

ZERO HUNGER



GOAL 2: ZERO HUNGER
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What is zero hunger and why is it important?

World hunger is a growing problem that is continuing to affect many people worldwide. For example, around 25.9% of the 2018 population faced moderate or severe food insecurity, compared to 22.4% in 2014. These figures show a 3.5% increase in food insecurity among our population, in the space of just 4 years. Furthermore, in our world of around 7.8 billion people, more than 690 million people were undernourished in 2019 (according to UN estimates). As well as that, 21.3% of children under 5 are stunted. This means that their growth and development has been hindered. Statistics like these are an evident example of how prompt action must be taken to ensure that there is zero hunger.



Unsustainable agriculture creates short food supplies and prevents people from having sustainable and nutritious meals. Unsustainable agriculture mainly occurs due to the locust crisis, natural disasters, extreme weather conditions and conflict.

The locust crisis in particular is a large contributor to world hunger; huge swarms of locusts, which create food shortages, devastate crops and plants in areas such as South Asia, Africa and the Arabian Peninsula. Extreme weather conditions, such as torrential rain and drought, can damage crops and prevent them from growing any further. In places of conflict, it can be harder to import and grow food. Farms can become ruined, which also halts future crops from growing, as well as crops that have already been grown. Additionally, natural disasters, such as earthquakes, create high repair costs to damaged areas. This means that instead of developing their economies, countries have to rebuild them. This makes it harder to improve agriculture and produce food. Additionally, food scarcity leads to the inflation of food prices, leaving many families financially unable to access it.

The effects of Covid-19 have pressed new challenges onto fighting world hunger. Many businesses and companies have been unable to run, which meant food stocks have been lower. In addition, Covid-19 has been proven to affect those with underlying health conditions, which include malnourishment and chronic hunger. It has been estimated that potentially, 12,000 people could die from hunger linked to Covid-19.



Therefore, it is vital that the agriculture and farming sector continues to boost its productivity, creating food security for more people. Ending world hunger is an important step to ensuring human and social development. Zero hunger will positively influence areas such as health, equality, education and the economy. More people will be able to work and become more productive, therefore developing economies. Those with extreme hunger are more susceptible to diseases, so ending world hunger will improve people's health and help them to live a longer life.



What can we do?

To end world hunger, we must all work as a community and help together. However, there are some simple things that everyone can do at home or work to make a difference.

Don't waste food

Around 1.3 billion tons of food is lost or wasted every year. Additionally, in the UK, around 1/3 of food is wasted. If everyone only purchased the amount of food they needed and didn't throw any food away, it would have an extremely positive impact on world hunger, as well as the environment. If you do have any food you don't want, you could donate it to a foodbank or a charity instead.

Supporting small farms and charities

By supporting smaller businesses and farms, you are helping them to continue growing crops and plants and make sure that their business keeps running. Little donations eventually add up and can keep small, local farms afloat. It helps them to maintain their production of crops. You can also support food banks and charities to ensure they stay running.

Raising awareness

Raising awareness about this issue will encourage more people to make more sustainable food choices. People will also become more aware of the problem and the impacts that hunger can have on people. You can raise awareness by telling friends and people at work or school about the issue, by having a leaflet on your window and many other ways, including online.

To achieve zero hunger, people, governments and communities must work together. Funding in vulnerable areas around the world, such as places prone to natural disasters, will make sure that agricultural growth continues in those areas. Urban farming has seen a huge development in recent years and as around ¼ of undernourished people live in an urban environment, it will prove to be very beneficial. Many projects, such as Heifer International, help people to sustainably produce food for themselves in areas where food is scarce and they help to end poverty. Donations towards projects like these will benefit many people.

Together, we can end world hunger.

Thank you for reading.

Sources

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