

Hunger Statistics

From Bread for the World www.bread.org

Global Facts

- Despite years of progress against hunger, in 2010, it is estimated that 925 million people suffer from hunger. This is due to a sudden spike in global food prices and the onset of a world-wide economic crisis. *UN Food and Agricultural Organization*
- In 2005, the latest year for which data is available, 1.4 billion people in developing countries lived in extreme poverty, or on less than \$1.25 a day, down from 1.9 billion in 1981.

Regional Disparities

- Poverty has declined dramatically in East Asia and in India since 1981 relative to population growth. Sub-Saharan Africa has seen little change in the proportion of people who live in extreme poverty between 1981 and 2005, with 51% of the population living on extreme poverty has almost doubled during the same period, from 200 million in 1981 to almost 400 million in 2005.
- About 75% of the world's poor live in rural areas and depend on agriculture for their livelihood.

Malnutrition

- In 2008, nearly 9 million children died before they reached their fifth birthday. One third of these deaths are due directly or indirectly to hunger and malnutrition. Malnutrition is not having enough nourishing food, with adequate amounts of protein, vitamins, minerals and calories to support physical and mental growth and development. Children who survive early childhood malnutrition suffer irreversible harm- including poor physical growth, compromised immune function, and impaired cognitive ability.
- Around the world, 178 million children under 5 are stunted, low height for age. Of all stunted children, 90 percent live in just 36 countries, most of them in sub-Saharan Africa and South and Central Asia.

- In countries with high levels of childhood malnutrition, the economic loss can be as high as 2-3 percent of GDP.

U.S. Development Assistance

- U.S. development assistance accounts for about 0.2% of gross national income.
- Since 2000, U.S. poverty-focused development assistance has tripled, and currently totals a little over \$28 billion (Bread for the World estimate), but this amount still represents less than 1% of the federal budget.
- From 1985 to 2005, U.S. development assistance to support agriculture and rural development declined from 12 percent of all official development assistance to just 3.1 percent.

Domestic

Solutions to U.S. Poverty

The causes of hunger in the United States are rooted in poverty. Millions of Americans earning low wages struggle to put food on the table and make ends meet. We need to create good jobs for everyone who can work, provide adequate work supports, and offer incentives so low-income workers are able to save and build wealth.

Hunger

- 14.6% of U.S. households struggle to put enough food on the table. More than 49 million Americans- including 16.7 million children- live in these households.
- Nearly one in four children is at risk of hunger. Among African-Americans and Latinos, one in three children is at risk of hunger.

Child Nutrition

- Of the 19.4 million children who receive free or reduced-price lunch each school day, less than half receive breakfast and only 11 percent access summer feeding sites.

- For every 100 school lunch programs, there are only 86 breakfast sites and just 34 summer food program sites.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

- About half of all American children will receive SNAP benefits at some point before age 20. Among African-American children 90 percent will enroll in SNAP before age 20.
- One in eight people is enrolled in SNAP. Nearly half are children
- SNAP participation has increased 44.3 percent above pre-recession levels, an increase of 12.1 million people.
- More than 90 percent of SNAP benefits are used by the third week of the month.

Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC)

- One in every two babies born in the United States is enrolled in WIC.
- Although 81.3 percent of eligible infants are enrolled in WIC, the program reaches just 47.3 percent of eligible children ages 1 to 4.

Food Spending

- Low-income households already spend a greater share of their income on food. Food accounts for 17.1 percent of spending for households making less than \$10,000 per year compared to the U.S. average of 12.6 percent.

Obesity/Nutrition

- Participation in federal nutrition programs reduces the risk of girls becoming overweight by increasing access to an adequate, nutritious diet. School-aged girls enrolled in SNAP, school lunch, and school breakfast programs are 69 percent less likely to be overweight than food-insecure girls who do not participate in the programs.

Poverty

More than one in eight people in the United States lives below the poverty line, which is \$21,756 for a family of four in 2009. One in five children in the United States lives below the poverty line.

- Most Americans (51.4 percent) will live in poverty at some point before age 65.
- 84 percent of low-income families have at least one working family member, and 75 percent of single mothers who head households work.
- In most areas, a family of four needs to earn twice the poverty line to provide children with basic necessities.
- Nationally, more than 30 percent of children live in low-income working families (families who earn less than twice the poverty line).
- A person working full-time at the minimum wage earns \$14,500 a year. The official poverty line for a family of three- one parent with two children is \$17,285.

Did you know? One in four African Americans lives below the federal poverty line, compared to about one in eight Americans overall.