

## Hunger Fact Sheet

As of 2001, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that 826 million people were living with chronic hunger and more than 60 million were facing acute food emergencies. Continuing drought in many regions has increased the number facing acute food emergencies in 2002 and 2003.

Approximately 24,000 people, most of them under the age of five, die of hunger or related illnesses every day. Every 2 seconds, another child dies.

The Institute for Food and Development has shown that the farmers of the world produce enough grain to feed everyone 3,500 calories per day. Fruits, root crops, and vegetables add to the abundance of available food. Only inefficiencies in the use of food resources and inequality of access to food resources keep people hungry in the midst of plenty. Nations in which people are living with hunger routinely export grain to be used in the production of meat for wealthy people in other nations.

Amount of grain needed to feed all of the people who die of hunger and related diseases each year: 12 million tons

Reduction in US beef consumption needed to save 12 million tons of grain: 10%

Number of people who could eat a healthy vegetarian diet using the resources consumed by only one person eating the typical U.S. diet: 20

The World Resources Institute predicts that by 2025 at least 3.5 billion people will experience water shortages.

A person eating a carnivorous diet indirectly consumes 4200 gallons of water per day; a person eating a vegetarian diet indirectly consumes only 300 gallons per day.

Liters of water required to produce 1 kilogram of:

Potatoes	500	Chicken	3,500
Wheat	900	Beef	100,000
Corn	1,400		
Rice	1,912		
Soybeans	2,000		

Every year, loss of farmland due to erosion, desertification, land degradation, and development leaves fewer acres to feed more people.

Number of people whose food energy needs can be met by 2.5 acres of land if the land is producing:

Potatoes	22	Chicken	2
Rice	19	Milk	2
Corn	17	Eggs	1
Wheat	15	Beef	1

Intensive animal agriculture leads to accelerated soil erosion, loss of topsoil, soil compaction, decreased percolation of rain into soil, depleted water tables, and desertification.