

YUNMUN XXXI

World Food Programme

Topic: Food Insecurity as a result of COVID-19

SARS CoV-2 has affected all aspects of life, specifically the ability for countries to get food, and for individuals to have access to food. A report published by the WFP and others on July 12, 2020, shows that due to the Coronavirus pandemic, 25 countries are expecting disastrous levels of hunger. The number of people projected to be affected by food insecurity in the next year is expected to increase from 149 million to 270 million people due to this pandemic¹.

With a second wave of cases looming over many countries' heads, there is a large fear that there may be restrictions placed on food trade. This could further increase the number of people who will be burdened by food insecurity from the pandemic. Additionally, many countries are seeing a rise in retail prices which combined with the loss of jobs, and therefore income for many people, has led to a higher risk of food insecurity. Lastly, with the closing of many schools, children are at higher risk of malnutrition. Many students rely on schools to provide them with at least one nutritious meal a day, without school meals there is a risk of an increase in the number of children plagued by malnutrition. Our goal in the committee session is to discuss how we, as the WFP, can work together to stop this growing food insecurity that has happened as a result of the pandemic.

Some Points to ponder as you do your research:

- Some countries are throwing away food because they have a surplus while others don't have enough food for their people.
- How can the WFP help to keep trade alive so as not to enhance the risk of food insecurity in countries that rely on trade?
- What are the greater effects caused by the malnutrition of young children, and how can they be combatted?

¹ World Food Programme. "New report shows hunger is due to soar as coronavirus obliterates lives and livelihoods." *WFP*, 17 July 2020, <https://www.wfp.org/news/new-report-shows-hunger-due-soar-coronavirus-obliterates-lives-and-livelihoods>

- The budget for this year was set well before the pandemic happened, how will we be able to afford the programs we come up with?
- Some places have staffing shortages due to coronavirus restrictions which causes a back up in the world food supply.

The coronavirus pandemic does not seem to be stopping anytime soon, so it is time that we resolve this issue so that it does not impact the global community any further. I encourage you to research this topic through the lens of your country, so that we may productively discuss a resolution to this pressing matter.

If you have any questions throughout your research, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. My email address is apassy@mail.yu.edu. I look forward to reading your position papers.

Adina Passy
Chair, WFP
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