

## Investing in Education to End Hunger

Today, nearly 70 million children around the world do not have access to basic education. Educated children grow up to earn higher wages, contribute to stronger economies, support healthier and more prosperous families, and create more stable and secure societies. Making sure the millions of out-of-school children have access to an education will require U.S. leadership for a new, multilateral education initiative.

In 2009, the Food and Agriculture Organization estimated that more than 1 billion people worldwide did not have adequate access to the food they needed to lead a healthy and active life. The number of undernourished has grown in recent years, and the global economic crisis has caused even more people to go hungry. As food prices have increased, families around the world are cutting back on other expenses like education. Investing in quality basic education ensures that future generations do not have to go hungry.

### Fast Facts

- According to a study by the International Food Policy Research Institute, a significant factor to reducing child malnutrition has been the education of women – even more so than direct food aid.
- In a study of children under age 5 in Bangladesh, more than half of children of mothers unable to read were severely malnourished.

### Reducing hunger, saving lives

Every seven seconds, a child dies of hunger-related causes. Education can help reduce malnutrition by increasing agricultural productivity and giving people the knowledge they need to improve their own health as well as the health of their families.

- Countries that educate their children also feed their children. A study of education and food security shows that high rates of primary education are correlated with lower rates of food insecurity.
- Child malnutrition is the greatest cause of child mortality in developing countries – accounting for 54% of child deaths.
- Investing in education for women and girls also has great potential to reduce child malnutrition around the world. In a study of children under age 5 in Bangladesh, the number of malnourished children dropped drastically among children of women with a secondary or higher education.

- According to a study by the International Food Policy Research Institute, the largest contributing factor to reducing child malnutrition has been the education of women – even more so than direct food aid.

#### Increasing crop production through investments in rural education

Studies examining developed and developing countries show that farmers with higher levels of education produce more crops because they are more likely to adopt innovative technologies than a farmer with little to no education.

- 80% of out-of-school children live in rural areas – the center of food production.
- Just four years of primary schooling can boost a farmers' productivity by nearly 9 percent.
- In developing countries, women produce 60 to 80 percent of food crops. Rural girls are often the most marginalized out-of-school youth.
- In sub-Saharan Africa, investing in education of women has the potential to boost agricultural output by 25 percent. In sub-Saharan Africa, rural children are more than twice as likely not to be in school.