

HMDC Presents... UNICEF: Review Quiz

HMDC Presents... UNICEF: Childhood Hunger: Food Waste, Food Recovery, and Farmland Restoration (Review Quiz)

We take this quiz after we finish reading the HMDC research report, not before. When we are done, we check our answers in the Answer Key at the end. For every question we missed, we go back and reread the part of the report the Answer Key names, so the fact is ready for committee.

PART 1: THE TOPIC

1. What is the difference between stunting and wasting?

- A. Stunting means a child is overweight; wasting means a child is underweight.
- B. Stunting means a child is too short for their age because of long-term hunger; wasting means a child is dangerously thin because of a sudden, severe lack of food.
- C. Stunting only happens in war zones; wasting only happens in wealthy countries.
- D. Stunting and wasting are two names for the same condition.

2. According to the United Nations Environment Programme, where does most of the world's food waste happen?

- A. In homes (households), which cause about 60% of food waste.
- B. In shops, which cause about 60% of food waste.
- C. In restaurants and food services, which cause about 60% of food waste.
- D. On farms, before food is harvested.

3. What is the "rebound effect" that researchers warn about when we cut food loss and waste?

- A. Wasted food comes back as compost and grows new crops.
- B. Countries that cut waste always return to wasting more within a year.
- C. Cutting waste makes food cheaper, so people buy and eat more, which cancels part of the benefit.
- D. Refrigerators break down more often when more food is stored in them.

4. Researchers at Ulster University raised a concern about giving surplus food to charities. What was it?

- A. Surplus food is always unsafe to eat.
- B. Food banks cost more than school meals in every country.
- C. Charities refuse to accept fruit and vegetables.
- D. It offers short-term relief, but there is no evidence it solves household food insecurity, and it can let governments avoid fixing the real causes of hunger.

5. Which of these is a disadvantage of school meals, according to the report?

- A. They lower school attendance.
- B. They reach only children who attend school, so they miss the youngest children and children out of school.
- C. They cost almost nothing, so governments do not take them seriously.
- D. They cannot use food from local farmers.

6. Why is farmland restoration not a fast answer for children who are hungry today?

- A. Its benefits arrive slowly, often over years, and violent conflict cuts the land that can safely be restored roughly in half.
- B. Restoring land always lowers crop yields.
- C. No country has ever pledged to restore land.
- D. Restored land can only grow trees, never food.

PART 2: THE UNITED NATIONS

1. Which resolution adopted the Sustainable Development Goals, including Target 12.3 to halve food waste by 2030?

- A. S/RES/2417, adopted by the Security Council in 2018.
- B. A/RES/74/209, adopted by the General Assembly in 2019.
- C. A/RES/70/1, adopted by the General Assembly in 2015.
- D. A/RES/44/25, adopted by the General Assembly in 1989.

2. What did Security Council resolution 2417 (2018) do?

- A. Condemned the starvation of civilians as a method of war and asked the Secretary-General to warn the Council when conflict creates a risk of famine.
- B. Created a new fund to pay for school meals in every country.
- C. Set binding food waste targets for every member state.
- D. Declared the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

3. The 2019 UN Environment Assembly resolution on food loss and waste (UNEP/EA.4/Res.2) set a priority order for action. What comes first?

- A. Turning waste into energy.
- B. Prevention first, then food recovery and redistribution.
- C. Food recovery first, then prevention.
- D. Sending surplus food to landfills that capture gas.

4. Which UN decade, declared by the General Assembly in 2019 (A/RES/73/284), runs from 2021 to 2030 and covers repairing damaged farmland?

- A. The UN Decade of Family Farming.
- B. The UN Decade of Action on Nutrition.
- C. The International Day of Zero Waste.
- D. The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

5. What happened to the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition in March 2025?

- A. The General Assembly ended it five years early.
- B. The General Assembly extended it to 2030, after a vote instead of the usual agreement without a vote.
- C. The Security Council took control of it.

- D. UNICEF replaced it with a new treaty.

PART 3: INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS

1. Africa's Great Green Wall shows a large gap between promises and delivery. What does the report say about its money?

- A. Donors pledged US\$19 billion in 2021, but only about US\$2.5 billion had been paid out by early 2023.
- B. Donors paid more than they pledged, so the project is fully funded.
- C. The project has never received any pledges.
- D. The project is paid for entirely by private companies.

2. In 2025 the European Parliament approved the first binding food waste targets for EU countries. What must countries do by the end of 2030?

- A. Ban all food donation by shops.
- B. Cut food waste to zero in every household.
- C. Cut food waste by 30% per person in shops, restaurants, food services and households, and by 10% in food processing and manufacturing.
- D. Send all unsold food to other continents.

3. According to UNICEF's Supply Division, what is the main problem holding back ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) for children with severe wasting?

- A. There are no factories able to make it.
- B. Children refuse to eat it.
- C. It only works on adults.
- D. There is not enough steady money: about 96% of RUTF funding is short-term emergency money, while factories could make several times more.

4. Champions 12.3, a coalition of leaders from government, business, research and civil society, gave governments and companies a practical first step. What was it?

- A. Wait until 2030 and then measure food waste once.
- B. Find at least one food loss and waste "hotspot" and act on it now.
- C. Leave food waste to households alone.
- D. Stop measuring food waste because the target is already met.

THINK LIKE A DELEGATE

There is no single correct answer to these questions. We write a few sentences, using facts from the report, and then compare our answer with what a strong answer includes.

1. UNICEF is a children's agency, not a farming or environment agency. How would we argue that UNICEF should act on food waste and farmland restoration at all?

2. Some delegates want a resolution built mostly on food recovery (food banks and donated surplus food). Would we support that plan, change it, or oppose it, and why?

3. Humanitarian funding has fallen sharply since 2022. If our resolution needs money, where should it come from, and what should be protected first?

ANSWER KEY

PART 1: THE TOPIC

1. **B.** Stunting comes from chronic, long-term hunger and makes a child too short for their age, while wasting comes from acute, sudden hunger and makes a child dangerously thin (Part 1, section 1A introduction; Key Vocabulary).
2. **A.** UNEP found that households caused 60% of food waste, food services 28% and shops 12% (Part 1, entry 1.7).
3. **C.** Cheaper food leads people to consume more, and this rebound effect could cancel up to 71% of the expected benefits (Part 1, section 1B and entry 1.13).
4. **D.** The Ulster researchers found no evidence that surplus food solves household food insecurity and warned it can "depoliticise" hunger (Part 1, entry 1.16).
5. **B.** School meals reach only children who attend school, so the youngest children and those out of school are missed (Part 1, section 1D).
6. **A.** Restoration benefits often take years, and conflict cuts the land that can safely be restored from 27.9 million to 14.1 million hectares (Part 1, section 1E and entry 1.20).

PART 2: THE UNITED NATIONS

1. **C.** A/RES/70/1 (2015) adopted the 2030 Agenda, including Goal 2, Target 12.3 and Target 15.3 (Part 2, Table of Resolutions).
2. **A.** Resolution 2417 condemned starvation as a method of war and asked for fast warnings about famine risk (Part 2, Table of Resolutions and entry 2.5).
3. **B.** The resolution says action should follow prevention first, then recovery and redistribution (Part 2, Table of Resolutions and entry 2.9).
4. **D.** A/RES/73/284 declared the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030) to prevent, halt and reverse damage to ecosystems, including farmland (Part 2, Table of Resolutions).
5. **B.** The General Assembly extended the Decade to 2030 with 158 votes in favour, and the vote itself shows nutrition has become politically divided (Part 2, entry 2.12).

PART 3: INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS

1. **A.** US\$19 billion was pledged in January 2021, but only US\$2.5 billion was paid out by early 2023, while about US\$33 billion is needed (Part 3, entry 3.8).
2. **C.** Each EU country must cut food waste by 30% per person in shops, restaurants, food services and households, and by 10% in processing and manufacturing (Part 3, entry 3.3a).
3. **D.** About 96% of RUTF money is short-term emergency funding, so the problem is not factories but steady money (Part 3, entry 3.13a).
4. **B.** Champions 12.3 asks every government and company to find one hotspot and act now, because Target 12.3 is "fast becoming out of reach" (Part 3, entry 3.1).

THINK LIKE A DELEGATE: WHAT A STRONG ANSWER INCLUDES

1. **Linking every idea to a child outcome.** A strong answer ties food waste and farmland back to children, such as FAO's finding that damaged land is linked to 47 million stunted children under five. It proposes working with FAO, UNEP, UNCCD or IFAD instead of duplicating them, for example joint UNICEF-IFAD projects (How to Use This Report; Part 1, entry 1.9; Part 3, entry 3.2).

2. **Weighing food recovery against its limits.** A strong answer notes that food banks already work at scale (38 million people served in 2024), but adds nutrition standards because diet variety matters, and pairs recovery with cash transfers so charity does not hide the causes of hunger. It may also mention changing donation laws, such as clearer date labels (Part 1, entries 1.4, 1.14, 1.15 and 1.16).
3. **Naming realistic money and clear priorities.** A strong answer admits the funding crisis, such as WFP's roughly 40% budget drop in 2025, and protects life-saving programs like RUTF first. It suggests ways to stretch each dollar, such as larger shared-buying programs (US\$4 per child in Zimbabwe), multi-year RUTF promises, or tracking the US\$27.55 billion in Nutrition for Growth pledges, and it considers the fairness concerns of the Group of 77 (Part 1, entry 1.10e; Part 2, entries 2.7 and 2.11, section 2C; Part 3, entries 3.6, 3.7 and 3.13a).