**The Issue of Addressing Global Hunger and food security in a warming world.**

Global Hunger is an alarming issue that is widespread and constantly on the rise. The insufficient availability of food is causing shortfalls in the nutritional status of children and child mortality. This especially affects the most vulnerable: women and children, with long-term consequences for their physical and mental development.

Statistics show that, globally, 1 in 11 people go to bed hungry every night. 35% of the global population (2.83 billion people) cannot afford a healthy nutritious diet. According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), this is a crisis driven largely by conflict, climate change, and chronic inequality. Climate change affects rainfall patterns, and so increases water scarcity, and there are also more frequent and intense weather events that disrupt agricultural cycles, leading to crop failures and reduced food production.

However, poverty is one of the most direct contributors to hunger, as people living in poverty often lack the financial means to purchase food, leading to food insecurity. They also often tend have limited access to nutritious food, often relying on cheap, unhealthy options. Poverty is closely linked to the economical state of unemployment and underemployment rates, as it limits the income for purchasing food, leading to malnutrition or hunger.

Addressing hunger aligns with Sustainable Development Goal 2 (Zero Hunger), which aims to eliminate hunger and ensure food security by 2030. However, progress has been impeded by conflicts, economic instability, and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The issue of global hunger is also further exacerbated by poor governance and political instability. The corruption prevents effective responses to hunger crises, as in some countries, policies fail to prioritise food security, leading to fragmented efforts. Vulnerabilities in food supply chains have been exposed by global disruptions (such as the war in Ukraine), hindering the distribution of food and increasing prices. The ongoing conflicts also triggers displaced persons on a large scale, and so they face significant challenges in accessing food, either due to their location or lack of financial resources.

Moreover, its devastating impact is evidently seen across hunger hotspots including Palestine, Sudan, Ukraine, and Syria, where there are currently conflicts and war crimes taking place, and food supply is being hindered significantly. The World Food Programme (WFP) states that malnourished children are up to 12 times more likely to die than a healthy child due to their diets poor in vitamins, minerals, and other nutrients.

Strategic measures to address global hunger could be strengthening agricultural resilience and sustainability, promoting economic access to food, climate action to mitigate food insecurity, and addressing political and institutional barriers. While current initiatives have made progress, the scale of the problem demands accelerated action, so that we can make significant strides toward ending global hunger and building a more food-secure world.

Points to consider:

* How can we tackle the root causes of global hunger?
* How can we minimise the effects of global hunger?
* How can we support those who are currently suffering from the impacts of global hunger?

Useful links:

[Global hunger statistics – World Food Programme](https://www.wfp.org/ending-hunger?utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=21689109287&utm_term=global%20hunger&utm_content=170153663431&campaignid=21689109287&adgroupid=170153663431&adid=714195267264&keyword=global%20hunger&matchtype=e&network=g&device=c&gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAiA9vS6BhA9EiwAJpnXwyVygSw4MpyqbnXcm3_2w0s_MkfkqEe4SB4mwbs7ywtzsCeINdrMshoCYiQQAvD_BwE)

[Who does hunger affect? – Action Against Hunger](https://www.actionagainsthunger.org/the-hunger-crisis/world-hunger-facts/who-does-hunger-affect/)

[Recognising and tackling a global food crisis – World Bank Group](https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2023/01/05/recognizing-and-tackling-a-global-food-crisis)