



Children sift through garbage dump in the Philippines.

HUNGER

As many as 800 million people in the developing world and at least 24 million people in developed and transition economies do not have enough food.



Indonesian boy collects plastic in polluted river in Jakarta.

WATER

All life needs water to survive. One in five people on our planet lacks access to safe water. Almost half the world's population lacks access to adequate sanitation.

Freedom from Fear and Freedom from Want

Human security recognizes the increasing interrelatedness of all human beings. Human security is focused on people, not states.

Human security begins with freedom from fear and freedom from want.

Poverty and violence are interconnected. The grinding degradation of poverty is itself a form of violence. Armed conflict destroys homes, schools and factories, locking people into deepening cycles of deprivation and want. War kills people and destroys trust. War can set back the development of a country for generations.

"In the final analysis, human security is a child who did not die, a disease that did not spread, a job that was not cut, an ethnic tension that did not explode in violence, a dissident who was not silenced. Human security is not a concern with weapons—it is a concern with human life and dignity."

—Mabub ul Haq

How can we ensure a safe future for all our children?

ISSUES IN HUMAN SECURITY

Every day, 24,000 people die because of extreme poverty—the equivalent of a plane carrying 500 people crashing every 30 minutes around the clock. And three out of four of the victims are children under age five.

In the next hour, 1,000 people will die because of hunger and related diseases.



Homeless man in New York.



Two-year-old Ethiopian boy with AIDS held by his mother.



Pollution from smokestacks, USA.



Receding flood waters after Hurricane Katrina in St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana, USA.

ENVIRONMENT

Millions of people die in developing countries every year because of illnesses carried by polluted air and water. Emissions from fossil fuels contribute directly to the buildup of greenhouse gases that envelop our planet and threaten widespread climate change.