

COMITEE: Social, Humanitarian and Cultural (SOCHUM)

QUESTION: End World Hunger as Announced in the Sustainable Development Goals 2030

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Personal introduction

Dear delegates,

My name is Melina Rizk, I am 16 years old, and I am a student at the LFHED. I am incredibly honored to have been assigned the responsibility of being your president this year in the Social, Cultural and Humanitarian committee at the LFHMUN of 2024. It has been a pleasure to work alongside my co-chair, Anna Gardaire, who will be the vice-president of this committee.

This study guide will hopefully help you familiarize yourself with the topic, as well as prepare you for the debates that will arise during these couple of days.

The three topics that we will be debating during this session's MUN are crucial for a better and wider understanding of the modern world's issues, while representing your assigned country by placing yourself in its political position.

The MUN is the ideal environment to step out of your comfort zone, engage in debates with fellow delegates, and develop your public speaking skills.

Throughout the preparation process, collaboration and diplomacy will remain the key. Moreover, along the way, you'll create lasting memories and build proper critical thinking abilities, making this an unforgettable experience after our three days spent together.

From advancing the rights of civilians in Venezuela, to ensuring access to education in conflict zones and tackling world hunger as outlined in the Sustainable Development Goals in 2030, these pressing matters offer something important for everyone. With such important issues at hand, we are sure to have engaging and insightful debates.

General Introduction:

The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 2 SDG 2 aims to eliminate hunger and ensure everyone has access to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food by 2030. However, progress has slowed, and projections show over 600 million people may still face hunger by the end of the decade. Factors such as armed conflict, climate disruptions, economic setbacks, and the COVID-19 health crisis have worsened food insecurity, especially in unstable regions, but also developing countries.

Hunger has been a major human crisis throughout history, affecting societies since ancient civilizations. Famines in the past, such as the Irish Potato Famine or the Bengal Famine, demonstrate how fragile food systems can collapse under pressure. The lessons from history show that without proper planning, investment, and collaboration, hunger can devastate entire populations. In today's world—despite technological advances, we still face similar risks. Now, with the combined impact of global warming and rising overpopulation, the need to act has never been more urgent. Ensuring food for all is not only a humanitarian duty but also essential for peace, stability, and sustainable development.

To tackle these challenges, several global initiatives have been launched. The Global Alliance for Hunger and Poverty, initiated by Brazil at the 2024 G20 Summit, brings together 41 countries and organizations to lift 500 million people out of poverty through sustainable farming practices. The World Food Program (WFP) emphasizes the need for collaboration across governments, financial institutions, the private sector, and humanitarian partners. Ceres2030, a research initiative, urges donors to double investments in agricultural development by 2030 to end hunger, increase smallholder farmers' incomes, and protect the natural environment.

Achieving zero hunger by 2030 requires transforming global food systems, promoting eco-friendly agriculture, improving rural infrastructure, and ensuring fair access to food markets. For example, in the Philippines, connecting rural communities to markets has improved food availability. Addressing gender inequality is also vital, as empowering women in agriculture boosts farm productivity and reduces hunger. Additionally, cutting down on food waste can improve food availability and reduce environmental impact.

Despite these challenges, the global community is committed to eradicating hunger. The World Food Prize Foundation is expanding its reach to strengthen global partnerships in agriculture, food security, and sustainable development. Through international cooperation, increased investment, and system-wide reforms, a world where everyone has access to sufficient, nutritious food is still achievable.

Key Words:

Food insecurity: The state where people lack access to enough safe and nutritious food.

Malnutrition: Poor nutrition due to insufficient or unbalanced food intake.

WFP: The World Food Program, a major food assistance organization.

Humanitarian challenges: Widespread crises affecting entire communities.

System-wide reforms: Changes needed across an entire system to improve outcomes.

Resource depletion: Using resources faster than they can be renewed.

Climate disruptions: Changes in weather and climate affecting food production.

Overpopulation: When the population exceeds the capacity of the environment.

Smallholder farmers: Farmers managing small plots, often in rural areas.

Global food systems: The network of food production, distribution, and consumption worldwide.

Eco-friendly agriculture: Farming practices that protect the environment.

Fair access to food markets: Equal opportunities for all farmers and sellers to trade food.

Sustainable farming practices: Agriculture that meets current needs without harming future resources.

Food waste: Edible food that is discarded or unused.

Global partnerships: Collaboration between countries, organizations, and sectors.

General Overview

Causes

- **Economic Instability and Inequality:**

Economic challenges, such as slow growth, inflation, and income inequality, prevent millions of people from affording or accessing enough food. Additionally, global economic disparities contribute to hunger, with wealthier nations hoarding food and resources while poorer countries struggle to provide for their populations.

- **Conflict and War:**

Ongoing conflicts and violence disrupt food production and distribution, often displacing entire communities. Wars lead to the destruction of infrastructure, making it difficult for communities to access food or rebuild agricultural systems. Conflict zones also experience food shortages due to the displacement of farmers and the destruction of crops.

- **Climate Change and Environmental Factors:**

Droughts, floods, and unpredictable weather patterns, exacerbated by climate change, significantly impact agricultural productivity. Changing rainfall patterns and rising temperatures reduce crop yields, particularly in regions dependent on rain-fed agriculture. Additionally, soil degradation and natural disasters further threaten food security.

- **Poor Agricultural Practices:**

Unsustainable farming methods, such as overuse of chemicals and monocropping, contribute to soil depletion and reduce the long-term productivity of the land. This leads to food shortages and worsens hunger, particularly in regions where small-scale farmers rely on the land for their livelihood.

- **Lack of Access to Resources:**

Limited access to land, water, and technology prevents many communities from increasing food production. Smallholder farmers, especially women, often face barriers such as limited access to credit, markets, and farming tools, which makes it difficult to grow enough food or improve their productivity.

- **Global Food Systems and Trade Issues:**

The global food trade system often prioritizes profits over food security, leading to price volatility and hunger in lower-income nations. Export restrictions, high food prices, and trade barriers also make it harder for countries to secure sufficient and affordable food.

- **Political Instability and Corruption:**

Governments in some countries fail to prioritize food security, and corruption often results in the misallocation of resources intended for aid or agricultural development. This lack of political will and governance exacerbates hunger and malnutrition in affected regions.

- **Lack of Social Protection Systems:**

Many vulnerable populations, including children, elderly, and those living in poverty, lack access to social safety nets such as food assistance, healthcare, or education. This leaves them exposed to food insecurity and malnutrition, particularly in times of crisis.

Consequences

- **Increased Poverty and Economic Instability:**

Hunger exacerbates poverty, as malnourished individuals are less productive and more prone to illness, further limiting their earning capacity. This perpetuates the cycle of poverty, undermining efforts for economic development and creating long-term instability.

- **Negative Impact on Education:**

Hunger affects children's ability to learn, with malnourished students experiencing cognitive impairments, absenteeism, and reduced academic performance. As a result, many children are unable to finish school, which limits future job opportunities and perpetuates the cycle of poverty.

- **Poor Health and Malnutrition:**

Malnutrition weakens the immune system, making people more vulnerable to diseases. Children under five years old, in particular, suffer from stunting and wasting, which can lead to long-term health problems, developmental delays, and even death. This strains healthcare systems and reduces overall productivity.

- **Social Unrest and Conflict:**

Hunger and food insecurity often lead to protests, riots, and social unrest. As people struggle to feed themselves and their families, tensions rise, which can lead to political instability and conflict. In regions already vulnerable to violence, hunger serves as a major catalyst for further instability.

- **Reduced Agricultural Productivity:**

Hunger and malnutrition negatively affect the ability of people to work, especially in rural communities where agriculture is the primary source of income. This results in reduced agricultural output, which contributes to even more hunger and food scarcity.

- **Environmental Degradation:**

Hunger can lead to environmental harm, as people resort to unsustainable agricultural practices or deforest land in search of more arable space. This accelerates soil erosion, deforestation, and loss of biodiversity, making it harder to address food insecurity in the long term.

- **Gender Inequality and Disempowerment:**

Women and girls are disproportionately affected by hunger. In many societies, women have less access to food, education, and resources, which limits their opportunities and perpetuates gender inequality. Hunger exacerbates these challenges, leaving women and girls vulnerable to exploitation and violence.

- **Migration and Displacement:**

Hunger forces millions of people to migrate in search of food and safety, often crossing borders or fleeing to urban areas where food security is also a challenge. Refugees and migrants face additional risks, including exploitation, discrimination, and unsafe living conditions.

- **Increased Child Mortality:**

Malnutrition is one of the leading causes of death among children under five. Poor nutrition weakens children's immune systems, making them more susceptible to illness and disease. High child mortality rates due to hunger contribute to long-term demographic challenges.

- **Global Health Crisis:**

Hunger contributes to a global health crisis, with malnutrition causing widespread illness, particularly in vulnerable populations. As the number of malnourished

individuals rises, the strain on healthcare systems grows, making it harder for countries to address other pressing health issues like pandemics or chronic diseases.

Case Study: Brazil's Zero Hunger Program (Fome Zero)

Under President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, Brazil established the Zero Hunger Program (Fome Zero) in 2003 with the goal of eliminating hunger and malnutrition through a combination of social safety nets, food security measures, and sustainable development.

See image down below:



Program logo

Lula followed in the footsteps of schemes implemented by the Fernando Henrique Cardoso government, known as Bolsa Escola, which were launched in 1995. Lula's Bolsa Família (Family Allowance) plan included the new Fome Zero program, which expanded existing schemes.

The initiative, coordinated by the Ministry of Social Development and Hunger Combat, was designed to implement the government's goal to provide the right to basic food.

Ranging from direct financial assistance to the poorest families to a variety of strategies such as building water cisterns in Brazil's semi-arid areas, this program takes many forms. Opening low-cost restaurants, educating people about healthy eating habits,

(distributing vitamins and iron supplements), promoting subsistence family farming, and providing access to microcredit.

According to research conducted by various institutions and the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), the initiative is thought to have helped to Brazil's recent claimed improvements in the fight against poverty. An ex ante econometric examination of Bolsa Escola revealed significant effects on both school attendance rates and the proportion of children engaging in child work.

The World Bank established the Bolsa Família Project in June 2005 to support the Brazilian government in managing the Bolsa Família Program. Although the program is still in its early stages, it has already shown improvements in education outcomes, child growth, food consumption, and diet quality.

According to a UNDP Poverty Centre report, more than 80% of Bolsa Família benefits went to low-income families (earning less than half the minimum wage per capita), implying that the poor received the majority of the benefits. BF was also credited with accounting for almost 20% of the drop in inequality in Brazil since 2001, which is encouraging in one of the world's country with the most disparities. The Bolsa Família initiative has significantly reduced child labor exploitation, according to World Bank research.

According to reports, the program had a major influence on the ability of the poorest households to eat. Children at public schools receive one free lunch each day—two in the poorest areas—so that less of their family's limited resources is required to cover meals. According to a poll of Bolsa Família participants, 82.4% reported eating healthier; also, it was reported to raise the incomes of impoverished families by approximately 25%.

In 2003, David de Ferranti, the World Bank IBRD representative for Latin America and the Caribbean, criticized the program for lacking a defined goal, claiming that it did not address poverty and income disparity in the country. He also criticized the methods for collecting and distributing money and food.

Five months after Lula assumed power, the funding for Fome Zero was reduced by one-third of its original amount, and one year later, around \$800 million was allocated for the program, but only \$130 million was released.

The opposition at the time (particularly the PSDB and DEM parties) saw Fome Zero as a failure due to the government's incapacity to successfully manage the initiative. In March 2005, Murilo Zauith, a PFL federal lawmaker, stated that the program was

flawed, citing the deaths of several indigenous children due to hunger in Dourados, Mato Grosso do Sul. However, Humberto Costa, the Minister of Health at the time, regarded the death toll as ordinary and not worrying.

Another early complaint was that the initiative became primarily a money-transfer scheme, was prone to corruption, and did not fully address the issue. Data from 2014 to 2015 reveal that hunger remains an issue in Brazil, accounting for 4.3 fatalities per 100,000 people per year, which is linked to the fact that 3.8% of the population (7.6 million people) still earns less than US\$1 per day. However, this has decreased from 7.6 deaths per 100,000 in 2002 to 2.4 by 2021.

Case Study 2 : G20 Nations Are Not Leading on Food Sustainability, Says New Index:

<https://www.economistgroup.com/press-centre/economist-impact/food-sustainability-index-2021-just-28-of-78-countries-are-prioritising#>

As the UN program states, one of the main aims of the Zero Hunger program is the:

SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRODUCTION AND RESILIENT AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES

“By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.”

However, less than 50% of all countries in the FSI are mainstreaming climate change into their agricultural policies and only 36% are prioritizing agriculture in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

According to a new measure, the world's largest economies continue to lack leadership in food sustainability. According to the most recent Food Sustainability Index (FSI), there is "room for improvement" in G20 countries' efforts to address food waste, sustainable agriculture, and nutrition. The index, published on Wednesday (July 14), was created by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) and the Barilla Center for Food and Nutrition (BCFN). It assesses G20 member states' effectiveness in addressing three "pillars" of food sustainability. These include food loss and waste, sustainable agriculture, and nutritional issues. Overall, the assessment determined that the majority of G20 countries had significant "room for improvement". Only Canada and Japan scored in the top quartile across all three assessment pillars.



Image showing the performance of countries based on food sustainability (2021- most recent)

Despite the fact that food waste is a global issue, only 28% of the FSI's countries have a specialized food waste policy. The top five performing countries in the food loss and waste pillar are Canada, Italy, Germany, Japan, and the Netherlands. Food loss among the top 20 performers is only 3% of total food output, while the FSI average is 6%. Household food waste is also lower than the FSI average of 85kg per person per year in all but two of these 20 nations. 17 of the 20 may, however, make more effective use of food waste legislation, market-based tools, and voluntary agreements in tandem.

There are still significant policy gaps around the world when it comes to developing sustainable agriculture systems. Less than half of all nations in the FSI have integrated climate change into their agricultural policies, and only 36% have prioritized agriculture in their Nationally Determined Contributions. Finland, Estonia, Austria, Tanzania, and Sweden lead the way in this pillar. Even among the top 20 performers, policies are being implemented, but performance on important outputs is lacking: over half of the top 20 performers are among the worst performers for baseline water stress, and 70% are in the bottom 20 for synthetic fertiliser use.

Finally, the top five performing countries for nutritional problems are Japan, Sweden, Denmark, France, and China. This pillar emphasizes the significant variations in nutritional challenges faced by high-income countries and middle-to-low-income countries: in the former, overconsumption and overweight are major issues, whereas in the latter, undernutrition and NCD mortality rates are high. Some countries in the Index continue to face a double burden of malnutrition. Healthy and sustainable diets are affordable in all but one of the top 20 countries in this category, allowing them to begin improving the link between diets and sustainability at the policy level.

Testimony of Martin Koehring:

<https://www.economistgroup.com/press-centre/economist-impact/food-sustainability-index-2021-just-28-of-78-countries-are-prioritising#>

Martin Koehring, Senior Manager at Economist Impact, added: “The results of the 2021 Food Sustainability Index highlight that countries around the world still have a lot to do to tackle key food systems challenges.

“Our research shows that efforts to tackle food sustainability sit alongside efforts to address key social and economic objectives such as human development, sustainable development, gender equality, health spending and support for innovation.

“As the world continues to act on pressing climate targets, embrace a food systems agenda, all whilst we continue to overcome the effects of Covid-19, the Food Sustainability Index highlights best practices that world leaders can adopt towards more sustainable food systems.”

Case study: Bangladesh’s agricultural transformations

Bangladesh's agricultural transformation, mostly spearheaded by the Green transformation of the 1970s, resulted in major gains in rice output and food security. This was accomplished through the introduction of high-yielding rice cultivars, as well as improvements in irrigation and fertilizer application. The introduction of shallow tube well (STW) irrigation, in particular, enabled more intense cropping, contributing to remarkable advances in rice production.

<https://www.ids.ac.uk/opinions/reflecting-on-bangladeshs-green-revolution/#:~:text=A%20distinctive%20feature%20of%20Bangladesh's,dependent%20on%20Western%20food%20aid.>

Experts think that it is important to train farmers to adopt technologies and learn about advanced technology-based agricultural management to improve farm production.

Following its independence in 1971, Bangladesh experienced severe food shortages, periodic famines, and widespread poverty. Some commentators referred to it as a "basket case".

Bangladesh has transitioned from a food-deficient to a food-self-sufficient country during the previous 50 years, thanks to an agricultural revolution. It has made significant development in agriculture, mainly to the hard work and invention of millions of small farmers, researchers, innovators, and government officials. The country has achieved self-sufficiency in rice production, quadrupling output, and has made significant progress in vegetable production, fruits, fish, meat, milk, and eggs. Bangladesh's agriculture sector is currently undergoing transformation due to urbanization, economic growth, and increased demand for safe and nutritious food. Crops, horticulture, livestock, aquaculture, and other sectors offer numerous prospects, such as higher production, improved processing, stress-resistant crops, and best agricultural practices.

Testimonies:

1) "With the new rice seeds and water pumps, my farm produces enough to feed my family and sell some in the market. We no longer go hungry during the lean season."

— Abdul Rahim, farmer in Rajshahi, Bangladesh (FAO Case Study, 2020)

2) "My parents could only grow one rice crop per year. Now, using new seeds and irrigation, I harvest three times a year. My children eat better, and I can send them to school."

— Hasina Begum, Farmer from Khulna District (FAO interview, 2021)

The country has become self-sufficient in rice production, quadrupling its output, and has also achieved significant advancements in vegetable production, fruits, fish, meat, milk, and eggs.

Concerned countries and Organisations

Countries

United States: Since 2015, the U.S. has invested over \$5 billion in fighting hunger through its Feed the Future program, which supports farming, nutrition, and food systems in over 20 developing countries. In 2024, the U.S. co-sponsored a UN Food Systems Summit resolution encouraging investment in food supply chains and rural areas. The U.S. also reauthorized the Global Food Security Act in 2023 to continue backing global food assistance and sustainable agriculture programs.

European Union (including Germany, France, Netherlands, and Sweden): In 2023, the EU launched a €1 billion Global Gateway Food Security Response to tackle food crises. France passed a law giving tax benefits to supermarkets that donate unsold

food. Germany's development agency (GIZ) supported agricultural tech projects in Ethiopia and Sudan. The Netherlands co-leads a nutrition data group that helps track global hunger goals.

India: India's National Food Security Act provides affordable grain to over 800 million people. It also shares its grain storage and distribution systems with African nations. In 2024, India started a global Millet Initiative to promote nutritious, drought-resistant grains.

Brazil: Brazil co-founded the Global School Feeding Coalition and expanded its Bolsa Família social support program, linking cash payments to better nutrition. In 2024, it pledged \$150 million to support food systems in Latin America through the FAO and WFP.

China: China funds agricultural training centers in more than 20 countries through its South-South Cooperation efforts. In 2023, it worked with the FAO on rice farming projects in Zambia and Tanzania. China currently chairs the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS).

Canada: In 2023–2024, Canada gave CAD \$520 million through the Nutrition for Growth (N4G) summit pledges. It focuses on food security for women and children in fragile countries like Yemen and Somalia. Canada also supports innovation in food systems through the UN Joint SDG Fund.

Norway: Norway donates 1% of its income to global aid and funds food security projects in the Sahel and South Asia. In 2023, it backed vitamin-rich crop programs through HarvestPlus and led talks at the World Health Assembly on food and maternal health.

Nigeria: Nigeria, which faces major food insecurity, has a Food and Nutrition Policy (2021–2030) in place. In 2023, it worked with the African Development Bank and IFAD on a \$300 million plan to improve farming and food access in rural areas.

Organizations

World Food Programme (WFP): WFP is the UN's main agency for emergency food aid. It provides school meals, supports smallholder farmers, and responds to crises in over 80 countries. In 2025, WFP expanded emergency operations in the Horn of Africa, reaching over 20 million people facing severe hunger due to drought and conflict.

FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization): FAO leads international efforts to defeat hunger by improving agricultural systems and promoting sustainable farming. In 2023, FAO co-launched the Climate-Smart Agriculture Facility with the African Union, aiming to invest \$2 billion into climate-resilient farming across the continent.

UNICEF:

UNICEF supports child nutrition through school meals, maternal health programs, and emergency aid. It works with WHO and WFP on the Global Nutrition Cluster, focusing on malnutrition in crisis-affected areas like Yemen, Sudan, and Afghanistan.

Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement: The SUN Movement brings together governments, donors, and NGOs to help countries fight malnutrition. It monitors progress on global nutrition targets and helps shape food security policies. In 2023, SUN coordinated technical support in 65 countries and emphasized the role of women in food systems.

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD): IFAD funds rural development and agricultural projects targeting smallholder farmers. In 2023, it partnered with Nigeria and the African Development Bank on a \$300 million program to improve food production and access in rural areas.

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation: The Foundation funds research and innovation in agriculture, nutrition, and maternal health. In 2023, it invested in programs to improve crop quality and child nutrition in India and sub-Saharan Africa. It is also a major backer of biofortification initiatives.

Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN): GAIN supports governments and businesses in making nutritious food more available and affordable. In 2024, it launched a public-private partnership to fortify staple foods with essential vitamins in South Asia and West Africa.

HarvestPlus: This NGO promotes the development of biofortified crops (e.g. vitamin A-rich maize, iron-rich beans) to combat “hidden hunger.” Supported by Canada and Norway, it expanded its work in East Africa and South Asia in 2023.

Action Against Hunger: This humanitarian organization fights undernutrition, especially in emergencies. It operates in over 50 countries, providing food, clean water, and health services. In 2024, it led major relief programs in Somalia and Haiti.

World Bank: The World Bank supports food systems through large-scale development loans and policy support. In 2023, it approved a \$1.3 billion global food resilience package to strengthen supply chains and support farmers impacted by climate change and inflation.

World Health Organization (WHO): WHO addresses hunger through its nutrition and food safety strategies, especially for mothers and children. It works with FAO and UNICEF to track malnutrition and set dietary guidelines. WHO led the 2024 Global Food Safety Strategy to reduce health risks from unsafe food.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP): UNDP helps governments build sustainable and inclusive food systems. In 2023–2024, it funded digital platforms to support food security and trained community organizations in conflict-prone areas like the Sahel and Central America.

Latest Developments

While global efforts to end hunger by 2030 continue, recent years have shown both progress and urgent challenges.

2010	The UN declared hunger reduction a top Millennium Development Goal (MDG), targeting to halve hunger by 2015. Initial progress was uneven, with many regions lagging behind.
2012	The World Food Programme (WFP) scaled up emergency food assistance in the Sahel region due to severe drought impacting millions.
2014	The FAO reported a slight decrease in global hunger but warned of risks due to conflicts and climate change, especially in sub-Saharan Africa.
2015	The UN launched the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with Goal 2 aiming to “end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture” by 2030.
2017	Global hunger rose after years of decline, with conflict, climate shocks, and economic downturns cited as main drivers. An estimated 815 million people faced chronic hunger.
2018	The Global Report on Food Crises highlighted that 124 million people faced acute food insecurity due to conflict, economic shocks, and extreme weather.
2019	The UN warned that nearly 690 million people were hungry, an increase of 10

	million over the previous year, threatening progress toward ending hunger by 2030.
2020	COVID-19 pandemic triggered a sharp rise in hunger and malnutrition worldwide, with an estimated additional 130 million people pushed into chronic hunger.
2021	UN reported up to 828 million people faced hunger globally, a 46 million increase from the previous year; food insecurity rose significantly due to conflict and pandemic impacts.
2022	WFP warned of a global food crisis with 345 million hungry people, exacerbated by conflict, climate shocks, and economic disruption. Nearly 600 million are expected to remain undernourished by 2030 without urgent action.
2023	The SUN Movement reported that 50 countries adopted cost multisectoral nutrition plans; however, only 40 % of those were integrated into national budgets.
2024	FAO and the African Union launched a \$2 billion Climate-Smart Agriculture Facility, targeting 10 million farmers in the Sahel to improve seed systems and resilience to climate variability.
2025	WFP's Global Report on Food Crises warns of catastrophic hunger among 1.9 million people, with 38 million children under five acutely malnourished across 26 crisis regions.
April 2025	WFP suspended malnutrition treatment for 650,000 women and children in Ethiopia, citing urgent funding shortfalls.
May 2025	WFP calls for \$1.4 billion to fund malnutrition prevention programs reaching 30 million mothers and children across 56 countries.

UN involvement

Universal declaration on the eradication of hunger and malnutrition

The United Nations has long recognized the global threat posed by hunger and malnutrition, particularly in developing countries. Since the 1974 World Food Conference and continuing through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the UN has declared the eradication of hunger a fundamental international priority. It considers the right to adequate food essential to the dignity and survival of every human being. Various UN bodies, conferences, and declarations have aimed to mobilize member states toward a fairer, more secure global food system. Hunger is not just an economic issue but one that touches on sovereignty, justice, and the right to life.

Recognizing that:

- (a) The global food crisis confronting developing nations—where most of the world's undernourished populations reside, despite producing only a fraction of global food—is not merely an economic concern but a violation of human dignity and the right to life, as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- (b) The elimination of hunger and malnutrition, as outlined in the United Nations Declaration on Social Progress and Development, is a shared obligation of the international community;
- (c) This situation stems from historical and structural injustices such as colonial domination, racial discrimination, and neocolonialism, which continue to undermine progress in many developing nations;
- (d) The crisis has been exacerbated by external pressures including inflation, mounting debt, population growth, and rising costs for essential agricultural inputs, as acknowledged by ECOSOC in 1975;

(e) According to the UN General Assembly's Sixth Special Session (1974), the solution lies in a New International Economic Order that promotes equity in trade, access to food technology, and food aid planning, and addresses the widening disparities between developed and developing countries;

(f) Equal participation of all countries in shaping international food policy is essential, as is ensuring that the production and distribution of food are not distorted by external political or economic pressures;

(g) Food security must be protected from periodic market and climate disruptions through the establishment of global food reserves and early warning systems, as promoted by the FAO and General Assembly;

(h) A comprehensive approach is needed, combining peace, economic cooperation, non-interference in sovereign affairs, and mobilization of financial and technical support to ensure long-term agricultural sustainability;

(i) Nations must support food production through agrarian, credit, and investment reforms, with special emphasis on gender equity in land ownership and access to resources, as stated in the 1974 General Assembly Program of Action;

(j) Developing countries reaffirm their commitment to increasing food production and self-reliance, but also stress the need for unconditional and sustained international assistance;

(k) The international community must commit to the eradication of hunger by 2030, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 2, which seeks to "end hunger, achieve food security, and promote sustainable agriculture."

Consequently, The Conference Declares:

1. Right to Food

All people have the inalienable right to be free from hunger and malnutrition. The tools, knowledge, and technology exist to achieve this goal.

2. Government Responsibility

(a) Nations should coordinate food policies, increase production, and ensure fair domestic distribution;

(b) Vulnerable groups must be prioritized, including children and low-income families, through nutrition-specific policies;

(c) States are urged to integrate food strategies into national development plans, recognizing the importance of early nutrition, including breastfeeding.

3. Structural Reforms in Agriculture

(a) Each country must remove internal obstacles to food production and invest in agricultural transformation;

(b) Emphasis must be placed on rural development, with reforms in land ownership, taxation, and credit, as reiterated in UNGA Resolution 4 (1974);

(c) Special attention should be given to women's roles in agriculture, ensuring equal access to education, land, and financial resources.

4. Sustainable Use of Resources

The rational exploitation of marine and inland water bodies must be promoted as a means to enhance food security, in accordance with FAO's food resource guidelines (1975).

5. Preventing Food Waste

The FAO and UN agencies urge all nations to adopt measures to minimize post-harvest and supply chain food loss.

6. International Support Mechanisms

- (a) Developed countries should provide sustained, non-political, and favorable assistance for infrastructure, storage, irrigation, and distribution systems;
- (b) International cooperation should focus on technology transfer, as affirmed by the FAO Guidelines on Technology Transfer (1975);
- (c) The World Food Program (WFP) supports food aid not only for emergencies, but to stimulate rural employment through food-for-assets programs.

7. Food Technology and Research

According to the Program of Action for the NIEO, all nations, especially industrialized ones, must accelerate the transfer of food production technology and share research openly with developing states.

8. Environmental Protection

Agricultural expansion must be aligned with environmental preservation, including soil, water, and biodiversity protection.

9. Trade Reforms

The 1974 Resolution on Trade and Tariffs called for:

- (a) Reduction of tariff and non-tariff barriers for developing country exports;
- (b) Support for market access, price stability, and the diversification of agricultural exports.

10. Food Security Infrastructure

The General Assembly and FAO stress the importance of:

- (a) Supporting the Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS);
- (b) Establishing emergency grain reserves to stabilize global food supplies;

(c) Implementing forward planning of food aid, a principle reaffirmed by the WFP and UNGA declarations.

Additional UN System Contributions:

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO):

- Oversees global monitoring through GIEWS, helping prevent food crises;
- Advocates sustainable marine resource use and equitable food reserve coordination;
- Leads international dialogue on food systems and waste reduction.

World Food Program (WFP):

- Delivers emergency food aid and supports recovery through employment-linked food programs;
- Created the ShareTheMeal app in 2015, which has helped deliver over 150 million meals through micro-donations;
- Promotes food aid predictability and long-term planning.

United Nations Development Program (UNDP):

- Supports national food strategies focused on resilience, irrigation systems, and gender inclusion;
- Works closely with local NGOs to tailor food security programs based on scientific and community-based evidence.

UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC):

- Highlights how external debt, inflation, and population growth affect food-importing developing countries;

- Advocates that agricultural policy must prioritize food production over export-led models.

Sustainable Development Goal 2 (Zero Hunger):

- Aims to end hunger by 2030, with targets to double agricultural productivity, reduce childhood malnutrition, and preserve crop diversity;
- Tracks progress via global nutrition and price stability indicators.

Proclaimed during the World Food Conference, the declaration established the right to be free from hunger as inalienable. It affirmed:

- “Every man, woman and child has the inalienable right to be free from hunger and malnutrition in order to develop fully and maintain their physical and mental faculties.”
- “All countries, big or small, rich or poor, are equal. All countries have the full right to participate in the decisions on the food problem.”

“Food problems must be tackled during the preparation and implementation of national plans and programs for economic and social development, with emphasis on their humanitarian aspects.”

It called on developed nations to assist developing countries “free of political pressures,” and emphasized that “the well-being of peoples depends on a world food security system with availability and reasonable prices for food at all times.”

United Nations General Assembly – Sixth Special Session (1974)

In its Program of Action for the New International Economic Order, the General Assembly emphasized:

- “Reduction or elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers on the products of interest to the developing countries.”

- “The promotion of food production technology and its transfer, adaptation and dissemination to developing countries.”

- “Forward planning of food aid” and “allocation of emergency grain reserves.”

The resolution also affirmed the necessity of:

- “Encouraging rural development through agrarian, tax, credit and investment reforms.”

- “Recognizing the key role of women in agricultural production and ensuring equal access to land, education, and financial resources.”

- “To ensure the availability at all times of adequate world supplies of basic foodstuffs by way of appropriate reserves, including emergency reserves.”

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

The FAO plays a central role in addressing hunger globally through both data-driven policy guidance and direct food security initiatives:

- Through the Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS), the FAO helps countries anticipate food shortages and avoid crisis escalation.

- The FAO promotes “rational use of marine and inland water resources” and supports “sustained additional technical and financial assistance” to countries in need.

- It leads discussions on the need to “prevent wastage of food in all its forms” and on establishing “international guidelines to coordinate the utilization of food reserves.”

- It states that "all countries, and primarily the highly industrialized countries, should promote the advancement of food production technology and should make all efforts to promote the transfer, adaptation and dissemination of appropriate food production technology for the benefit of the developing countries.”

World Food Program(WFP)

The WFP provides frontline emergency food relief in crisis zones and long-term nutritional support in vulnerable regions:

- In 2015, the WFP launched the ShareTheMeal app, a micro-donation platform allowing users worldwide to donate meals with a tap. Over 150 million meals have been distributed through the app.
- WFP consistently advocates that “all donor countries should accept and implement the concept of forward planning of food aid.”
- In cooperation with local partners, it ties food distribution to community projects, boosting employment and agricultural output.

UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

ECOSOC addresses structural causes of hunger in the context of economic inequalities and colonial legacies. In 1975, it highlighted:

- “The inflationary increase in import costs, heavy burdens imposed by external debt, and rising food demand due to demographic pressure” as critical obstacles for food security in developing nations.
- “All efforts should be made to eliminate the widening gaps which today separate developed and developing countries.”

It also called on “all States to readjust, where appropriate, their agricultural policies to give priority to food production.”

UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 2 – Zero Hunger)

Adopted in 2015 as part of the 2030 Agenda, SDG 2 aims to:

- “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.”
- Targets include: “doubling agricultural productivity, ensuring access to food for vulnerable populations, and maintaining the genetic diversity of crops.”

Indicators track rates of undernourishment, stunting, wasting in children, and price volatility.

United Nations Development Program(UNDP)

The UNDP provides support to local communities in enhancing agricultural resilience:

- It assists with “rural development planning, gender-inclusive agricultural extension services, and building infrastructure for irrigation and storage.”
- The UNDP collaborates with NGOs to “develop national food security policies based on scientific evidence and community needs.”

Previous attempts to solve the issue

United Nations Zero Hunger Challenge: Launched in 2012, this initiative promoted commitments to sustainable agriculture, maternal health, and food system capacity building. Although many Member States pledged formal commitments, progress lagged due to financing gaps and weak monitoring.

Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement: Since 2010, SUN has mobilized 60+ country governments, UN agencies, civil society, donors and businesses. It supports national nutrition plans, promotes multisectoral coordination, and supports community-based nutrition interventions.

Feed the Future (USAID): Since 2010, operates in 20 target countries, deploying improved seeds, irrigation systems, and mobile agricultural extension services. Key successes in Ethiopia and Malawi show 25% increase in yields; yet funding shortfalls limit scale-up.

EU-Africa Partnership: Established in 2018, combines €5 billion in investments with technical assistance to boost food security across 50 African nations. Efforts include improving rural storage and market linkages, but outcomes vary widely among countries.

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation: Invested in crop genetic improvement, digital advisory services and fortified foods. Evaluation in 2023 credited the Program for Vitamin A and iron fortified staples, reducing anemia in East Africa by 15% among children.

FAO-led Climate Smart Agriculture: In 2015, introduced practices such as conservation farming, integrated pest management, and agroforestry in Asia and Latin America. Projects in Vietnam and Peru reduced post-harvest loss by 20% and increased smallholder income by 10%.

Oxfam International: Oxfam has been an active humanitarian organization addressing the root causes of hunger across various countries. Its strategies include distributing emergency food rations, supplying seeds and farming tools, and improving sanitation and water access.

- In rural regions, Oxfam provides clean water by repairing wells and trucking water into areas with no access, combating nutrition loss due to waterborne illnesses.
- It promotes hygiene through the construction of latrines and distribution of hygiene kits to reduce disease spread, especially during crises such as cholera and Ebola outbreaks.
- Oxfam also supports local agriculture by offering seeds, livestock, veterinary services, and farming tools to help communities grow their own food sustainably.
- In areas where food is available but unaffordable, it distributes cash to families to buy food in local markets, preserving dignity and choice.
- Oxfam focuses on long-term resilience by supporting local organizations and transferring emergency response leadership to community-based actors.
- Through policy advocacy and public campaigns, Oxfam encourages governments and international donors to address root causes of hunger, including conflict and climate change.

ShareTheMeal (UN World Food Program Initiative): Launched by the WFP, the ShareTheMeal app enables global citizens to easily contribute funds to feed children in need. Each donation (as little as \$0.80) provides a full meal. By 2025, over 150 million meals had been shared through the app, empowering individuals to directly support the goal of ending hunger.

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Food for Assets (FFA): The FFA program provides food assistance in exchange for work on local infrastructure, such as building irrigation systems, storage facilities, and roads. This dual-purpose initiative improves community resilience while meeting immediate food needs. It has been deployed in regions like Ethiopia, Sudan, and Bangladesh.

Green Revolution: Launched in the 1960s, the Green Revolution was a global initiative aimed at increasing agricultural productivity through the use of high-yield crop varieties, chemical fertilizers, and irrigation infrastructure. While it succeeded in boosting food production in countries like India and Mexico, its uneven impact has since prompted efforts to improve sustainability and equity in agricultural development.

Possible Solutions

- **Legislations:**

- Reinforce legal frameworks guaranteeing the right to food and limiting export of unprocessed primary grain during crises.
- Implement regulations to reduce food loss and waste in supply chains and processing sectors.
- Upgrade land and water governance laws to support equitable resource access for smallholder farmers.

- **Programs & Partnerships:**

- Scale smallholder access to improved seeds, irrigation, and extension services by 50%.
- Expand public–private partnerships with AgriTech firms for digital extension, market connectivity, and finance.
- Support community-based school feeding and maternal nutrition schemes in vulnerable regions.

- **Education & Awareness:**

- Introduce nutrition and agroecology into school curricula and adult farmer training.
- Run awareness campaigns targeting urban consumers to reduce food waste and drive demand for diverse, nutritious diets.

- **Trade & Markets:**

- Upgrade rural storage, aggregation centers, and local market infrastructure.
- Promote regional trade facilitation and streamline cross-border grain movement to improve food access.

- **Data & Monitoring:**

- Invest in satellite-enabled agricultural monitoring, price tracking, and early warning systems.
- Create transparent national monitoring platforms to track SDG 2 indicators like undernourishment, stunting, and yield.

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