

G8 Accountability Report

Oxfam International reaction, 7 June 2013

The G8's accountability report (released in full on June 7th) gives an insight into the likely approach the G8 will take to their development commitments this year and in the future.

There are several areas where we believe the report is overly generous, and risks undermining further progress to finish the job which is crucial if we are to stand a chance of meeting the 2015 target for the Millennium Development Goals. Whilst we welcome greater accountability from the G8 on their development commitments, we are concerned that this report does not do enough to identify the areas that require increased attention.

Oxfam's reaction:

"Oxfam welcomes the G8's ambition to be accountable and measure progress on development commitments, but with people's lives hanging in the balance the G8 must be honest where there are hard truths to face so it can turn things around."

Oxfam is deeply concerned that lack of progress on public investment in agriculture – vital to ending hunger – has been entirely overlooked in a year where the G8 has promised to prioritise helping the one in eight people going to bed hungry tonight.

Musgrave said: "With a quarter of their food security commitments yet to materialise, the G8 is on the brink of failing the one in eight people going to bed hungry. They are wrong to imagine the New Alliance – with a focus entirely on private sector investment - is a get out of jail free card, because it cannot replace the public funding desperately needed to help ordinary families and farmers to escape hunger."

The report's overall good and satisfactory ratings also mask huge under investment in health and education, as well as food security. On health, the ratings themselves show that the G8 is being inconsistent.

Musgrave continued: "The G8 is clearly missing the point when they claim excellence on strengthening health systems in the poorest countries; there is little point in having a good hospital without trained nurses and doctors."

More detail and analysis of key sectors and commitments:

On delivering G8 food security commitments, the report scores G8 as GOOD

- The G8 Summit in 2009 launched the L'Aquila Food Security Initiative (AFSI). G8 and other donors collectively committed to mobilise \$22 billion of investments in food security by 2012. To date, only \$16.4 billion has been disbursed - which leaves a 25% shortfall. The G8 needs to provide assurance that this money will be disbursed in 2013.
- The G8 so far has not committed to maintain this level of investment beyond 2012, which is desperately needed if decades of under-investment in agriculture are to be reversed. The New Alliance now represents the G8's sole commitment to agricultural investment – which focuses on mobilising private sector investment. But private sector investment – though needed - cannot be a replacement for public finance. Furthermore the focus of the New Alliance on big agribusiness take us down dangerous path of corporate-led agriculture over publicly funded, small-scale farmer-led initiatives that support food security.
- The New Alliance involves 'Cooperation Agreements' with key countries that require policy changes to be instituted on a national level to create a 'better enabling environment' for private sector investment. Such policy changes risk undermining poor people's land rights and access to natural resources including seeds – thereby undermining the objectives of pro-poor agricultural development.

The report rates support of country-led and regional processes as EXCELLENT

- This does not stand up to scrutiny. They say they are taking these forward through the New Alliance - but we know that the New Alliance focuses predominantly on large-scale

agribusiness and so far has marginalised small-scale producers on which pro-poor agricultural growth really depends.

- Crucially, there is still a 50% shortfall in funding for country agriculture plans - including those plans agreed under the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) - and African civil society is calling for this funding shortfall to be met. Instead of expanding the New Alliance the G8 must support existing initiatives with regional ownership, and ensure they are properly funded.

On delivering on health the report scores the G8 as GOOD:

- The report rates the G8 as EXCELLENT on health financing and health system strengthening. In reality there is no clarity in these numbers how much money is delivered to health-system strengthening as part of this. A key part of strengthening systems is ensuring there is a trained workforce, and given the report also rates the G8 as BELOW EXPECTATION on workforce, it is inconsistent with EXCELLENT delivery on health system strengthening. NB the delivery on infectious diseases is double counting as it is also represented in the section 14 on the Global Fund.
- The G8 also committed to achieving Universal Access to HIV treatment care and prevention by 2010 but three years after this deadline this target has not yet been delivered on.

On education financing the report scores the G8 as SATISFACTORY

- The report rates the G8 as GOOD on filling the education financing gap in the global funding mechanism for education the Global Partnership for Education (GPE). According to UNESCO estimates this year there is an education funding gap of \$26 billion, so the increase in G8's funding to education does not go far enough, especially with less than half of the money going to GPE countries. The G8 needs to be careful not to overstate their contribution on education as financing to sub Saharan Africa particularly is stagnating.

On Environment and Energy, the report gives the G8 'Satisfactory' and specifically on volume of finance provided for adaptation provided and number of countries supported, the collective score is 'good'.

- But there is a lack of reference to steep emissions cuts within G8 countries, and the excessive self-praise for adaption finance, which is the main focus on this report. G8 countries need to act on
- Domestic emission reductions in line with science and equity. The less mitigation, the more loss and damage.
- Scaling up public finance for adaptation through new sources additional to aid.
- And binding commitments for adaptation in the 2015 agreement through UNFCCC, backed up with strong national commitments to full finance and implement National Adaptation Plans
- Ambition for national commitments and investment in clean energy i.e. solar and wind *within* G8 countries, and SE4ALL for developing countries must improve.

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