



Fostering Strategic Partnerships | Building Political Will | Creating Global Connections

What Is Hunger? A Fact Sheet for Members of Congress

Hunger is the inability to consume necessary amounts of food for daily sustenance because of the lack of funds and/or access to nutritional food.

Hunger is not a partisan issue.

Hunger affects all 50 states, all 435 Congressional districts, and every country on earth.

Hunger in the United States

- Hunger costs the U.S. \$167.5 billion annually
- 49 million Americans (15%) live at risk of hunger: 1 in 6
- 15.8 million children are food insecure (nearly 1 million chronically hungry) 1 in 5
- 47 million on SNAP in recent month (only 8% were cash welfare recipients)

Hunger Around the World

- Over 800 million people never get the necessary calories their bodies need to function properly.
- Worldwide, 1 in 3 children is malnourished
- Hunger kills more people than AIDS, Malaria, and TB combined
- Hungry people outnumber the combined populations of US, Canada, and EU
- Around 25,000 people die each day of hunger; that's equal to 84 – 787's crashing into the ground every day
- A child dies of hunger every 6 seconds
- 180 million children are stunted by hunger and, consequently, will never have a normal life
- 19 million children are severely wasted – low weight for height

How Hunger Is Solved

- Build political will
- Create a culture where the elimination of hunger is the everyday norm
- Create jobs and economic development
- Provide short-term assistance and aid: Relief
- Provide long-term sustainability and self-reliance: Development
- Educate, empower, and engage all Americans in the fight against hunger



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The Good News

- The world is making unprecedented progress against hunger, poverty and disease. Our generation can end hunger in the United States and worldwide.

What You Can Do As A Member of Congress

- Meet with Alliance to End Hunger Members to better understand their perspectives and solutions to hunger
- Explore hunger in your district or state
- See hunger firsthand overseas
- Start a Hunger Free Community Coalition in your state or district
- Maintain adequate funding for life saving domestic and global nutrition and development programs
- Designate a member of your staff to focus on hunger
- Join your chamber's Hunger Caucus

Changing the Way We Talk About Hunger

The Alliance to End Hunger is a collaboration of corporations, agencies, nonprofits, NGOs, universities, and individuals who believe the solution to domestic and global hunger is through collaboration.

The growing awareness of domestic and global hunger gives us opportunity to change the way we are talking about the issue. For many, the idea of fighting hunger is to start a food drive, make a donation to a charity, or rely the government alone to take care of it. This assumes the way to solve hunger is through relief efforts that are short-term. However, the solutions to hunger should be framed in the context of Relief and Development. Relief is the short-term safety net that is critical to provide for the vulnerable; Development is the strategy to create long-term solutions through economic sustainability. They are both/and; not either/or.

Furthermore, our desire is to create Hunger Champions in Congress; men and women who will insert the cause of hunger into various conversations, platforms and solutions. The most critical component to solving global hunger is policy focused on improving the lives of people impacted by hunger and poverty.

The members of the Alliance to End Hunger are ready to assist you in whatever ways we can to help educate, empower and engage you, your staff and your constituents in the war against hunger.

For additional information please contact the Alliance to End Hunger at info@alliancetoendhunger.org or visit our website at www.alliancetoendhunger.org

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