



T&T Model United Nations

Session V

UNESCO: Food Insecurity

T&T MUN 2024



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Position Paper Expectations

- a. 1 Page
- b. Times New Roman 12pt font
- c. 1-inch margins
- d. Header
 - i. Committee:
 - ii. Delegation:
 - iii. Name, School
- e. Paragraphs:
 - i. Background of the issue (based on background guide)
 - ii. Nation stance (How would/does your nation view this issue?)
 - iii. Proposed solutions (how do your nation and other nations think this issue should be resolved)



Letter To the Delegates

Co-Chair: Rehaan Hassan (He/Him/His)

Hello Fellow Delegates!

My name is Rehaan Hassan and I am a sophomore at La Jolla Country Day School, in San Diego, California, USA. I am very excited and enthusiastic about chairing UNESCO GA at T&T MUN this year. I have been doing MUN since 7th grade and have attended a total of seven conferences, both in-person and virtual.

Over the past four years on the Torrey MUN team, I have gained valuable skills that will help me succeed in the future, such as public speaking, writing papers, and researching important topics. I have also had wonderful experiences in MUN, such as the ability to participate in overnight conferences, and I am hoping to have the extraordinary opportunity to go to an out-of-state or even out-of-country, MUN conference in the coming years.

Leaving Model United Nations aside, I am an avid golfer, I enjoy talking to, meeting, and making connections with new people, playing with my dog, and traveling. When I travel, I like interacting with the residents of the place, and I like to compare how my lifestyle and their lifestyle are similar in many ways, but different in many ways, too. Finally, in the short time that I have been with the Torrey MUN team, I have made a lot of friends and shared valuable



experiences that I will never forget, and I hope that this committee will be one of your happy memories too.

At T&T MUN we welcome all delegates and pride ourselves in encouraging and fostering a safe and caring environment for all, no matter what race, ethnicity, or gender identity someone may be, and if you have any questions regarding anything, please feel free to contact me.

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Co-Chair: Ava Daneshmand (She/Her/Hers)

Dear Esteemed Delegates,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the fifth session of T&T MUN and serve as your co-chair for UNESCO GA! My name is Ava Daneshmand, and I am a senior at La Jolla Country Day. This is my second year of MUN but I was first exposed to it after attending the T&T conference in 2021. After realizing how many skills and strategies I could develop from Model UN, I decided to become a member in my junior year, consequently attending FirebirdMUN, T&T MUN, and JackrabbitMUN, where I received a research award. Through these experiences, I have transformed into a confident speaker, who is more secure in her ideas and abilities to negotiate and problem-solve.

Excluding Model UN, my favorite pastimes include cooking, playing piano, reading, and watching TV shows and movies. I'm currently watching Breaking Bad and one of my favorite pizza topping options is pepperoni and hot honey. I love traveling and exploring different cultures. My favorites include Iceland and Spain. My love of world cultures has also fueled my passion for Model UN, as I learn how global powers interact and negotiate to build a better world. I look forward to guiding you in our committee on combating world hunger. It's a very prevalent issue that I think will help you hone your leadership and problem-solving skills!



Please feel free to reach out with any questions regarding position papers or if you need anything at all. My email address is ava.daneshmand@ljcds.org and my phone number is (702)-499-4883.



Key Terms

Food Insecurity - Insufficient and/or inconsistent availability of food to support a healthy lifestyle

Food Security - Availability at all times of adequate world food supplies of basic foodstuffs to sustain a steady expansion of food consumption and to offset fluctuations in production and prices.

Food Banks - a place where stocks of food, typically basic provisions and non-perishable items, are supplied free of charge to people in need.

Malnutrition - lack of proper nutrition, caused by not having enough to eat, not eating enough of the right things, or being unable to use the food that one does eat.

Food Desert - an area that has limited access to affordable and nutritious food due to a lack of nearby supermarkets and grocery stores.

Nutrient Density - The amount of beneficial nutrients in a food product in proportion to energy content, weight, or amount of perceived detrimental nutrients.

Food Swamp - An area where there is an abundance of unhealthy and processed food options, often accompanied by limited access to fresh, nutritious foods.

Food Insecure Countries Infographic:

Yellow = Less Food Insecure

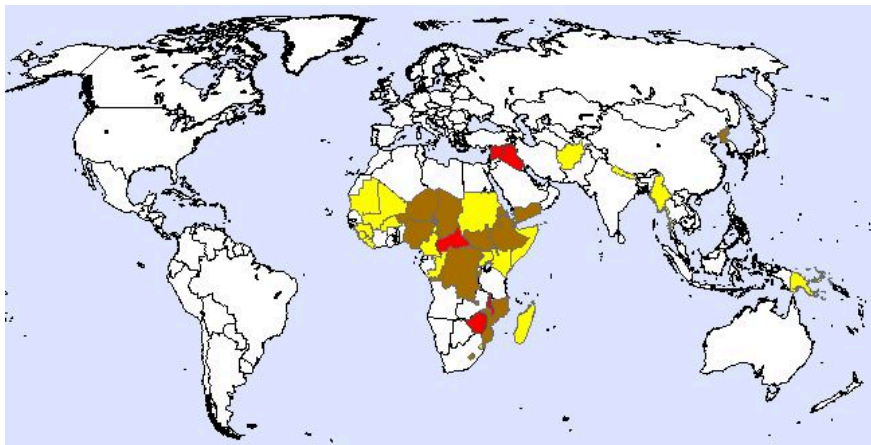
Brown = Medium Food Insecure

Red = High Food Insecure



I: Committee Introduction

In this committee, delegates will be tasked with finding strategies to mitigate world hunger. This multifaceted and broad topic requires thoughtful problem-solving strategies, as well as a collaborative approach among all committee members. Delegates will address issues that directly contribute to food insecurity such as climate change, regional conflicts, and inflation. Impactful and sustainable change requires comprehensive and long-lasting strategies, in which all member states play a role. In the session, advocates of policy reform will work together to draft resolutions addressing the roots of the issue, emulating the goals of the Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization of fostering world peace through international partnerships. Any form of discrimination or derogatory language will not be tolerated among delegates, as the committee must remain productive and focused on the task at hand.



II: Committee Background

The fundamental human right to food security, though recognized in international law, is not currently recognized by some global governments. Despite the global production of more than enough food to feed everyone

around the globe, nearly 800 million people go hungry every day. The combined impact of COVID-19, climate change, regional conflict, and poverty have led to increasing rates of global food insecurity, most



severely affecting women and children as well as those in developing countries.

Worldwide inflation exacerbates this issue. Fewer people can afford the rising cost of a healthy diet each year. Food deserts and the unavailability of healthy foods lead to nutrient deficiencies, often resulting in illness. Gender inequality leaves women around the world, on average, more hungry than men. Harmful patriarchal practices such as unfair wages and obstacles to education perpetuate this trend. 150 million more women than men fall victim to



these problems, even though in 90% of households, women are responsible for putting food on the table.

The current hunger crisis goes hand-in-hand with changing weather conditions associated with climate change. Increasingly severe droughts, flooding, and other climate-related natural disasters displace millions of people each year. Access to clean water and stable agricultural production is diminishing. Rural regions, populated with disproportionately poor farming families, are most at risk from climate-induced crop failure, with 80% of these populations located in Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and Southeast Asia. Thus, it is paramount that sustainability measures be at the forefront of global efforts to win the struggle against world hunger.

If effectively implemented, solutions to food insecurity would save millions of young lives, protecting the especially vulnerable populations of children who suffer from malnutrition. Undernourished youth suffer from developmental issues, poor social abilities, immune system dysfunction, and mental health afflictions. These children are up to nine times more likely to die from common infections than their properly nourished counterparts. Nearly half of all deaths among children under the age of five are hunger-related, stressing the importance of foodways in low-income households and conflict zones. This trend was only exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and with schools closed in 199 countries, by March 2021, 252 million



children were left without meals provided by school. Health resources such as vaccines, nutrition treatment programs, and humanitarian assistance are current responses to combat chronic malnutrition among children.

Another vulnerable population victim of malnutrition are displaced people. The number of refugees forced to flee their homes due to climate change, conflict, or human rights violations is at an all-time high. Access to clean water is also a pressing issue for displaced people, more than sixty percent of whom come from six countries: Syria, Venezuela, Afghanistan, South Sudan, and Myanmar. Millions more were displaced in 2022 by the conflict in Ukraine, raising the pressure for international humanitarian intervention more than ever before.



III: UN Involvement

Starting from 1943, with the initial UN Conference on Food and Agriculture, the United Nations has made massive impacts in the prevention of having a society that is food-insecure. The conference was held from May 18th to June 3rd, in Virginia. The primary goal of the conference was to establish a permanent organization in the field of food and agriculture. Based on that conference, two years later, the UN established the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in 1945, whose goal is primarily to achieve food and security for all and make sure that people have regular access to enough high-quality food and lead active, healthy lives. Along with FAO, the World Food Programme (WFP) was established in 1961, as a multilateral food aid organization through a resolution passed by the UN General Assembly that proposed the creation of a program that distributes food surpluses to impoverished and war-affected countries. Next, FAO hosted the inaugural First World Food Conference in Rome, in 1974, which primarily focused on the global problem of food production and consumption. During this conference, the Plan of Action on World Food Security was proposed, and it was later passed in 1979. The goal of the Plan of Action on World Food Security was to pave the way to a common solution for food insecurity at the individual, household, national, regional, and global levels. The act also proposed the eradication of poverty as it is the leading cause of food insecurity and a cause for



the rapid migration from rural to urban cities in developing countries. It vowed to follow-ups at the national, intergovernmental, and inter-agency levels, and it promised to reduce the number of undernourished people by half by 2015, at the latest, and by 2010, at the earliest. In 1981, World Food Day was established and is celebrated yearly on the 16th of October. In 1992 and 1996, conferences such as the First International Conference on Nutrition and the World Food Summit. The Plan of Action on World Food Security was updated to the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the World Food Summit Plan of Action. In the first months of the new millennium, the United Nations proposed the Millennium Declaration, which was a global resolution and effort to reduce extreme poverty and hunger. This declaration contained eight goals, known as the Millennium Development Goals(MDGs) that were all related to the massive global effort to eradicate poverty and hunger, as well as developing ways to convince governments and world leaders to impose restrictions on companies that make food expensive for people. In 2008, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon established the High-Level Task Force on Global Food and Nutrition Security(HLTF). The task force is chaired by the UN Secretary-General and the FAO Director-General, who is the vice-chair. In 2012, the Zero Hunger Challenge was started by the Secretary General of the UN and invites all countries to work hard for a future where every individual has access to adequate nutrition and resilient food systems. Later that same year, the Food Assistance Convention was also written. The Food



Assistance Convention was an international treaty that aimed to address the food and nutritional needs of vulnerable populations. In 2014, the Second International Conference on Nutrition was held, and they adopted the Rome Declaration on Nutrition, thus committing countries to eradicate hunger and prevent all forms of malnutrition worldwide. In 2015, at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit, the MDGs were converted into SDGs(Sustainable Development Goals). One of the goals was to end all hunger and malnutrition by 2030. In 2016, there was an event that held conversations about achieving Zero Hunger in 15 years. Finally, the UN also made the decade spanning from 2016 to 2025, the Decade of Action on Nutrition. The goal for this decade is to develop a work program based on the updated Rome Declaration in 2009.

IV: Leading Countries In Food Insecurity

Haiti

Once the wealthiest colony in the Americas, Haiti is ranked the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, with a per-capita income of

\$1317. In the past seven years, the food insecurity

crisis has worsened due to natural disasters, such as

the 2021 earthquake that left over 2200 people dead,



double-digit inflation rates, and gang violence in major cities. The gang violence that Haiti

suffers from is immense and displaces the population in major cities, and according to

estimates, in 2022, the amount of Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) was 155,200. This has

contributed to a spread-out population, leading to health and nutritious deficiencies in women

and children under 5, and 6% of children under five suffer from wasting and stunting. A UN

report put the drivers of undernourishment and malnutrition as poor household environments,

resulting in a high prevalence of infectious diseases, such as Cholera. The country also suffers

from limited access to healthcare and nutrition services, with 60% of children under 5 and 48%

of women of reproductive age suffering from anemia.



Botswana

Botswana is an upper-middle-income country in Southern Africa. Though Botswana exports diamonds, the country is poor in food, and agriculture makes up only 3% of the

economy. Botswana has been spending considerable amounts of money and resources on agriculture and food production to become a self-sufficient nation.

Botswana is counted as the most advanced sub-saharan country with a global food index of more

than 50%. Because of Botswana's geography, it is a country that has regular droughts. To achieve their goal of self-sufficiency, many changes are needed in their agriculture production system.

According to some, Botswana does not have a horticultural tradition, and that could remain an impediment to achieving permanent food sufficiency.





Nigeria

Nigeria, a lower-middle-income country in Western Africa has a rapidly growing population at an annual rate of 2.7%.

As the most populous country in Africa and seventh in the world, Nigeria's persistent



struggle with food insecurity threatens millions of lives and must take high priority when addressing global initiatives. Insurgencies have caused the displacement of millions while droughts and floods take a heavy toll on rural communities. 70% of the nation's population lives below the poverty line, with low rates of schooling for both boys and girls. The World Food Programme (WFP) has extensive involvement in Nigeria, aiding in food transport in hard-to-reach regions and distributing cash and food to over a million people each month. The WFP has also been working to provide technical support to enhance emergency responses. Extreme weather patterns attributed to climate change are also a major driver of food poverty, with an extreme rainy season in 2022 that destroyed 676,000 hectares of farmlands. More extreme weather events are expected to occur in the future, as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) currently works to accelerate crop production and move the country away from homestead farming, and toward larger-scale agriculture. Amidst these struggles, children



remain the most vulnerable to food insecurity, accounting for 35 percent of food-insecure

Nigerians, with high mortality rates.



Myanmar

Myanmar, currently in a declared state of emergency, is currently experiencing the detrimental impacts of political turmoil, pre-existing poverty, and the aftermath of COVID-19. Ever since the military coup that overthrew democratically elected leaders, the



economy of Myanmar has plummeted, leaving millions in deep poverty. The country currently has a population of 13.2 million people (1 in 4) deemed food insecure. Inflation makes it increasingly challenging for households to put food on the table, as key commodities have become unaffordable for the majority of the population. The WFP is currently providing relief assistance and nutrition support to a portion of the population in conflict-ridden regions.



Pakistan

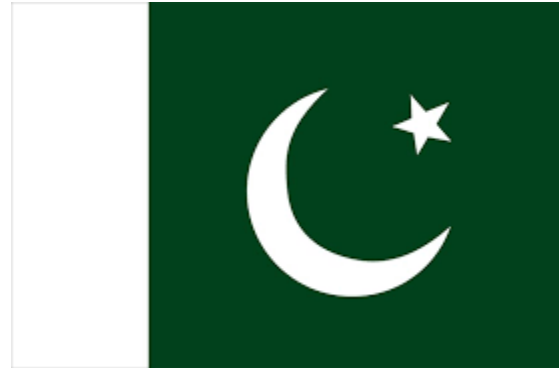
In Pakistan, three provinces named: Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Sindh were heavily affected by the catastrophic flooding in

2022. Since 2017, the country has been struggling

to deal with acute food insecurity. The primary

drivers of the crisis are climate change with

extreme weather conditions, such as drought and



flooding, the disruption of the global supply chain due to the Ukrainian War, and conflicts and poor security in tribal areas. Pakistan also hosts 3 million Afghan refugees plus these IDPs in the flooded regions. The lack of access to nutritious food contributes to child malnutrition.

Furthermore, unsafe drinking water results in the spread of infectious diseases, such as Cholera and Malaria, especially in flooded areas due to standing water. More than 40% of children under five and women of reproductive age suffer from anemia.



China

As one of the world's most populous nations and one with the second largest economy in the world (after the U.S.), China's involvement in trade and agricultural development has a substantial impact on the global food security landscape. Recently, China's food consumption has outmatched its domestic supply, prompting a great influx in the importation of international goods, with the nation currently standing as the leading consumer of soybeans, rice, pork, wheat, and corn, among other crops. Not particularly enjoying the role of top importer of such goods, especially amidst U.S.-China tensions, China has attempted to broaden its supply, turning to South America, particularly Brazil for its products. The agricultural ministry has announced its commitment to expand its farmlands and research and technology initiatives to increase crop yields. Despite these efforts, China's percentage of arable lands remains at a measly 13% out of its staggering 9.6 million square kilometers.





Sudan

As in most countries, global food prices due to the Ukrainian war contributed to supply chain disruptions, conflict, civil unrest, and political instability have resulted in food insecurity. Food insecurity declined



from October 2022 to February 2023 due to above-average cereal harvests. But Sudan has been suffering from food insecurity since 2016. Some Sudan-specific drivers of food insecurity are inflation, currency depreciation, high dependence on cereal imports from the Russian Federation, and long-standing conflicts that significantly curtail agriculture production combined with population displacement. Unpredictable weather has played a significant part in previous years. Sudan also hosts one of the largest refugee populations in Africa, in addition to Sudan's IDPs. In 11 out of 18 Sudanese States, malnutrition is rampant, with 2.76 million children suffering from waste. Access to healthy food is a huge concern combined with access to health services.



United States

89.8% of households in the United States will be food secure in 2021, with the rest accounting for food-insecure households. Among these, 3.8% (5.1 million) people had very low food security, meaning



food intake was considerably reduced due to lack of resources. This level of food insecurity disproportionately impacts certain communities, taking a toll on black and Hispanic households as well as those in the Southern states. The U.S. has demonstrated commitment to combating world hunger with its leadership in humanitarian aid, partnering with UN agencies, NGOs, and governments to address the issue. Due to its booming economy, the US can contribute great funds to this cause, having already spent over 8 million dollars in humanitarian aid in 2022. As one of the largest agricultural supporters, the U.S. aims to maintain an open market that doesn't pose any harmful restrictions that could damage other countries' food supplies. Additionally, the U.S. has contributed millions to support the transport of goods out of Ukraine and boost agricultural production in the country to help mitigate the global food crisis.

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka had an unprecedented food crisis in 2022, due to high food prices, lack of work to earn an income, poor harvests, and shortages of fuel, fertilizers, and imported food. Due to poor harvests, the situation had further deteriorated by the end of 2022, as rice could not be cultivated due to the shortage of fertilizers and ongoing economic crises. Sri Lanka's issues of food insecurity were primarily driven by the heavy-hitting economic crisis

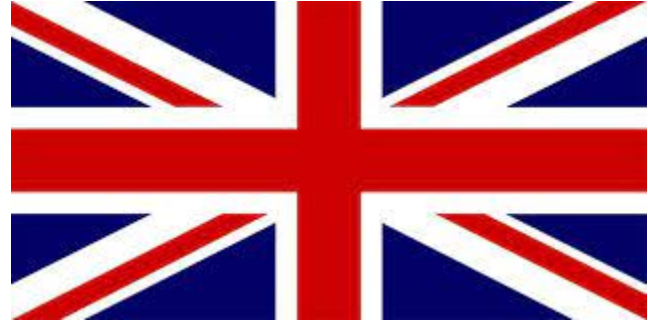


caused by reduced government earnings and debt -accumulation. The Ukrainian War created increased energy costs and due to global sanctions against Russia, Sri Lanka could not trade with their third-largest buyer of tea, which was their main export. The debt levels soared in May 2022, causing a default. Due to fuel shortages, staple foods such as rice, maize, fruits, and vegetables, could not be cultivated and processed, heavily affecting food production, which contributed to less income and high food prices. 13.2% of children under 5 were wasted and school meals and nutritional supplements provided by the government were severely reduced.



United Kingdom

Despite its status as the sixth richest country in the world, the United Kingdom has its fair share of food poverty, with a total of 9.3 million adults experiencing food insecurity, as of January 2023. As the cost of living drastically increases, and the government fails to provide efficient welfare safety nets, individuals struggle more and more to support themselves and their families. The UK also has a high prevalence of food deserts, in which residents are unable to access any healthy options. This issue is exacerbated by an alarming food inflation rate of 14.8% in July 2023. Citizens and experts are calling for the government to increase the minimum wage and provide free school meals to children, since as of 2022, 12% of children in the UK live in food poverty. Current responses include the free school meals program (FSM), supporting the nearly 24% of primary and secondary school students deemed eligible. Food banks additionally serve as a helpful yet insufficient measure in the UK to provide emergency food to struggling households. The increasing prevalence of food poverty is evidenced by the fact that the number of people in households that accessed food banks increased tenfold from 2013 to 2023. These obstacles are also characterized as causes of civil unrest, with experts calling for not just the efficiency, but





the resilience of the United Kingdom's food system including sustainable farming practices and regulating consumption.



Brazil

Brazil, a middle-income country located in South America, has a complicated history of food insecurity. In 2014, Brazil received great praise and

was removed from the global hunger report after

effectively reducing the number of food-insecure

Brazilians by 80 percent in only ten years. Its “Zero

Hunger” campaign received international attention for its



positive impact in aiding food accessibility and reducing poverty. The government invested

great sums of money, using it to raise the minimum wage, and fund initiatives such as the Bolsa

Familia Programme, which assisted parents in keeping their children in school. Additionally,

the country also funded the establishment of low-cost restaurants, teaching nutrition practices,

and improving the water supply. Due to this “Zero Hunger” campaign, Brazil saw a drastic

reduction in food insecurity and child mortality. Unfortunately, rates of food insecurity

increased just the next year and continued an upward trend due to a variety of factors, including

a global mini-recession, lack of social protection policies, and the COVID-19 pandemic. New

leadership, namely that of President Bolsonaro has hurt the country’s food security, as the

government soon dismantled the National Council for Food and Nutrition Security (CONSEA)

after his election. 30.7 percent of Brazilians face moderate to severe food insecurity in 2022.



Experts advise that the only path back to a population that is permanently removed from the global hunger report is for the government to take full responsibility for large-scale initiatives such as the “Zero Hunger” campaign. Regardless of the current state of food insecurity, Brazil’s previous achievements in successfully instituting a successful campaign on this issue can prove valuable to other countries looking to do the same.



Argentina

Argentina is Latin America's third-largest economy and is a massive exporter of agricultural products. They produce and export soybeans, corn, and wheat. The country became self-sufficient in food and a major South American exporter due to intensive industrial agriculture, a contributor to global warming. But even in a country like Argentina which is a major grain exporter, times have changed due to COVID, inflation, and climate change. 43% of the country's 46 million people live below the poverty line. According to a UN report, one in three skipped a meal or reduced the quantity of food they ate, and one in eight went without any food for one or more days. These statistics are double what they were in the last 5 years.

Argentina has had 3 consecutive years of drought. There is a big push in Argentina towards sustainable agricultural methods to continue its dominance as a food exporter.





India

India overcame emergency food shortage situations in the 1960s to become a net exporter of food grain and among the world's largest producers of wheat, rice, and other grains. In the 1960s, India was importing 10-11 million tons of wheat yearly, due to multi-year droughts, and lack of foreign interest in wheat. But in 1966, when the US stopped aid to India due to its support of the Vietnamese people, Indians began to prioritize food production. They got the so-called "Miracle Seed" that was created by an American named Norman Borlaug, which produced high-yielding varieties of wheat, was brought to the country, and within 4 to 5 years, the country began self-sufficient in wheat. Today, India is currently the largest exporter of rice.





Japan

Before WWII, Japan was self-sufficient in rice. After WWII, Japanese leaders carried out land reforms to reduce the seismic gap between tenant farmers who rented the land from the landlords in exchange for a huge percentage of the farmed crops, and the landlords who owned the land but did not farm by themselves. This improved the living conditions of farmers. In the 1950s and 1960s as the economy recovered, Japan achieved self-sufficiency in food production. The Japanese diets considerably changed over the last 50 years.

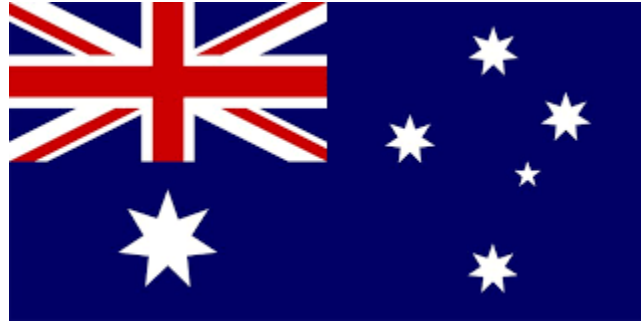


The need for diverse foods grew. The country also excels in high-end consumer and electronic goods for export. This was more lucrative than producing food for self-sufficiency. So Japan abandoned the goal of food sufficiency in the 1980s.



Australia

Australia, known to be among the most food-secure countries in the world, serves as a global leader in agricultural production as well as humanitarian assistance. Ranked seventh nationally for food affordability and tenth for food availability, Australia has much to offer regarding initiatives combating world hunger. The nation currently contributes to this effort, partnering with research organizations in developing countries to help increase agricultural production and increase sustainability. Working in conjunction with the Governments, NGOs, and regional organizations, Australia aims its expertise in agriculture and fisheries innovation toward opening markets and assisting struggling countries through the World Food Programme (WFP) and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).





Norway

During WWII, Norway was occupied by the Germans. Norway is far north of the equator and the northern parts of the country are not arable. In the southern parts of the country, the terrain is rugged, so there is not much space to have cultivable land. Even before the war,

Norway was importing 60% of its food. As a result of the German occupation, Norwegians faced severe food shortages for 5 years. This was only alleviated after the Allied forces arrived. In 1975, the



Norwegian government approved the “National

Nutrition and Food Supply Policy”. Due to the country's geography, government support is essential for agricultural activities. Amongst all of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries, Norway has the highest level of government support with 59% of agricultural revenue coming from government subsidies. The forestry and fishery industries are not dependent on government support. Norway’s agricultural policy objectives are food security, preparedness, and sustainable farming. Agriculture is given special status concerning environmental standards and trade agreements. All of these policies contribute to an increase in production, and more availability of locally made foods, with food production maintained throughout the entire country. But these policies can also make the food more



expensive. Norway is 50% self-sufficient in food and self-sufficiency came into prominence during the COVID-19 pandemic. Suggestions are being made to have a balanced and flexible approach towards food sufficiency and food imports. Norway's general welfare system and social safety net also play a crucial part in reducing food insecurity in the nation.



Mexico

With the fourth-highest death toll at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Mexico has been facing detrimental complications including increases in poverty and food insecurity. In late 2022, it was measured that three out of ten people face some form of food insecurity. Rampant inflation has made many foods inaccessible to a large portion of the population, resulting in high obesity rates. The country presents an above-average index of food availability, reporting 3.145 kilocalories per person per day, contrasting with the 18% of the population who are experiencing food poverty. This is due to the heterogeneous nature of the nation's food insecurity, primarily concentrated in specific regions. Thus, the country requires efficient government and transport policy over agricultural production.





V: Questions To Consider

Key Questions:

- 1) When formulating food policies for countries and regions, who are the stakeholders who need to be at the table?
- 2) What are the major threats to food security in the next decade?
- 3) Are sustainability efforts necessary to combat global food insecurity?
- 4) Are there common drivers between food-insecure countries?
- 5) What are the different governmental bodies and organizations that should be part of forming food and agriculture policy combating food insecurity?
- 6) What are the prime drivers of undernourishment and malnutrition?
- 7) By producing enough food alone, can a country eliminate food insecurity?
- 8) To what extent can the UN intervene in regional conflict without violating international law?
- 9) What existing initiatives can serve as a model for future solutions?



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