

Every day around 24,000 people die directly from hunger or hunger related diseases - an unbelievable amount.



Below is an article on one of major problems that is increasing hunger:

Economic issues

Some factors which help keep hunger conditions from improving are simply economic conditions in an area. Many times, the food is there for citizens to buy, but they simply don't have or earn enough to buy it. Also, money frequently doesn't stay inside of the country, which again hurts the economy and the government's ability to improve the region.

One problem is that some of the world's poorest countries owe hundreds of billions of dollars in debt to many of the more developed countries. This restricts the ability of the government to spend money to improve local conditions because the government instead spends money repaying other governments. Many are calling for the developed countries to cancel their debt, which would mean that the less developed country would not have to repay it.



Campaigners protesting to 'Drop the debt'.

Also, some large multinational companies will send all of their profits from a less developed region back to their main headquarters, in a more developed country. This takes more money out of the economy of the less developed country, and simply adds more to the great imbalance of economic strength. If these companies instead invested in all regions and tried to keep money in the economy of the less developed country, it would overall cause growth of the country's economy, which would in turn help everyone. Companies need to realize that in order to make more money in these less developed regions, they must invest more as well.

Because of all of this money flowing out of these less developed countries, there is very little left to establish an economic infrastructure. The lack of basic markets locally simply requires more money to be sent out of the country. Putting an end to this requires a strong investment in the region from companies, governments, and individuals consisting not only of money, but also time and experience.



Peace negotiation

War, particularly civil war is one of the major causes for hunger to persist in a country. Often civil war is started due to the lack of food, and terrorist groups trying to gain enough food as not to starve.

Countries such as Ethiopia have suffered civil unrest in time of particular hardship and hunger. The problem of civil war also often prevents aid entering or reaching those areas which are in need of it. As a result, chronic persistent hunger takes a grip and people start to die.



Soldier guards UN food convoy

The problem of war also diverts much needed government funds from helping to solve their hunger problems to funding arms and the war process. Consequently, there is little money to fund equipment and technology to increase food supplies, or to afford imports of food from abroad.

Peace negotiations in hunger stricken areas help to allow aid in and the country to focus its time and resources onto solving their hunger problems. War is an unneeded, resource wasting activity that causes many thousands of people to suffer chronic persistent hunger - if only the leaders of these terrorist groups could see it.



Bill Clinton overseeing another successful peace negotiation

Important leaders representing many governments play a major role in these peace processes. It is in the world's interest for there to be peace, as trade can continue and resources can be used for productive reasons. Often peace cannot be negotiated without a neutral third party to oversee the process - it is vital therefore for external world leader to get involved. Without this vital involvement, peace among people often cannot occur and the problem of chronic persistent hunger just gets worse.