OMNI UN WORLD FOOD DAY/WORLD HUNGER DAY NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 16, 2012. Compiled by Dick Bennett for a Culture of Peace.

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Act Now
Oil industry’s SEC lawsuit out of touch with the global drive toward greater transparency
The law is clear, the SEC ruling unambiguously supports it, and the will of the American public and global opinion is driving toward greater transparency.

5 signs that things are looking up in the Sahel
Why there's reason to be optimistic as this year's harvest season begins in the Sahel.

Post a photo on Instagram or submit your own sweet potato recipe for ONE's cookbook. MORE
Price swings, upswings in particular, represent a major threat to food security in developing countries.
Hardest-hit are the poor. According to the World Bank, in 2010-2011 rising food costs pushed nearly 70 million people into extreme poverty.

“FOOD PRICES – FROM CRISIS TO STABILITY” has been chosen as this year’s World Food Day theme to shed some light on this trend and what can be done to mitigate its impact on the most vulnerable.

On World Food Day 2011, let us look seriously at what causes swings in food prices, and do what needs to be done to reduce their impact on the weakest members of global society.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations celebrates World Food Day each year on 16 October, the day on which the Organization was founded in 1945.

The objectives of World Food Day are to:
encourage attention to agricultural food production and to stimulate national, bilateral, multilateral and non-governmental efforts to this end;
encourage economic and technical cooperation among developing countries;
encourage the participation of rural people, particularly women and the least privileged categories, in decisions and activities influencing their living conditions;
heigtten public awareness of the problem of hunger in the world;
 promote the transfer of technologies to the developing world; and
strengthen international and national solidarity in the struggle against hunger, malnutrition and poverty and draw attention to achievements in food and agricultural development.

Web link:
World Food Day
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Here is the interesting site I had mentioned for mapping impacts of climate change. Easy to use and lots of good information:
http://www.cgdev.org/section/topics/climate_change/mapping_the_impacts_of_climate_change
I want to join the fight against hunger

Sign up today to join our online community, receive email alerts, and make a difference!

First Name: *
Email: *
Country: *

4 Days Till World Food Day

3 Little Actions
1 Big Impact

WFP Responds
As Needs Rise
In Syria

WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger.
WFP is funded entirely by voluntary donations

First Time Here
Aid Professionals
Students
Teachers
Private Sector
Drought sends food prices soaring in Mauritania
In some countries across the Sahel the end of the lean season heralded a period of steady rainfall. Not so in Mauritania, where households are still struggling to cope with the effects of the drought, which has reduced farmers’ crop yield and increased the price of food on local markets.

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News Release 3 days ago
Globally Almost 870 Million Chronically Undernourished - New Hunger Report
But there are hopeful signs that with extra effort the MDG target can be reached
9 October 2012, Rome - Nearly 870 million people, or one in eight, were suffering from chronic undernourishment in 2010-2012, according to the new UN hunger report released today.

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Hunger in the News 1 week ago
The Debating Chamber - Shining a light on the big dirty secret of hunger
Source: Alertnet Outside of the big high profile emergencies caused by drought, floods, cyclones, or earthquakes, the horrific impact of grinding under nutrition on the lives of children is a big, dirty secret that has remained hidden for far too long. (...) So how do the humanitarian agencies most engaged in this pressing issue take advantage of World Food Day, to build on this momentum?

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@wfp_business 4 days ago
We're aiming to feed 50,000 children by World Food Day, and you can provide a meal for free! http://t.co/abAQHoMt #WFD2012
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Hunger in the News 1 week ago
And Now, Digital Food (Will it Help the Poor?)
Source: Center for Global Development
Last month Mastercard Worldwide and the World Food Program (WFP) announced a global partnership in “digital food”. The public-private partnership aims to harness Mastercard’s expertise in electronic payments to develop WFP’s electronic voucher programs. Can it work? There are good reasons to think that “going cashless” could make WFP’s operations more efficient and improve people’s lives. But the benefits are far from certain, and WFP and Mastercard would do well to ensure rigorous evaluation of what amounts to a giant experiment (about which, more below).

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New Airstrip For Somali Refugees In Ethiopia
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Hunger in the News 1 week ago
EU to focus on building resilience to disaster among world's poorest
Source: The Guardian The EU’s emergency and development arms are to work together more closely to reduce the vulnerability of the poorest households to shocks from conflict, drought and other crises,
and to tackle the underlying causes of food insecurity in regions such as the Sahel and the Horn of Africa.

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Story 1 week ago

YUM! Brands and Christina Aguilera Honoured as 2012 World Hunger Relief Kicks Off

In deep appreciation of their hard work to spread awareness of the struggles of the hungry poor, WFP's annual award ceremony recognized David Novak and Christina Aguilera for helping to give a voice to the world's most vulnerable populations.

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Video 1 week ago

FEED Projects CEO Lauren Bush Lauren Gives Her Take On Hunger

Lauren Bush Lauren, co-founder and CEO of FEED Projects, says we can make a great impact on the solvable problem of global hunger if we all work together

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Story 1 week ago

Stitching A Future For Afghan Women

Giving Afghan women the chance to learn marketable skills is one way to help Afghanistan on the road to peace and stability, as well as food security.

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Food Factor Podcast 12 hours ago

Safety Nets To Catch The World's Hungry

There are just under 870 million hungry people in the world, according to an annual hunger report by the Food and Agriculture Organization, which highlighted programmes called "safety nets" as an important means of bringing that number down. In this episode, WFP Chief Economist Lynn Brown discusses some of the main conclusions in the report, such as how safety nets can lift people up by catching them when they fall.

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Story 1 week ago

Sahel Crisis: WFP Nutritionists Answer 5 Questions

This year’s hunger crisis in the Sahel brought with it a strong risk that many children would fall into malnutrition – the effects of which can be irreversible. In this Q&A, our West Africa team of nutritionists answer explain what WFP’s response has been and talk about some of the challenges faced.

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@WFPlotistics 2 days ago

First Lady of Zambia Dr. Christine Kaseba Sata Gives Her Take On Hunger

Empowering the poor is the key to feeding the nation, says First Lady of Zambia Dr. Christine Kaseba Sata, who calls on governments to ensure that land is used properly to reduce hunger and poverty.

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Story 1 week ago

Online Hazards Platform Gets Major Revamp

An update to HEWSweb, an online natural hazards platform, brings some major improvements to users who rely on the service for real-time information on emergencies like earthquakes and floods. Pages compiling historical data and key statistics for individual countries and each kind of disaster are a few of the platform’s new features.

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WFP Photos 2 days ago

Families Stranded By Flood Waters In Pakistan
Hunger falls but still unacceptably high-FAO chief

Source: Reuters

Achieving the first Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of halving the prevalence of hunger in the world by 2015 is still within reach, but a strong, sustained acceleration of efforts is needed. (...) The global number of chronically hungry people has declined by 130 million since 1990, falling from a little over one billion people to 868 million - 852 million of them in developing countries. (...) These figures are included in this year's The State of Food Insecurity in the World (SOFI) -- the world hunger report published by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Food Programme. In this edition, SOFI uses better data and an improved methodology, developed with the help of experts from around the world to estimate hunger.

Read more

Explore hunger through Molly's eyes. A resource for teachers on World Food Day. http://t.co/itoLr2OX
#wfd2012

You against hunger
Donate. One dollar fills four cups
Connect with WFP

HOT SPOTS
Over a million forced to flee fighting in Syria. Conflict and poor harvests in South Sudan.

Women 4 Women
Empower a woman and help a family break the cycle of hunger

Hunger IQ Test
Test your knowledge and feed a child a nutritious school meal

People Against Hunger
WFP Response to Flood Emergency in Central America
Hotspots
How To Feed 90 Million People
Chad
Niger
Mali
South Sudan
Hunger
The World's Greatest Solvable Problem
Our Work
School Meals
Nutrition
Cash and Vouchers
Purchase for Progress
Procurement
Focus on women
HIV/AIDS
Food Security Analysis

2011
A Year In Review
for Aid Professionals
For news and views on developments in the world of humanitarian aid, go to the Aid Professionals page. There are maps of crisis zones, the aid pro blog, access to the Food Aid Information System and much much more.

read more
for Teachers
Want to help us spread the word about hunger? We have a range of resources that teachers can use in the classroom, plus news about schools that are already involved in the fight against hunger.

read more
for Private Sector
WFP seeks to catalyse change through innovative partnerships with the private sector. In a range of ways, companies are helping to make us better at what we do, often by sharing their equipment, staff and expertise.

read more
for Students
Spreading the word, organising events, raising funds. Find out how you can help fight hunger. And see how many fellow students around the world are already doing it!

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Where we work
Our work
Our programs
Africa
Americas
Asia
Middle East
Emergency Response
On World Hunger Day, put blame where it belongs
Today is World Hunger Day, and we must address rising food prices all over the planet.
CARMELO RUIZ-MARRERO
Published: May 28, 2012

Today is World Hunger Day, and we must address rising food prices all over the planet.
Food prices rose 8 percent from December to March, the World Bank reports. But the escalating cost of
food does not affect everyone in the same way. A typical American family spends no more than 10
percent of its budget on food, whereas the world’s poorest 2 billion spend between 50 percent and 70
percent of their meager income on food.
There has been no shortage of explanations for the bump in food prices: weather disasters linked to
global warming, the biofuels boom, skyrocketing oil prices and the prosperous Indian and Chinese
middle classes’ newly found taste for hamburgers.

But most commentators tend to keep pretty quiet about another very important factor that
endangers food security: financial speculation in agricultural commodities.
Speculators deal in commodities that they neither produce nor consume. Their profits come from
futures contracts, which are essentially bets that the price of a given commodity will rise or fall. These
contracts are themselves commodities, traded among financial institutions.
The speculator does not work in the real world economy, in which goods and services are sold to real
people, but works instead in the finance economy, where you can get rich by buying and selling stock
without contributing anything to society. Just think of the comedy film “Trading Places” or the anti-
hero Gordon Gekko in the Oliver Stone classic “Wall Street.”
There has always been speculation, as far back as ancient Greece. But today it’s a whole different
game. As a result of the financial deregulation of recent years, speculation has rapidly grown to an
alarming degree. Between 2003 and 2008, investment in indexes linked to commodities multiplied
twentyfold, ballooning from $13 billion to $260 billion.
Olivier de Schutter, U.N. rapporteur on the right to food, has spoken up more than once about the
dangerous link between uncontrolled speculation and hunger. And so have an increasing number of
organizations, including Friends of the Earth and the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy.
So when it comes to taking action against world hunger, rather than joining the aid bandwagon of Bono
and Jeffrey Sachs, or embracing the biotech crops of Monsanto and the Gates Foundation, we would be
better advised to rethink the faulty economics of so-called free markets.

None other than Nobel laureate economist Joseph Stiglitz has repeatedly made warnings to this
effect: “Neoliberal market fundamentalism was always a political doctrine serving certain interests. It
was never supported by economic theory. Nor, it should now be clear, is it supported by historical experience.”
The interests that this free market fundamentalism serves are not those of the world’s hungry. They should not have to pay such a dreadful price for it — or for their food.

**Carmelo Ruiz-Marrero** is a Puerto Rican author, journalist and environmental educator. He wrote this for Progressive

Read more here: [http://www.thenewstribune.com/2012/05/28/2160156/on-world-hunger-day-put-blame.html#storylink=cpy](http://www.thenewstribune.com/2012/05/28/2160156/on-world-hunger-day-put-blame.html#storylink=cpy)

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