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# Millennium Development Goal #1



The Noun Project

Eradicate extreme poverty and  
hunger



The Noun Project

Todd Kennedy, Jennifer Pisani, Patrick Spoutz,  
Silu Zuo

# youtube

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kNsLF9-9I5U>



The Noun Project

What is poverty?

What is Hunger?

# Google search definitions

- Poverty:
  - is the lack of basic human needs, such as clean water, nutrition, health care, education, clothing and shelter, because of the inability to afford them. (wiki)
  - the state of one who lacks a usual or socially acceptable amount of money or material possessions (merriam-webster)

# Poverty – 2 types

- **Absolute poverty:** *"a condition characterised by severe deprivation of basic human needs, including food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health, shelter, education and information. It depends not only on income but also on access to services."*
- **Overall poverty:** *"lack of income and productive resources to ensure sustainable livelihoods; hunger and malnutrition; ill health; limited or lack of access to education and other basic services; increased morbidity and mortality from illness; homelessness and inadequate housing; unsafe environments and social discrimination and exclusion."*
- Or
- *"It is also characterized by lack of participation in decision making and in civil, social and cultural life."*

# UN definition as of 1998

- *“Fundamentally, poverty is a denial of choices and opportunities, a violation of human dignity. It means lack of basic capacity to participate effectively in society. It means not having enough to feed and cloth a family, not having a school or clinic to go to, not having the land on which to grow one’s food or a job to earn one’s living, not having access to credit. It means insecurity, powerlessness and exclusion of individuals, households and communities. It means susceptibility to violence, and it often implies living on marginal or fragile environments, without access to clean water or sanitation”*
- (UN Statement, June 1998 – signed by the heads of all UN agencies)



# How about hunger?

- Definition of hunger:
  - a craving or urgent need for food or a specific nutrient
  - an uneasy sensation occasioned by the lack of food
  - a weakened condition brought about by prolonged lack of food
- Definition of malnutrition:
  - Malnutrition is the condition that develops when the body does not get the right amount of the vitamins, minerals, and other nutrients it needs to maintain healthy tissues and organ function.

# “Hunger” - measured

- Uses BMI (body mass index)
- Under 16 – severely underweight
- 16-18.5 – underweight
- 18.5-25 – normal weight
- 25-30 – Overweight
- 30-40 – Obese
- 40+ - Very obese

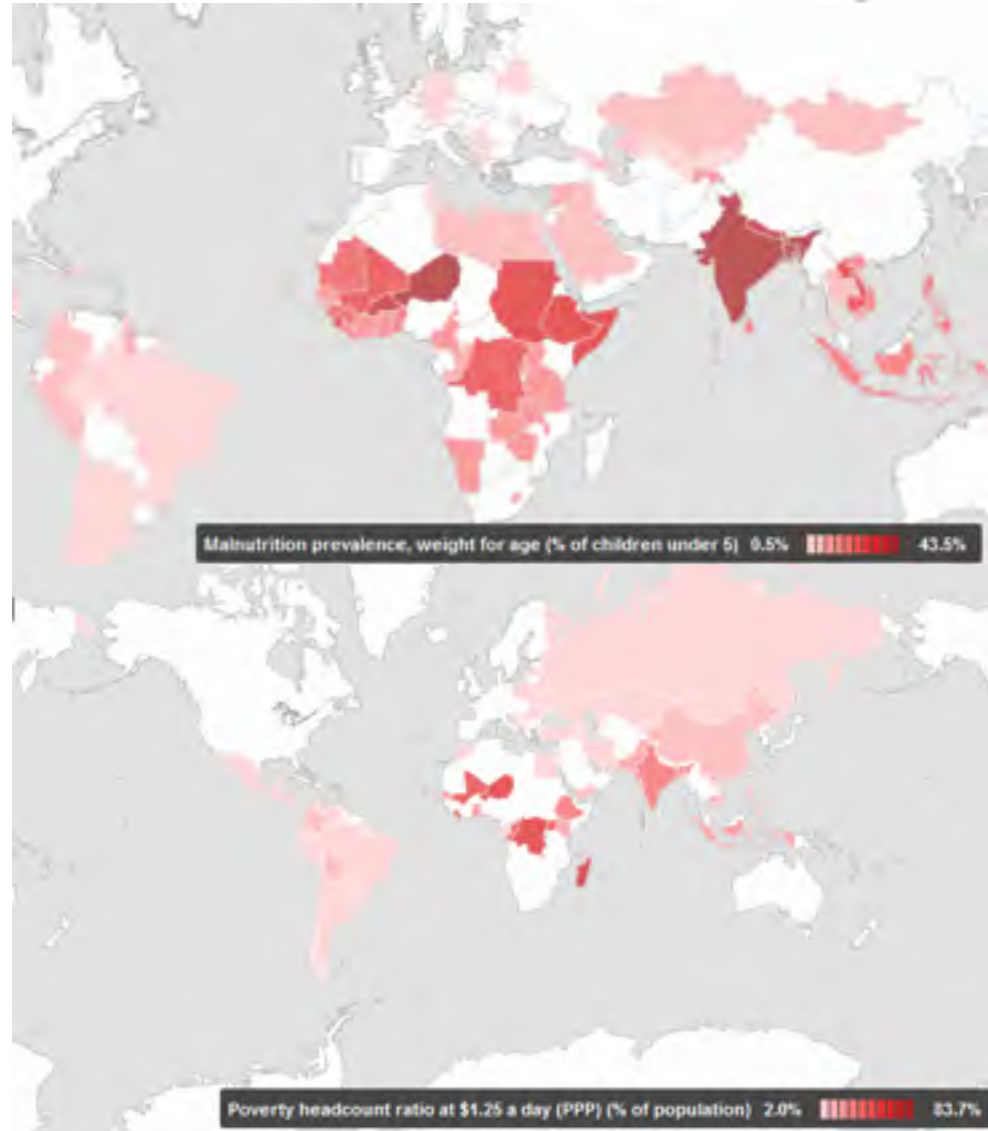
# MDG #1

- Target 1a
  - 1. Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1 a day
- Target 1b
  - 2. Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people
- Target 1c
  - 3. Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger

# Indicators

- 1.1 Proportion of population below \$1 (PPP) per day
  - 1.2 Poverty gap ratio
  - 1.3 Share of poorest quintile in national consumption
  - 1.4 Growth rate of GDP per person employed
  - 1.5 Employment-to-population ratio
  - 1.6 Proportion of employed people living below \$1 (PPP) per day
  - 1.7 Proportion of own-account and contributing family workers in total employment
  - 1.8 Prevalence of underweight children under-five years of age
  - 1.9 Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption
- 
- GDP – Gross domestic product - is a measure of a country's overall economic output.

# Where is the problem



Malnutrition prevalence per weight (children under 5)

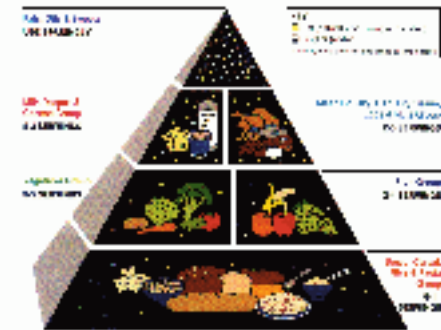
% of the population at \$1.25 a day

# Issues and Barriers to Accomplishing MDG 1



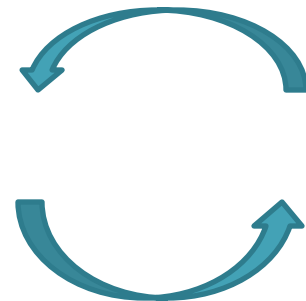
# How are poverty and nutrition linked?

Poverty ? Hunger



# How are poverty and hunger linked?

- People who are poverty-stricken are unable to obtain food for recommended nutritional needs
- Nutritional deficiencies (vitamins, minerals, fats, protein, calories) can lead to sickness and death, especially prevalent in children
- Close association
- Cycle:      disease      malnutrition







Professor Bop, flickr

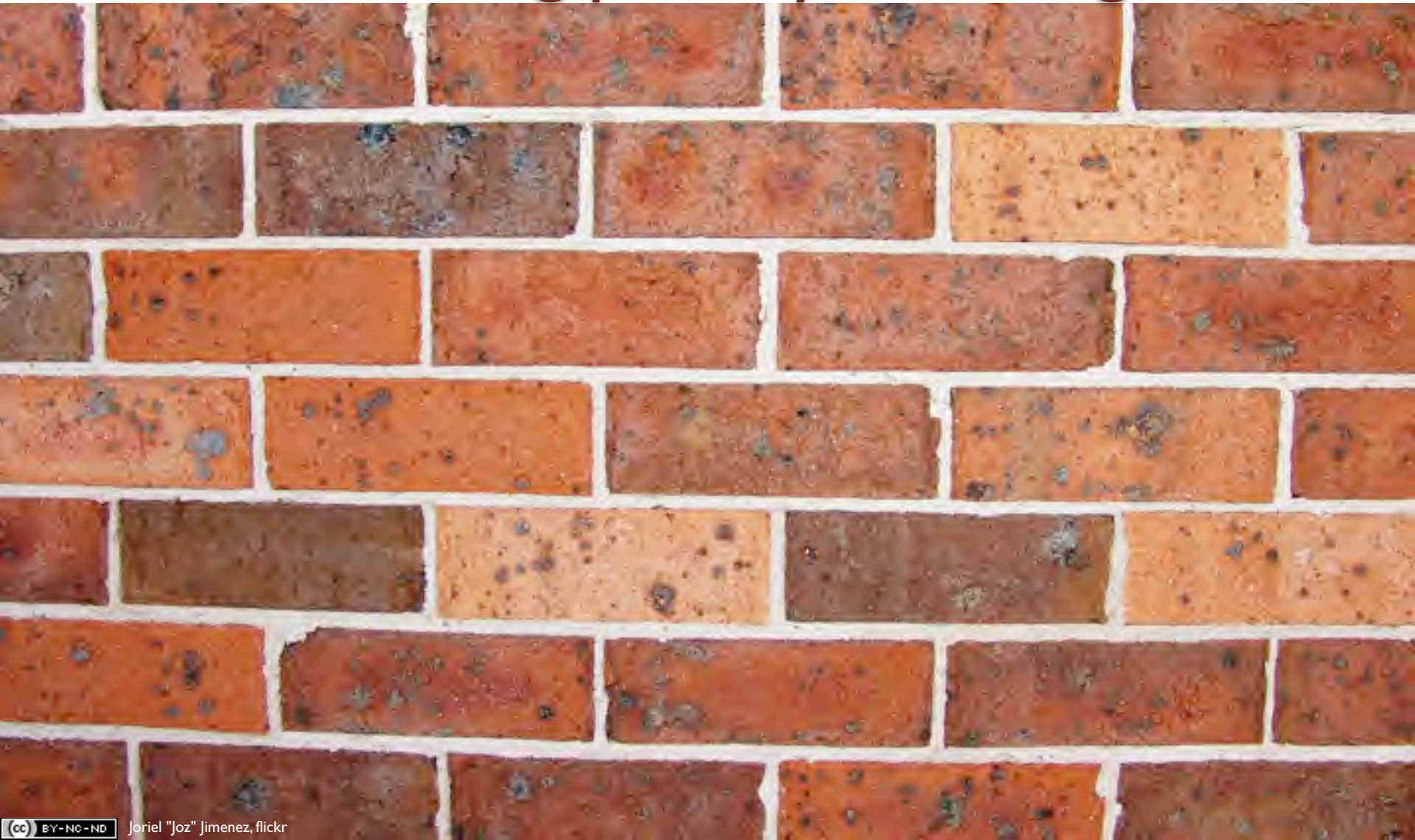
# Nutritional Deficiencies Statistics

- 2 - 3.5 billion people suffer from micronutrient deficiency ( lacking vitamins and minerals)
- Malnourished children have increased risk of sickness and death
- For children 5 years and younger, malnutrition contributes to  $> 50\%$  of deaths related to infectious diseases

<http://www.globalissues.org/article/7/causes-of-hunger-are-related-to-poverty>

Jacobsen, K.H. Introduction to Global Health. 2008

# What are some barriers to eliminating poverty and hunger?





 Cyclopsis Raptor, flickr

# Government

“There is nothing inevitable about famines. Famines are typically precipitated by the loss of entitlements of one or more occupation groups, and the process can be halted by generating replacement incomes for potential victims....There is nothing inescapable about endemic undernourishment either. Persistent deprivation can also be eradicated through positive public action.”

-Amartya Sen, Nobel Prize-winning economist from India

 FAIR USE

# Somalia: Government Problems Impeding Food Aid



PD-SELF Open Clip Art Gallery

- Violent power struggles between political factions followed the breakdown of the government in 1991.
- Civilians were displaced, warlords diverted food aid. U.S.-led military intervention attempted to increase access for humanitarian relief, but food distribution was disrupted and famine continued in the south



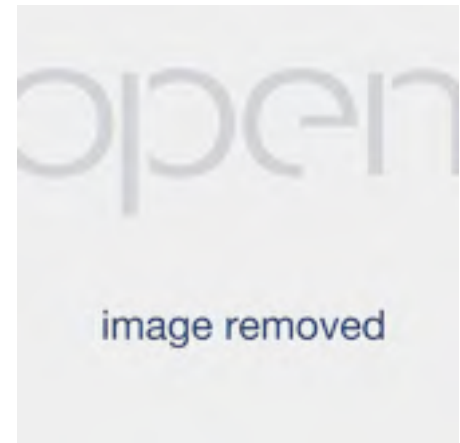




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# Trade Policies

- Need to change trade policies so that it is more desirable for growers to sell their food locally as opposed to selling the food to other countries for a higher profit
  - Government area
- Fair trade



Please see original image of Fair Trade logo at  
<http://www.transfairusa.org/>

<http://www.globalissues.org/article/7/causes-of-hunger-are-related-to-poverty>

# Food Distribution Systems

- Need to be strengthened so that people who do not produce enough food for their families can obtain surplus food (from either foreign or domestic producers)



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What will it take to achieve the millennium development goals? An International Assessment.  
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# Land Rights and Ownership



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- Globalization today: assault on local communities' lands.
- Some countries are buying up/securing deals with poorer countries to use their land, securing food for the investor country or for the investor's commercial benefit, not helping the poor country with their food security issues.
- *Financial Times*: "Investors in farmland are targeting countries with weak laws, buying arable land on the cheap and failing to deliver on promises of jobs and investments, according to the draft of a report by the World Bank."



# Culture

- Women and girls do not have equal access to goods, services and productive assets.
    - In some communities, girls are given less food than boys, contributing to malnutrition
- Ex: In Nepal, reports show that food distribution is influenced by social and cultural practices





The Noun Project

# Employment

- More focus needed on employment-intensive growth
  - In many countries, there is lower participation and higher unemployment rates among the youth (15-24 years of age) and women
- In Egypt, overall unemployment rate is 9.4% but is 23% among women and 60% among young males (ages 15-24)
- In the Republic of Serbia, the unemployment rate among the youth (15–24 years old) is 48 %



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# Employment

- Countries in transition and countries in conflict and post-conflict situations
- In least developed countries, even though labor demand exists, there are barriers:
  - Gender discrimination
  - Inadequate transportation infrastructure
  - Limited education



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Rejon, Open Clip Art Gallery



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# Education



- Need to increase primary education enrollment rates
- Primary education: school fees, reform education system, invest in school infrastructure especially in rural areas
- Ghana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Nepal, Tanzania all eliminated primary school fees, followed by increases in employment (1991 compared to 2006)
- Other countries are yet to follow
  - In Botswana, pre-schools are privately owned, only 18% of children have access



 photosavvy, flickr

# Women and Pregnancy

- Most damaging effects of malnutrition occur during pregnancy and the first two years of life
- Need to educate women about the benefits of exclusive breast feeding, complimentary feeding practices, and the role of micronutrients
- Women's own self-care during pregnancy
- Time constraints affect women's ability to give adequate infant care practices



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# Current Food Production Issues

- Current methods not sustainable and negatively effect environment
  - Ex: overfishing
- Need education of more sustainable farming methods
- Reluctance towards Genetically Modified Crops



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United Nations Development Programme  
Jacobsen, K.H. Introduction to Global Health. 2008

# What the United States is Doing

- “Economic growth is the only sustainable way to accelerate development and eradicate poverty.”
- \$26 billion compared with the \$70.17 billion provided by the EU
- 2011, Obama requested \$6.1 billion over FY2010

# What the United States is Not Doing

- Free trade
- Multilateral Debt Initiative (MDRI)
- Imbalances in recipient choices
  - Iraq
  - Afghanistan
- Farm subsidies

# UNICEF

- Comprehensive studies of children's poverty
- Building national capacities for primary health care
- UNICEF purchases and helps distribute vaccines to over 40 per cent of children in developing countries.
- Supply micronutrients like iron and vitamin A



# Other Programs

- “Fome Zero” in Brazil
  - Mostly direct aid
  - Aims to provide three meals/day to all Brazilians
- Also includes long term structural goals
  - Connect rural farmers with buyers
  - Establish open markets and fair prices
  - Guaranteed minimum income

# Charter Cities



# What is a Charter City?

- Two principles
  - Land set aside by host nation
  - Governed by rules, enforced by a “trustee” foreign nation
- Potential examples
  - Canada helps a Hong Kong blossom in Cuba
  - Australia and Indonesia create a new regional manufacturing hub
  - India opens a competition for charter cities

# Progress

- UN Summit report on MDG I on Sep. 22-23:
- Major progress made in poverty
  - Indicators show we are on track to meet target 1a in 2015
  - Region-specific
- Some progress made in hunger and malnutrition
  - General decline in hunger and malnutrition, but not enough to reach targets in 2015

# Progress - Poverty

**The world is on track to meet the MDG target of halving the proportion of people living on less than \$1 a day between 1990 and 2015**

- Overall poverty rates fell from 46 % in 1990 to 27% in 2005 in developing regions and trend is continuing
- However, 920 million people would still be living under the international poverty line in 2015

# Progress - Poverty

- Skewed by Asia?
  - Poverty rate in East Asia fell from 60% to under 20% from 1990-2005
- Sub-Saharan Africa – little progress made
  - Only 58% to 51% reduction in poverty rate
- Sub-Saharan Africa, West Asia, parts of Eastern and Central Europe not on track to meet goal in 2015
- Progress in poverty rates may be lower due to financial crisis of 2008

# Progress – Hunger & Malnutrition

- Limited progress
- Number of undernourished individuals
  - 925 million in 2010 (decrease from 2009)
  - Still higher than 815 million in 1990
- Proportion of underweight children under 5 decreased from 31% to 26% from 1990 to 2008
  - Not on track to reach target in 2015

# What Has Been Working?

- Variety of aid programs
  - Subsidy programs, food assistance, innovative financing, employment programs, etc
- Difficult to study the world-wide impact of aid programs
  - More easily assessed in countries or small regions
- Temporary vs. permanent solutions



# What Has Been Working?

- Micronutrient fortification in food – UNICEF
  - I.e. Vit A in sugar, iodine in salt, iron in flour
  - Advantages over simply providing food?
  - (Potential problems?)
- Plumpy'nut
  - Advantages?
  - Effectiveness?



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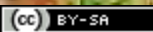
# What Has Been Working?

- Improvements in agriculture: fertilizer subsidy programs in Malawi and Ghana
  - Malawi's voucher program for fertilizers and seeds boosted agricultural productivity
  - Transformed Malawi to a net exporter of food
    - 1.2 million tons of maize in 2005 to 3.2 million tons in 2007
  - Through a similar fertilizer subsidy program, Ghana increased food production by 40%
    - Decline of 9% in hunger between 2003 and 2005



 IITA Image Library, flickr



 CIAT International Center for Tropical Agriculture, flickr



 Find Your Feet, flickr

# Future Direction

- Many effective solutions to poverty and hunger need to be specific for a region or country
  - What may work in one region/country may not work in another
- Balance of long-term vs. short-term assistance
- Change in paradigm of aid
  - How can we help nations help themselves?

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