

Choose the most suitable word to fill in the gaps. There are FOUR EXTRA WORDS you will not need.

WORLD HUNGER

The number of people who go to bed hungry every night somewhere in our world has **(0) reached** 1 billion – one in six of the Earth's population, according to a new report by the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation. The international goal of **(1)...** in half the number of hungry people by 2015 now seems far from attainable. But it need not be so. Undernourishment fell across the world throughout the 1980s and early 1990s. But then in 1995 things went into reverse. Today there are more hungry children, women and men than at any time since 1970. Last year 46 million extra people fell below the UN poverty benchmark of having less than \$1.25 to live on every day.

This is **(2)...** to a complex variety of reasons – some linked to the global recession, some to medium-term political changes on matters like biofuels, **(3)...** others relate to more deep-rooted structural changes. The world economic crisis has choked off the short-term financial credits which poor countries need to buy food on the market. And **(4)...** developing countries have become more integrated into the world economy they have become more vulnerable to volatile price changes in international markets. The current economic crisis affects so many parts of the world simultaneously that it reduces Third World governments' scope for using coping mechanisms that worked in the past, like currency devaluation. All this comes on top of the massive surge in worldwide food prices two years ago. Things were **(5)...** by the 2007 drought in Australia, the worst for a century, which halved its wheat harvest. But there were more fundamental background factors. As countries like China, India, Brazil and Russia have got richer they have begun eating more. Rich people don't just eat more than poor people, they eat differently. The demand for meat in developing countries has doubled since 1980. In India it is up 40 per cent. In China the rise is 150 per cent. And because cattle and chickens are fed **(6)...** corn – it **(7)...** 8kg of grain to produce 1kg of beef – the price of all cereals has been forced **(8)....** . Investors switched their money from agriculture to more profitable areas. Aid followed the **(9)...** . In 1980, 17 per cent of global aid went to agriculture; by 2006 that had fallen to 3.8 per cent. Aid was switched to **(10)...** reduction, health and education, and building up the capacity of Third World governments. Aid should rise from the current \$8bn a year to \$44bn and be spent on irrigation, modern machinery, roads and training for small-scale farmers as well as on high-quality seeds, fertilisers, feed and technologies that would **(11)...** both production and productivity. We should spend aid on **(12)...** women in developing countries which, all the evidence shows, is the biggest key **(13)...** reducing world hunger. A world which found trillions to **(14)...** out the banks ought to be able to scrape together the resources to do something to prevent that. If we do not, our children will one day look back with incredulity and ask us why we did nothing.