*You represent officials from the World Health Organization, an arm of the United Nations. Your job is to monitor disease outbreaks, assess the performance of health systems around the globe, and provide technical support to countries around the world.*

**Background Information:**

* Food safety and nutrition are linked, especially in places where food supplies are inseure, when food becomes scarce, hygiene, safety, nutrition are often ignored as people shift to less nutritious diets and eat more “unsafe” food—in which chemical, microbiological, zoonotic, and other hazards pose a health risk.
* The food insecurity issue is now a global issue. Food prices have sparked civil unrest, fueled inflation, leading to stark economic measures in some countries.
* The reasons for climbing food prices are varied (climate change, commodity speculation, changing dietary habits, increased population, global trade issues, etc.) but the underlying problem remains that as food prices rise, disease levels rise too.
* Food deficits lead to nutrition disasters especially in children under 5 years of age. These children have a much higher susceptibility to significant illnesses, death from malnutrition and confounding diseases. The three leading diseases causing death among the malnourished are pneumonia, diarrhea, and malaria.
* Malnutrition intensifies the severity of these diseases even though these diseases are treatable. Other diseases such as cholera, meningitis, polio, and measles also become more common and more lethal.
* Chronic malnutrition greatly increases risks of obstructed labor, premature, or low birth weight babies and post natal death for both mother and infant.
* Longer term impacts of food insecurity and malnutrition are impaired mental development, reduced work productivity, and much higher rates of chronic diseases.
* WHO conducts assessments of national health needs and gaps in conjunction with the governments of the affected nations, proposes plans to improve health profiles, mobilizes global response teams and alerts the United Nations.
* WHO works with many other international and local governments to help in providing sustainable solutions for food security that encourage community building and individual resilience through strengthening the food delivery infrastructure and health systems.



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