What’s on the Menu?

• Perspective on causes of global food price crisis
• Portray what it looks like on the ground
• Introduce you to Oxfam’s GROW Campaign
• Offer ideas of what you as human rights activists can do.
One harvest away from catastrophe...
Surplus, Surplus, Surplus
The “Well Duh” Moment
Markets converge to create…..
Food Riots around the World
Food price index from 2007- April 2011

Source: FAO Food Price Index, May 2011
Impacts on Poor Consumers
Since November 2007, the price of bread in Kabul has increased by 90%. Rising cereal prices could put 300 million people in the region at risk of starvation.
In East and Southern Africa, 12 million AIDS orphans are amongst those most vulnerable to rising food prices. Older children will drop out of school in search of work and the meager income it provides to help keep families afloat. As the crisis deepens, many will have to sell off valuable assets such as seeds for next season’s planting, or goats and cows and doors and windows from their homes, in order to eat.
In Haiti, where two-thirds of the population lives on less than a dollar a day, the poorest have resorted to eating mud cakes.
Food and Energy: A Dangerous Link
Eating up the Food Chain.....
Extreme Weather Events
Global shocks

September 3, 2010

Wheat Rises on Russian Export Ban; Mozambique Riots for Bread

By Luzi Ann Javier - Sep 3, 2010 3:28 AM ET

Wheat climbed after Russia, the third-largest grower last year, extended a ban on exports into next year after a drought destroyed crops, tightening global supplies. The United Nations’ Food and
2012: What’s Been Achieved

- Lots of Summits
- Prices down moderately
- Focus on agricultural investment
- Specialized funds created.
- Climate Change negotiations stalled
- Energy prices moving up
- Bottom line: Root causes not addressed
- And there are two new worrying factors
Land Grabs......
Casino Economics and Food

Commodity Speculation for Beginners
A Guide to the Futures Market
Supplementing Your Income Through Wise Speculation

Charles Huff
Barbara Marinacci

Free!
The challenge
THIS IS A TURNING POINT.
Volatility as the New Normal!!
Organizing to Change the Status Quo!!
GRoW
Vision

Build a future in which everyone has enough to eat, always.

People living in poverty claim power in the way the world manages land, water and climate change, so that they can grow or buy enough food to eat – now and in the future.
GROW: enough for everyone

Five-point agenda for action:
1. Invest in small-scale food producers
2. End excessive speculation in commodity markets
3. Modernize US food aid system
4. Stop giveaways to the corn-ethanol industry
5. Regulate land & water grabs
Invest in agriculture
End Excessive Speculation in Agricultural Commodities
Reform US Food Aid System

2010 Food aid flows
metric tonnage

United States of America 62%
WFP/other UN 10%
Japan 8%
Canada 5%
United Kingdom 4%
European Community 4%
Germany 3%
Spain 2%
Australia 2%
Stop Giveaways to Corn Ethanol Industry
Regulate Land and Water Grabs

The New York Times

In Scramble for Land, Group Says, Company Pushed Ugandans Out

More than 20,000 people were expelled from their homes, a report says. More Photos »

By JOSH KRON
Published: September 21, 2011
What can you do?

CULTIVATE. TRANSPLANT. WATER
Table is set. Let’s talk!!
DISCUSSION
More ways to get involved

Organize an Oxfam America Hunger Banquet: www.oxfamamerica.org/actfast

Summer training for rising sophomores and juniors with the CHANGE initiative: www.oxfamamerica.org/change

Are clubs or Oxfam Action Corps near you?: actioncorps@oxfamamerica.org
LAS CAUSALES DE LA FRAGILIDAD

- Precios de la energía
- Cambio climático
- Biocombustibles
- Opacidad de mercados de materia prima
- Especulación excesiva
- Prohibiciones a la exportación
- Comerciantes
The issue

Nearly a billion hungry, protest in over 20 countries
National vs. Global Price Volatility

Maize prices: domestic, international and import

Source: SAFEX, NSO and MoAI, 2004
Rethink biofuels: Sufficient concern has been raised about this food to fuels policy as well as questions about corn-based ethanol's real contribution to reducing carbon emissions, to warrant reevaluation of the current biofuels incentives.
WE MUST SIMULTANEOUSLY GIVE HOPE TO THE 1 BILLION HUNGRY

In rich countries, 50% of people are overweight, and we throw away at least a quarter of the food we buy.
Forecasted climate impacts

- Higher temperatures
- Less rainfall
- More erratic rainfall
- Heavier rain
- More flash floods
- Less fresh groundwater
- Loss of vegetation
- More hurricanes and storms
- Increased disease (malaria, cholera)
Reform food aid: the US provides half the world’s food aid but our laws require that this food be purchased in the US and shipped on US vessels, doubling the cost of food aid and slowing its delivery.