

Democratic Republic Of the Congo

Since 1996, the Democratic Republic of Congo has been cursed by conflict, which has devastated the country and claimed the lives of an estimated five million civilians. People continue to live in crisis conditions in many parts of the country. The eastern regions - Ituri, Katanga, North and South Kivu and Maniema - are still plagued by violence.

While the eastern provinces used to be the major food producers of the country, repeated looting (stealing) of crops by armed groups and general insecurity over many years has hugely decreased production.

In other parts of the country with better security conditions, a poor infrastructure (government, social services, etc.) has significantly decreased the country's ability to produce food.

High prices have also hit DRC hard. Food prices have increased by 52% in June 2009 compared to figures from May 2008 (FAO).

Acute (very extreme) malnutrition is at dangerously high levels in some parts of DRC. Available data shows that acute malnutrition are above the emergency threshold in the Kasai provinces.

In rural areas, hospitals and clinics have often been destroyed by conflict and a large proportion of the population does not live within reach of health services.



All info taken from wfp.org

Climate	Equatorial, warm and humid in the centre, tropical in the south and north
Food production	Coffee, bananas, corn, sugarcane, cocoa beans, cassava, maize, rice, palm oil, tea, cattle
Children under weight for age (% of children under 5)	31%
Global hunger index*	Extremely Alarming
Population undernourished (% of total pop.)	74%



* The Global Hunger Index ranks countries on the basis of a figure arrived at by combining three indicators: level of child malnutrition, rates of child mortality, and the proportion of people who are calorie deficient. The ranking is updated annually by IFPRI.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo:

1) List 4-6 reasons that people in the Democratic Republic of the Congo face severe hunger:

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

6)

2) The Democratic Republic of the Congo is part of which continent?

3) From 2008 to 2009, by what percentage did food prices increase in the Democratic Republic of the Congo?

4) Why is it difficult for many people in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to reach a hospital or health clinic?

5) What percentage of children under 5 are underweight?

6) What percentage of the country's population is undernourished?

INDIA

Overview

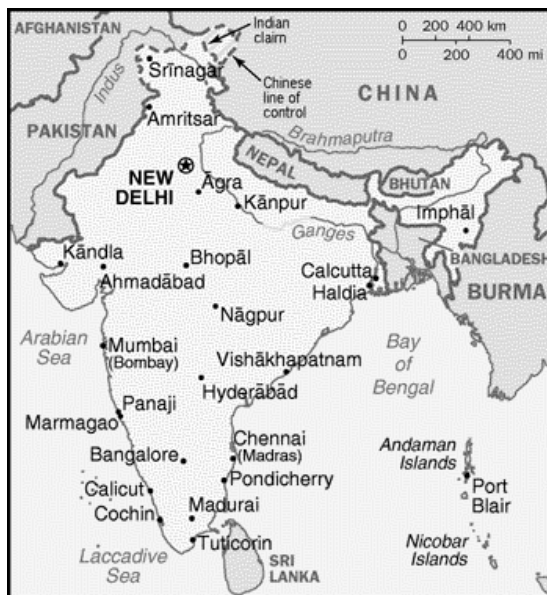
India is the world's largest democracy with a population of 1.13 billion. Of this, 34 percent live on less than US\$1 a day, and 80 percent on less than US\$2 a day. With 47 percent of children underweight, India has severe levels of child malnutrition, ranking it third in the world. The future of rural India, where the highest concentration of poverty prevails, depends on overcoming enormous challenges in health, education, nutrition, population and environment. Women bear primary responsibility in every one of these areas.

Nearly 50 percent of the world's hungry live in India, a low-income, food-deficit country.

Around 35 percent of India's population - 350 million - are considered food-insecure, consuming less than 80 percent of minimum energy requirements.

Nutritional and health indicators are extremely low. Nearly nine out of 10 pregnant women aged between 15 and 49 years suffer from malnutrition and anemia (a lack of iron in the body, a necessary nutrient).

Anemia in pregnant women causes 20 percent of infant mortality. More than half of the children under five are moderately or severely malnourished, or suffer from stunting.



All info taken from wfp.org and thp.org

Climate	6 major climatic subtypes, ranging from desert, to alpine tundra and glaciers, to humid tropical regions supporting rainforests.
Food production	Wheat, potato, spices, tea, fishing, fruits, vegetables, milk, nuts, coconuts, ginger, banana, black pepper, wheat, vegetables, sugar, rice, poultry, goat, sheep
Children under weight for age (% of children under 5)	47%
Global hunger index*	Alarming
Population undernourished (% of total pop.)	20 %



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India:

1) List 3-6 ways that hunger effects people in India:

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

6)

2) What are three of India's neighboring countries?

1)

2)

3)

3) How many people in India live on less than one dollar per day?

4) What is anemia, and how does it affect people living in India?

5) What percentage of children under 5 are underweight?

6) What percentage of the country's population is undernourished?

HAITI

76 percent of Haitians live on less than US\$2 per day and 56 percent on less than US\$1 per day.

One third of newborn babies are born underweight. Acute undernutrition among children under 5 is 9 percent. Fifty percent of pregnant women, and two thirds of children under 5 are affected by anemia (a lack of iron in the body, a necessary nutrient). One in five Haitians dies before the age of 40.

It is estimated that more than 2.4 million people in Haiti are food-insecure.

National surveys show that 72 percent of children aged 6–12 in rural areas suffer from iodine deficiency; 32 percent of school-age children are infected by intestinal parasites. In Haiti, almost 30,000 babies suffer of mental deficiencies because their mothers suffered from iodine deficiency during pregnancy.

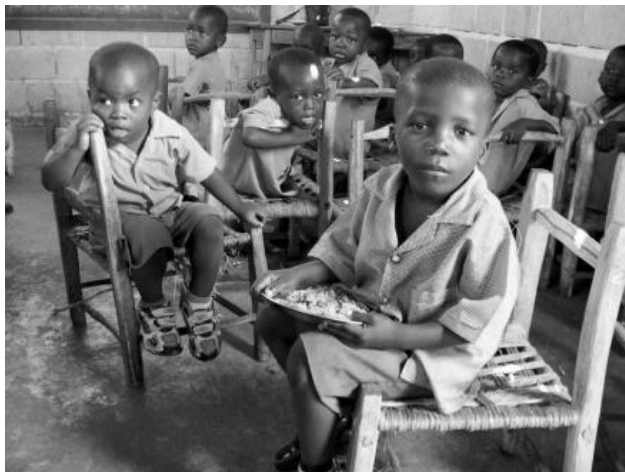
Natural disasters have only worsened Haiti's plight. During the 2008 hurricane season, severe storms devastated more than 70 percent of Haiti's agriculture and most of its roads, bridges and other infrastructure, creating pockets of severe malnutrition and killing 800 people. Nearly all agricultural land was flooded, resulting in the loss of the corn, bean and banana harvest, 800 people were killed and 3.3 million people were left in need of food support.

The floods came on top of high food and fuel prices, all of which puts the country in a highly volatile situation.



All info taken from wfp.org

Climate	Tropical; semiarid where mountains in east cut off trade winds
Food production	Coffee, mangoes, cassava yam, maize, rice, beans, platanos, fish, goat, pig
Children under weight for age (% of children under 5)	17%
Global hunger index*	Alarming
Population undernourished (% of total pop.)	46 %



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Haiti:

1) List 3-6 ways that hunger effects people in Haiti :

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

6)

2) What is Haiti's neighboring country?

3) How many people in Haiti live on less than one dollar per day?

4) How has Haiti's situation worsened since this article was written? How do you think it would affect the number of people who are undernourished?

5) What percentage of children under 5 are underweight?

6) What percentage of the country's population is undernourished?

United States

One of the most disturbing and extraordinary aspects of life in this very wealthy country is the persistence of hunger. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) reported that in 2008:

Of the 49.1 million people living in food insecure households (up from 36.2 million in 2007), 32.4 million are adults (14.4 percent of all adults) and 16.7 million are children (22.5 percent of all children).

17.3 million people lived in households that were considered to have "very low food security," a USDA term (previously denominated "food insecure with hunger") that means one or more people in the household were hungry over the course of the year because of the inability to afford enough food. This was up from 11.9 million in 2007 and 8.5 million in 2000.

Very low food security had been getting worse even before the recession. The number of people in this category in 2008 is more than double the number in 2000.

Black (25.7 percent) and Hispanic (26.9 percent) households experienced food insecurity at far higher rates than the national average.

According to the results of the Census Bureau survey, those at greatest risk of being hungry or on the edge of hunger (i.e., food insecure) live in households that are: headed by a single woman; Hispanic or Black; or with incomes below the poverty line. Overall, households with children experience food insecurity at almost double the rate for households without children. Geographically, food insecurity is more common in central city households. The survey data also show that households are more likely to be hungry or food insecure if they live in states in the Midwest and South.

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All info taken from frac.org

Climate	Varies, ranging from tropical to arctic tundra, from arid to humid, and from dry and warm to freezing and cold
Food production	Corn, wheat, grains, poultry, cows, chicken, strawberries, oranges, cranberries, tomatoes etc.
Children at risk for going hungry	17%
Population undernourished (% of total pop)	<5 %



