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# bethechange

KEY TOPICS FOR **CULTURE** AND **CITIZENSHIP** FROM **A** TO **Z** 

> # NATURE # MIGRATION EDUCATION # SOCIAL MEDIA # WELL-BEING # JOBS # YOUTH

- \* Agenda 2030
- \* Life skills for the future
- \* Digital competence
- \* INVALSI practice



# CLIMATE ACTION # FOOTPRINT # ACTIVISM # DEMOCRACY # DEMOCRACY # LAW & JUSTICE # INNOVATION # TECHNOLOGY & AI # OCEANS & WATER





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## EXPLORE THE TOPIC





of all deaths among children under the age of 5 are caused by malnutrition.

# 125 million people

are currently affected by humanitarian crisis that strongly impairs their ability to find food.

Look at the infographic and answer the following questions.

- 1 What may malnutrition cause in children under the age of 5?
- 2 How many people are unable to find food in the world?
- 3 What percentage of the world population is affected by malnutrition?



2 VOCABULARY Match the English words with their Italian equivalents.

people worldwide are

severely malnourished.

1 hungry

in

- 2 malnutrition
- 3 impairs
- 4 severely
- 5 malnourished
- a compromette
- **b** malnutrita
- c malnutrizione
- **d** affamati
- e seriamente

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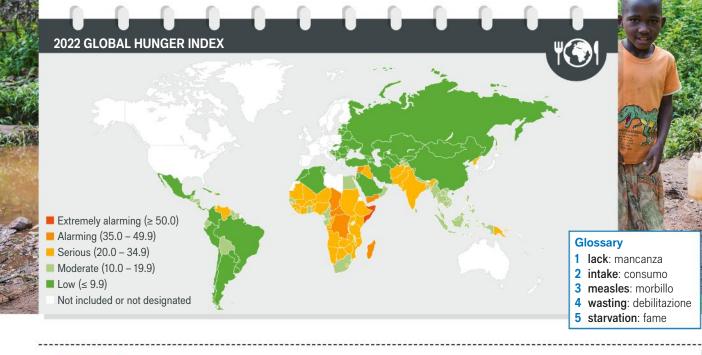


# **HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY**

Hunger is a feeling of discomfort caused by **lack**<sup>1</sup> of food. The World Economic Forum identifies three ways in which hunger is manifested.

- 1 Undernourishment occurs when people do not take in enough calories to meet minimum physiological needs.
- 2 Malnutrition is when people have an inadequate **intake**<sup>2</sup> of protein, energy and micronutrients. People suffering from malnutrition can die from common infections such as **measles**<sup>3</sup> or diarrhoea.
- **3 Wasting**<sup>4</sup>, usually the result of **starvation**<sup>5</sup> or disease, is an indicator of acute malnutrition with substantial weight loss.

Food insecurity means being uncertain about where your next meal will come from. The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) defines it as "a situation that exists when people lack secure access to sufficient amounts of safe and nutritious food for normal growth and development, and an active and healthy life". According to a recent report, severe food insecurity has been increasing in all sub-Saharan regions of Africa and in South America.



#### **3 READING** Read the article and match the words (1-4) with their definitions (a-d).

1	food insecurity	a	insufficient intake of calories
2	malnutrition	b	insufficient intake of protein, energy and micronutrients
3	undernourishment	С	acute malnutrition with substantial weight loss
4	wasting	d	uncertainty about access to safe and nutritious food

#### **4 ANALYSIS & INTERPRETATION** Answer the following questions.

- 1 According to the text, would a person who eats only large quantities of rice suffer from undernourishment or malnutrition? Why?
- 2 What typically leads to the death of people suffering from malnutrition?
- 3 Which parts of the world have seen an increase in food insecurity?

## **EXPLORE THE TOPIC**



# The rising number of hungry people

After decades of progress in eliminating hunger, the number of people suffering from undernourishment began to increase again in 2015. In the last few years, the Covid-19 pandemic has led to a dramatic increase in this number and today more than 800 million people, about 10% of the world's population, regularly go to bed hungry.

The Ukrainian crisis **threatens**<sup>1</sup> to further aggravate the situation.

The world is not going to achieve the target of Sustainable Goal 2 - Zero Hunger - by 2030. Indeed, if recent trends continue, more than 840 million people will be affected by hunger by 2030. With more than 250 million people at risk of starvation, **swift**<sup>2</sup> action is needed to bring food and **relief**<sup>3</sup> to the hungry millions.



Looking into the future, we will need to make profound changes to the global food and agriculture system if we are going to feed these millions and the additional two billion people the world will have by 2050. Increasing agricultural productivity and sustainable food production are crucial for avoiding the terrible risks of hunger.



- threatens: minaccia
  swift: veloce, tempestiva
- 3 relief: soccorso

#### **READING** Read Text 1 and complete the following statements with the given words.

#### tenth • increase • hope • positive

.....

- 1 The ..... trend in hunger reduction came to an end in 2015.
- 2 Today about one ..... of the world's population suffer from hunger.
- 3 There is little or no ..... of achieving Zero Hunger by 2030.
- **4** The population of the world will ..... by about 2 billion by 2050.

#### **2 READING** Read Text 2 and answer the following questions. Use a maximum of 4 words.

- 1 What is the biggest cause of hunger?
- 2 What war has created social and economic catastrophes in recent times?
- 3 What led to unprecedented levels of hunger?
- 4 What are the World Food Programme's monthly operating costs now?

#### **3** ANALYSIS & INTERPRETATION Answer the following questions.

#### Text 1

- 1 What recent events have aggravated the situation of world hunger?
- **2** What prediction does the text make about SDG 2 in 2030?
- **3** What do we learn about the future of the world's population?

- Text 2
- 1 What parts of the world are most subject to hunger?
- 2 What effect do negative climate events have on people?
- **3** What problem is the World Food Programme facing?

# **Why is the world hungrier** than ever?

This acute hunger crisis is the result of the combination of four factors.

- Conflict is still the biggest cause of hunger, with 60% of the world's hungry living in areas affected by war and violence. The war in Ukraine is further proof of how conflict feeds hunger, forcing people out of their homes and destroying their sources of income<sup>1</sup>.
- Climate shocks destroy lives, crops and livelihoods<sup>2</sup>, making it impossible for people to feed themselves.
- The economic consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic are driving hunger to unprecedented levels.
- Costs are higher than ever: the World Food Programme, the UN's food assistance organisation, has seen its monthly operating costs rise by 44% since 2019 reaching US\$73.6 million. The extra money now spent on operating costs would have previously<sup>3</sup> fed 4 million people for one month.

#### Glossary

- 1 income: reddito
- 2 crops and livelihoods: raccolti
- e mezzi di sostentamento
- **3** previously: precedentemente

**COMPARING PERSPECTIVES** Google "No child too hungry to learn" and take notes on the following topics:

- the number of children facing food insecurity
- where Magic Breakfast works with children
- how Magic Breakfast helps these children

Do you think hunger is a problem in Italy? Do you know of any initiatives to combat hunger in Italy?

Magic Breakfast is a non-profit organisation which is working to solve one aspect of hunger in the UK.



5 DEPATE Vite Skills Debate the following 'motion' in two team

5 **DEBATE Life Skills** Debate the following 'motion' in two teams: Proposition team vs Opposition team.

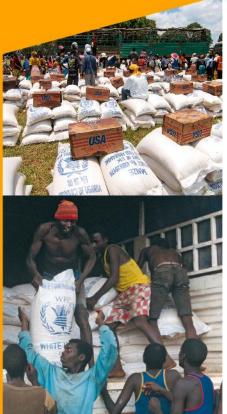
"Mahatma Gandhi said: 'There's enough in this world for everyone's needs but not for everyone's greeds'. It is possible for us to combat and overcome hunger if we are prepared to make sacrifices."

Consider your own ideas and experience. You might use some of these expressions:

global responsibility • injustice • imbalance • materialism • individual contribution



### MEET A ROLE MODEL





2020 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

044

For its efforts to combat hunger [...] and for acting as a driving force in efforts to prevent the use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict.

The World Food Programme (WFP) was created in 1961 thanks to the initiative of two world-leading institutions: the United Nations General Assembly and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. It was created to save lives in emergency zones and to use food assistance to help people build peace, stability and prosperity in areas affected by conflicts and natural calamities. The WFP is **headed**<sup>1</sup> by an Executive Director, who **holds office**<sup>2</sup> for five years and is responsible for the administration of the organisation as well as the implementation of programmes, projects and other activities.

Today the WFP is the largest humanitarian organisation in the world and is supported by contributions from national governments, **charities**<sup>3</sup> and private people.

The main goal of WFP today is to achieve SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), which aims at eliminating hunger and poverty by 2030. This is a particularly urgent goal to achieve considering our current international

scenario: it has been estimated that in 2019 more than 100 million people suffered from severe hunger, and the worldwide Corona pandemic has just enlarged the number of poor and starving people.

#### Glossary

- 1 headed: diretto
- 2 holds office: rimane in carica
- 3 charities: associazioni benefiche

### 045

## World issue THE UNEQUAL DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD

The unequal distribution of food is one of the most urgent problems of the contemporary world. Every day millions of people go to bed without food. Why? Research has shown that people who go to bed hungry do so not because food is scarce or **unavailable**<sup>1</sup>, but because they cannot **afford to purchase it**<sup>2</sup> nor can produce it. Unequal distribution of food regards families themselves: despite having the greatest food needs, pregnant women and young children tend to consume less food than men.

The problem of the **uneven**<sup>3</sup> distribution of food is both technical and political. From a technical viewpoint, it is often very difficult to transport food from an area where it is abundant to an area where it is scarce; this is due to the lack of infrastructures that might allow food to be transferred from one place to another. This is also made worse by the fact that often the lack of administrative support makes it impossible for food to be moved from cities to the poor rural areas where it is most needed.

From a political viewpoint, it is rather unclear how developed countries can be encouraged to consider themselves responsible for meeting the food needs of poor countries.



#### Glossary

- 1 unavailable: non disponibile
- 2 afford to purchase it:
- permettersi di comprarlo
- 3 uneven: non equilibrata





# **READING** Read the article on the World Food Programme and say if the following statements are True (T) or False (F).

- 1 The World Food Programme was created by countries in emergency areas.
- 2 The World Food Programme was an initiative of the United Nations.
- 3 It aims to use food assistance to promote peace and defeat hunger.
- 4 Not many people suffer from severe hunger in today's world.
- **5** The Covid-19 pandemic has not aggravated the problem of hunger in many countries.

#### 2 SPEAKING Life Skills Read the World issue and discuss the following questions.

- 1 Why do millions of people go to bed without food every day?
- **2** Why is the problem of the unequal distribution of food both technical and political?
- **3** Do you know any area in your country that is affected by the unequal distribution of food?
- 4 Do you think developed countries should help developing countries fight food problems?

#### 3 **YouTube** Watch the video *David Beasley, Executive Director for the UN World Food Programme, WFP* and complete the following statements.

- 1 The most important goal of the United Nations is building ...... around the world.
- 2 Achieving peace is ....., but sustaining it is even
- **3** Building peace is essential if we want to end ......
- 4 Hunger is a huge problem: in today's world more than ...... million people are on the edge of starvation.



TIF

T F

TIF

T

(F)

**4 WRITING** How can we contribute to ending hunger in our everyday life? Write a short paragraph (max. 200 words) illustrating your point of view.

**5 LITERARY LINK** Use the Internet to read the poem *Hunger* by the English poet Lawrence Binyon (1869-1943) and discuss the following question in class.

• Which expression(s) does Binyon use to describe the terrible 'power' of hunger?

# **#BETHECHANGE** Life Skills

Go to www.wfp.org, click on "Get Involved" and find information on how you and your classmates can help WFP fight hunger across the world.