

<b>Forum:</b>	Economic and Social Council Commission II (ECOSOC II)
<b>Issue:</b>	Developing Measures to Ensure Food Security and Adequate Nutrition for All
<b>Chair:</b>	Jasmine Huang, President & Emma Kuok, Deputy President

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## Introduction

Across the world, 795 million people still suffer from chronic hunger, 156 million children under the age of five remain chronically undernourished and over two billion people are affected by micronutrient deficiencies. Of the world's disease burden, maternal and child undernutrition comprise more than 10 percent. Among children under five years old, undernutrition is a major contributor to about three million deaths per year (IFPRI, 2014; WHO, 2016). The malnutrition that continues to persist today reflects deep inequalities rooted in and global society regarding the accessibility and distribution of food.

Around one-third of the food that is produced globally is not eaten – a missed opportunity to feed the rapidly growing population. In other words, population growth and rapid urbanization will necessitate additional access to food in which without doing so, food distribution will raise its instability.

According to a few studies from the past, the challenge of malnutrition is broader than that of hunger and undernourishment because of the low quality and low diversity of food in certain regions, especially where poverty is high. Due to those nations' economic issues, nations will start to collapse by spreading their spendings too thin in which did not allow them to properly industrialize their country. Rather, they are living in poor environmental conditions which may include them being unable to have proper agriculture. This may include Individuals to have taken enough calories for daily sustenance and still suffer from "hidden hunger," with low levels of micronutrients due to low diversification in their diet. Hidden hunger affects 30% of the world's population. Many of the current agricultural practices have relied on cheap energy and abundant water and land, which leads to greenhouse emissions. Hence, excessive amounts of greenhouse gases will cause productivity loss and the risk in food security. Currently, organizations such as The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) estimate that food production will need to increase by 70% globally to feed an additional 2.3 billion people in 2050.

## Definition of Key Terms

### Malnutrition

Defined as a broad term which refers to undernutrition (the lack of proper nutrition), malnourishment (inadequate vitamins or minerals), and/or obesity (A state of being overly fat), caused by not having enough to eat, not eating enough of the right things, or the improper utilization of food and food resources. There are three different types of malnutrition, wasting malnutrition (low weight for height), stunting malnutrition (low height for age), and underweight nutrition (low weight for age).

### Hidden Hunger

When the food consumed lacks the proper amount of micronutrients to keep a human healthy and growing.

### Food marketing

A blanket term which includes all activities, actors and related infrastructures and regulations around the physical sale of food (wholesaling, retailing, catering) and its promotion.

### Food trade

A blanket term which encompasses exchanges at different levels (local, domestic, regional, and international), elements such as road infrastructures, cold chain during transportation and at the marketplace, trade regulations and agreements, among others.

### Food Security

Having a reliable and accessible food source that is nutritious

### Nutrition

Providing or obtaining food that will help a human grow and remain healthy.

### Agriculture

The cultivation of soil and land in order to grow crops, as well as raising animals for food and clothes.

### Nutrient Deficiencies

Consuming not enough of nutrients that required for individuals

## **Food Security**

The state of having a sufficient amount of food for individuals to access to

## **Over-nutrition**

A form of malnutrition where individuals consume more food than they need; obesity

## **GDP (Gross Domestic Product)**

Monetary measure production regardless of the various uses to which the product can be put

## **PoU (prevalence of undernourishment)**

An estimate of the proportion of the population whose has insufficient food consumption

## **Background Information**

### **Global hunger**

Countries around the world, including rich countries such as the U.S. still have large parts of their population that do not get enough adequate nutrition or food. Every year the Department of Agriculture runs a nationwide survey, and they found out that in the U.S. around 14% of people go hungry at least one time per year, and this survey excluded the homeless, who also do not have food.

### ***Low Income Families***

To date, 795 million people still suffer from chronic hunger, 156 million children under the age of five remain chronically undernourished and over two billion people are affected by micronutrient deficiencies. 3% of all households with children, and 7.5% of low-income families with children experienced food insufficiency. It was found that children in low-income families, either food-sufficient or food-insufficient, were taking in similar macronutrient and micronutrients, exercise, and percentage of kids overweight and underweight. Thousands of families living in abundant agricultural countries still suffer from hunger because of hidden hunger. Although there may be lots of food available, despite getting enough caloric intake, the nutrition inside the food is usually never enough to keep a human healthy and growing.

### ***Poverty***

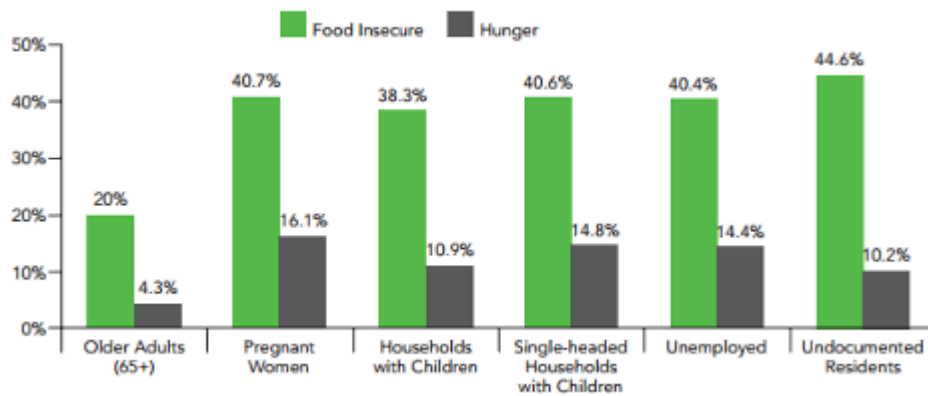
Furthermore, the leading reason for hunger is poverty. Poverty is a major issue when it comes to hunger because families and individuals who live in poverty usually cannot afford food, and in return that results in undernourishment. Undernourishment usually makes it more

difficult for the family or individual to work and make more money, especially low wage jobs which are usually more labour based. Impoverished families are often caught in this vicious cycle of poverty and are unable to get out. More people are slowly going hungry as the world continues to change.

### ***Global Warming***

With global warming, war and conflict, as well as a growing gap between the rich and the poor, more individuals have become succumb to hunger. Because of global warming and monoculture, our climate becomes increasingly worse, and is no longer able to provide as much variety and abundance in nutrition with food as before. War and conflict ruin the economy and the land, which of course, ultimately leads to millions in hunger.

### ***Global Hunger: Food insecurity vs. Hunger rates across different types of people***

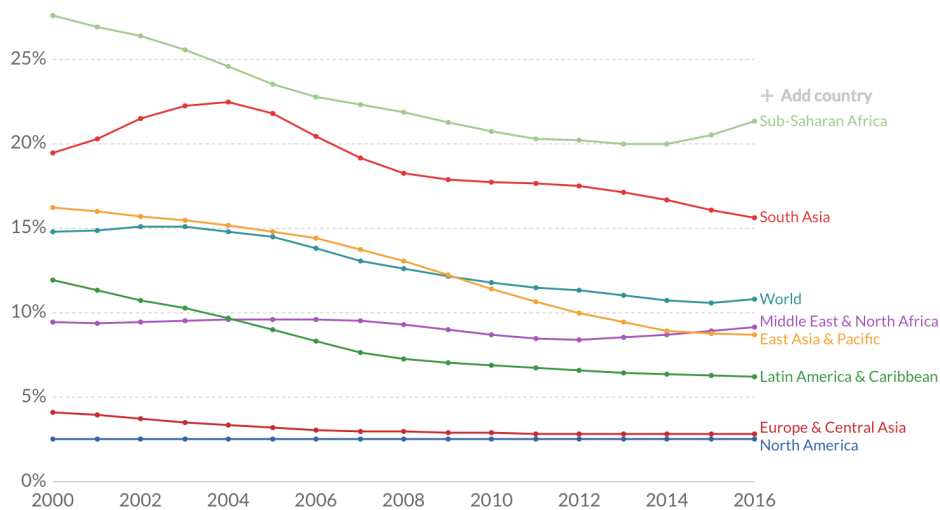


***Figure #1 : The Scale between the percentage of different people encountering food insecurity and hunger***

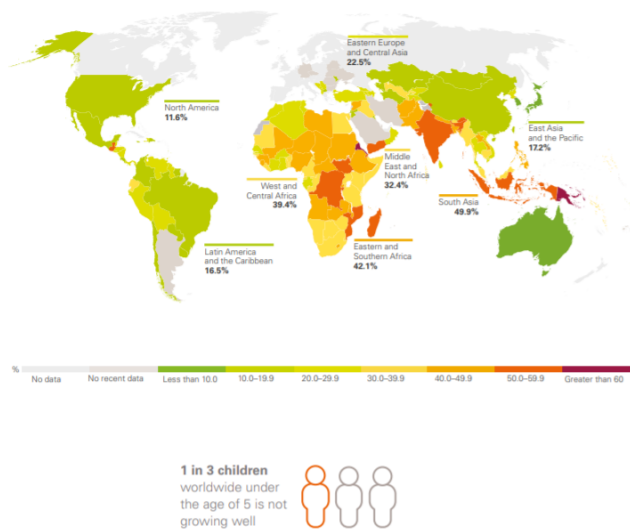
## Share of the population that is undernourished

This is the main FAO hunger indicator. It measures the share of the population that has a caloric intake which is insufficient to meet the minimum energy requirements necessary for a given individual. Countries with undernourishment under 2.5% are automatically given a value of 2.5%.

Our World  
in Data



**Figure 2: The percentage population across different regions that are in the state of undernourishment between 2000 to 2016**



**Figure 3: The amount of children (five year olds) were malnourished across the world**

## Challenges for food distributions: environmental factors

### Climatic conditions

One primary factor that causes the inadequate food distribution across nations would include the nation's geographic location. Geographic locations may include different climatic conditions, warzones, and remote areas. To begin with, climatic conditions include tropical wet, arid dry, cold tundra, etc. Depending on the climatic conditions, the food they produce differ in which some nations are capable to grow more and better food than other nations. In addition, some nations have to experience climatic conditions such as hurricanes, floods, snowstorms, etc.

which leads to their food production to decrease or destroyed. Therefore, climatic conditions will impact on food availability, food accessibility, food utilization, and stable food systems. This will impact on health towards those living in those areas, leading impact on the market and power of the nation and loss of adaptation towards extreme weather changes and temperature and precipitation patterns.

### **Remote areas**

Another factor of some nations being unable to have adequate access to food will be the minimal amount of connections with other nations since they are remote from the majority of the countries. Nations such as landless laborers, tenants in rural households that live below the poverty line in the rural Philippines compared to more urban areas such as Manila. This causes the inconvenience to trade in order to get the amount of food resources they need. Another result will be the freight costs transport and low demand for nutritious foods since remote areas are more underdeveloped which made foods to be highly priced and limited. Hence, a majority of the people are needed to undergo long hours of labor or left in hunger

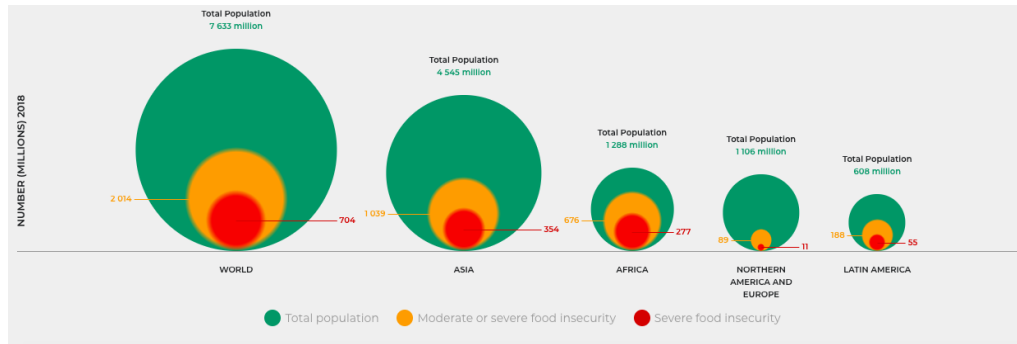
### **Warzones**

Some nations were warzones where nations fought for each other. Rather than using land to develop agriculture, land turns into massacres and fights with different people along with political purposes. Nations in those warzones had most of their spendings towards the military. People will have to work and get paid, however due to taxation towards the government, the government would most likely spend on the military rather than considering the people. Hence, they may not be able to adapt to agricultural practices to feed their whole country.

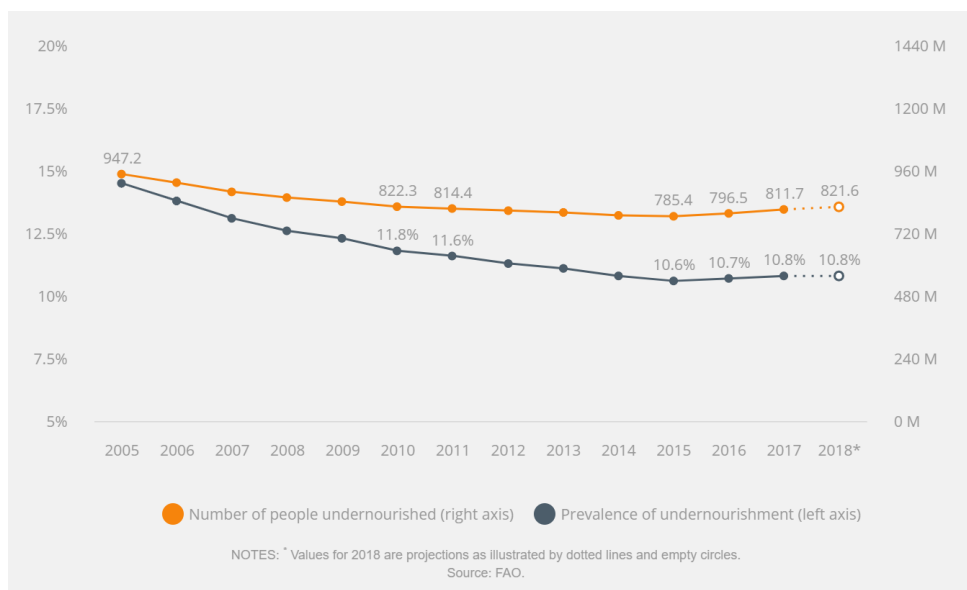
### **Challenges for food distributions: imbalance between food distributions across nations**

Another challenge from food distributions will be an imbalance between food distributions across nations. In other words, some nations have to deal with they people being undernourished while some nations will need to handle their people from being overnourished (obese) and producing food waste. For example, the United States is currently known for its highest obesity rates across other nations in which they would have to figure out solutions to cut down the amount of food people in the US are consuming. However, nations such as Yemen got 79% of their population living underneath the poverty line, and 65% are classified as extremely poor. This shows that the majority of the population in Yemen are in a state of hunger. Therefore, governments who are dealing with undernutrition and overnutrition currently have not created solutions in managing their civilian's food consumption which results in the increase in economic issues.

### **Comparison between inadequate food distributions across different continents**



**Figure 4: The concentration and food insecurity across different continents across the world**



**Figure 5: The number of undernourished people in the world between 2009 and 2017 (2018)**

## Major Countries and Organizations Involved

### United States of America

Despite having an abundant food supply, millions of Americans still go hungry. Americas more suburban regions and states get increasingly more food insecure. As of 2016, there were about 41.2 million people living in the United States who are food insecure. One of the biggest groups in America suffering from food insecurity are single mothers. 31.6% of single mothers are food insecure. This food insecurity causes significant health and mental impacts on the entire family. If pregnant, the mothers lack of nutrition could cause gestational diabetes and weight gain, while the baby could suffer from low birth-weight and birth defects, such as cleft palate and spina bifida. Furthermore, even after the baby is born, there is a number of Another factor contributing to the food insecure population in the U.S. is race.

Research shows, 22.5% of black non-hispanic households and 18.5% of hispanic households experience food insecurity; whereas, 9.3%, a distinctively lower percentage, of white households experience food insecurity.

### Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

The Food and Agriculture Organization is a specialized UN Organization that works towards decreasing the amount of impoverished, hungry, and malnourished individuals around the world starting in 1949. They help guide governments as well as go in and work on building up and helping their farmers as well. They also headed towards more remote countries while expanding its contribution with those nations as well as other relevant organizations.

### The International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD)

International financial institution and a specialized agency of the United Nations that works to address poverty and hunger in rural areas of developing countries. This organization was founded in 1977 while located at the headquarters of Rome, Italy. The IFAD has targeted underdeveloped nations where they are in the state of struggling towards food distributions. The International Fund for Agriculture Development has an ambitious goal, however, they continuously work towards trying to eradicate poverty and hunger. In doing so, they have provided strategies to empower people to lead to their own development on agricultural practices and economic on food trades.

### The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

The United Nations Children Fund mainly provides humanitarian aid and development aid for children through support in fighting for children's rights to receive shelter, nutrition, protection from disaster, conflicts, and equality. Lots of children don't have time to attend school because they have to work for food and water, and lots of children die early due to malnourishment or disease. Children are often the most prone to disease or death when lacking sustainable nutrition and food. This is because children have not fully developed their bodies or brains, and their immune systems are often weaker. UNICEF mainly helps countries that do not have enough food to feed the people, they have treated thousands of malnourished children and train government health workers to implement food programs. They provide strategies for families, particularly parents, to organize their children's nutrition. Furthermore they analyze children's nutritional health in order to furtherly benefit their health.

### UNICEF

UNICEF, known as The United Nations Children's Fund, is a UN Organization founded on December 11, 1946, in New York, New York, United States. This organization mainly provides humanitarian aid and development aid for children by support in fighting for children's rights to receive shelter, nutrition, protection from disaster, conflicts, and equality. Throughout the organization, Unicef



mainly comes to countries that do not have enough food to feed the people in which they treated thousands of malnourished children and train government health workers to implement food programs. They provide strategies for families, particularly parents, to organize their children's nutrition. Furthermore they analyze children's nutritional health in order to furtherly benefit their health.

### The World Food Programme (WFP)

The World Food Program responds to about 86.7 million people around the world each year, and helps them by bringing food assistance to eradicate hunger. So far, the World Food Programme has sent 5,600 trucks, 20 ships and 92 planes on the move, delivering food and other assistance to those in most need. They cooperate with different NGO, UN organizations, and local governments by providing strategies to improve their food productivity.

### The World Health Organization (WHO)

The World Health Organization associates with the UN that mainly focuses on health across different nations. They have created the World Health Day where the WHO would take place in raising awareness towards food safety agendas. They also take contribution and collaboration with NGOs such as the FAO where they both manage food systems and Codex Alimentarius Commissions what are the factors of international standards. In these collaborations, they manage the international food safety Authorities Network, establishing the global foodborne infections Network 5 to promote integration, and laboratory-based surveillance and foster multisectoral collaboration.

### Central African Republic

The Central African Republic is one of the most impoverished and malnourished countries in the world suffering from hunger. Around 1.9 million people, 40% of the population, are severely food insecure and need urgent care. Around 31% of the people analyzed, 1,350,000 people, are in a food crisis. The areas analyzed with the most severe and populated food insecurity are around areas of conflict, or displaced peoples. In areas of conflict, it's generally harder to receive basic necessities because of the inaccessibility to conflict areas, due to safety concerns. In areas populated with lots of displaced peoples, there is usually a larger majority of people who are in desperate need of basic living necessities; and with a higher demand for food, which is already low in supply, obviously there will not be enough for everyone.

### Yemen

Because of the ongoing conflict in Yemen, 79% of their population is living underneath the poverty line, and 65% are classified as extremely poor. About 20 million people living in Yemen are not food insecure, this amounts to nearly 70% of the population. The U.N. states that if no actions are taken

to help alleviate this issue it could become a famine. One of the largest factors contributing to Yemen's lack of food is the temporary hold on the main port, which brings in a large majority of the country's food supply, due to the ongoing conflict. Another contributing factor is the worsening economy, because of this there is a massive inflation causing the prices for food to go up.

## Timeline of Events

Date	Event
October 16, 1945	Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) was established
December 11, 1946	Unicef was established
April 7, 1948	The World Health Organization (WHO) was established
1961	World Food Programme (WFP) was established
December 15, 1977	International Funds for Agricultural Development (IFAD) was established
July 1, 2000	Network of Farmer and Agricultural Producer Organizations of West Africa (ROPFA)
September 8, 2000	Millennium Development Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
September 27, 2004	Adoption of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Food
January 28, 2014	CELAC Plan for food and nutrition security and the eradication of hunger 2025
October 15, 2014	Approbation of the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems
September 25, 2015	Adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

## Relevant UN Resolutions and Treaties

- A/71/283: Agriculture development, food security, and nutrition - Report of the Secretary-General
- A/RES/70/259: Declares 2016-2025 the Decade of Action on Nutrition
- Sustainable Development Goals- Goal 2

- A/RES/70/223: Resolution on Agriculture development, food security, and nutrition
- RESTRUCTURING AND REVITALIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS, 24 May 1993 **(A/47/L.60)**
- World Food Summit: five years later, 5 March 2003 **(A/RES/57/271)**
- Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 19 December 2006, 21 February 2007 **(A/RES/61/163)**

## Possible Solutions

**Cutting down the food mass production.** One problem would be the imbalance of food distribution between nations. Some nations have stores where consumers buy excessive portions of food that either lead them to become overly nourished (obese) or overly wasteful because the food is either expired or the consumer cannot finish it. However, there are still a lot of nations who are suffering from inadequate food distribution caused by the small portion of food which is limited, causing higher prices. Hence in order to balance the distribution of food, governments should try to regulate food companies to not package large portions of food. Instead, companies should package them into smaller portions before selling them. This will allow consumers to buy more reasonably sized packaged foods which will drop obesity rates while ensuring less food will be wasted. In addition, while companies are continuously wanting to gain business on their products, cutting down the food mass production could lead nations to export some amounts of food products to other nations who particularly are in need of food.

**Suggests the establishment of free trade zones in order to combat further impoverished families and individuals.** Establishing free trade zones in impoverished areas of countries would be able to encourage entrepreneurship and local businesses. With more impoverished families having opportunities to earn money, they will be more able to break the poverty cycle and escape inadequate nutrition, and food insecurity. Asking the IMF and World Bank to help funding, as well as statistical analysis on the poverty rates in these areas after the establishment of a free trade zone in order to increase efficiency. The IMF can take a census of the population and find the most poverty stricken areas, and then continue to gather data from those areas. The World Bank can provide funding for start-ups or small businesses being started because of the free trade zone.

**Encourages member nations create and implement a “blind” employment system, where the background and living situation of the person applying is hidden in order to ensure purely merit based employment.** This will ensure less bias around employing impoverished people and give them more opportunities to escape the poverty cycle. With more money and job opportunities, people living below the poverty line will be able to rise and have access to nutritious foods. One possible issue

with this solution is that many impoverished people are not educated, so providing education, especially for kids living below the poverty line would help combat that issue. Primarily focusing on kids education will help ensure the next generation will have less impoverished families. Also, parents will most likely continue to work rather than attend school, or educational classes set up for them. In doing so, nations should try to either ask for certain help from different nations, NGOs, IGOs, etc. or set up a framework in trying to reorganize their currently educational system inside their nation. As a result, the people below the poverty line are able to earn enough money in order to spend (food) for the purpose of living.

**Highly recommending proper food distribution by increasing trade between a variety of nations, especially those who are in remote areas.** This will allow families, especially women, to have more time to work, seeing as the travel distance between a reliable food and water source is much closer once redistributed. Working more will allow families and individuals to gain profit faster to be able to afford reliable food. Having the World Food Programme overlook the process and also analyse data in order to increase efficiency. Asking the World Bank to help fund these actions until unnecessary.

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