

# Foreword: David Beckmann

This report is about fragile states like Somalia and Mali, where hunger and poverty are made worse by violent conflict. A child in a fragile state is twice as likely to be hungry—and three times as likely to be unable to attend school.

The last chapter of this report focuses on communities of concentrated poverty in our own country. Children in these often violent communities are especially likely to suffer poor nutrition in their early years, drop out of school, remain stuck in poverty, and eventually be disabled with long-term health problems.

The world as a whole is making unprecedented progress against hunger, poverty, and disease. Thus, we can reasonably pray—and work—to virtually end hunger in our time. In 2015, all the nations of the world agreed on the Sustainable Development Goals, which begin with the goals of ending hunger and extreme poverty by 2030.

But a large and growing share of world hunger is concentrated in fragile states. The rest of the world has largely given up on some of the poorest fragile states. But to continue to move toward the end of hunger, we need to mobilize increased support for peacemaking and development in the toughest situations. This report outlines strategies that can help people in fragile states make improvements in their lives.

Many of the fragile states are especially affected by climate change, so climate-resilient agricultural development is important. Changes to reduce climate-damaging emissions here in the United States are also important to struggling people in the world's fragile states.

Conflict in the fragile states is a security problem for the United States and other industrialized countries: violence in low-income, often forgotten fragile states contributes to international terrorism. Also, most of the refugees who have flooded into Europe are fleeing from fragile states, and most of the undocumented immigrants coming into the United States are coming from three exceptionally violent Central American countries.

I am hoping that the president and Congress who take office in 2017 will increase U.S. funding for fragile states—in the interests of national security as well as because it is so clearly the right thing to do.



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