Hunger and Poverty

By: Briana Iwai
Sociology and Political Science Major
What Comes to Mind?...
Facts About Hunger

- Over 9 million people die worldwide each year because of hunger and malnutrition.
  - 5 million are children.

- About 17% of all deaths are hunger related.
Facts About Hunger

- 1.2 Billion People suffer from hunger worldwide
Basic Definitions

- Hunger: an uneasy or painful sensation caused by a lack of food. This is when people do not have enough food for active and basic living.
Malnutrition: lack of some or all nutritional elements necessary for human health. This includes a lack of vitamins and all of the essential food groups.
Problems with Malnutrition

#1: Permanent damage can occur to the body and organ systems.

#2: There are physical, mental, and social damages that arise.

#3: Children grow in an unhealthy manner.

#4: Children will lack energy and have an inability to fight infections.
Statement #1

- Africa has the most people affected by hunger.

MYTH!
Who is Affected?

More than 1.02 billion hungry people

- Near East and North Africa: 42
- Latin America and the Caribbean: 53
- Sub-Saharan Africa: 265
- Asia and the Pacific: 642
- Developed countries: 15

*Millions of people
Quick Review!

- Developed countries are described as those that are highly industrialized and economically advanced.

- Examples: The United States, Canada, Japan, Italy, Australia, France
Statement #2

- Nature is to blame for famine.

MYTH!
Causes of Hunger

- Exploitation of the Environment
  - Poor farming practices
  - Over cropping
  - Deforestation
Causes of Hunger

- War
  - Destruction
  - Food becomes a weapon
  - Water pollution
Causes of Hunger

- Low Income
  - Individuals or countries may not have enough money to produce, grow, or import food.
  - Growing, planting, raising, and harvesting food requires money and an economic income.
Basic Definitions

- Poverty: a condition characterized by severe deprivation of basic human needs, such as food, safe water, sanitation facilities, shelter, health, education, and information
Statement #3

- Children are most affected by poverty.
Why are children most vulnerable?

- Poverty hits children the hardest
  - Their basic rights are threatened
  - Most susceptible to mental and physical damages
Poverty only occurs in developing countries.

MYTH!
What regions are affected?

- Africa, Asia, Middle East...

However, there is also poverty in America.
Poverty in America

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bhokXc905ds

Washington Post
Tuesday, November 17, 2009
Poverty in America

Hunger on the rise

The percentage of U.S. households that are dealing with food shortages spiked in 2008.

Households
Percentage of households with low or very low food security*:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>25%</th>
<th>14.6%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>'08</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'06</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'04</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'02</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'98</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Households with children
Percentage of households with low or very low food security* among adults or children is even higher:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>25%</th>
<th>21%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>'08</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'06</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'04</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'02</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'98</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*People with "low" food security struggle to have dependable access to adequate food. People with "very low" sometimes are hungry.
An increase in population size is not an explanation for hunger.
Causes of Poverty

- Inadequate education and employment opportunities
Unequal distribution of the world economy

Some countries do not have welfare programs to support the needy in their country.

If the country itself is also poor, their economic standing may negatively impact the population.
Causes of Poverty

- Inability to meet high standards of living and costs of living

- Cost of living > Individual income
  - This means that individuals are not able to support themselves with a high enough salary. Their total income does not equal the total expenses it takes to survive.
How does poverty relate to hunger?
Poverty Trap

- Farmers do not have enough resources to grow food for themselves.

- Craftsmen lack funds to pay for their tools and materials.

- Because of these struggles, purchasing food becomes the main issue AND problem for many individuals.
Diseases and Problems

- Diarrhea
- Vitamin Deficiency
- Malaria
- Tuberculosis
- AIDS
- Low Birth weight
- Small Heads
- Learning Disabilities
- Distorted organs (such as the liver or kidney)
Who is addressing the issues of poverty and hunger?

- NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations):
  - These are organizations and groups that are not directly funded by the government.
  - They usually form for social, service, and charitable purposes and assistance.
World Relief

- Church based poverty assistance
Share our Strength

- Focuses on ending child hunger
- Educates nutritious food choices
- Creates partnerships with other groups to raise funds and donations for further education and support.
There are government hunger relief organizations.

Food Stamps: a program that helps low income individuals or families purchase grocery foods
National School Lunch Program: provides low cost or free lunches to children each school day.

Operates in public and non-profit private schools.
Statement #6

- There is not enough food to go around which is why so many people suffer from hunger.

MYTH!
Food Wastage is extremely high

- The UK throws out approximately 38 billion dollars worth of food each year
Obesity is greatly increasing

- In the United States, adult obesity has increased 60% in the past 20 years
- Child obesity has tripled in the past 30 years
While we have this hunger and poverty problem, wastage and obesity seem to contradict these issues.

It is important to be aware of the complexity of issues surrounding our world today.
The eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) range from halving extreme poverty to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing universal primary education by the target date of 2015 agreed to by all the world’s countries and all the world’s leading development institutions.
Goals for Hunger and Poverty

- Reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day
- Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people
- Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger
- The UN’s original goal was to decrease hunger and poverty by 15% from 2000–2015.
Overall, the percentage of people living in poverty has been reduced.

This graph illustrates the percentage of people living on less than $1.25 per day.

Developing regions*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Promise for the Future

- Turn to the following web address to view a new life saving solution....

Web Sources

- http://www.globalissues.org/article/7/causes-of-hunger-are-related-to-poverty (FAQ and Poverty Causes)
- http://www.worldhunger.org/articles/Learn/world%20hunger%20facts%202002.htm (Hunger Graph)
- http://library.thinkquest.org/05aug/00282/over_whatis.htm (Poverty Information)
- http://www.downtoearth.org/health/nutrition/obesity-america (obesity)
- http://www.poverty.com/ (Diseases)
- http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/lunch/ (Free Lunch Program)