ZEROING IN ON HUNGER: CLOSING THE GAP DURING UNCERTAIN TIMES

POSSIBLE ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- Why is there hunger in the US when we live in a world of plenty? What accounts for rising worldwide hunger and food insecurity?
- In what ways do people experience hunger and food insecurity the same ways? In what ways might their potential solutions differ?
- To what extent are causes and possible solutions for food insecurity similar in the Global North and Global South? Why?
- What should a food secure community look like? What would it need?
- In what ways is food connected with power, equity, identity, knowledge, justice, and sovereignty?
- What is my role in the food system? How do I influence, and how am I influenced by, the food system?

SDG ALIGNMENT

#2 Zero Hunger: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
#3 Good Health and Well-Being: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
#5 Gender Equality: Achieve gender equality and empower all women
#10 Reduced Inequalities: Reduce inequalities within and among countries
#13 Climate Action: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

BACKGROUND

The world entering the third decade of the 21st century faces an array of complex challenges — the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, struggles for equity and justice, challenges to the post-World War II international order, to name just a few. These challenges have increased the number of people who are hungry and facing food insecurity with nearly ¼ of US Americans experiencing food insecurity in 2020 including 13 million US children. At the global scale 1 out of 10 people is hungry and/or food insecure, and 1 out of 4 people is malnourished.

These complex challenges have disrupted our supply chains, workplaces, families, and institutions causing inflation, drastic increases in demand for food banks, and straining communities’ public health and support systems. At the same time Russia’s attack on Ukraine has devastated and destabilized families, communities, a nation, and a key food-producing region of Europe.

These massive global disruptions cause new chaos while at the same time shedding light on existing dysfunctional systems, including the root causes of why people are hungry and food insecure in a world that has and wastes an extraordinary amount of food. With the human population projected to be 10 billion by 2050, ending hunger and addressing the roots of food insecurity is vital and urgent.

The world is halfway to the end of the Sustainable Development Goals, yet we are not on track to end hunger (SDG #2) by 2030. Children, women, people struggling in human-made conflicts, students, elderly people, and people living in poverty in the Global North and South alike all face insecure and unpredictable access to food, income, land, water, and resources.

Transcending simple calls to increase food production, availability, and charity, food-related stakeholders around the world are calling for systemic change that leads not just to Zero Hunger, but to food justice, food sovereignty, and the fulfillment of the human right to food. Some stakeholders seeking to end hunger emphasize data-gathering, technical expertise, and building food-distribution infrastructure; others seek a just transition sprouting from the grassroots, centering restorative justice, indigenous knowledge, and land stewardship; upending industrial and post-colonial food and land systems and power relations at every scale from international to interpersonal; planting the seeds for scaling up regenerative agriculture, agroecology; and tackling the structural and cultural root causes of hunger from an intersectional perspective.
RESOURCES

Personal Stories
- Agroecology: Putting Food Sovereignty into Action (WhyHunger)
- Through Her Eyes: The Struggle for Food Sovereignty (WhyHunger)
- A Day in the Life: America's Hungry Children (Bill Moyers)
- Voices from the Food Systems Summit (UN)
- GoodFood4All Sept 2021 summit (UN)
- America at Hunger’s Edge (NYT)
- Poets Speak Back to Hunger (Poetry X Hunger)
- Living the Just Transition (Climate Justice Alliance)
- Food Sovereignty: Climate Justice Alliance (CJA)
- What Do We Mean By Just Transition? (CJA)
- Global Network for Right to Food & Nutrition (FIAN)
- Food Sovereignty-Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign (La Via Campesina)
- Personal Storytelling Related to Hunger & Food Security (WhyHunger)

Art
- Zero Hunger Murals, NY, Houston (Street Art for Mankind)
- Hunger Reimagined: The Story of Food Insecurity Told through Sculpture (Northeastern University)
- Poetry X Hunger
- We Cannot Go It Alone: How the Art World is Helping Fight Food Insecurity (Guardian)
- From Food Poverty to Food Sovereignty (U of Glasgow)

Articles
- MN Food Leaders and Organizations (Slow Food MN)
- World Food Programme on Hunger (WFP)
- Justice: Transforming the Food System (C2C)
- Danone: Corporate Work Toward SDG #2 (Danone)
- 7 Priorities to End Hunger & Protect the Planet (Nature)
- Inequality, Hunger, & Malnutrition: Power Matters ()
- 10 Innovations that Tackle World Hunger (Borgen)
- Global Poverty & Hunger (Action Against Hunger)
- Food Crimes: Why WFP Doesn’t Deserve the Nobel Peace Prize (The Elephant African perspectives)
- Food Insecurity & Hunger in Rich Countries: It Is Time for Action Against Inequality (IJERPH)
- Rising Hunger: Facing a Food-Insecure World (CFR)
- Country Case Studies (Global Hunger Index)
- Food Waste & Hunger (Edible Michiana)
- The Human Right to Adequate Food (U of MN Human Rights)
- Hunger & Food Insecurity Are Not the Same (The Counter)
- Food Justice (Oregon Tilth)
- Food Sovereignty (US Food Sovereignty Alliance)

Audio
- A Just Transition, Agroecology, Urban Farming in Philly (CJA)
- Nourish: Regenerative Agriculture (MN350)
- Laying Down Tracks (9-part podcast series on food, people, and the planet)
- Table for 10 Billion (World Bank)
- Hacking Hunger (WFP)
- Food Security/Insecurity in Canada (U of Toronto)
- An Idiot’s Guide to Saving the World – Episode 3 (Global Goals)

Data
- Research & Data (Minnesota Hunger Initiative)
- Minnesota Food Insecurity: Continuing Disparities & Need for Multi-Sector Solutions (Wilder)
- Interactive Data on Hunger (Feeding America)
- Health Costs of Hunger in America (Bread for the World Institute)
- Food Insecurity in US by the Numbers (NPR)
- Sustainable Development Goal 2: Zero Hunger (UN)
- Hunger & Undernourishment (Our World in Data)
- Foreign Aid & World Health (The Borgen Project)
- Decade of Action on Nutrition (UN)
- Hunger & Nutrition Commitment Index (HANCI)

Photos/Images
- America at Hunger’s Edge (NYT)
- Good Food For All Photo Competition (UN)
- Political Cartoons on Hunger (Cartoon Movement)
- Global Hunger Cartoons (The Cartoonist)
- The Art & Politics of Eating (U of Glasgow)

Social Media & Interactives
- Get involved with WFP on social media
- Take the WFP Hunger Quiz
- Map the US Meal Gap (Feeding America)
- Interactive Map: Tracking World Hunger & Food Insecurity

Videos
- The Right to Food: A People’s Struggle (FIAN)
- Closing the Hunger Gap: From Charity to Justice (WhyHunger)
- Community Solidarity & Hunger Relief (WhyHunger)
- Food Systems Summit Sept 2021 (TED)
- Good Food For All (UN)
- The Epicenter Strategy (The Hunger Project)
- Why Foreign Aid is Harmful (Dambisa Moyo)
- The Future of Aid (Winnie Byanyima)
- Detroit Black Community Food Security Network - Food, Race & Justice (Malik Yakini)
- Our Common Purpose - Detroit Food Commons (Kresge)
Case Study

- Hunger & Undernutrition: What Do We Know? (IDS)
- Food Riots & Food Rights (IDS)
- Zero Hunger: Logistics (TED Talk excerpts)
- From Emergency to Resilience: Building a Better Food System for New York City

Reports
- America's Food Banks Say Charity Won't End Hunger (WhyHunger)
- For the Right to Food & Nutrition (FIAN)
- Food for Peace report, video (USAID Foreign Policy)
- Hunger & Food Insecurity (FAO)
- The State of Food Security & Nutrition in the World 2021 (FAO)
- Beyond Food Deserts: America Needs a New Approach to Mapping Food Insecurity (Brookings)
- Hungry at Thanksgiving: A Fall 2020 Update on Food Insecurity in the US (Brookings)
- Food Insecurity: College Students (GAO)
- SDG #2 in China (UNDP)
- SDG #2 in India (UN)
- SDG #2 in Latin America & Caribbean (2030 Agenda LAC)
- Hunger & Poverty in America (FRAC)
- How to Feed 10 Billion People (UNEP)

Related World Savvy case studies
  - Climate Change & Food Security
  - Food Deserts
  - Climate Change - Somalia
  - Poverty & Its Effects in Central America
  - Chinampas - Ancient Ways Today
  - GMOs & Food Technology - Philippines, Mexico & India