

Undernourishment: A Brief Introduction

According to the food and agriculture organization of the United Nations, close to 850 million individuals were malnourished between 1999 and 2005. India and China alone account for 350 million of the 850 million individuals who are malnourished worldwide. Malnutrition, which is a form of malnourishment, refers to inadequate consumption, poor absorption, or excessive loss of nutrients.

The striking reality that such a high proportion of the world's population is unable to obtain even the most basic of necessities, has warranted initiatives from international organizations and more developed nations to find solutions to battle the deprivations of hunger and starvation. Given that such a large magnitude of the world's population continues to live each day without the proper nutrition and diet to maintain a healthy standard of living, it is pertinent to ask why and how does such a problem exist. In the developing world many of the causes stem from the fact that those nations with the highest incidence of malnourishment tend to also be the world's poorest. After China and India, the country with the highest number of malnourished individuals is Bangladesh, a country that has a high poverty rates and has been consistently subjected to widespread famines and other types of economic deprivations.

International Intervention

Some ways in which hunger and malnourishment have been reduced are through international trade, international food aid, and the transfer of excess agricultural products that have been produced in

the domestic country via agricultural subsidies. As one of the tenants of the Millennium development goals, the UN has pledged to reduce extreme poverty and hunger by half of its current value.

Issues to Consider

As delegates it is your job to find a viable solution that can make food security a reality for the 850 million people still living without adequate nutrition.

Some questions to consider:

- How can malnutrition be solved in countries that lack the money to buy food, or the order to distribute food?
- How can malnutrition be solved in countries that have more than enough money for food, but do not eat in a nutritious way?
- Where would the money come from to pay for food or education?
- How would supplying free or cheap food products affect the world food market?