

Hungry for Food Security- The East African Experience

During the PowerPoint presentation, please make sure to take good notes so that you don't miss important information. This information will be useful for you as we work through this unit.

1. What is the definition of 'food security'?

2. How many people in Africa considered undernourished?

3. What are some causes of food insecurity?

4. What is 'sustainable livelihoods approach'?

5. What are some possible grassroots solutions for rural African communities?

HOMEWORK –

RESEARCHING KEY INDICATORS FOR FOOD SECURITY

For your assigned country, research key indicators which you can use to evaluate the causes of food insecurity. Your research will prepare you to form an opinion on which areas of development require the most attention given current levels of progress.

Assigned Country: _____

Key indicators to consider:

- Food Insecurity Rates
- Environmental Degradation (deforestation rates, desertification etc.)
- Climate (average rainfall, length of growing season etc.)
- Human Conflicts
- HIV/AIDS prevalence rates (and other diseases such as malaria which can cause a shortage of labour power)
- Average Household Income

Useful Websites for Research:

World Health Organization

- Core Health Indicators by Country/Topic Database
http://www3.who.int/whosis/core/core_select.htm

World Bank

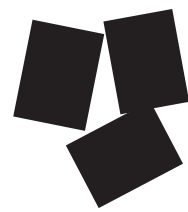
- Data Query – World Development Indicators by country
<http://devdata.worldbank.org/data-query/>

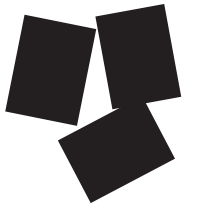
United Nations

- United Nations Statistical Program
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/socind/>

UNAIDS

- AIDS Information by Country
<http://www.unaids.org/EN/geographical+area/by+country.asp>





AFRICA: CLIMATE CAUGHT IN RED TAPE

- IRIN News -

GENEVA/JOHANNESBURG, 14 June 2007 (IRIN) - The residents of Umkhanyakude, a poor rural district in northeastern South Africa, say they have been producing less food over the past few decades because the rains have become more erratic.

Unable to grow enough food, many have been forced to seek work away from home for long periods of time. HIV then rose, said development agency Oxfam Australia, which has been working with the community since 2005, and has tried to help the people of Umkhanyakude understand the link between their altered lifestyle and climate change.

Reduced rainfall often means children cannot attend school because
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in the past decade that they "can't keep up", said Foday Bojang, head of the African Union's Environment and Natural Resources division, who met with IRIN at a UN conference in Geneva. Between sessions of the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction conference, African officials told IRIN that similar broadly environmental issues were being dealt with by different "compartments" within their governments, draining skilled resources and contributing to overlaps and weak coordination within and between governments.

Three conventions were signed at Rio: the UN Framework Convention on Climate

Different approaches

Officials of the various conventions and programmes at the Geneva conference maintained that their approaches were nuanced, and an official explained that the "conventions serve as a framework for developing programmes".

But Bojang argued that this often led to the duplication of processes. Various ministries need to get involved, and "there is often lack of synergy, even within governments, on their response to the issue" because of the different approaches.

"That is very true," remarked a UN official involved with one of the conventions on climate change. Choosing to remain anonymous, he added they often had to check with countries whether there was agreement within their government on the issue.

Integrated approach versus "compartments"

The way forward was an integrated approach, Yvette Stevens, the former UN Assistant Emergency Relief Coordinator, told IRIN. "It will happen. There will be a common platform for all the agencies to coordinate and work together on climate change. A lot of energy is wasted in compartmentalisation."



Photo: [IRIN](#)

Prolonged dry spells as a result of climate change have already compromised food security in the region

Since the impact of climate change is so broad, as the residents of Umkhanyakude are finding, there has been some debate on integrating efforts to ameliorate its effects into the UN's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Oxfam Australia found that climate change had reduced the effectiveness of development planning in Umkhanyakude and had cancelled out some progress towards the MDGs.

"We [the AU] have talked about it, and we are already talking about integrating the impact of climate change into our poverty reduction plans," said Bojang.

John Magrath, a researcher at Oxfam-UK, said integrating the impact of climate change into national development plans would help to enhance the issue's profile.

"Often, climate change is seen as an environmental matter and left in the hands of the environment ministry, which often lacks political clout, and the issue does not get the priority it deserves," he commented.

"Integrating climate change into national development plans would also enrich the debate around the MDGs."

[ENDS]

[This report does not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations]

Teacher Feedback Form

Your feedback is crucial as it allows us to make revisions to our educational materials and ensure that they are as useful, appropriate and teacher-friendly as possible. Just knowing where Tools for Learning units are being used is also important for us and

2. Lesson Two

Teaching notes are adequate and appropriate? 1 2 3 4 5

Lesson content is relevant to course expectations? 1 2 3 4 5

Photos and examples used are appropriate and effective? 1 2 3 4 5

Lesson is complete and covers all needed issues? 1 2 3 4 5

7. Lesson Two

8. Lesson Three

9. Homework Assi s7mM4.27614(s)-7.55152(s)-7.55152(on)21.517()-8.62069(T)-22.655

Lesson content is relevant to course expectations? 1 2 3 4 5

Lesson is examples used are appropriate and effective? 1 2 3 4 5

Lesson is complete and covers all needed issues? 1 2 3 4 5

Homework expectations are appropriate to course and grade level? 1 2 3 4 5

Teacher notes are adequate? 1 2 3 4 5

Additional Comment & Suggestions for Improvement:

5. Assessment Assignment

Assignment instructions are clear? 1 2 3 4 5

Assignment expectations are appropriate to course and grade level? 1 2 3 4 5

Marking scheme is clear and appropriate to grade level? 1 2 3 4 5

Teacher notes are adequate? 1 2 3 4 5

Additional Comment & Suggestions for Improvement:

6. Unit as a Whole

Unit addresses course expectations 1 2 3 4 5

Content is appropriate for grade level? 1 2 3 4 5

Teacher notes are clear and adequate? 1 2 3 4 5

Do you plan to use this material again? 1 2 3 4 5

Additional Comment & Suggestions for Improvement:

Thank you again for providing your feedback!