Hunger, Health, and Children

What is the biggest threat to health worldwide? It is the same enemy humanity faced 100,000 or 10,000 years ago – hunger and hunger-related diseases. Last year, more people died because they were hungry and malnourished than from AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined. An estimated 17 million babies born every year are underweight, inheriting hunger from their mothers who are themselves undernourished. All this suffering, this wasted potential, is entirely preventable. For decades, there has been enough food in the world to feed everyone. Originally slated to a three year experimentation stage, the UN’s World Food Program (WFP), in just 40 years, has become the world’s largest humanitarian agency. Working together with its partners in the UN, non-governmental organizations, academic institutes and governments, the WFP reaches 90 million hungry people in 80 countries every year.