

ENDING HUNGER WORLDWIDE: AN ANALYSIS OF THE KEY ORGANIZATIONS AND THEIR IMPACT

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Abstract: Food security is a critical global issue, with millions of people suffering from hunger and malnutrition. In response, over the years, a multitude of organizations have been established to combat hunger, promote sustainable agricultural practices, and improve access to nutritious food. These organizations operate at local, national, and international levels, collaborating with governments, NGOs, and the private sector. Understanding these organizations—their names, the countries in which they operate, and their specific roles—is essential for comprehending the global efforts to address hunger. Bearing this in mind, this paper examines the leading organizations working to end hunger worldwide, highlighting their objectives, strategies, and contributions to global food security.

Key words: *food security, food insecurity, hunger, malnutrition*

INTRODUCTION

The United Nations defines hunger as acute food insecurity, when people go days without eating because they lack money, access to food, or other resources.

To clarify the differences between hunger, undernourishment and malnutrition, key concepts are defined as follows:

The discomfort brought on by a lack of nourishment is called hunger. A daily intake of less than 1,800 calories is the cutoff point for undernourishment, or food deprivation.

Deficits in energy, protein, and/or essential vitamins and minerals are indicative of undernutrition, which extends beyond caloric intake.

Undernutrition and overnutrition are both included in the broader definition of malnutrition [1].

In 2024, an estimated 673 million people, or 8.2 percent of the global population, were hungry. This marks a decrease from 8.5 percent in 2023 and 8.7 percent in 2022. However, the latest report, The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI 2025), released by five specialized agencies of the United Nations, indicates that improvements have been uneven worldwide. Hunger continues to rise in most subregions of Africa and Western Asia [15]. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP), and the World Health Organization (WHO) all contributed to the SOFI 2025 report [12]. The report is the annual global monitoring document for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2, specifically focusing on goals 2.1 and 2.2. These goals aim to eliminate hunger, food insecurity, and all forms of malnutrition. In addition to presenting the latest data on hunger, food insecurity, and malnutrition, the report also includes updated estimates on the affordability of a nutritious diet.

According to the United Nations, the prevalence of undernourishment has decreased by 1.2% in Asia and 1% in Latin America and the Caribbean between 2022 and

2024, indicating improvements in both regions. However, 12.7% of people in Western Asia and 20% of people in Africa are still suffering from hunger, highlighting a troubling trend. It is projected that nearly 60% of the estimated 512 million individuals who may experience chronic undernourishment by 2030 will reside in Africa [16].

The role of world hunger charities is crucial today, as millions of people face the harsh reality of food insecurity. Imagine being part of a movement that uses knowledge and actions to create a better future and significantly reduce the alarming number of people who suffer from hunger [5].

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This research analyzed external data from third parties, data from relevant organizations in the field of competence, scientific papers by renowned authors, and data from other appropriate institutions. Other external data were obtained by accessing scholarly databases, including Web of Science, ResearchGate, and Google Scholar.

RESEARCH RESULTS

A wide range of international organizations and humanitarian actors are engaged in sustained efforts to reduce food insecurity and to strengthen food system resilience worldwide. The following section outlines the most prominent and influential organizations involved in this endeavor, examining their strategic interventions and contributions to the broader objective of achieving a world free from hunger.

World Food Programme

One of the most prominent UN organizations, the World Food Programme (WFP), helps 86.7 million people annually in about 83 countries. It also provides food aid in emergencies and collaborates with communities to increase nutrition and resilience. With 5,600 trucks, 20 ships, and 92 aircraft on the road every day, the WFP is an emergency responder that provides food aid to victims of natural disasters such as hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, and conflicts [14].

Care

Care is an international organization committed to eradicating poverty and upholding human dignity. With the goal of "a world of hope, tolerance and social justice, where poverty has been overcome and all people live with dignity, where poverty has been overcome and all people live with dignity and security," it strives to save lives, end poverty, and accomplish social justice on a global scale [8].

The Hunger Project

The global non-profit organization The Hunger Project envisions "a world where every woman, man, and child leads a healthy, fulfilling life of self-reliance and dignity." The Hunger Projects runs initiatives throughout South America, Asia, and Africa to inspire rural communities to make long-term advancements in health, education, family hunger, and nutrition.

The organization's goal is to eradicate poverty and hunger. Currently operating in 16,075 communities, it provides rural women and men with the tools they need to fight poverty and hunger on their own [11].

Food and Agriculture Organization

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is an intergovernmental organization that was founded to combat world hunger and malnutrition and is funded by UN members. The organization provides targeted relief to war-ridden regions of the world because it acknowledges that conflict is the main cause of hunger and famine.

Due to escalating violence and instability, the FAO recently designated Haiti as a country of "highest concern." Over 580,000 people have been internally displaced as a result of attacks by non-state armed groups, which have affected local food availability and agricultural supply lines nationwide [7].

Clean Cooking Alliance

The Clean Cooking Alliance is an international organization that partners with a network to create an inclusive, accessible clean cooking sector. The organization claims that three billion people worldwide rely on inefficient stoves and open fires for cooking, which directly impacts the environment, climate, and human health. Innovative technologies and business structures are therefore necessary to achieve ubiquitous access to clean cooking solutions [3].

Action Against Hunger

An international group called Action Against Hunger strives to eradicate hunger worldwide. The organization's main objective is to develop more effective strategies to address hunger and malnutrition across almost 50 nations. The organization employs about 7,500 field workers who help more than 21 million people during emergencies caused by conflicts, natural disasters, and food shortages. Families with small children are the focus of Action Against Hunger. By 2020, it aims to treble the number of children receiving urgent hunger care from three million to six million. The group also addresses other challenges that arise from hunger, including livelihoods, emergency response, water and sanitation, nutrition and health, and food security [1].

Akshaya Patra

An Indian non-governmental organization called Akshaya Patra was founded in 2000 to end hunger in classrooms by introducing the Mid-Day Meal Scheme program in government-funded Indian schools. Since then, this NGO has grown to become the largest organization in the world for this initiative, providing nourishing food to over 1.8 million students from 16,856 schools across 12 Indian states and two union territories every school day. The organization's main objectives are to end child malnutrition and promote children's right to an education for those whose parents and households cannot afford it [2].

Feeding America

The top group fighting hunger in the US is called Feeding America. "To feed America's hungry through a nationwide network of member food banks and engage the country in the fight to end hunger" is its stated goal.

The biggest network of food banks, meal programs, and pantries in the United States is called Feeding America. Through 200 food banks located in nearly every American neighborhood, it provides services to 46 million individuals. Since its founding 40 years ago, it has developed creative strategies to reduce food waste and deliver fresh food to those in need across the continent [6].

Rise Against Hunger

An international movement called Rise Against Hunger understands that feeding people is not enough to end hunger. The organization's goal is to eradicate hunger by giving food and assistance to the world's most vulnerable individuals. It is motivated by the vision of a world without hunger. The group organizes a worldwide network of volunteers known as "hunger champions" or "meal packagers," who generate millions of meals annually that are subsequently given to partners in various nations [9].



Figure 1. The key organizations that work together against ending hunger worldwide

Spoon

In 2007, SPOON was founded to create a society where all children are respected and nurtured. Leading authorities in nutrition, pediatrics, orphan care, epidemiology, feeding, disability, child development, and public health have collaborated with the SPOON ever since. The work of SPOON is grounded in science and is supported by substantial data and findings. The group promotes laws that improve feeding and nutrition for kids without family care and those with impairments. It collaborates with legislators to create guidelines and advocate for laws that guarantee every child gets fed [10].

CONCLUSIONS

Whether we choose to admit it or not, the fight against hunger has slowed over the last ten years. Due to inadequate diets, financial constraints, and the growing effects of natural disasters, undernourishment, child mortality, and child malnutrition rates are on the rise across sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. It is currently nearly impossible to achieve Zero Hunger by 2030. Furthermore, the globe won't even reach low levels of hunger until 2137—more than a century away—if progress continues at the rate we've seen in the past ten years [4].

The global food crisis requires a coordinated effort from governments, financial institutions, the private sector, and various partners. To save lives and prevent the crisis from escalating, we need political and diplomatic solutions that support peacebuilding initiatives and ensure safe, unrestricted passage across borders and into conflict zones. However, it is not enough to merely keep people alive; we must also address the root causes of hunger [13].

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