure accountability of all players.

### **Camp David Accountability Report**

The G8 [Camp David Accountability Report](#) is a significant improvement over past years, with more data and, for the first time, a close look at how G8 donors are supporting developing countries' own priorities and targeting women smallholders. This [policy brief](#) provides ActionAid's analysis of the food security section of the 2012 Camp David Accountability Report (CDAR). The following is a summary of ActionAid's findings:

- The new report improves upon past G8 accountability reports by expanding the analysis from just financial commitments to also include non-financial commitments on the quality of aid – and there is much more extensive data.
- While nearly all funds pledged at L'Aquila have been committed, G8 donors have disbursed only 49 percent of funding. These disbursements need to be sped up. Smallholder farmers living in poverty cannot wait another three years to receive the benefits of this funding.
- Agriculture and food security country investment plans are still 50 percent underfunded, which shows that the need for continued public sector investment is still great. This tremendous gap cannot be filled by the private sector alone.
- While G8 leaders self-assess that they are meeting their goal of investing in country-led plans, they acknowledge that the majority of them are failing to target those investments towards women smallholder farmers, who grow the majority of the food in the global South. This needs to be improved going forward.
- While progress on the alignment of donors' L'Aquila pledges with country plans is promising, G8 donors need to ensure that all aid to agriculture is aligned behind country investment plans.

### **Highlights of Press Coverage with ActionAid's perspective**

ActionAid USA received significant news coverage prior, during and after the G8 Summit. The clips included a homepage blog post on the *Huffington Post*. We also had wire coverage from Reuters and *Agence France Presse* that helped push our message out even further. Among top hits included *Time.com*, the *Financial Times*, and *The Guardian*.

Below is a roundup of the coverage obtained:

- [WUSA 9 CBS @ 7](#) – April 6, 2012 (clips provided on request)
- [WJLA ABC 7 News @ 6](#) –April 6, 2012 (clips provided on request)
- [WTTG 5 FOX News Edge @ 11](#) –April 6, 2012 (clips provided on request)
- [Inter Press Service](#) – April 7, 2012 --Put Food Crisis on G8's Plate, Group Urges
- [Hagstrom Report](#) – April 12, 2012 – Obama, advocates to push for G-8 food security commitments
- [Kaiser Family Foundation](#) – May 7, 2012 – Humanitarian Groups Call On G8 To Address Food Security At Upcoming Summit
- [Voice of America](#) – May 11, 2012 –G8 Leaders Called on to Address Hunger, Poverty
- [Huffington Post](#) May 11, 2012 – Camp David G8: Will it be an historic success or just another meeting
- [Devex](#) – May 16, 2012 – The G8 Summit at Camp David: A Talk In The Woods
- [The Atlantic](#) May 16, 2012 Why the G8 Summit Matters
- [Firedoglake](#) May 17, 2012 The Camp David G8: Will it be an historic success or just another meeting
- [Voice of America](#) – May 17, 2012 – G8 Summit to Focus on Africa Food Security
- [Reuters](#) – May 18, 2012 – Cash-strapped G8 looks to private sector in hunger fight
- [Time](#) – May 18, 2012 – Obama Unveils Private-Public Partnership on Food Aid
- [Financial Times](#) – May 18, 2012 –G8 leaders urged to focus on growth
- [ITV News](#) – May 18, 2012 – G8 looks to private sector to fight hunger
- [Sacramento Bee](#) – May 18, 2012 – NGO's react to Obama's announcement
- [Agence France Presse](#) – May 18, 2012 –Obama turns to private sector to feed world's poor
- [El Economista](#) May 18, 2012 Un G-8 corto de fondos busca ayuda privada contra el hambre
- [Inter Press](#) May 18, 2012 G8 Turns to Private Sector for Food Crisis Solutions
- [Raw Story](#) -- May 18, 2012 – Obama announces partnership with private sector to feed the world's poor
- [Reuters](#) May 18, 2012 – Un G-8 corto de fondos busca ayuda privada contra el hambre
- [The Independent](#) May 18, 2012 World leaders need to show more ambition in tackling hunger
- [The Guardian](#) – May 19, 2012 – G8 summit: lack of new funding to fight poverty disappoints NGOs
- [Agence France Presse](#) – May 20, 2012 – G8 pledges to lift 50 million Africans out of poverty
- [All Africa](#) – May 21, 2012 – Rwanda: G8 to Help 50 Million Africans Out of Poverty
- [Huffington Post](#) – May 21, 2012 –G8 2012: Aid Organization Says G8 Has 'Turned Their Backs' On Needy