In the next hour 1,000 children will die
• Half due to hunger and malnutrition
• It is preventable!
• Every fourth child in developing countries is malnourished
• Almost 3 times the U.S. population is hungry
• Life expectancy at birth in some developing countries is 36 years
• About a billion people are overweight or obese
Rhetoric, Action & Likely Outcome

- Rhetoric
- Action
- Prospects

Rhetoric
- Declarations
- Plans
- Targets

≠ Action

WE'RE STILL MISSING A KEY TRANSLATOR...
A.U. LAUNCH
Reasons for Solving the Problems

- Ethical
- Humanitarian
- Economic
- Security

What Ethical Standards?

- Utilitarianism
- Deontological ethics
- Virtue ethics
- Human rights ethics

A Social Welfare Function?

- Maximizing utility
- Relative weights?
  - Poor vs. non-poor
  - Different groups of poor
  - Malnourished vs. well-nourished
  - Current vs. future generations
  - Humans vs. animals
Deontology and Trade-offs

- Limitations to utilitarianism
- Singer’s argument
  - General agreement
  - Failure to implement
    - 10 million child deaths

Action vs. Failure to Take Action

- A utilitarian perspective on child death
- A deontological perspective
  - My neighbor’s children
  - My country’s children
  - The Thorbecke hypothesis
- Genocide?
- Crime against humanity?

Socially Sensitive Trade-offs

- Implicit but not explicit
- Poorest or less poor?
- Severely or moderately malnourished?
- Starving, iron deficient, or obese?
Socially Sensitive Trade-offs (Con’t)
- Child care vs. prenatal care?
- Corruption
- Illegal drug production
- Good nutrition, personal freedom, democracy

Freedom from Hunger as a Human Right
- The UN declaration
- A right or a privilege?
- No enforcement, no penalty

Other Rights: Enforcement
- Property rights
- Animal rights
- International trade
  - Legally enforceable rules
  - Trade policy causing hunger and poverty
- International institutions
  - WTO vs. UNICEF, ILO, and FAO
Conclusion

- Moral imperative or enlightened self-interest?
- Deontological perspective
- Human rights perspective
- Utilitarian perspective
  - Compassion as utility
  - Economic interests
  - Stability