



World Hunger—Fast Facts

- There are 7 billion people in the world, and over one in every 7 are hungry.

(Source: World Food Program, 2011)

- Almost half the world — over 3 billion people — live on less than \$2.50 a day.

(Source: Global Issues, 2011)

- Every five seconds, a child dies from hunger related diseases.

(Source: World Food Program, 2011)

- 10.9 million children under five die in developing countries each year. Malnutrition and hunger-related diseases cause 60 percent of the deaths.

(Source: The State of the World's Children, UNICEF, 2009)

- Hunger is the world's number 1 health risk. It kills more people every year than AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined.

(Source: World Food Program, 2011)

- One in four children in developing countries are underweight. More than 850 million people in the world are undernourished.

(Source: World Food Program, 2011)

- 925 million people do not have enough to eat and 98 percent of them live in developing countries.

(Source: FAO news release, 14 September 2010)

- Asia and the Pacific region is home to over half the world's population and nearly two thirds of the world's hungry people.

(Source: FAO news release, 2010)

- Women make up a little over half of the world's population, but they account for over 60 percent of the world's hungry.

(Source: Strengthening Efforts to Eradicate Hunger..., ECOSOC, 2007)

- 65 percent of the world's hungry live in only seven countries: India, China, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan and Ethiopia.

(Source: FAO news release, 2010)

- More than 70 percent of the world's underweight children (aged five or less) live in just 10 countries, with more than 50 per cent located in South Asia alone.

(Source: Progress for Children: A Report Card on Nutrition, UNICEF, 2006)



- Iron deficiency is the most prevalent form of malnutrition worldwide, affecting an estimated 2 billion people. Eradicating iron deficiency can improve national productivity levels by as much as 20 percent.

(Source: World Health Organization, WHO Global Database on Anaemia, 2010)

- Under-nutrition contributes to five million deaths of children under five each year in developing countries. (Source: Under five deaths by cause, UNICEF, 2006)

- One out of four children - roughly 146 million - in developing countries is underweight.

(Source: The State of the World's Children, UNICEF, 2007)

- Iodine deficiency is the greatest single cause of mental retardation and brain damage, affecting 1.9 billion people worldwide. It can easily be prevented by adding iodine to salt.

(Source: World Nutrition Situation 5th report, UN Standing Committee on Nutrition 2005)

- Hungry people live everywhere: in mountains, plains, coasts and islands. There are hungry people in every region of the world.

(Source: World Hunger Education Service, 2011)

Where are the World's Hungry People?
(in millions) Table 1

