



Committee: EB1

Issue: Taking precautions to stop hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition concerning poor countries.

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Introduction

Although there is enough capacity worldwide to produce enough food to feed everyone sufficiently, over 815 million people are suffering from chronic hunger today. Malnutrition and large-scale hunger are, despite efforts to overcome this issue over the past two decades, one of the most important problems of our time. It is estimated that 155 million children under five years of age are chronically malnourished. Micronutrient deficiencies, on the other hand, affect over two billion people worldwide. These problems have, aside from the ethical concerns, social and economic costs to society, in topics such as health, education, and human productivity.

Key Terms

Malnutrition: Malnutrition is the lack of proper nutrition, caused by not having enough to eat, not eating enough of the right things, or being unable to use the food that one does eat. It is widespread among poor regions of the world such as the African Continent and the Indian subcontinent.

Food Insecurity: The state of being without reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food in order to feed the entire population. It's usually seen in the regions where agriculture doesn't get enough investment in order for the sector to grow properly.

Chronic Hunger: Hunger is a feeling of discomfort or weakness caused by lack of food, coupled with the desire to eat. Chronic hunger is used to describe the hunger that is persisting for a long time or constantly recurring.

Farming Economy: Farming economy is one of the most significant economic sectors that is heavily dependent on agriculture. It does have a huge place in the economies of some countries that haven't been able to adopt the economic models which are based on the large

industries or in other words, countries that are undeveloped. Which is why, it is crucial for those countries to invest correctly into the farming sector to make food security a reality.

Agricultural Development: Agricultural development means providing assistance to the crop producers with the help of various agricultural resources. Providing protection, assisting in the research sphere, employing latest techniques, controlling pests and facilitating diversity all fall within the purview of agriculture development.

Climate Change: It's a change in global or regional climate patterns, in particular a change apparent from the mid to late 20th century onwards and attributed largely to the increased levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide produced by the use of fossil fuels. This is crucial since agriculture and fishery are heavily dependent on the climate.

Drought: Drought is a prolonged period of abnormally low rainfall. It leads to a shortage of water and food. If no action is taken to counter this natural disaster, it may cause significant problems such as food insecurity.

International Support : International support means providing the needed assistance between and among nations. For instance, international support can be provided for those countries that suffer from food insecurity with the help of the United Nations' policies.

Background Information

Eliminating the food insecurity and malnutrition concerning poor countries is an issue that The United Nations is trying to solve as soon as possible by taking crucial precautions. There is more than enough food produced in the world to feed everyone, yet 815 million people go hungry. After steadily declining for over a decade, global hunger appears to be on the rise, affecting 11 percent of the global population. In addition to an increase in the proportion of the world's population that suffers from chronic hunger, the number of undernourished people on the planet has also increased to 815 million, up from 777 million in 2015. Especially, the food security situation visibly worsened in parts of sub-Saharan Africa, South Eastern and Western Asia.

This year, the demand for humanitarian and resilience building assistance will further escalate as four countries are at risk of famine: South Sudan, Somalia, Yemen and northeast Nigeria. Other countries that require massive levels of assistance because of widespread food insecurity are Iraq, Syria (including refugees in neighbouring countries) Malawi and Zimbabwe. In the absence of immediate and substantive action not only to save people's lives, but also to pull them back from the brink of famine, the food security situation in these countries will continue to worsen in coming months.

Over the past ten years, the number of violent conflicts around the world has increased significantly, in particular in countries already facing food insecurity, hitting rural communities the hardest and having a negative impact on food production and availability. Unfortunately, the situation has also deteriorated in some peaceful settings, particularly those affected by economic slowdowns. A number of countries heavily dependent on commodity exports have experienced dramatically reduced export and fiscal revenues in recent years. Thus food availability has been affected through reduced import capacity while access to food has deteriorated in part due to reduced fiscal potential to protect poor households against rising domestic food prices.

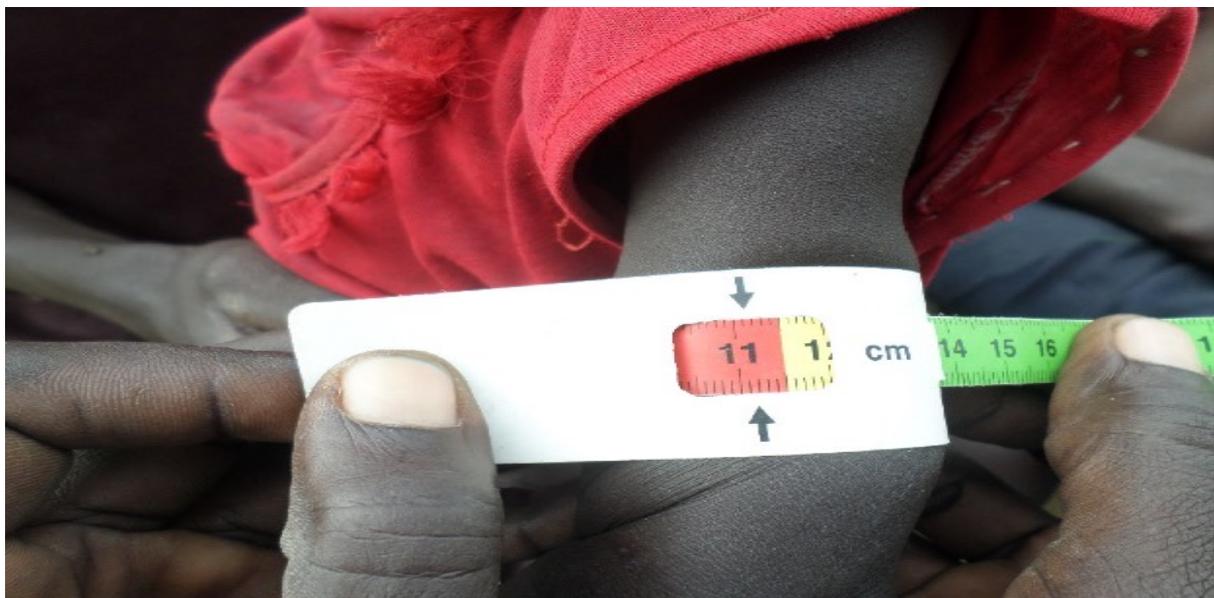


A group of malnourished children in Africa

Food insecurity results from climate change, urban development, population growth, and oil price shifts that are interconnected and rarely confined by borders. It's obviously an issue of global importance. For instance, in Nigeria, Africa's most populous country, a legacy of corrupt governance and an economy based primarily on oil exports has left the agriculture sector significantly weakened and millions of Nigerians hungry. And as poorer neighboring countries export more food to Nigeria in exchange for petrodollars, people there also go hungry. It creates a domino effect, in 2005, thousands of children in neighboring Niger died of malnutrition, not because the country had had a particularly bad harvest, but because there

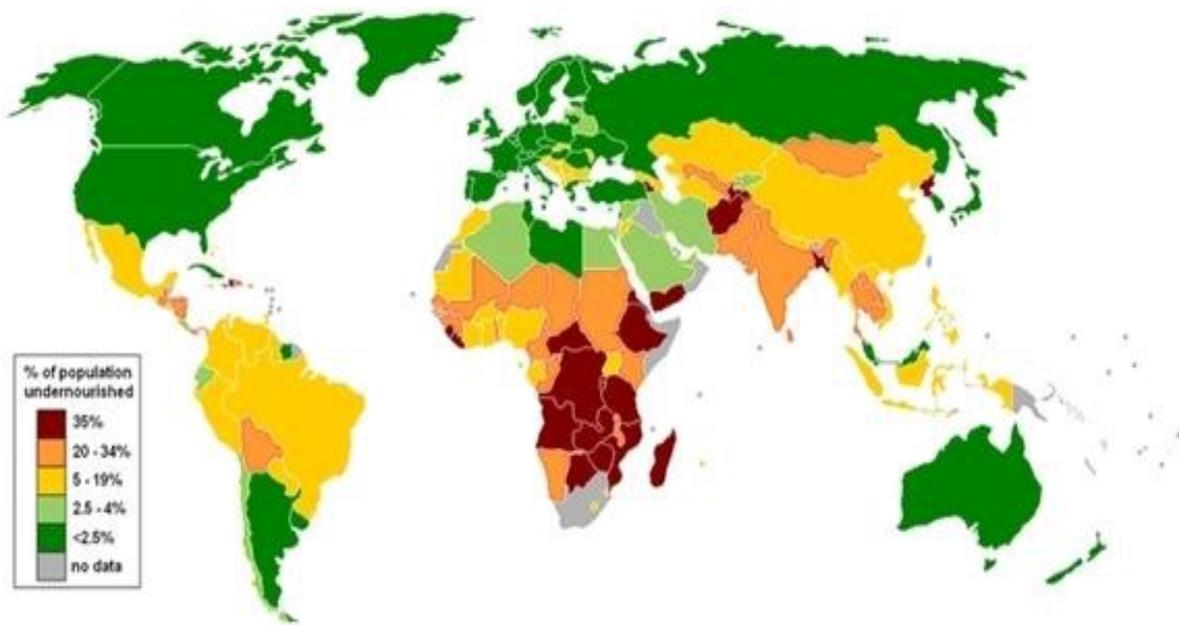
was a food shortage in Nigeria, and people in Niger could not afford the ensuing higher prices.

A different threat is set to face the continent's second biggest crop: wheat. In 1999, 50 years since the last outbreak, a new and virulent strain of stem rust attacked Ugandan crops. Its spores then traveled to Ethiopia and Kenya before appearing in Iran last year. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has since warned six other countries in Central and South Asia to watch for signs of the new strain while scientists in the U.S. are urgently working to find a resistant wheat variety. In India alone, more than 50 million small-scale farmers are at risk because they rely on wheat for their food and income.



Severe malnutrition is of major concern in South Sudan due to a lack of nutritious food. At the peak of the lean season communities depend on wild foods and humanitarian assistance to survive

Africa is not the only continent in the world that suffers from food insecurity and malnutrition. Asia also faced its own food crisis as the price of rice doubled last summer. Some hunger experts are seeking out large-scale responses, including stepping up commercial agricultural techniques by introducing genetically modified rice and into the region.



This image shows the percentage of population undernourished of the international community

Involved countries and Organizations

FAO: The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.

Their goal is to achieve food security for all and make sure that people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives. With over 194 member states, FAO works in over 130 countries worldwide.

IFAD: The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), a specialized agency of the United Nations, was established as an international financial institution in 1977 as one of the major outcomes of the 1974 World Food Conference. IFAD is dedicated to eradicating rural poverty in developing countries.

WFP: Assisting 80 million people in around 80 countries each year, the World Food Programme (WFP) is the leading humanitarian organization fighting hunger worldwide, delivering food assistance in emergencies and working with communities to improve nutrition and build resilience.

WHO: Their primary role is to direct and coordinate international health within the United Nations' system. They support countries as they coordinate the efforts of multiple sectors of the government and partners – including bi- and multilaterals, funds and foundations, civil

society organizations and private sector – to attain their health objectives and support their national health policies and strategies.

UNICEF: UNICEF is mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to advocate for the protection of children's rights, to help meet their basic needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential.

Focus countries in Africa: Angola, Chad, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Niger, and Rwanda

Focus countries in Asia and Pacific: Bangladesh, Nepal, Timor-Leste, Vietnam

Focus countries in Latin America and Caribbean: Bolivia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Paraguay

Timeline of Events

December 10, 1948	Adoption of Universal Declaration of Human Rights
November 16, 1974	Adoption of the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition
January 3, 1976	Entry into force of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
September 3, 1981	Entry into force of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against W
May 28, 1985	Establishment of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)
September 2, 1990	Entry into force of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
November 17, 1996	Rome Declaration on World Food Security and World Food Summit Plan of Action
May 12, 1999	General Comment 9: The right to adequate food

September 8, 2000	Millenium development goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
September 27, 2004	Adoption of FAO Voluntary guidelines on the right to food
November 18, 2009	Adoption of declaration of world food summit on food security
June 26, 2013	Adoption of Vienna +20 CSO declaration
November 21, 2014	ICN2 Second International Conference on Nutrition
October 15, 2014	Aprobation of the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems
September 25, 2015	Adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Previous attempts to solve the issue

- **The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**– consisting of a Declaration, 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 associated targets – aims to that all nations and all people everywhere are reached and included in achieving the SDGs.
- **The Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2)** was a high-level intergovernmental meeting that focused global attention on addressing malnutrition in all its forms. The two main outcome documents–the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action—were endorsed by participating governments at the conference, committing world leaders to establishing national policies aimed at eradicating malnutrition and transforming food systems to make nutritious diets available to all.
- **The Vienna+20 CSO Declaration** stresses the primary of human rights, including areas of women’s rights, economic and legal policy, corporate accountability, the right to food, and the rights of indigenous people, migrants, workers and peasants. It calls for a Third World Conference on Human Rights in 2018.
- World leaders convened at FAO Headquarters for the **World Summit on Food Security** unanimously adopted a declaration pledging renewed commitment to eradicate hunger from the face of the earth sustainably and at the earliest date. Its agenda includes: “Poor countries need the development, economic and policy tools required to boost their agricultural production and productivity. Investment in agriculture must be increased because for the majority of poor countries a healthy

agricultural sector is essential to overcome hunger and poverty and is a pre-requisite for overall economic growth.”

Possible Solutions

Although there have been so many attempts to solve the issue, hunger remains an everyday challenge for almost 795 people. Hence, hunger eradication should remain a key commitment of decision-makers at all levels. Interventions must be tailored to conditions, including food availability and access, as well as long term development prospects. Much work remains to be done to eradicate hunger and achieve food security across all its dimensions. There should be an observation team formed by The United Nations to identify the problems and provide guidance on which policies should be emphasized in the future.

Inclusive economic growth provides opportunities for those with meagre assets and skills, and improves the livelihoods and incomes of the poor, especially in agriculture. It is therefore among the most effective tools for fighting hunger and food insecurity, and for attaining sustainable progress. Enhancing the productivity of resources held by smallholder family farmers, fisherfolk and forest communities, and promoting their rural economic integration through well-functioning markets, are essential elements of inclusive growth.

Social protection contributes directly to the reduction of hunger and malnutrition. By increasing human capacities and promoting income security, it fosters local economic development and the ability of the poor to secure decent employment and thus partake of economic growth. There are many “win-win” situations to be found linking family farming and social protection. They include institutional purchases from local farmers to supply school meals and government programmes, and cash transfers or cash-for-work programmes that allow communities to buy locally produced food.

During protracted crises, due to conflicts and natural disasters, food insecurity and malnutrition loom even larger. These challenges also call for strong political commitment and effective actions.

More generally, *coordination* and *cooperation* are the two main factors for global community to eradicate hunger and make food insecurity come to an end all over the world.

Useful Links

<https://www.feedingtexas.org/learn/food-insecurity/>

<http://www.fao.org/3/a-I7695e.pdf>

<https://www.wfp.org/news/news-release/108-million-people-world-face-severe-food-insecuritysituation-worsening>

<https://www.wfp.org/content/global-report-food-crisis-2017>

<https://data.unicef.org/topic/nutrition/malnutrition/>

<https://www.unicef.org/nutrition/>

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/malnutrition/en/>

<https://www.ifpri.org/news-release/global-nutrition-report-malnutrition-becoming-“new-normal”-across-globe>

<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>

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