

# Hunger Advocate



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Around the world, one person in seven goes to bed hungry each night. In essence, hunger is the most extreme form of poverty, where individuals or families cannot afford to meet their most basic need for food. Undernourishment negatively affects people's health, productivity, sense of hope, and overall well-being. We need to address hunger not just by giving food, but also by helping farmers in poor countries grow better crops and helping countries build farm-to-market roads so farmers can supply distant cities.



# Health & HIV/AIDS Advocate



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More than 38 million people around the world are infected with HIV/AIDS—25 million in Africa alone. The spreading HIV/AIDS epidemic has quickly become a major obstacle in the fight against hunger and poverty in developing countries. Because the majority of those falling sick with AIDS are young adults who normally harvest crops, food production has dropped dramatically in countries with high HIV/AIDS prevalence rates. Left untreated, AIDS leads to early death for people in their most productive years who are needed to raise crops and families, teach school, and care for the sick.



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# Clean Water & Sanitation Advocate



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One person in seven has no access to clean water for drinking, cooking, or washing. In addition to spreading disease, this has multiple negative effects—girls growing up in villages without water are far less likely to attend school because they're too busy spending hours walking to and from the nearest water source. Bad health caused by poor sanitation has a knock-on (secondary or incidental) effect on the family economy and nutrition. Building safe water supplies, improving sanitation through well-constructed latrines, and teaching communities about safe hygiene practices are a few ways to improve the health of many around the globe.



# Education Advocate



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Parents in Malawi know just as well as parents in Missouri that education is crucial to their children's future. But around the world, 104 million children do not go to school because their parents cannot afford fees, books, or uniforms. Providing education for women and girls would have a dramatic impact on the poor in developing countries for the sick.



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# Orphans & Children Advocate



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Every three seconds a child dies of causes related to extreme poverty, hunger, and disease. Around the world, millions of children have already lost one or both parents to AIDS. Unless more is done, there will be 25 million of these children around the world by 2010. Children are more vulnerable to disease because their bodies are weakened from hunger.



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# Fair Trade Advocate



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As much as people in poor countries appreciate development assistance, no one wants to rely on a handout—they want to trade their way out of poverty—but international rules make it difficult. Farm and trade policies in the United States and the European Union are creating hardships for family farmers everywhere. Seventy-five percent of poor people in developing countries—some 900 million people—depend on agriculture for their livelihood. A fair-trade system would give people in poor countries the chance to earn their way out of poverty by participating in the world economy.



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# Anticorruption Advocate



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While corruption is harmful to all governments, losing resources to corrupt leaders is particularly devastating in poor countries where every dollar lost means one more child can't go to school or one more well can't be dug to provide clean water. Contrary to popular opinion, a large portion of the United States Agency for International Development is channeled through existing private relief and development agencies, like Catholic World Relief, World Vision, CARE, Mercy Corps, and many others. Education is essential for understanding the reality of global development.



# Debt Cancellation Advocate



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Every year, Sub-Saharan Africa, the poorest region of the world, spends \$14.5 billion repaying debts to the world's richest countries and international institutions such as the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. For example, the civil conflict in Burundi resulted in an increase in health problems related to malaria, a decrease in education for children, and emotional trauma from years of civil strife. But the money needed to address these concerns is diverted to pay off international debts. Though we've made efforts to relieve the unpayable debts of many nations, poor countries still spend more each year on debt than on healthcare or education.



# Extreme Poverty Advocate



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Extreme poverty means living on less than \$1 a day, unimaginable to us as Americans. In the developing world, more than 1.2 billion people currently live below the international poverty line. Many people are unable to feed their families because they cannot make a decent wage to buy or produce food.



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# Women & Girls Advocate



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Throughout the world, women work to provide for themselves and their families. They labor hard, but often their work is valued far less than that of men. In many families, women and girls are the last in line not just for food, but for medical care, as well. Pregnant women, new mothers who breastfeed infants, and children are among the most at risk for malnourishment.



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