



FOOD AID AND FOOD SECURITY

Ending hunger in the world: A challenge for us all

The Rome Declaration on Food Security defines food security as existing «when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life». Since the 1960's, the availability of food worldwide has grown significantly, reaching levels sufficient to feed twice the world's current population. **Unfortunately, rising food prices, poverty, natural disasters, conflicts and problems with access to and distribution of food prevent vulnerable populations from meeting their basic food needs.**

Today more than 800 million people suffer from chronic under-nourishment and some 800 million lack access to drinking water. 100 million children under the age of 5 are under-weight and each year malnutrition causes the death of some 2.5 million children¹. **Hunger constitutes the primary health risk in the world. Each year it kills more people than AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria combined.** These alarming figures highlight that the fight against hunger is a global challenge. The right to adequate food should be respected for current and future generations.

ENCOURAGING SELF-SUFFICIENCY OF VULNERABLE POPULATIONS TO ENSURE THEIR RIGHT TO FOOD

Secours Islamique France (SIF) works to meet the food needs of vulnerable populations while taking into account the particular needs of each country context.



In **Senegal** the aim is to encourage local populations to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to meet their own basic food needs. To that end, the **project «Cheptel» (livestock)** was put in place in the Tambacounda region - a region heavily affected by poverty. The project aims at fighting child malnutrition and improving food security among the poorest households through goat husbandry and goat milk production. It helps to ensure basic food security for rural populations; it generates revenue for the families through the commercialisation of goat dairy and meat products; and, the impacts are multiplied because each beneficiary commits to share the first goat kids with other vulnerable families, **which creates a positive community dynamic and promotes solidarity.**

In the **Occupied Palestinian Territory**, the blockade imposed on residents has heavy consequences on food security. In the Gaza Strip, 10% of the children under the age of five have stunted growth, 12.7% suffer from chronic malnutrition and 3.9% are severely malnourished. The SIF programme to **fight malnutrition** helps to improve the nutrition of some 10,000 3 to 6 year-old schoolchildren in the poor neighbourhoods of Gaza, covering their daily nutritional needs through the **distribution of milk and enriched biscuits**. These special foods were developed by nutritionists to ensure the proper intake of proteins, vitamins, fats and nutrients needed for growth. In just one year, one could observe a dramatic drop in growth stunting and anemia among children beneficiaries.



Hunger and malnutrition have even more dramatic effects on the most vulnerable parts of the population: children.

[1] Source: FAO media centre - Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations