

MALNUTRITION GOALS

Malnutrition goals in Africa "very far away"



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.

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

Discussion

1. What do you think about what you read?
2. What good news have you read about recently?
3. How can the countries in the article be helped?
4. What will things be like in 50 years from now?
5. How does mass migration change a country?
6. Is investment in health the answer?
7. What serious inequalities exist in your country?
8. What questions would you like to ask the researchers?
9. Why is there malnutrition in the 21st century?
10. What do you think of sustainable development?
11. Will we ever be able to feed the world?
12. How is it possible to end poverty?
13. How can we all become prosperous?
14. How does greed affect the world?
15. How can we raise levels of education?
16. What are your aspirations?

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. When were the malnutrition goals to be met by?
2. When were the Sustainable Development Goals set?
3. What did the goals aim to ensure?
4. In how many countries were there reported low levels of education?
5. What did a researcher say was "very, very far away"?
6. Which two countries were singled out for good news?
7. In how many countries was malnutrition "persistently high"?
8. What kind of migration did the report say countries had experienced?
9. What did a researcher say was there was a massive strain on?
10. What did a researcher say was needed?