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## Vocabulary

Drought is a slow-moving natural disaster that can wither crops, threaten endangered species and other natural resources, and disrupt public water supplies<sup>1</sup>

Food insecurity is the disruption of food intake or eating patterns because of a lack of money and other resources<sup>2</sup>

## Background information

Food insecurity is one of the biggest international concerns today, affecting nearly one billion people worldwide. There are numerous factors that affect food security. The World Health Organisation (WHO), recognizes the following three as the main aspects linked to food security. The first is food availability, the second food access and the third being food utilization. Food availability depends either on local production or imported produce. Some countries or specific regions affected by war, disease, natural catastrophes or long-term climate constraints are the ones with the highest rate of food insecurity. Food access is linked to one's financial situation, job opportunities, and income. Food access is determined by the individual's or region's economic stability and financial education. Lastly, the final aspect of food security is food utilization. In many parts of the world, people struggling with food security don't have a balanced diet. Whilst they consume a sufficient amount of starchy foods, such as potatoes, maize or rice, their diet is missing proteins, vegetables, fruits, oils, and dairy. to change that diet is a great challenge because it would mean changing the import and local agricultural practices.

Countries such as Somalia, Iran, China, Eritrea, Sudan or Ethiopia have millions of inhabitants on the verge of starvation every year and largely depend on international aid to survive. Food instability goes hand in hand with poverty, disease, and political and economic instability. Combatting this issue would be a big step towards world peace and prosperity.

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## UN Involvement

In 1994, the United Nations established the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) as the only international agreement on sustainable land management and environmental approach guidelines. The Conference of Parties of the UNCCD requested action being taken by the respective member countries. A preparedness system, regional efforts to reduce vulnerability and risk, and a toolbox to support the vitality of people and ecosystems affected, were to be implemented in the years 2018-2019. The UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework is to this date one of the most recognized plans of action to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN). Following these guidelines should help restore the fertility of large quantities of degraded land, positively impact the lives of around 1.3 billion people and minimize the impact of year-long drought on communities affected by this crisis.

The UNCCD plays a crucial role in addressing these issues through capacity-building, the sharing of successful experiences, technology transfer, the provision of scientific support, awareness-raising, mobilization of resources and the provision of assistance to countries in implementing policies at national, subregional, regional and international levels.

## Questions to consider

Does your country struggle with food insecurity?

In times of food insecurity, what has your country done to counteract it?

Does your country provide aid to those in need? If so what kind?

What should we do in order to bring back food security in countries affected by droughts?

## Sources and useful links

<sup>1</sup><https://www.climate.gov/news-features/featured-images/2017-state-climate-global-drought>

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<sup>2</sup><https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/social-determinants-health/interventions-resources/food-insecurity#1>  
<http://www.fao.org/state-of-food-security-nutrition/en/>  
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<https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/the-most-drought-prone-countries-in-the-world.html>  
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<https://www.unccd.int/actions/drought-initiative>