

UNLESS OBAMA POLICY IS DUMPED

The Lives of 30 Million Africans Hang in the Balance

by Marcia Merry Baker

April 23—Emergency food aid and starting up high-tech water and agro-industrial projects are now a life-or-death requirement for 30 million people from the West Sahel through the Horn of Africa. We summarize how 25 million tons of crops—e.g., corn and soy—are needed for processing for immediate delivery of food relief-products, and near-term reserves, at a time when world grain supplies, especially corn, are drastically short. Yet leading trans-Atlantic government officials are merely spouting sentimental rhetoric; they are condoning genocide by failing to take the measures needed.

In fact, due to the dominance of British imperial policies for the past decades, the necessary food reserves to meet this catastrophe are *not there*. This reality must be faced and reversed, immediately.

What is required short-term is to mobilize to get the food relief flows going full tilt, and to commission a wartime-style international crop and livestock production effort for increasing output. That is not happening.

The point is, that genocide is the policy of the power centers in control, best called the neo-British Empire, operating out of London, the Obama Administration, and the interconnected Bill Gates/Warren Buffett philanthropo-fascist apparatus at the UN, and in Rome and Chicago. These circles know full well the scale of harm and death proceeding in Africa, and are opposed to the necessary actions to address it. They are issuing a barrage of expressions of fake concern, especially in the countdown to the May 18-19 Group of Eight meet-

ing at Camp David.

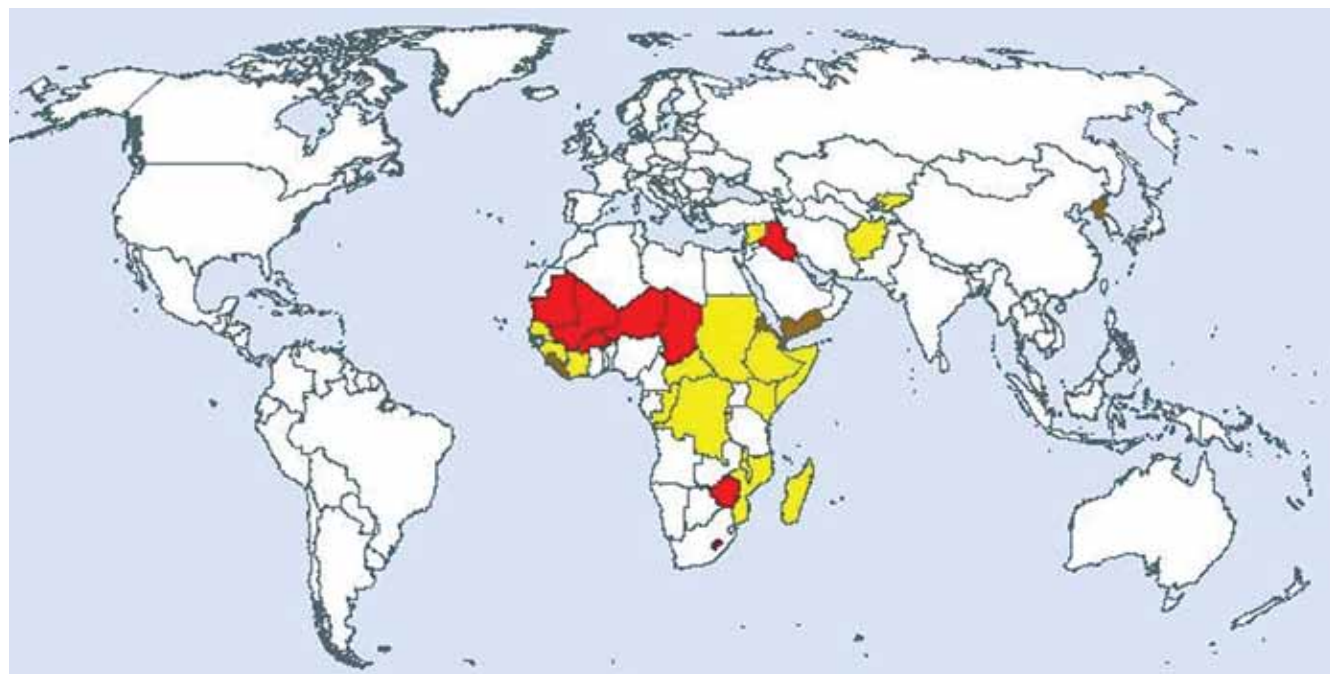
This is embodied in reports, and manifest in a mid-April spate of speeches and activities in Washington, D.C., involving Tony Blair; Rajiv Shah, the director of USAID (a Bill Gates operative); and others. On April 16 and 17, Shah called for more public-private partnerships with mega-corporations in Africa, and a host of other delphic non-solutions, under the ruse of the Obama/London “Feed the Future” program. We must “make space for the private sector,” he said.

This activity is part of a rush *to be seen and heard* expressing care about mass hunger and death in Africa, all the while that a blueprint for global genocide is in the works for the Rio+20 (UN Conference on Sustainable Development), to be held in Rio de Janeiro June 20-22.

The only way to wipe out this deadly British empire operation—which is, moreover, associated with the threat of world war—is to dump the British imperial cartel/free-trade system, and its puppet, Barack Obama. That will pave the way for not only supplying immediate food, but to launch the massive infrastructure projects, such as the TransAqua plan to re-direct some of the Congo River watershed flow northward to the Chad Basin, and begin to transform the Sahel, now in ecological collapse. Only this approach will rebuild the productivity of the world’s nations, and, at the same time, provide the short-term possibility of meeting immediate emergencies.

FIGURE 1

Countries Requiring External Assistance for Food



UN Food & Agriculture Organization

Darker coloring reflects extreme need.

30 Million Need Food Aid Urgently

Figure 1 gives a world snapshot of the 34 nations in serious need of outside aid for their basic food supply, as of this month. At least a billion of the world's more than 7 billion people do not have enough food, but those in the countries shown are in urgent need.

The six nations of the Western Sahel stand out as a continuous region, where, as shown in **Figure 2**, there is extensive drought.

There are at least 16 million people, among the total population of 65 million, across the seven Sahelian nations shown, suffering from lack of food, and in dire need of aid. The roster of these people, by country, from east to west (from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, March 9, 2012):

Chad: 3.6 million (28% of the population)

Niger: 5.4 million (35%)

Mali: 3 million (20%)

Burkina Faso: 1.7 million (10%)

Senegal: 850,000 (6%)

Gambia: 713,500 (37%)

Mauritania: 700,000 (22%)

The FAO in March reported, "Total 2011 cereal production in the Sahel was on average 25% lower than in

2010, but as much as 50% lower in Chad and Mauritania. There were also localized, huge food production deficits in other countries (up to 80%). . . ."

The FAO summarizes aspects of the Sahelian crisis, as "due to a combination of factors, including drought, sharp declines in cereal production and high grain prices; a shortage of fodder for livestock; a reduction in remittances from migrant workers in several countries; environmental degradation; displacement; and chronic poverty deepened by chronic crisis."

When the numbers for those continuing to suffer food shortages in the Horn of Africa are added to the Sahelian 16 million, plus hundreds of thousands in the Mediterranean littoral nations, the total persons in need of food aid comes to 30 million, at the most conservative count.

Need: 25 Million Tons of Grains-for-Aid

To fully mobilize to acquire, process, and ship needed amounts of food relief, calls the question on the inadequacy of world grain production at present, which is way below requirements for nutrition and reserves. Consider this in one simple way: Look at the tonnage of grain for aid requirements for 30 million people, as



compared with volume of grain stocks (carryover, or reserves) currently extant, from which to provide the food relief. *The food isn't there!*

For 30 million people, this means 15 million metric tons (mmt) of grains to be milled for emergency food product right away, at a half ton a year per person;¹ and add another 10 million tons for processing for relief foods for stand-by for the near future, until local

1. The rough calculation for minimal subsistence grain rations for a person for a year, is about a third to a half a metric ton, or 1,100 pounds of cereal (for direct utilization, and very little indirect utilization, through the animal protein chain). Think of this as the way some oldsters in the U.S. will recount how they lived through the 1930s Depression years on corn meal, three times a day. It is preferable to provide relief products containing supplements (vitamins, minerals, oils), and needing minimal cooking, since fuel is likely scarce. (The additional grain per person, over and above 1.5 pounds a day, is for losses from shipping, milling, and storage, as well as minimal meat production, e.g., literally, for chicken feed.)

agriculture can be built up.

If you make the 25 mmt of fortified food aid product out of corn and soy, for example, as is commonly done, then the corn required comes to 15-20 mmt, depending on the volume of soy incorporated. This year in the United States, where much of the world's food relief products are made, only 20 mmt of corn will be on hand as carryover! Or maybe not even that. (U.S. Department of Agriculture April 10 report World Agriculture Supply and Demand, WASDE 505-23)

Year-to-year “carryover” or ending stocks of corn in the U.S. went from 44 mmt in 2010, to 29 mmt in 2011, and now are forecast for 20 mmt this year. The United States output of corn accounts for one third of all world production.

As it is, there is a worsening corn supply shortage in the United States, even lacking a commitment for rush-

aid to Africa. One cornbelt state leader of the National Farmers Union said in Washington, D.C. in April, “Look in the bins. The corn isn’t there. That’s what I am worried about.”

The outstanding reason for corn’s apparent scarcity now, is the Obama corn-for-ethanol policy, part of the go-green insanity of the British empire “alternative” fuels hoax. Some 126 mmt of U.S. corn is being burned for fuel yearly! If only one fourth of this was milled for food relief, there would be plenty more for livestock rations; and at the same time, farming capacity going into corn-monoculture, could be freed up to produce a variety of other crops of national and international priority. This will require parity-pricing for farmers, and a re-tooling of infrastructure for handling, storing, shipping, and processing. The current policy of U.S. food-import dependency must stop.

Other corn-exporting nations likewise have low stocks. South Africa’s ending stocks dropped from 5 mmt in 2010, down to 3.5 mmt last year, and only 2.42 mmt forecast for 2012. Argentina’s corn ending stocks fell from 1.2 mmt last year, to 1 mmt forecast for this year.

London/Obama: Talk, Block Aid

The message from the London philanthropy/aid networks, is: 1) falsely extol science for agriculture, meaning for the benefit of Monsanto, DuPont, BASF, et al.; 2) demand “free” (rigged) market practices for the commodity cartels; 3) enforce deals with the mega-cartel companies; 4) declare concern for women and smallholder farmers; and 5) stand by as millions go hungry, suffer, and starve.

These points can be found in such recent locations as the annual message from Bill Gates in January, and two recent reports in advance of the G8 Summit in mid-May: The April 10 report by the ONE Campaign, headed by rock star Bono, calling for a “Thrive” outline, for the G8 countries to be nice and donate to small farmers; and secondly, the March 7 Chicago Council on Global Affairs White Paper to the U.S. government, “G8 Agricultural Development Working Group Proposal: U.S. Leadership in Global Agricultural Development and Food Security.”

The most strenuous advocate for blocking any food aid mobilization is Dan Glickman, former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, who went on Bill Gates’ payroll at a new agriculture division at the Chicago Council of Global Affairs in 2009; and now is co-chair of a group

formed in 2011, called AGREE, funded by the world’s largest foundations, including the Rockefeller Foundation, to pressure national governments against financial re-organization, and against restoring agro-industrial development.

On March 7, Glickman moderated a discussion on *The Future of Food*, the new book by Prince Charles, at an Aspen Institute event. Their royal message was to let them eat cake, like His Royal Highness does.

But it’s Rajiv Shah who takes the cake, with his blatant examples of how to simultaneously talk aid and further genocide. He spoke on April 16, at the Global Philanthropy Forum in Washington, D.C., keynoted by Tony Blair, who runs the Africa Governance Initiative, to impose grinding imperialist measures on the continent. Then on April 17, Shah gave more details at a Washington event, funded by Nestlé, which he keynoted, “Boosting Harvest, Fighting Poverty: Collective Action Through Feed the Future.”

Shah singled out several projects in Africa—all of the type demanded in the last 15 years by the British Foreign Office and Tony Blair, to be model imperialist operations. The Obama Administration codified its commitment to this outlook in its effort called “Feed the Future,” announced by Obama in 2009. Blair explained at a London event in March, that private investors can flock to Africa, because “the returns are there, the trajectory is positive . . . investment done right holds the key to Africa’s future. . . .”

Shah reported in detail on investments in Africa, saying that these are the “private partnerships” which work, and that the Obama Administration is for “only those solutions that scale. . . .” He said that large agricultural businesses “can help the supply chain.” Obama will be hosting the G8, and these are the kind of new projects we can put into place, Shah stressed:

- JP Morgan Capital has provided funding for the African Agricultural Capital project, based in Kampala, to in turn, fund 20 farming operations.
- PepsiCo, in Ethiopia, now has contracts with thousands of chickpea growers, mostly women, to buy their farm output, for Pepsico to process into humus, including a sideline for food aid.
- Swiss Re, the mega-insurance firm, provided innovative rainfall policies in the Horn of Africa, and during the 2011 drought, made payments to 700 farm families.

—marciabaker@larouchepub.com