

## A Proposal for Combating World Hunger HIGH LEVEL 3

**A**

### Combating World Hunger

World Hunger is an enormous and troubling problem that faces the world today. More people die from hunger, an estimated 35,000 per day, than from any other cause (Chasmer, Perry-Globa 145). Hunger must be reduced dramatically or in the future the world will face an ever increasing crisis of starvation and malnutrition.

#### Cause of World Hunger

World Hunger is caused by a wide array of factors, but this proposal will only concentrate on one. Hunger is caused not only by a lack of food, but by unequal distribution of it (Fine 75). This distribution problem stems from poverty. Poverty causes hunger because the poor are unable to purchase food. A reduction in poverty around the world would dramatically lower hunger as well. Therefore, the author proposes that to eliminate hunger, poverty must be lowered first.

This will be accomplished in three steps:

- The cancellation of Third World Debt
- The promotion of Fair Trade and global worker's rights
- The creation of a world-wide "safety net" organization for those vulnerable to hunger

#### Cancellation of Third World Debt

Third World Debt has a crippling effect on the economies of many developing nations. Despite Foreign Aid, more money leaves the Third World, in the form of interest payments, than enters them (Chasmer, Perry-Globa 173). This imbalance is drastically stifling on the potential of developing nations. Governments are obligated to pay huge amounts of interest, and therefore are strained to produce funds for social programs, economic development, education, healthcare, and so on. Cancelling this debt would allow developing countries to spend revenue on improving education, industry, healthcare, environmental protection, sustaining resources and a myriad of other things that are essential to a stable and healthy country. Third World debt must be cancelled to reduce poverty, and therefore to eliminate hunger.

#### Promotion of Fair Trade and Global Worker's Rights

International trade has been drastically imbalanced by the immense power and wealth of Western nations. Free trade currently disadvantages developing countries, due simply to the economic power of developed countries to flood markets or to undercut prices

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(Raine 120). These unfair trade practices hurt the economies of developing nations badly. This problem is also amplified by the fact that Third World countries are targets for multinational corporations seeking cheap labour and lax environmental protection laws. (New Internationalist June 2001) These corporations are able to exploit desperately poor workers in near-slavelike conditions at sweatshops where they are paid less than what is needed to survive. In the majority of cases, they are also denied the right to worker's unions and other benefits, and are threatened with the loss of their job if they protest (New Internationalist June 2001). Thus, the numerous employees of these factories around the world live in poverty and often go hungry. A set of worker's rights must be set into place around the world to ensure that labourers receive fair pay for their work, and that they receive benefits such as the right to form unions, a minimum wage, health coverage, and the right to good working conditions. Making this change would in fact bolster economies around the world, as well as increase consumer confidence, and would therefore reduce poverty. A reduction in poverty would likewise lead to a reduction in hunger rates around the world.

#### Creation of a "Safety Net" Organization for those Vulnerable to Hunger

A reduction in poverty rates around the world would be extremely effective in lowering hunger for the majority of the world's people. However, it would not aid those who live separately from the industrialized, economic based world. Furthermore, it is these people, such as subsistence farmers and nomadic tribes, who are often the most vulnerable to hunger in times of emergency such as droughts, wars, or natural disasters (Fine 233). Therefore, to ensure that these vulnerable people are protected from hunger, a world-wide, UN-sanctioned organization must be created to ensure the storage of surplus food and food reserves. In times of need, such as a drought in North Africa, a war in Afghanistan, or an earthquake in Turkey, this organization would co-ordinate the redistribution and dispersal of the emergency food reserves. In this way, those who are most vulnerable to hunger would be protected from it in times of need.

#### Summary and Justification for Strategy

The strategy detailed above would lower hunger by reducing poverty and ensuring a backup for emergencies. The cancellation of Third World Debt would spur the economies of developing nations, creating jobs and revenue, and reducing poverty. The institution of rules for fair trade and the establishment of global worker's rights would

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cement the economic bounty of debt cancellation by ensuring a level playing field for trading amongst nations and by protecting workers from mistreatment. The subsequent creation of a global organization to manage food surplus storage and its distribution in times of need, would be a backup for those who are separated from the economy, and also those who are vulnerable to disasters such as drought or war. This three-step strategy would therefore lower poverty and lower hunger as well.

#### Bibliography

Fine, John. The Hunger Road. New York: Atheneum, 1988.

Chasmer, Ron., and Pamela Perry-Globa. Facing the Future: Global Issues in the 21st Century. Don Mills: Oxford University Press, 1998.

O’Neal, Jarvis. “The Multinationals” New Internationalist. June 2001

Raine, Katherine. The Effect of Free Trade. London: Random House, 1999.

#### Teacher’s Notes

##### Knowledge and Understanding

- The student describes a cause of world hunger with considerable effectiveness. Concise, relevant, and accurate statistics and statements provide background information on hunger, and a clear, although somewhat simplistic, connection is made between poverty, which is the chosen cause, and hunger (i.e., “Poverty causes hunger because the poor are unable to purchase food.”). Throughout the proposal, the student demonstrates understanding of the complexities of the issues discussed and their relationship to poverty and hunger.

##### Thinking

- The student analyses one of the causes of world hunger with considerable effectiveness. Evidence of research exists and the student cites reference material to support the interpretation of ideas and the influence of factors (e.g., in discussing the link between fair trade and the economies of developing nations). However, the student needs to provide more detail in the introduction to more fully explain the link between the unequal distribution of food and poverty.

##### Communication

- The student communicates information and ideas with a high degree of clarity. The student is highly articulate, and the proposal is well organized, with effective headings and an effective format. Each section is well introduced, supported, and concluded, and the sections work well together. All the ideas are summarized and linked in an effective conclusion.

##### Application

- The student develops a considerably effective three-step strategy. The steps work well together to address some of the underlying causes of hunger. The student clearly outlines current situations and the sustainable improvements that would result from implementation of the proposals. However, the student’s failure to address the issue of how these solutions would be implemented, given the high level of international cooperation required, detracts from their feasibility.

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- The student justifies the three-step strategy with considerable effectiveness. Each concept is well reasoned and supported with specific details and examples (e.g., a “safety net” organization would be able to provide food in emergency situations such as a drought in North Africa).

### **Comments**

This work is representative of a high level-3 performance. The student demonstrates a considerable degree of achievement of the expectations in the Knowledge and Understanding, Thinking, and Application categories of knowledge and skills. However, in the Communication category, the student demonstrates a high degree of achievement – i.e., achievement that is more characteristic of level 4.

### **Next Steps**

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

- provide more detail to explain the link between the unequal distribution of food and poverty;
- acknowledge and address the difficulties involved in implementing the proposals, suggesting steps that may make them more feasible.