



The Presbyterian Panel

Listening to Presbyterians



REPORT

HUNGER ISSUES The February 2003 Survey

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RESEARCH SERVICES
A Ministry of the General Assembly Council
 Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
 100 Witherspoon Street
 Louisville, KY 40202

HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ More panelists choose *children* or *poor families* as the U.S. group most in need of hunger assistance, as opposed to *senior citizens* or *women*. (p. 1)
- ✓ More panelists believe the hunger problem has *gotten worse* than *gotten better* over the last decade, both in the United States and, especially, the world. (p. 1)
- ✓ Few panelists believe people are hungry because it is *their own fault*. (p. 2)
- ✓ Large majorities *agree* that the “problem of widespread hunger can be solved in the United States,” with four in ten laity and three in ten ministers choosing *a strong economy and creating more jobs* as the one approach (from 13 options) “*most effective in fighting hunger*.” (p. 2)
- ✓ More *agree* than *disagree* that “the problem of widespread hunger can be solved throughout the world,” with members the least optimistic and specialized clergy the most.
- ✓ Most laity put the highest priority for the Congress on *reducing hunger in the United States*, while most ministers believe reducing hunger in the United States and reducing hunger in the world *should have the same priority*. (p. 3)
- ✓ Most ministers *disagree* that “enough money is being spent on the hunger problem”; laity are split, with one-third agreeing, one-third disagreeing, and one-third responding *don’t know*. (p. 4)
- ✓ Large majorities judge “humanitarian aid and development assistance programs to poor countries” as either *somewhat successful* or *not very successful*. (p. 4)
- ✓ Faced with the choice between directly providing more food aid for the hungry or addressing the root causes of hunger, more panelists opt for the latter. (p. 5)
- ✓ Most panelists are *familiar* with Habitat for Humanity and the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and among those who are, opinions are overwhelmingly *positive*. (p. 6)
- ✓ Two arguments for “doing more to solve the hunger problem” that most panelists rate as *very convincing* or *somewhat convincing* are “improving nutrition programs for low-income Americans will help children learn in school” and “six million people die each year in poor countries from hunger-related causes, and America has a moral obligation to try and fight hunger throughout the world.” (p. 6)
- ✓ Differences in response by age among members are generally small, and for most variables where there is a relationship, the differences do not show a uniform direct or inverse pattern. (p. 7)
- ✓ Among members, more women than men believe that “the hunger problem in the United States” has *gotten worse* over the last decade, while more men than women believe that “children are hungry because of parents who fail to take responsibility for their kids” and *agree* that “reducing farm subsidies on U.S. agriculture would give farmers in poor countries a chance to compete.” (p. 8)
- ✓ Very large majorities indicate they would “be more likely to vote for” *a candidate for Congress who says s/he will make fighting hunger a higher priority* than one who says *there is currently enough being done to fight the hunger problem*. (p. 8)
- ✓ Half of members and majorities of other panelists give an estimate of the percentage of government spending that goes for “humanitarian aid and development assistance to help poor people in other countries,” with laity providing a median estimate of 3% and ministers, 2%. (p. 8)
- ✓ Opinions of member panelists often differ somewhat from those found in a national telephone sample of U.S. voters taken in 2002; perhaps the greatest difference concerns trends in world hunger, with two-in-three members but only 44% of U.S. voters believing hunger has *gotten worse* in the last decade. (p. 9)

OVERVIEW

The Presbyterian Panel consists of three nationally representative samples of groups affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.): members, elders (lay leaders), and ordained ministers. For analysis, ministers are split into two groups based on current call: *pastors*, serving in a congregation, and *specialized clergy*, serving elsewhere. New samples are drawn every three years.

These pages summarize major findings from the second survey completed by the 2003-2005 Panel. The first half uses text and graphics to highlight important and useful findings. An appendix follows with comparative tables that display the percentage distribution of responses to every question for each of the four Panel groups.

Questionnaires were mailed February 18, 2003. Non-responders were sent a postcard reminder March 11. Returns were accepted through early May 2003. Response rates for this survey are: members, 59%; elders, 66%; ministers, 70%. Results are subject to sampling and other errors. As a general rule, differences of less than 8% are not statistically meaningful.

Panelists had the option to complete the survey on the Web, and 7% of members, 11% of elders, 10% of pastors, and 14% of specialized clergy did so.

In this report, the term *median* refers to the middle number in an ordered distribution. For example, the median age for a group of people aged 12, 21, 28, 35, and 64 years would be 28 years. The term *mean* refers to the mathematical average of values in a distribution; in the example, the mean age would be calculated as: $(12+21+28+35+64)/5$, or 32 years.

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Author Note: John P. Marcum, Administrator of the Presbyterian Panel, wrote this report and was assisted in this study by the other staff members of the office of Research Services.

Staff of Research Services: Keith M. Wulff, Coordinator; Deborah Bruce, Charlene Briggs; Rebecca Farnham; John Marcum; David Prince; Christy Riggs; Ida Smith-Williams; Jamie Spence.

Sponsor: The questions were originally developed as part of a national telephone survey of likely U.S. voters conducted in August 2002 by McLaughlin & Associates for Bread for the World. Panel staff worked with Gary Cook, Coordinator, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Marco Grimaldo, Bread for the World, in selecting the particular questions used on the Panel version. For some questions the wording was changed slightly to make it more appropriate for a self-administered format. For more information on the Presbyterian Hunger Program, contact Gary Cook (888-728-7228 ext. 5816; gcook@ctr.pcusa.org).

Additional Copies: Additional copies of this *Report* may be purchased for \$10 from PDS—call 800-524-2612 and request item # 65100-03276. This *Report* is available for free download in Adobe Acrobat format: <http://www.pcusa.org/research/panel/Feb03Rep.pdf> (narrative) and <http://www.pcusa.org/research/panel/Feb03App.pdf> (data appendix). Copies of a four-page *Summary* of results are available for \$2 each directly from Research Services, or for free download at <http://www.pcusa.org/research/panel/Feb03Sum.pdf>. Call for information on quantity discounts on printed copies of either this *Report* or its *Summary* (888-728-7228 ext. 2040).

Panel on the Web: A catalogue of Panel topics, *Summaries* of surveys since 1994, and *Reports* of surveys since 2002, are available on-line at the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Web site: <http://www.pcusa.org/research/panel/index>.

Sampling Details: For more information on methods used to draw the samples, see the technical notes in the *Background Report for the 2003-2005 Presbyterian Panel* (\$10, from PDS; item #65100-03277; or free on the Web: http://pcusa.org/research/panel/03to05_bkgtech_app_b.pdf).

DESCRIBING THE PROBLEM

Hunger in the United States

- ✓ When asked to select one of five words or phrases to “best describe the hunger problem here in the U.S.,” panelists are divided in their opinions, with a sizable *don’t know* response. (See Table 1.)

Table 1. Best Word/Phrase to Describe Hunger Situation in the United States

	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
Child hunger	19%	17%	15%	16%
Chronic hunger.....	18%	22%	19%	23%
Food insecurity.....	16%	18%	31%	24%
Malnutrition.....	20%	25%	24%	24%
Starvation	1%	1%	<1%	2%
Don't know.....	25%	16%	11%	12%

- ✓ Panelists also split on which one of four groups needs the most hunger assistance. (See Table 2.)

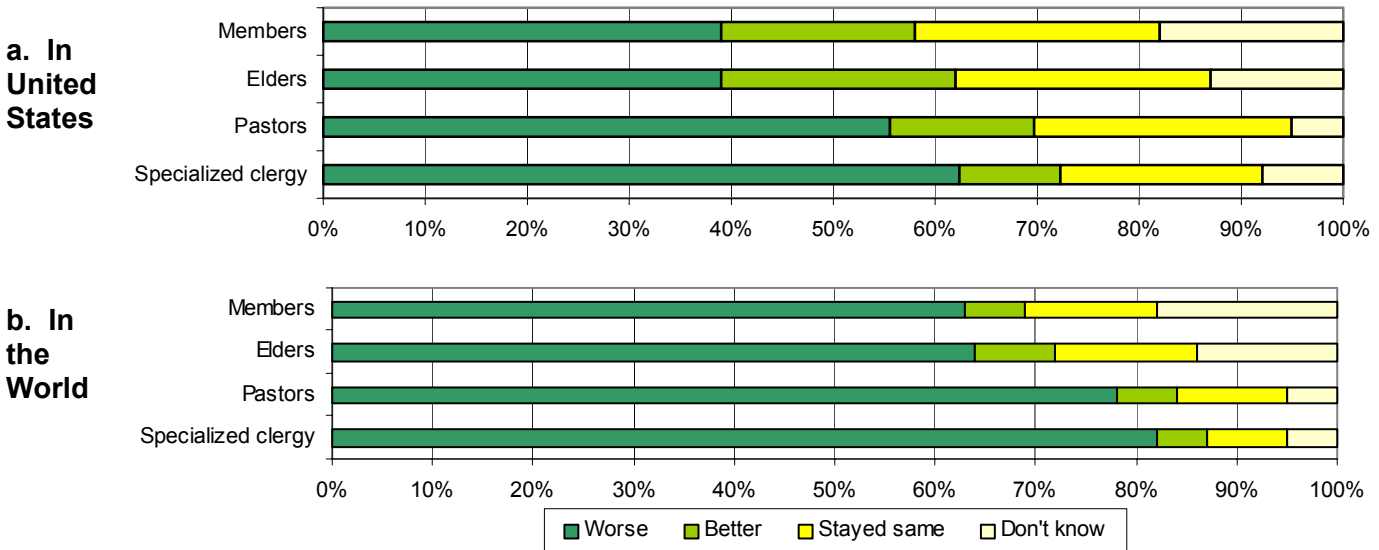
Table 2. The U.S. Group Most in Need of Hunger Assistance

	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
Children	41%	38%	38%	34%
Poor families.....	42%	49%	51%	54%
Senior citizens	8%	7%	4%	3%
Women	1%	<1%	1%	2%
Don't know.....	8%	7%	6%	7%

Trends

- ✓ More members believe that “the hunger problem . . . in the U.S.” has *gotten worse* (39%) than *gotten better* (19%) over the last decade, but many think it has *remained about the same* (24%) or *don’t know* (18%). Among pastors, 55% believe it has *gotten worse*; 14%, *gotten better*; 25%, *remained the same*; and 5%, *don’t know*.
- ✓ Majorities in all Panel groups believe the “hunger problem . . . in the world” has *gotten worse*, ranging from 63% of members to 81% of specialized clergy. Only a small share—elders, 8%; specialized clergy, 5%—believe it has *gotten better*.

Figure 1. Opinions on Change in the Hunger Problem over the Last Ten Years



Individual Responsibility

- ✓ Few panelists believe that when people are hungry it's *their own fault*: only 7% of members, 6% of elders, and 2% of ministers hold this view. In contrast, 77%, 81%, 89%, and 93%, respectively, believe *other reasons* are responsible.
- ✓ Given two options, only a quarter or less (members, 25%; pastors, 14%) choose *children are hungry because of parents who fail to take responsibility for their kids and government can't teach parents to love and care for their kids*. Most (66%; 79%) select the alternative option: *parents have a moral obligations to care for a child, but if the parent is chronically hungry, weak and unable to even stand from fatigue, they need direct food assistance so they can then get back on their feet, go to work, and care for their children*.
- ✓ More than eight in ten (elders, 87%; pastors, 87%) choose *we need to help people who are chronically hungry, and weak and dizzy because of hunger, and we need to help them so they can take responsibility for their own lives over we can't force people to take responsibility for themselves and there is plenty of food for those who need it* (6%; 6%).

Fighting Hunger in the U.S.

- ✓ Large majorities *agree* or *strongly agree* that “the problem of widespread hunger can be solved in the United States,” but more choose *agree* (members, 58%; pastors, 52%) than *strongly agree* (19%; 37%).
- ✓ From a list of 13 choices, including *don't know*, four in ten lay panelists and one in three ministers choose *a strong economy and creating more jobs* as the one approach “most effective in fighting hunger” in the United States. The next most frequent choice in all samples is *don't know* (members, 18%; elders, 17%; both minister groups, 16%).
- ✓ After *a strong economy and creating more jobs*, the solution chosen by the most laity is *food pantries and soup kitchens* (members, 8%; elders, 9%). Among ministers, it's *raising the minimum wage* (pastors, 10%; specialized clergy, 14%).
- ✓ When asked to indicate which one of two statements describes “the best way to fight hunger in the U.S.,” more than eight in ten choose *help poor people to get better jobs that pay enough so they can feed their families* (elders, 89%; specialized clergy, 87%). Fewer than one in eight choose *through programs that provide food to poor families* (7%; 11%).
- ✓ Large majorities (members, 74%; elders, 78%; pastors, 77%) *strongly agree* or *agree* that “there should be major new efforts, led by charitable and religious groups, with some taxpayer support, to make sure that every child in America has enough to eat.”

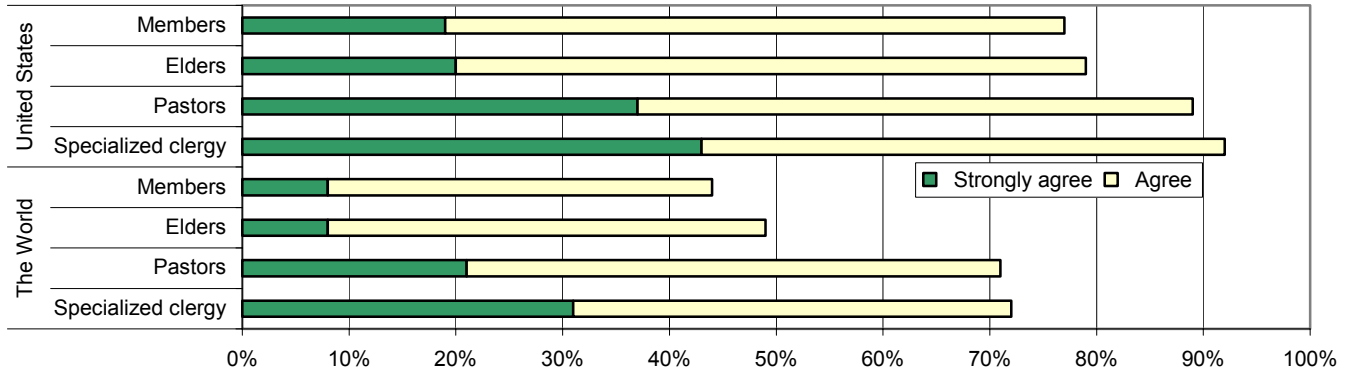
Fighting Hunger Globally

- ✓ More panelists *strongly agree* or *agree* than *strongly disagree* or *disagree* that “the problem of widespread hunger can be solved throughout the world.” Members are the least optimistic (44% *strongly agree/agree*); pastors (71%) and specialized clergy (72%), the most optimistic.
- ✓ The largest share in each group selects *helping farmers in Africa grow more food* when asked “the best way to help fight the hunger problem in Africa (elders, 45%; specialized clergy, 46%). Most of the rest choose *supporting programs in Africa that promote free markets and economic development* (38%; 35%).
- ✓ Majorities *strongly agree* or *agree* that “promoting trade throughout the world helps reduce hunger” (members, 57%; elders, 63%; pastors, 56%; specialized clergy, 60%). Most of the rest (28%; 21%; 24%; 18%) respond *don't know*.
- ✓ Panelists are split on whether or not “reducing farm subsidies on U.S. agriculture would give farmers in poor countries a chance to compete.” The largest share of members (43%) responds *don't know*, with more of the rest responding *strongly disagree* or *disagree* (39%) than *strongly agree* or *agree* (17%). The corresponding responses among pastors are 45%, 31%, and 23%.

Comparing Opinions on Hunger in the United States and Abroad

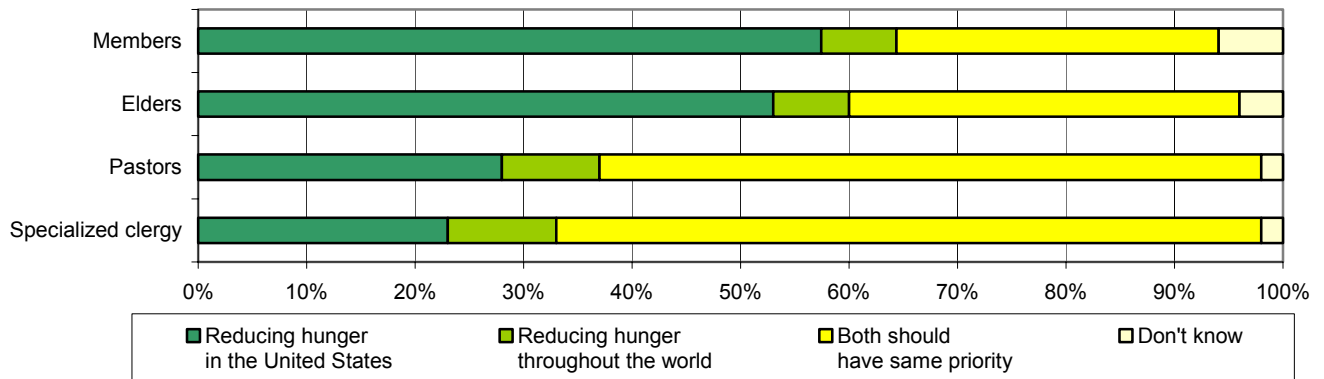
As Figure 2 shows, more panelists are optimistic about solving the problem of hunger in the United States than about solving the problem of hunger globally. That may be because more panelists believe that “over the last decade . . . the hunger problem has gotten worse . . . in the world” (members, 63%; pastors, 77%) than that “over the last decade . . . the hunger problem has gotten worse . . . in the U.S.” (39%; 55%) (see Figure 1, pg. 1).

Figure 2. Percent Agreeing that “the Problem of Widespread Hunger Can Be Solved” in the United States and the World



Most believe that the problem, here or elsewhere, is *not* a lack of food: large majorities *strongly agree* or *agree* that “we have the experience and technology right now to reduce world hunger dramatically; what we need is the political will to reduce hunger” (members, 72%; pastors, 82%). Perhaps panelists think that the United States, as a wealthy democracy, might be more easily persuaded to use its abundant resources to fight domestic instead of international hunger. Or there might be more preference for tackling our own problem of hunger before we try to address it elsewhere. Any explanation needs to reconcile the finding that most laity want the U.S. Congress to make *reducing hunger in the United States* a higher priority than *reducing hunger throughout the world*, while most ministers want *both to have the same priority* (see Figure 3).

Figure 3. Opinions on the Highest Priority for the U.S. Congress in Reducing Hunger



The lay-clergy difference is not simply the result of ministers having more years of formal education: among members, similar majorities with graduate degrees (53%) and with high school diplomas or less (54%) put the highest priority on *reducing hunger in the United States*. But education is part of the difference: 38% of members with a graduate degree believe *both should have the same priority*, compared to 27% of those with a high school diploma or less.

Money Spent on Hunger

- ✓ A majority of ministers *strongly disagrees* or *disagrees* that “enough money is being spent on the hunger problem” (pastors, 63%; specialized clergy, 74%). Lay panelists are evenly split, with one-third of both members and elders agreeing, disagreeing, and responding *don’t know*.
- ✓ From a list of three statements, two-thirds of members (67%) and elders (63%) choose *we spend enough money on programs for hungry children, but we need to reform programs to make them more effective*. Of the rest, few choose *we spend too much money on hunger programs, and in the end most of the money is wasted* (4%; 2%) or *we spend too little money, which is why we have too many hungry children* (10%; 15%). The rest (19%; 19%) *don’t know*.
- ✓ For the same three sets of choices, pastors and specialized clergy are more evenly divided between *we spend enough money* (46%; 38%) and *we spend too little money* (38%; 48%).

Evaluating Aid to Poor Countries

- ✓ In rating the success of “humanitarian aid and development assistance programs to poor countries,” most panelists indicate that these programs have been *somewhat successful* (members, 43%; elders, 48%; pastors, 55%; specialized clergy, 54%) or *not very successful* (33%; 35%; 33%; 34%). Most of the rest respond *don’t know*; only 1% in every sample responds *very successful*, and no more than 3%, *not at all successful*.
- ✓ Panelists rating “humanitarian aid and development assistance programs to poor countries” as *not very successful* or *not at all successful* were asked the most important reason for the lack of success. Table 3 shows their top responses.

Table 3. Important Reasons Aid to Poor Countries Has Not Been a Success

	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
Corruption.....	37%	31%	38%	32%
Waste, inefficiency.....	27%	31%	22%	19%
Politics.....	13%	19%	25%	24%
Failure of poor countries and poor people to use aid properly.....	9%	9%	6%	2%
Not enough aid.....	4%	4%	6%	10%
All other.....	10%	6%	3%	13%

Individual Responsibility?

How much responsibility should hungry individuals take for their own situation? In responses to three paired statements (Q8-Q10), it’s clear that most panelists believe that individuals can only take responsibility for their situation after their basic food needs have been met. More than eight in ten choose *we need to help people who are chronically hungry, and weak and dizzy because of hunger, and we need to help them so they can take responsibility for their lives over we can’t force people to take responsibility for themselves and there is plenty of food for those who need it*. Similarly, more panelists (two in three laity, eight in ten ministers) choose *parents have a moral obligation to care for a child, but if the parent is chronically hungry, weak and unable to even stand from fatigue, they need direct food assistance so they can then get back on their feet, go to work, and care for their children over children are hungry because of parents who fail to take responsibility for their kids and government can’t teach parents to love and care for their kids*. Nevertheless, most laity and around half of ministers believe that food aid should come with strings attached to insure that responsibilities are met: three in four members and elders, 53% of pastors, and 44% of specialized clergy choose *we need to help the chronically hungry by making sure they have food so they are not too weak to get back on their feet, but at the same time we need to demand accountability and work over to help the chronically hungry, we have to first provide them with food, because otherwise they will be too weak to get back on their feet and take responsibility for themselves*.

Charity or Structural Change?

When faced with the choice between directly providing more food for the hungry or addressing the root causes of hunger, more panelists opt for the latter. This preference is seen in responses to several questions, perhaps most clearly on Q7 (see Table 4).

Table 4. Fighting Hunger: More Food or More Jobs?

Q7. Which of the following comes closer to your own personal opinion?

	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
<i>The best way to fight hunger in the U.S. is through programs that:</i>				
help poor people to get better jobs that pay enough so they can feed their families.....	87%	89%	85%	85%
provide food to poor families	10%	7%	11%	11%
don't know	8%	6%	6%	5%

Consistently, on Q11 half or more choose economic or other structural answers when asked “when it comes to fighting the hunger problem in the U.S., which *one* of the following do you believe is the *most* effective in fighting hunger?”

Table 5. Fighting Hunger: Which is the Most Effective Tool?

	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
Jobs and other structural changes	50%	51%	50%	52%
Food donations, welfare, and charity	32%	32%	34%	32%
Don't know	18%	17%	16%	16%

Similarly, in response to the question “Which of the following is the best way to help fight the hunger problem in Africa,” large majorities pick structural solutions over direct food aid (see Table 6).

Table 6. Solutions to the Hunger Problem in Africa

	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
Giving more money to groups like the United Nations	3%	1%	4%	6%
Helping farmers in Africa grow more food	45%	45%	44%	46%
Helping charitable organizations like Save the Children	6%	4%	4%	3%
Supporting programs in Africa that promote free markets and economic development	32%	38%	35%	35%
Don't know	14%	12%	14%	10%

This preference for structural change does not mean that in the short run, however, panelists want to weaken current programs that provide direct food aid to the hungry; in fact, they'd opt for expansion, as responses to Q13d show (see Table 7).

Table 7. Support for Increased Direct Food Aid

Q13d. There should be major new efforts, led by charitable and religious groups, with some taxpayer support, to make sure that every child in America has enough to eat.

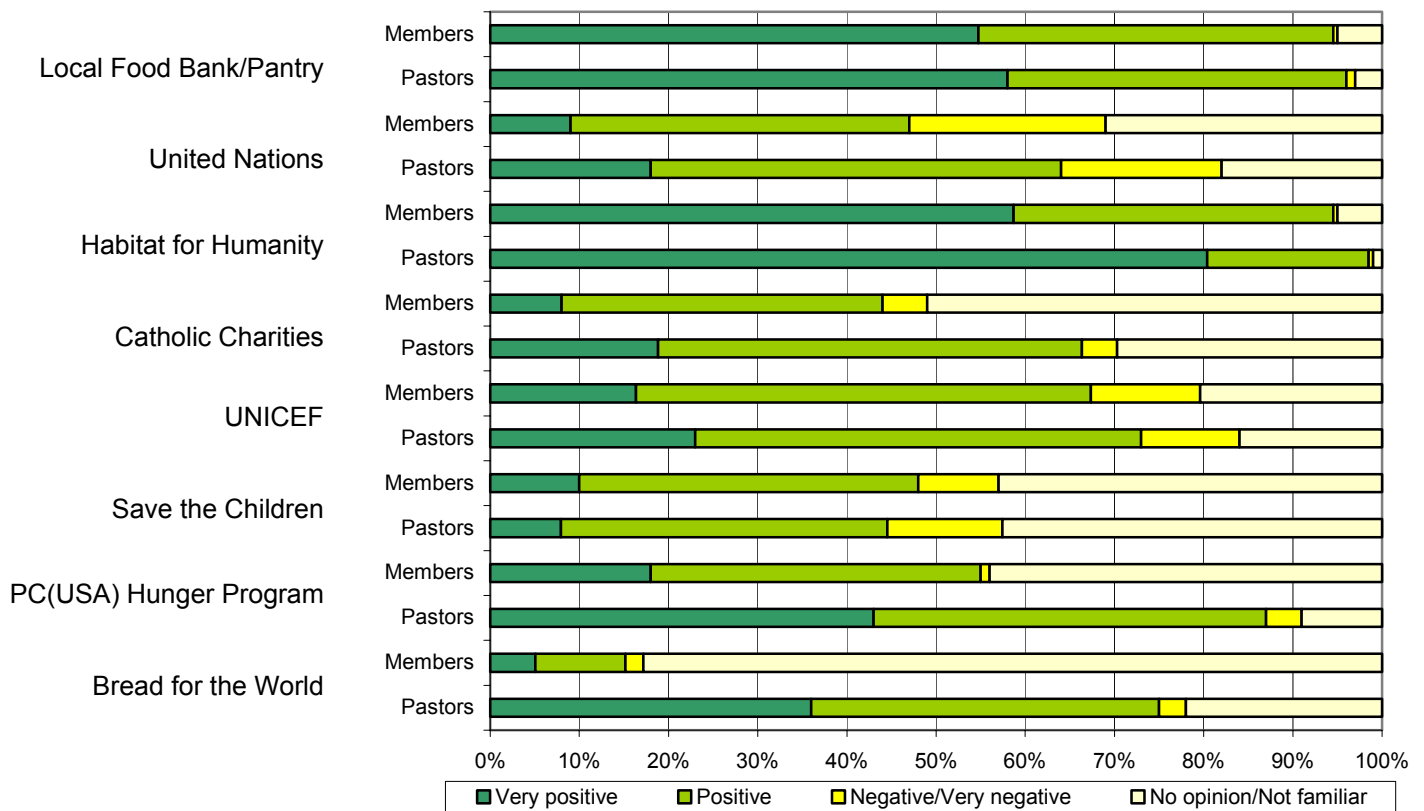
	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
Strongly agree	21%	23%	31%	33%
Agree.....	53%	55%	46%	47%
Don't know	9%	6%	8%	5%
Disagree.....	15%	13%	13%	11%
Strongly disagree	1%	1%	1%	4%

EVALUATING CURRENT EFFORTS

Rating Anti-Hunger Organizations

- ✓ Among panelists familiar with particular anti-hunger organizations, many more rate them positively than negatively. The highest ratio of positive to negative responses is found for Habitat for Humanity (members, 95% positive to <0.5% negative; pastors, 98% to <0.5%) and the Presbyterian Hunger Program (55% to 1%; 87% to 4%).
- ✓ Only a very few panelists are *not familiar* with their local food bank or food pantry (members, 3%; pastors, 2%), or with Habitat for Humanity (3%; <0.5%). At the other extreme, large majorities of members (71%) and elders (69%) (but only 13% of pastors) are *not familiar* with Bread for the World.
- ✓ A third of members and elders, but only 3% of pastors and 5% of specialized clergy, are *not familiar* with the Presbyterian Hunger Program. Among laity, these percentages are greater than the number *not familiar* with Catholic Charities (30% and 25%, respectively) or Save the Children (23%; 18%).

Figure 4. Impressions of Organizations that Fight Hunger



Rating Arguments for Doing More to Fight Hunger

- ✓ Asked to rate how convincing three statements are as arguments for “doing more to solve the hunger problem,” the highest combined *very convincing* and *somewhat convincing* response total in all four groups is for “improving nutrition programs for low-income Americans will help children learn in school” (members, 85%; pastors, 91%).
- ✓ Large majorities also respond *very convincing* or *somewhat convincing* to the argument, “six million children die each year in poor countries from hunger-related causes, and America has a moral obligation to try and fight hunger throughout the world” (members, 65%; pastors, 89%).
- ✓ Few find *very convincing* or *somewhat convincing* (members, 13%; pastors, 20%) the argument, “the number of hungry people throughout the world has gone down significantly in the last decade.” Rather, two in three members (65%) and pastors (70%) find that argument *not too convincing* or *not very convincing*.

AGE AND GENDER DIFFERENCES

Age Differences

Members' opinions on hunger issues are often very similar across age groups and, when significantly different, often vary only by small amounts. The pattern of response in relation to age is also rarely uniform, directly or inversely, and does not show consistency from one question to the next. As a result, there is no simple way to summarize the small age differences that are found, as Table 8 shows by way of example for a couple of questions.

Table 8. Members' Opinions on Hunger Trends in the U.S. and the World by Age Groups

	<40	40-54	55-69	70+
<i>Over the last decade, would you say that the hunger problem has gotten worse, gotten better, or remained the same:</i>				
... in the United States?				
Gotten worse	30%	48%	42%	33%
Gotten better	15%	18%	23%	18%
Remained the same	33%	21%	18%	29%
Don't know.....	22%	13%	18%	21%
... in the world?				
Gotten worse	43%	67%	65%	67%
Gotten better	13%	7%	5%	3%
Remained the same	19%	16%	14%	7%
Don't know.....	24%	10%	16%	23%

Gender Differences

Most men and women members view hunger issues similarly, and when there are differences, they often correspond to a general tendency—found throughout survey research—for more women than men to choose a *don't know* or *not sure* option. For example, to the statement “The problem of widespread hunger can be solved throughout the world,” a few more men (47%) than women (42%) *strongly agree* or *agree*, and a few more men (37%) than women (30%) *strongly disagree* or *disagree*. The finding that more men than women both agree and disagree is possible because so many more women (28%) than men (16%) respond *don't know*.

Sizable (8% or more) and statistically significant gender differences that are largely independent of the *don't know* phenomenon include the differences shown in Table 9.

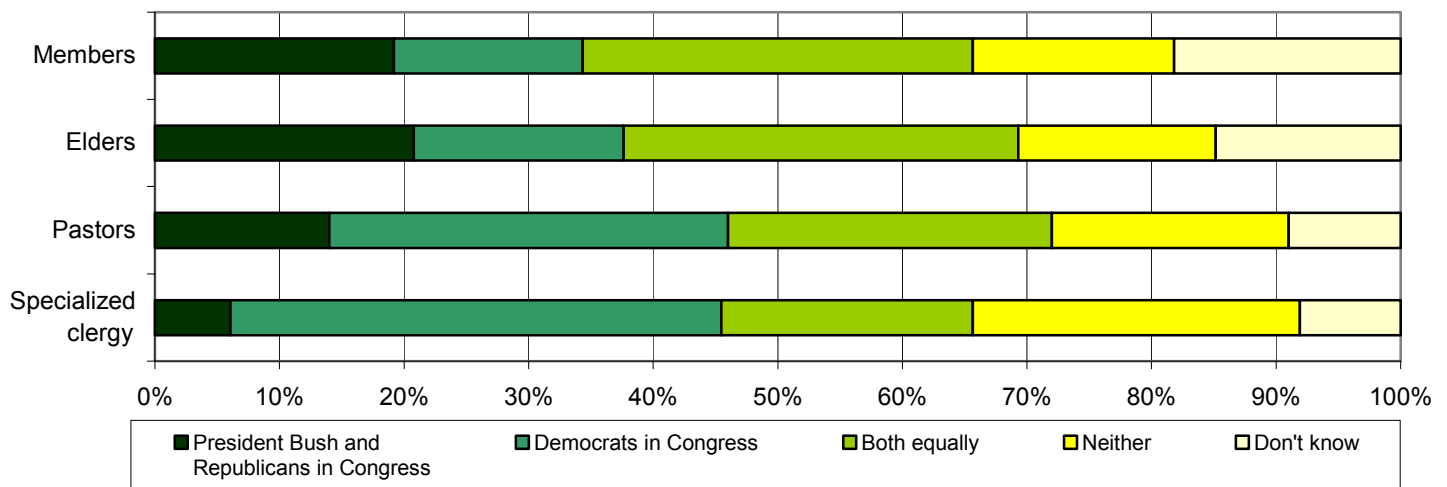
Table 9. Questions Showing Substantive Gender Differences in Member Response

	Women	Men
Hunger problem in U.S. has <i>gotten worse</i>	45%	30%
Children are hungry because parents fail to take responsibility.....	22%	37%
<i>Strongly agree/agree</i> we need to do more to help feed the chronically hungry so they can get back on their feet enough to take responsibility for themselves and their families ...	87%	78%
<i>Strongly agree/agree</i> reducing farm subsidies on U.S. agriculture would give farmers in poor countries a chance to compete	14%	24%
More likely to vote for a candidate for Congress who says s/he will make fighting hunger problems a higher priority	90%	79%

Political Considerations

- ✓ When asked “which candidates would you be more likely to vote for,” by large majorities panelists choose a candidate for Congress who says s/he will make fighting hunger a higher priority (members, 86%; pastors, 91%) over one who says there is currently enough being done to fight the hunger problem (14%; 9%).
- ✓ Panelists split on whether President George Bush and the Republicans in Congress or the Democrats in Congress are “better able to fight the hunger problem.” By small margins, laity pick Republicans (members, 19%) over Democrats (15%), but more select both equally (31%).
- ✓ Ministers are more likely than laity to choose the Democrats, especially among specialized clergy, and less likely to choose don’t know.

Figure 5. Responses to “Who Is Better Able to Fight the Hunger Problem?”



Government Funding

- ✓ Among those who gave a number, median estimates of the percentage of U.S. government spending that goes for “humanitarian aid and development assistance to help poor people in other countries” range from 2% (both groups of ministers) to 3% (both samples of laity). A large share in every sample respond don’t know: members, 50%; elders, 38%; pastors, 25%; specialized clergy, 22%.
- ✓ Estimates of the percentage of government spending that goes for “humanitarian aid and development assistance to help poor people in other countries” varies by opinions on which political party “is better able to fight the hunger problem in the U.S. and throughout the world,” with those who believe the Democrats in Congress are better equipped to fight hunger giving a higher mean estimate than those choosing one of the other options. Among members, for example, of those who believe the Democrats can do a better job, the mean estimated government spending on aid to the poor overseas is 4.7%, while it is 6.2% among those who believe President Bush and congressional Republicans can do a better job.
- ✓ Large majorities strongly agree or agree (members, 84%; pastors, 82%) that “government programs haven’t solved the problem of hungry children, so we need to reform these programs to make sure every child has healthy food to eat and parents get help to do their job better.”
- ✓ More laity believe that reducing hunger in the U.S. should be a higher priority for Congress than reducing hunger throughout the world, while most ministers believe both should have the same priority (see Figure 3, p. 3).

Comparing Opinions: Responses of Panel Members and Likely U.S. Voters†

Note: For convenience, in this box, “Presbyterians” will refer to Panel members, and “other Americans” will refer to likely voters as determined in the 2002 National Voter Survey of the U.S. adult population conducted for Bread for the World. Also, keep in mind that the different modes of administration (telephone interview for the National Voter Survey; self-administered questionnaire for the Panel) may be partly responsible for some of the differences found.

- More Presbyterians than other Americans are unfamiliar with the four national hunger-fighting organizations listed on both surveys (e.g., 71% of Presbyterians and 63% of other Americans are *not familiar* with Bread for the World) (Q1).
- Other Americans are more likely than Presbyterians to have *very positive* impressions of each of four national hunger-fighting organizations (Q2).
- When it comes to which one of four possible categories of people “needs the most help” regarding hunger, Presbyterians are a bit more likely than other Americans to choose *poor families* (42%, compared to 34%), while the opposite is true for *senior citizens* (19%; 8%) (Q2).
- Similarly small percentages of other Americans (11%) and Presbyterians (7%) believe “people . . . are hungry because it is *their own fault*” (Q3).
- Similar percentages of other Americans (38%) and Presbyterians (39%) believe that the hunger problem in the United States has *gotten worse* over the last decade, but many more Presbyterians (63%) than other Americans (44%) believe the hunger problem has *gotten worse* throughout the world over the same period (Q4).
- More other Americans (35%) than Presbyterians (20%) believe *malnutrition* best describes the hunger problem in the United States (Q5).
- Opinions on how best to help fight hunger in Africa are almost identical, with 44% of other Americans and 45% of Presbyterians choosing *helping farmers in Africa grow more food*, and 31% and 32%, respectively, choosing *supporting programs in Africa that promote free markets and economic development* (Q6).
- As the best way to fight hunger in the United States, more Presbyterians (87%) than other Americans (70%) choose *through programs that help poor people to get better jobs that pay enough so they can feed their families* (the other option was *through programs that provide food to poor families*) (Q7).
- A few more other Americans (82%) than Presbyterians (72%) believe that we should *demand accountability and work* of people who receive direct food aid (Q10; see also Q8).
- When given two statements, similar majorities of Presbyterians (66%) and other Americans (62%) choose hungry parents *need direct food assistance . . . to care for their children*, and similar minorities choose *children are hungry because of parents who fail to take responsibility* (25%; 27%) (Q9).
- More than four in ten Presbyterians (42%) but only one in five other Americans (20%) choose *a strong economy and creating more jobs* as the one item from a list of 12 that they believe “is the *most* effective in fighting hunger.” No other item (except *don’t know*, 18%) was chosen by as many as 10% of Presbyterians, while two other options reached that level among other Americans: *the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program* (10%; selected by 6% of Presbyterians) and *the Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC)* (10%; selected by 4% of Presbyterians) (Q11).

Comparing Opinions: Responses of Panel Members and Likely U.S. Voters† (Cont.)

- More Presbyterians (67%) than other Americans (58%) believe *we spend enough money on programs for hungry children, but we need to reform the programs to make them more effective*; more other Americans than Presbyterians choose *we spend too much on hunger programs, and in the end most of the money is wasted* (Americans, 15%; members, 4%) **and** *we spend too little money on programs for hungry children, but we need to reform the programs to make them more effective* (22%; 10%) (Q12).
- On most agree-disagree questions (Q13), responses are broadly similar in terms of overall agreement or disagreement with each statement, but more other Americans than Presbyterians are likely to pick an extreme option (i.e., *strongly disagree* or *strongly agree*). For example, 75% of other Americans and 77% of Presbyterians express agreement with the statement, “The problem of widespread hunger can be solved in the United States,” including 35% of other Americans but only 19% of Presbyterians who *strongly agree* (Q13a).
- On some other agree-disagree questions, more Presbyterians than other Americans respond *don’t know*. For example, more other Americans (58%) than Presbyterians (31%) *strongly disagree/disagree* that “enough money is already being spent on the hunger problem,” while more Presbyterians (35%) than other Americans (8%) respond *don’t know* (Q13b).
- Responses of other Americans and Presbyterians are similar on how convincing each of three arguments are “for doing more to solve the hunger problem,” especially Q14a. Also, 85% of both samples respond *very convincing* or *somewhat convincing* to “improving nutrition programs for low-income American families will help children learn in school” (Q14b).
- More other Americans (77%) than Presbyterians (50%) give an estimate of the “percentage of the federal budget . . . the U.S. spends on humanitarian aid and development assistance to help poor people in other countries,” and those estimates tend to be higher: the median estimate is 6% for other Americans, and 3% for Presbyterians (Q15).
- More Presbyterians (20%) than other Americans (7%) choose *don’t know* in response to “How successful would you say humanitarian aid and development assistance programs to poor countries have been?” but among those choosing another response, the pattern is similar (i.e., the total *very successful* and *successful* is 59% for other Americans and 55% for Presbyterians) (Q16).
- Similar percentages in both surveys believe *reducing hunger throughout the world* should be “a higher priority for Congress” (other Americans, 62%; Presbyterians, 58%), but of the other options, more other Americans (25%) than Presbyterians (7%) select *reducing hunger throughout the world*, while more Presbyterians (30%) than other Americans (9%) choose *both should have the same priority* (Q18).
- Concerning who is “better able to fight the hunger problem in the United States and throughout the world,” more Americans than Presbyterians choose *President Bush and the Republicans in Congress* (30%; 19%) **and** *the Democrats in Congress* (32%; 15%). That’s possible because relatively few other Americans (11%) but a third of Presbyterians (31%) choose *both equally* (Q20).

† The accompanying data appendix for this report shows responses of all four Panel groups and the national voter survey respondents for comparable questions.

HUNGER ISSUES

THE PRESBYTERIAN PANEL FEBRUARY 2003 SURVEY

AND RESULTS FOR COMPARABLE QUESTIONS FROM

BREAD FOR THE WORLD/MCLAUGHLIN & ASSOCIATES NATIONAL VOTER SURVEY 2002

Panel	Members	Elders	Ministers
Number of questionnaires mailed	1,106	1,310	1,430
Number of questionnaires returned.....	654	873	1,015 ‡
Percent returned	59%	66%	70%

‡ 671 pastors; 344 specialized clergy

National Voter Survey results from 1,000 completed telephone interviews; random sample; response rates not provided

Q1. Indicate whether you have a positive or a negative impression of each organization in the list below.

	National Survey	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
a. Bread for the World					
Very positive	11%	5%	5%	36%	41%
Positive	8%	10%	14%	39%	35%
Negative	1%	2%	1%	3%	2%
Very negative	1%	*	*	—	—
No opinion.....	15%	11%	11%	9%	6%
Not familiar with organization	63%	71%	69%	13%	16%
b. Catholic Charities					
Very positive	28%	8%	9%	19%	21%
Positive	30%	36%	42%	48%	52%
Negative	8%	4%	4%	3%	3%
Very negative	9%	1%	1%	1%	1%
No opinion.....	18%	21%	20%	14%	11%
Not familiar with organization	6%	30%	25%	16%	12%
c. Habitat for Humanity					
Very positive		59%	66%	80%	78%
Positive		36%	30%	18%	19%
Negative		*	1%	*	2%
Very negative		—	*	*	—
No opinion.....		2%	1%	1%	1%
Not familiar with organization		3%	1%	*	1%
d. Presbyterian Hunger Program					
Very positive		18%	19%	43%	46%
Positive		37%	39%	44%	38%
Negative		1%	1%	4%	3%
Very negative		—	*	—	—
No opinion.....		10%	9%	6%	8%
Not familiar with organization		34%	32%	3%	5%

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+ = nonresponses of 10% or more on this question (reported percentages for all questions omit nonresponses)

n = number of respondents eligible to answer this question

◆ = percentages may add to more than 100 because respondents could make more than one response

Q1. Indicate whether you have a positive or a negative impression of each organization in the list below
(Cont.)

e. Save the Children					
Very positive	43%	10%	11%	8%	14%
Positive	30%	38%	43%	37%	35%
Negative	4%	8%	10%	12%	12%
Very negative	3%	1%	1%	1%	4%
No opinion	13%	20%	17%	24%	22%
Not familiar with organization	7%	23%	18%	19%	12%
f. UNICEF					
Very positive		16%	18%	23%	32%
Positive		50%	53%	50%	52%
Negative		9%	11%	10%	8%
Very negative		3%	2%	1%	1%
No opinion		15%	13%	14%	6%
Not familiar with organization		5%	2%	2%	1%
g. United Nations					
Very positive	36%	9%	8%	18%	23%
Positive	34%	38%	44%	46%	54%
Negative	8%	15%	20%	13%	8%
Very negative	8%	7%	8%	5%	4%
No opinion	13%	21%	15%	15%	8%
Not familiar with organization	1%	10%	5%	3%	3%
h. Your local food bank/food pantry					
Very positive	57%	55%	62%	58%	56%
Positive	23%	40%	34%	38%	36%
Negative	1%	*	*	1%	1%
Very negative	2%	—	*	*	*
No opinion	12%	3%	2%	1%	3%
Not familiar with organization	5%	3%	2%	2%	4%

Q2. When it comes to the hunger problem in the U.S., which group (of those listed below) do you think needs the most help, that is, which group should we focus assistance on? (✓ only *one* □.)

Children	37%	41%	38%	38%	34%
Poor families	34%	42%	49%	51%	54%
Senior citizens	19%	8%	7%	4%	3%
Women	2%	1%	*	1%	2%
Don't know	8%	8%	7%	6%	7%

Q3. Generally speaking, would you say people who are hungry, are hungry because it is their own fault or do you believe they are hungry because of other reasons? (✓ only *one* □.)

Their own fault	11%	7%	6%	2%	2%
Other reasons	83%	77%	81%	89%	93%
Don't know	6%	16%	12%	8%	5%

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Q4. Over the last decade, would you say that the hunger problem has gotten worse, gotten better, or remained the same:

a. in the U.S.?					
Gotten worse	38%	39%	39%	55%	63%
Gotten better	17%	19%	23%	14%	10%
Remained the same.....	36%	24%	25%	25%	20%
Don't know.....	9%	18%	13%	5%	8%
b. in the world?					
Gotten worse	44%	63%	64%	77%	81%
Gotten better	16%	6%	8%	6%	5%
Remained the same.....	33%	13%	14%	11%	8%
Don't know.....	8%	18%	14%	5%	5%

Q5. When thinking about the hunger problem here in the U.S., which word or word pair best describes the real problem?
(✓ only *one* □.)

Child hunger	20%	19%	17%	15%	16%
Chronic hunger	10%	18%	22%	19%	23%
Food insecurity	18%	16%	18%	31%	24%
Malnutrition.....	35%	20%	25%	24%	24%
Starvation.....	5%	1%	1%	*	2%
Don't know.....	11%	25%	16%	11%	12%

Q6. Which of the following is the best way to help fight the hunger problem in Africa? (✓ only *one* □.)

Giving more money to groups like the United Nations	6%	3%	1%	4%	6%
Helping farmers in Africa grow more food.....	44%	45%	45%	44%	46%
Helping charitable organizations like 11% Save the Children.....	11%	6%	4%	4%	3%
Supporting programs in Africa that promote free markets and economic development.....	31%	32%	38%	35%	35%
Don't know.....	9%	14%	12%	14%	10%

Q7. Which of the following comes closer to your own personal opinion?

The best way to fight hunger in the U.S. is through programs that help poor people to get better jobs that pay enough so they can feed their families. .	70%	87%	89%	85%	85%
The best way to fight hunger in the U.S. is through programs that provide food to poor families.....	25%	10%	7%	11%	11%
Don't know.....	6%	3%	4%	4%	4%

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Q8.	Which of the following comes closer to your own personal opinion?					
	We can't force people to take responsibility for themselves and there is plenty of food for those who need it.	18%	10%	7%	7%	5%
	We need to help people who are chronically hungry, and weak and dizzy because of hunger, and we need to help them so they can take responsibility for their own lives.	71%	82%	87%	87%	90%
	Don't know.....	11%	8%	6%	6%	5%
Q9.	Which of the following comes closer to your own personal opinion?					
	Children are hungry because of parents who fail to take responsibility for their kids and government can't teach parents to love and care for their kids.....	27%	25%	22%	14%	10%
	Parents have a moral obligation to care for a child, but if the parent is chronically hungry, weak and unable to even stand from fatigue, they need direct food assistance so they can then get back on their feet, go to work, and care for their children.....	62%	66%	70%	79%	85%
	Don't know.....	11%	8%	8%	7%	4%
Q10.	Which of the following comes closer to your own personal opinion?					
	To help the chronically hungry, we have to first provide them with food, because otherwise they will be too weak to get back on their feet and take responsibility for themselves.	14%	20%	24%	42%	51%
	We need to help the chronically hungry by making sure they have food so they are not too weak to get back on their feet, but at the same time we need to demand accountability and work.	82%	74%	72%	53%	44%
	Don't know.....	4%	6%	4%	5%	5%
Q11.	When it comes to fighting the hunger problem in the U.S., which one of the following do you believe is the most effective in fighting hunger? (✓ only one □.)					
	A strong economy and creating more jobs.....	20%	42%	44%	33%	33%
	Charitable groups	3%	4%	3%	4%	2%
	Churches and other religious groups	6%	4%	5%	6%	3%
	Food pantries and soup kitchens.....	7%	8%	9%	4%	4%
	Food Stamps	6%	2%	2%	2%	3%
	Improving schools in low-income neighborhoods	7%	3%	3%	5%	3%
	Raising the minimum wage.....	9%	3%	3%	10%	14%
	Social Security.....	1%	—	*	*	1%
	Tax relief for poor families, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit.....	3%	2%	1%	2%	2%
	The school lunch program.....	8%	4%	3%	4%	3%
	The Temporary Assistance For Needy Families (TANF) program, also known as welfare reform	10%	6%	5%	4%	4%
	The Women, Infants and Children Program, also known as the WIC program.....	10%	4%	4%	9%	11%
	Don't know.....	8%	18%	17%	16%	16%

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Q12. Which of the following comes closest to your own personal opinion?

We spend too much on hunger programs, and in the end most of the money is wasted.	15%	4%	2%	1%	1%
We spend too little money, which is why we have too many hungry children.....	22%	10%	15%	38%	48%
We spend enough money on programs for hungry children, but we need to reform the programs to make them more effective.....	58%	67%	63%	46%	38%
Don't know.....	5%	19%	19%	16%	13%

Q13. Indicate whether you agree or disagree with each statement below.

a. The problem of widespread hunger can be solved in the United States.					
Strongly agree.....	35%	19%	20%	37%	43%
Agree.....	40%	58%	59%	52%	49%
Disagree.....	14%	13%	14%	8%	5%
Strongly disagree.....	6%	2%	2%	1%	1%
Don't know.....	5%	8%	6%	3%	2%
b. Enough money is already being spent on the hunger problem.					
Strongly agree.....	9%	3%	3%	2%	*
Agree.....	25%	31%	31%	18%	15%
Disagree.....	32%	28%	34%	47%	52%
Strongly disagree.....	26%	3%	5%	16%	22%
Don't know.....	8%	35%	27%	16%	12%
c. We have the experience and technology right now to reduce world hunger dramatically; what we need is the political will to reduce hunger.					
Strongly agree.....	37%	20%	22%	47%	54%
Agree.....	35%	52%	55%	45%	39%
Disagree.....	17%	13%	12%	6%	4%
Strongly disagree.....	3%	2%	1%	*	—
Don't know.....	7%	12%	10%	2%	4%
d. There should be major new efforts, led by charitable and religious groups, with some taxpayer support, to make sure that every child in America has enough to eat.					
Strongly agree.....	45%	21%	23%	31%	33%
Agree.....	35%	53%	55%	46%	47%
Disagree.....	9%	15%	13%	13%	11%
Strongly disagree.....	8%	2%	2%	1%	4%
Don't know.....	4%	9%	6%	8%	5%
e. Government programs haven't solved the problem of hungry children, so we need to reform these programs to make sure every child has healthy food to eat and parents get help to do their job better.					
Strongly agree.....	53%	26%	25%	24%	32%
Agree.....	30%	58%	60%	58%	51%
Disagree.....	10%	7%	8%	10%	11%
Strongly disagree.....	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%
Don't know.....	6%	8%	6%	7%	4%

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Q13. Indicate whether you agree or disagree with each statement below.
(Cont.)

f. The problem of widespread hunger can be solved throughout the world.					
Strongly agree.....	25%	8%	8%	21%	31%
Agree	31%	36%	41%	50%	41%
Disagree.....	23%	29%	26%	16%	18%
Strongly disagree.....	17%	4%	4%	2%	2%
Don't know.....	4%	24%	21%	12%	9%
g. Promoting trade throughout the world helps reduce hunger.					
Strongly agree.....	28%	8%	8%	7%	13%
Agree	39%	49%	55%	49%	47%
Disagree.....	15%	14%	15%	19%	20%
Strongly disagree.....	11%	1%	1%	1%	3%
Don't know.....	8%	28%	21%	24%	18%
h. We need to do more to help feed the chronically hungry so they can then get back on their feet enough to take responsibility for feeding and caring for themselves and their families.					
Strongly agree.....	46%	18%	17%	24%	37%
Agree	36%	65%	70%	66%	57%
Disagree.....	8%	6%	6%	4%	2%
Strongly disagree.....	4%	1%	1%	*	*
Don't know.....	6%	10%	6%	5%	4%
i. Reducing farm subsidies on U.S. agriculture would give farmers in poor countries a chance to compete.					
Strongly agree.....	17%	3%	3%	3%	7%
Agree	26%	14%	14%	20%	26%
Disagree.....	23%	28%	32%	24%	25%
Strongly disagree.....	20%	11%	14%	7%	4%
Don't know.....	14%	43%	35%	45%	37%

Q14. The following are some arguments you might hear in favor of increasing funding and government support for solving the hunger problem. How convincing or unconvincing to you find each statement as an argument for doing more to solve the hunger problem?

a. The number of hungry people throughout the world has gone down significantly in the last decade.					
Very convincing	6%	1%	1%	4%	2%
Somewhat convincing	21%	12%	14%	16%	15%
Not too convincing	28%	33%	34%	33%	30%
Not very convincing	31%	32%	36%	37%	47%
Don't know.....	13%	21%	16%	10%	6%
b. Improving nutrition programs for low-income American families will help children learn in school.					
Very convincing	45%	33%	37%	43%	52%
Somewhat convincing	40%	52%	51%	48%	43%
Not too convincing	6%	9%	7%	7%	2%
Not very convincing	3%	3%	2%	2%	1%
Don't know.....	6%	3%	2%	1%	1%

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Q14. The following are some arguments you might hear in favor of increasing funding and government support for (Cont.) solving the hunger problem. How convincing or unconvincing to you find each statement as an argument for doing more to solve the hunger problem?

c. Six million children die each year in poor countries from hunger-related causes, and America has a moral obligation to try and fight hunger throughout the world.

Very convincing	34%	21%	23%	49%	55%
Somewhat convincing	39%	44%	50%	40%	34%
Not too convincing	11%	18%	15%	9%	6%
Not very convincing	9%	11%	9%	2%	3%
Don't know	7%	6%	3%	1%	2%

Q15. Just your best guess: what percentage of the federal budget do you think the U.S. spends on humanitarian aid and development assistance to help poor people in other countries? _____ percent (If you don't know and don't want to make a guess, ✓ this)

0 - 2%	17%	22%	30%	44%	50%
3% - 5%	21%	15%	16%	17%	18%
6% - 10%	11%	6%	10%	10%	6%
11% - 15%	5%	2%	2%	2%	3%
16% - 20%	7%	2%	2%	1%	1%
21% - 25%	4%	1%	*	1%	—
26% - 30%	2%	1%	1%	1%	—
31% - 40%	3%	1%	1%	—	—
41% - 50%	3%	*	*	—	—
More than 50%	3%	—	*	*	—
Don't know	23%	50%	38%	25%	22%

Q16. How successful would you say humanitarian aid and development assistance programs to poor countries have been?

Very successful.....	4%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Somewhat successful.....	51%	43%	48%	55%	54%
Not very successful	25%	33%	35%	33%	34%
Not at all successful.....	12%	3%	3%	1%	3%
Don't know	7%	20%	14%	9%	8%

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— = zero (0.0); no cases in this category

+ = nonresponses of 10% or more on this question (reported percentages for all questions omit nonresponses)

n = number of respondents eligible to answer this question

◆ = percentages may add to more than 100 because respondents could make more than one response

If not very successful or not at all successful:

Q17. What do you think is the most important reason why you believe that humanitarian aid and development assistance programs to poor countries have not been successful? Write your response here: _____

	+ ♦ n=280	♦ n=329	♦ n=228	♦ n=125
Politics (in general)	12%	17%	22%	21%
Political favors expected; too many strings attached, etc.	1%	2%	3%	3%
Corruption	37%	31%	38%	32%
Waste, inefficiency, bureaucracy, too much overhead.....	27%	31%	22%	19%
Not enough aid and assistance from the United States and other countries.....	4%	4%	6%	10%
Failure of people in poor countries to know how to use aid; poor choices made by the people who receive aid 9%.....	9%	6%	2%	
Cultural differences	3%	1%	2%	2%
All other.....	12%	8%	8%	17%
Don't know.....	1%	*	1%	—

Q18. Between the following, which one should be a higher priority for Congress? (✓ only *one* □.)

Reducing hunger in the United States	62%	58%	53%	28%	23%
Reducing hunger throughout the world.....	25%	7%	7%	9%	10%
Both should have the same priority	9%	30%	36%	61%	65%
Don't know.....	4%	6%	4%	2%	2%

Q19. Which of the following candidates would you be more likely to vote for?

A candidate for Congress who says s/he will make fighting hunger problems a higher priority	69%	86%	87%	91%	97%
A candidate for Congress who says there is currently enough being done to fight the hunger problem .	19%	14%	13%	9%	3%
Don't know.....	12%		[Not asked of panelists]		

Q20. Who do you think is better able to fight the hunger problem in the U.S. and throughout the world?

President George Bush and the Republicans in Congress	30%	19%	21%	14%	6%
The Democrats in Congress.....	32%	15%	17%	32%	39%
Both equally	11%	31%	32%	26%	20%
Neither	10%	16%	16%	19%	26%
Don't know.....	17%	18%	15%	9%	8%

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding

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+ = nonresponses of 10% or more on this question (reported percentages for all questions omit nonresponses)

n = number of respondents eligible to answer this question

♦ = percentages may add to more than 100 because respondents could make more than one response

Q21. What is your gender?

Female	65%	52%	26%	35%
Male.....	35%	48%	74%	65%

Q22. What is your age? _____ years
(Different age breakdown)

Less than 20 years	2%	*	—	—
20 – 29 years.....	3%	*	2%	*
30 – 39 years.....	9%	6%	12%	7%
40 – 49 years.....	19%	21%	29%	22%
50 – 59 years.....	19%	30%	40%	37%
60 – 69 years.....	18%	23%	17%	30%
70 – 79 years.....	20%	16%	1%	3%
80 years or more	10%	4%	—	*
Mean.....	57.8	57.3	50.5	54.3
Median.....	59.0	57.0	51.0	56.0

Q23. Please use this space for additional comments.

[Not tabulated]

Response form:

Web	7%	11%	10%	14%
Paper.....	93%	89%	90%	86%

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding

- * = less than 0.5%; rounds to zero
- = zero (0.0); no cases in this category
- + = nonresponses of 10% or more on this question (reported percentages for all questions omit nonresponses)
- n = number of respondents eligible to answer this question
- ◆ = percentages may add to more than 100 because respondents could make more than one response

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