

immediately. Primary school feeding programmes, such as those that existed in this country in the 1940s, need to be introduced hand in hand with free compulsory education. This would take care of a large group of children of school going age who, at present, are too poor to go to school.

There has to be a programme to look after the needs of the under fives, the most vulnerable group of all. The ultimate solution will be the introduction of a programme similar to the Head-Start programmes in the USA, where all children whose parents are under the poverty datum line have a right to participate, at the state's expense, in a project that secures them nutritionally. Pre-schools in black rural areas in South Africa are virtually the prerogative of the middle class. Only 10% of black children attend these facilities. Massive funding must be found immediately for interim child care centres. At the very least, provision must be made for under fives to be part and parcel of feeding schemes at schools.

This article was compiled by Critical Health from various recent Operation Hunger publications.

I Fear for the Future

I hear talk of economic turnaround, of the miracle of foreign investment. But I see no benefit in this for the rural poor and I fear for the future of this land.

I see a government that has no money to feed the newly hungry, but gives one million rand to Malawi to create a reserve for two rhinos and I fear for the future of this land.

When I see how carefully the talk shop at Kempton Park has avoided the issue of urgent land redistribution, which is the only hope of the functionally illiterate migrant who has been thrown out of work by the demise of many mines and by mechanisation in agriculture, and I know that 310 million acres of trust land are available now, then I fear for the future of this land.

When I see that our three national imperatives, education, health and housing, have been referred to the new regions, and think of the past provincial and homeland track records, I fear for the future of this land.

When I hear the above basic human rights called "unreasonable expectations", I fear for the future of this land.

If the government of national unity, when it assumes power in 1994, does not have the giant courage to make immediate commitment to certain things, primarily to free and compulsory education and immediate and rapid land availability, then indeed I fear for the future of our land.

Ina Perlman, November 1993