

BIGMUN 2024
Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

Research Report

Topic 1: Seeking to reduce food inequalities in developing countries.



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Introduction:

There is a clear disparity in food security and nutrition outcomes between people, communities, and nations worldwide: Achieving international objectives and keeping national policy commitments is being slowed down by inequality, which leaves some people behind. Human rights are violated, and injustices occur when there is inequality in food security and nutrition. The underlying causes of this disparity in results are unfair social, political, or economic structures that consistently deny marginalized population groups the ability to engage in or profit from food systems.

Definition of Key Terms:

Developing country: A country that has a poor agricultural and low standard for living which is seeking for improvement

Food inequality: When a community has limited access to food resources

Background Information:

The term "food security and nutrition" refers to six dimensions of food security, including availability, access, utilization, stability, sustainability, and agency. Agency is critical to reducing disparities in food security and nutrition because it describes "...the capacity of individuals or groups to make their own decisions about what foods they eat, what foods they produce, how that food is produced, processed, and distributed within food systems, and their ability to engage in the food system." Food security inequalities also occur throughout the food system, from farm to fork. These include disparities in access to resources and market opportunities for small-scale producers, as well as unequal power dynamics between large food corporations and food producers.

The UN estimates that 98% of people that live in hungry are settled in developing countries. Reasons for this are their poor economics that the countries have as such they cannot make sure to increase their own food inequalities. Even though there is enough food produced to feed the whole world however a lot of the food produced becomes food wastes. In addition of the many reasons why people do not have access to food such as, drought, population size, not enough money, low quality productions and low investment into food security.

Households can eat wholesome, safe food and prevent hunger and malnutrition by increasing food security. The money made from selling the excess food that can be produced above what is required to feed a family and a household can be used to raise living standards even further. Conversely, hunger raises the risk of illness and causes poverty. Instability on food can also result in depression and difficulty sleeping. Increased economic stability, improved health, women's empowerment, and a decrease in climate-related issues are all correlated with food security.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved:

Major countries involved.

- United States
- Countries in the UN

Major organizations involved.

- World Food Program (WFP)
- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- Red Cross

Relevant UN Resolutions:

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 17 December 2018

<https://www.un.org/pga/73/wp-content/uploads/sites/53/2019/05/2Resolution-73-141.pdf>

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 17 December 2021

<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N21/408/82/PDF/N2140882.pdf?OpenElement>

Important related documents

The Right to Adequate Food (Human Rights)

<https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Publications/FactSheet34en.pdf>

Addressing food security in developing countries (6 July 2022)

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52022IP0287&from=EN>

The 2015 SDG hunger goal process

<https://www.fao.org/3/i4646e/i4646e.pdf>

Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue:

Attempt 1: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

The FAO is supporting school food programmes as a means of preventing hunger and malnutrition. Schools are ideal places to promote sustainable development and healthy eating. Through a variety of entry points and by involving important sectors and stakeholders, they offer an excellent chance for a coordinated and coherent response to challenges related to the food system, nutrition, health, and education.

Attempt 2: The World Food Programme (WFP)

They help provide refugees with wholesome food and distributes food in areas where shortages are a concern. Through the WFP's "Food for Assets" programme, participants can improve their food security by learning a new skill or helping to renovate infrastructure in exchange for food.

Attempt 3: Wageningen University & Research

They created the Nutrition and Income Generation (NIGI) project where their goal was to enhance food security and nutrition for those living in and around the West Nile Region's refugee settlements by offering creative, scalable, and sustainable solutions. To specifically address the pressing need for readily available, locally produced, and nutrient-dense food, especially fruits and vegetables,

Possible Solutions:

Solution 1: Reducing the risk of commercializing.

By doing this food insecurity would decrease if food were grown with the intention of feeding the community or the country. When there are enough food crops on the market, farmers can grow more of them as well as cash crops in the future.

Solution 2: Improve infrastructure.

Poor roads, storage facilities, and food processing equipment cause some farmers to lose out on selling their produce. Instead of being delivered to people in need or being processed, the food is rotated within the farms. More food will be available in the market and food insecurity rates may drop if the infrastructure is improved.

Solution 3: Improve trade policies.

Unfair trade policies in the market cause some farmers to fail in providing food for the community. Food has been commercialized by corporate behemoths, which has made it more difficult for small-scale farmers to get their goods onto the market. Thus, governments ought to enhance these regulations and ensure equitable participation for all.

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Conserve Energy Future. <https://www.conserve-energy-future.com/causes-effects-solutions-food-insecurity.php>