

World Food Programme

Thomas Jefferson Model United Nations Conference

TechMUN XXVI



High School General Assembly

Co-Chair: Korrina Gidwani

Co-Chair: Jennifer Hernandez

TechMUN || Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and
Technology || April 20-21, 2018



A word from your chairs:

Delegates,

Hey everyone! My name is Jennifer Hernandez and I'm really excited to chair at TECHMUN this year. I'm currently a junior at TJ and I've been participating in Model United Nations since freshman year. I have grown to love the organization and competition so much, especially because each conference is different in not only the topics and debate, but the experience and friendships you make while debating some of the most important issues. In addition to MUN, I serve as the 2019 Class Council Secretary, the Competition Coordinator for Future Problem Solvers, and play field hockey during the fall. I'm always down to talk about interesting netflix shows, especially The Office (US), Parks and Rec, and AHS/ACS, or debate about current political issues. In terms of committee, we are expecting specific debate and solutions which encompass all aspects of the topics below. We favor delegates who are diplomatic leaders, communicative, and willing to listen to others. If you have any question about committee, you can reach us at wfptechmun2018@gmail.com. Can't wait to see everyone in April!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Hernandez

Delegates,

Hi everyone! My name is Korrina Gidwani and I'm excited to serve as one of your chairs for the World Food Programme at TechMUN! I have been an active member of TJMUN for 2 years and have loved strengthening my leadership and public speaking skills while simultaneously expanding my knowledge on current events. Outside of MUN, I love playing the piano and



traveling abroad. I am also a member of Mind Body Medicine Society and Learning and Inspiration for Everyone (LIFE) at TJ, an outreach club that spreads STEM to young children with disabilities. Regarding our committee, Jennifer and I would like to see diplomacy, cooperation, and specific debate. This committee is the perfect opportunity to explore innovative solutions as well, and we are looking forward to hearing about unique, creative approaches to the topics at hand. Lastly, there are numerous underlying causes and effects of each topic, and it is necessary to consider those aspects, in addition to the topics as a whole, when creating solutions. I'm extremely excited to meet all of you and create a memorable TechMUN experience! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at wfptechmun2018@gmail.com. See you in April!

Best,

Korrina Gidwani



Topic A: Food Aid for Refugees

Information/ Background

Last year, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reported the worldwide refugee population to be a total of 22.5 million displaced evacuees¹. These refugees originated mostly from South Sudan, Afghanistan, and Syria and were most likely a byproduct of political instability in the surrounding regions. Growing political tensions, human rights violations, poverty, and war have all contributed to the rise of displaced people causing the need for refugee camps to increase across the globe.



Figure 1: Refugees seeking asylum in Denmark

As a result of this displacement, the United Nations, NGOs, and governments have established refugee camps in order to receive refugees seeking asylum. Upon arrival, refugees are provided necessary food, water, sanitary products, and shelter as well as a sense of security. Although the majority of refugees do not reside in these camps and instead live on their own private accommodations, it has gotten increasingly difficult for the United Nations to provide

¹ <http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/news/latest/2016/6/5763b65a4/global-forced-displacement-hits-record-high.html>



food aid to all refugees across Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. The World Food Programme has been essential in providing humanitarian aid and is committed to ending hunger around the world through food aid and food-related assistance.

In addition to providing food assistance, the World Food Programme is focused on the gradual self-sustainability and nutrition of these refugees once conflicts are resolved². Malnutrition, vitamin and mineral deficiencies, and obesity remain top health concerns in impoverished nations with large refugee populations³. Although the WFP provides food assistance, this mostly comes in the form of grains instead of fruits and vegetables. This creates malnutrition, making way for conditions like anemia, vitamin A deficiency, and niacin deficiency, which can serious impact health conditions down the road for children⁴.



Figure 2: Young Refugee sitting on top of food aid provided by the World Food Programme

Issues facing the World Food Program

As refugee numbers rise, the World Food Program is faced with the issue of not being able to provide enough food assistance for all displaced people. In order to combat funding issues, the WFP has resulted to solutions such as cutting daily calorie intakes by 20% in

Ethiopia. If further monetary assistance is not provided, WFP recipients could see a decrease to

² <http://www1.wfp.org/nutrition>

³ <http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/public-health.html>

⁴ <https://www.worldhunger.org/articles/phn/hansch.htm>



1,000 calories per day, about half of the daily recommended amount for women in the United States and even less for US men ⁵. Last year, the WFP had to cut one third of the voucher program, which allows refugees to buy food. Currently, most refugees are living on less than 50 cents per day and rations are only decreasing.⁶ This conflict results from not receiving enough donations to account for growing refugee populations, especially after countries decide to stop funding humanitarian aid projects. Countries, such as the United States, have cut funding to the World Food Programme, causing food instability and restricting food distribution in areas like Gaza⁷. Although other nations have attempted to step up to the plate, developed countries provide a large amount of aid to the WFP and we cannot afford having other nations halting funds.

Government Interference

Conflict areas, such as Syria, have made it extremely difficult to even get this food assistance there in the first place. The Syrian administration has been denying food, water, and medicine to Syrians in order to obtain political leverage since 2012. Spiralling violence has also prevented the World Food Programme from gaining access to millions of Syrians in need of emergency food aid. Conflicts between the government and the rebels have made it extremely dangerous to establish food distribution sites or for truck drivers to safely deliver assistance to those in extreme conflict areas. Truck drivers no longer feel safe delivering this aid to war areas, especially where terrorist organizations are present. Food distribution sites have previously been compromised as well, hindering refugees' abilities to access the WFP or other humanitarian aid.⁸

⁵https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/a-widening-budget-gap-is-forcing-the-un-to-slash-food-aid-to-refugees/2017/12/27/b34cfd40-e5b1-11e7-927a-e72eac1e73b6_story.html

⁶ <http://www.un.org/ha/general.htm>

⁷ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/02/un-food-aid-palestinian-refugees-180221140459314.html>

⁸ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/jan/08/syria-un-wfp-food-aid>



Figure 3: Refugee children receiving a drink made of enriched cereal compound through their school's food program

Conclusion

The World Food Programme's primary goal is to tackle food aid and distribution across the globe, even in the most dangerous areas. However, it has gotten increasingly difficult to provide refugees with adequate food due to the growing number of refugees, a decrease in donations to supply these populations, and the severity of domestic conflict in unstable regions. Malnutrition has also proved to be a large issue in these regions, as individuals are denied access to healthy fruits, vegetables and proper medicine.

Questions to Consider:

1. What actions can each government take to combat food aid in their own country?
2. How can the World Programme increase funds in order to provide each refugee with nutritional food and healthy calorie intake?
3. What actions should the global community take in order to prevent the food shortage and provide food for refugees who don't have access to refugee camps or other asylum?



4. How much responsibility should the World Food Program take in fixing the food aid crisis?

Should other organizations also take part? If so, in what ways can they support refugees?

Helpful Links:

1. <http://www1.wfp.org/nutrition>
2. <https://www.worldhunger.org/articles/phn/hansch.htm>
3. <http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/nutrition-and-food-security.html?query=hunger>

Topic B: Food Insecurity in Africa

Introduction

Food insecurity is a prominent issue in the world today and has especially affected African nations in recent years. According to a survey conducted by the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES), 406 million people ages 15 or older around the world have experienced a serious food insecurity at one point in the past 2 years⁹. Around 26% of this group, 153 million people, live in sub-Saharan Africa⁹. This statistic demonstrates how prevalent food insecurity is in Africa and the necessity of working to solve it immediately.

Food insecurity in Africa is caused by a variety of factors and affects each region of Africa in a different manner.

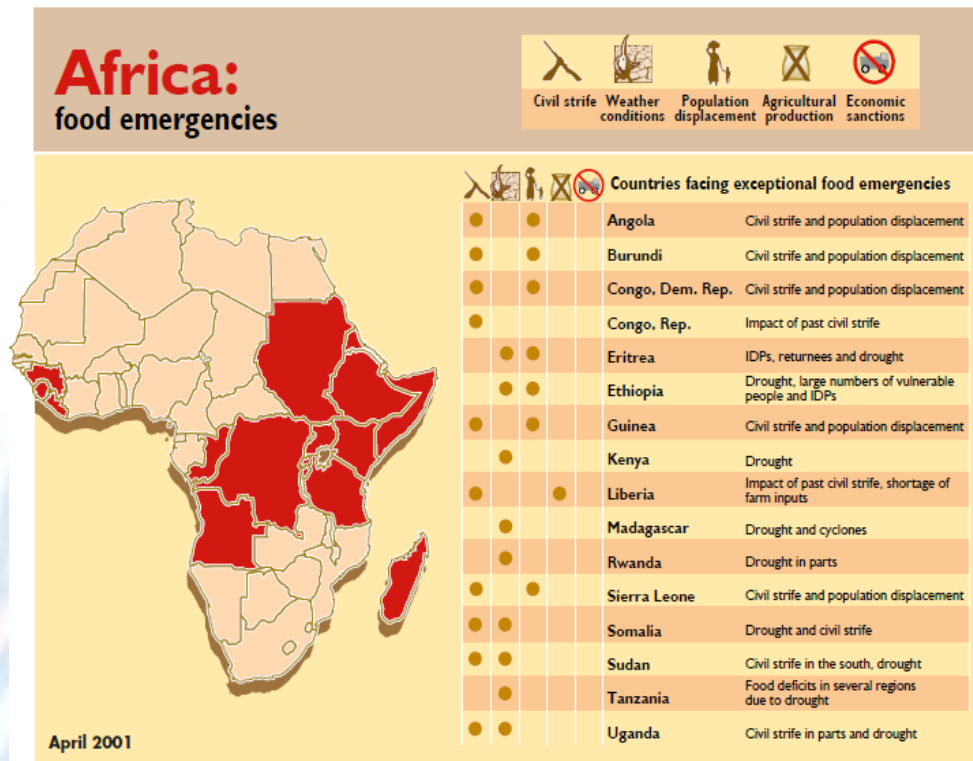


Figure 1. Factors that influence food insecurity in African nations

For instance, a lack of sufficient agriculture forces local farmers to cease production and distribution of food to the population⁹. This especially impacts countries which face serious overpopulation. For instance, in Ethiopia, the current birth rate is 6 children per woman and the overall population is projected to increase by 2 million people every year⁹. If such exponential population growth continues to occur, food and resources supplies in the region will be depleted in the near future. Furthermore, drought and extreme weather conditions result in poor harvests and increased prices on any food produced successfully¹⁰. Environmental issues, including toxic

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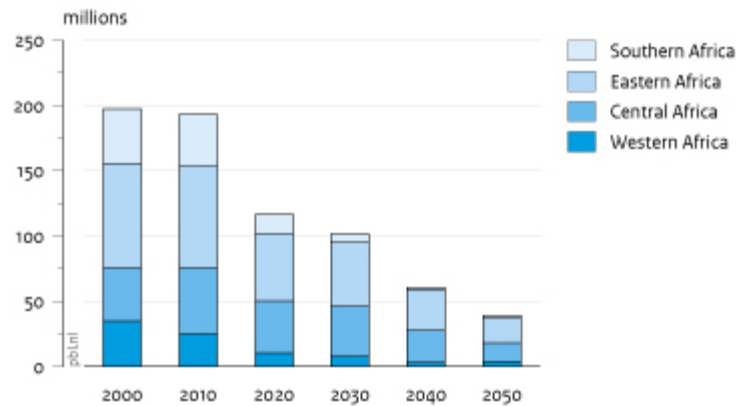
http://www.who.int/pmnch/knowledge/publications/summaries/knowledge_summaries_19_food_security_climate_change/en/

¹⁰ <http://www.harvesthelp.org.uk/causes-of-food-insecurity-in-african-and-other-third-world-countries.html>



waste dumping, soil degradation, and climate change, have also impacted industrial and agricultural practices, which has ultimately affected food security¹¹.

Undernourished population in sub-Saharan Africa



Source: PBL

www.pbl.nl

Figure 2. Graph of undernourished population in sub-Saharan Africa

Past Action

Food insecurity is an issue that builds up in African countries over time and therefore takes time and careful attention to detail to solve in the long-term. The underlying factors that make food insecurity a difficult problem to address are a lack of government interest, neglect of remote arid regions, poor rainfall, and a myriad of other causes¹². Most countries also lack a strong plan of action in the event of a food crisis¹⁴. As a result, foreign governments have provided food aid to African countries affected by food insecurity¹¹. This has come in the form of crops and monetary aid¹¹. In addition, developed nations have aided other developing countries in creating specialized plans to respond to food crises, which includes the implementation of unique strategies and novel technologies¹¹. Specifically, developing countries

¹¹ <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6813e.pdf>

¹² <https://www.oxfamamerica.org/take-action/save-lives/past-emergencies/food-crisis-in-east-africa/>



have been able to create policy frameworks and economic plans that provide them with a foundation to reach annual Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)¹¹. This, in turn, will reduce food insecurity in the long run. Moreover, these efforts and the strong foundation have allowed African leaders to commit to the Malabo Declaration, which states that African nations will end hunger and reduce poverty by 50% by 2025¹⁰. This plan also includes long-term goals for helping countries to adapt to climate change, unpredictable rainfall, and other environmental issues that affect food insecurity¹⁰. Additionally, Oxfam, a collection of 20 local and international NGOs, has worked extensively to aid over 3 million people in Africa¹². Oxfam has been successful in the past few years as the variety of NGOs realized immediate aid would not be sufficient when rebuilding the community and preventing future crises¹². Therefore, Oxfam has focused on implementing long-term solutions, which incorporates new infrastructure and training on how to cope with climate change and drought¹². For instance, they have dug boreholes to provide the population with clean water, and created feeding centers to assess malnutrition rates in children and provide them with nutritious food¹². Currently, Oxfam is exploring how communities can predict a crisis beforehand and how to properly manage this type of situation if it actually occurs¹². Focusing on this aspect of crisis management will ensure food scarcity is prevented in the future.



Figure 2. Oxfam has helped a woman in East Africa to obtain access to food and water.

Effects of Food Insecurity

Food insecurity in Africa results in a plethora of health and development consequences, the most prominent being malnutrition¹³. Malnutrition is the cause of death of almost 3 million children every year and accounts for $\frac{1}{3}$ of the total child deaths around the globe¹⁴. The endless cycle of malnutrition begins once a malnourished mother delivers a baby¹³. Mothers who suffer from malnutrition have an increased chance of dying during childbirth and delivering a baby who fails to survive infancy due to its low-birth-weight¹³. Children are targeted by the harmful effects of malnutrition since they require a high amount of calories and proper nutrition to foster growth and development¹⁴. Food insecurity also causes micronutrient deficiency, which can lead to blindness and infections in children¹⁴. Iodine deficiency, a type of micronutrient deficiency, directly contributes to mental retardation in children and the deaths of thousands of

¹³ <http://www.polity.org.za/article/food-insecurity-and-malnutrition-in-africa-current-trends-causes-and-consequences-2012-09-19>

¹⁴ <https://www.biofortified.org/2013/09/solutions/>

women every year¹⁵. Not only are there consequences towards one's health, but there are also impacts on the strength of the economy in affected nations¹⁵.

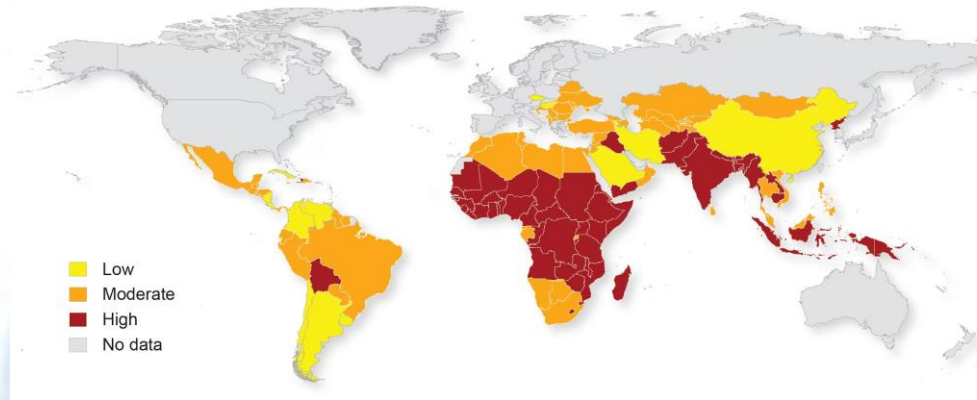


Figure 3. Global micronutrient deficiency levels

Conclusion

According to the World Food Summit, food security exists when “all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs for an active and healthy life”. Unfortunately, this standard is not met for millions of people in African nations. Food insecurity, a widespread problem that claims the lives of 12 Africans every minute, affects human health and has negative impacts on the economy and government. Therefore, the World Food Programme should focus on mitigating the effects of food insecurity on African countries in order to ensure everyone around the world has access to a healthy life.

¹⁵ www.pbl.nl/en/publications/2012/food-security-in-sub-saharan-africa-an-explorative-study



Questions to Consider:

1. Should African nations use scientific-based solutions? How would this affect the global market?
2. How can we use our past successes and failures regarding food insecurity to create a strong plan that will actually be successful in the long run?
3. How can nations strengthen current methods used to predict a food crisis?
4. How can African countries ensure their plans of action for dealing with a food crisis will be successful and be specialized to the underlying problems in each country?
5. Should countries focus on resolving other factors of food insecurity, including weather unpredictability and climate change?

Helpful Links:

- <http://www.pbl.nl/en/publications/2012/food-security-in-sub-saharan-africa-an-explorative-study>
- https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2017/10/30/four-things-you-should-know-about-food-security-in-africa/?utm_term=.91e60891b24d
- <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6813e.pdf>

Position Paper Requirements

Overview

The Position Paper that delegates will be writing is a culmination of the most important pre-conference research that they have done, acting as a summary of research and the representative view of their state on the issues presented to their respective organ. Position



Papers are due, in hard-copy format, before the first committee session on Friday. Any delegate without a Position Paper will be deemed ineligible for awards, so remember to bring a copy for collection, and a copy for personal use! Remember to not plagiarize any aspect of the paper - our chairs and directors will be checking every paper for plagiarism and we expect a full MLA works cited for each. Failure to do so might result in delegate or school delegation disqualification!

Basic Structure

- Times New Roman, 12pt font, single spaced
- A cover page with delegate name, nation, council, school
 - Delegates can add additional details, including national flags, seals, or any symbolic edits to Model United Nations, to demonstrate thoughtful presentation and attention to details.
- One page per topic with titled sections: background, country policy and possible solutions
 - Background: This section should include an overview of the topic. What is the current situation, and what are the main nations affected? This should be the shortest section on the paper.
 - Country Policy: What past actions has your country taken to address the issue at hand? What does your nation think about the topic? This section should take up a majority of your paper, as delegates should remain representative of their country's view throughout committee
 - Possible Solutions: This should be the most interesting part of a delegate's



position paper. Solutions should incorporate both research and creativity, with a focus on improving past actions conducted by their respective council. Feel free to come up with unique solutions to the dilemmas at hand which you plan to bring up during committee

- Complete MLA bibliography and in-text citations for all statistics and sources used

Helpful Hints

- Remember to avoid first person pronouns! Staying in character is always important at Model United Nations conferences!
- Always use the active voice!
- Avoid fancy language, which can distract your chairs from the true meaning of your paper!
- Remember to remain formal when writing your position paper and try to show all the research that you have done for committee, as this is the first impression that your chairs will have of you!