

## EMERGENCY HUMANITARIAN FOOD RESERVES

The creation of an **emergency humanitarian food reserves system** is aimed at allowing a quicker and more effective response to food crises. The aim is to allow the least developed countries to confront a food deficit, obtain the quantities of food necessary to cover the needs of the most vulnerable in case of crisis linked to price volatility or other events.

The G20 Action Plan on food price volatility and agriculture, adopted on 23 June 2011, mandated the World Food Programme (WFP) and other competent international organizations, such as the United Nations and the World Bank, to perform a feasibility study on the implementation of such a system in Africa, alongside existing national food reserves. A feasibility study has been conducted with African regional organizations.

The proposed system complies with International Trade Organization rules as it does not intervene on the markets and is in no way similar to a “stabilization reserve”.

The G20 ministerial meeting on Development of 23 September 2011 decided to support the development of a **pilot project in West Africa**, led by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). On a small scale, based on a regional approach, the system will be made up of a physical reserve (67,000 tonnes of rice, corn, sorghum and millet for 30 days’ consumption by the most vulnerable populations of the 11 least developed countries with a food deficit in ECOWAS) and a virtual reserve (equivalent of 60 days’ consumption, based on various financial instruments). These reserves will allow the time necessary for international assistance to be delivered. The system will therefore contribute to **a quicker and more effective response to food crises**.

This pilot project meets the needs expressed by ECOWAS and fits in with its regional agricultural policy. A steering committee will coordinate all the stakeholders: international and regional organizations, States and donors. A board will also bring together representatives of producers and of civil society.

