Over the ten year period from 1990 to 2000, the number of people in the world that lived on an inadequate amount of food increased from 840 million to 858 million. Due to the population increases over this period, the percentage of the population that is undernourished simultaneously decreased from 16% to 14%.

Of all the people living in Central Africa, over 60% are undernourished. The Democratic Republic of Congo has the highest levels of undernourishment: 3 in every 4 people there are undernourished.

Reducing the proportion of undernourished peoples is an aim of Millennium Development Goal 1.

“The number of hungry people remains intolerably high, progress in reaching them unconscionably slow and the costs in ruined lives and wasted resources incalculably large.”

Lynn Brown, 2004