
**American Association
for International Aging**

**RETIRED AMERICANS
LOOK AT
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**



First Edition 1990

RETIRED AMERICANS

LOOK AT

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Prepared by

**THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
FOR INTERNATIONAL AGING**

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President

Prepared by:
THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR INTERNATIONAL AGING

The American Association for International Aging, founded in 1983, is a private, nonprofit voluntary agency addressing the needs of aging people in developing nations and in cross-cultural settings in the United States.

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RETIRED AMERICANS LOOK AT INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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NRTA (National Retired Teachers Association), a division of AARP (the American Association of Retired Persons) with more than 500,000 retired teachers, has a working affiliation with state and local Retired Teachers Associations. Participating NRTA organizations were located in: Washington, D.C.; Raleigh, North Carolina; Dubuque, Iowa; Albuquerque, New Mexico; and Denver, Colorado.

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RETIRED AMERICANS LOOK AT INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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RETIRED AMERICANS LOOK AT INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

INTRODUCTION

Retired Americans have a unique and often unappreciated perspective on the many changes which have taken place in the United States' relationship with the developing world in the last four decades.

They can recall, for example, that in 1949 President Truman shifted the focus of U.S. foreign aid from Europe to developing countries, establishing the basis of our foreign aid program of today. Through the years they have seen some nations to which we provided aid emerge as important players in the world economy; they have seen others remain in poverty with a multitude of health, sanitation, population, agriculture and economic problems.

Today, many retired Americans are aware of what is often referred to as an interrelated global condition...a world economy which has become increasingly competitive and integrated; a melting of East-West tensions; Eastern bloc countries calling for "development assistance" from the West; much of the world's ever-growing population faced with massive poverty and hunger; economic and political stability disturbed by tensions in the Middle-East; problems related to the "greenhouse effect"; international trade in narcotics; illegal immigration; and U.S. and Third World debt. They see these and many other problems affecting their domestic lives and putting into question the quality of life which their children and grandchildren can expect in the future.

Retired Americans also express concern that the information they get through various media sources provides only a snapshot of the problems and the crises of the day. They want to know more...more about who provides development assistance and how much it costs; who receives assistance and how it helps solve problems; why it is in the best interest of the United

States; and, perhaps most importantly, how our involvement benefits our own country and the American people.

This booklet, *Retired Americans Look at International Development*, was prepared in response to requests for introductory information about international development. Its purpose is to stimulate your thinking, perhaps correct some misconceptions about developing countries, and address why and how the United States is involved in helping them "when we have so many problems at home." It provides information collected and developed from countless sources in the fields of international development and aging, and also introduces information about the opinions of retired Americans about international development. While the booklet was prepared especially for the audience of retired Americans, we believe it will provide interesting reading for all age groups.

A companion booklet, *How Can I Be Involved in International Development?* will be available in 1991. It will provide contact information and descriptions of the purposes and activities of U.S.-based organizations working in international development.

And now, let me invite you to enjoy learning some new facts and reviewing quite a lot of information about international development. But first, why not take a few minutes to answer the *Twenty Questions to Test Your Knowledge about International Development* on the following page. While you will find brief answers to each question on page 63, we hope that the "test" will encourage you to read the entire booklet and to consider the importance of U.S. involvement in international development.

Helen K. Kerschner, Ph.D.
President, AAIA

TWENTY QUESTIONS TO TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE ABOUT INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- T F 1. There are more *developing* nations than *developed* nations in the world.
- T F 2. Life expectancy at birth is on the decline in developing countries.
- T F 3. English is the first language of a greater number of people in the world than any other language.
- T F 4. Poverty is the basic cause of hunger today.
- T F 5. About 5% of the world's population goes hungry every day.
- T F 6. Only a small percentage of U.S. trade is with developing countries.
- T F 7. Most of the world's population lives in developing countries.
- T F 8. There are more people living in Asia than in any other region of the world.
- T F 9. Poor nutrition and inadequate health care are the leading causes of sickness and death in the world.
- T F 10. The majority of blindness is in the industrialized world.
- T F 11. Drinking and bathing account for more than 50% of the fresh global water used in the world.
- T F 12. The majority of older people (age 60+) in the world live in industrialized countries.
- T F 13. The three largest markets for U.S. goods are developed countries.
- T F 14. About 90% of the world's population growth in the next 15 years will take place in developing countries.
- T F 15. Today, Official Development Assistance accounts for about 10% of the U.S. Gross National Product (GNP).

- T F 16. Today, the U.S. allocates less of its GNP to foreign assistance than it did during the Marshall Plan in the late 1940s.
- T F 17. The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund are the primary U.S. agencies which facilitate U.S. development assistance to developing countries.
- T F 18. The percentage of children (aged 15 & younger) is much greater in developing countries than in industrialized countries.
- T F 19. The U.S. is the most generous foreign assistance donor in the world.
- T F 20. Most U.S. foreign aid dollars are spent in the United States.

See page 63 for Answers.

PROFILE OF FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANTS

The American Association for International Aging (AAIA) is engaged in an educational program for groups of retired Americans. The program emphasizes education about issues related to international development.

As part of this effort, AAIA looked to the target audience of retired Americans for information by arranging small focus groups in which people could express their opinions and concerns about development and development assistance to the developing world. More than 250 retired Americans from OASIS (the Older Adult Service and Information System) and NRTA (the National Retired Teachers Association) participated in two-to-three hour sessions. Participants were invited on the basis of curiosity and interest in the subject. Cities represented included:

Hyattsville, Md. Dubuque, Iowa
St. Louis, Mo. Pittsburgh, Penn.
Denver, Colo. Rochester, New York
Los Angeles, Ca. Enfield, Conn.
San Diego, Ca. Waterbury, Conn.
Phoenix, Ariz. Raleigh, No. Carolina
Albuquerque, N.M.

A quick look at the profile of the 250 focus group participants tells us that:

- 69% were female; 31% were male
- 49% were in the 60-69 year age bracket
 - 44% were 70-79 years old
 - 5% were over 80 years old
 - 2% were under age 60
- 50% had graduate level education
 - 25% had a college level education
 - 25% had a high school level education
- 56% had traveled in the developing world
- 9% had lived in the developing world
- 8% had worked in the developing world
- 9% had participated in an international development program
- 26% had attended a previous development education program
- 82% stated that they noticed media attention on the developing world
- 89% felt that developing world assistance efforts were in the best interest of the U.S.
- 65% felt that developing world assistance efforts were in the best interest of their organization
- 51% felt that their community received direct benefits from U.S. development efforts in the developing world
- 65% felt that the support of older people should be a priority in developing world assistance efforts.

The groups were asked similar questions and completed similar surveys. The groups were so interested in the responses of other groups that we thought you would be, too. They have been included at the beginning of each chapter. We believe you will discover that many of them reflect your own concerns about the developing world, our relationship to it, and the role and responsibility of the United States in providing development assistance. Additional questions are provided at the end of each chapter which we hope will stimulate further reflection on the issues covered.

One recurring question which was raised in every focus group was, "Why, with all our problems at home, are we sending money to developing countries?" It is an important consideration, and one which we hope you will be able to answer after you have read AAIA's booklet, *Retired Americans Look at International Development*.

OUR WORLD — A GLOBAL VILLAGE

If our world were a village of 1,000 people, there would be:

- 564 Asians
- 210 Europeans
- 86 Africans
- 80 South Americans
- 60 North Americans

There would be:

- 300 Christians (183 Catholics, 84 Protestants, 33 Orthodox)
- 175 Moslems
- 128 Hindus
- 55 Buddhists
- 47 Animists
- 210 without any religion or Atheist (or other)

And, of these people:

- 60 persons would have half the income
- 500 would be hungry
- 600 would live in shantytowns
- 700 would be illiterate

Source: *IRED Forum*, a publication of the Geneva-based Development Innovations and Networks



I. IS THERE A "THIRD WORLD"?

One of the first questions which people ask prior to a focus group or educational program is, "What do you mean by 'Third World'?" We know you will be interested in what people said in response to the question, "What do you think of when you hear terms such as 'developing country,' 'less developed country' and 'Third World'?"

<i>Poverty</i>	<i>Suffering</i>	<i>Hunger</i>
<i>Disease</i>	<i>Illiteracy</i>	<i>Drudgery</i>
<i>Hopelessness</i>	<i>Low education standards</i>	<i>Uncertainties</i>
<i>Few resources</i>	<i>Poor nutrition</i>	<i>High infant mortality</i>
<i>Unstable government</i>	<i>Lack of opportunity</i>	<i>Poor living conditions</i>
<i>No technology</i>	<i>Oppression</i>	<i>Improving</i>
<i>Lack of development</i>	<i>Lack of health resources</i>	<i>Deprived women</i>

As you can see, the term "Third World" elicited a wide range of responses reflecting concerns about perceived political, economic and social conditions. Many of these conditions are discussed throughout this booklet.

This chapter discusses the diminishing relevance of the term "Third World" and the somewhat less frequently used terms "Second World" and "First World." It also introduces a number of terms used to describe various groupings which make up the "developing countries" of the world. As you will see, there is substantial overlap among them.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE THIRD WORLD?

Let's begin with three definitions.

FIRST WORLD: The First World has traditionally referred to industrialized, market-economy nations (typically referring to Western Europe, North America, Australia, New Zealand and Japan).

SECOND WORLD: The Second World has traditionally referred to those nations based on a socialist or centrally planned economy (typically referring to the U.S.S.R. and the Eastern European bloc countries).

THIRD WORLD: The Third World has traditionally referred to everyone else who wasn't located in the First or Second Worlds.

These three blocs of countries have typically been viewed as the free world and the

communist world struggling for power and influence, and the rest of the world (the Third World) mired in poverty and political turmoil. But the end of the Cold War has changed all that.

According to Robert J. Samuelson in a recent article in the *Washington Post*, what we see today and for the future "is rich nations everywhere trying to stabilize their regions with some aid and trade concessions to their poorer neighbors. The United States is already focusing on Latin America, Japan on China, and Western Europe on the former Soviet bloc. But even here, poorer countries will increasingly be thrown back on their own resources; they're not likely to get much help unless they demonstrate the ability to organize legitimate governments and to stimulate internal economic development. The discipline will be imposed not only by stingy taxpayers in richer countries but also by the multi-national companies that control large

private investment. Companies will locate plants where they think they can count on productive workers and political stability."

While some people may differ with this particular perspective, there is increasing agreement that the interrelationships and cooperation among nations and within regions of the world make such blocs, particularly that of the Third World, irrelevant.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "DEVELOPED" AND "DEVELOPING" COUNTRIES?

Countries are commonly grouped as "developed" or "developing" on the basis of per capita Gross National Product (GNP), that is, the value of all the goods and services that a country produces in one year divided equally among all the people. For example, according to one classification used by the World Bank, countries with a per capita GNP of more than \$2,000 are defined as "developed." On the other hand, those with a per capita GNP of less than \$2,000 are defined as "developing."

The Developing World

Developing countries are grouped as such because they share many characteristics such as low standards of living, widespread malnutrition, disease, insufficient medical services, high levels of illiteracy, and unemployment. It has been estimated that about four billion of the earth's five billion people live in the developing world, yet they account for only about one-fifth of the global GNP. Nearly two billion people live in two developing countries alone — India and China.

The chart included in this chapter provides a somewhat different way of looking at levels of economic development. This approach, which

is used by the World Bank and many other development organizations, identifies countries in the following manner (using 1988 data): 42 low-income economies with per capita income of \$545 or less; 37 lower-middle-income economies with per capita income of \$546 to \$2,160; 17 upper-middle-income economies with per capita income of \$2,161 to \$5,420; and 25 high-income economies with per capita income of \$5,421 to \$27,500. (Countries with populations of less than one million are not included within this grouping.)

Changing Geography

Recognition of the names of countries in the developing world can be somewhat difficult for those who studied geography before 1940. Africa alone provides a good example because most of colonial Africa has been renamed since World War II. The retreat of colonials has resulted in British Central Africa now being called Malawi, British East Africa being renamed Kenya, the Gold Coast now being called Ghana, Rhodesia being renamed Zimbabwe, the Belgian Congo now being called Zaire, the Ivory Coast now being called Cote d'Ivoire, and Upper Volta being renamed Burkina Faso.

There are also several other ways of grouping developing countries.

Least Developed Countries

According to the United Nations, as of 1985, the world's poorest people live in 41 "least developed countries" which have an average per capita GNP just over \$200. All together they make up about 8% of the world's population, or about 370 million people. Of these countries, 27 are in Africa, and the concern has been expressed that Africa is becoming the "third world of the Third World."

These are the countries which have been least affected by the worldwide trends of democratic change. They are the very poorest countries, with exceptionally low per capita incomes, little economic growth and few natural resources. In human terms this translates into malnutrition and hunger (under-nutrition), illiteracy, slum housing or homelessness, disease, high rates of population growth, high infant mortality and short life expectancy. Some countries which are generally included in this category are Bangladesh, China, Ethiopia, India, Nepal, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, and Zaire.

Middle Income Countries

“Middle-income countries” are well along the path to economic independence, many with the help of U.S. foreign assistance. At the same time, many are struggling with heavy debt burdens and have large pockets of poverty and under-nutrition. Their urban areas harbor massive numbers of under-employed in inadequate shelter. But, even with their problems, many of which are associated with industrialization and urbanization, middle-income coun-

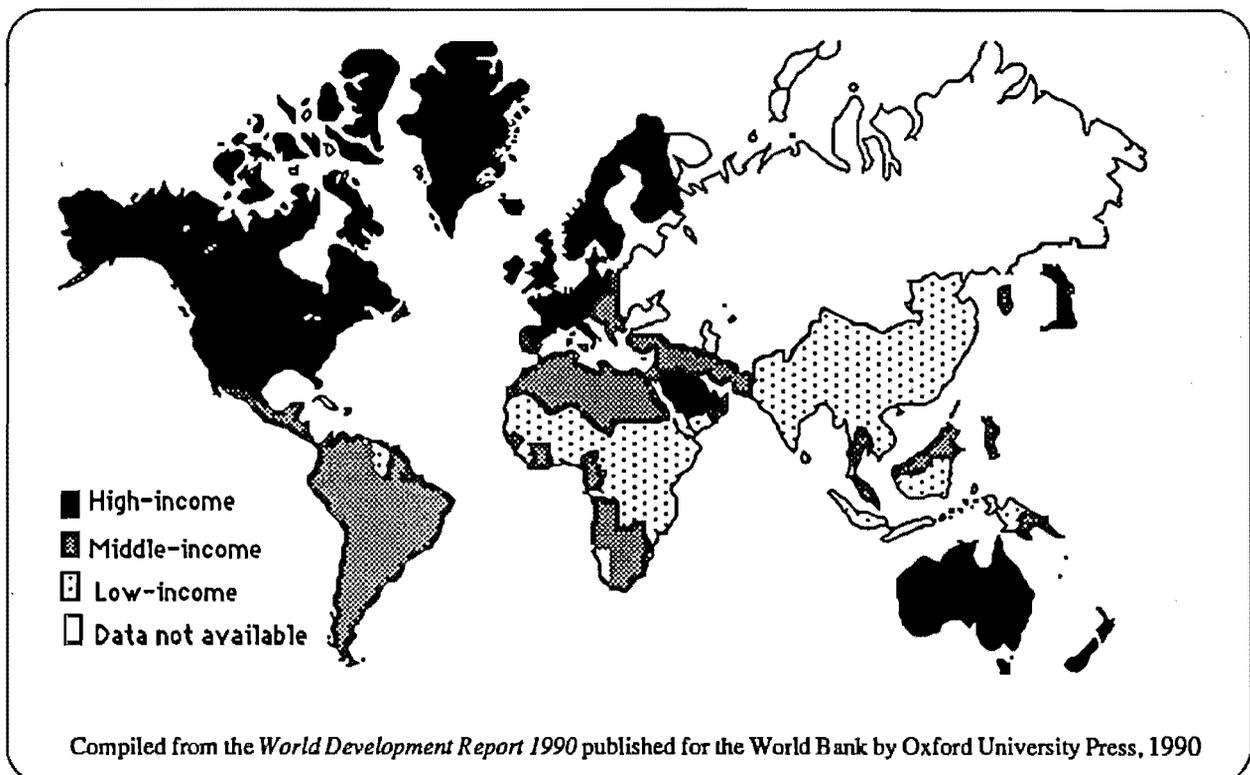
tries are believed to have the human resources and income potential to continue to industrialize and modernize and to overcome their poverty problems. Examples of these countries are Brazil, Chile, Mexico and Venezuela.

Newly Industrialized Countries (NICs)

“Newly industrialized countries” or NICs (sometimes identified as advanced developing countries) such as Argentina, Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea, and Taiwan have become world competitors in products such as steel, automobiles, ships and computers.

VESIs and RTIs

Developing countries are sometimes further classified with regard to the effect of industrialization. Bangladesh and Nepal are considered VESIs, or countries in the *very early stages of industrialization*. Nigeria, Sri Lanka, and Zimbabwe are often identified as RTIs, or countries experiencing *recent trends in industrialization*.



COUNTRIES BY ECONOMIC CATEGORIES

LOW-INCOME ECONOMIES

Mozambique	Madagascar	Pakistan	Indonesia
Ethiopia	Burkina Faso	Kenya	Mauritania
Chad	Mali	Togo	Sudan
Tanzania	Burundi	Central African Rep.	Afghanistan *
Bangladesh	Uganda	Haiti	Myanmar *
Malawi	Nigeria	Benin	Kampuchea, Dem. *
Somalia	Zambia	Ghana	Liberia *
Zaire	Niger	Lesotho	Sierra Leone *
Bhutan	Rwanda	Sri Lanka	Viet Nam *
Lao PDR	China	Guinea	
Nepal	India	Yemen, PDR	

MIDDLE-INCOME ECONOMIES

Lower-middle-income

Bolivia	Honduras	Paraguay	Poland
Philippines	Guatemala	Tunisia	Malaysia
Yemen Arab Rep.	Congo, People's Rep.	Turkey	Panama
Senegal	El Salvador	Peru	Brazil
Zimbabwe	Thailand	Jordan	Angola *
Egypt, Arab. Rep.	Botswana	Chile	Lebanon *
Dominican Rep.	Cameroon	Syrian Arab Rep.	Nicaragua *
Cote d'Ivoire	Jamaica	Costa Rica	
Papua New Guinea	Ecuador	Mexico	
Morocco	Colombia	Mauritius	

Upper-middle-income

South Africa	Yugoslavia	Portugal	Iraq *
Algeria	Gabon	Greece	Romania *
Hungary	Venezuela	Oman	
Uruguay	Trinidad/Tobago	Libya	
Argentina	Korea, Rep. of	Iran, Islamic Rep. *	

HIGH-INCOME ECONOMIES (OECD members)

Saudi Arabia	Australia	United Arab Emirates	United States
Spain	United Kingdom	France	Norway
Ireland	Italy	Canada	Japan
Israel	Kuwait	Denmark	Switzerland
Singapore	Belgium	Germany, Fed. Rep.	
Hong Kong	Netherlands	Finland	
New Zealand	Austria	Sweden	

NOTE: Listed in ascending order of per capita GNP (reading down); * indicates data not available.
SOURCE: Compiled from *World Development Report 1990*, Oxford University Press, 1990.

North and South

The geographic location of most developed countries in the Northern Hemisphere and most developing countries south of the Equator gives rise to the use of the terms "North" and "South."

WHAT ABOUT THE THIRD WORLD IN THE UNITED STATES?

"The Third World exists in our own country" was the comment of many focus group participants. There is some truth to the statement, for according to a recent Census Bureau annual report, nearly 32 million people in the

United States remain below the poverty level, and at least 7 million in rural areas still live without a toilet, a sink or running water, in shacks without windows.

However, the comparison goes beyond opinion or statistics. Even though it is currently out of vogue within the international development community, the term "Third World" seems to be used with increasing frequency by the media. In recent years, African Americans and Hispanics, New York City and Washington, D.C., and Arkansas and West Virginia are just a few of the ethnic groups, cities and states which have been described as "being like a Third World country." The message conveyed is that they have significant economic, health or social problems, and very grim conditions.

CONCLUSION

Developing countries make up the majority of countries in the world. They are located in Africa, Asia, and Latin America and are positioned within a broad continuum with respect to their stages of industrialization. While some people would argue that the term "Third World" is no longer a relevant classification because of the economic diversity of the countries and the recent political changes in Eastern Europe, it is still used in the United States to describe poverty, hunger and other problems both at home and abroad.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Are Eastern bloc countries "developed" or "developing" countries?
2. Is poverty different in the United States than in the Third World?
3. Why are the developing countries located in Asia, Africa and Latin America?

II. WHAT IS DEVELOPMENT?

Development frequently is defined in economic terms, and quite often "rich" and "poor" are the comparisons used. The following are responses to two questions:

"Being from a RICH country means..."

<i>Freedom</i>	<i>Fortunate</i>	<i>Comfortable</i>
<i>Thankful</i>	<i>Privileged</i>	<i>Embarrassing</i>
<i>Opportunities</i>	<i>Assuming responsibility</i>	<i>Luxuries</i>
<i>Advantages</i>	<i>Well-organized government</i>	<i>Good self-image</i>
<i>Pressure/responsibility</i>	<i>High per capita income</i>	<i>Challenging</i>
<i>Industrialized</i>	<i>Retirement security</i>	<i>Education</i>
<i>Choices</i>	<i>Resources to share</i>	<i>Successful</i>
<i>Heavy taxes</i>	<i>Arrogance</i>	<i>Economic power</i>

"Being from a POOR country means..."

<i>Deprived</i>	<i>Hungry</i>	<i>Corruption</i>
<i>Unfortunate</i>	<i>Unhealthy</i>	<i>Depressed</i>
<i>Uncertainties</i>	<i>Concern for young</i>	<i>Defensive</i>
<i>Anxious</i>	<i>Inferior</i>	<i>Struggling</i>
<i>Jealousy</i>	<i>Oppressed</i>	<i>In awe</i>
<i>Lack of opportunity</i>	<i>Hopeless</i>	<i>Uneducated</i>
<i>Short life expectancy</i>	<i>Limited resources</i>	<i>Unrest/Crime</i>
<i>Suffering</i>	<i>Subsistence living</i>	<i>Low aspirations</i>

Our focus group participants appeared to equate being from a "rich country" with an abundance of opportunity and an absence of problems, while being from a "poor country" was equated with an abundance of problems and an absence of opportunity. Would the responses have been different from people in other age groups, communities, or educational settings? We really can't say. However, we do know that in follow-up discussions with our audiences, most concluded that such opinions reflect stereotypes, for in reality rich and poor countries alike have many of the same problems and often many of the same opportunities, and the United States, in fact, is a combination of both.

While "development" would appear to indicate a final state, it is quite the opposite. Development is generally defined as a process — a process by which human communities strive to achieve a basic level of material goods, social services, and human dignity for each individual.

ARE THERE GUIDEPOSTS USED TO DESCRIBE PROGRESS IN DEVELOPMENT?

The following chart groups selected countries according to economic status as outlined in the previous chapter (low-, lower middle-, up-

per middle-, and high-income). However, in addition to economic indicators, the chart also provides several other ways of judging progress toward development: energy consumption, urbanization, life expectancy at birth, infant mortality, population per physician, and adult illiteracy.

**Indicators of Development
1965 - 1988 (unless noted)**

	Per Capita GNP (in dollars)	Per Capita Energy Consumption (kilograms fuel)		Urbanization of Population (% of total pop)	
		1965	1988	1965	1988
Low-Income Countries					
Ethiopia	120	10	20	8	13
Bangladesh	170	—	50	6	13
Nepal	180	6	23	4	9
China	330	178	580	18	50
India	340	100	211	19	27
Kenya	370	110	94	9	22
Ghana	400	76	125	26	33
Lower-Middle-Income Countries					
Zimbabwe	650	441	527	14	27
Egypt	660	313	607	41	48
Dominican Republic	720	127	332	35	59
Jamaica	1,070	703	855	38	51
Colombia	1,180	413	755	54	69
Turkey	1,280	258	822	34	47
Mexico	1,760	605	1,305	55	71
Upper Middle-Income Countries					
Hungary	2,360	1,825	3,068	43	60
Argentina	2,520	975	1,523	76	86
Yugoslavia	2,520	898	2,159	31	49
Korea, Republic of	3,600	238	1,515	32	69
Greece	4,800	615	1,986	48	62
High-Income Countries					
Saudi Arabia	6,200	1,759	3,098	39	76
Israel	8,650	1,574	1,972	81	91
U.K.	12,810	3,481	3,756	87	92
U.S.	19,840	6,535	7,655	72	74
Japan	21,020	4,650	9,516	67	77

Source: *World Development Report 1990*

**Indicators of Development
1965 - 1988 (unless noted)**

	Life	Infant		Population		Adult
	Expect- ancy (at birth)	Mortality (per 1000 live births)		per Physician (in 1000s)		Illit- eracy (% total)
	1988	1965	1988	1965	1984	1985
Low-Income Countries						
Ethiopia	47	165	135	70.2	79.0	38
Bangladesh	51	144	118	8.1	6.7	67
Nepal	51	171	126	46.2	32.7	74
China	70	90	31	1.6	1.0	31
India	58	150	97	4.9	2.5	57
Kenya	59	112	70	13.3	10.0	41
Ghana	54	120	88	13.7	14.9	47
Lower-Middle-Income Countries						
Zimbabwe	63	103	49	8.0	6.7	26
Egypt	63	172	83	2.3	.8	56
Dominican Republic	66	110	63	1.7	1.8	23
Jamaica	73	49	11	2.0	2.0	—
Colombia	68	86	39	2.5	1.2	12
Turkey	64	165	75	2.9	1.4	26
Mexico	69	82	46	2.1	1.2	10
Upper Middle-Income Countries						
Hungary	70	39	16	.6	.3	<5
Argentina	71	58	31	.6	.4	5
Yugoslavia	72	72	25	1.2	.6	9
Korea, Republic of	70	62	24	2.7	1.2	—
Greece	77	34	12	.7	.4	8
High-Income Countries						
Saudi Arabia	64	148	69	9.4	.7	—
Israel	76	27	11	.4	.4	5
U.K.	75	20	9	.9	—	<5
U.S.	76	25	10	.7	.5	<5
Japan	78	18	5	1.0	.7	<5

Source: *World Development Report 1990*

WHAT IS THE VALUE OF NON-ECONOMIC INDICATORS?

As we know from Chapter I, countries with a per capita GNP of more than \$2,000 generally are viewed as *developed* countries, while those with a per capita GNP of less than \$2,000 are generally viewed as *developing* countries. However, the previous chart provides several non-economic factors related to progress in the process of development.

Why identify non-economic "indicators"? Per capita GNP does not, by itself, constitute or measure welfare such as life expectancy, infant mortality or literacy, nor does it distinguish between the uses of a given product such as energy. The previous chart identifies non-economic indicators (and in some cases provides data which compares progress over time) in an effort to illustrate the relationship of economic and non-economic factors associated with development.

The following examples from recent issues of *World Development Forum* provide additional information relevant to several of these non-economic factors.

AGRICULTURAL POPULATION: There is a striking correlation between the size of the agricultural population and their inability to feed themselves satisfactorily. In 10 developing countries, the agricultural population accounts for

80% of the total, and the output per farmer is barely \$120. In 10 developed countries, where the agricultural population is less than 6% of the total, each farmer produces an average of \$11,353 worth of food crops.

MATERNAL RISK: Pregnancy is one of the riskiest conditions affecting African women. The lifetime risk of a woman dying in childbirth in America is about 1 in 8,000; in Africa, it is about 1 in 21.

ENERGY CONSUMPTION: Energy demands of developing countries are likely to increase by more than 50% in the next six years, thus increasing their share of global demand from 17% to 24%.

EDUCATION: Only about 40% of the children in the developing world will be able to go to school; only 15% will finish the elementary level.

TECHNOLOGY: Asia has roughly the same number of telephones as Canada, but for over 2 billion people as compared to 32 million people. There are more telephones in Tokyo than in all of Sub-Saharan Africa (excluding South Africa).

NUTRITION/STARVATION: 9 million people in Africa face a serious nutritional threat, with some regions experiencing starvation. Farmers in 23 African countries with populations of 225 million face adverse conditions that seriously restrict their ability to produce food.

CONCLUSION

Development is generally defined as a process by which human communities strive to achieve a basic level of material goods, services and human dignity for each individual. By this definition then, development is not a final state but rather a stage identified by many interrelated social and economic indicators and conditions.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Are the United States, Great Britain and Japan really "developed" countries?
2. What seems to be the relationship between GNP, percentage of the labor force in agriculture, and per capita energy consumption?
3. What do you think would be other good indicators of development?

III. WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD AND HOW DO THEY AFFECT US?

The mention of the developing world reminds most people of some particular problem or crisis. National and local media carry stories which remind us of the difficulties faced by developing countries and their people. When focus group participants were asked the question, "Can you identify a problem or issue which you think deserves the most attention in the developing world?," these were some of the opinions they expressed:

<i>Poverty</i>	<i>Agricultural development</i>	<i>Hunger</i>
<i>Teaching self-sufficiency</i>	<i>Poor water supply</i>	<i>Human rights</i>
<i>Sanitation</i>	<i>Education</i>	<i>Housing/shelter</i>
<i>Government stability</i>	<i>Corruption</i>	<i>Children</i>
<i>Natural resource depletion</i>	<i>Transportation</i>	<i>Agriculture</i>
<i>Family planning</i>	<i>Accountability</i>	<i>Inadequate controls</i>
<i>Maternal health</i>	<i>Land preservation</i>	<i>Political reform</i>
<i>Environmental degradation</i>	<i>Infant mortality</i>	<i>Apartheid</i>
<i>Distribution of wealth</i>	<i>Immigration to U.S.</i>	<i>Religious freedom</i>

It is little wonder that participants in the focus groups were able to list so many problems which need attention for, according to the United Nations, there are more than 10,000 problems facing developing countries.

Does anyone outside of the United States share the views of the focus group participants about the problems facing developing countries? Readers of *New African* magazine were surveyed recently. In response to one of the questions, "What are your country's main problems?," 38.5% indicated economic hardship, 17% indicated corruption, 13.2% indicated suppression of liberty, and 13.2% indicated tribalism. Conclusions of the editors of the magazine to the overall survey were that most respondents were highly concerned with the problems of Africa and were asking for more reforms, they wanted more democratic governments and more efficiently run economies, they wanted a reduction in corruption and a decrease in tribalism, they wanted a better deal for the ordinary man and woman, and they did not have set ideas about how change could come about.

ARE WE AWARE OF THE PROBLEMS?

Whatever individuals, international agencies or countries judge as the most important problems or priorities for action, it is important to remember that when we talk about the developing world, we are dealing with a part of the world which has an average annual per capita

GNP of less than \$2,000 and which is faced with poverty, hunger and over-population, as well as problems related to education, health, environment, and debt. However, as you might guess, these are just some of the problems faced by people who live in the developing world and which affect, and are often affected by, events and actions in the rest of the world.

Developing Countries Are Where...

- about 77% of the population lives
- almost a billion people live in absolute poverty
- about half the people do not know how to read
- 74% are engaged in agriculture
- half a billion people in the labor force are unemployed or underemployed
- typically 50% of the income is received by 20% of the population, while 20% of the population receive less than 5% of the income
- 75% of rural people have no access to clean drinking water and less than 20% have as much clean water as they need
- more than half a billion people are hungry and malnourished
- almost 20% of the children die before the age of 5
- 80% of all illnesses are waterborne
- 100 million children are always hungry
- 15 million children die each year from a combination of malnutrition and infection
- the average life expectancy is 54 years compared with 74 in developed countries
- debt servicing costs absorb 30 - 40% of all export earnings

DO WE APPRECIATE GLOBAL RELATIONSHIPS?

A few years ago we did not hear much about global concerns, about the global agendas for action, or about our being part of the global society. Today, there is increasing attention on our own prosperity, health, and the integrity of our environment and their relationship to economic and social development in the developing world. The "greenhouse effect," drugs, and pressures on our borders all demonstrate our need to be concerned with development in other countries. We are also beginning to pay attention to the fact that a more prosperous developing world would import more U.S. products, creating jobs and reducing our trade deficit.

Recently, New York's Governor Mario Cuomo discussed these global interrelationships. *"We know that no man is an island... No nation either... Only in an integrated, comprehensive way can we deal with our cluster of economic problems: deficits, trade imbalances and debt... The lines interconnect everywhere on the map. Wheat from the American Great Plains feeds the hungry in Africa and factory*

workers in the Soviet Union; oil from Nigeria and Venezuela and the Persian Gulf supports the hydrocarbon-based economies of the developed world and the new economies of the underdeveloped world. AIDS knows no boundaries, nor do most other diseases.. All are inter-related, all inter-dependent..."

Now let's take a look at several major conditions which affect both developed and developing countries.

ENVIRONMENT: Environmental trends in temperature; radiation; pollution of the air, soil and water; desertification; deforestation; and species reduction are issues of global importance. Since mid-century, the world has lost nearly one-fifth of its cropland topsoil, a fifth of its tropical rain forests, and tens of thousands of its plant and animal species. For example:

- The tropical forests of the developing world help stabilize the world's climate by absorbing radiation. They provide summer homes to the birds we cherish, germplasm for new and better food varieties, and clues vital to the development of modern medicines. In 1950, 15% of the Earth's land was covered by tropical forest. By 1975, tropical forest areas had de-

clined to 12%; by 2000 it is expected to decline to less than 7%.

- Forests are destroyed for reasons that make sense to developing countries encumbered with poverty, debt and population pressures on land resources. Since 1950, two-thirds of the Central American primary forests have disappeared to make room for grazeland and beef production for export to the U.S., where it is used in our fast-food outlets and as pet food. In Brazil, urban population pressures and the need for foreign exchange earned by the sale of timber caused the government to open the country's tropical forests for the felling of timber and farming. When pressed to conserve their forests for ecological reasons, developing countries point out that the U.S. is the principal source of carbon dioxide in the world, producing 23%, and to date has refused to accept strong measures to control auto emissions.

- Shortages of fuelwood — which affect one and a half billion people in 65 countries — together with the search for crop and pasture land contribute to the rampant devastation.

- Deforestation in Africa, Asia and Latin America is said to be responsible for contributing to a worldwide warming trend that could eventually cause Iowa farmers to experience longer periods of drought.

- Desertification is a human-made problem: over-cultivation, improper irrigation, over-grazing and poor irrigation techniques are all contributors. Estimated global losses in productivity from desertification and soil losses are \$26 billion annually.

- Climate changes could carry a global price tag of \$200 billion for irrigation adjustments alone.

- The disappearance of plant and animal species due to environmental conditions is a loss to all humanity.

HEALTH: International health problems, including the new health problem of AIDS, substance abuse, and illnesses related to environmental degradation, are global issues which require global solutions.

DRUGS: Drug traffic cannot be attacked on a country-by-country basis but requires international cooperation. The United States has been blamed for creating an incentive for farmers to divert crops from coffee to coca because of our failure to support renewal of an international coffee agreement which triggered a 50% fall in world coffee prices.

WATER: Agriculture accounts for 70% of total global fresh water use. One-third of today's harvest comes from 17% of the world's cropland which is irrigated. Shrinking inland seas are a dramatic consequence of large water withdrawals to meet irrigation demands. Raising irrigation efficiencies worldwide by just 10% would save enough water to supply all global residential water use.

POPULATION: It took several million years to reach our present population of just over 5 billion. We are expected to reach 8.5 billion by the year 2020, and 10 billion by 2050. In Africa the population was about 100 million in 1900, is nearly 500 million now, and will be 1 billion by 2010 if current growth rates continue.

What are the Preconditions for Development?

"...a sound, honest, and effective public administration, or 'bureaucracy'; the capacity of the bureaucracy to formulate, absorb, and execute development programs and projects; a democratic political structure; and a cultural climate which is supportive of such development goals as social, economic and political equity." Other preconditions include...a free press, strong guarantees of free expression, academic freedom and "a meaningful percentage of the state budget allocated to education..."

Harland Cleveland and Mochtar Lubis, in *The Future of Development*

ECONOMICS: Economic interrelationships abound. In 1985, 22% of industrial country exports went to the developing world. A semiconductor chip might be designed in the U.S., assembled in India, packaged in Singapore, installed in an electronic appliance in Europe and finally sold in the U.S.

POVERTY: In the developing world, it has been estimated that almost a billion people live in absolute poverty. However, a reduction in that poverty goes beyond humanitarian concerns. Since poor people cannot buy our products, poverty robs the United States of vital world markets. It also threatens world peace and the global environment.

POLITICAL STABILITY: Political and security interrelationships are important in that America wants developing countries to emerge

as stable democracies with strong ties to the United States and other Western countries.

TRADE: The U.S. operates within a world community that supplies critical imports and simultaneously serves as a market for our exports, and developing countries are an important subset of that community. According to *The United States and World Poverty*, the record of the past 35 years confirms the mutual benefits that both developed and developing nations derive from trade relationships. It also demonstrates that through economic development, developing countries can become active and beneficial trade partners whose existence complements the activities of other nations.

The illustration below provides another example of the relationship of trade to development.

Trade Relationships: A Help or a Hindrance?

The Dominican Republic demonstrates vividly the impact that industrial countries' trade policies can have on developing countries. One U.S. trade policy—its sugar import quota—has greatly harmed the country's rural poor, whereas its "807 program," which encourages assembly operations, has apparently helped to generate urban employment.

The U.S. sugar import quota varies with domestic production, but is largely determined by political interests. The import quota for all exporting countries was reduced by about 70% between 1982-87. The combination of this shrinking market and an unprecedentedly depressed world price found the Dominican Republic unable to compete. It cut sugar production and exports drastically. Four sugar mills were closed by 1990, and production plunged 40%.

Since sugar is the main rural economic activity in the Dominican Republic, the repercussions were severe. Although most mill employees of the Dominican state sugar company kept their jobs, almost half of the field workers lost their jobs and had to fall back on subsistence farming, compete for meager wages in the depressed day labor market, or migrate to the towns.

In sharp contrast, the U.S. 807 program has helped the economy. If an import under the program is assembled from U.S. material (an example would be shirts sewn from U.S. cloth), tariffs are levied only on the value added by the exporter. Firms in these export processing zones (EPZs) now account for about half of all manufacturing employment and have, since 1980, generated the bulk of the nation's incremental merchandise exports. Employment in EPZ firms—which mainly use semiskilled workers—has increased from 16,000 to 130,000.

U.S. trade policy has substantially altered the shape of the Dominican economy. EPZ exports have replaced sugar as the country's largest foreign exchange generator. Although some new higher-paying jobs have been created for the urban poor, the net effect of the policies has been increased impoverishment in the Dominican Republic.

SOURCE: *World Development Report 1990*, Oxford University Press, 1990.

CONCLUSION

It is said that if present trends continue, the world increasingly will be more crowded, more polluted, less stable ecologically, and more vulnerable to disruption. It is these kinds of problems and interrelationships toward which U.S. foreign or development assistance is directed.

Some people think that the term "development assistance" is outdated; that emphasis should be on how long-term assistance is in the best interest of the United States. According to one development expert, "We should look at foreign aid not simply as assistance to other countries, but rather as assistance to Americans through global cooperation."

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Do you believe that U.S. involvement in the developing world is in the interest of the United States?
2. What are some of the benefits received from our involvement?
3. What should be our priorities for action in development assistance?

IV. HOW ARE POVERTY AND HUNGER RELATED TO DEVELOPMENT?

As part of the focus group activity, many participants completed a pre-test survey which asked them to indicate, on a scale of importance from 1 to 10, how they would value 14 types of development assistance. The responses of the participants, along with the average value of their responses, are shown below in the order of their perceived relative importance.

<u>TYPE OF ASSISTANCE</u>	<u>AVERAGE VALUE</u>
1. <i>Health care</i>	9.03
2. <i>Education/training</i>	8.60
3. <i>Reduction of infant mortality</i>	8.42
4. <i>Family planning</i>	8.21
5. <i>Food aid</i>	8.11
6. <i>Disaster relief</i>	8.04
7. <i>Aid to farmers overseas</i>	7.52
8. <i>Help for governments to improve economies</i>	7.15
9. <i>Volunteer assistance (from U.S.)</i>	6.96
10. <i>Support of community-based small business</i>	6.35
11. <i>Encouragement of U.S. investment overseas</i>	6.23
12. <i>Infrastructure projects</i>	6.13
13. <i>Debt relief</i>	4.91
14. <i>Military bases overseas</i>	4.72

It is evident that the "top ten" responses reflect largely humanitarian rather than security or political concerns. It should also be mentioned that: (1) a majority of the participants expressed major concerns with over-population and saw relationships between health and education with over-population; (2) the noticeable interest in education may be a reflection of the very high level of education within the participant group as a whole and the fact that over 35% of the responding participants were retired teachers; and (3) only a small number of people indicated that they had an understanding of the meaning of infrastructure projects.

Now let's take a look at three of the most critical problems in the developing world toward which many assistance efforts are aimed.

POVERTY, HUNGER AND AGRICULTURE

The President's Task Force on International Private Enterprise concluded in 1984 that in developing countries "*rapid population growth and the need to improve the diets of millions of people created rising demands for the most basic human need—food.*" A board

member of the Hunger Project recently said in a public hearing that any campaign to tackle the issue of sustainable development must address the elimination of hunger as an integral element. The president of InterAction wrote in the *Christian Science Monitor* recently that attacking poverty at the village level will do more to strengthen the social and economic fabric of the developing world than pouring millions into

military grants and balance-of-payments assistance. An author of *The United States and World Poverty* commented that planners and leaders throughout the developing world need to better understand that the purpose of agriculture is more than to produce food for, in reality, it is the foundation on which overall development must rest.

JUST WHAT IS HUNGER?

Hunger is defined by food and health experts as a continuing deprivation of sufficient food to support a healthy life. A more technical term for hunger is *undernutrition* (or lack of calories) caused by individuals consuming fewer calories and less protein than their bodies require to lead active and healthy lives.

There is a commonly held belief that people are hungry because we cannot grow enough food to feed everybody on the planet Earth. The reality is that hunger exists in the face of plenty. Right now the Earth produces more than enough food to nourish every human being, on a global level and within the countries we associate with hunger and starvation. Measured globally, there is more than enough to feed everyone.

And yet, deaths from starvation and malnutrition outnumber deaths from all wars.

HOW IS HUNGER RELATED TO POVERTY?

Hunger, starvation, and malnutrition are actually symptoms of the problem of poverty. According to the literature, the major reason

**Relationship Between Poverty and Hunger
in Selected Developing Countries**

	Per Capita GNP (in dollars) 1988	Daily Caloric Supply (per capita) 1986	% Distribution of GDP in Agriculture 1988
Low-Income Countries	320	2,384	33%
Ethiopia	120	1,749	42%
Bangladesh	170	1,927	46%
Nepal	180	2,052	56%
China	330	2,630	32%
India	340	2,238	32%
Kenya	310	2,060	31%
Ghana	400	1,759	49%
Lower Middle-Income Countries	1,930	2,840	12%
Upper Middle-Income Countries	3,240	3,117	10%
High-Income Countries	17,080	3,376	4%

The chart illustrates the relationship between poverty (per capita GNP) and hunger (daily caloric intake). It also indicates that those countries with the largest percentage of production from agriculture are among the most impoverished and the hungriest. In virtually all low-income economies, the average daily caloric intake is less than the 2,400 calories per day which nutritionists estimate to be required to maintain the human organism. The low-income countries also average a significantly higher percentage of their GDP (Gross Domestic Product) from agriculture than lower middle-, upper middle- or high-income countries.

Source: *World Development Report 1990*

people are hungry is not because there is not enough food but because people are poor. Chronic hunger results from a lack of purchasing power by poor countries and poor families when they compete for the aggregate world or country food supply.

The World Bank reports that, at the global level, if income were distributed differently, present output of grain alone would supply every man, woman and child with more than 3,000 calories a day. But the distribution of purchasing power is uneven, and the problem is worst in low-income countries.

An Average British Cat

In *Only on Earth*, Lloyd Timerlake compares the life of a developing world citizen with the life of an average British cat. According to the writer, the cat eats a third more animal protein every day than does the average person living in the developing world. Additionally, the cost of maintaining a British cat is \$260 per year, an amount that is more than the average annual income of one billion people who live in the world's 15 poorest nations.

WHO ARE THE POOR AND HUNGRY?

Generally speaking, hunger is concentrated where incomes are low, which reinforces the link between hunger and poverty. The World Bank has estimated that one-fourth of the world's population suffers from chronic undernourishment. Contrary to what might be expected, vast numbers of the hungry in developing countries actually live in rural areas. They are the people who have no direct access to land to grow food for themselves or to income-producing jobs which would allow them to purchase food. Most live in India, Southeast Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.

While three-fourths of the world's hungry

and malnourished people live in Asia, the most widespread suffering is in Africa, where population growth rates are twice as high as in Asia, and where drought, floods, and civil unrest have exacerbated chronically depressed dietary standards.

The absolute poor are small, subsistence farmers who do not grow enough to feed their families, landless workers who cannot find employment in the countryside, and the unemployed or underemployed in urban centers. These are the absolute poor in any country, but for those who live in the bottom 40% of the population of low-income countries — where there is no welfare program or social security safety net — it is a hopeless condition because their governments lack resources to meet the most basic human needs of the people. It is on this condition — the plight of the absolute poor living in the world's lowest income countries — that the U.S. development agenda of the 1990s is mainly focused.

Infant mortality is the cruelest fact of hunger. Women are more often affected than men, and rural residents are more often affected than people in urban areas. But, there are also hungry people in the United States, including Native Americans who suffer from some of the worst poverty and hunger.

Population and Poverty in the Developing World, 1985

	% of Population	% of Poor
East Asia	40.2	25.0
South Asia	29.8	46.4
Latin America/ Caribbean	11.2	06.6
Sub-Saharan Africa	11.1	16.1
Europe, Middle East, North Africa	07.7	05.9

SOURCE: *World Development Report 1990*.

HOW CAN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTE TO THE SOLUTION?

Agricultural development has been described as the engine that drives economic development. The 1983 Brandt Commission stated that employment-creating agricultural development is the key to growth in low-income countries. The task of agriculture, then, is not merely to grow more food but to provide food and economic security.

As was illustrated in the chart in Chapter II, high-income countries have a smaller proportion of their workers in agriculture than low-income countries. Consequently, the economies of the former are less dependent on agriculture to produce jobs and income, while those of the latter have large numbers of their population dependent on income generated by agriculture, a large share of which must be spent on food.

Generally, improved agricultural production raises the income of farmers while providing food for industrial workers and raw materials for processing. Much of the new farm income goes for local goods and services, which increases non-agricultural employment. That generates more non-farm income, a high percentage of which will be spent for food, further stimulating agricultural growth. Studies of about 100 countries show that as poor countries increase incomes, their food imports rise rapidly, and the United States, as a food-exporting country, benefits. In other words, agricultural development that helps a poor country increase its income will also cause that market to expand as a customer for U.S. farm products.

Particular attention has been paid recently to the method of "cash cropping" to solve the problems of both poverty and hunger. According to the International Food Policy Research Institute, farmers who produce crops for export have higher incomes and are better fed than subsistence farmers who produce only basic food crops for home consumption. Research done in Africa, Asia and Latin America indi-

cates that small farmers who shifted to crops such as sugar cane, maize, vegetables and rice for export not only improved the nutrition levels of their families but also raised their incomes. A major benefit of the switch to commercial agriculture is an increased demand for hired labor. Other studies have indicated that such efforts must go hand-in-hand with the promotion of health services and the use of innovative techniques of complementary non-cash cropping if the nutrition benefits are to be realized. Whatever the technique, the purpose is to reach the poor both as producers and consumers, with the end result being that they will have more income, purchasing power and better nutrition.

Several related actions discussed in the vast literature on poverty and hunger include:

- attention to low-cost technologies
- improvement in agri-chemical products and fertilizers
- access to credit and bank services for small-scale farmers (men and women)
- provision of tools and equipment which are appropriate for the location
- discovery of ways to restore and protect the water, land and forests on which the survival of the rural poor depends
- development, expansion and maintenance of infrastructure such as roads, storage installations, marketing services and systems for distribution
- development of high-yielding seed varieties, assuring higher productivity to the marginal farmer and protection of the resource base
- attention to agricultural research, policy analysis and training.

IS FOOD AID A SOLUTION?

Food aid has long been a mechanism of humanitarian assistance in times of crisis. There is a concern, however, that it is a poor mechanism for long-term development because it prevents indigenous development of the capacity to either grow food or buy it. Prices go down because of the abundance of free food, which decreases production and increases poverty.

WHAT OTHER ACTIONS ARE NEEDED?

Statistically, the global availability of food has improved in the past decade. World food production has increased by 30% since 1969-70. Moreover, this improvement is especially pronounced in developing countries, where food production has increased by some 40%.

While world food production is increasing, continued high rates of population growth in developing countries have offset most of the improvement, with the result that per capita food production has expanded by only 5 - 6%. In some countries in Africa, per capita production has actually declined.

Food supply and distribution are also of concern. The U.N. says that 150 million people are faced with starvation in 24 countries because of drought and low productivity linked to inadequate investment and farmer incentives, poor land tenure systems, and other political and institutional factors. A nation must either grow the food it needs or import grains to cover internal shortages. Some low-income countries cannot afford to import the essential food — mainly cereals — needed to provide their people with diets that meet minimal nutritional standards. Or, if precious foreign exchange is spent

on food imports, a country may have to cut back on other imports essential for its development.

Another action which is widely suggested is that of land redistribution to tenants and agricultural laborers so that the benefits of production increases are shared and the poor can have assets which not only feed them but which provide the promise of a better future.

Development Without Government Money

In 1920, the Mennonites in the Ukraine were the victims of war, famine and revolution. In response to their needs, U.S. Mennonites sent food to alleviate their suffering. Two years later, they sent tractors. This was the beginning of the Mennonite Central Committee as a relief and development organization. Operating today on a budget of \$28 million, the Committee accepts no support from the U.S. government (although it is reimbursed for ocean freight on shipments). Its focus is on relief and development, particularly agriculture and water resources.

SOURCE: *Development and the National Interest*, USAID, 1989.

CONCLUSION

Although it is a global concern, it is believed by rich and poor nations alike that the hunger problem must be solved country by country. Low-income nations face two major hurdles: the supply of food — or agriculture production — must increase to meet the nutritional requirements of their rapidly growing populations; and incomes must be distributed with some equity so that people who don't grow food can afford to buy it. Clearly, efforts that lead to improved economic conditions in poor countries can result in less hunger if the benefits are distributed with equity.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. How do you assess the long-term prospects of the developing world to feed its growing population?
2. What is the moral responsibility of the U.S. to feed the hungry people of the world?
3. Are the people of the developing world responsible for their own poverty?

V. WHY IS POPULATION GROWTH SUCH AN IMPORTANT CONCERN?

You may remember from the profile of AAIA's Development Education Program audience that 49% were age 60-69, 44% age 70-79, and 5% age 80+. And of the total group, 69% were women. The composition of the audience was the primary reason for the question, "What group, by age or gender, do you believe should receive the most attention in international development?" Responses included:

Children
Young children
Infants
Mothers
Families

Young adults
Young parents
Women
Men
Seniors

Infants, children, mothers and children, youth, parents, families — every focus group identified these age and gender groups as needing the most attention. For the most part, the responses followed a pattern of: children, children, children, mothers, children, children, children, families, children, children, children, women...and so on.

What kind of attention should children receive? While education, health care and skills training were cited as being important to social and economic improvement in the developing world, there was almost overwhelming agreement that family planning education and assistance were of critical and immediate importance.

WHY IS THERE AN INTEREST IN FAMILY PLANNING ISSUES?

Retired Americans in many walks of life suggest that stories in the media, such as the one which follows told by Perdida Houston of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, are one of the major factors which contribute to their very strong opinions about the need for family planning.

"As a young social worker married to a doctor serving in a remote village of Algeria, I held in my arms a 32-year-old mother of six malnourished children. She had no access to family planning and she was married to an unemployed, 'uncooperative' husband. She herself was malnourished and in ill health. In the desperate attempt to avoid a seventh

pregnancy—and to provide for her children — she had taken the ultimate risk (self-administered abortion). Miles from a hospital, without plasma or blood to give her, I watched her die in my arms, victim of her wish to be a good mother — ultimately of six orphans."

Such tragedies exist on a daily basis throughout the developing world, as do misconceptions about family planning and the purpose of family planning programs. Perhaps the story of a tribal chieftain in a developing country who went to his village's family planning clinic saying, "None of my 34 wives is able to have children; please help them," best describes one of the greatest barriers to family planning efforts throughout the developing world.

Now let's take a look at some of the issues related to population growth.

WHERE ARE THE POPULATION INCREASES?

During the Middle Ages, half the population of Europe was wiped out by the plague. But, as living conditions improved with industrialization, populations grew rapidly. The population growth in today's world is unparalleled in history. It took several million years to reach our present population of just over 5 billion, but half of that number has been added since 1950. And, although the rate of growth has dropped from 2% to 1.7% in the last decade, we are almost certain to reach 8.5 billion by the year 2020. We expect this to happen because many of those who will be parents in the coming decades are already born.

Most of the immense population increases are occurring in the developing world. In considering this fact, in *The United States and World Poverty* it is noted that:

- of the 15 most populated nations in the world in 1988, eight (including China) were developing countries
- of the 23 nations having 5 million or more people and the highest population growth rates, 18 were developing countries with per capita incomes of less than \$1,000 per year
- all of the 26 nations with the slowest population growth rates were in the developed world
- the average rate of population increase is about 2% annually for all developing countries while some of the poorest and most populated have rates of up to 4%
- most of this net increase in the world's population is occurring in the developing world, while population growth in the developed world is approaching zero.

Enlightened leaders in developing countries have recognized the problem for some time. In a radio broadcast some three decades ago, President Bourguiba of Tunisia expressed his views on the subject to his countrymen in saying, "*We are a small country with poor resources. If we continue to have such a high population growth rate, we will not be able to*

feed our people. Many husbands, however, continue to think that to have lots of children is proof of their manhood. That is not manhood, but rabbithood. A true man is a father who provides for his children, puts food in their mouths, shoes on their feet, love in their hearts, and education in their heads. If you cannot provide all these for your children, you cannot and must not have more children."

The percentage of the world's population located in developing countries is expected to increase from 69% in 1960 to 82% in 2020. By 2020, more than 50% of the population in the developing world will be in Asia.

Children

...of all of the world's poor, the poorest are the children and the poorest of these live in developing countries. Among the 40,000 children who die each day, 8,000 are the victims of preventable diseases; 7,000 die from dehydration and 6,000 from pneumonia, which can be treated by low-cost antibiotics. Under current conditions, approximately 150 million youngsters are expected to die this decade.

From A World Summit on Children 1990

WHAT ARE THE CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF POPULATION GROWTH?

Improved diet and sanitary conditions, safe water, inoculations and modern medical treatment — although not universally available — have drastically reduced death rates, while birth rates have been slower to fall. In other words, people are not having more babies, but rather today's population explosion results from what has been called the "public health success story of the 20th century" — fewer children die during their first 5 years and people are living longer.

As one might expect, population growth in developing countries is not necessarily seen as good news. The increasing numbers of people combined with the high rate of growth make the world hunger problem more urgent than it ever was in the past.

According to the authors of *New Challenges, New Opportunities*, there is general agreement that nations cannot achieve the social and economic goals they seek with extremely high population growth. That is why some 64 developing countries have policies favoring lower rates of population growth, and why, in order to implement these policies, nations are: providing couples with the information and means to plan their families; improving maternal and child health; and linking population programs to other key concerns, such as environmental issues, food policies and educational services.

Despite successful efforts in many countries, according to the Population Crisis Committee, 50% of the world's people in 82 countries, most in the developing world, have only fair, poor, or very poor availability of family planning services.

WHY IS IT SO DIFFICULT TO CONTROL POPULATION ?

Five reasons frequently identified regarding the difficulty of controlling population growth are:

1. In developing nations, particularly in rural areas, limiting family size is not usually in the best interest of individual families and it is difficult to persuade couples to act in the interest of the group, the country, or the world as a whole.

2. People in most developing nations still retain a high sense of individuality, especially in family matters, and incentives needed to encourage limiting family size require regulations, intervention and administrative organization beyond the capacity of most governments.

3. In traditional, agrarian societies, chil-

dren represent productive assets, for they provide low-cost labor to the farm and may earn income from non-farm employment.

4. There is a persistent belief that because of high infant mortality rates, only a large number of live births can ensure an adequate number of offspring.

5. There is an expectation that children are an old-age security system, an important concern in countries which have limited social security and pension coverage for the aged.

It should also be mentioned that there is evidence that birth rates decline whenever people have reasonable assurance of economic well-being and of the survival of the children they have, thus ending the need for "insurance births." Additionally, recent research is being used to show a relationship between small family size and good care of elderly parents as a way of demonstrating to parents that not only do they not need insurance births, but that such births may, in fact, be a detriment in their old age.

WHAT ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF POPULATION STABILIZATION EFFORTS?

Population stabilization efforts are increasingly seen as being part of development strategies. In a recent talk before the Overseas Development Council in Washington, the Minister for Development Cooperation of the Netherlands indicated the relationship by saying that, "*To use a Dutch expression, a development policy without a population program is like mopping the floor with the water turned on.*"

In developing countries (excluding China) the number of couples using effective family planning is expected to more than triple from 120 million in 1988 to 390 million by the year 2000. The support of the international community has been a key factor in bolstering national resolve and providing resources for long-term programs, and the U.S. Agency for International Development has been the acknowledged leader in this effort. The U.N. Fund for Population Activities and the International Planned

Parenthood Federation have also been important actors in population programs.

Today a wide variety of country-wide population programs are in place. For example:

- *Indonesia* has engendered the active commitment of leaders, from the president to the village chief. Contraceptives have been made available without charge from volunteer workers, and in some villages the contraceptive method chosen by each couple is listed on the community bulletin board. Today Indonesia claims that at least 60% of all couples practice family planning.

- *Zimbabwe* has started a new soap opera radio drama as part of its nationwide male motivation program which aims at improving the attitudes of men towards family planning, increasing knowledge of family planning methods

among men of reproductive age, and motivating them to participate in family planning. It is said to be a response to the recognition that targeting women has little effect in societies in which women are not the traditional decision makers.

Zimbabwe has also encouraged private sector investment in family planning with private insurance companies adding family planning to their overall benefit packages. Private sector involvement has been encouraged through analysis which projects considerable savings through reduced maternity and pediatric claims.

- *Nigeria*, Africa's most populous country, has launched a family planning program which is the focus of the government's first national population policy. As part of the program, King Sunny Ade, who is well known in West Africa for

Family Planning Buffaloes and Vasectomy Festivals in Thailand

Thailand is the home of one of the most successful and effective family planning programs in the world. The program relies on the use of media, economic incentives, and community involvement to increase the use of contraception.

Thailand's striking approach stresses the immediate practical benefits from lowered fertility and uses methods that mix humor and audacity. The program is run by a non-governmental organization, the Population and Community Development Association (PDA), with the support of the Ministry of Public Health.

The Community-Based Family Planning Services (CBFPS), a PDA program initiated in 1974, now reaches more than 16,000 villages and 17 million people — one-third of the nation's population. The key message links population growth to low standards of living, and family planning to economic gains. To convey this message, taboos surrounding birth control had to be broken down. Birth control carnivals, games, condom-blowing balloon contests, raffles, village fairs, and weddings have served as occasions for promoting family planning joyfully.

Vasectomy marathons are held on Labor Day and on the king's birthday. In 1983, a team of forty doctors and eighty nurses performed a record-breaking 1,190 vasectomies during the one-day festival. The PDA also delivers free, convenient, and efficient vasectomy services in clinics and mobile units. Between July 1980 and June 1984 it performed 25,412 vasectomies.

Registered family planners may also rent cattle for plowing their fields — family planning buffaloes — at half the regular price. They are encouraged to market some of their products through the CBFPS at prices 30% higher than regular middlemen offer, and to buy fertilizer and seeds 30% below local market prices. Under a similar program, villagers who practice contraception may have their goods transported at a discount or may receive free piglets.

In 1985 about 60% of all Thai couples practiced some form of birth control. The total fertility rate fell from 6.1 in 1965-70 to 2.8 in 1985, as against an average of 4.1 for other lower middle-income countries.

From World Development Report 1990

his music, and his singing partner, Onyeka Onwenu, have recorded two songs about family planning which are at the top of the music charts. One song, "Choices," which is sung in English, advised that "making love is beautiful, but don't forget, you can make children, sometimes when you don't want to." Another song, "Wait for Me," which is sung in pidgin English, advises couples to avoid precipitous parenthood and "wait for me, baby plan with me." The singers reinforce these messages through promotional visits and interviews.

- *Ghana* has outlawed teen pregnancy, which had become so common in one district that teenagers without babies were said to be the ones who got teased. It has been pointed out, however, that unless severe punishments are meted out to the men who impregnate teenage girls, the situation will not see much improvement.

- *China* has launched its drastic one-child family policy, has offered incentives for compliance, and has also applied coercive measures, including abortion. It has been conceded recently, however, that more than half of the families have more than one child and that in many rural areas, the policy is a dismal failure.

The difficulties in implementing family planning measures have been outlined earlier. Perhaps a human experience as told by a 46 year-old Chinese woman in the book, *Chinese Lives*, will make the problem more real.

I've borne nine children. The first was a boy, but he died. Then I had seven girls, and the sixth one died. Only the ninth time did heaven send another son... Girls are no use. They can't inherit your house or your property...Your

daughters all marry out and belong to someone else. You can't rely on a son-in-law. Have you ever heard our saying, 'A man will no more support his mother-in-law than a pot will make its own beancurd'? A son-in-law isn't family—you can only depend on your own son. In all those years before I had one, I had to watch my tongue. When I quarreled with the woman down the hill she would call me names. 'Barren old hag,' she'd mock, meaning that I had a husband but no son. She had two daughters and three sons. I'd sit at home weeping with fury. I blamed myself for not being able to produce sons the way she could. It's fine now...

"Of course, the government doesn't let you have many babies anymore. You're supposed to get a coil or have your tubes tied... If you have another without permission you get fined. The bigger your family, the bigger the fine... This boy of mine worked out at 12,300 yuan... I paid cash on the nail. If I hadn't, they would have taken the furniture — and if that wasn't enough to cover the fine, the tiles on the roof, too. I knew about the fine but I still wanted to go ahead and have the kid. There was always the chance it'd be a boy... I didn't argue with the township (family planning) cadres... They were just doing their job. I know they've got their problems, too... If even one baby more than they're allowed gets born in the district, it has to come out of their own pockets! When they get fined at the end of each year, they're in tears. It's terrible. But it would have been terrible for me as a barren woman. So I went back into hiding and gave birth to my son... Having sons is what women come into the world for. What's the point of it all if you don't have a son?"

CONCLUSION

The high level of interest on the part of the audience in world population was unexpected, but the opinions which they expressed supported similar concerns expressed by the development community and developing countries themselves. In fact, the population has a very high rate of increase, and it is increasing more quickly in the developing world than in developed countries. The view that children are seen as a social security system for the aged is somewhat ironic when there is an almost universal myth in industrialized countries that nobody gets old in the developing world.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Can you identify one population issue which you believe is the most important?
2. Is it possible to deal with population on a country-by-country basis, or is a worldwide strategy needed?
3. What are some of the implications of population growth in the developing world?

VI. HOW IS AGING A FACTOR IN DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS AND IN POPULATION GROWTH?

"How can older people participate in development efforts?" was a question that was asked of several of the focus groups, and here are the responses.

Membership in international group
Medical help
Tapping past experience/wisdom
Exchange assistance
Letters
Alleviating hunger
Voting/empowerment
Concern for others
Respect for elders
Concern about younger generation

Peace Corps
Leaving goodwill when traveling
Missionary service
Education
Project HOPE
Humanitarian concern
Upgrading standard of living
Simplifying our lives
Teaching others
Understanding of cultures

It is interesting that although these were very busy people, they still saw a variety of ways in which they and others like them could be involved in development efforts.

While the audience expressed considerable interest in knowing more about opportunities for involvement in the international development agenda, a topic which will be addressed in AAIA's upcoming publication *How Can I Be Involved in International Development?*, they also wanted to know about the condition of older people in developing countries.

HOW IS AGING A FACTOR IN POPULATION GROWTH?

The aging or graying of the population is a worldwide phenomenon. This condition is significant in terms of the total number as well as the percentage of older persons relative to other age groups in the population. In 1980 there were almost 371 million people age 60 and over worldwide; by 2020 it is expected that there will be more than 987 million people age 60 and over. In nearly all areas, the age 60 plus population is increasing faster than the total population. This is illustrated by the fact that the global population as a whole is expected to increase two-and-a-half times between 1960 and 2020; however, the older population (persons age 60 and older) is expected to increase almost fourfold.

DOES ANYBODY GET OLD IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD?

Little attention has been paid to aging as a factor in population growth in developing countries. There is a widespread myth that nobody gets old in the developing world. This myth was expressed in every one of the focus groups and is probably held by a majority of the population in the United States, and in many developing countries, as well. In some ways it might be called a "myth of necessity," for denial that aging is a factor in population growth and a potential problem for the developing world means that it has little chance of emerging as another item for action on an already crowded agenda.

Perhaps this attitude has its roots in the belief that illness and hard work result in a very short life expectancy in developing countries.

But developing countries are experiencing the same phenomenon of aging as are industrialized countries and thus, "the public health success story" is also the story of the aging of the developing world. There were just over 198 million people in developing countries age 60 and over in 1980. It is expected that there will be almost 679 million by 2020.

While the numerical increases of this age group are large, their proportion within the total population is still relatively small. What is often neglected in demographic studies, however, is the question, "in developing countries, how old is old?" In many countries, grandmotherhood or post-menopausal status designates "old age" which, in chronological terms, is often as "young" as 35. Such social and cultural definitions of aging suggest that the older population in many developing countries is actually much larger than the numbers would indicate.

Regardless of the point at which one identifies the onset of aging, however, high fertility rates in the past and increases in life expectancy are said to be the primary factors responsible for this public health success story.

The following points further illustrate the magnitude of aging in the developing world:

- Life expectancy in developed countries is expected to increase by about 7.5 years between 1960 and 2020, while the expected in-

crease in developing countries during those same years is expected to be 23 years.

- In 1960, a child born in North America could look forward to 28.5 more years of life than a child born in Africa. By the year 2020 that difference will be only 12.6 years.

- The greatest increases in life expectancy are taking place in developing countries, with East and South Asia, Africa, and Latin America experiencing increases of 29.0, 23.6, 23.3 and 15.7 years respectively between 1960 and 2020.

- The fastest growing segment of the aging population in developed and developing countries is in the 80 years and over age group.

- The percentage of the 60 years and over population in developing countries is expected to increase from 49% in 1960 to 69% in 2020.

The impact of aging in the developing world is perhaps more profound than in the developed world because it is happening much faster there than it did in industrialized countries. It is said that the more developed countries made the transition to an aging society in 100 years, while the less developed countries are making the transition in a mere 30 years.

The accompanying charts detail aging in developing countries and illustrate the comparison of projected increases in life expectancy in less developed countries and more developed countries of the world.

	1960	1980	2000	2020
Number 60+ population (in millions)	115,356	198,116	361,619	678,925
% in 60+ age group (of total population)	5.6%	6.0%	7.5%	10.6%
Life expectancy (at birth)	45.6	56.6	63.2	68.9
Aging of the aging				
Age 60-69	73,077	126,701	223,027	426,077
Age 70-79	35,149	59,235	110,875	194,717
Age 80+	7,130	12,180	27,718	67,091

SOURCE: United Nations *Periodical on Aging* 84.

Social Transition in Selected Developing Countries 1965-1988 (unless noted)

It is often said that older people are greatly affected by the enormous changes taking place in developing countries. Urbanization, industrialization and education are three of the leading factors which impact on traditional societies. The chart below gives some indication as to the enormous changes which are taking place in the developing world.

	Urbanization (% of total population)		Industrialization (Per capita energy consumption)		Education (% in secondary education)	
	1965	1988	1965	1988	1965	1987
Low-Income Economies						
Ethiopia	8	13	10	20	2	15
Bangladesh	6	13	—	50	13	18
Nepal	4	9	6	23	5	26
China	18	50	178	580	24	43
India	19	20	100	211	27	39
Kenya	26	33	110	94	4	23
Ghana	9	22	76	125	13	40
Middle-Income Economies						
Zimbabwe	14	27	441	527	6	45
Egypt	41	48	313	607	26	69
Dominican Republic	35	59	127	332	12	47
Jamaica	38	51	703	855	51	65
Colombia	54	69	413	755	17	56
Turkey	34	47	258	822	16	46
Mexico	55	71	605	1,305	17	53

SOURCE: *World Development Report 1990*

IS AGING AN AGENDA FOR ACTION?

Many factors in developing countries work against recognizing the aging phenomenon and the new problems and issues which arise when the population of older people increases. The denial of aging, the historical emphasis on the problems of other age groups, the reality of extremely limited resources, and the one-dimensional view that older people are dependent and present problems all combine to limit attention and action.

While there is a tendency to look toward

traditional family support of the elderly as the solution to all problems, dramatically changing family support structures suggest the need for acknowledgement and assistance from both the public and private sectors. Three examples of needs for services and support include: *income support* which is needed because social security and pension coverage is non-existent or extremely limited; *geriatric health care* which is needed, particularly in the face of the increasing number of people who are considered in the "old-old" age group; and *shelter and housing* which are needed because of the growing incidence of abandonment and destitution.

Social Security Systems in Developed and Developing Countries

Beginning around the turn of the century, the rise of a large industrial labor force led to the evolution of social security systems in developed countries. Benefits are provided to the elderly, the disabled, surviving spouses, and children through a combination of social insurance (such as pensions) and social assistance (for example, health services). The revenue base is wide, with contributions from workers and employers; coverage is almost universal; and the scale of benefits has been significant. Reductions in the incidence of poverty in developed countries, particularly among the elderly, have been strongly linked to the growth of these systems.

Attempts to transplant such systems to developing countries have, however, met with little success. Latin American countries have had the longest experience with formal social security, and even there the programs have failed to reach many needy elderly people and other poor individuals. By and large, coverage has been limited to people employed in the formal sector in urban areas.

A more promising approach for some countries involves transfers based on indicators of need that can be monitored through local health care and community-based systems. Preventive and basic health care could be provided to the elderly and infirm poor, and could be supplemented by cash or in-kind transfers when necessary.

From World Development Report 1990

Meeting these needs is not easy, nor will it get any easier. There are, as we know, an enormous number of problems facing the developing world — problems as diverse as debt, nutrition and health, agriculture, economic development, infant survival, unemployment, illiteracy, environmental degradation, the general breakdown in traditional structures, and urbanization. While they effect the older population, they also effect younger population groups who are often seen as having the first priority for available services and support, for they generally are seen as “the future” of the country while older people are seen as “the past.”

What can be done? Certainly, attention must be paid to the “problems” of aging. However, when there are so many needs for expanded resources and the elderly are viewed only as frail and in need of assistance and support, they will, in general, be considered a drain on resources. Attention, therefore, must also be paid to the “resource” of aging.

HOW CAN OLDER PEOPLE CONTRIBUTE TO DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS?

Persons achieve old age because of human accomplishments which ward off disease and sustain life. For many this period will last twenty-five years or more. For most it is a time marked with health and vigor; for others it is likely to involve dependency.

This period is quite often identified as a time of need. Older persons are considered vulnerable and entitled to special protection and support, and consequently, are seen as a burden on social and economic structures. At the same time, it is increasingly identified as a time of active independence — a time older people can contribute a valuable human resource which, given the opportunity, can fulfill positive moral and social obligations which contribute to the social, economic and cultural agendas of society.

In developing countries, older people have

been a traditional source of wisdom and experience within their families and communities. They also participate in the economic life of the community, or as some would say, "die with their boots on." This more "balanced" view of older people adding to the resource base rather than diminishing it, will enable older people to compete for scarce resources as well as to contribute in a positive way to the economic, social and population agendas of the future.

Let's take a look at some of the efforts which are being made, not necessarily by governments, but by the myriad of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) which are recognizing the reality of aging. What follows are some specific examples of ways in which older people in the developing world can play a positive, participatory, productive role in dealing with immediate crises of aging; in involving themselves in intergenerational service; in moving aging into the mainstream of economic development; in participating in community-based, private sector action; and in positioning aging as an issue that can compete for scarce resources.

- In *Jamaica* a day care center for children has been organized in which older women in the community work within a structured day care program to provide needed services for the children of working families in the local community. It should be noted that older women are often the traditional providers of child care within the extended family in developing countries.

- In *Colombia* a training program for the CCTV (Colombian Coordination of Volunteer

Work) has been established which emphasizes the purposes of community senior service through the structure and operation of RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) and has the objective of including seniors and RSVP in the ongoing CCTV program.

- In *Mexico* an RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) border exchange project was initiated between the city of El Paso, Texas, in the U.S. and Juarez, Mexico, in which an established RSVP program in El Paso helped plan and initiate an RSVP in Juarez. Since its initiation in 1988, in addition to providing community services, the RSVP has expanded to include a small senior enterprise and plans for a senior center.

- In the *Dominican Republic* a self-service laundry was sponsored by a home for the destitute and abandoned elderly. The laundry has the dual purpose of supporting services provided by the home as well as supporting the elderly who live in the home.

- In *Colombia* a bakery was sponsored and organized by a local service organization working specifically with the aging. The bakery provides work opportunities and income for the elderly. It sells part of its products for profit and distributes a portion of them to the poor free of charge. When the bakery became profitable, a portion of the profits was used to start up a laundry and today the profits from both enterprises are used to help support a health center for residents in the local area.

- In *Costa Rica* a senior center participated with a multinational corporation in setting up a shop to assemble circuit boards. A

Opportunities Are Needed

...Today, faced with a life span that has dramatically increased, there are no guideposts, no hard and fast rules to govern what to do. The average age of mortality has advanced 23 years in the past 30 years in developing countries, as compared with 7 years in developed countries. What is the farmer or the taxi driver or the educator or the government worker to do when he finds himself with almost an extra quarter of a century of time...?

America's Stake in the Developing World, 1989

portion of the income from the shop was allocated to the older workers and some was used to support services of the senior center.

- In the *Philippines* a plan has been developed for the inclusion of the elderly in HMO (Health Maintenance Organization) programs, both as consumers of health plan services and as trained providers of those services.

These efforts illustrate a variety of practical avenues for "tapping into the resource of aging." It is also worth mentioning that there is emerging interest in including older women in health and economic development programs undertaken by WID (Women in Development) organizations, and in tapping into the traditional role of older people (especially older women) in society.

Such recognition may be important to future population efforts, for population planners are beginning to take an interest in including grandmothers in population programs. Women beyond childbearing age are often responsible for passing on the general sexual mores of their

society to successive generations of females and thus, population programs should work through and with the older generation in an attempt to introduce changes in cultural norms. It has been suggested that while this may seem a cumbersome and circuitous strategy, in the long run it may be the only way of ensuring lasting change.

What we see, then, is that older people can — and do — contribute to the economic and social development of their countries. And why not include them? Why not mobilize them in raising awareness and concern about the environment, about population, about poverty and hunger? Why not mobilize them to participate in the economic life of the community, to participate in community service and health care? Why not take advantage of their wisdom and experience and provide avenues which will enable them to contribute to the solutions rather than only contribute to the problems? This is a question which is appropriate to all countries — not just those in the developing world.

CONCLUSION

While population growth in developing countries is an important factor in the social and economic well-being of the future, aging is also a factor in population growth and an important social and economic consequence of today. However, the aging population will not be impacted by current family planning efforts — in fact, their impact will not affect aging for at least fifty years to come. For this reason, one of the issues which must be addressed in population and development strategies is whether increased longevity in developing countries presents yet another problem — or an opportunity!

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Would you say that aging is really a "success story"?
2. Do you believe that children are "the future" of the country while older people are "the past"?
3. How can older people in developed and developing countries contribute to development efforts?

VII. HOW DOES THE UNITED STATES PARTICIPATE IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT?

Individuals are said to have humanitarian motives for supporting developing world assistance, while political and economic motives influence government support. The focus groups were asked the following related questions; we think you will be interested in their responses.

(1) "What are the reasons the United States is involved in development efforts?"

<i>Economic</i>	<i>Greed</i>	<i>Political manipulation</i>
<i>Altruism</i>	<i>National security</i>	<i>Pragmatism</i>
<i>Investment</i>	<i>Peace</i>	<i>Enhancement of image</i>
<i>World leadership</i>	<i>Stop communism</i>	<i>Promote democracy</i>
<i>Environmental</i>	<i>Human rights</i>	<i>Ensure USA #1</i>
<i>Create markets</i>	<i>"Uncle Generous"</i>	<i>Prestige</i>
<i>Cheap labor</i>	<i>Trade partners</i>	<i>Erase poverty</i>
<i>Fear</i>	<i>Safer future</i>	<i>We're expected to give</i>

(2) "Why — in your heart of hearts — do you believe we should be involved?"

<i>Humanitarian</i>	<i>Caring</i>	<i>Foster better life</i>
<i>Charity</i>	<i>Moral obligations</i>	<i>Goodwill</i>
<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>Brother's keeper</i>	<i>Ensure their survival</i>
<i>Brotherhood</i>	<i>Trade</i>	<i>Betterment of mankind</i>
<i>Judeo-Christian beliefs</i>	<i>To help</i>	<i>Defense</i>
<i>All life is precious</i>	<i>Altruism</i>	<i>Inherent generosity</i>
<i>World peace</i>	<i>Philanthropic</i>	<i>Teach self-sufficiency</i>
<i>Kindness and love</i>	<i>There but for the grace of God...</i>	<i>Mutual well-being</i>

While the responses identify a variety of important reasons (many somewhat cynical) for our assistance to developing countries, it is clear that government motivations are seen as primarily political and economic, whereas personal motivations are viewed as humanitarian.

In the following section, we will discuss the evolution and organization of U.S. government and private sector assistance, and will compare U.S. efforts with those of other countries.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM ASSISTANCE?

Quite recently, the executive director of Africare commented that it is easy to raise money for famine relief — for starving babies with bloated bellies and haunted eyes — but that it is very difficult to raise development money designed for programs that seek to bring about

long-term improvement in the lives of the people. This is somewhat similar to a comment by another development professional who, in talking about a direct mail fundraising campaign, said, "Give me a good disaster and I'll raise a million dollars... Give me a good development project and I'll lose a bundle!" It reinforces the fact that the humanitarian response of individuals is often motivated by caring and concern for the plight of the less fortunate who are in crisis.

A good way to describe the difference between short-term, emergency assistance and long-term development assistance is the saying, *if you give a man a fish, he eats today, but if you teach a man to fish, he eats for the rest of his life*. In an emergency, short-term measures are necessary, but their impact will be short-lived unless they are combined with efforts with the potential for providing long-term solutions.

Many focus group participants asked, "Why are some developing countries progressing while others are not?" The authors of *New Challenges, New Opportunities* profess that sound development depends on the ability and motivation of people, prudent policies, well-functioning institutions, and sustainable use of natural resources. In their view, good development strategies must take advantage of external and internal economic opportunities. Domestic political tranquility and a political dynamic that permits fresh thinking are essential, as well.

HOW HAS U.S. DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE EVOLVED?

The U.S. foreign assistance agenda has been evolving since the 1940s. In 1939, Public Law 355 gave U.S. legislative concurrence to the 1937 Buenos Aires Convention which had agreed to closer cultural and economic ties among nations throughout the American hemisphere. The legislation provided for cultural and scientific exchanges between the United States and nations of the continent. In the 1940s

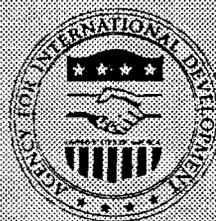
there were some ties between foreign assistance and security to contain Soviet expansion after World War II. The success of the Marshall Plan led to the commitment of the U.S. to humanitarian assistance to developing countries through technical knowledge and capital investment.

In the early years of foreign assistance, the clasped hands symbol appeared on jeeps and burlap grain bags throughout the underdeveloped world. Aid to other nations was principally economic, technical, or developmental. The goal was to improve the economic condition of poor countries, most newly independent, to help them achieve economic development and a better life for their people.

Our strategies have changed over the years. In the 1950s we put heavy emphasis on industrial development because that had worked for Western nations. In the 1960s we built dams, roads and ports, hoping that needed infrastructure would create new jobs and growth that would benefit everyone. This "trickle-down" approach worked in Korea and Taiwan. The economies of most poor countries were also growing at an impressive rate; however, it was clear that, for the most part, the economic benefits were not reaching the poor.

In the 1970s Congress mandated that aid should focus on meeting "basic human needs" — food, health care, and shelter. In the 1980s the emphasis shifted to a "free enterprise" approach — encouraging reforms in developing countries which favored private investment and generated income for the poor.

U.S. Agency for International Development: Mission Statement



The Agency for International Development administers economic assistance programs that combine an American tradition of international concern and generosity with the active promotion of American's national interests. A.I.D. assists developing countries to realize their full national potential through the development of open and democratic societies and the dynamism of free markets and individual initiative. A.I.D. assists nations throughout the world to improve the quality of human life and to expand the range of individual opportunities by reducing poverty, ignorance and malnutrition.

HOW IS U.S. FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ORGANIZED?

Today, U.S. foreign aid is organized in the broad categories of Development and Humanitarian Aid, Political Assistance, and Military Assistance. It is generally categorized as Official Development Assistance, or ODA. Because the Marshall Plan was aimed at rebuilding the war-shattered economies of Europe after World War II, aid given primarily for military and political reasons has always been a major part of the total foreign assistance budget.

Development and Humanitarian Aid

Development Assistance is designed to promote economic development. The program supports more than 1,500 development assistance projects in more than 70 countries. Aid is given in the form of grants and loans in agriculture, health, education, environment, family planning, human resource development, energy, science, technology and private sector training. It is administered by the U.S. Agency for International Development (A.I.D.).

Multilateral Aid includes U.S. financial support for the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Inter-American Development Bank, the African Development Bank,

and the Asian Development Bank.

Food Aid includes grants and sales for local currency of U.S. agricultural products. It is administered by A.I.D. and the Department of Agriculture. Of special importance is the Food for Peace Program. Food used in the program comes from surplus American crops. Since 1954, the Food for Peace program has delivered some 320 million metric tons of food to nearly 2 billion people in more than 100 countries.

Other Development and Humanitarian Aid is provided through the U.S. Peace Corps, disaster refugee assistance, trade and development programs, and other programs.

Political and Military Assistance

The Economic Support Fund provides economic aid to countries of particular political importance to the U.S. It includes cash transfers, financing of commodity imports from the United States, and development projects.

Military Assistance includes the Military Assistance Program which provides grants to meet defense expenses, Foreign Military Sales which provides credit (generally on lenient terms) to purchase military equipment, and the International Military Education and Training Program which provides training of military forces in developing countries.

Official Development Assistance, 1988

Development and Humanitarian Aid	
Development Assistance	\$ 1,800,000,000
Multilateral Aid	1,500,000,000
Food Assistance	1,100,000,000
Other	600,000,000
Subtotal	<hr/> \$ 5,000,000,000
Political and Military Assistance	
Economic Support	\$ 3,200,000,000
Military (assistance, sales, education)	5,300,000,000
Subtotal	<hr/> \$ 8,500,000,000
Total Official Development Assistance	<hr/> \$13,500,000,000

NOTE: Figures based on actual program costs after subtracting loan repayments and other receipts.
SOURCE: *America's Stake in the Developing World*, 1989.

WHAT ROLE DOES THE PRIVATE SECTOR PLAY?

The private sector has been generous in its support of humanitarian work. It is estimated that seven out of ten U.S. households make charitable contributions each year.

While development assistance is a relatively new, still debated, and budgetarily small activity for the U.S. government, humanitarian help is a traditional and widely accepted activity for Americans as individuals. According to a 1989 report by the U.S. Agency for International Development, not only does American private assistance abroad pre-date government development assistance programs, it remains a larger effort. The giving of individuals (including donations to churches and religious affiliates) for international causes is said to total \$12 billion per year.

Today there are more than 500 Private Voluntary Organizations (PVOs) which work toward meeting the needs of people overseas.

They include American-based religious organizations, PVOs associated with different church denominations, non-religious affiliated PVOs such as the American Association for International Aging, philanthropic foundations, and educational institutions.

In the years since World War II, PVO activities on several continents and in a range of program areas have shown a marked upswing. Until 1972, PVOs utilizing A.I.D. funds were primarily engaged in relief and rehabilitation work following disasters. Their efforts included setting up tent cities, providing food, and caring for the injured. At the same time, there was a growing realization among the PVOs that there was a direct link between the general level of development and the ability to cope with disaster. More developed societies were better able to respond to and recover from national disasters. Hence, a rationale was in the making for PVOs to begin directing efforts away from humanitarian assistance and toward the wider aspect of what we now call development assistance.

Private Voluntary Assistance to Developing Countries (Estimated Annual Allocations)

Religious Organizations	\$ 6,000,000,000
Other Private Voluntary Organizations	4,000,000,000
Universities	1,500,000,000
Philanthropic Foundations	500,000,000
Total	\$ 12,000,000,000

Compiled from *Development and the National Interest*, U.S.A.I.D., 1989.

According to the U.S. Agency for International Development, the generosity of individual Americans in helping people in developing countries far exceeds that of some other countries whose governments may provide proportionately larger amounts of foreign aid. It is an important point in light of the frequent criticism that the U.S. is a laggard when it comes to aid to developing countries, for U.S. government statistics on aid fail to reflect the scope of support

provided by individual Americans.

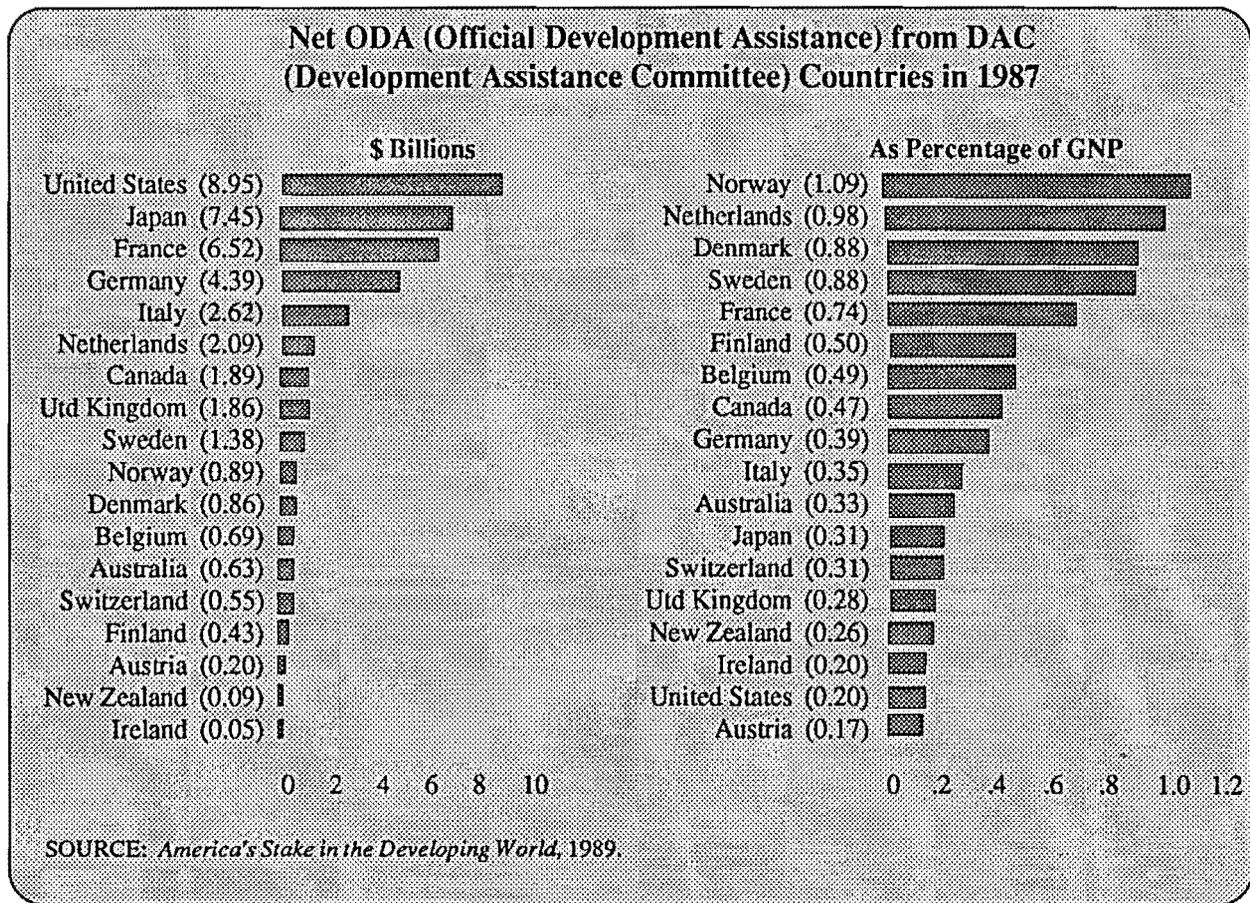
HOW DOES U.S. ASSISTANCE COMPARE WITH THAT OF OTHER COUNTRIES?

There is a misconception by many in the United States that (1) the United States is the only country involved in foreign assistance, and/or (2) that the U.S. is the most generous country in the

world. In the 1950s U.S. economic assistance constituted 50% of all aid to developing countries; today our contribution is approximately 25%.

The chart below indicates the ODA (Official Development Assistance) in dollars and as a percentage of GNP (Gross National Product) for DAC (Development Assistance Committee) countries representing 19 members of the OECD (Organizations for Economic Cooperation and Development).

As you can see, in 1987 the United States was the largest single-nation provider of Official Development Assistance (which is development aid supplied by governments on lenient repayment terms) in dollar volume. The U.S. was near the bottom, however, when ODA assistance was measured as a percentage of Gross National Product. In fact, it is expected that in 1990 the U.S. will be the second largest donor of development assistance in dollar value when Japan exceeds our giving by \$1 billion.



CONCLUSION

While the humanitarian aid which is given in response to crises and disasters is important, it is long-term development assistance which can produce lasting solutions. Both the public and private sectors in the U.S. play an important role in short-term aid and long-term assistance; however, there has been an increasing emphasis during the past fifty years on long-term assistance for development.

The U.S. foreign assistance contribution is substantial, although it constitutes only a very small proportion of our total budgetary outlay. Today our contribution is estimated at about 25% of all aid provided to developing countries. Additionally, we are now exceeded by Japan in the dollar value of foreign aid contributions, and we are far from the top of the list of foreign aid when measured as a percentage of our GNP.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Can we really wait until we solve all our domestic problems to take action in the arena of international development?
2. Is \$8 billion an adequate amount to spend on foreign assistance (which excludes military foreign assistance) when it has been estimated that we spend more than \$600 billion on health care?
3. Is it positive or negative that the percentage of GNP allocated to official development assistance is higher in many other countries than in the U.S. and that our total contribution is smaller than that of Japan?

VIII. WHO ARE THE BENEFICIARIES OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE?

A series of questions asked on a pre-test focus group survey produced some very revealing opinions about foreign assistance with respect to the developing world and United States' responsibility and action. The respondents were asked to indicate on a scale of 1 to 10 their level of disagreement (1) or agreement (10) with each of the following statements. The following list includes the questions and the level of agreement. (The higher the number indicated, the stronger the level of agreement of all participants.)

1. *A lot of foreign aid never gets to the people who need it* 8.8
2. *Corrupt governments are a very serious problem in developing countries* 8.7
3. *When people are hungry or poor we ought to do what we can to help them* 8.2
4. *In the long run, helping developing countries will also benefit the U.S.* 8.0
5. *As a world leader, the U.S. should set an example by helping poor nations* 7.7
6. *The problem with foreign assistance is that it never gets to the people* 7.3
7. *Even though we have many problems at home, we should send money to the developing world* 6.1
8. *Third World governments have helped improve conditions in developing countries* 5.6
9. *It is in U.S. interest to help developing countries even though they will become economic competitors* 4.9
10. *People in the developing world are responsible for their own poverty* 3.8

As you can see, there was strong agreement that a lot of foreign aid never gets to the people who need it; that corrupt governments are a very serious problem in developing countries; that whenever people are hungry or poor, we ought to help them; and, that helping the developing world will benefit the U.S.

At the same time, there was only minimal agreement that people in the developing world are responsible for their own poverty and that in providing assistance, we are creating competitors.

In the course of many discussions with focus group participants, this rather cynical view of development was reinforced by the recurring question, "Why, when we give so much, does everybody hate us?" The following section will explore the progress that has been made in the developing world as well as the benefits of development assistance and cooperation.

IS FOREIGN ASSISTANCE APPRECIATED?

There are those who would say that the perceptions we have of ourselves and others have much to do with how others view us. A recent issue of the *World Development Forum* included short summary responses by people in

Burkina Faso who were asked to state how they see the attitudes of donors and of beneficiaries. For them, words associated with donors included: *superiority complex, pride, charity, pity, domination*. Words associated with beneficiaries were: *submission, assisted, resignation, subordination*.

U.S. Attitudes about Development Assistance

A recent survey conducted by the Overseas Development Council indicated that: 88% of those surveyed believed that aid is frequently misused by foreign governments; 85% believed that a large part of aid is wasted by the U.S. bureaucracy; 75% agreed that "helping the Third World will also benefit the United States in the long run"; and a majority considered economic assistance a legitimate tool to use in pursuing U.S. political or strategic objectives.

SOURCE: *What Americans Think: Views on Development and U.S.-Third World Relations*, 1987.

There are others who would say that these perceptions are incorrect; that while we may not be loved, our assistance is appreciated. Dr. Helen Kerschner, President of the American Association for International Aging, recalled an experience recently which reflects just such appreciation.

"A few years ago I received an invitation from the Nigerian Ambassador to attend a reception at the Nigerian Embassy. I wasn't clear about the reason for the invitation, except that I had been a Peace Corps Volunteer in Nigeria in the mid-1960s. About half-way through the reception, the Ambassador stepped forward with a greeting to his guests, all of whom were returned Peace Corps Volunteers from Nigeria, and said that this was a gathering he'd waited many years to host. He then recalled how, as a student in secondary school, he had been taught by Peace Corps volunteers who made a great impression on him. Because of their dedication and willingness to give two years of their lives to helping the people of Nigeria, he vowed that someday he would find a way to express his appreciation. And then he said a very dignified, and very warm, 'Thank You!'"

There are still others who would say that appreciation isn't the goal of assistance. It is the the pursuit of objectives of humanitarian concerns and self interest discussed earlier: political security; concerns with alleviating poverty and hunger; environmental and public health concerns; and interrelationships and economic concerns which include self-interest in the form of trade and markets.

HAS THERE BEEN ANY REAL PROGRESS?

For four decades the U.S. and other industrialized nations, as well as the United Nations, have provided billions of dollars in assistance to developing countries, most of them newly independent after years of colonization. This assistance has been matched, in many instances dollar for dollar, by developing countries themselves, thus making international development a cooperative venture between the developed and the developing world.

Conditions have improved greatly for people in developing countries since 1950. Consider the following outcomes:

- After centuries of near stagnation, developing countries achieved 5 - 5 1/2% growth rates in the 1960s and 1970s, compared with an average in industrialized countries of 3.2%. This translated into rising per capita income, job creation, and better health and living conditions for hundreds of millions of people.
- In just 35 years the infant mortality rate in developing countries fell from 200 per thousand live births to 70 per thousand live births, an achievement it took European countries a century to achieve.
- Between 1950 and 1986 life expectancy increased from 37 to 61 years in low-income developing countries.
- In 1950 only 30% of the population of developing countries could read; by 1986 this proportion had risen to 60%.
- In 1974 less than 5% of the babies born

were immunized against the six most common child-killing diseases; by 1980 roughly 50% were being immunized.

- The international effort to eradicate smallpox, particularly from 1966 to 1978, has resulted in 2 million fewer deaths per year.

- River blindness, Onchocerciasis, an eye disease caused by a parasitic worm, is declining in West Africa because of efforts to control blackflies that carry the parasite and because of the development of a new drug, Ivermectin.

- The road network in developing countries has increased roughly eight-fold since 1950. The expansion of roads and availability of relatively cheap truck transport has opened up rural areas to commercial development and helped spark the growth of regional market centers.

- The numbers of private cars and trucks have increased dramatically. In the developing world as a whole, the sales of cars have risen from 10,000 annually in the 1950s to over ten million by the early 1980s.

- Over 700 million radios have been purchased in developing countries in the last 20 years. Virtually every villager in even the poorest and most isolated areas now has an electronic link to the outside world and can listen to broadcasts of cultural, political, or commercial interest.

- The “information revolution” sparked by radio and highway communications has changed traditional world views and opened up new opportunities for understanding. In the developing world as a whole, the number of telephone access lines has increased by almost 700 percent since 1982.

During the 1980s, because of the world recession and falling commodity prices for their exports, social progress in many African and Latin American countries has slowed down, and in some cases retreated. But the tremendous gains of the previous three decades stand as a tribute to development cooperation.

The progress which has been made by several countries which have received U.S. assistance is worth noting. Consider Japan, South Korea and India.

Japan

The U.S. played a major role in the rehabilitation of a defeated Japan. The country was — and is — poor in land area and natural resources, with a large population. Before World War II, two-thirds of Japan’s peasants were tenant farmers; after the war the U.S. mandated land reform and introduced modern intensive farming which today gives Japan the highest per hectare rice yield of any country in Asia.

Assistance to Japan also helped rebuild war-damaged industries and train the workforce. Today the wealth of Japan pours into U.S. investments, but it also pours into development assistance to the developing world, as Japan is now first among all nations (including the U.S.) in funding for international development.

South Korea

At the end of the Korean War, South Korea was an economy in ruins: 60% of its cultivated land laid waste, 25% of its population homeless, a literacy rate of only 30%, and per capita annual income of only \$80. For three decades, over \$6 billion of U.S. foreign economic (non-military) assistance was spent on Korean development, helping to control inflation, build schools and roads, and train people.

Since the 1960s, Korea’s economy has grown by more than 10% a year as its policies encouraged labor-intensive production of items for export, and today it is an important U.S. trading partner. And, according to 1981 statistics, the literacy rate was 93%, the life expectancy was 66 years, and the per capita annual income was \$1,700.

India

In the mid-1960s, India endured two severe droughts, millions suffered from famine and malnutrition, and there was widespread belief that the country, with 15% of the world’s population, would stand forever with “a beggar’s bowl” in hand for food aid. But an agricultural

development miracle has happened with the help of U.S. assistance in the amount of almost \$11 billion between 1946 and 1983.

Today India has achieved near self-sufficiency in food grains to the point that during a drought in the 1980s, India not only fed its people but also contributed food aid to Ethiopia.

Assistance dollars were used to establish seven colleges for agricultural training, extension and research, with each linked to a different U.S. land-grant college. Assistance has also been provided in establishing pricing policies to encourage farmers in launching a fertilizer production industry and in developing facilities to store buffer stocks against future food shortages. Still, there is an enormous agenda to be accomplished. One of the most critical issues facing India today is whether its pace of development will enable it to feed its population which is projected to double by 2010.

In addition to being a growing agricultural force, India is also the world's most populous democracy, growing at the rate of 2% a year. Approximately 36% of its 288 million people live below the government's poverty-income line. At the same time, India is emerging as a leading industrial and military force. For example, it now has the world's third largest pool of scientific manpower. It is producing scientists, engineers, and doctors at a rate that by far outstrips its economy's capacity to absorb them, resulting in a heavy "brain drain." In addition, India has the world's fourth largest military machine, after the U.S., the Soviet Union and China.

HOW DO WE BENEFIT FROM DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION?

Our own prosperity and the integrity of our environment are inexorably linked to economic development in the developing world. A more prosperous developing world would import more U.S. products, creating jobs and reducing our trade deficit.

Perhaps a closer look at our trade relationships with developing countries will illustrate

best just how much we can benefit from development assistance and cooperation, and why it is in our best interest to support development efforts. Consider that in 1981 developing countries were purchasing 41% of U.S. exports — a greater share than Japan and Western Europe combined. However, by 1987, because the world recession and the debt crisis forced most developing countries to curtail their imports, this trade was down to 34%.

Our need for natural resources also illustrates the importance of our global relationships, for a significant number of natural resources essential to U.S. industry must be imported from developing countries because they simply are not available in the U.S.

Current markets provide yet another illustration:

- The U.S. depends on developing countries for bananas, tea, coffee, chocolate and many other everyday food items.
- Two-fifths of U.S. exports are purchased by developing countries.
- 10 of the 20 U.S. trade partners in 1983 were developing countries. In that year, developing countries bought more U.S. products than Japan and the European community combined.
- The U.S. imports 99% of its manganese, 96% of its bauxite, 95% of its cobalt — most of it from developing countries.
- For some developing countries, debts are much higher than export earnings. As a group, developing countries owe 37% of their gross domestic product in debts — much of it to the U.S.
- Exports to developing countries provide about 2 million jobs for American workers.

Future export markets provide still another example of the benefits the U.S. can derive from successful development assistance, for the developing world offers a huge potential for U.S. exports. As we know, it is in developing countries where most of the world's population increase will take place.

- As incomes rise in developing countries, demands for goods will increase. A growing developing world will be a major market for telephone systems, sewage treatment plants, air-

planes, medical equipment, and consumer goods.

- China is one example of a potential market. By the year 2010, China could pass both the Soviet Union and Japan to become the world's second largest economy. It was estimated that China's imports reached \$50 billion in 1988 and could easily double between 1988 and 2000.

- India is another example of a potential market. India already has a larger economy than Spain. Its expanding middle class, which is only 7% of its population, already exceeds the total population of France.

- By early in the next century, Taiwan and Singapore (two newly industrialized countries, or NICs) could have per capita incomes exceeding that of Great Britain; and Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia are rapidly approaching the level of newly industrialized economies.

- The Overseas Development Council projects that in the next decade, the U.S. will not be able to significantly cut its trade deficit by in-

creasing trade with the industrial world alone. Growth in the developing world, resolution of the Third World debt problem, and an increase in U.S. competitiveness will also be needed.

Americans also have important political and security interests in the developing world. We seek allies that will help create the kind of world in which we want to live. We have special interest in close neighbors in the Caribbean and in Central America. We have strong commitments to peace and stability in the Middle East. The United States depends on sea lanes such as the Panama Canal and Persian Gulf. And its military strategies are based in part on forward bases such as those in the Philippines. As a measure of this political importance, it is worth remembering that since World War II, all of the armed conflicts into which the U.S. has been drawn — either with its own military forces or those with military aid — have taken place in the developing world.

CONCLUSION

It is important to remember that our assistance and support can often be as important to us as to countries in the developing world. In helping them deal with and solve their environmental problems, address their health problems, overcome their dependency on crops which produce drugs, reduce their poverty, alleviate their hunger, control their population growth, and manage their use of water, we often cannot help but to help ourselves. A more stable, more prosperous, better fed, healthier developing world can deal with environmental and health concerns, and can import more U.S. products which, in turn, can create jobs and reduce trade deficits. But the United States receives benefits beyond those tied to these more obvious interrelationships. It is estimated that over half of every U.S. foreign aid dollar is actually spent *in the United States!* In a recent 12-month period, 5,000 U.S. firms received orders totaling \$9 billion, creating approximately 150,000 U.S. jobs.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Is it in the best interest of the U.S. to help countries which may become trade competitors in the future?
2. Are there industries in your community which export to developing countries or are dependent on imports from them?
3. Is there really much difference in development assistance and development cooperation?

IX. ARE THERE SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE DEVELOPING WORLD?

One of the initial questions which was asked of many focus groups was, "What burning question would you like to ask about international development?" Many of the responses were somewhat cynical, but others expressed a desire to discover just how all the problems could be solved. Let's take a quick look at several of the questions which were asked.

What is the difference between relief and development?

Does money ever get to where it's intended?

Do recipients know how to use it?

Why do the rich get richer and the poor get poorer?

What about graft and corruption?

Why don't they solve their own problems?

What do countries do to help themselves?

How can older people be utilized?

What can I do to help?

Is there an unbiased, common source of information?

Are there any examples of successful programs?

It is much easier to identify the problems of development than to discuss the solutions. Certainly, there is more literature about the problems. And, as was pointed out earlier, the media gives substantial coverage to crises and relief efforts in developing countries, but the long-term efforts which produce lasting solutions receive only limited attention.

Two of the most frequently asked questions in the focus groups were, "What can developing countries do to solve their own problems?" and "What are some examples of successful efforts which are being undertaken to deal with the development problems?"

WHAT CAN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES DO TO SOLVE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS?

General Olusegun Abasanjo, former president of Nigeria in West Africa, recently called on African leaders to make the 1990s a decade of reconstruction. He made a series of suggestions which provide a substantive response to the first question asked in focus groups, "What can developing countries do to solve their own problems?" According to General Abasanjo, as quoted in the September 15, 1989 issue of

World Development Forum, African leaders need to "strive, among others, toward minimizing income differentials among our peoples through a revised tax system and more effective revenue collection, open and accountable governments and public administration, the promotion and sustenance of our own cultural identity, and by establishing for ourselves a confident and competitive role in world affairs." The General went on to say that African leaders must also reduce their "illogical and unproductive" defense expenditures, "strive toward new forms of larger, regional economic

associations with a view to a political union, hold more purposeful and regular economic summits, and establish the necessary machinery to follow up their decisions." And finally, he cautioned that Africa must look to the better preparation of its own leadership and find ways to replace legions of expensive foreign experts with indigenous talent: "Africa is strewn with the wreckage of failed economic policies — for the most part, policies devised by outsiders... Yet, despite this failure, advising African countries continues to be a roaring industry. And these foreign experts do not come cheap. The latest estimate indicates that an expatriate expert in Africa costs almost US\$200,000 a year. At any given time, sub-Saharan Africa alone has as many as 80,000 of these experts."

WHAT ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF SUCCESSFUL EFFORTS?

Throughout this booklet we have provided examples of efforts by the public and private sectors in the United States, other developed nations, and developing countries themselves in health care, agriculture, family planning, and even in encouraging the contributions of older people. On the following pages we provide some examples of successful efforts, efforts which were started because of the courage and vision in many cases of a single individual, thus demonstrating that individuals can have an impact on their own community and country... and, in many cases, on the world as a whole.

Many of these examples were taken from issues of *World Development Forum*.

Conserving Wildlife

Dr. David Hopcraft believes that the commercialization of wildlife may be the best way to protect not only animals but the land on which they graze. Dr. Hopcraft, who has a ranch about 25 miles outside Nairobi, raises giraffe, Thompson's gazelle, ostrich and zebra. Although he culls 15 animals a week from this stock to sell to local tourist restaurants, his herds

have increased by 40% in the past nine years. There was no market for African venison before the project began, but today eight of Nairobi's best hotels and restaurants are buying the meat, and the list is expanding. Hopcraft turned to the ranching and marketing of indigenous wild animals, heedful of farmers who complained of the destruction of crops by game and that they were "losing their land to national parks." He concluded that the solution to this problem was to convince the farmers that their game could be a source of income... that wildlife could become an asset rather than a liability.

Wildlife ranching is also more efficient than cattle ranching. For example, 1 acre of land yields only 1 pound of beef but can yield nearly 15 pounds of gazelle. Game can also withstand drought better than cattle and other livestock, is leaner than most traditional meats (and therefore a better source of protein) and is less destructive of the land than cattle. This year the ranch plans to market its products throughout the European community. Hopcraft is hoping to set up a similar venture in Mexico with indigenous animals such as elk, mule and deer.

Interestingly, those who advocate the ranching method of conservation see Zimbabwe as a model. Populations of wild animals have increased by several hundred per cent since Zimbabwe allowed private ownership 15 years ago. While Kenya struggles with a poaching problem that has reduced its rhinoceros population from 20,000 to 500 in the last 20 years, Zimbabwe's commercial firms can afford to hire anti-poaching units to protect their game. Poachers in Zimbabwe have difficulty marketing illegal skins because ranchers can legally sell products of much higher quality.

Protecting the Environment

Professor Eugene B. Shulz of Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, has a new idea — and a new word — to replace wood with dried roots of common vegetables like squashes and gourds: *rootfuel*. Shulz and a colleague took roots to women in Nigeria, Mexico and

Senegal, and asked them to try them in their stoves. In every case, the scientists reported, the women preferred rootfuel to the corn stalks, dung cakes and dried cactus leaves they had been using as fuel. The importance of this new idea is apparent when you consider that nearly half the world still cooks over stone fireplaces, and millions of women in the developing world devote at least one day a week to roaming the countryside looking for a dwindling supply of cooking fuel.

Irrigating the Desert

Corine Willock, a 55-year old sculptor and specialist in comparative cultures, has launched an initiative to promote a demonstration project that could alter the future for millions of people in drought-ridden North Africa. In 1972, while assembling an exhibition of Nigerian sculpture, she learned of the discovery of enormous basins of water that were trapped during the last ice age in rock formations now as much as 3,280 feet deep. The water was discovered several years ago during oil explorations. Her plan is to irrigate a continent-wide greenbelt across the Sahel stretching east from Senegal through Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Chad and Sudan to Ethiopia by tapping the underground water. According to news accounts, her scheme has caught the imagination, the backing and the active involvement of some of Canada's top scientists.

Confronting Illiteracy

Professor Bhagavatula Venkata Parameswara Rao organized a conference in his village in India which singled out illiteracy as the single most important factor inhibiting rural development. Professor Rao (who holds a doctorate from Pennsylvania State University) decided that literacy was the issue on which he was going to focus. The Indian government agreed to help him finance the enterprise and to oversee the program in the 40 subdivisions of his district.

Dr. Rao's teaching method is simple. According to *Third World Week*, he recruited 40 paid "motivators," and together they rounded up hundreds of high school and college students as volunteers to teach reading and writing in any of several mother tongues used in the area. He asked his teachers to "spend merely 30 minutes a day teaching just one person," but found that some were soon spending as much as three hours a day teaching up to 30 men and women. Dr. Rao hopes to demonstrate that illiteracy can be eradicated through organizing a mass movement and expects that his movement will spread to other areas like a chain reaction.

Husbanding Camels and Agriculture

Professor Reuven Yagil of the Ben Gurion University in Israel believes it is time to tap into the resources of the desert and to put the unique qualities of the camel to better use. Professor Yagil's research has developed ways to improve the genetic quality of camel herds, producing larger numbers of high milk-yielding camels in record time. His pilot project proposal envisions a breeding station that would employ hormone injections and embryo transplants to raise the rate of reproduction, lower the age of the first pregnancy and increase milk yields. Once a high-quality herd is established, the laboratory measures would cease, the herd would maintain itself, and local cattle herders could begin to convert their herds by exchanging cattle for camels.

The camel is said to be the only domestic animal which is truly adapted to arid and semi-arid lands. It can survive on desert scrub and little water, continuing to produce milk when cattle are dry and dying. Camel milk is a nutritionally complete food, and is the staple diet of many thousands of people. Under normal conditions, a she-camel produces more, for longer periods, than any cow in the developing world, and is far more efficient, converting fodder into four times as much milk as a cow does. Moreover, as water becomes more scarce, the water content of the milk, on which people

can live with no other source of nourishment, actually increases. In contrast to cattle, sheep and goats, camels browse in a wide-ranging fashion, never stripping individual plants bare, digging up roots, or clearing land of grass. On their soft padded feet, a herd of browsing camels causes neither destruction of the vegetation cover nor of the soil surface, and so it is not an agent of erosion and subsequent desertification.

Research at Ben Gurion University in Israel also has led to the successful growing of plants that thrive on sea water and are palatable to sheep and camels. According to researchers, such field crops grown from salty water may be the key to the future of desert agriculture. So far the researchers have screened 10 species of plants for salt tolerance. Other fruits and vegetables being successfully irrigated by saline water from underground aquifers commonly found in many desert areas are asparagus, broccoli, sorghum, olives, pears and pomegranates.

Providing Credit to the Poor

Dr. Mohammed Yunus is the founder and managing director of the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh. A recent article written by Dr. Yunus provides an excellent description of the Bank's unique status as a development success story worthy of media attention.

Spurred by the dramatic events in Eastern Europe, the notion of human rights is gaining everywhere. At the Grameen Bank, we have been working in more than 14,000 villages in Bangladesh to help poor women secure their human rights.

Economic development must be treated as a matter of human rights, not just economic growth. The elimination of poverty should be recognized as the central issue in all development thinking. Unfortunately, most planners don't think enough about who the poor are and how they can contribute to improving their own condition and that of their country. Most obviously forgotten are women.

Poverty is not caused by laziness or ignorance. A poor woman in Bangladesh works

hard and has more skills than she can use. She languishes in poverty because she does not receive the full worth of her work. Money lenders can charge usurious rates of interest exceeding 10% a month. She must surrender her income to the money lender because she has no assets, no capital to invest. She needs credit to build her own life with her own labor.

This is what we have been demonstrating at the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh. In over 13 years we have grown to become an organization with more than 690,000 landless members who borrow from us. The loans average \$67 and our repayment rate is 98%.

During an average month, we lend in excess of \$6 million, and more than 90% of that goes to women. Similar banks now operate in many countries in Asia and Africa and even in the U.S., Canada and France, where pockets of poverty remain for many of the same reasons that mass poverty persists in Bangladesh.

We think of credit as a human right. The myth that credit is the privilege of a few fortunate people needs to be exploded. Economists have always implied that credit is merely a lubricant for the economy. In fact, it plays a very important role in how a society is constituted. Credit, in the final analysis, is a powerful economic weapon.

Credit can equip a dispossessed person to fight the economic odds. It creates an opportunity for self-employment, in which the poor person can control his economic destiny.

The U.S. Congress has recognized the value of our approach, setting aside \$75 million in 1990 for the credit needs of the poor. This could make a tremendous difference in the worldwide fight against poverty. Although large institutions such as the U.S. Agency for International Development and the World Bank are likely to resist at first, the soundness of this approach will ultimately prevail. Whether in a Bangladesh village or on the south side of Chicago, access to credit must be a central part of any serious attack on poverty.

New York Times, April 4, 1990.

What are the ingredients which make the Grameen Bank so important? Its attack on the root causes of poverty? Its emphasis on economic development? Its philosophy that credit is a human right and an economic weapon? Its private sector approach to problem solving? Its focus on women? Its attention to small-scale enterprise development? Its emphasis on local, community action? Its 98% loan repayment rate? Its adaptation to urban and rural populations here in the United States?

It is probably a function of the combination of all these factors. But, perhaps its most important features are that it is an indigenous effort started within a country, it started as a very small effort, it expanded because it met a real need — and it works!

Other development banks are also being started to confront the problem of poverty and unemployment by providing access to credit to those who would be unable to attain it through commercial avenues. In fact, providing loans to individuals, groups and organizations for small enterprise development for the purpose of “helping people help themselves” is believed to treat the causes of poverty rather than the symptoms, and to lead to the emancipation of the poor without diminishing their dignity and motivation.

Encouraging Entrepreneurship

Millie and Glen Leet believe in trying to encourage independence, in helping build confidence so as to encourage self-sufficiency. As co-founders of Trickle Up, the Leets have helped over 16,000 businesses in nearly 90 countries get off the ground by providing small grants of \$100 (in two installments) to groups that demonstrate an interest, ability and commitment to producing and marketing a particular product.

The Leet’s idea is that the poorest of the poor in developing countries can earn money and run successful businesses with a little start-up capital and a lot of encouragement. They say that the money is important, but even more important is the encouragement that comes from having someone say, “We think you have a

great idea, and with a little push you could turn it into reality.”

For instance, according to a Trickle Up coordinator in Colombia, a Trickle Up grant gave a group of eight women the opportunity to plant and market coffee seedlings, an activity always dominated by men. In the second business period, the group made a profit and increased its production from 5,000 to 25,000 coffee plants, reinvesting 70% of the profits.

Developing Enterprises

Joyce Musoke of Uganda was 25, her husband had been killed in the war that toppled Idi Amin, she had eight children to support, and the country was in a state of economic chaos. What to do? The prices of restaurant food were high, she recalled, and most people were going without lunch. She realized that she could make a living by selling prepared meals at cheap prices and found a dilapidated automobile repair shop and set up shop. She cooked the food in her home and hired a man with a wheelbarrow to deliver it to the garage for lunch. She had planned for 20 customers, but soon had hundreds. Ugandans prefer to eat sitting down but for Chez Joyce they stood happily, and because lunch seemed “like a cocktail party,” her restaurant became known as *The Cocktail*. Business flourished. She began hiring other needy women, most of them illiterate like herself, and set up lunch stands in office-building corridors and alleys. Now, aged 40, she employs several hundred people and, according to *Third World Week*, she operates the most successful female-owned business in the country.

Using Traditional Medications

An Argentine research team investigating the treatment first used by a German physician in 1679 found that sugar kills all bacteria, activates the body’s immune response and promotes healing. Now, hospitals in Argentina are starting to disinfect wounds routinely with sugar. Granulated sugar, applied to every part of the

wound, kills bacteria through a process of cell dehydration that does not affect healthy tissue. Scientists have discovered that sugar is effective and can be used to preserve tissue for grafts. Sugar is also being used to cure infections in cattle. Since it contains no antibiotic or antiseptic substance, it leaves no harmful drug traces in milk.

The University Teaching Hospital in Nigeria has had similar success in treating burns with honey, as well as bedsores and other lesions which would not heal when treated with conventional dressings and antibiotics.

Improving Hygiene by Example

According to Bhekh Bahadur Thapa, Ambassador to the United States from India and former finance minister of Nepal: *"The impact of Peace Corps volunteers was not only on children who learned English, but on others at the local level who witnessed their lives and behavior. One volunteer... for example, was living in a hut with two Nepalese school teachers. Inside the hut he had changed the living arrangements, the living environment. He had used essentially the same things that the Nepalese used but had created more hygienic living conditions. The teachers picked up these habits and, in turn, taught them to the rest of the village. If we were to take the same problem to the World Health Organization or another interested agency, the first thing they would do is send a \$40,000 consultant to look at village sanitation. By the time they write the reports, thousands of dollars flow into documents, and then bureaucrats at both ends go and organize a health team. They take months to prepare a report. But the Peace Corps is different. Things like these may be very small, but how profound an impact they make. They cannot be measured in economic terms."*

Organizing Grassroots Movements

Dr. Bernard Ouedraogo, founder and president of Africa's largest and most successful

grassroots movements for self-reliance, was a 1989 co-winner of the Hunger Project's Africa prize for leadership for the sustainable end of hunger. Dr. Ouedraogo, who is a native of Burkina Faso, won the prize for his bold, visionary work in organizing hundreds of thousands of peasants to take command of their own development and thereby end their own hunger.

Two groups that he organized currently involve more than half a million individuals in nine countries and have affected millions more. His approach is to seek development without destroying the culture. In reviving traditional methods of village organization, people work cooperatively toward the well-being of the entire village. Individual groups are involved in a wide range of activities including vegetable gardening, learning new agricultural techniques, basic literacy training, fighting erosion, reforestation projects, building roads, improving health care for women and children, and creating better jobs.

Dr. Ouedraogo's approach to development has been replicated in Burkina Faso, Chad, the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Togo.

Promoting Community Organization

A Filipino grandmother and community activist urges the people of the world, and particularly the developing world, to "Act, Act, Act." According to Alan B. Durning of Worldwatch, she is just one of hundreds of millions of people who are "organizing on a scale unprecedented in human history." They include mothers' clubs in the slums of Brazil, Indian villagers who have organized to protect and reforest barren slopes of the Himalayas, landless peasants fighting encroaching commercial developers, and women's groups organizing health care facilities.

He writes that in the developing world, *"India has the most active community organizations, thanks to several generations of activities inspired by Mahatma Gandhi, and to neighboring Sri Lanka's Sarvodaya Shramadana*

community development movement which includes one-third of that nation's villages." Latin American grassroots organizations have multiplied dramatically in the last two decades. In 1968, the Catholic Church committed itself to promoting the interests of the poor and sent thousands of priests and nuns into the back streets and rural areas. Africa has fewer grassroots self-help movements, although local action is widespread in certain countries, most notably Burkina Faso and Senegal.

According to Durning, grassroots groups are better at defending what they have (such as land) than creating what they lack (such as preventive health care programs); better at social development and infrastructure projects than at generating income; better at protecting the local environment from identifiable outside forces (such as predatory commercial interests) than from abuses by community members themselves or from diffuse, distant dangers (such as acid rain or global warming).

How could they be made more effective? Durning says that where government/grassroots partnerships have been created, extraordinary results have followed. For example, China and South Korea have used village-level organizations to plant enormous expanses of trees, implement national population policies, and boost agricultural production. As another example, after the 1979 Nicaraguan revolution, a massive literacy campaign sent 90,000 volunteers into the countryside, and in one year raised the literacy rate from 50% to 87%.

Taking the Initiative for Self-Help

Nine years ago Kanitha Wichiencharoen raised 50,000 baht (US\$2,000) and built the first shelter in Thailand for women and children in distress. Over the years the shelter has helped about 10,000 women and children who have been victims of rape, incest and other abuse. But, as Wichiencharoen said in *The Christian Science Monitor*, "We realized we were helping them after they were already in trouble. We felt we could do more to reach them before that. We

needed an educational training center." She embarked upon a fundraising project and, by the end of 1988, the Women's Education and Training Center was complete. The facility includes a residential hotel of twenty-five rooms; classrooms; meeting and training rooms; gymnasiums; vegetable gardens; and fish, shrimp and duck ponds for training and food production.

Advocating Rural Development

Dr. Y.C. James (Jimmy) Yen is regarded by specialists and historians as one of the seminal figures in the field of international development. UNICEF Executive Director James Grant has said that Dr. Yen was three generations ahead of his time in advocating that people should be subjects, not objects, of development.

His accomplishments were many:

- He worked as a YMCA volunteer in France during World War I where he initiated an historic program to teach imported Chinese laborers, who had been commandeered to work in the trenches, to read and write.

- During the 1920s-1940s he initiated self-and mutual-help programs for the Chinese rural poor, including a primary health care program.

- He helped organize private rural development programs in Guatemala, Colombia, Ghana, India, Thailand and the Philippines. In addition, the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction, founded by Dr. Yen in 1960, has trained development workers to adapt Dr. Yen's philosophy and methods in more than 40 developing countries.

Dr. Yen, who died in January 1990 at the age of 96, continued striving for solutions to the problems of rural people in the developing world until virtually the last day of his life. When he was well into his nineties, he made two gruelling trips to China to meet with high officials and to explore the possibility of collaborative programs to improve social and economic conditions for the rural poor. Even at the very end, he was still planning and dreaming of new projects.

Donating Money

Individuals on Virgin Atlantic Airways flying between London and the United States contributed unused foreign coins to UNICEF's child immunization program. Between July 1988 and January 1989 donations amounted to over \$10,000 a month. Other carriers quickly announced plans to initiate similar foreign change donation programs. According to David Wood, special projects officer for the U.S. Committee for UNICEF, as much as \$40 million a year could be raised if all U.S. carriers were to participate in the program.

Improving Agriculture

In 1946, the Rockefeller Foundation sent John Niederhauser to Mexico to begin work in potato crop development. Between 1948 and 1982, his work helped boost Mexico's potato crop from 134,000 tons a year to more than 1 million tons. In 1990, John Niederhauser won the prestigious World Food Prize for 1990 which includes an award of \$200,000. According to Norman Borlaug, founder of the prize, Mr. Niederhauser's work on a blight-resistant strain of potato has benefited countries from Mexico to Bangladesh.

CONCLUSION

These are just a few examples of what developing countries can do to solve their own problems and the many ways individuals and small groups can take action which makes a difference. They suggest that development is about processes...processes of participation, of enrichment, and of empowerment. They suggest that development should include large-scale, country-wide efforts, as well as small-scale, community-based activities. They suggest that governments are important to the planning and implementation of development projects, just as are private voluntary organizations and individuals who are said to be the eyes and ears of the proper implementation of sustainable development policies and programs.

The action is not limited, however, to developing countries or to the people who live in them. As we have seen, the United States and other countries provide substantial financial assistance, and private voluntary organizations as well as individuals participate directly and indirectly in providing humanitarian and development assistance. The agenda includes short-term assistance in response to crises and disasters, and long-term assistance in planning and implementing sustainable development. Because of the two-way, collaborative relationship that is needed in short-, as well as long-, term efforts, the term *cooperation*, rather than *charity* or *assistance*, is increasingly being used.

A FINAL COMMENT

In order to prepare this booklet on international development, our staff has reviewed information and tapped into the expertise provided by many organizations and individuals throughout the United States.

The development education community has been especially generous and, once again, we wish to acknowledge their contributions. A particular publication, *World Development Forum*, has provided interesting information, and its content has been used to illustrate many of the more practical examples of development problems and solutions. *World Development Forum* is published bi-monthly as a public service by the Hunger Project.

Countless volunteers in the fields of development and aging have also been involved in the preparation of this booklet. Their contributions and their suggestions during a review and comment process have been helpful and very much appreciated.

The many retired Americans who have participated in our educational programs thus far also have been extremely helpful in the preparation of this publication. They have introduced us to their interests and concerns and, in doing so, have created an interactive educational experience. And, their recurring question, "How can I be involved?" indicated to us that participating in a focus group, an educational seminar or a study group was only the first step in the educational process. We are pleased that we can help facilitate the next step of action through our continued educational programs and with the publication of a booklet, *How Can I Be Involved in International Development: A Retired Americans' Guide to Options for Participation and Support Both at Home and Abroad*.

And finally, we invite your comments. We are interested in maintaining the interactive nature of our program through readers of this publication who might not be able to participate in focus groups or educational seminars. Are there other problems or issues which you believe are important? Are there other statistics which could be helpful? Are there other examples which you would like to share? Are you aware of opportunities available to older Americans for involvement in international development efforts? Please let us hear from you so that when we prepare the Second Edition of *Retired Americans Look at International Development* in 1992 your contribution can be included.

Thank you.

Helen K. Kerschner, Ph.D.
President, AAIA

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ABOUT INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

1. **True.** The World Bank classifies 79 countries as “developing economies.” Another 42 countries are generally identified as “developed” or “industrialized” countries.
2. **False.** Life expectancy at birth in developing countries is expected to increase from 46 years in 1960 to 70 years by 2020.
3. **False.** English is the first language of about 420 million people, while Mandarin Chinese is spoken by about 788 million people.
4. **True.** Except for those living in food emergency areas, most of the hungry people in the world are hungry because they are poor people living in areas where they have little opportunity to improve their incomes.
5. **False.** The World Bank estimates that about 20% — 1 billion of the world’s 5 billion people — suffer from chronic undernourishment. 75% of the hungry live in India, Southeast Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.
6. **False.** Two-fifths of U.S. exports are purchased by developing countries, and 10 of the 20 U.S. trade partners in 1983 were developing countries. The debt crisis and drought that developing countries have experienced have made it difficult for them to import U.S. goods at an expanding rate.
7. **True.** In 1980, 74% of the world’s 4.5 billion people lived in developing countries. By the year 2000, when the world’s population is expected to reach 6.1 billion, 79% will live in developing countries. The population is expected to reach 10 billion in 50 years.
8. **True.** Asia is the largest region with the most population and is most diverse in geography and climate. About 25% of the people live in cities. There is only one-half arable acre for each person. Life expectancy at birth is only 58 years. Population on the continent is expected to double in 40 years.
9. **False.** The World Health Organization has estimated that 80% of all sickness and disease in the world is attributable to impure water or lack of sanitation. This includes the effects of drinking contaminated water, water acting as a breeding ground for carriers of disease, and disease caused by lack of washing.
10. **False.** According to the National Council on International Health, more than 80% of all blind people live in developing nations, and fully two-thirds of all blindness is preventable, surgically-reversible or surgically arrestable.

11. **False.** Agriculture accounts for 70% of the world's fresh global water use.
12. **False.** In 1980 it was estimated that 53% of the age 60+ population lived in developing countries; that percentage is expected to increase to 69% by 2020.
13. **False.** Mexico, a developing country, is the third largest market for U.S. goods, behind Canada and Japan. Additionally, Mexico is the U.S.'s fourth largest market for agricultural products.
14. **True.** Countries now classified as developing are projected to grow from 3.32 billion people in 1980 to 4.86 billion in the year 2000 — a growth of 1.5 billion. This will account for 92% of the world's projected growth. During that same period, developed countries are projected to grow from 1.14 billion people to 1.28 billion — a growth of only 139.7 million.
15. **False.** Official Development Assistance accounts for less than 1% of the U.S. GNP, which puts the United States 17th among the 18 industrialized countries in aid-giving.
16. **True.** U.S. foreign aid expenditures are currently about 1% of federal outlays compared to 15% during the Marshall Plan.
17. **False.** The U.S. Agency for International Development is the primary U.S. agency responsible for providing development assistance to developing countries. The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank are multilateral development organizations supported by more than 150 countries, including the U.S.
18. **True.** Individuals 15 years or younger constitute about 35% of the population in developing countries. By contrast, only 21% of the population of the United States and Canada is 15 or younger. The world's pool of potential child workers has nearly doubled since 1950. In 1987 it was estimated that 88 million children between the ages of 11 and 15 worked for a living.
19. **False.** The U.S. has recently been replaced by Japan as the largest donor of Official Development Assistance — in dollars; but, as a percentage of GNP contributed, it is seventeenth behind Norway, the Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, France, Finland, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Italy, Australia, Japan, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, and Ireland.
20. **True.** It is estimated that more than half of U.S. foreign aid dollars are spent in the United States on goods and services provided to developing countries.

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS

The following is a listing of some of the acronyms used in this booklet.

AAIA American Association for International Aging

AARP American Association of Retired Persons

AID or **USAID** United States Agency for International Development

DAC Development Assistance Committee of the OECD

EC European Community (Belgian, Denmark, Federal Republic of Germany, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and United Kingdom)

FAO Food and Agriculture Organization (UN)

GDP Gross Domestic Product

GNP Gross National Product

HMO Health Maintenance Organization

IDB Inter-American Development Bank

IFC International Finance Corporation (World Bank)

IFPRI International Food Policy Research Institute

ILO International Labor Organization (UN)

IMF International Monetary Fund

NGO Non-Governmental Organization

NICs Newly Industrialized Countries

NRTA National Retired Teachers Association

OASIS Older Adult Service and Information System

ODA Official Development Assistance

ODC Overseas Development Council

OECD Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

PVO Private Voluntary Organization

RTIs Countries experiencing Recent Trends in Industrialization

SID Society for International Development

UN United Nations

UNDP United Nations Development Program

UNESCO United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNFPA United Nations Fund for Population Activities

UNICEF United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

VESIs Countries in the Very Early Stages of Industrialization

WHO World Health Organization (UN)

WID Women in Development

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