



Fostering Strategic Partnerships | Building Political Will | Creating Global Connections

## Hunger Overview

*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 Congressional districts, and every country on earth.

### **Hunger in the United States**

- Hunger costs the U.S. healthcare system \$160.7 billion annually.<sup>i</sup>
- Hunger costs the U.S. an additional \$18.8 billion annually due to poorer educational outcomes.<sup>ii</sup>
- 40 million Americans, or 12.5%, are food insecure at some point during the year.<sup>iii</sup>
- 12.5 million children, or 17%, are food insecure<sup>iv</sup>
- 40.3 million on SNAP in 2018.<sup>v</sup>

### **Hunger Around the World**

- 821 million people around the world experience hunger, which is more than twice the population of the United States.<sup>vi</sup>
- 150.8 million children are stunted.<sup>vii</sup>
- Around 24,600 people die each day of hunger-related causes.<sup>viii</sup>
- 45 percent of deaths of children under 5 are related to hunger.<sup>ix</sup>

### **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); and 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 can be achieved 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](mailto:info@alliancetoendhunger.org) or visit our website at [www.alliancetoendhunger.org](http://www.alliancetoendhunger.org)**

*Updated April 2019*



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<sup>i</sup> Bread for the World Institute, "The Cost of Hunger in the United States," 2014. <http://www.hungerreport.org/costofhunger/>

<sup>ii</sup> Bread for the World Institute, "The Cost of Hunger in the United States," 2014. <http://www.hungerreport.org/costofhunger/>

<sup>iii</sup> USDA, "Household Food Security in the United States in 2017," 2018. [http://alliancetoendhunger.org/wp-content/uploads/gravity\\_forms/13-f8f4825afc84921bd400f00919c81a7a/2018/12/2018-usda-food-security-in-the-us-2017-statistical-supplement.pdf](http://alliancetoendhunger.org/wp-content/uploads/gravity_forms/13-f8f4825afc84921bd400f00919c81a7a/2018/12/2018-usda-food-security-in-the-us-2017-statistical-supplement.pdf)

<sup>iv</sup> Feeding America, "Child Food Insecurity," 2018. <https://www.feedingamerica.org/sites/default/files/research/map-the-meal-gap/2016/2016-map-the-meal-gap-child-food-insecurity.pdf>

<sup>v</sup> USDA, "National and/or State Level Monthly and/or Annual Data," 2018. <https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/pd/34SNAPmonthly.pdf>

<sup>vi</sup> FAO, "The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2018," 2018. <http://www.fao.org/state-of-food-security-nutrition/en/>

<sup>vii</sup> FAO, "The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2018," 2018. <http://www.fao.org/state-of-food-security-nutrition/en/>

<sup>viii</sup> MercyCorps, "Quick facts: What you need to know about global hunger," 2018. <https://www.mercycorps.org/articles/quick-facts-what-you-need-know-about-global-hunger>

<sup>ix</sup> World Health Organization, "Children: Reducing Mortality," 2018. <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/children-reducing-mortality>