**Social unrest research sheet.**

**Social unrest definition:**

Where large groups in the population voice and demonstrate their concerns on a particular issue in ways that disrupt the normal functioning of society.

**General information:**

This was seen in the Algerian riots in 2011, as young people responded violently to the heightened inflation of basic food. Link to article here: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-12134307](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-12134307)

In 2013 a report that stated food relate riots would soon become the norm, as climate change, inequality and debt among LIC's would escalate food insecurity in places like North Africa and the Middle East. Terrorist groups resulting from the Arab Springs has been pinned down to food shortage related issues, and escalating food prices in 2008.

Some analysists think that it is the volatile changes in food prices, and not just increases themselves, that lead to social unrest. In the developing world families will spend more than 50% of their income on food, compared to 13% in the USA.

**Possible strategies to investigate:**

* Anti-inflation measures in economic terms
* Increasing production/supply of basic food necessities
* Farming subsidies
* Increasing food imports

**Possible further links:**

[www.africaresearchinstitute.org/newsite/blog/silent-crisis-food-price-inflation-africa/](http://www.africaresearchinstitute.org/newsite/blog/silent-crisis-food-price-inflation-africa/)

[fullfact.org/economy/farming-subsidies-uk/](https://fullfact.org/economy/farming-subsidies-uk/)

[thebritishgeographer.weebly.com/food-security-and-strategies-to-alleviate-food-shortage.html](http://thebritishgeographer.weebly.com/food-security-and-strategies-to-alleviate-food-shortage.html)

**Soil erosion and land degradation research sheet.**

“In India around 120 million hectares of land is suffering from soil erosion or environmental degradation.”

**Soil erosion definition:**

Where dry bare soil, often on the edges of deserts, gets exposed to wind and the fertile top layer is blown away.

**Environmental degradation definition:**

The deterioration of the physical environment as a result of human action and over use of its resources.

Explanation on these two processes can be found here:

[wwf.panda.org/what\_we\_do/footprint/agriculture/impacts/soil\_erosion/](http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/footprint/agriculture/impacts/soil_erosion/)

**General information:**

The intense and rising demand for food leads to intensification of farming and the need to increase crop yields. By planting crops on the same field year on year, without a rest, the soil becomes less fertile. Similarly, too much irrigation on dry semi-desert soils, encourages salt to the rise to the surface, making the ground infertile over time and leading to environmental degradation. Overgrazing livestock on the same land and using heavy machinery also causes the top fertile layer to become hard and compacted, thus in turn reduces the ability for plats to grow a healthy root system and exposes the soil to erosion by wind and water.

**Possible strategies to investigate:**

* Irrigation technology (aeroponics) which does not use excessive water amounts
* Tiered pricing structure on water usage
* Managing animals feeding habits
* Rotate animals over grazing pastures
* Agroforestry

**Possible further links:**

[www.fao.org/forestry/agroforestry/en/](http://www.fao.org/forestry/agroforestry/en/)

[prezi.com/l2oxetd2jxd8/soil-salinization-lab/](https://prezi.com/l2oxetd2jxd8/soil-salinization-lab/)

<http://www.cadrought.com/soil-needed-drought-friendly-container-gardens/>

**Malnutrition and famine research sheet.**

**Malnutrition definition:**

When people are not able to eat enough of the right kind foods to keep them healthy.

**Famine definition:**

A widespread geographical area facing severe food scarcity.

**General information:**

The GHI (Global Hunger Index) measures world hunger on a score of 0 to 100, 100 being the worst where everyone in the country is hungry. It is measured using calorie consumption and development indicators linked to child health, e.g. weight and infant mortality.

The following map shows that Central and Eastern African nations have the highest percentage of the population undernourished; 25% or more. Some Asian countries are also high, North Korea, Mongolia, India and Afghanistan.

Find the map here: [www.bbc.co.uk/education/guides/zsdhbk7/revision/2](http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/guides/zsdhbk7/revision/2)

**Possible strategies to investigate:**

* Distribute high calorie/energy food to targeted regions
* Educating people about nutrition
* Charity and aid intervention
* Family planning and contraception

**Possible further links:**

World Food Programme:

[www.wfp.org/nutrition/special-nutritional-products](http://www.wfp.org/nutrition/special-nutritional-products)

[www.wfp.org/nutrition/nutrition-in-emergencies](http://www.wfp.org/nutrition/nutrition-in-emergencies)

**Rising food prices group sheet.**

**General information:**

When food is in high demand and short supply, the price rises.

This is made worse in remote rural areas, where a bad harvest or famine severely limits the access of food to the local population. The single market price of food globally helps to push up food prices, as exporters can choose to sell abroad for a higher price, rather than locally or nationally.

The East Africa food crisis in 2011 saw rapid food price rises in Kenya, as a result of a large scale loss of livestock. In the slums in the Kenya's capital, Nairobi, people earn on average only $1 per day whilst the price of sugar and rice doubled in six weeks. This makes it increasingly difficult for people to feed themselves. Many families in LIC's are spending 50% of their income on food.

If you follow the link below to the infographic titled: Rising food prices and their impact on hungry people around the world

[blogs.worldwatch.org/nourishingtheplanet/rising-food-prices-and-social-unrest/](http://blogs.worldwatch.org/nourishingtheplanet/rising-food-prices-and-social-unrest/), you will see by how much basic food supplies like rice, wheat and maize have risen, and the impact on calorie intakes. Bangladesh and Cambodia will be worst hit, as the bulk of their diet is made up of these items.

**Possible strategies to investigate:**

* National governments in HIC's can wipe out or reduce debts from LIC's
* Global actions to reduce the rate of global warming, which adversely affect crop yields
* Steps to reduce national food inflation
* Drought resistant crops and technology

**Possible further links:**

[www.wfp.org/stories/how-high-food-prices-affect-worlds-poor](http://www.wfp.org/stories/how-high-food-prices-affect-worlds-poor)

[www.independent.co.uk/news/science/drought-resistant-crops-plants-genetic-engineering-a8091816.html](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/drought-resistant-crops-plants-genetic-engineering-a8091816.html)

**Completed task sheet.**

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| **Impact of food insecurity** | **What is it? What are the associated problems?** | **Possible solutions to these problems** | **Which is the best solution? Why?** |
| Social unrest (social) |  |  |  |
| Soil erosion and land degradation (environmental) |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Malnutrition and famine (social) |  |  |  |
| Rising food prices (social) |  |  |  |