

## A Proposal for Combating World Hunger HIGH LEVEL 4

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### Combating World Hunger with Practical Strategies for Rural Development

#### Introduction

World hunger claims approximately 24 000 lives a day. Developing countries face the problem of hunger because of poverty generally created by a lack of development. In third world countries, the financial resources that can be spent on agricultural development, basic seeds, and farming tools is limited. “The poor are hungry and the hungry are usually poor” (Anderson, p.1). Therefore, because of the financial situation related to lack of development, citizens of developing countries are often overwhelmed and helpless when faced by chronic hunger. Countries such as Nepal are targeting the problem of hunger by taking aim at poverty. Poverty in this country has persisted due to “low economic growth, inadequate social and economic infrastructure, relatively high population growth, low access to land, low access to non-agricultural income and deep-rooted cultural and historical practices” (Nepal Human Development Report, 2001). These causes can be seen in many countries facing the same problems.

Feed the World believes that solutions to world hunger are feasible and sustainable by addressing poverty at the village level thus enabling people in poor communities to attain sustainable livelihoods. The following three-step development strategy that involves education, financial support, and agricultural resource development in rural areas will provide practical strategies for combating poverty caused by lack of development, and, therefore, hunger in developing countries of the world found in the Americas, Africa and Asia.

#### Step 1: Reducing Poverty Through Education

Educating people in developing countries about the effects of poverty is the first step towards a successful future. Feed the World believes that its central aim will be to improve basic education in developing countries. Currently many effective strategies are being implemented in Nepal. “Basic education programs focus on primary education and non-formal education for children as well as adults” (Nepal Human Development Report, 2001). Education programs that incorporate activities where the community could be improved would be a positive force in decreasing poverty. Education programs that provide basic education and awareness campaigns relating to health care, agriculture, and development issues should be provided: “. . . awareness campaigns to change attitudes concerning schooling for children, especially girls, have been extremely suc-

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cessful” (Nepal Human Development Report, 2001). These programs would coincidentally promote gender equality and empower women, placing more women in the workforce. With a decrease in population growth, due to female independence and a delay in reproduction, hunger would become a problem to fewer women with more access to funds and less dependents.

#### Step 2: Funding Rural Development

Funding is needed at the local level to generate opportunities to create sustainable solutions to poverty and hunger. If poverty is the cause, how can the problem be solved without first alleviating poverty? However, the problem for many countries facing hunger is a large foreign debt, accompanied by large interest payments. Feed the World believes that an important step would be to negotiate a different structure for funding rural development. A new plan in Nepal implements more projects involving the communities’ hard work, instead of huge loans from the developed world. “Donors should move away from providing ‘supply-driven’ aid and implement projects facilitating financial and technical support that promotes local ownership, institution building and long-term sustainability” (Nepal Human Development Report, 2001). This idea is not new and has been used successfully to provide developing countries with the basics to get started instead of merely providing immediate aid. Furthermore, any program that avoids adding to a large foreign debt will benefit the country. Feed the World will negotiate with multilateral development banks and other bilateral donors to secure funding that will be provided at the community project level in the form of donations or micro-loans suited to the needs of the project. (Canadian Hunger Foundation)

#### Step 3: Providing Technical Advice and Support of Good Governance for Agricultural Resource Management and Rural Development

Feed the World believes that this solution should include improved management of agricultural resources to support rural development. For example, Nepal has favoured rural infrastructure techniques that are currently bringing more land under cultivation and providing protection from floods and diseases. These labour intensive projects have also provided local employment. Control of projects and resources in developing countries needs to be put in the hands of people who live in these countries, not rich investors and trading partners who currently tend to have the power over large decisions. Nepal has found recent success due to good governance. “Good governance is crucial, as it

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requires the limitations of the government and encourages the participation of civil society organizations to reach the poor more effectively and efficiently” (Nepal Human Development Report, 2001). Issues such as land allocation and export control can only be solved effectively through good governance. Feed the World would support local governments by providing technical advice in areas of resource management and rural development by providing teams of consultants at the project level.

### Conclusion

Through expanding knowledge and changing attitudes at the local level, a new generation could be created with a different outlook on life. Through establishing a financial funding structure that supports rural development, developing countries, such as Nepal, would be given the basis to change their situations at the local level using projects controlled by local governments. Through better management of agricultural resources, jobs would be created and poverty alleviated. It is possible to decrease poverty and therefore hunger through rural development in developing countries and begin to help the currently one billion people who are suffering from chronic hunger world wide.

### References

- Anderson, Kerby. Wealth and Poverty [Online] URL  
<http://www.leaderu.com/orgs/probe/docs/poverty.html>
- Policy and Programming 2001. Nepal Human Development Report 2001[Online] URL  
<http://www.undp.org.np/publications/nhdr2001/index.html>

## Teacher’s Notes

### Knowledge and Understanding

- The student describes a cause of world hunger – poverty resulting from a lack of rural development – with a high degree of effectiveness. The connection between hunger and poverty/lack of development is well described. The supporting information is accurate and relevant, and the student uses references effectively to highlight the connection (e.g., “The poor are hungry and the hungry are usually poor”). The student demonstrates a high degree of understanding of the issues surrounding world hunger and integrates these issues into an effective description of the cause (e.g., “Therefore, because of the financial situation related to lack of development, citizens of developing countries are often overwhelmed and helpless when faced by chronic hunger.”).

### Thinking

- The student analyses poverty as a major cause of world hunger with a high degree of effectiveness (e.g., “In third world countries, the financial resources that can be spent on agricultural development, basic seeds, and farming tools is limited.”). Evidence of research is apparent, and the use of Nepal as an example works well to illustrate the complexities of the issue. The factors described by the student as a cause of hunger are analysed in terms of finding “feasible and sustainable” solutions to the problem of poverty “at the village level”.

### Communication

- The student communicates information and ideas with a high degree of clarity (e.g., the conclusion provides an excellent summary of the paper). The paper is well organized, each of the three steps has an effective heading, and each step has an appropriate introduction and conclusion. The ideas being developed are linked and integrated throughout the proposal.

**HIGH LEVEL 4****Application**

- The student develops an outstanding three-step strategy. Each step is well explained and logically integrated into the strategy. The student provides references to support the sustainability and feasibility of each step. The student integrates brief discussions of related factors (e.g., the empowerment of women) that illustrate, and show an understanding of, the complexity of the issue.
- The student justifies the three-step strategy with a very high degree of effectiveness. Concrete examples from Nepal support the feasibility and sustainability of the strategy. Each step reflects the overall goal of the strategy, which is rural development to alleviate poverty. All steps conclude by describing the actions recommended by the Feed the World organization.

**Comments**

This work is representative of a high level-4 performance. The student demonstrates a high degree of achievement of the expectations in the Knowledge and Understanding, Thinking, and Communication categories of knowledge and skills, and a very high degree of achievement in the Application category.

**Next Steps**

In order to improve his or her performance, the student could use examples from other countries as well as Nepal.