

Myths, Facts, Explanations, & Solutions



- **Myths & Facts** - Read the dozen statements below regarding world hunger and determine whether they are myths or facts. If you think it is a myth, correct it.
 - **Explanations** - Identify as many reasons for global hunger that you can.
 - **Solutions** – What sorts of steps could governments take to try to ensure that everyone’s needs are met (large-scale farmers, small-scale farmers, and the hungry poor)? What could YOU do?
1. There is simply not enough food produced in the world to feed everyone.
 2. Nature is to blame for famine. There is little we can do to prevent large-scale hunger caused by drought or flooding.
 3. There are too many people in the world. It is overpopulated. This results in too many mouths to feed.
 4. Soil erosion, desertification, and the stripping of forests by small-scale farmers to create cropland are major causes of widespread hunger.
 5. Scientists will take care of the problem with advances in areas such as biotechnology, plant genetics, and engineering improvements to water supply problems.
 6. Large farms will help. Large-scale production methods and operations will allow us to increase the amount of food available.
 7. The free market can end hunger. Market forces and competition will drive down the cost of food and promote increased production totals.
 8. Free trade is the answer. Allowing countries to trade more freely, without the barriers of tariffs or taxes, will allow more food to move into areas of need.
 9. Those suffering from hunger are too passive to get involved in the fight for better agricultural policies, to become involved in government, or to campaign for better options through political protests.
 10. Developed countries could alleviate a great deal of hunger by using their surplus production to provide more food aid for suffering countries.
 11. Developed nations benefit from the poverty of others. Low wages and poverty drive down the cost of importing goods from the developing world.
 12. Open competition for basic resources such as land and water can create large-scale wealth in the hands of a few, thus depriving those people who need it most. Therefore, open competition should not be allowed.