



End Hunger



“By 2030, 193 Heads of State and Governments agree to end hunger, achieve food security and ensue access by all people, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.”

UN Sustainable Development Goal 4

Good News: The Green Revolution has QUADRUPLED the weight of crops produced per hectare – UP from 1.4 thousand kilograms per hectare in 1961 to over 4 thousand kilograms in 2014.

Bad News: There are still 821 million undernourished people in 2017.



This goal is about creating a world where no child goes to bed hungry, and every child is sufficiently well-fed to be able to grow into healthy adulthood. Hunger and malnutrition stunts children’s growth. If they have no food, they will not have the energy to go to school, or, when they are older, work to provide for their families. It’s not just about **enough** food: it’s about a balanced diet with enough of each essential vitamin – enough vegetables and protein.

In its first 75 years, the UN drove a Green Revolution – that reduced the number of malnourished people even as the population numbers quadrupled. But inequalities in access to land and agricultural technologies and markets must be eliminated: developed nations must provide assistance to developing nations to develop their infrastructure and national policies, so as to prevent hunger.



Balance Sheet

Achievements

The **number of undernourished people fell** from 945 million in 2005 to 821 million in 2017. [1]

In 18 years, the proportion of children under 5 who are stunted has fallen from 33 to 22%, a **decrease of 11%**. (From 2000 to 2018.) [3]

\$12.5 billion was spent in 2016 on aid to agriculture in developing countries. [2]

In 2016, **4.7 million seed samples** were preserved in 602 gene banks worldwide, in order to preserve crop genetic diversity. [2]

A recent EAT-Lancet study has shown that 11 billion deaths per year associated with poor diets can be averted, and the environment protected at the same time. [5]

The Green Revolution quadrupled crop yields across Asia and Latin America.

Progress in Rwanda and Ethiopia show that inspired government leadership can produce revolutions in agricultural output.

Work Left to Do

However, this is an increase from the 2014 figure of 784 million. [3]

149 million children under 5 remain chronically undernourished in 2018. 49 million children under 5 suffered from wasting - low weight for height caused by lack of food, as fat and muscle are used up. [3]

This is a decrease from the 1980s, where 20% of donors' aid was spent on agriculture, compared to 6% in 2016. [2]

In 2018, 5.9% of the population of children under 5 were overweight or obese, which has the potential to cause lifelong health issues. [3]

In 2016, 21 countries experienced high food prices, compared to past levels, which adversely affected poor families and small farmers. [3]

Not in Africa – crop yields in Africa are half those in the rest of the world and a quarter of what they could be. [6]

Government spending on agriculture relative to its contribution to the economy has fallen by 37%. [2]



Sources

1. [UNDP - SDG2](#)
2. [SDG Knowledge Platform - Goal 2](#)
3. [SDGs Report 2019 - Section 2](#)
4. [The 2030 Agenda](#)
5. [EAT-Lancet Commission Report](#)
6. [The New York Times](#)

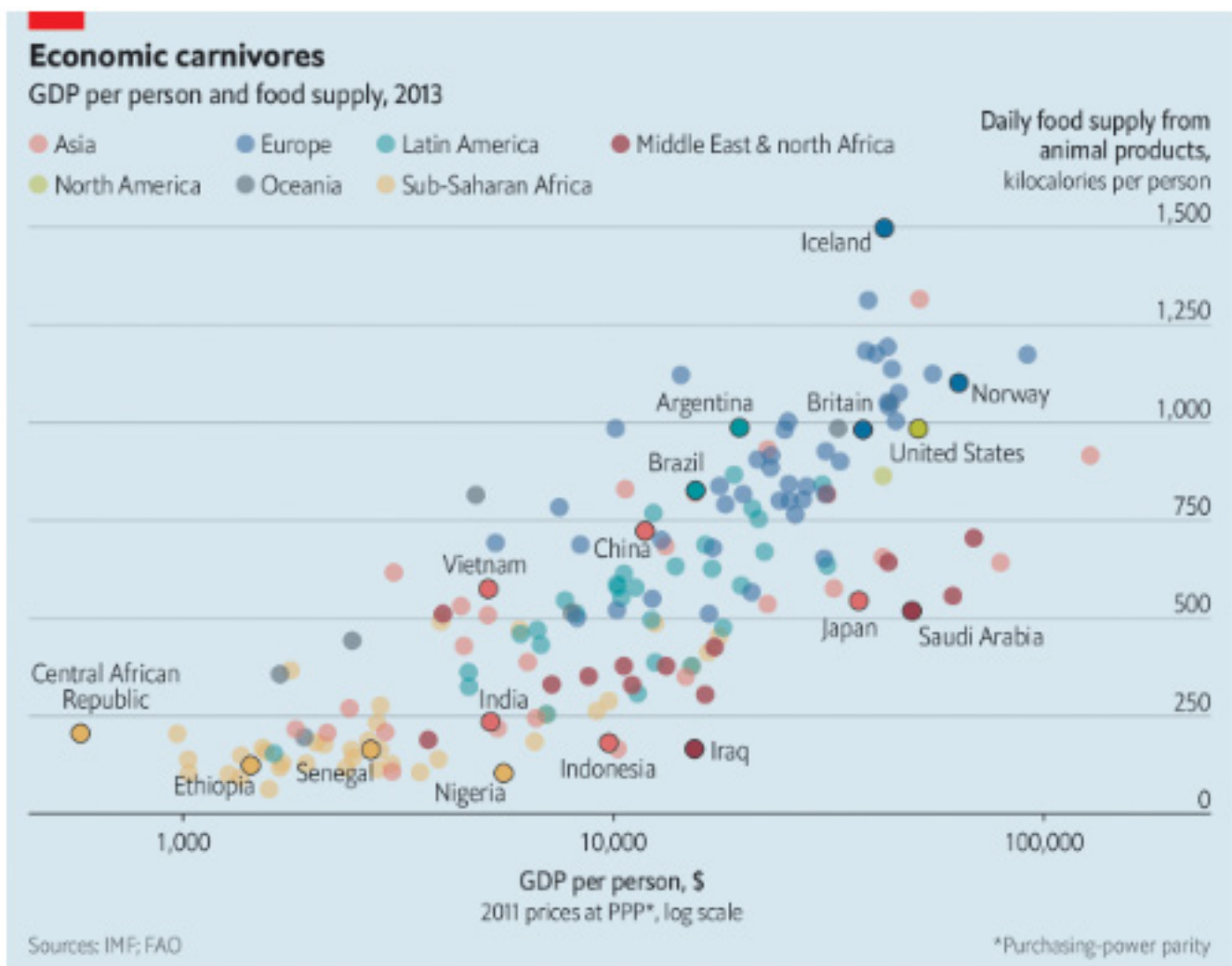
Points to Ponder

- Over 1/3 of all food produced globally – a Trillion dollars worth weighing 1.3 billion tonnes – goes to waste. The world's one billion hungry people could be fed on less than a quarter of the food that is wasted in the US, UK and Europe. What can we do about this??
- It takes 7lb of grain to produce 1lb of meat (Source: [Guardian](#)). Would the problem of hunger be solved immediately if we all became vegetarians?
- What is Hunger? A dictionary definition is “the desire to eat or consume...” – and, in OECD countries, it is reckoned that a human being needs 2000 calories or 4lbs of food each day. But most humans survive on much less than that – around 1200 calories a day. (Source: [Live Strong](#).) How much food and water do YOU actually need to stave off the feeling of “hunger”?
- Is food security a problem of production or of distribution?
- How should these methods of achieving food security be balanced?
- How could food security targets be integrated into climate change mitigation measures?



Take Action

- Donate to your Local Food Bank.
- Run a [Hunger Lunch](#).
- Grow your own food at home, or at school (See: [Growing Schools](#)).



The Economist

From The Economist, [‘Global meat-eating is on the rise, bringing surprising benefits’](#), Accessed 12/8/19