

# Helping the Hungry

Welcome to the quarterly meeting of the United Nations World Food Program (WFP). This year you have three countries that are requesting assistance, and it is up to you to decide where the money is spent. This packet contains information on each of the three countries, as well as the five programs towards which you can contribute money.



On the following page is a chart. Write what percentage of the money you are putting towards which program. Keep in mind the following:

- There are minimum percentages (as noted on the Programs Page) associated with each program. For instance, if you decide to give money for Research in Vietnam you must make it at least 10% of your budget. Anything less is not enough to make a difference.
- You can choose to help all the countries, some of the countries, or only one country.
- You may choose to put your money towards only one program, all of the programs, or some of the programs.
- Not all of the boxes will be filled.
- You are allowed to use any combination of percentages as long as they total 100 percent.

Keep in mind not all the boxes will be filled and there is no right answer. What is important, however, is that the team agrees on the decisions and is able to defend them before the judges.

# Funding Chart

Place the percentages you agree upon in the appropriate boxes.

	Burundi	Vietnam	Bangladesh
Food Aid			
Food Technology			
Research			
Communication & Transport			
Education			
	= _____ Total for Burundi	= _____ Total for Vietnam	= _____ Total for Bangladesh

Overall Total \_\_\_\_\_  
(not to exceed 100%)

# Country #1: Burundi



## Fast Facts

- Location: East Africa
- Total Population: 6,400,000
- Percentage of population undernourished: 63%
- Total number undernourished: 4,000,000
- Average number of calories per day per person: 1,690\*
- Population below poverty line: 70%
- Life Expectancy at birth: 46 years
- Underweight children: 38%

## Key Issues:

- Past civil conflict in Burundi has severely disrupted production and distribution of food.
- The average daily food intake between 1980 and 1996 plummeted from 2020 calories to 1669 calories.
- Poorly developed transportation and marketing facilities for distributing food have partially contributed to the decrease in calories eaten.
- 90% of the population are geographically isolated in the countryside.
- 90% of Burundians rely on subsistence farming for their livelihood.
- An estimated 400,000 families are in need of seeds and tools to produce this year's crops.
- Malnutrition in many provinces largely results from the armed groups looting the crops.
- An estimated 9% of the population is in need of emergency food aid.

\* The United Nations estimates 2350 as the minimum calorie requirement an average person needs each day.

## Country #2: Vietnam



### **Fast Facts:**

- Location: South Asia
- Total Population: 81,100,000
- Percent of population undernourished: 19%
- Total number undernourished: 15,400,000
- Average number of calories per day per person: 2,470\*
- Population below poverty line: 37%
- Life Expectancy at birth: 70 years
- Underweight children: 40%

### **Key Issues:**

- Vietnam has lost the financial support from the Soviet Bloc and is working to adapt economically to the rigidities of a centrally planned economy.
- A large number of people in the Northwest are isolated from farming technologies and techniques. They have difficulty producing enough food to meet minimum needs and are forced to rely on government support.
- Hunger is especially a problem in areas where storms and floods cripple rice production.
- Vietnam is also struggling with a dense population that is using up the land's limited resources.
- Logging and slash and burn agricultural practices are contributing to deforestation and soil damage.
- Nearly 90% of the poor live in rural areas, and are farmers with low levels of education and limited access to land, capital, technology, information, and basic social services.
- Vietnam has the highest malnutrition rate among children in East Asia and the Pacific region.

\*The United Nations estimates 2350 as the minimum calorie requirement an average person needs each day.

## Country #3: Bangladesh



### **Fast Facts:**

- Location: South Asia
- Total Population: 133,400,000
- Percent of population undernourished: 37%
- Total number undernourished: 49,000,000
- Average number of calories per day per person: 2,080\*
- Population below poverty line: 36%
- Life Expectancy at birth: 61 years
- Underweight children: 56%

### **Key Issues:**

- In a study of 102 countries, Transparency International rated Bangladesh as the most corrupt.
- Bangladesh is home to 40% of the world's poor.
- 1/5 of the population consumes less than 1800 calories a day
- 80% of the labor-force lives in areas where agriculture is the main source of employment. The average daily wage for these workers is 80 cents.
- Agricultural labor is irregular, with February through March holding few job opportunities.
- 93% of people considered 'very poor' and 89% of people considered 'poor' live in rural areas and are virtually landless.
- Most people's livelihoods are linked to the rice harvest – both as food for themselves and as a product to sell.
- 1/3 of the country floods during monsoon season, hampering food and other production in these areas. Despite this problem, 60% of rural households are landless and forced to live on and cultivate these flood prone lands.

\* The United Nations estimates 2350 as the minimum calorie requirement an average person needs each day.

# Types of Aid

Aid	Positive	Negative	Budget Requirements
<p><b><u>Food Aid</u></b> – Giving food directly to hungry and malnourished people</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immediate action for people in need</li> <li>• Particularly necessary after natural disasters</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does not help solve why people are hungry</li> <li>• Does not contribute to long- term solutions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>5% of the budget</b> will feed 2 million people for a year</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Food Technology-</u></b> Giving farming technology such as equipment, tools, seeds, fertilizers, pest control, etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supplies people with tools to produce their own food</li> <li>• It is a long-term solution to help people feed themselves</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does little to help with immediate hunger needs</li> <li>• It is costly - Buying a single, hand held tractor costs \$2,500.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need a <b>minimum of 10%</b> of the budget towards any country to be effective</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Research -</u></b> Finding and inventing new foods, growing techniques, and harvesting tools</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research can create technologies and equipment to maximize land and resources</li> <li>• Can help counteract and overcome soil and land damage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does little to help with immediate hunger needs</li> <li>• No guarantees on when or if new technologies will be found</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need a <b>minimum of 10%</b> of the budget towards any country to be effective</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Communication &amp; Transport -</u></b> Strengthening and building new roads, food distribution facilities, and transportation methods</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will bring food supplies to more areas of the country</li> <li>• Will transport food faster to decrease spoilage</li> <li>• Creates jobs outside agriculture (such as construction jobs)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does little to help with immediate hunger needs</li> <li>• Does little to deal with problems of producing crops</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need a <b>minimum of 10%</b> of the budget towards any country to be effective</li> </ul>

<p><b><u>Education</u></b> - Advertising and classes to educate people on the need for and means to attaining proper nutrition</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educates people on proper eating habits and how to achieve proper nutrition</li> <li>• Educates people about the need of different vitamins and minerals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does little to help with immediate hunger needs</li> <li>• Does little to increase food supplies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need a <b>minimum of 5%</b> of the budget towards any country to be effective</li> </ul>
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