

## Talking Points – Hunger and Peanut Butter

### In the United States:

1. 12.7% of Americans, or nearly 49 million, struggle to put food on the table (1)
2. 2.9 million households with senior citizens (8%) are food insecure (2)
3. 1 in 5 children live at risk of hunger. (3)
4. In the south, the problem is more pronounced. Compared to the nationwide food insecurity rate of 14.5%, (4)
  - In Georgia 18% are food insecure
  - In Alabama 19% are food insecure
  - In Mississippi 22% are food insecure. In some counties food insecurity is as high as 35%
  - In Florida, 16% are food insecure statewide, with higher levels in the northern counties

### Internationally:

5. 836 million people live on less than \$1.25 per day. (5)
6. Though global hunger has been decreasing, undernutrition still affects 795 million people and causes 3 million deaths annually (6)

### Peanut Butter as a Response

1. Peanut butter is the number one most requested item for food banks due to its nutritious, inexpensive, and shelf-stable nature.
2. Peanut paste is the key ingredient in ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF), along with powdered milk, vitamins, and minerals. The UN World Health Organization classifies RUTF as a medicine due to its unprecedented success in saving the lives of malnourished children on the brink of starvation.

*Peanut Butter for the Hungry is an initiative of the U.S. peanut industry that works to “use the power of peanut butter to help save lives domestically and across the globe.”*

[www.pb4h.org](http://www.pb4h.org)



- 1 – USDA, ERS. <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us/key-statistics-graphics.aspx>
- 2 – <http://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/impact-of-hunger/senior-hunger/senior-hunger-fact-sheet.html>
- 3 – Feeding America <http://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/impact-of-hunger/child-hunger/child-hunger-fact-sheet.html>
- 4 – Feeding America map the meal gap <http://map.feedingamerica.org/>
- 5 – Bread for the World Fact Sheet <http://www.bread.org/library/facts-hunger-and-poverty-united-states-and-internationally>
- 6 - <http://www.bread.org/sites/default/files/downloads/ol16-hunger-poverty-facts.pdf>