



CRISIS IN NIGER
Halima cradles her 14-month-old daughter, Foure, at a makeshift feeding camp. Foure is being fed through a tube. (Read Halima's story on p. 107.)



HUNGER: THE SILENT EMERGENCY

WHILE YOU ARE READING THIS STORY, 200 PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD WILL DIE FROM HUNGER. FOUR OUT OF FIVE OF THEM WILL BE WOMEN AND THEIR BABIES. EVERY YEAR, HUNGER KILLS MORE WOMEN THAN AIDS, MALARIA, AND TUBERCULOSIS COMBINED—DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE WORLD PRODUCES ENOUGH FOOD TO SUFFICIENTLY FEED EVERY WOMAN, MAN, AND CHILD ON THE PLANET. BUT AROUND THE GLOBE, WOMEN EAT THE LEAST, AND THEY EAT THE LAST—AFTER THE MEN, THE ELDERLY, THE SICK, AND FINALLY, THE CHILDREN. MEANWHILE, HUNGER TAKES A DISPROPORTIONATELY HIGH TOLL ON WOMEN'S BODIES AND HEALTH—AND SUBSEQUENTLY ON THEIR CHILDREN AND UNBORN BABIES. TO END WORLD HUNGER, WE MUST BEGIN WITH WOMEN. JOIN MARIE CLAIRE IN OUR INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN

BY JAN GOODWIN PHOTOGRAPHED BY EVELYN HOCKSTEIN/POLARIS

FOOD HAS NEVER BEFORE EXISTED IN SUCH ABUNDANCE. THE U.S. alone produces enough to feed half the world—even though one in eight Americans suffers from hunger. In Brazil, one in five people in cities is overweight, while 40 percent can't afford to buy quality food. India, nearly self-sufficient in food production, has twice the number of underweight children as sub-Saharan Africa. If there's plenty to eat, why are 852 million people around the world—mainly women and children—on the verge of starvation?

To begin with, natural disasters such as severe droughts, earthquakes, and tropical storms, and the disruption they cause to agriculture and food distribution, contribute to the hunger crisis. Drought, for example, is now the single most common cause of acute food shortages in the world. Women, who account for up to 80 percent of the world's farmers, are hit doubly hard: first by the loss of sustenance; second by the loss of income through which they can purchase food from alternative supplies.

War is another factor. Fighting displaces millions of people from their homes, leading to some of the world's worst hunger emergencies. In war, too, food is used as a weapon: "Soldiers seek to reduce food available to their opponents by destroying livestock and systematically wrecking local markets. Fields and water wells are often mined or poisoned, forcing people to abandon their land," says a United Nations spokesman. In places like Sudan, "humanitarian agencies supplying food have been attacked; much of Darfur is inaccessible to these agencies because of violence," says Iain Levine, program director of Human Rights Watch. In war-torn countries, food is frequently a barter tool through which women are exploited. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Uganda, and many other countries, "food for sex" is well-documented by human-rights organizations: That is, food is withheld by peacekeepers (as in the case of the DRC) or local soldiers (as is the situation in Uganda) until women, at the brink of starvation, submit to sex.

In other instances, politics play a major role. Zimbabwe, once the breadbasket of Africa, now has up to 3.5 million people in need of food aid, after the government kicked farmers off their land and demolished thousands of homes in May 2005. "People who were forcibly displaced have been left without housing, health, or educational services, and they have no means of support,"

says Levine. "They are going hungry because of a deliberate policy of a corrupt government."

And finally, the marginalization of women plays a dominant role in the hunger crisis. "Despite the fact that the majority of African farmers are female, women are systematically bypassed by development-assistance programs and denied training, credit, and technology—and therefore the opportunity to produce more food. Ending hunger begins with equal opportunity for women," says Joan Holmes, president of U.S.-based The Hunger Project. It's a sentiment echoed by the U.N., as well: "A green revolution will happen only if it is also a gender revolution," according to U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

"Society holds women responsible for all the key actions required to end hunger: family nutrition, health, education, food production, and—increasingly—family income," says Holmes. "Yet through laws, customs, and traditions, women are systematically denied the resources, information, and freedom of action they need to carry out these responsibilities." The world has the financial and technical resources to end hunger permanently, she stresses. But success will only be possible if we put these resources in the hands of women.

IN WAR-TORN COUNTRIES, FOOD IS OFTEN USED AS A BARTER TOOL, THROUGH WHICH WOMEN ARE EXPLOITED.



KENYA

A VICTIM OF HER ENVIRONMENT

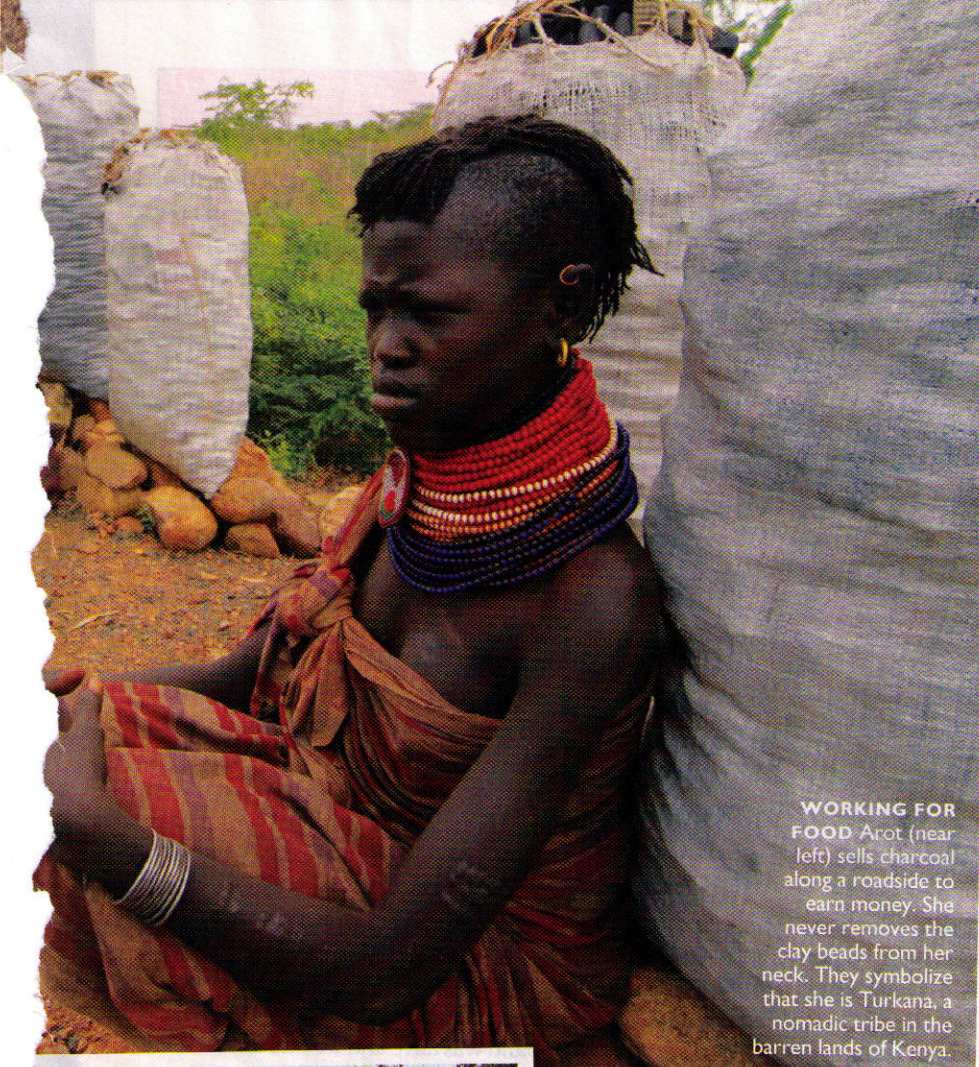
In the barren northwest hills of Kenya, a nomadic tribe struggles for survival. Aid organizations estimate that as many as 65 percent of Turkana people face starvation every year

FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD AROT EPERO, sweat running down her face, struggles to focus in the sweltering, overcrowded classroom. It isn't easy, as she precariously balances both her schoolbook and a toddler on her lap and tries to ignore the hunger gnawing at her every fiber. She's grateful that Ekal, her 2-year-old cousin, is napping in her arms, having cried herself to sleep on an empty stomach.

Arot, like every student in this primitive school in Turkana, Kenya, yearns for the school lunch break. It is the only meal of the day—5 oz. of corn and 1.5 oz. of chickpeas—is served. The provisions are donated by the United Nations World Food Program.

SEVEN OUT OF 10 OF THE WORLD'S HUNGRY ARE WOMEN AND GIRLS.

WORLDHUNGRY
IN THE PAST DECADE, GLOBAL POVERTY DROPPED 20 PERCENT, BUT THE NUMBER OF HUNGRY PEOPLE ROSE BY 18 MILLION



WORKING FOR FOOD Arot (near left) sells charcoal along a roadside to earn money. She never removes the clay beads from her neck. They symbolize that she is Turkana, a nomadic tribe in the barren lands of Kenya.



elderly villagers hover nearby, their sunken eyes watching every mouthful. Too proud to ask, they can only hope a child will take pity and leave a few scraps in the bowl for them. Their quiet desperation is palpable.

In the notoriously harsh climate of northwest Kenya, little grows except thorny acacia trees. During the recent drought, the Turkana were forced to cross over into Uganda to find grazing land. There, they suffered a crippling blow when a raiding tribe swooped out of the hills, slaughtered the herders,

and stole the animals. In this bleak region, such instant impoverishment can also be a death sentence for survivors.

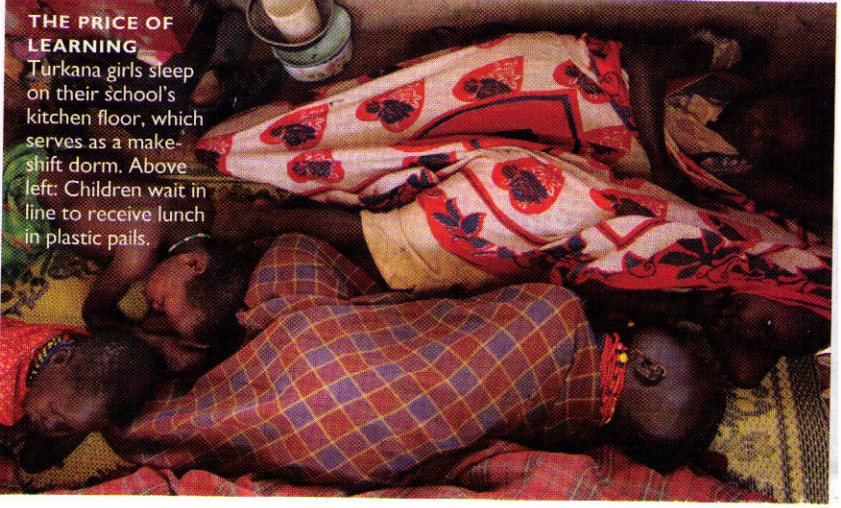
Losing their livestock was devastating to the Turkana, 70 percent of whom live on less than \$1 a day. Not surprisingly, many rely on food aid. This past summer, however, local officials in Turkana say they stopped receiving aid from the government in Nairobi because the government deemed it unnecessary. As is often the case, news of catastrophes—such as a raid on livestock—takes months to travel from rural outposts to the capital city. By the time a crisis report reaches Nairobi, it may be four months or more before food aid flows again—assuming there is enough, which there never is. Aid programs are frequently underfunded: The WFP's Kenyan school-feeding program, for instance, was delayed in 2004 because the U.S. was late in delivering its contribution. While Kenya's funding has now been restored, U.S. funding to Tanzania has been dropped.

School-feeding programs like Arot's were begun by the WFP to achieve two main goals: to ensure that kids don't starve, and to encourage them to attend school. Traditionally, children in nomadic tribes miss months of school at a time, since their families are always on the move in search of livestock grazing—which is one of the reasons that, at age 15, Arot can't read, write, or name the country in which she lives.

"With the constant gaps in their education, it can take a student more than three years to finish a grade," says Samuel Koyesa, the principal of Arot's school, St. Luke Nakururum >>

(WFP). After she receives her bowl of stew, Arot waits until Ekal eats her share. "I bring her to school so she can eat," she says. "There's no food at home." The ragged, dirty piece of cloth wrapped around Arot's body is the sole outfit she possesses. Like the other students, she is barefoot.

At Arot's school, 75 percent of the students are physically and mentally stunted from malnutrition. As the children eat outside a makeshift kitchen,



THE PRICE OF LEARNING Turkana girls sleep on their school's kitchen floor, which serves as a makeshift dorm. Above left: Children wait in line to receive lunch in plastic pails.

* WORLDHUNGERCAMPAIGN



NINETY-TWO PERCENT OF DEATHS DUE TO HUNGER ARE IN AREAS THAT DON'T ATTRACT PUBLICITY.

making in Turkana because it is "bad for the environment." Sellers can now be jailed or forced to pay a fine.)

When it comes to a conflict between commerce and the classroom, Arot has worked out a system for herself. She attends school one day, where she eats, and then sells charcoal the next. If no one buys her bag? "I didn't eat yesterday," she shrugs. Neither did her family. Women in Arot's family have learned to tighten their belts—literally—to mask hunger. "When we pull our belts tight, it helps us not to feel so hungry," says Arot's mother, Ikaru, an emaciated woman in her mid-40s. The widow of a man who had four wives and 28 children, Ikaru holds court in the center of a dome-shaped hut the size of a small room. Loosely woven from acacia twigs, the hut offers no shelter from sandstorms, rain, deadly snakes, or rats, as the gaps between branches are sizeable. Furnishings consist of a few rags for rugs and a couple of flat rocks used as stools. "There are many hardships in life," says Ikaru. "When my husband was alive and we had animals, life was good. We could drink milk. I was stout. Since he died and we lost animals in the raid, it's terrible. We never know whether we will eat tomorrow."

When Ikaru does have food, it is likely to be a pound of cornmeal mush used to make the porridge-like Kenyan national dish of *ugali*. For the 10 family members who eat in her hut, this comes to barely a spoonful or two each, but she doesn't allow complaining, even from her small grandchildren. "This is our life now," she says. "Hunger is normal. Why cry? What does it change? If you don't have animals to eat, you just wait for death."

Any food supplies are stored in a yellow metal lockbox, the key to which Ikaru keeps around her neck. Inside the box, currently empty of any food, is a used bar of soap—her entire family's wealth. "So my girls can be clean when they go to school," Ikaru says. "If my girls get an education, they can earn a living. Maybe Arot could be a nurse. I saw one once; it's an important job. If Arot were a nurse, she'd never have to beg for food again."



FAMILY TIME
At home (top) or at school (right), Arot is always with her family. She holds her cousin in her arms while learning in the classroom.

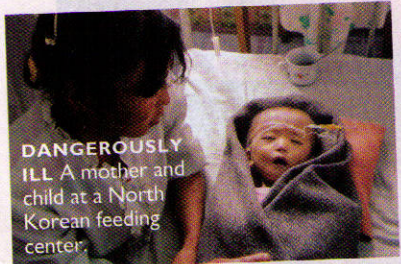
Primary School. He is one of only two teachers, responsible for teaching 130 kids and caring for the 65 informal boarders. "With classes this big and hunger this great, we can't cover the syllabus properly," he says. "Turkana children want to learn, but not surprisingly, their educational levels are below standard."

So, too, are conditions at the school, which has no electricity or running water. At night, girls sleep on the cement kitchen floor without mattresses or mosquito nets—a major problem, since malaria is endemic.

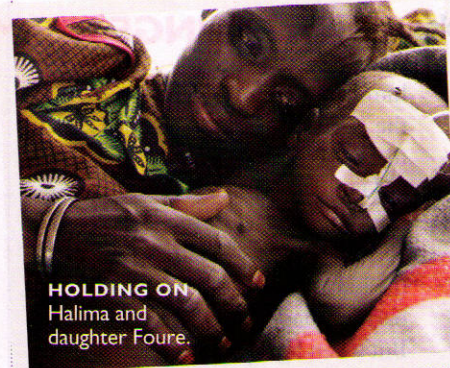
When Arot is not in school, she is selling charcoal to be used for cooking fuel, her family's sole chance of earning any income. Along the dusty road, clusters of 50-kg. bags of charcoal sit like sentinels, indicating nearby villages. Girls and women squat from dawn until dark in the searing heat, waiting for a rare vehicle and potential buyer. It takes five days to make enough charcoal to fill up an old U.N. corn bag; it can take two weeks to sell one. Even then, it only brings \$2. "There's a lot of competition—it's all anyone has to sell," says Arot, who struggles to carry her heavy bag. "When we can't sell, we don't eat." (In an ironic twist, the government has outlawed charcoal

NORTH KOREA
"Doctors tell me to eat more, but I can't afford it."
—KIM HAE GYANG, 24

In Munch'on City, the day begins at 6:30 a.m., when government-controlled sirens sound and martial music blasts over rooftops from loudspeakers. Workers earn about \$1.21 a month—enough to buy 3 kgs. of rice, which lasts a family just a day or two. Experts say international aid money is diverted to keep leader Kim Jong-Il in luxury, and to pay for extensive military forces and a nuclear-weapons program. Up to 3 million people reportedly died in a famine in the mid-'90s, the worst "man-made" famine ever recorded in peacetime. Today, the U.N. estimates 10 million people in North Korea are starving or malnourished. Not surprisingly, Kim Hae Gyang, a young pregnant woman whose child is due next month, has gained very little weight during her pregnancy. "The clinic tells me to eat more, but we can't afford it," she says. "As it is, we spend 70 percent of our income on food." Like others, she forages in the mountains for edible grasses and vegetables to supplement her diet. "Your heart goes out to the people here," says one Western aid worker (name withheld for safety reasons). "They are isolated from news and fed constant propaganda: 'North Koreans have it good while other countries have huge hunger problems.' The regime is so brutal, nobody dares to say otherwise."



DANGEROUSLY ILL A mother and child at a North Korean feeding center.



HOLDING ON
Halima and daughter Foure.

UGANDA

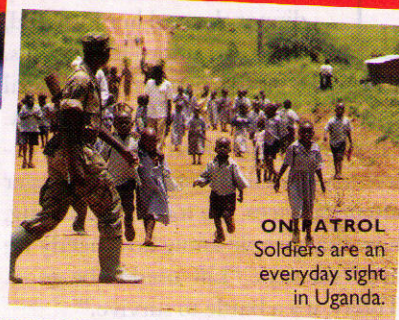
THE IMPACT OF WAR

In northern Uganda, a savage rebel insurgency is in its 20th year. An estimated 300,000 people have died; 1.2 million have lost their homes. In squalid, overcrowded refugee camps, women face insufficient food rations and daily sexual assaults, often by the Ugandan army, which is supposed to protect them. This is the story of Grace Akumm, 23, who lives in the Bibia Internal Displacement Camp

DYING FOR FOOD
Grace and her daughter are both ill. Grace may have contracted AIDS from a soldier she slept with in exchange for food.

I'VE LIVED HERE WITH MY MOTHER and children since rebels attacked my village five years ago. They raided our homes and abducted five boys, including my three brothers. When my oldest brother tried to escape, the rebels killed them all.

Two years ago, I'd left the protected camp to look for food in our small garden. We were desperate. Our U.N. rations had run out—they always do. The U.N. doesn't want us to depend on handouts. But we do depend on them. We've lost everything in the fighting. Outside the camp, I was attacked by seven rebels. They took the



ON PATROL
Soldiers are an everyday sight in Uganda.

food I'd found and made me carry it. I was also carrying my baby. I had no shoes, my legs became swollen, and I kept stumbling. A rebel speared me in the back with his bayonet to make me walk faster. I'll never forget the pain.

For three days, the rebels gave me only water. I felt very weak. Then suddenly, they let me go. Rebels are often afraid that a woman who's had a baby

is contaminated. I think that's what kept them from raping me. I had no strength to walk anymore. A man found me and brought me back to the camp. I was lucky to survive, but I became too afraid to search for food again. My son got thinner and thinner until, one day, he didn't wake up. He'd starved to death. I knew the same thing would happen to the rest of us.

Soon afterward, a soldier, David, turned up at our hut. David said he would give me food if I had sex with >>

THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO GO HUNGRY EVERY DAY IS GREATER THAN THE POPULATIONS OF THE U.S., CANADA, AND THE EUROPEAN UNION COMBINED.

the first Muslim women in today's Islamic world to risk their lives this way to save others. "Our men can be very conservative," says Alam. "They won't let a man who is not a relative touch their women"—even if it means letting her die.

BREAKING NEW GROUND

THAT PAKISTAN HAS FEMALE SEARCH-and-rescue workers is in itself remarkable. This is a country, after all, in which arranged marriages, jail sentences for rape victims, honor killings and dowry burnings (when a bride is burned to death by her husband if her dowry is not large enough) are common. In Baluchistan, one of the country's four provinces, many residents abide by the maxim that a woman should leave her home only three times in her life: when she is born, when she marries, and when she dies. In the fabled NorthWest Frontier Province, Taliban-style repression spilling over from neighboring Afghanistan is fast taking hold. Female shoppers at the local market are completely swathed in black, faces and hands covered despite the sweltering heat—a marked change from a few years ago, when women regularly wore tunics and loose pants in public.

So perhaps it isn't surprising that although the female search-and-rescuers are equipped with orange jumpsuits like their male colleagues, many are reluctant to wear them, finding them too formfitting for religious reasons. They prefer instead traditional *salwar kameezes* with long *dupatta* shawls covering their heads and upper torsos. The compromise: After Fatima pulls the climbing harness over her

jumpsuit (instantly outlining her hips, groin, and butt), she whips her dupatta off her head, tucks her hair into her mountaineering helmet, and ties the shawl around her lower body, thus preserving Pakistani-style modesty.

Yet the female search-and-rescuers are no wilting flowers. In the mammoth earthquake last October, which killed an estimated 87,000 people—completely pancaking two cities and leaving some 3 million homeless—Alam and Fatima were among the first to be helicoptered in to help. Of course, they needed their husbands' formal permission to go. Even one night spent away from home by a woman was previously unheard of in these parts, where adult females are expected to travel with a male family member at all times.

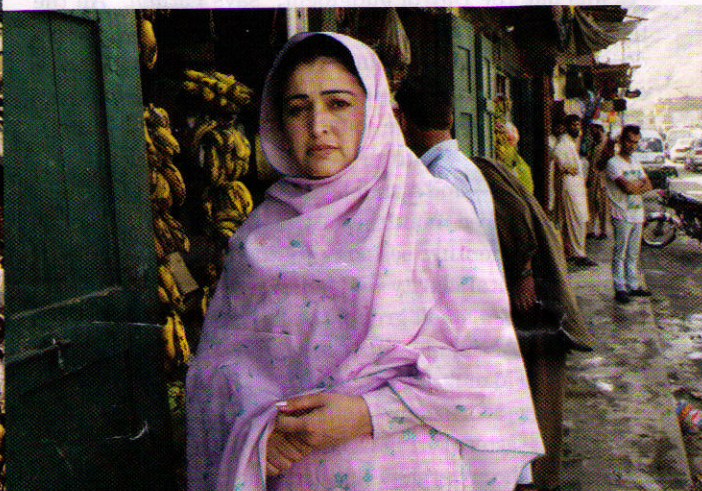
Alam wondered how her husband would respond to her request to join the search-and-rescue program. Like many girls, Alam was removed from school and educated by a private tutor once she hit 15. At 19, her family gave her away in an arranged marriage, and her husband's family did not permit her to attend college. "Our culture would prefer we stay at home, but Mir was very supportive when I asked him about joining the search-and-rescue team," she says. "He knew I'd have wanted to be a social worker, if I'd been able to go to college. He's a policeman, so he also knows how important this work is in our mountains. But some of my friends tried to discourage me, saying I wasn't 'normal.'"

"People have criticized us. They say this is not women's work, that it isn't suitable for us," adds Fatima. "But I tell them we are serving humanity. I ask, 'If your relatives were injured, wouldn't you be glad that I do this?' Yet I know that we will not change society so quickly."

A DISASTER OF EPIC PROPORTIONS

LAST YEAR'S QUAKE, WHICH MEASURED 7.6 on the Richter scale, was the largest natural disaster ever to befall Pakistan. Communications in the region were initially wiped out, and in the chaos of the first day, it wasn't immediately >>

FAR LEFT: A. NAVEED/AP PHOTO



TOP: Zeb Alam lowers herself down a cliff during a rescue drill. LEFT: Last year's earthquake left 3 million Pakistanis homeless. ABOVE: When she's not rappelling off mountains, Alam dresses like any other woman in Pakistan.

* WORLDHUNGERCAMPAIGN

him. My mother was angry. But in the end, I accepted. We both knew there was nothing else we could do.

David would bring food to our hut, have sex with me, and leave. When he wanted, I lived with him in the barracks. All the soldiers in the barracks had women from the camp. But when I got pregnant, David disappeared, and the food stopped.

Since he left, my health has been bad. I've lost a lot of weight. I have fevers and diarrhea. I knew a girl like this who died. People said it was from AIDS; she got it from a soldier. I'm frightened that's what I have. My three-month-old baby, Margret, is also very sick. Now I wonder if David gave AIDS to us both. He wasn't healthy. He was losing weight and had strange rashes. In this war, both sides are killing us.

INDIA

"Women always eat last."

—SABITA YADAV, 35

In India, 221 million people go to bed hungry every night. Sabita Yadav has watched four of her children die from hunger, including, last month, twin boys just 14 days old. Sabita lives in a mud hut with her husband and seven surviving children. Her youngest daughter, age 2, weighs 11 pounds—like 47 percent of India's children, her growth is stunted.

In better times, Sabita's family enjoyed three meals a day. Then her husband injured his arm falling from a power line and lost his semi-skilled job. Now a manual laborer, he earns a fraction of what he made before. The family lives on half a bowl of rice each per day, with a meager amount of *dal* (lentils).

The burden of income is on the kids, none of whom attend school. Sabita's daughters, 13 and 15, work outside the home. Sabita, who suffers from anemia, spends hours fetching water and wood for cooking—for food she may never taste. "The mother only eats after her children and husband," she says.

"Women eat last and least," says Joan Holmes of The Hunger Project. "Girls in India are four times more likely to suffer from acute malnutrition than boys."



MANY MOUTHS TO FEED Sabita, center, and her six children.

STICKING TOGETHER
Teresa and her sons, William and Jason.



UNITED STATES

HUNGER HITS HOME

The U.S. is the most agriculturally abundant nation in the world, yet 38.2 million Americans suffer from hunger—an increase of 4.8 million in the last four years. Today, lines at the nation's soup kitchens and food pantries are longer than at any time since the Great Depression, and increasingly, they are running out of food

with twins at the time, Teresa nearly died; only one twin survived. Now, she walks with a cane and eats with a jaw made from titanium steel. She is al-

I NEVER DREAMED MY LIFE WOULD be like this," says Teresa Galupe, 32, as she fixes a mayonnaise sandwich, the only dinner she and her husband, Scott, can afford most nights.

She picks up groceries from a local charity food pantry in Roanoke, VA. "It's run by my church, and I'm extremely grateful for it. But I no longer attend services. It's too embarrassing, now that people know how needy we are," she says. "Life used to be good. Today, it's a battle to survive."

With wavy hair, green eyes, and a tall frame, Teresa used to look like a model. In fact, a decade ago her image adorned local billboards. During the first Iraq war, she joined the Army. Her homecoming celebration was cut short by a freak car crash. Pregnant

most blind in one eye. The traumatic brain injury has left her in severe pain. She takes multiple medications daily, cringing each time a medical bill arrives. "We still owe thousands of dollars," she says.

The car accident began a rush of bad luck. Teresa's hometown suffered layoffs. "About half our neighbors are unemployed," she says. Scott, 33, an electrician, lost his job when his com-

THANKFUL FOR A LITTLE HELP

Teresa unloads food from her church's charity pantry. Her biggest fear is what will happen if people stop donating. "We'll really be in trouble," she admits.



ONE IN FOUR PEOPLE STANDING IN LINE AT A SOUP KITCHEN IN AMERICA IS A CHILD.

CONGRESS HAS RAISED ITS OWN SALARY SEVEN TIMES SINCE 1997, WHILE FAILING TO RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE ONCE.

pany moved out-of-state. He found work as a cab driver, but then the cab company folded. After that, he worked as a part-time driver, taking patients for medical treatments. "He was paid on commission. Some months, he only made \$300. That went belly-up too, and he's looking again," says Teresa, who receives a monthly disability check of \$735. "My dad helps out, and we have food stamps. That's all we have."

With little money, the couple needed donated food. "I was miserable when I first went to the pantry," she says. "It's humiliating waiting on line in the street for the pantry to open. People drive past, point at you, and laugh."

The Gallupes are allowed to visit the food pantry once a month. "We usually get canned foods, rice, beans, powdered milk, and peanut butter," says Teresa. "Sometimes, for a treat, I'll make some plain rice with a little bit of sugar on top for the boys. I don't know what we'd do if the kids didn't get free lunches at school; the program is a godsend."

Saving for food means cutting corners on everything else. Teresa shops at the Salvation Army. Scott gives the family haircuts. Their phone service is often cut off because they can't pay the bill. Because of her medical bills, Teresa has been taken to court several times: "Thank God, the judges understood and told me to pay when I can. Hospitals want their money, but you can't squeeze blood from a turnip."

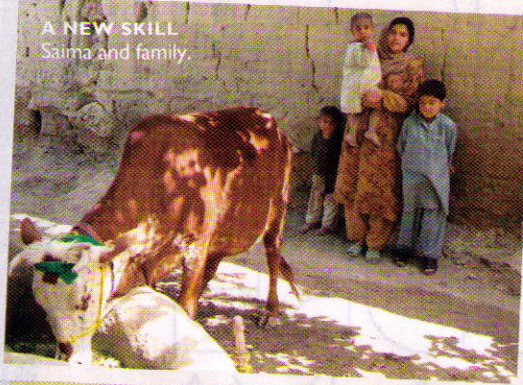
In the meantime, Teresa relies on donated food. But the scary truth is, food pantries themselves are facing terrible shortages, says Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, executive director of the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks. "We are seeing last year's donors becoming this year's clients," Hamler-Fugitt says. "Many people have exhausted unemployment and have no welfare. They rely on food pantries, and the pantries are running out of food. I've never seen it like this. We are now rationing food, cutting the size of portions. It's unconscionable for one of the richest nations on earth. We need a renewed national commitment to the fight against hunger."



OPPOSITE PAGE, BOTTOM LEFT: NGO. THIS PAGE, FAR RIGHT: FROM TOP: INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE; CARE/VALENTA; CAMPBELL; WORLD FISH

CONQUERING HUNGER— THREE PROGRAMS THAT WORK

A NEW SKILL
Saima and family.



training offered by the New York-based International Rescue Committee. "I was given a beautiful cow. I attended training every day, learning how to milk her properly, how to treat her in case she fell ill, and what to feed her." Today, Saima earns 18 times what she made before, and she can afford to send her oldest son to the local school.

"I've learned a lot—how to read and count, how to plan my finances for the future," Saima says. "I'm now respected within my community. It is a wonderful feeling. Allah is great, indeed!"

▶ **AFGHANISTAN**
When the Taliban killed her husband four years ago, Saima, 25, struggled to support three sons by washing

dishes in her village for 300 afghanis a month (\$6).

But last May, Saima was one of a group of widows chosen to undergo dairy

▶ **MALAWI**
"I never dreamed of eating fish from my own backyard, but now I have three ponds full," says Sarah Zimpita, 30, who lives in a poor village in central Malawi. A mother of seven with an invalid husband, Sarah is no stranger to famine. "During one drought, I saw my neighbor die of hunger," she says.

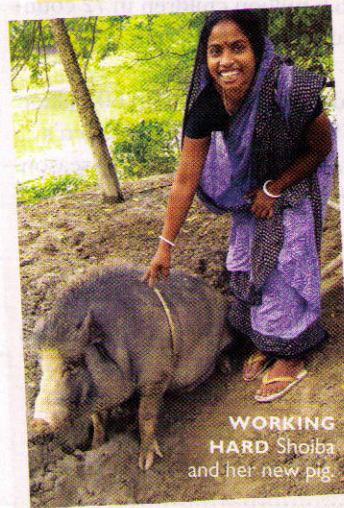
But two years ago, help arrived in the form of CARE Malawi, which received two grants from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to build dams for fish farming in an effort to ward off future famines. Sarah helped construct the dam,



FERTILE SOIL
Malawi women benefit from CARE's program.

then received a plot of land on which to make her own fish ponds. Using water from the ponds for irrigation,

Sarah now also grows vegetables that she sells. "I'm very grateful to this project," she says.



WORKING HARD
Shoiba and her new pig.

▶ **BANGLADESH**
Shoiba Rani Mandol, 27, used to worry about how she was going to feed her family. Her husband, Azay, barely made any money as a fisherman. Then the WorldFish Center, an aid organization, started a project to help Bangladeshi women cultivate a nonmarine form of sustenance. Shoiba learned how to raise and sell pigs, an unusual occupation in this mostly Muslim country.

Today, she makes enough money to feed her family, and she puts the extra toward schooling for her 7-year-old daughter. "My dream is to educate my kids, so they can have good jobs," says Shoiba.

The WorldFish Center also installed a "tube well," which expedites access to clean water, so women like Shoiba no longer have to spend hours fetching it from the polluted river. With her extra time, Shoiba focuses on her pigs, a profitable venture with positive results.