

Hunger Map Exercise



Materials:

A copy of the Hunger Map, available at: www.wfp.org/hunger/map

Pencils and paper

Thin-strip color stickies to use as markers on the map

Instructions:

Divide participants into small groups of two to five depending on the size of your group.

- Ask each group to make a list of everything they have on them (e.g., articles of clothing, cell phones, hand bags, shoes, back packs, glasses) and where it was made, by looking at the tags/stickers on each item which state: "Made in ____."
- After their list has been compiled, ask the participants to write on the stickies the article and where it was made (e.g., "shoes—China").
- The color sticky strips are then placed on the correct geographical area of the Hunger Map. Each group can have its own Hunger Map or you can use one common map for the entire group.

Ask someone to explain the Hunger Map, and what each color represents in terms of undernourishment, to make sure everyone understands the map.

Debriefing Questions:

- How many different countries did you find represented in your group's possessions?
- What regions are most represented? (e.g., Asia)
- What countries are most represented?
- Now draw connections from the stickies to the content of the map. What do you notice about the countries where your "things" come from?
- How do you feel about your findings?
- Why do you think so many of our things come from countries where there are higher levels of undernourishment? Shouldn't workers in countries that make the goods that we buy be able to feed themselves and their families?

- What regions or countries are missing/underrepresented? (e.g., Africa)
- Why are they not on your labels?
- Do these missing regions or countries export anything?
- Who benefits from the export of natural resources in many of these countries?
- What alternatives exist to support the right of workers to a fair/living wage?

Things to Consider:

Many African countries export important items that are not labeled on your possessions, including raw materials and natural resources such as oil, minerals/metals, cocoa, timber, coffee, cotton. Did you know:

- South Africa is the world's biggest producer of gold and diamonds.
- DR Congo exports tantalum, tin, tungsten (known as "The Three T's"), and gold, which are essential elements for cell phones, computer chips, and gaming devices—and which fuel the conflict there. (Visit the website "Enough! The project to end genocide and crimes against humanity" at: www.enoughproject.org.)
- Nigeria contains the 11th largest estimated oil reserves in the world.

Other Options:

Use more than one kind of map or other indicators, such as life expectancy or healthcare expenditure, to learn more about each of the countries represented in your possessions. Good websites include: www.gapminder.org, www.worldmapper.org/index.html, and <http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics/hdi>.

