



# WRITING CONTEST

(Submission deadline: August 1, 2007)



## A future with no one living in poverty and hunger Tell us your vision of how we can arrive there

The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) invites you to present your views on how to arrive at a future where no one lives in poverty and hunger.

If you

- are a young person, at least 14 years old but not older than 18 years;
- have thoughts and ideas about ending poverty and hunger in the world; and
- are enthusiastic and creative...

Then you should participate in IFPRI's third writing contest: Use your writing skills and write an essay, short story, poem, open letter to a national leader, short play, or other text on

- how we can make poverty and hunger problems of the past in all nations across the globe

**First Prize:** US\$500, plus a booklet in which your essay will be published with other high-quality contributions

**Runner-up Prizes:** US\$250, plus a booklet in which your essay will be published  
The booklet will also be featured on the IFPRI website

**We will need your submission no later than August 1, 2007**

### What are the contest rules?

- Entries will be accepted in **English**
- Writing may be presented in essay, short story, poem, or other form, but **should not exceed 2,000 words**
- Entries should include your **name, age, and full contact information** (including home address and telephone number, and email address, if available).
- **Entries must be typed.**
- We prefer to receive submissions by **email** as Word or WordPerfect documents. You may also **fax** or send your work by **airmail**. All entries must be received by August 1.

### Where do I send my submission?

Writing Contest

Fax: +1-202-467-4439

IFPRI

E-mail: [IFPRI-2020WritingContest@cgiar.org](mailto:IFPRI-2020WritingContest@cgiar.org)

2033 K Street, NW

Web: <http://www.ifpri.org/2020ChinaConference/chconfcontest.asp>

Washington, DC 20006, USA

Note: Copyright for all entries will rest with IFPRI. On the last page of your entry please add the following text: "Copyright © 2007 International Food Policy Research Institute. All rights reserved."

**For more information, please visit the writing contest web page at**  
<http://www.ifpri.org/2020ChinaConference/chconfcontest.asp> **or email us at the address above.**

## BACKGROUND NOTE

Dear Youth:

At the turn of this century, far too many people in the world lived a miserable life. They suffered from severe diseases, had too little to eat, had no education, and all in all faced continual distress because they lived in poverty. Children, young people, women, and men all suffered alike. Here are some sad figures: 1.3 billion people lived in poverty; 800 million had too little to eat throughout the year.

Most people knew all this and felt worried; probably you did too, even if you were only a child then. In the year 2000, leaders of the world's nations got together in the United Nations, discussed these problems, and decided that the world must change the situation. They adopted the Millennium Declaration, a peaceful "declaration of war" on all these troubles. The Declaration had eight sections, each one describing a problem and setting a goal of doing much better by 2015.

The first goal (Millennium Development Goal Number One) deals with poverty and hunger. The Declaration states that the proportion of people living in poverty and hunger should be halved by 2015—eight years from now! The proportions should be counted for the whole world and also nation by nation. Since 2000, much progress has been made in some countries—China is a strong example—and we will probably reach the goal for the world as a whole. But many countries, not least in Africa, will have a lot of trouble halving hunger and poverty by 2015. So we are facing an immediate problem: How can we make the vision come true in all nations? And we are facing a long-term problem: How can we go beyond the 2015 goals and "make poverty and hunger history," as the saying goes?

Think hard, think creatively, think personally, use words loaded with facts, vision, poetry—whatever works for you—and share your thoughts with us about how to overcome these problems. We will need and use your thoughts when leaders from many corners of the world meet in China in October to reflect and advise on how we can attack even more decisively the problems of hunger and poverty. (For more information on the conference: <http://www.ifpri.org/2020ChinaConference/index.htm>)

This is your chance to make your voice heard, to show that you too are worried, and to share with others your commitment and solutions, maybe even dreams, for a better, fairer future for all.

**For more information, please visit the writing contest web page at <http://www.ifpri.org/2020ChinaConference/chconfcontest.asp> or email us at the address above.**

## SOME BACKGROUND FIGURES AND FACTS

- Over one billion people around the world are poor, living on less than one dollar a day.
- Many of these poor people survive with much less, say half a dollar a day, and live a very vulnerable life in nearly permanent hunger.
- In the year 2000, the Millennium Declaration combined the fight against poverty and hunger into Millennium Development Goal Number One: reducing the share of the world's poor and hungry people by half by 2015.
- In the year 2000, more than 800 million people were food insecure, and this number has not changed much over the last seven years.
- The struggle to reduce poverty and hunger shows varying results across countries. China, for one, has cut down the number of hungry people from 194 million to 142 million, and the numbers continue to decrease. Meanwhile the figure has gone up in other parts of the world, from 625 million to 672 million. Even with the best of our imaginations, these numbers, reflecting as they do so many suffering individuals, are impossible to understand.
- South and Southeast Asia and North Africa have made marked progress in reducing poverty. And large parts of the world have progressed in reducing hunger. These areas have a realistic chance to cut the share of poor and hungry people in half by 2015. But most of Africa south of the Sahara is unlikely to reach the targets.
- The prospect for the immediate future is that 700 million people in the world will still be poor by 2015, and 600 million of them will probably not have enough to eat every year.
- A very high proportion of those left behind are the children and youngsters, men and, not least, women of Africa. But also a great number in South Asia, maybe as many as 200 million people, will stay in poverty.
- Beyond 2015 the outlook is difficult to predict. The efforts to cut poverty and hunger for "the first half" might prove to be the easiest part of the task, as these are the people more able to grasp an opportunity to escape their situation. "The other half" might call for other solutions, and for thinking along different lines. Eliminating poverty and hunger for the other half is the long-term challenge we face.