

The Problems of Food Scarcity and Famine in the World, its Impact on Political, Social and Economic Life

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ABSTRACT

This article discusses the problem of global hunger and its impact on socio-economic life, absolute and latent hunger and its consequences, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the global hunger index, its importance in scientific observation.

KEYWORDS: Nutrition deficiency, hunger, famine, food problem, hidden hunger, the absolute famine, Global Hunger Index, malnutrition, economic crisis

I. INTRODUCTION

Providing food to the population in the modern world is one of the most important programmatic goals of the whole world community and each state. In the context of the global financial and economic crisis, which affects the economies of many countries, the problem of food security remains particularly relevant. The proportion of the population suffering from hunger and chronic malnutrition has increased. In the past, food crises and water supply crises (prior armed conflict) have occurred several times in some countries and regions. However, in recent decades, the problem of water and food supply to the population and the economy has become global.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

This article is based on publications of the United Nations World Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), articles published on this topic in our country and abroad, as well as Internet materials.

The food problem has the longest history among the rest. Periodically it occurred at all stages of human development. At the same time, the world community's food production capacity is now sufficient to feed the entire population of the world. In recent decades, this problem has been completely solved only in the most developed countries. However, the uneven distribution of food across countries and regions means that between 600 million and 700 million people are currently experiencing global hunger. [17; 33]

During the 20th century, 70-100 million people died of starvation worldwide, more than half of them in China, and 30 million people died during the famine of 1958-1961. [8]

Famine is a social phenomenon that can become widespread in a country as a result of wars, droughts, natural disasters, earthquakes, various environmental disasters, and other natural phenomena. There are two types of starvation: overt (absolute starvation) and latent (relative starvation - malnutrition lack of essential, nutrients in the diet). [13; 610]

The following 7 countries are listed on the website Kun.uz: Eritrea, Sudan, Zambia, Yemen, the Republic of Sierra Leone, the Central African Republic, Chad. Currently, the worst food situation is in Yemen. The country's riyal has become very devalued. Almost all consumer goods are imported, and

inflation raises the price of these products. Famine in some parts of the country forced people to eat tree leaves. The number of people who do not eat regularly in Yemen may soon increase by one and a half times to 11.5 million. According to the UN, the escalation of famine is being exacerbated by years of drought in Yemen, Somalia, South Sudan and Nigeria. [11]

In the early 1990s, the problem of "hidden hunger" attracted worldwide attention. [2; 55] It occurs when the human body is deficient in micronutrients (i.e. vitamins and minerals). It is estimated that 30% of the world's population suffers from this problem. This leads to an increase in morbidity and mortality, a slowdown in cognitive (intellectual) development and a decrease in learning and efficiency, an increase in morbidity and disability, as a result of an increase in the productive capacity of the population, as well as a catastrophic loss of human potential. Overcoming micronutrient deficiencies is a necessary condition for development. The prevalence of iron deficiency anemia has not changed significantly, but in some countries it has even increased. In India, short stature, iron and iodine deficiency lead to a loss of productivity of 2.95 % of GDP per year. Iron deficiency of female agricultural workers in Sierra-Leone will result in a loss of \$ 94.5 million over 5 year. [3; 27]

Another factor that causes hidden hunger in the world is the consumption of poor quality food. Consumption of poor quality food can lead to about 200 diseases, including cancer. Given the global nature of the problem, the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly on Economic Affairs declared June 7 as World Food Security Day. [10]

The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is published annually by the German-based Welthungerhilfe and the Irish NGO Concern Worldwide. The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is designed to comprehensively measure and monitor hunger at the global, regional and national levels. GHI scores are calculated each year to assess failures and successes in combating hunger. [4] This index is determined by summing four indicators for each country:

- the share of malnourished population;
- the proportion of underweight children under the age of five;
- the proportion of children under the age of five below the norm;
- mortality rate of children under five years of age. [5]

Women suffer more from malnutrition and hunger in developing and economically backward countries. Because social inequality persists in these countries, and in difficult situations, women give up their food. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), nearly half of pregnant women in developing countries suffer from anemia (iron deficiency). This results in approximately 110,000 birth deaths each year. [1; 33]

Malnutrition and rising food prices are other factors contributing to hunger. It is estimated that children suffer more from high prices. According to Save the Children, millions of parents in developing countries have been forced to feed their children less as food prices have risen to record highs over the past year. The organization conducted a survey of families in India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Peru and Nigeria. One in six respondents said that their children were dropping out of school and helping them earn a living. According to the charity, the world's five least malnourished children live in the five countries surveyed. [14]

As a continuation of the above factors, another indicator of hunger is underweight among children under five years of age. In developing regions, this figure continues to decline on average: 33% in 1990 and 26% in 2006. In South Asian countries, it is 46 percent. By 2006, the number of such children had exceeded 140 million. [12; 25] In 2016, every fourth child in the world was lagging behind in development - that's 155 million children. In Africa, South Asia and Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand), one in three children lags behind in development. [9] According to a UN report entitled "Global Food Security and Nutrition Status 2018", about 151 million children under the age of five were underweight in 2017 due to malnutrition, reaching 165 million in 2012. Globally, Africa and Asia accounted for 39 and 55 percent of all short stature children, respectively. [6]

Malnutrition in childhood is the leading cause of approximately 35% of deaths in children under five years of age. [3; 27]

Malnutrition and poor nutrition, which are inextricably linked to hunger, are also serious global threats to human life. According to a study by German scientists, the CIS countries are in the top ten in the ranking of deaths due to malnutrition in the period from 1990 to 2016. In second and third place are Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan.

Followed by Ukraine, Moldova, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan.

Russia finished in the top ten with 291 deaths per 100,000 people. The most nutritious foods are found in Spain, Israel and France. In these countries, 43-46 out of every 100,000 people die from malnutrition. [10]

III. CONCLUSION

In the modern process of human development, the food problem will change, unskilled and excessive use of natural resources, increasing demand for livestock products, the allocation of food per capita and other factors, the constant rise in food prices observed. Which threatens food security, especially for the poor in developed and developing countries. However, it should be noted once again that in the future, food prices will rise only in relation to non-food products, so in terms of efforts to solve the global food problem, it is economically feasible to curb price growth rates.

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