

Malnutrition goals in Africa "very far away"

3rd March, 2018



A new report shows that no country in Africa will meet goals set to end childhood malnutrition by the year 2030. That target was set by the United Nations in 2015 as a Sustainable Development Goal.

The UN adopted a set of goals, "to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all as part of a new sustainable development agenda". The new report is published in the journal Nature. It identifies poor child nutrition and low levels of education across 51 African countries. These were key factors in countries battling to provide children with sufficient food. Researcher Simon Hay said the goal of ending childhood malnutrition was always an "aspirational" target. He said: "This aspiration is very, very far away."

There was some good news in the report. It highlighted the fact that many African nations, including Ghana and Nigeria, have shown signs of improvement in childhood development since the year 2000. However, it is a different story for countries like Chad, Central African Republic and Eritrea. The report indicates that malnutrition remained "persistently high" in 14 countries between Senegal in the west and Somalia in the east. Many of these countries have experienced war, famine and mass migration, all of which have put massive strains on health and agriculture. One researcher said considerable investment was needed in health and infrastructure in order to address "serious inequalities".

Sources: theguardian.com / bbc.com / africanews.com

Writing

How can we end child hunger in the world? Discuss three options.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

report / goals / target / poverty / development / agenda / journal / education / far / childhood / story / malnutrition / west / east / war / famine / migration / health

True / False

- a) A report says just a few African countries will meet malnutrition goals. T / F
- b) The UN's Sustainable Development Goals were set in 2015. T / F
- c) A report said 51 African countries suffered from low levels of education. T / F
- d) A researcher suggested the malnutrition target was more of a hope. T / F
- e) There was no good news regarding Nigeria and Ghana. T / F
- f) The report said there was persistently high malnutrition in 41 nations. T / F
- g) Many of the countries mentioned have suffered from war and famine. T / F
- h) A researcher said increasing investment in infrastructure would not help. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. shows | a. singled out |
| 2. set (verb) | b. deal with |
| 3. set (noun) | c. hope |
| 4. key | d. advances |
| 5. aspiration | e. decided on |
| 6. highlighted | f. crucial |
| 7. improvement | g. enormous |
| 8. persistently | h. reveals |
| 9. massive | i. continuously |
| 10. address | j. group |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What good news have you read about recently?
- c) How can the countries in the article be helped?
- d) What will things be like in 50 years from now?
- e) How does mass migration change a country?
- f) Is investment in health the answer?
- g) What serious inequalities exist in your country?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

Breaking News English - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

1. meet goals set to
 2. ensure prosperity
 3. low levels
 4. provide children
 5. always an aspirational
 6. It highlighted
 7. malnutrition remained persistently
 8. experienced war, famine and
 9. considerable investment
 10. address serious
- a. mass migration
 - b. target
 - c. high in 14 countries
 - d. inequalities
 - e. was needed in health
 - f. of education
 - g. the fact
 - h. with sufficient food
 - i. end childhood malnutrition
 - j. for all

Discussion – Student B

- a) Why is there malnutrition in the 21st century?
- b) What do you think of sustainable development?
- c) Will we ever be able to feed the world?
- d) How is it possible to end poverty?
- e) How can we all become prosperous?
- f) How does greed affect the world?
- g) How can we raise levels of education?
- h) What are your aspirations?

Spelling

1. ssunabaitel development
2. ensure ppoisytrre for all
3. development edaagn
4. poor child tioutirnn
5. provide children with uifsicnfet food
6. This nraoitasp is very, very far away
7. thihgdgilhe the fact
8. nltseetyirps high
9. war, famine and mass naromitgi
10. put evasmis strains on health
11. drinlcoasebe investment was needed
12. address serious iatiniqueesl

Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. e	3. j	4. f	5. c
6. a	7. d	8. i	9. g	10. b

Role Play

Role A – Famine

You think famine is the biggest obstacle to development. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what their things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the most manageable of these (and why): mass migration, corruption or inflation.

Role B – Mass Migration

You think mass migration is the biggest obstacle to development. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what their things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the most manageable of these (and why): famine, corruption or inflation.

Role C – Corruption

You think corruption is the biggest obstacle to development. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what their things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the most manageable of these (and why): mass migration, famine or inflation.

Role D – Inflation

You think inflation is the biggest obstacle to development. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what their things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the most manageable of these (and why): mass migration, corruption or famine.

Speaking – Strains

Rank these with your partner. Put the biggest strains on a country at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- poor education
- lawlessness
- inflation
- ethnic tensions
- famine
- war
- mass migration
- corruption

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.