

## A Proposal for Combating World Hunger LOW LEVEL 4

A

### Foreign Aid – Helping the Right Way

#### Introduction

There is a Chinese saying that reads: “Give a man a fish and you have fed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you have fed him for a lifetime.” This idea needs to be considered when determining what type of foreign aid is most beneficial in combating world hunger. Donations of food are always welcome and appreciated in times of emergency situations, such as floods, droughts and earthquakes. This is appropriate food aid and successfully deals with short-lived situations.

However, world hunger is an ongoing and huge problem that exists outside of emergency situations, in fact, “. . . some one sixth of humanity goes hungry each day in non-emergency situations.”<sup>1</sup> Unfortunately, food aid is not always appropriate or beneficial when trying to combat world hunger. Exported food does not always reach the people it is intended to help – the starving. Food dumping and so-called free trade often have a negative impact on developing nations. There are, however, various ways in which foreign aid can be improved to better help those in need.

#### A Three-Step Strategy to Combat World Hunger

##### Step 1

The first step in combating world hunger is to eliminate food dumping (except in emergency situations.) “The dumping of surplus production for free or nearly no cost to poorer nations means that the farmers from such countries cannot compete and are driven out of jobs . . .”<sup>2</sup> When food is dumped in developing nations, farmers are no longer able to generate profit from their crops because everyone has received free food; jobs are lost and farms fall victim to debt. Once the food runs out people are once again hungry but farms continue to struggle due to the newly imposed debt. Farmers are now unable to purchase necessities such as seeds and hunger becomes an even greater issue than it was before. Food dumping must be stopped in order to prevent this from happening. Steps must be taken to ensure that struggling economies and businesses are not pressured more than necessary. By allowing them to grow their own crops and sell them locally or internationally, we are encouraging a more stable economy.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.globalissues.org/TraderRelated/Poverty/FoodDumping.asp?p=1>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

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##### Step 2

The second step is to provide development aid instead of inappropriate food aid. Every day, some 800 million people go hungry.<sup>3</sup> By using aid money to educate people and supply them with tools, seeds and irrigation systems, a positive and long-term solution to hunger may eventually be reached. Educating farmers about proper crop cultivation and planting methods would give them the knowledge to be able to know how to produce greater quantities at more effective rates. If foreign aid money is used for these types of projects, the possibility of a decrease in hunger will be greater. In order for developing nations to be able to improve hunger issues, they must first become self-reliant, only then will they be able to prosper.

##### Step 3

Fair trade, though usually considered an economic issue, can also be a method of appropriate foreign aid. Developed nations can help developing nations by agreeing to purchase products from small, private farming industries rather than big companies. The prices of goods cultivated by the smaller farms may be slightly more expensive than those produced by the larger companies; however, the poor farmers will see much more profit than they would if their products were to be filtered through larger industries. With more profit coming in, struggling farmers will eventually be able to update their equipment and cultivation methods and as a result will be able to better compete with the larger international companies. This will be a huge step in reducing world hunger.

##### Summary

There are many ways that foreign aid can be properly distributed throughout developing countries. The termination of food dumping will allow local farmers to continue to sell their crops; this provides jobs, money and income as a result of exporting. Using foreign aid money to purchase items such as seeds and tools will provide a long term solution to the war against hunger. It allows the people to do things for themselves rather than depend on temporary aid from others. By negotiating fair trade agreements, rich countries can help smaller farming industries indirectly therefore allowing them to help themselves. If these types of foreign aid are taken into consideration and put into action, the chronic hunger present in many countries could be reduced and perhaps eventually eliminated. It is, however, up to developed nations to take the proper steps to making such a goal attainable.

<sup>3</sup> N/A. *Promoting Sustainable Rural Development Through Agriculture*. Canadian International Development Agency. 23/503. p.1.

## C

**Bibliography**

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

- The student describes inappropriate foreign aid as a cause of world hunger with a high degree of effectiveness. He or she understands that food aid is a short-term solution in emergency situations, but not a long-term way to alleviate world hunger, and that "so-called free trade" is not always beneficial to developing nations. The information provided is accurate and relevant (e.g., "Exported food does not always reach the people it is intended to help - the starving.").

**Thinking**

- The student analyses inappropriate foreign aid with a high degree of effectiveness. The paper shows evidence of in-depth research, with citations from several sources, and the student clearly understands the issues involved. For example, the student notes that, "When food is dumped in developing nations, farmers are no longer able to generate profit from their crops because everyone has received free food; jobs are lost and farms fall victim to debt", and that, as a result, developing countries become more and more dependent and less and less self-sufficient.

**Communication**

- The student communicates information and ideas in the proposal with a high degree of clarity. The proposal is well organized and coherent. The ideas are well developed and linked throughout the proposal (e.g., the negative effect of food dumping, the positive effect of developmental aid, and the additional positive effect of fair trade). The student clearly shows how each step in the strategy would contribute to the reduction of hunger.

**Application**

- The student develops a considerably effective three-step strategy to combat a cause of world hunger. The detailed and well-thought-out strategy includes the elimination of food dumping, using aid money to enable farmers to grow their own crops, and a fair trade practice that would help

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farmers to be self-sustaining. However, the student does not refer to the substantial costs to developed nations of instituting “fair trade” and the question of whether they would be willing to incur these costs to alleviate world hunger. The student’s failure to address this important issue detracts from the strategy’s feasibility.

- The student justifies the three-step strategy with a high degree of effectiveness. The student’s strategy is well reasoned (e.g., “It allows the people to do things for themselves rather than depend on temporary aid from others.”). It is also nicely tied together. All aspects are directed towards the long-term alleviation of hunger among the small farmers who live in rural areas in the developing world (e.g., “If these types of foreign aid are taken into consideration and put into action, the chronic hunger present in many countries could be reduced and perhaps eventually eliminated.”).

**Comments**

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

**Next Steps**

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

- acknowledge the difficulties in implementing the strategy.