

Ending Hunger and Malnutrition

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This presentation will discuss the current impacts of widespread hunger, malnutrition and related problems in developing and developed countries. Over 800 million people worldwide do not have physical and economic access to adequate supplies of food to enable them to grow to their full genetic potential, or to lead active and productive lives. Lack of access to food and micronutrient deficiency problems, along with poor environmental conditions and lack of education and health care lead to low average life spans for many, including high and preventable morbidity and mortality rates among children of less than 5 years of age. It is estimated that more than 24,000 infants and children of less than 5 years of age die each day due to malnutrition and related diseases and conditions, including diarrhea, infections, and ingestion of unsafe foods and contaminated drinking water.

Information will be provided about current rates of malnutrition through out the world and unfulfilled international and national commitments to address these problems. Information will also be provided on developing countries that have made significant progress in eliminating hunger and malnutrition through setting priorities and effective actions to implement these priorities. Such priorities started with initial emphasis on better food supplies and better agriculture as the motor of overall improvement of nutrition, family and national income, and of national economy. Suggestions will be made for action by all through more effective communication and cooperation of governments, academia, the food and agriculture industry, and health, education and other disciplines needed for effective activities to bring about an end to terrible toll of illness and early death associated with hunger and malnutrition.