

## A Proposal for Combating World Hunger HIGH LEVEL 1

**A**

### A Proposal for Combating World Hunger Famine and the Economy

Living in such a food-surplus world, it's shocking to know that millions of people are dying of hunger each year. Lack of food, despite what we are led to believe, is not the problem. Famine is mostly due to a poor economy, which increases because of surges in unemployment, civil war, and an increase in population. People who suffer from hunger are impoverished; they cannot buy enough food to sustain themselves. Also, food prices have been rising, making it even more difficult for the poor to obtain what they need to survive. The solution to famine is very complex and hard to apply but a deteriorating economy, however, can be improved through a series of steps that must work in conjunction in order to bring about positive results in respect to poverty and famine in developing nations.

#### Step 1.

The first step in alleviating a poor economy is the set up of small-scale support programs for financial support. This ensures that people in the region have enough money to sustain themselves and buy essentials such as food. These organizations would also provide locals with job training and education so that they may land jobs. This promotes local businesses, which in turn, bring more money into the country and stabilize the economy. The money that would be going to these organizations would come from a variety of sources, from celebrity charities, sponsors, to other non-governmental organizations.

#### Step 2.

In order for money to be saved, there should be more focus placed on self-reliant food production. Millions of dollars are spent every year on importing food when it can just as easily be produced in the country. An example of this is a case study done in Mozambique that showed that although aid was given, the country fell back into depression after relief workers left (International Symposium '93). Aid only temporarily helps the country, but if they are taught how to fend for themselves and produce their own food, things would take a much more positive turn. The economy would start improving because money would be saved and people would gain more jobs in the food production business. New agricultural practices would rise from the clouds of success

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and the country would take its first steps into modernization. All of this comes from independence.

#### Step 3.

Lastly, in order for a region to be successful, they must have proper management of finances. This includes the elimination of corruption and fraudulence, which actually cause the loss of millions of dollars in many third world countries. Zimbabwe, for example, is a hotbed of corruption and poverty. Malnutrition plagues the country's entire population and has not been dealt with by the leader President Robert Mugabe, who blames natural causes for famine while still maintaining a grip on the country's food supply and relief money (Florida State Univ. article, 2002). Money should either be managed by a third party, such as an NGO, or by someone not connected to the government. The NGO would teach locals how to manage their own money and prevent the budget from being spent in unnecessary ways. Better management of finances ensures that important areas of the society would be paid attention to, such as water irrigation systems, food production, and trade.

Economy is a huge determining factor in the stability of a country. An improved economy would result in a significant decrease in poverty and famine. The "natural scourge" known as famine cannot be stopped without taking proactive steps towards a solution; that is why it is crucial that individuals, their governments, not just charitable organizations, take the initiative to assist those less fortunate than they are. Through the economy, anything can be achieved but only when the proper steps are taken.

## HIGH LEVEL 1

C

**Bibliography**

- 1) *War, Economic Crises Increase World Hunger*  
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- 2) *World Hunger Notes – Southern Africa Food Crisis*  
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- 4) *Towards Sustainable Food Security*  
<http://www.fao.org/waicent/faoinfo/SUSTDEV/Fsdirect/Fbdirect/Especial.htm/>
- 5) *The Political Economy of Hunger and Famine*  
<http://www.epiic.com/archives/1993/sympos93/famine93.html>
- 6) *Zimbabwe: Famine, Politics, and Terror*  
<http://garnet.acns.fsu.edu/~mjs7649/zimbabwe>
- 7) *World Vision*  
<http://www.worldvision.ca>

**Teacher's Notes****Knowledge and Understanding**

- The student describes “a poor economy” as a major cause of world hunger with limited effectiveness. Because the terms used (“poor economy”, “deteriorating economy”) are vague, it is not evident that the student clearly understands this cause. The student also confuses world hunger with “famine”, which is only one cause or aspect of the problem.

**Thinking**

- The student analyses one of the causes of world hunger with limited effectiveness. The student lists three reasons for a poor economy (i.e., “surges in unemployment, civil war, and an increase in population”), but does not interpret their influence, instead shifting the focus to poverty. The student correctly identifies economic development as important in improving standards of living and reducing hunger, noting that poor people “cannot buy enough food to sustain themselves”.

**Communication**

- The student communicates information and ideas with some clarity. There is evidence of structure and ideas are often expressed in a straightforward manner. However, the student uses some awkward and inappropriate expressions (e.g., “a food-surplus world”, “the ‘natural scourge’ known as famine”).

**Application**

- The student develops a three-step strategy that is limited in its effectiveness. Some attempt is made to give specific detail, such as the references to situations in Mozambique and Zimbabwe. For the most part, however, the solutions are limited in feasibility and sustainability without more practical details. The first step is too vague (e.g., the explanation of funding sources); the second step underestimates the difficulty of introducing “self-reliant food production” (e.g., “it can just as easily be produced in the country” and “new agricultural practices would rise from the clouds of success”); the third step, which is to have a government’s money managed by “a third party, such as an NGO”, is politically impossible.

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- The student justifies the three-step strategy with limited effectiveness. The student links all three steps to the main idea of strengthening poor economies, but is less effective at connecting the solutions to the reduction of hunger.

**Comments**

This work is representative of a high level-1 performance. The student demonstrates a limited degree of achievement of the expectations in the Knowledge and Understanding, Thinking, and Application categories of knowledge and skills. However, in the Communications category, the student demonstrates a higher level of achievement – i.e., achievement that is more representative of level 2.

**Next Steps**

In order to improve his or her performance, the student needs to:

- clarify concepts used, particularly with respect to the economies of poor countries and economic development;
- more effectively relate aspects of economic development to solving the hunger problem;
- provide practical details that could make the plan more feasible and politically acceptable;
- proofread carefully to correct awkward expressions, to catch missing words, and to eliminate errors in grammar.