

NEWSLETTER



EDITORIAL

Climate change is the biggest threat to India's economy. After the deficient monsoons of 2014 and 2015, the country faces drought conditions that are crippling India's farmland. The Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations recently reported that with more than 60 percent of India's agriculture reliant on monsoon rains, farmers are highly vulnerable to changes in rainfall patterns and rising global temperatures.

A sad fallout of this hardship being faced by farmers is the effect on their children who are developing low immunity levels and are becoming severely malnourished due to food shortages and a lack of access to clean water. It is a shocking truth that if left undetected, a severely malnourished child is at eleven times the risk of dying than a normal child. Some of these children are also developing fever, diarrhea and pneumonia which requires hospital treatment.

At Fight Hunger Foundation, our mission is to save children's lives as we dedicate ourselves to the treatment and prevention of malnutrition, as well as tackling its root causes. We have been working in partnership with state governments for the past three years to diagnose and treat malnutrition in children under five years

old. Our programs take place in over 450 villages in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, where our staff screen children in every household in the villages we work in.

In order to meet the current situation in drought affected areas, we have geared up our capacity building and training, to ensure that more and more stakeholders such as doctors and nurses, paramedical hospital staff, government workers and health activists are trained in the detection and treatment of malnutrition and can in turn save many more lives of children at risk of death.

While we pray to the rain gods for a normal monsoon this year, there will still be around twenty million children in India who suffer from malnutrition. We, at Fight Hunger Foundation, will keep fighting malnutrition every day so that more lives can be saved. But we cannot continue this vital work without your support. Join us and help us to end child malnutrition in India for good.

If you would like to make a personal or business donation to Fight Hunger Foundation, please get in touch at contact@fighthungerfoundation.org and we will gladly assist you.

I hope you will enjoy reading this latest newsletter and I thank you for your commitment to ending child malnutrition in India.

Ashwini Kakkar

Chairman, Fight Hunger Foundation

Severe drought in Sheopur leads to the migration of local tribes

In February 2016, Fight Hunger Foundation conducted an assessment of the nutrition, water and sanitation situation in Sheopur district, home



to the Sahariya tribes, in central Madhya Pradesh.

The drought-hit Sheopur district has witnessed large-scale crop failures over the last few years. This has led to large scale migrations to neighboring states of Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

Our study revealed that once they migrate, they live in challenging conditions with unsafe drinking water, no health care services and in make-shift tents. Obligated to work in harsh and unhygienic conditions, the Sahariya migrants become vulnerable to disease and occupational health hazards. They carry their children to work where they are also exposed to unhygienic conditions leading to various health problems, including poor nutrition.

Summers are the toughest part

of the year. Food is scarce and water levels reduce, often causing children to fall ill.

According to the Chief Medical and Health officer of Sheopur, the average life expectancy in Sahariya tribes has reduced in comparison to other communities because of poor diet, consumption of low protein food and excessive use of tobacco products.

Fight Hunger Foundation will soon start its program in Sheopur with the aim of improving the nutrition situation. We will conduct extensive awareness generation and education programs with communities on hygiene practices as well as building the capacity of local government staff - including Anganwadi workers - on the detection, treatment and prevention of acute malnutrition.

Children's deworming programme, Burhanpur

The World Health Organisation's *Deworm the World* initiative enables governments to eliminate public health threat of worms via school-based mass deworming programs. Intestinal worms are debilitating, widespread and under-treated. It affects normal growth and can cause malnutrition in children. School-based deworming is safe and

cost-effective. Deworming through schools provides a great opportunity to reach children and young people between 1 year and 19 years old.

In February this year the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Madhya Pradesh, launched a National Deworming Day in Anganwadi centers and schools. Fight Hunger Foundation, along with the district health



department of Burhanpur and our partner ACF International, supported the initiative by carrying out awareness-raising sessions in the community on the risks of worm infestations and the importance of deworming.

In all, 5080 children in 26 schools were given deworming treatment, and monitored in the school for any symptoms like vomiting, nausea, and stomach-ache.

The National Deworming Day was accepted well by children, teachers, parents, and caregivers.

South Asia carries the maximum burden of malnutrition in the world

Nutrition Woes

South Asian governments need to ramp up spending on child and maternal welfare, particularly focusing on nutrition. A comparison of global and South Asian indicators shows the latter region has a lot of ground to cover...

Child (under 5) malnutrition prevalence (%)

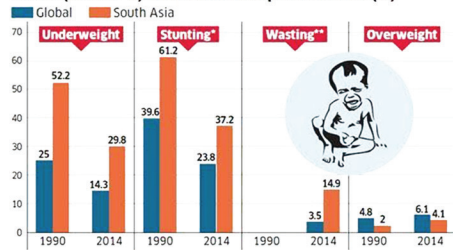


Image courtesy The Economic Times and WHO

Children are the backbone of any nation and their health and well being holds a special significance in nation building. If we are to dream of a world which is hunger free, we cannot ignore millions of children who suffer from malnutrition. It was recently reported that Asia has five

times the number of undernourished children compared to global standards. This is an enormous loss of human potential and we need to solve this devastating problem urgently.

Fight Hunger Foundation's goal is to reach 1 million children and mothers by 2018, in our endeavour to reduce acute malnutrition in children under five years. Join us in reaching this goal.

Our donors visit Baran, Rajasthan



Donors from UK interacting with the local community in Baran district.

For three action-packed days in February 2016, some of our corporate funders from the UK visited Rajasthan to get a glimpse of our programs. They represented three companies: Ed's Easy Diner, Palringo and Velocity.

Our guests were amazed at how motivated and committed the staff at Fight Hunger Foundation were, as they drove long distances between villages to ensure they visited each and every house and checked each and every child in the block.

We would like to place on record our deep gratitude to each donor from the UK who came and encouraged us. We sincerely thank you for your continued support in our life-saving work in Rajasthan.

Media Workshop on nutrition in Jaipur

On 26th April, we held a media awareness-raising workshop on nutrition, inviting over thirty five representatives from various media houses, including journalists and senior editors.

We shared some inspiring stories of children recovering from being severely malnourished, after being treated by Fight Hunger Foundation.

Some of these seasoned journalists were shocked at the prevalence of malnutrition in India. It is a sad truth that over twenty million children suffer from malnutrition in India and less than one percent of these children have access to medical treatment.

We appealed to the press to encourage effective action amongst policy makers, programmers, community workers and families in their publications. Some eminent journalists promised to write articles on malnutrition.

The workshop helped to create a platform for exchanging information about malnutrition among the media in Rajasthan. We were very happy to see news articles published the next morning in the dailies.



Students of RBK International School, Mumbai, run for a cause



Our 'Run Against Hunger' campaign turned out to be a highly engaging and inspiring activity for the enthusiastic children of RBK International School, Mumbai. The morning of 8th March saw around 280 children from RBK International School participate and successfully raise funds for Fight Hunger Foundation. We would like to congratulate each one of them, who did a fantastic job of completing the run and also raising awareness amongst their families and friends about acute malnutrition.

Furthermore, we are extremely grateful that the children were able to raise funds towards ending child malnutrition as we were presented with a giant cheque at a felicitation ceremony. We are sure that these children will be the future torch-bearers and will help in bringing about a change in our society!

Fight Hunger Foundation in partnership with Department of Women & Child Development in Madhya Pradesh



Our Director Mr Rangachari signs the MoU in Bhopal

Mr. TCA Rangachari, Vice Chairman of Fight Hunger Foundation, was invited in February to Bhopal by Mrs. Pushpalata Singh, Commissioner Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), to sign a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Women and Child Development. It was an exhilarating moment for us as this partnership is intended to support the Atal Bihari Bajpeyee Bal Arogya Evam Poshan Mission in Madhya Pradesh, within the districts having high tribal predominance, poor health indicators and high malnutrition prevalence, especially in Burhanpur, Dhar, Sheopur, Panna and Umari. We will now be able to work towards a happy and healthy future for the children in these districts.

Sachin Tendulkar endorses Fight Hunger Foundation!



It was a proud moment for us to have the 'master blaster' Mr. Sachin Tendulkar come forth and support Fight Hunger Foundation. He spoke from personal experience on the negative impact of missing out on nutritious food. He recollected a cricket match where he could not perform because he had skipped his lunch and was hungry.

If one meal could affect him so badly, he senses the gravity of the situation where so many children in India are missing successive meals. Do listen to Mr Sachin Tendulkar explaining why he is getting involved with Fight Hunger Foundation: <http://fighthungerfoundation.org/node/7145>

Fight Hunger Foundation would like to profoundly thank again its Founding Members.

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