

The Copenhagen Consensus

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What is it?

The Copenhagen Consensus exercise started as a simple but untested idea of prioritizing global opportunities.

The basic idea is: Imagine you had \$75bn to donate to worthwhile causes. What would you do, and where should we start?

Focus on the Malnutrition and Hunger Challenge:

Despite significant reductions in income poverty in recent years, undernutrition remains widespread. Recent estimates from UNICEF (2006) are that “one out of every four children under five – or 146 million children in the developing world – is underweight for his or her age”, and that “each year, ... undernutrition contributes to the deaths of about 5.6 million children under the age of five”. The undernutrition associated with missing micronutrients in poor quality diets is even more widespread than that indicated by underweight alone.

Undernutrition in turn has negative effects on income and on economic growth. Undernutrition leads to increased mortality and morbidity which lead to loss of economic output and increased spending on health. Poor nutrition means that individuals are less productive (both due to physical and mental impairment), and that children benefit less from education.

Reducing undernutrition is one of the Millennium Goals (Goal 1 aims to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger), and is also a key factor underpinning several others. Achieving goals in primary education, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, and combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases all depend crucially on nutrition.

The Malnutrition Challenge appears 5 times in the top 10 global opportunities....

	Solution	Challenge
1	Micronutrient supplements for children (vitamin A and zinc)	Malnutrition
2	The Doha development agenda	Trade
3	Micronutrient fortification (iron and salt iodization)	Malnutrition
4	Expanded immunization coverage for children	Diseases
5	Biofortification	Malnutrition
6	Deworming and other nutrition programs at school	Malnutrition & Education
7	Lowering the price of schooling	Education
8	Increase and improve girls' schooling	Women
9	Community-based nutrition promotion	Malnutrition
10	Provide support for women's reproductive role	Women
11	Heart attack acute management	Diseases
12	Malaria prevention and treatment	Diseases
13	Tuberculosis case finding and treatment	Diseases
14	R&D in low-carbon energy technologies	Global Warming
15	Bio-sand filters for household water treatment	Water
16	Rural water supply	Water
17	Conditional cash transfers	Education
18	Peace-keeping in post-conflict situations	Conflicts
19	HIV combination prevention	Diseases
20	Total sanitation campaign	Water
21	Improving surgical capacity at district hospital level	Diseases
22	Microfinance	Women
23	Improved stove intervention	Air Pollution
24	Large, multipurpose dam in Africa	Water
25	Inspection and maintenance of diesel vehicles	Air Pollution
26	Low sulfur diesel for urban road vehicles	Air Pollution
27	Diesel vehicle particulate control technology	Air Pollution
28	Tobacco tax	Diseases
29	R&D and mitigation	Global Warming
30	Mitigation only	Global Warming