

## LESSON TWO: Identifying the Economic, Social and Political Factors Affecting Hunger



### The GOALS

of this lesson are to:

- understand hunger as a complex worldwide phenomenon which results from economic, social and political factors (SOCIAL STUDIES, SCIENCE, GEOGRAPHY, WORLD HISTORY)
- learn to identify and discuss current events which affect the issue of hunger (READING, SOCIAL STUDIES, ECONOMICS)

This lesson has two components: an **ACTIVITY** of collecting newspaper articles which document circumstances which will have an impact on hunger; and a **DISCUSSION** of what students learned from this activity.

### ACTIVITY

Divide the class into three or four groups and provide each group with a different newspaper. (You might give the groups different newspapers from the same day, i.e. one group gets *The Boston Globe*, another, *The Boston Herald*, a third, *The New York Times*. You can also give each group the same newspaper from different days.) Have each group identify all of the articles that discuss events or circumstances that will have an impact on hunger (e.g. plant closes, fire destroys home, floods destroy crops, inflation, government programs cut, etc.). Have each group designate one or more representatives to report back to the class about the articles that they selected.

### DISCUSSION

Have each group report back to the class about the articles that they selected and why. Discuss the following:

- What are the economic factors which we identified as affecting hunger?
- What are the social factors which we identified as affecting hunger?
- What are the political factors which we identified as affecting hunger?
- Which factors affect many families? Which affect fewer? Which factors can government policy influence? Which factors can be addressed in other ways?
- How is the effect of these factors experienced differently in different parts of the country? The world?