



TOPIC A

Eradicating Hunger and Malnutrition

GA3
General Assembly Third Committee



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Introduction

Hunger and malnutrition are serious problems that are affecting millions of people all over the world.

By 2022, approximately 735 million people found themselves in a state of chronic hunger, this data reveals an increasing crisis that has been intensifying since the year 2015. More than 2 billion people have food insecurity, from which there are more than 148 million children with wasting or stunt problems. These issues of hunger and malnutrition have been worsened because of a combination of factors including the pandemic, climate change, and inequalities, that persisted and increased since the year 2020. Not only leaving most of the vulnerable groups and children with health problems, but in many cases leading them to death because of these climate conditions.

These in many cases exacerbate food scarcity, which opens on to malnutrition. Food scarcity and high food prices are also associated with conflict, rising cost of living, and declining food production, which have contributed to the further distance on the second goal of the UN Agenda for Sustainable Development for 2030: Zero Hunger.

Definition of Key Terms

- **Malnutrition**

A condition resulting from an disproportionate diet in which certain nutrients are lacking, in excess, or in the wrong proportions. It includes undernutrition (wasting, stunting, underweight) and overnutrition (overweight).

- **Wasting problems**

Low weight for height, reflecting undernutrition.

- **Stunting problems**

Low height for age, indicating chronic undernutrition.

- **Food Scarcity**

When there is not enough food available for the needs of a population.

- **Food Insecurity**

When people do not have physical, social, or economic access to sufficient and nutritious food.

- **Food Systems**

Refers to the entire network of processes involved in producing, processing, distributing, consuming, and disposing of food.

- **Chronic Hunger**

Refers to a long-term condition that is persistent on not having the needed nourishment to live a healthy lifestyle. It means regularly lacking sufficient food over an extended period, which often leads to stunting or wasting problems.

Background information

- **Crisis drivers**

Hunger and malnutrition have become one of the most urgent crises currently. The main drivers of this crisis are persistent: violent conflict, extreme weather events linked to climate change, and severe economic disruptions such as inflation. Also the pandemic of COVID-19 made more than 90 million people face hunger, and 161 million people face chronic undernourishment. This cause many workers turned out positive on COVID, so they could not work, and many places had to shut down food production. Climate as well causes extreme weather events, rising temperatures, and unpredictable rainfall patterns that lead to crop failures, reduced yields, and higher food prices. Conflict as in Gaza, Sudan and Haiti has forced many people into catastrophic conditions of famine, that is almost a quarter of the population in the most affected countries that are living in a crisis-level or food scarcity.

- **Malnutrition effects on children**

Food insecurity is depriving people of being nourished and often leading to undernutrition, causing wasting or stunt problems, but the most affected group is children, more than 149 million children under the age of 5 in the year 2022 suffered from stunting, and another 37 million were living with overweight problems. Over 50% of children that die at a young age because of diseases such as malaria, pneumonia, or measles would not have died if they had the proper nourishment. As well, in the year 2024, an estimated 35 million children under the age of 5 had problems of obesity or being overweight. This may cause children to develop chronic diseases such as diabetes, cancers, or cardiovascular diseases that can increase the mortality risk over time, and also can cause bullying and discrimination among children. Not only this, but more than 1.9 million people have been in the state of catastrophic hunger (IPC/CH Phase 5), that is the highest level of food insecurity, which means that people do not have the food needed to survive and enter the state of starvation.

- **Goal 2: Zero Hunger (SDG)**

The second goal for the sustainable development goals of the United Nations is Zero Hunger, this cause since the year 2019 on food prices have been increasing, leading to many poor people in rural areas not getting the necessary nourishment needed, or many times leading to chronic hunger. More than 294 million people in 53 countries are experiencing acute food insecurity today. This can be because there are no investments in rural or urban areas that aim for social protection so poor people



have access to food and can improve their nutrition, or there is no investment on agriculture that can achieve more employment, decrease food insecurity and hunger. By 2022, approximately 735 million people found themselves in a state of chronic hunger, which can move to 600 million people in the state of hunger by the year 2030 if there is no action (almost 7% of the world's population).

Many people affected by the previous are shown in an increase in hunger driven by forced displacement, with nearly 95 million forcibly displaced people, including internally displaced persons (IDPs), asylum seekers and refugees. As said by the United Nation Secretary-General António Guterres “Long-standing crises are now being compounded by another, more recent one: the dramatic reduction in lifesaving humanitarian funding to respond to these needs. This is more than a failure of systems – it is a failure of humanity. Hunger in the 21st century is indefensible. We cannot respond to empty stomachs with empty hands and turned backs.”

Major Parties Involved

- **Nigeria**



With more than 31.8 million people facing acute food insecurity, primarily because of sustained insecurity due to the insurgency and communal clashes, economic hardship and shocks and climate hazards. With more than 26 states in a state of food insecurity these are projected to face acute food and nutrition insecurity at Crisis level (CH Phase 3).

- **India**



With more than 194 million people in the state of undernourishment, India's rate stays persistent due to extreme poverty, poor infrastructure, social and gender inequalities. With 14% of the population of their country in a state of undernourishment, meaning that people don't get the sufficient basic nutrients.

- **China**



Due to its large population, China has 121 million people in a state of undernourishment, concerning because of rural poverty and malnutrition issues, most of all in children and women.

- **Viet Nam**



Since Vietnam's problems with rural poverty and limited access to nutritious food, with a rising 8 million people in a state of undernourishment. more than 9% of its population.

- **Indonesia**



With more than 22 million people in a state of undernourishment (8,1% of the country population), Indonesia faces high population density, inequalities in access to food between rural and urban areas.

Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

- **Rome Declaration on Nutrition**

Established on the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) held in Rome, November 2014. It's main points are eradicating all forms of malnutrition and hunger, focusing especially on groups such as women and children, increasing investments so people can obtain nutritious food, making food systems more sustainable, and the creation of public policies across relevant sectors .

- **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

Specifically the Second Goal, Zero Hunger, aims the creation of a world free of hunger by the year 2030. This can be achieved through investments so poor people can improve their nourishment, especially for children so this can transform food systems to achieve a more inclusive and sustainable world. Recalling that hunger and malnutrition limits human progress on topics such as gender equality, education and health.

- **Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 27 July 2015**

Addis Ababa Action Agenda proposes on Annex point 13, have in view the need to revitalize the agricultural sector, promote rural development and ensure food security, most of all in developing countries and in a sustainable way. It besides recognizes the enormous investment in these areas, encouraging increased public and private investments.

- **United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS)**

Organized by the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres in the year 2021 as part of the Decade of Action to accelerate progress toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, particularly SDG 2 (Zero Hunger). It was originally designed as a global platform to catalyze action and commitments from governments, civil society, the private sector, and other stakeholders to transform food systems worldwide after the COVID-19 pandemic. And by this, address the food crisis, as food insecurity, hunger, malnutrition and climate change.

Possible Solutions

- **Protection Programs**

Establish a fund for protection programs that aim for vulnerable groups to access nutritious food by school feeding, cash transfer. This by putting emphasis on social assistance, in addition to ensuring food availability, ensuring households can devotedly access food is crucial to eliminate hunger and food insecurity.

- **Promoting health and nutrition education**

Increase healthy diets campaigns in order to lower obesity, and education on nutrition in school, conferences, and encourage investing in local businesses. Additionally, the need to elevate public discourses nationally and internationally on the urgency to transform food systems and lower food insecurity.

- **Incentivise food systems change towards equitable food marketing**

This solution proposes marketing to place unhealthy foods centre stage, pointing out food marketing crowds on nutritious foods. This cause many times food seems more affordable and tasty in commercials or marketing than healthy food, not demonstrating that their food system is more processed and expensive. So this initiative leans on making food with a smaller carbon footprint look better than processed food, specially to young people.

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