



Worldwide hunger a national security issue for the United States

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The US Department of Agriculture released a report Monday stating one in six American households had inadequate access to a safe, reliable supply of food in 2008.

Worldwide, the situation is even worse: "In the next 60 seconds, 10 children will die of hunger. For the first time in humanity, over 1 billion people are chronically hungry," according to the United Nations [World Food Programme](#) (WFP).

"Without food, societies become breeding grounds for instability, civil unrest, terrorism and demagogues," WFP Director Josette Sheeran told the [Women's Foreign Policy Group](#) last year. Beyond humanitarian considerations, Sheeran said hunger is "a vital national security issue for the United States and, indeed, for the world."

Jacques Diouf, director-general of the United Nations [Food and Agriculture Organization](#), says an annual expenditure of \$44 billion would end world hunger; \$8 billion is currently being pledged. At a three-day international summit earlier in the week, Diouf called on the world to join him in a day of fasting to highlight the plight of 1 billion hungry people.

[Democracy Now's](#) Amy Goodman put it in perspective today, citing [Center for Arm Control and Non-Proliferation](#) figures showing the US has been spending over \$96 billion per year in Afghanistan since 2001.

"Consider pausing this Thanksgiving, which for many in the U.S. is a major feast, to reflect on the 10 children who die of hunger every minute, and how your elected officials are spending hundreds of billions in public funds on war," Goodman said.

See Goodman's [article](#) on the Obama Administration's problematical approach.

Be part of the solution: Have each guest bring a can of food to Thanksgiving dinner and take the donations to the nearest foodbank the next day.

