

HUNGER TODAY

Hunger and Developing Nations

Hunger: A worldwide problem

- 840 million people worldwide suffer from hunger (United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization);
- Of those, 92% suffer from long-term malnourishment. Only 8% are victims of famine or other extreme events (UN FAO);
- Every year, six million children die before their 5th birthday from chronic hunger and related diseases (UNICEF);
- 2 billion people worldwide suffer from micronutrient deficiency even if they ingest sufficient calories (UN FAO).

Food Security in Africa:

- In 1960, Africa was a net exporter of food; nowadays, the continent imports one-third of its grain (The Hunger Project);
- 43% of Africans do not have adequate food security (The Hunger Project);
- Declining soil fertility, land degradation, and the AIDS pandemic have led to a 23% decrease in food production per capita in the last 25 years even though population has increased dramatically (The Hunger Project);
- For the African farmer, conventional fertilizers cost 2 to 6 times more than the world market price (World Agroforestry Centre).

Overseas Investment:

- From 1990 to 2000, foreign aid to Africa dropped by 10% (The Hunger Project);
- From 1990 to 1999, wealthy countries decreased their overseas agricultural assistance by 30% (Bread for the World). From 1980 to 2000, USAID cut agricultural aid to Africa by 57% (Bread for the

- World);
- Currently, two hundredths of one percent (.02%) of U.S. GNP goes to investing in Africa (OECD).

Development Problems:

- In 1969, one-half of Africans lived on less \$1 per day. In 1999, the proportion rose to nearly two-thirds (Bread for the World);
- In 2002, 70% of the 42 million people living with HIV/AIDS lived in Africa. That same year, 80% of new infections occurred in Africa (Bread for the World);
- Africa's forest cover erodes at a rate of 9.14 million acres per year (Bread for the World);
- Half of Africa's farmland has been ravaged by soil degradation and erosion (Bread for the World);
- 80% of African pasture and range areas are severely degraded (Bread for the World).

For more information, visit:

www.earth.columbia.edu/tropag or www.bread.org.

Why Solve World Hunger?

Investment in Agriculture and Women:

- In Sub-Saharan Africa, one dollar of income from agriculture adds \$2 to \$3 to the overall economy. Rising agricultural incomes and production leads to more jobs and higher demand for consumer goods, agricultural supplies and services (International Food Policy Research Institute).
- Agriculture provides livelihoods for 69 percent of the workforce in developing countries and accounts on average for half of most nations' GDP. Agriculture is the largest long-term engine of developing country economic growth (IFPRI).
- In Sub-Saharan Africa, 80% of farmers are women and 90% of food processors and water and fuel providers are women (IFPRI). For every 1% increase in girls who have attended secondary school, annual per capita income grows by .3% (World Bank).
- Long-term investment leads to long-term

development. When investment is consistent and properly targeted over decades, one dollar of agricultural research investment leads to \$4.39 of new imports (IFPRI).

Investing in Developing Country Agriculture: New Markets for American Exports

- As developing country economies grow, demand for imports rises so quickly that the percentage increase in imports is actually greater than the initial GNP growth percentage (IFPRI).
- For one dollar of aid devoted to international agricultural research, developing countries are able to spend 29 cents more on imports (IFPRI).
- Out of each dollar increase in developing country farm output, 73 cents is spent on new imports including 7 cents on new agricultural imports and 3 cents on new cereal imports (IFPRI).
- The share of world exports that go to developing countries increased from 13 percent in 1971 to more than 26 percent in 1993 (IFPRI).

Exports to Developing Countries

- In the United States, one billion dollars of exports creates 20,000 American jobs (IFPRI).
- In 1995, annual exports to developing countries totaled 197 billion dollars. Almost 4 million U.S. jobs depended on sales to developing countries (IFPRI).
- Over the 1990s, wealthy country imports fell at the rate of 1 percent per year in real terms while developing countries imports increased by more than 5 percent annually (IFPRI).
- Long-term foreign assistance, properly targeted to activities that promote agriculture, women's education, and rural development in poor countries will create U.S. jobs, raise U.S. export earnings, and bolster the U.S. economy (IFPRI).

For more information, visit www.ifpri.org.

