

Vision

Most of the 17 SDGs Are not on Track to Be Achieved by 2030!



SD Goal 2: Zero Hunger by 2030



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Abstract

Since the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015, 3100+ events have been organized, 1300+ publications have been authored, and 5500+ actions have been initiated for the realisation of 17 SDGs (Blog, 12/2023). Nevertheless, most of the 17 SDGs adopted by the United Nations in 2015 are not expected to be achieved by 2030. "Only about 12% are on track. Nearly 50% of the goals are moderately or severely off track. Approximately 30% have either stagnated or 'regressed below the 2015 baseline' (UN, 4/2023)." "Leave NO One Behind (LNOB)" is the central, transformative promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs (UNSDG, 2022). It represents the unequivocal commitment of all UN member states. This promise is not being fulfilled for millions of people and is currently pure utopia. Perhaps it is a dream, a wish, part of a wish list, a wish + a plan = a goal, an intention or just an appeasing phrase?

Key Words: *Hunger, Food Security, Food Insecurity, Political Failure, Food Production 2030/2050, Agriculture, To the Uttermost Limits of What Is Necessary, "Moonshot"-Innovations, Confidence, Engagement of Young People, An Emergency Call!*

Introduction

Just one example – SD Goal 2: Zero Hunger by 2030

Global Hunger, Malnutrition: Predictions and Reality, 1974-1992-2002-2015-2020-2030-2060 (2024) - Conclusions made by the author:

Let's move on to the forecasts of global malnutrition. It is interesting to see and hear what politicians were/are saying.

- **1974:** The UN issued a prognosis stating that **we should no longer have hunger in the world by 1985**. 'Within a decade, no child will go to bed hungry. No family will have to worry about the next day's bread and no person will see their future and their abilities stunted by malnutrition (World Food Conference, Rome 1974, Deutsche Welthungerhilfe, 2001). The fact was that 400 to 500 million people were suffering from hunger.
- **1997:** 600 to 800 million starving people lived on the globe. In the meantime, **a new goal has been set, namely, to halve these figures by 2015**. What I'm trying to say is that it's pointless just to make any forecasts about how likely it is to reach and estimate these figures, because the chances are rather slim" (Kern, M., 1998).
- **2007:** "Many explain why the world will/could not reach the millennium target of halving hunger by 2015 as having to do with **higher food prices**" (Kern, M., 2/2007).

- **2010:** “Many explain why the world will/could not reach the millennium target of halving hunger by 2015 as having to do with the **global economic crisis**” (Kern, M., 2012).
- **2012:** “Many explain why the world will/could not reach the millennium target of halving hunger by 2015 as **necessary actions were claimed, but not really realized** (Kern, M., 2/2012).
- **2017:** “Many explain why the world will/could not reach Zero Hunger by 2030 as having to do with the increase of **conflicts and climate change issues**” (Kern, M., 2/2017).
- **2020:** “Many explain why the world will/could not reach Zero Hunger by 2030 as having to do with the **corona pandemic**” (Kern, M., 5/2020).
- **2021:** “Many explain why it is impossible to eliminate hunger in years to come as having to do with the fact **politicians do not have the courage** to eliminate hunger” (Kern, M., 10/2021).
- **2022:** Some explain attaining the SDG goals will be difficult but will be **impossible without efficiently and humanly managing coexistence with our closest and globally ubiquitous domesticated species – dogs** (ICAM, International Companion Animal Management Coalition, 2/2022).
- **2022:** “Due to the fact that Western democracies are not prepared to militarily counterattack **Putin’s misanthropic aggression in the Ukraine and in Europe**, hunger and misery are set increase throughout the world! – Zero Hunger by 2030 will not be reached by 2030” (Kern, M., 2/2022).
- **2024:** “Many explain that because of the **wars, conflicts and political tensions** (Ukraine, Gaza, the Sahel, the Sudan, Libya, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Yemen, Myanmar, Haiti, Iran, Venezuela, South China Sea, China/Taiwan, Russia/NATO), economic shocks and human-induced climate change Zero Hunger will not be reached by 2030” (Kern, M., 5/2024).
- **2025:** “Some explain that because **technology transfer** in the field of agriculture in Europe and developing countries has not been implemented in a timely manner, e.g. due to **scientific apartheid** in terms of modern biotechnology and implementation of AI technologies, the world was not been able to reduce hunger” (Kern, M., 1/2025).
- **2025:** More than 150 Nobel and World Food Prize Winners call for ‘**Moonshot**’ effort to curb global hunger. Reversing our current trajectory towards a tragic mismatch of global food supply and demand by **mid-century** (2050) requires definitive action now (World Food Prize Foundation, 1/2025; Ecowatch, 1/2025).
- **2025:** “Many will explain that **US President Trump’s political order to freeze US foreign aid worldwide for 90 days** is largely responsible for the fact that the ZERO hunger target for 2030 cannot be achieved.” (Kern, M., 2/2025).
- **2030:** “Many will simply say that it was not possible to realize Plan Zero Hunger 2030 for **many reasons**” (Kern, M., 7/2024).
- **2060:** **For various reasons (e.g., implosion of world population), Zero-Hunger will become a reality by 2060, at the earliest.**

To free 500 million people from hunger by 2030 would require around 50 billion US dollars/year, and to free 700 million people from hunger by 2040 (2025-2040) would require around 223 billion US dollars (von Braun, J. et al., 5/2024).

The two following diagrams (Fig. 1 and 2) with important segments are shown to illustrate the cost dimensions (trillions and billions of US dollars).

In fact, almost all of the world's hungry, 733 million people (using a revised calculation method adapted in 2010), live in developing countries, representing 12.9 per cent, or one in eight, of the

population of developing countries (Welthungerhilfe, 10/2024). 2.8 billion people around the world cannot afford a healthy diet. 9 million people die each year from hunger-related causes, many of them children under the age of five (Concern Worldwide, 10/2024). In addition, more than a third of under-five deaths are due to malnutrition; 165 million children under five are stunted and 51 million are wasted.

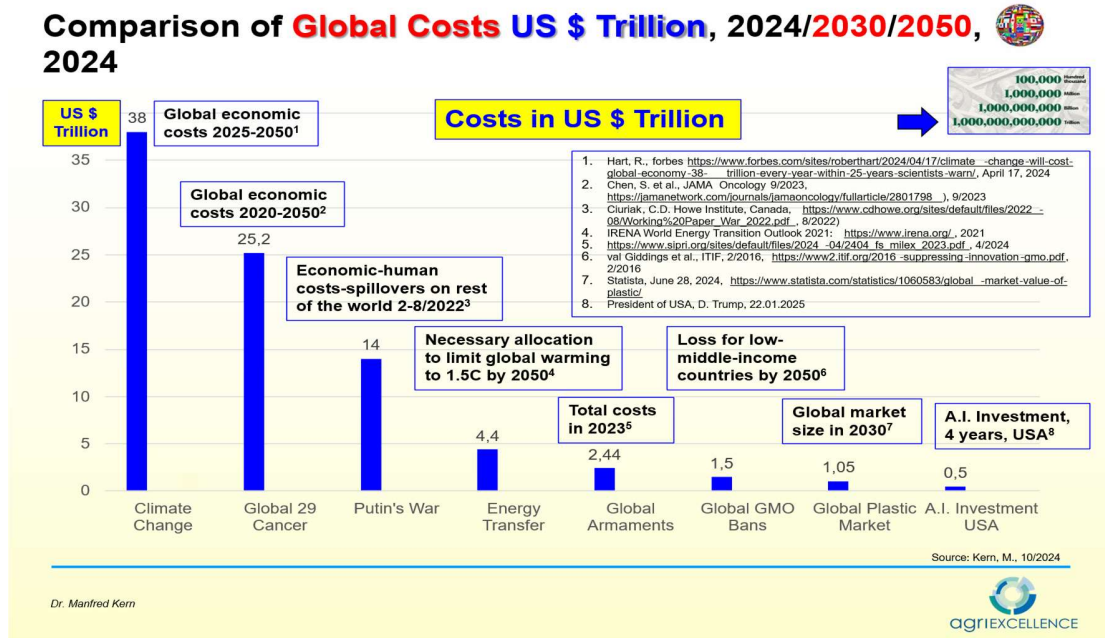


Figure 1. Comparison of global costs US \$ Trillion, 2024/2030/2050

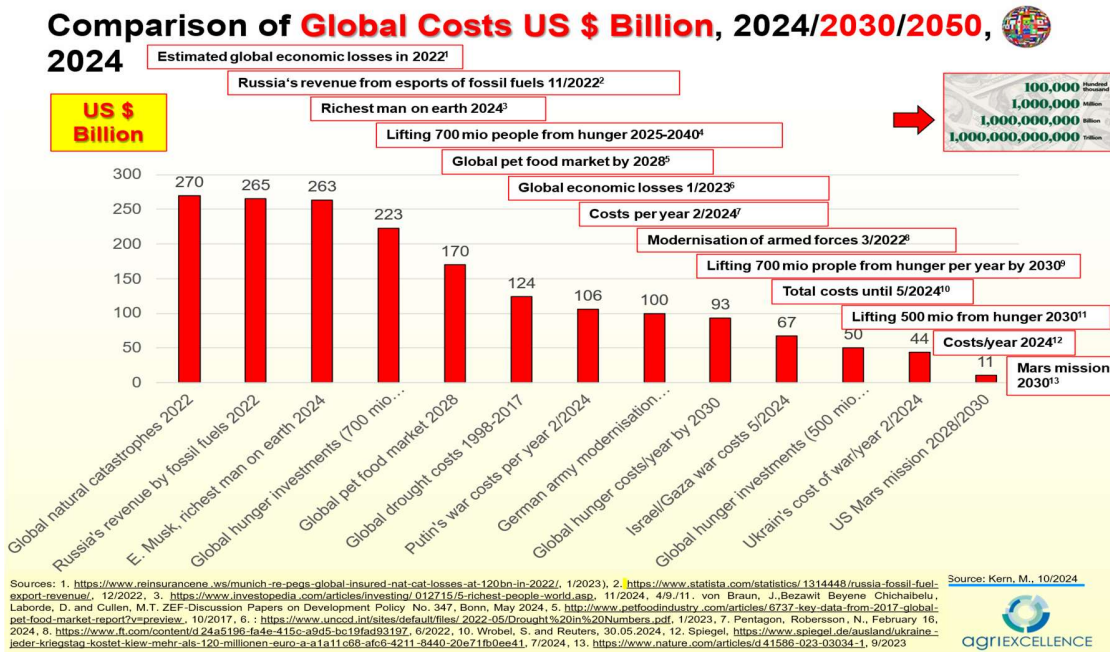


Figure 2. Comparison of global costs US \$ Billion, 2024/2030/2050

Billions and trillions of US dollars are being spent to deal with the consequences of major armed conflicts, natural disasters caused by climate change and global economic crises. Hundreds of millions of people are displaced, threatened by famine and suffering from hunger - and the numbers are growing!

The support of politicians, agencies, organizations working in the field to combat hunger, and poverty is essential for the public at large. Unfortunately, almost nobody in the rich western industrialized nations is out on the street demonstrating for the elimination of hunger and poverty – we see many worldwide demonstrations against vaccination, against climate change, against fossil energy, against discrimination, etc., but almost nobody demonstrates against world hunger and poverty. Most people are not concerned, look away and are hence, in their failure to provide assistance, complicit in the starvation of millions of people.

Furthermore, most people remain unconcerned, because they are insufficiently informed about the inhumane life of millions of people living on earth. The media must give urgent priority to this inhuman disaster to increase pressure on decisionmakers: The world will otherwise bear witness to increasing riots and people fighting for food and a better future.

And the figures, as forecasted by Kern (1997, 2001), of 1.0-1.1 billion people suffering from hunger by 2025 will become the harsh reality. Peace is at risk in many regions of the world. Food security is a key prerequisite for peacekeeping! Wars trigger hunger, refugees, displacements, another gigantic arms race, wastes essential resources, and plunges many people into misery.

As a result of Putin's war in the Ukraine, food, feed and energy prices have increased everywhere in the world, and place food security, food availability and food sovereignty under heavy fire.

However, by harnessing all available agricultural technologies and relevant resources the world will be able to feed all people living on earth by 2050. Cellular food, meat alternatives, and plant-based protein will contribute significantly to reaching this objective. For various reasons, Zero-Hunger will nevertheless become a reality by 2060, at the earliest. During this period, the world population is expected to reach a peak of 9.73 billion people and decline to 8.79 billion by 2100. The implosion of the world's population and the ageing of societies will then be epochal turning points for humanity.

“Several future-oriented reports and recommendations for action have been drawn up since the publication of Agenda 21 in 1992. They are concerned mainly with describing the major goals which have to be achieved. Basically, everything that needs to be done has been said, everything has been excellently described. The important thing, now more than ever, is to act immediately and more quickly than in 1992, knowing that the roads to be taken will be arduous and difficult”, were the concluding remarks of a paper entitled: **"Food security at a crossroad - a wake-up call!"** (Kern, M., 2012).

It is now the year 2025 and the conclusions unfortunately have to be repeated, and one even has to add: The roads to be taken will be even more arduous and extremely difficult or will end in a dead end.

Hunger in 2024 ~ Hunger in 1954:

- “Hunger is the central problem of our time”, wrote W. Greiling in 1954.
- “Hunger highlights the mistakes of our time and our world. Hunger on earth (600 million people) is a very special tragedy. It is not unavoidable. The means to overcome hunger are available, but they are not used.”
- “The rest of the world could help easily. But the rest of the world is doing more or less nothing.”

The majority of political decision-makers do not have the willingness and courage to eliminate hunger in the world! (Kern, M., 2025).

Here are two remarkable quotes:

- “*You cannot build peace on empty stomachs*“ (Lord Orr, J.B., FAO, 1970)
- “*Where hunger rules, peace cannot prevail*“ (Willy Brandt, German Bundeskanzler, 1973).

Unfortunately, it is the bitter truth, that hunger in the world will not be eradicated by 2030, mostly due to a lack of political will and political failure. The global community should not ignore the alarm bells in order to prevent a “hunger tipping point”. **“Food Security at a Crossroad – An Emergency Call!”** (2025).



It was like a miracle that sufficient food (kcal) was produced during the last 25 years. However, the world needs a further miracle of science, technology, innovation, and entrepreneurship to double crop production and to enable food security for all people living on globe in 2060. This must and will happen! Let's go for that with courage and confidence! Furthermore, it must unfortunately be stated, that there is no strong support by the public at large to eliminate hunger and poverty in the world. This must be changed.

The support of politicians, agencies, organizations working in the field to combat hunger, and poverty is essential for the public at large. Unfortunately, almost nobody is out on the street demonstrating for the elimination of hunger and poverty – we see many worldwide demonstrations against vaccination, against climate change, against fossil energy, against discrimination, etc., but almost nobody demonstrates against world hunger and poverty. Most people are not concerned, look away and are hence, in their failure to provide assistance, complicit in the starvation of millions of people.

The world needs spiritual guidance and political leadership:

- The world needs leaders who look ahead and don't just react, who are inspired and don't just think about what is feasible, who think long-term for future generations from whom we have only borrowed the present.
- The world needs leaders who are guided by a vision, inspired by ethical considerations and have the political courage to look beyond the next election.
- The world needs leaders who, despite discontinuity, instability, uncertainty and unpredictability, make responsible and accountable decisions to avoid chaos and fear and ensure a positive future (Kern, M., 2012, 2018).

We must not give up and must continue to fight together for a better future!

We need to encourage young people to deal with this problem and encourage them to do better and solve this unacceptable key problem as quickly as possible.

PS: A to-do list that is still valid today can be found in Kern (2012): “Food Security at the Crossroads - A Wake-up Call” under 'What MUST be done?'

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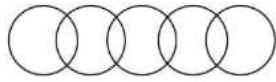
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