

NUCLEAR FAMINE: TWO BILLION PEOPLE AT RISK

Nuclear weapons are a constant threat to our global survival



Over 870 million chronically under-nourished people worldwide live on 1,750 calories or less a day. Millions of others rely on cheap imported food. A limited-nuclear conflict will create a humanitarian catastrophe where the world's impoverished will be at risk of starvation due to reduced grain production and rising food costs.

A regional nuclear war between India and Pakistan would cause significant climate disruption worldwide

- US corn production would decline by an average of 10% for an entire decade, with the most severe decline, about 20%, in year 5
- There would be a similar decline in soybean production, with the most severe loss, again about 20%, in year 5
- Chinese middle season rice production, during the first 4 years, would decline by an average of 21%; over the next 6 years the decline would average 10%. A third study
- There would be even larger declines in Chinese winter wheat production. Production would fall 50% in the first year, and, averaged over the entire decade after the war, it would be 31% below baseline

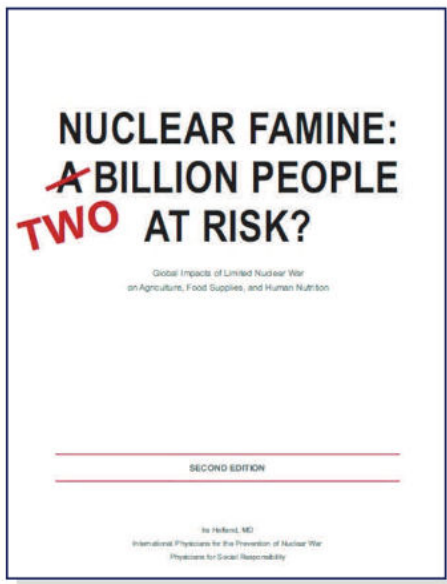


Disruptions could lead to:

- dramatically increased food prices as a result of reduced food supplies
- 215 million people added to the rolls of the malnourished over a decade
- significant, sustained agricultural shortfalls over an extended period would almost certainly lead to panic and hoarding on an international scale



The 870 million people in the world who are chronically malnourished today have a baseline consumption of 1,750 calories or less per day. Even a 10% decline in their food consumption would put this entire group at risk. In addition, the anticipated suspension of exports from grain growing countries would threaten the food supplies of several hundred million additional people who have adequate nutrition today, but who live in countries that are highly dependent on food imports. Finally, more than a billion people in China would also face severe food insecurity. The number of people threatened by nuclear-war induced famine would be well over two billion.



The PSR report, “Nuclear Famine: 2 Billion People at Risk” documents the climate and economic impacts of a limited-nuclear war between India and Pakistan. The report highlights the global health consequences that puts 2.3 billion people at risk—due to the drop in world food production.

Find the full report at:

<http://www.psr.org/assets/pdfs/two-billion-at-risk.pdf>



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