



## Facts on Hunger and Poverty in the United States

- More than 49 million Americans lived in households that struggled to put food on the table in 2013 (latest figures available).<sup>1</sup>
- More than 45 million Americans live below the poverty line (\$23,624 for a family of four with two children).<sup>2</sup>
- More than 20 percent—1 in 5—children live at risk of hunger.<sup>3</sup> Likewise, more than 1 in 5 children in America are living in poverty.<sup>4</sup>
- Since 2009, wages for the bottom 60 percent of workers have fallen 4 to 6 percent. Families on average are still earning \$4,500 less than before the recession.<sup>5</sup>
- In 2013, 21.5 million low-income children received a free or reduced-price lunch through the National School Lunch Program.<sup>6</sup> About half of those, 11.2 million, received a free or reduced-price breakfast through the School Breakfast Program<sup>7</sup>, and only 2.4 million of those received Summer Food Service Program meals during the summer months.<sup>8</sup>
- More than 3.3 million children receive food at child care centers, day care homes, and at-risk after-school care centers through the federal Child and Adult Care Feeding Program.<sup>9</sup>
- More than 8.6 million low-income women, infants, and children received nutritious food, nutrition education, and health care referrals through the WIC program in 2013.<sup>10</sup>
- 1 in 7 Americans receives benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps).<sup>11</sup> SNAP moved 3.7 million Americans out of poverty in 2013.<sup>12</sup>
- 48.1 percent of SNAP households are employed<sup>13</sup>, and two-thirds of recipients are children, elderly, or disabled.<sup>14</sup>
- The earned income tax credit and child tax credit, which encourage and reward work by supplementing earnings, moved 9.4 million people out of poverty in 2013, including 5.0 million children.<sup>15</sup>
- 23.7 percent of Hispanic households and 26.1 percent of African-American households were food-insecure in 2013.<sup>16</sup> Communities of color tend to experience higher levels of poverty and hunger than the general population.

### Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> [www.ers.usda.gov/media/1565415/err173.pdf](http://www.ers.usda.gov/media/1565415/err173.pdf) (Table 1A; page 6; Individuals)

<sup>2</sup> [www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/data/threshld/index.html](http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/data/threshld/index.html) (Poverty Thresholds by Size of Family and Number of Children; 2013)

<sup>3</sup> [www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/our-research/map-the-meal-gap/2012/2012-mapthemealgap-exec-summary.pdf](http://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/our-research/map-the-meal-gap/2012/2012-mapthemealgap-exec-summary.pdf) (Table 09; page 30; Child Food Insecurity Rate, U.S.)

<sup>4</sup> [http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS\\_13\\_1YR\\_S1701&prodType=table](http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_13_1YR_S1701&prodType=table) (Table S1701: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months; Population for Whom Poverty Status is Determined, Under 18 Years; 2013)

<sup>5</sup> [www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=4200](http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=4200) and [www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=4203](http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=4203)

<sup>6</sup> [www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/pd/slsummar.pdf](http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/pd/slsummar.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> [www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/pd/sbsummar.pdf](http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/pd/sbsummar.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> [www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/child-nutrition-programs/summer-food-service-program.aspx](http://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/child-nutrition-programs/summer-food-service-program.aspx)

<sup>9</sup> [www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/child-and-adult-care-food-program](http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/child-and-adult-care-food-program)

<sup>10</sup> [www.fns.usda.gov/wic/women-infants-and-children-wic](http://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/women-infants-and-children-wic)

<sup>11</sup> [http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS\\_13\\_1YR\\_S2201&prodType=table](http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_13_1YR_S2201&prodType=table) (Table S2201: “Households Receiving Food Stamps” divided by “Total”; 2013)

<sup>12</sup> [www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2014/demo/p60-249.pdf](http://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2014/demo/p60-249.pdf) (page 20)

<sup>13</sup> [http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS\\_13\\_1YR\\_S2201&prodType=table](http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_13_1YR_S2201&prodType=table) (Table S2201: Households Receiving Food Stamps, 1 worker in the past 12 months; 2013)

<sup>14</sup> [www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2012Characteristics.pdf](http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2012Characteristics.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> <http://apps.cbpp.org/3-5-14tax/?state=US>

<sup>16</sup> USDA 2013 Household Food Security in the United States



# Facts on International Hunger and Poverty

- Worldwide, 1.2 billion people still live in extreme poverty—on less than \$1.25 per day.<sup>1</sup>
- The target of halving the percentage of people suffering from hunger by 2015 is within reach. Since 1990, global hunger has decreased by 39 percent<sup>2</sup>, but undernutrition still affects 795 million<sup>3</sup> people and causes 3 million child deaths annually.<sup>4</sup>
- Since the federal government's largest food-aid program, Food for Peace, began in 1954, more than 3 billion people in 150 countries have benefited directly from U.S. food aid.<sup>5</sup>
- Since their establishment in 2002, McGovern-Dole International Food for Education programs have boosted school attendance and provided meals to approximately 28 million children in 37 countries.<sup>6</sup>
- Global immunization programs supported by the United States save up to 3 million children every year. Nutrition programs boost the effectiveness of immunizations by strengthening immune systems, making children less susceptible to diseases, and accelerating recovery rates.<sup>7</sup>
- As of September 2014, more than 6.7 million people received treatment for HIV, and 780,000 HIV-positive pregnant women received antiretroviral medications, resulting in 95 percent of these babies born HIV-free.<sup>8</sup>
- A population too malnourished to work suffers long-term economic consequences. A malnourished person can suffer a 10 percent reduction in lifetime earnings, while countries can see 2 to 3 percent annual reductions in their GDPs.<sup>9</sup>
- By providing people with the tools they need to move themselves out of poverty, we create a more stable world. For every 5 percent drop in income growth in a developing country, the likelihood of violent conflict or war within the next year increases by 10 percent.<sup>10</sup>
- 43 of the top 50 consumer nations of U.S. agricultural products were once U.S. foreign aid recipients.<sup>11</sup>
- In 2013, Feed the Future's agriculture and food-security investments directly helped more than 9 million households transform their farms and fields, which, in turn, has helped reached 12 million children with nutrition programs that prevent and treat undernutrition, saving children's lives.

## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report*, 2014.

<sup>2</sup> International Food Policy Research Institute, *2014 Global Hunger Index*, 2014.

<sup>3</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *The State of Food Insecurity in the World*, 2015.

<sup>4</sup> United Nations Children's Fund, *Levels and Trends in Child Malnutrition*, 2014.

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Food Aid and Security Coalition, "Food for Peace," available at <http://foodaid.org/food-aid-programs/food-for-peace/>.

<sup>6</sup> United States Department of Agriculture Foreign Agriculture Service, 2014. Available at: [www.fas.usda.gov/newsroom/new-mcgovern-dole-projects-benefit-27-million-children-worldwide](http://www.fas.usda.gov/newsroom/new-mcgovern-dole-projects-benefit-27-million-children-worldwide).

<sup>7</sup> UNICEF. Global Immunization Data: October 2012.

<sup>8</sup> U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, *Tenth Annual Report to Congress*, 2014.

<sup>9</sup> USAID, "The True Yields of Food Security," remarks by Dr. Raj Shah, USAID Administrator, May 24, 2011.

<sup>10</sup> World Food Program USA, "Monday September 26 is National Action Day," September 2011.

<sup>11</sup> USAID, *The Power of 1% and Global Health: Saving Lives, Improving Economic Opportunity, Promoting Security*. February 2012.