



UNITED NATIONS
DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM

TOPIC GUIDE

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JUNIOR ACADEMY MODEL UNITED NATIONS

- Eighth Annual Conference -

JAMUN VIII SECRETARIAT

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Nidhi Karnik (Co-Chair)

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Hi Delegates,

I'm Nidhi, and I'm one of your co-chairs for the UNDP committee for JAMUN VIII! I am currently a freshman in the business and finance academy at BCA. I love getting involved with MUN and participating in conferences. I feel that it is such a great way to learn more about the world around me and be part of change. Outside of doing Model UN, I run track, love listening to and playing music, and like doing public speaking and activism-based clubs.

The zero hunger topic we are discussing in our conference is extremely important, especially due to the increase in malnutrition after crises like war and the pandemic. I look forward to hearing your ideas about this topic and different actions that your countries' leaders can take to help meet the zero hunger sustainable development goal. Can't wait to meet you all!

Nidhi Karnik

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Hi Delegates!

My name is Skylar Reynolds and I will be one of your co-chairs for Jamun VIII. Currently, I'm a sophomore at the Bergen County Academies. I'm in the computer science academy and love to code. I love to play guitar and piano in my free time. I absolutely love Model UN and think it is an amazing extracurricular activity. It is not only an amazing experience, but also a great opportunity for growth in public speaking, social skills, etc. I hope that you find this Model UN conference to be a great opportunity for you to learn something new.

Zero hunger is a hugely important issue worldwide and has an effect on hundreds of millions of people. I look forward to seeing your creative solutions on how governments can help solve this issue and minimize its effects. I'd like to wish you all the best of luck and I couldn't be more excited to be part of this experience with you!

Skylar Reynolds
Co-Chair - UNDP Committee

INTRODUCTION

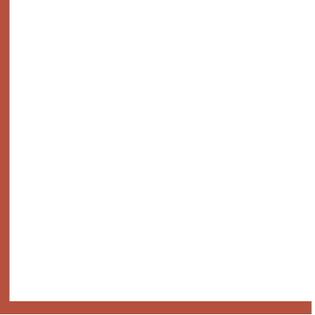
The Zero Hunger Sustainable Development Goal is a goal created by the UNDP that aims to end all forms of hunger and malnutrition in the world by 2030. Around 811 million people in the world are hungry, which means they are not receiving the 1,800 calories of food needed to fulfill a sufficient diet. The number of people living in hunger had been declining until 2020, when issues such as conflict, climate change, and COVID-19 caused the number of hungry people to increase by 161 million. These national emergencies increase the number of people living in poverty and living with food insecurity, and decrease access to safe and healthy food resources.

Hunger and malnutrition can cause many short-term and long-term health issues, ranging anywhere between dizziness and fatigue to growth and learning problems. For these reasons, delegates must help solve the hunger issue by discussing the actions that their governments and political leaders can do to help meet the Zero Hunger Goal.

As part of the UNDP (United Nations Development Programme),



TOPIC:
The Role of Good
Governance in Achieving the
Zero Hunger SDG



the committee that works to eradicate poverty and reduce inequalities in the world through encouraging the sustainable development of nations, you will discuss how good governance can promote sustainable agriculture and support equal access to land, technology, and markets, to help developing nations that are being affected by the hunger situation.

HISTORY OF THE ISSUE

Hunger has always been an issue that has affected society, but it first became a truly public issue in the late 1960s. This was when a CBS television documentary called "Hunger in America" first aired. The recognition of the issue and the increasing awareness is what led to different national governments being involved in actions to reduce hunger in the world. Besides government agencies, organizations like nonprofits and advocacy groups have also pushed for action to help solve the issue. Hunger was difficult to measure until 1995, when a standardized system to measure hunger was first developed. In developing countries,

chronic food insecurity has been widespread because of the general lack of resources available. In other more developed countries, food insecurity and hunger impact smaller portions of the population. Food insecurity is the lack of consistent access to food resources, whereas hunger is the state in which a person does not have the means to obtain enough food.

Some of the main causes of hunger are poverty, job instability, food shortages, food waste, poor infrastructure, unstable markets, climate change, and conflict. These causes can occur from specific international emergencies, like COVID-19, along with more local scale ones, such as droughts. For example, people living in/near war zones or in areas where there is not a sufficient amount of food resources are more prone to chronic food insecurity. Good governance helps solve the causes, such as providing financial aid, passing environmental bills, and more, which helps reduce hunger. As these causes started to become more internationally recognized,

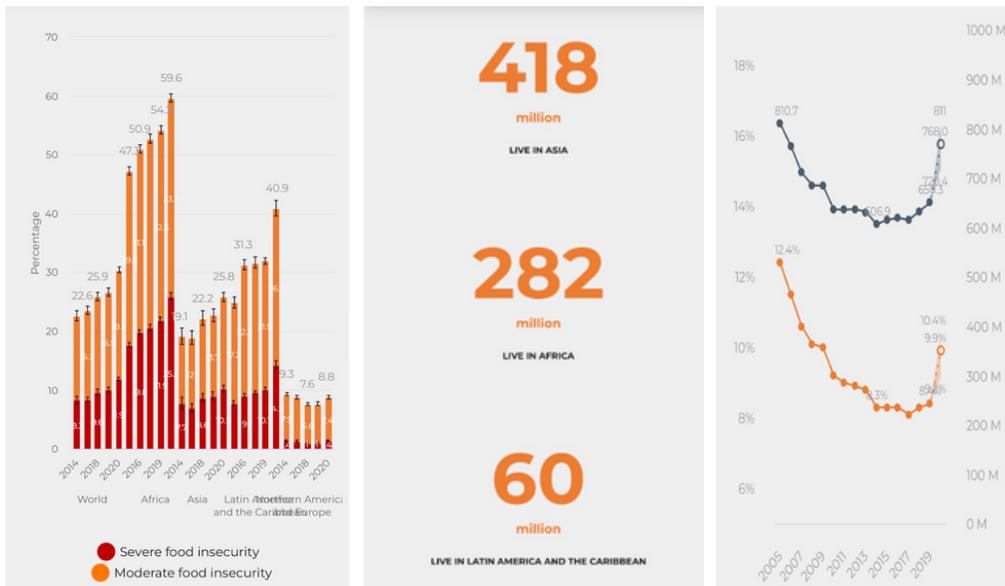
the UNDP developed the Zero Hunger Sustainable Development Goal. The Zero Hunger Challenge was launched by the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in 2012. Countries made plans to meet the agenda from the Zero Hunger Goal by 2030, and actively transform food systems and agriculture to build a sustainable and resilient society in the world. After the Zero Hunger Goal was created, hunger had been steadily decreasing until 2019. However, hunger increased by 9.9% in 2020, mainly due to COVID-19 and its effects on society, but also partly due to other causes like wars and accelerating climate change. Developing the Zero Hunger Goal in 2012 has been the UN's main action taken against hunger, and it has led to international cooperation between governments. This has helped promote sustainable development in poorer regions to help end world hunger.

CURRENT SITUATION

Moderate and severe food insecurity has been slowly increasing and now affects over 30%

of the population in the world in some way. Currently, maintaining a healthy and nutritious diet is out of reach for 3 billion people in the world, due to the high prices and lack of availability of healthy and organic food resources.

The graphs and statistics below show the number of people being affected by food insecurity and the different regions people are being affected in.



The current events listed below have had an impact on these recent statistics.

1. COVID-19

- Triggered an unprecedented recession
- Negative impacts on dietary patterns
- Had the most severe impact on developing regions, such as countries in Africa and the Caribbean
- Caused job instability which made it difficult for people to have the means to obtain enough food
- Variant waves caused hunger in different regions to fluctuate

2. Wars

- Starvation is still used as a military tactic, even though it was declared a war crime in 2018
- Warring parties may destroy sources of food while fighting
- War refugees are vulnerable to food insecurity
- Conflicts in Syria, Yemen, Iraq, Afghanistan, South Sudan, and more recently Ukraine, have increased hunger in those and surrounding regions

3. Climate Change

- a. Affects agriculture and crop production
- b. Drought, rising sea levels, and rising temperatures are three outcomes of climate change that affect agriculture and therefore food security
- c. Climate change also affects irrigation and trade routes
- d. Crop production is most negatively impacted by climate change in low-latitude countries
- e. Low and middle-income countries in tropical areas are experiencing the worst effects of climate change on crop production
- f. Agriculture can also contribute to climate change, which is why promoting sustainable agriculture is extremely important

Currently, the government actions being taken relating to these causes of hunger have been food-assistance programs, stimulus packages, aiding countries in need, signing bills to commit to sustainability, debt extensions and more. These solutions have worked, but could be expanded on and adapted to help reduce hunger even further. For example, many have suggested that more anti-poverty policies will help end hunger, rather than specific anti-hunger policies. This is why it is important for delegates to discuss the role of good governance in making policies to meet the Zero Hunger SDG.

COUNTY POLICY

EUROPE UNION

The EU is committed to achieving the Zero-Hunger SDG and is actively working to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture. The EU believes that agricultural and rural development are key to reducing poverty and boosting food and nutrition security. Their approach focuses on four priorities. Their first priority is to enhance the resilience of the most vulnerable to food crises. Their second is to

fight malnutrition and help secure nutritional health and well-being for present and future generations. They support increasing responsible investments in agriculture and food systems as their third priority. Finally, they promote innovation for sustainable agriculture and food systems.

MIDDLE EAST

The Middle East is a region that is in a state of conflict and war. Increasingly, food is being seen as a weapon, leaving millions to be gripped by hunger. When talking about these countries and their solutions, it is important to acknowledge this conflict and the impact it has on hunger levels. Many of these countries are in the middle of hunger crises.

AFRICAN REGION

Several countries in Africa, as well as their regional economic entities, have made considerable progress to align agricultural policies with others. They have created many programmes and investments related to food security and nutrition. Many countries have begun focusing on creating opportunities for farmers to have a stable source of income.

Farmers in many countries are also adopting new technologies to combat climate change.

LATIN AND AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Many Latin American countries have begun taking advantage of their natural resources. In the Andean mountains, a distinctive high-altitude ecosystem is an essential source of water for the people of several nations. However, for the third consecutive year, South America slid backwards in the global struggle to achieve zero hunger. These countries are in the midst of a nutritional transition, but their statistics are not currently improving.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

It is important for delegates to remember a large number of key factors when discussing possible solutions to this issue. Delegates should keep in mind that a thorough understanding of the context throughout the world is necessary to make informed decisions and arguments. Delegates should focus not only on large-scale

solutions, but also on locally-led initiatives, as these can help support the inclusivity of the solutions. Delegates should also address how these food systems will be affected by conflict and climate change.

Delegates should make sure to keep the future of this issue in mind by ensuring that policies will allow for multi-year planning and financing. Financing is another issue to keep in mind when discussing. It is a good idea to look back at the root causes of hunger and how to best target them.

Lastly, make sure that ideas are feasible for UN recommendation and within the jurisdiction of the United Nations.

KEY QUESTIONS

Make sure to reference these questions during your research.

- How can solutions be designed so that they help at both local and global scales?
- What are some short-term and long-term measures that can be taken?
- What steps have already been taken?
- How can solutions work throughout time?
- How can financing issues be addressed?
- What are some barriers that may harm your solution?
- How does this issue affect developing nations differently than other countries?

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