



*2013 St. Bonaventure University  
Model United Nations Conference*

*United Nations World Food Programme*

**March 22 to March 23, 2013**

Greetings Delegates,

Welcome delegates to the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP). The World Food Programme itself was created in December 1994 to work with member states of the United Nations in order to provide food assistance to all people in order to promote food security, so that people around the world can live an active and healthy life. This body not only creates policies with member states, but also works with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other agencies to eradicate hunger, as well as poverty. Not only does this body work to create sustainability, but also emergency relief for rehabilitation in countries of need. The WFP works as a neutral body between various agencies in order to provide humanitarian aid. This organization also works with many others including the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). As a delegate make sure that you not only know your country's position on the many topics well, but also the impact of bare necessities such as food as you work to create food security plans for nations that barely can provide their people with the basic nutrition needed to survive.

### **Humanitarian Relief in the Syrian Crisis**

As of January 2013, the World Food Programme reports that approximately 2.5 million Syrian refugees are in need of emergency food aid; due to the worsening violence, however, just over half of that number is being helped. As the violence continues, the Syrian civilians' living conditions have been declining rapidly as the threat of hunger is on the rise. Currently, the WFP is allowing these refugees to use vouchers to buy fresh food, but that still is not enough even with \$1.5 billion in humanitarian aid, and even though it is working to get donors to contribute. With more and more people seeking asylum in other countries the refugee camps have been over capacity as the WFP has teamed up with other local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to help distribute food with all staff members in these organizations lending a hand. It has been particularly difficult to even give out necessities daily as these camps lack security, which has prevented the delivery of aid in areas as attacks have worsened. One of the major staple foods for the camps consist of bread, which has become hard to obtain as bakeries have either been forced to close or to reduce production as wheat has become scarce. As the World Food Programme it is our job to make sure that these Syrian refugees have their food security protected as they struggle to survive even in the refugee camps among many neighboring nations.

### ***Questions:***

- Currently, what is your country doing to aid civilians in the Syrian conflict?
- Does your country side with the rebel forces or the Syrian government in this situation?
- How can your country assist in providing humanitarian aid to Syrian refugees?
- What kind of policies does your country wish to incorporate in the Syrian conflict when it comes to food shortages?

### ***Helpful Links:***

<http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/newsroom/wfp253809.pdf>  
<http://mg.co.za/article/2013-01-11-syrians-go-hungry-as-conflict-soars>

[http://edition.cnn.com/2013/01/11/opinion/syria-united-nations-opinion/index.html?c=&page=1&utm\\_source=buffer&buffer\\_share=f09a3](http://edition.cnn.com/2013/01/11/opinion/syria-united-nations-opinion/index.html?c=&page=1&utm_source=buffer&buffer_share=f09a3)  
<http://www.wfp.org/countries/syria>  
<http://www.unhcr.org/50d192fd9.html>

### **Malnourishment of Women and Children**

Malnourishment is defined as a lack of some or all nutritional elements necessary for human health. There are two different types: protein-energy malnutrition and micronutrient malnutrition. Protein-energy malnutrition is basically the deficiency of protein from food sources including meats and foods that provide good sources of energy. This form of malnourishment is the most lethal form of hunger, because protein is a necessity for nearly all bodily functions as it helps with development and maintenance of muscles. As for the second type of malnutrition called micronutrient, that is a lack of vitamins and minerals due to unhealthy food choices due to poverty.

A total of 854 million people worldwide are suffering from malnourishment due to starvation, most of which are women and children, even with the World Food Programme (WFP) producing food for 90 million people across 80 countries as it is the world's largest humanitarian organization. Women located in countries in Asia and South America are more chronically hungry when compared to men because they are not given the same rights as men which gives them unequal access to resources, such as education and income especially due to the fact that they participate less in decision-making in their lives. It has also been found that food in the hands of women can help feed children who are starving.

Also, 60% of the agricultural labor force consists of women, meaning there are more women farmers who will prepare food for whole families. Women are the key to fighting world food hunger especially when it comes to issues for solving hunger among children, both directly and indirectly. More than 19 million children are born annually with low birth weight because they are not receiving adequate nutrition during pregnancy, which can cause health defects for children later on in life. Children are the most visible victims of under nutrition as many of them suffer up to 160 days of illness per year on average. 5 million deaths a year are caused by poor nutrition as it magnifies effects of diseases such as measles, malaria, diarrhea, pneumonia, etc.

### ***Questions:***

- How many women and children in your country suffer from malnutrition?
- Are there any programs in your country to help alleviate malnutrition for women and children?
- How can your country reduce the number of malnourished children and women within its borders?
- What are the main causes of malnourishment in your country?

### ***Helpful Links:***

<http://www.actionagainsthunger.org/blog/million-children-risk-deadly-malnutrition-sahel?gclid=CKiNvsWy4rQCFUId4AodCVsARA>  
<http://www.wfp.org/focus-on-women>

<http://english.alarabiya.net/articles/2012/09/28/240679.html>  
<http://www.wfp.org/content/addressing-malnutrition-through-maternal-and-child-health-and-nutrition-activities>

### **Situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo**

In 2012, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has been plagued by violence which has caused 2.4 million Congolese to become internally displaced as of November 2012. There have also been 460,000 refugees fleeing to neighboring countries as the myriad armed groups threaten civilians in provinces in Congo such as North Kivu, South Kivu, and Orientale. Many civilians in Congo have been faced with killings, rape, and the destruction of their livelihoods and their homes as the ongoing violence in the country continues. It has been difficult for humanitarian organizations such as the World Food Programme (WFP) to help these people, as there are questions of security as the M23, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), and other rebel groups control large tracts of land in Congo's remote countryside. So far this past year the WFP has helped give 1 million people in Congo food assistance, but there is an urgent need for more, especially since the Democratic Republic of Congo has fallen to the bottom of the United Nations Developmental Programmes Human Development Index and the International Food Policy Research Institute's Global Hunger Index. It has been calculated that 70 percent of the Congolese people do not have access to food, which has left one out of every four children in the country without proper nutrients, making this a food security situation. Alone the 6.3 million people in the Democratic Republic of Congo require humanitarian assistance especially in the 5 provinces that are affected by high rates of food insecurity, especially as many of the harvest and subsequent planting seasons have been disrupted by these violent attacks which have added to the low rate of agricultural productivity. Many of these people also are in need of basic social services, such as those relating to health as HIV/AIDS threatens the population. People are also lacking education, water, and many suffer from chronic poverty for much of this nation's infrastructure has been destroyed in the conflict.

### ***Questions:***

- How can your country aid the Congolese people, or if they have already done so, can you contribute more aid?
- How does the situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo affect your country?
- Has your country dealt with as similar situation within its borders and how can this solution be applied to the Democratic Republic of Congo?

### ***Helpful Links:***

<http://refugeesinternational.org/where-we-work/africa/dr-congo>  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-13286306>  
<http://reliefweb.int/report/democratic-republic-congo/wfp-distributes-food-68000-people-displaced-recent-clashes-north>  
<http://www.wfp.org/countries/congo-republic>  
<http://reliefweb.int/report/democratic-republic-congo/hunger-crisis-looms-families-flee-fighting-eastern-congo>