



16 October 2014 - Access to food is a basic human right. In a world that [produces](#) enough food to feed every person on the planet, 805 million or one in nine people worldwide still live with chronic hunger.

The costs of hunger fall heavily on the most vulnerable. The vast [majority](#) of people suffering from malnutrition live in developing countries and 60% of the hungry in the world are women. Almost 5 million children under the age of 5 die of malnutrition-related causes every year. 4 in 10 children in poor countries remain malnourished.

Moreover, hunger leads to increased levels of global insecurity, environmental degradation and [increased migration](#)

. Data from a series of studies called the [Cost of Hunger in Africa](#)

has also shown that hunger is capable of reducing a nation's workforce by 9.4% and national GDPs by up to 16.5%, severely limiting a developing country's ability to make much needed investments and grow.

Ending hunger is hence not just a moral imperative, but is also essential for development and international stability.

## **Eliminate hunger in our lifetimes**

[World Food Day](#) is a day of action against hunger. On October 16, people around the world come together to declare their commitment to eradicate hunger in our lifetime. When it comes to hunger, the only acceptable number in the world is zero.

“There are 100 million fewer hungry people than just 10 years ago. Sixty-three countries have halved the portion of their population which is undernourished. Our vision of zero hunger is within reach,” says Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who launched the [Zero Hunger Challenge](#) – his vision to eliminate hunger in our lifetimes – in June 2012.

To emphasize the need for action against hunger the UN General Assembly has designated 2014 “[International Year of Family Farming](#).” - a strong signal to the international community that food security is on top of the agenda and that food and hunger is inextricably linked to national and global security.

The new [Sustainable Development Goals](#) also provide a window of opportunity for world leaders to agree on more ambitious goals to eradicate hunger.

“In 2015 we have an opportunity to turn the tide, by achieving the Millennium Development Goals, shaping a new agenda for sustainable development, and fostering a meaningful universal climate agreement. A world free from poverty and hunger, where all people have realized their right to adequate food, is central to the future we want,” concludes Ban-Ki-moon.



<http://www.futureswithouthunger.org/>