



# HUNGER NOTES

a newsletter of World Hunger Education Service

Vol. XIII, Nos. 7-8

January 1988

## STOP HUNGER'S CRIPPLING! (IT CAN BE DONE)

*In this issue:*

**"STRATEGIES FOR THE CONTROL OF MALNUTRITION  
AND THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE NUTRITIONAL  
SCIENCES"** (abridged)

by Michael C. Latham  
Professor of International Nutrition  
Cornell University

*also*

**"Does Vitamin A Save Lives as Well as Eyes?"**

Alfred Sommer, Johns Hopkins University

(From testimony before the Select Committee on Hunger, U.S. House of Representatives)

**"... Despite Economic Crisis"**

Richard Jolly, Unicef

### **Annotated Guide to Further Resources**

#### **Editor's Introduction**

"Mr. Chairman, the 1980s will, I fear, almost certainly be recorded by future development historians as the decade of rising poverty and malnutrition in many, if not most countries of the world." The speaker was Richard Jolly, deputy executive director of Unicef, appearing in April 1986 before the House Select Committee on Hunger. A year and a half later, after examining more than a decade of the World Bank's experiments with nutrition intervention, Alan Berg, senior nutrition adviser, concludes, nevertheless, that "malnutrition is a problem arising from poverty that need not wait until incomes increase three or four times to be overcome." Meanwhile, at least 140 million children under five are malnourished and more than one-fourth of developing-country children are thought to suffer from undetected malnutrition. Malnutrition is known to be a major contributing cause in about 14 million deaths each year among the under-five age group. Some 300-400 million "over-fives", having survived that most dangerous period of life, labor to improve the lot of their families, ill from malnourishment and weakened by hunger. Many of the 350 million anemic women of childbearing age will not survive childbirth, diminishing the chances of their surviving children and adding to the burden of other hungry family members. And 250,000 children go blind each year from lack of 10¢ worth of Vitamin A.

But Jolly, Berg, Michael Latham and others are saying it doesn't have to be this way. Much can be done to prevent hunger's crippling long before the more stubborn underlying problem of poverty has been significantly improved. *Hunger Notes* is grateful to Michael Latham and to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization for allowing us to reprint his article here in a slightly shortened form. Excerpts from hearings by the Select Committee on Hunger add information not yet available at the time the article was being written. Still more about what can—and in some cases already does—improve the nutritional status of the poor will be found by following leads in the Resources section at the end.

—Patricia L. Kutzner, editor.