



**WOMEN'S UN REPORT NETWORK  
WUNRN®**

**WOMEN'S UN REPORT NETWORK - WUNRN**

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**WOMEN - POVERTY - CRISES - RIGHTS**

**MILLENNIA 2015 - UNESCO CONFERENCE  
Women Actors of Development for Global Challenges  
December 3-4, 2012  
Paris, France**



[WUNRN & UN Study](#)

[Reference Documents](#)

[WUNRN Releases](#)

[WUNRN Links](#)

[UN Human Rights Structure](#)

[The Tandem Project](#)

## WUNRN MISSION STATEMENT

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The Women's UN Report Program & Network (WUNRN) is a non-governmental organization to implement the conclusions and recommendations of a United Nations Study on Freedom of Religion of Belief and the Status of Women From the Viewpoint of Religion and Traditions (E/CN.4/2002/73/Add.2). This study is a major, universal, comprehensive U.N. approach to intolerance and discrimination against women based on religion and traditions.

To strengthen the nexus between women's rights and freedom of religion or belief, it is important to build on the Juridical and Factual Aspects of this study by research, plans of action and practical projects. WUNRN, together with The Tandem Project, is committed to this objective through support for the dignity and fundamental rights of women everywhere, and by the promotion of tolerance and the end of discrimination against women based on religion and traditions.

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"Recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom peace and justice in the world"

U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights

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Website: <http://www.wunrn.com>.

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**WOMEN'S UN REPORT NETWORK  
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**INDIA - GIRL CHILD BRICK WORKER - EXTREME POVERTY**





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**PALESTINE - POVERTY, HUNGER, CONFLICT, LOSSES**





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**EXTREME POVERTY - INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS**



Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

**Articles 9, 11, 12 and 13 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966)**

**Articles 11, 12, 13 and 14 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979)**

**Articles 24 and 27 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)**

**Article 28 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2002)**

**Articles 20 to 24 of the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (1951)**

**Articles 24 to 30 and 43 of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (1990)**





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**ZIMBABWE - MOTHER WITH CHILD TRIES TO ESCAPE CONFLICT  
BY CROSSING THE BORDER - POVERTY - FEAR - HUNGER**



Themba Hadebe/Associated Press

A Zimbabwean woman with her child on her back flees across the border into South Africa at Beitbridge Border Post in Musina, South Africa.



## WOMEN'S UN REPORT NETWORK WUNRN®

### WOMEN, POVERTY & ECONOMICS

UN Women - Women bear a disproportionate burden of the world's poverty. According to some estimates, women represent 70 percent of the world's poor.

Statistics indicate that women are more likely than men to be poor and at risk of hunger because of the systematic discrimination they face in education, health care, employment, and control of assets. Poverty implications are widespread for women, leaving many without even basic rights such as access to clean drinking water, sanitation, medical care and decent employment. Being poor can also mean they have little protection from violence and have no role in decision making.



*The Crises - Compounded & Protracted Impacts on Women*

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- \*Economic/Financial Crisis*
- \*Food Crisis*
- \*Wars & Conflicts*
- \*Climate Change*
- \*Natural Disasters*
- \*Globalization*
- \*HIV/AIDS*
- \*Sexual Violence & Abuse*





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**HAITI - SLUM GIRL - WALKING BAREFOOT THROUGH MISERY**



Alice Alice Smeets - UNICEF Prize Photo - 2008



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**TO UNDERSTAND WOMEN & POVERTY**

- \*FOLLOW THE MONEY
- \*FOLLOW THE POWER & PRIVILEGE
- \*NOTE LAND & PROPERTY RIGHTS
- \*CONSIDER GLOBALIZATION
- \*SEE IMPACT OF AGRIBUSINESS
- \*LOOK AT CORRUPTION MULTILEVEL
- \*STUDY TRADE AGREEMENTS
- \*SEE POLARIZATION OF THE POOR, SPREADING OF THE CLASSES
- \*LOOK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



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### G8 SUMMIT- GENDER EQUALITY? WHO RULES?



Left to right: Japanese President Taro Aso, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, US President Barack Obama, French President Nicolas Sarkozy, Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, Swedish Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt and the EU Commission President José Manuel Barroso during the family photo taken on the first day of the G8 Summit in L'Aquila. G8website/Ansa photo by: Maurizio Brambatti

[The G8 group's member countries](#) are Canada, the Russian Federation, France, Germany, Japan, Italy, the United Kingdom, and the United States, together with the European Union represented by the European Council's duty President and by the President of the European Commission.





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**IRAQ - HOMELESS WOMEN & CHILDREN - SQUATTER CAMPS**

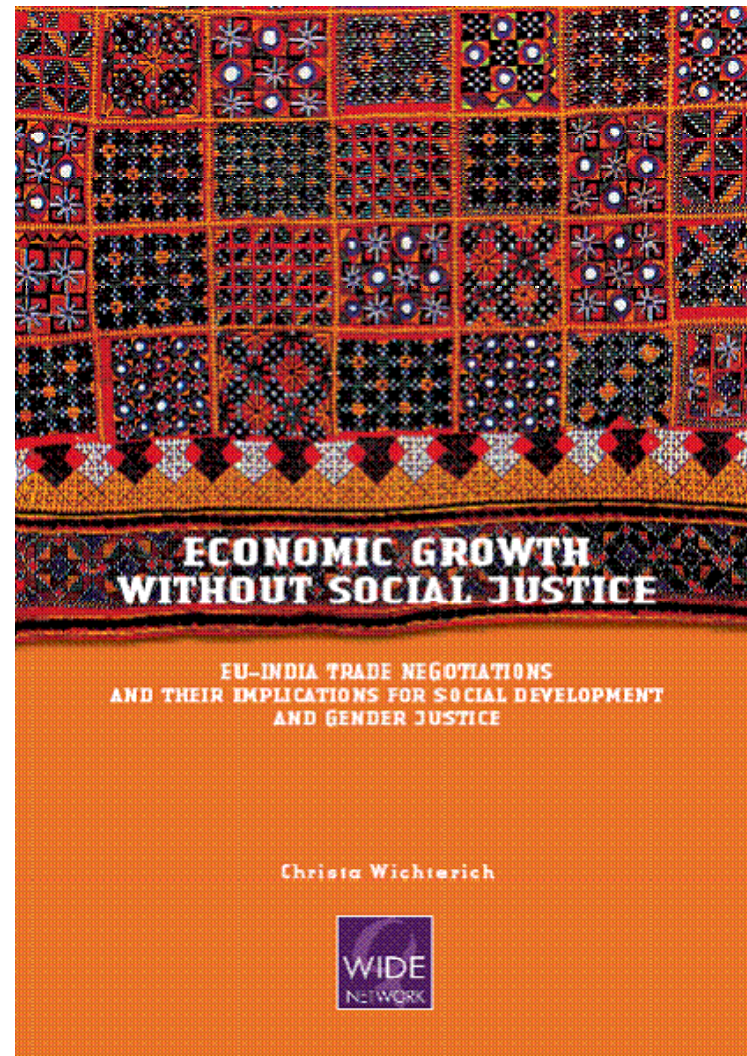
Half a million displaced Iraqis face grim futures in squalid squatter camps.



Photo: Tracey Shelton



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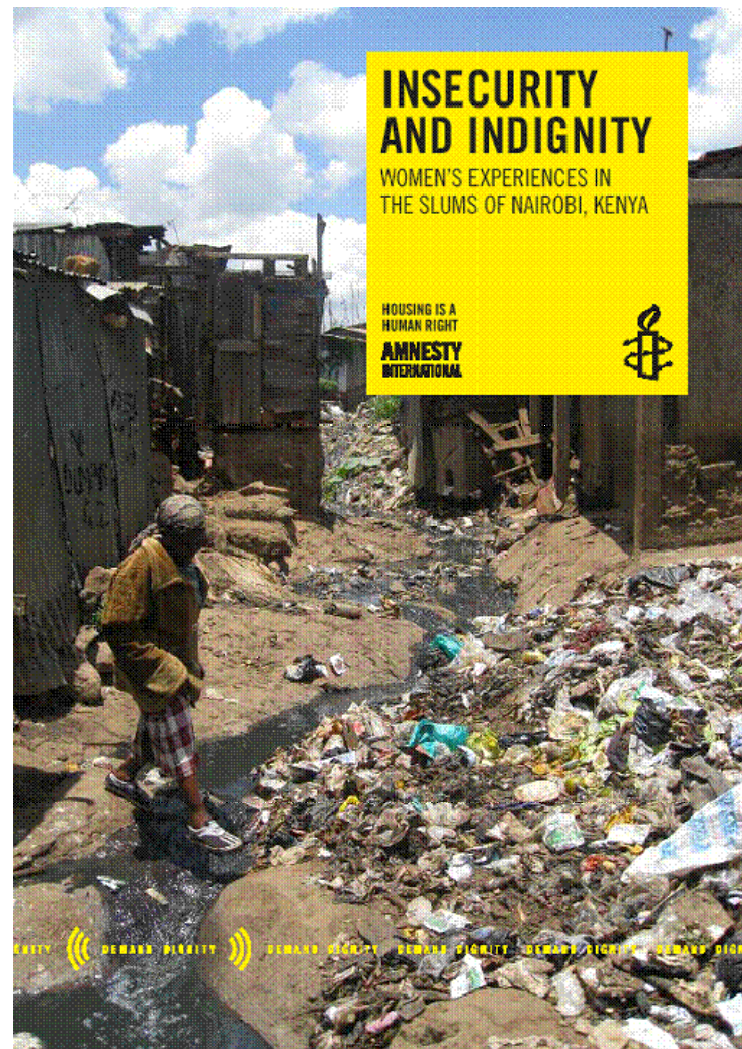
**PAKISTAN - THE FACES OF POOR, DISPLACED, REFUGEE WOMEN**



Photo: Kate Brooks/Rapport, for The New York Times



# WOMEN'S UN REPORT NETWORK WUNRN®





## WOMEN'S UN REPORT NETWORK WUNRN®

### WOMEN & EXTREME POVERTY - INTERSECTIONALITY OF RIGHTS ISSUES

- \*Nutrition/Malnutrition
- \*Health - Physical & Mental  
Reproductive Health
- \*Maternal & Infant Mortality
- \*Water & Sanitation
- \*Education
- \*Child Labour
- \*Child Marriage & Motherhood
- \*Forced Marriage
- \*Preference for Males
- \*Land, Housing/Shelter  
Land-Grabbing, Forced Evictions  
Homelessness - Slums
- \*War & Conflict
- \*Refugee Status
- \*Internal Displacement
- \*Safety - Violence - Rape
- \*Prostitution
- \*Trafficking
- \*Migration
- \*Minority & Indigenous Issues
- \*Culture & Traditions
- \*Climate Change Issues
- \*Natural Disasters
- \*Widows Discrimination
- \*Lifespan - Ageing Women - Survival
- \*Exposure to Environmental Hazards





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### BANGLADESH - GARMENT GIRLS OF DHAKA - EXPLOITATION



Bangladesh's vast ready-made garment industry produces clothes for top Western companies.

A dispute over a wage levels led to riots earlier this year. At 8pm in the heart of Dhaka's industrial zone of Tejgaon, hundreds of young women file out of a garment factory onto the dark and dusty streets.

Jessica Mudditt - 3 October 2010





## WOMEN'S UN REPORT NETWORK WUNRN®

### UN MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS



#### **Eradicate Extreme Poverty & Hunger**

##### **Target 1.A:**

Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day

1.1 Proportion of population below \$1 (PPP) per day **a\***

1.2 Poverty gap ratio

1.3 Share of poorest quintile in national consumption

##### **Target 1.B:**

Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people

1.4 Growth rate of GDP per person employed

1.5 Employment-to-population ratio

1.6 Proportion of employed people living below \$1 (PPP) per day

1.7 Proportion of own-account and contributing family workers in total employment

##### **Target 1.C:**

Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger

1.8 Prevalence of underweight children under-five years of age

1.9 Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption





## WOMEN'S UN REPORT NETWORK WUNRN®

### INDEPENDENT EXPERT ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND EXTREME POVERTY



Today almost half the population in developing countries live in extreme poverty, and are denied basic human rights such as the rights to an adequate standard of living including food and housing, the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and education. They are often socially excluded and marginalized from political power and processes. Their right to effectively participate in public affairs is often ignored. The elimination of extreme poverty is not a question of charity, but a pressing human rights issue. States are legally obligated to realise human rights for all, prioritising the most vulnerable which includes those living in extreme poverty.



#### **Independent Expert**

In May 2008, [Dr. Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona](#) was appointed by the UN Human Rights Council as the new UN Independent Expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty, for a renewable period of three years.

The expert is required to examine and report back to both the General Assembly and Human Rights Council on initiatives taken to promote and protect the rights of those living in extreme poverty.

The expert also undertakes country visits to investigate the situation of human rights in specific domestic contexts. The expert serves in her personal capacity, and does not receive a salary or any other financial compensation for her work.



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**INDIA - POVERTY & HUNGER HAVE A WIDOW'S FACE**



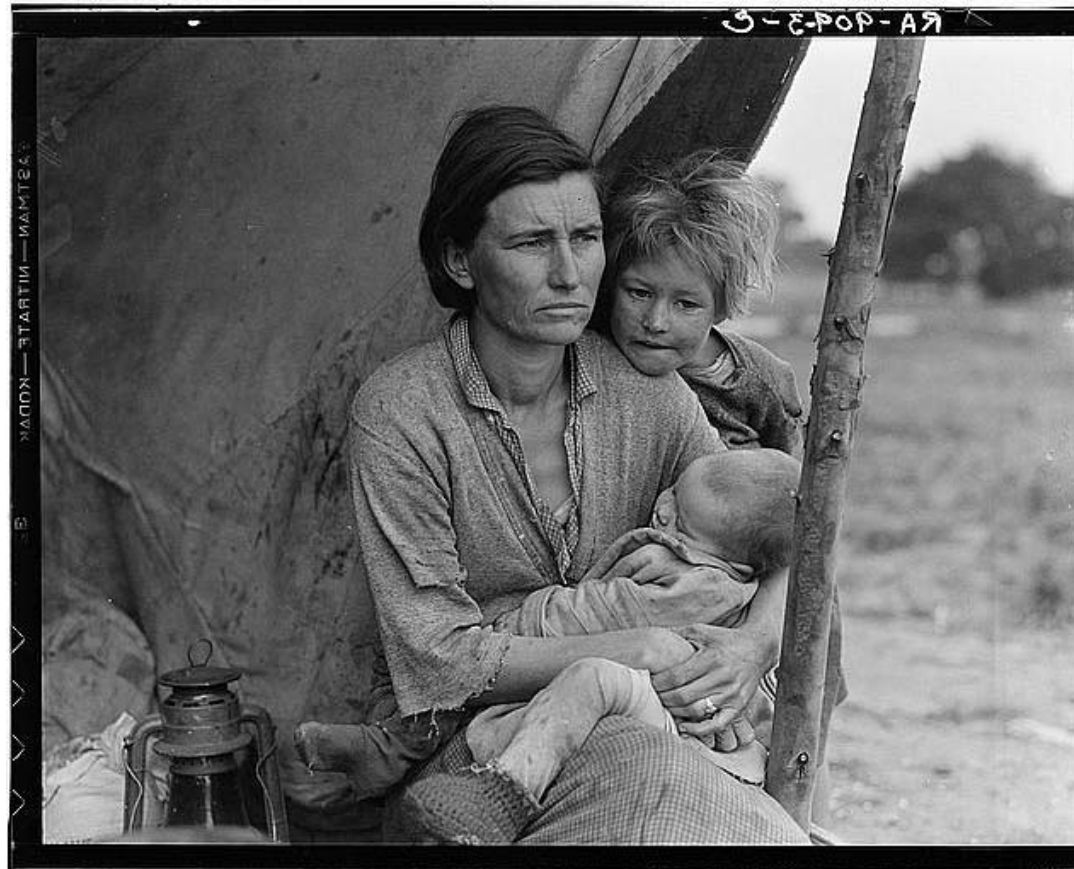
WUNRN Photo - Poverty stricken widows in City of Widows, Vrindivan, India

The Indian widow experiences compounded discrimination and marginalization - as a woman, as a widow, often as an elderly woman, and as a POOR widowed woman. Many widows chant in Hindu temples to be given small bowls of rice. Guild of Service-India



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POOR MIGRANT FARM WORKER MOTHER - USA History



Farm Security Administration Collection - Photo by Dorothea Lange



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### WHO ARE THESE WOMEN WHO ARE EXTREMELY POOR?

\*She is the mother in Guinea who has lost her husband, was raped by the enemy, and now trudges along a dirt road to an unknown destination, knowing she is malnourished and losing her milk to feed her underweight fifth child in her arms.

\*She is the woman in her 60's in Bosnia, who in the privacy of a room of women victims of war crimes, takes off part of her clothes to show the scars of how she was abused in the war and cries as she lost her husband and sons and is a religious woman and was violated by the enemy. She has lost her home, her land, and she is desperately lacking food and money for food.

\*She is the adolescent girl in Colombia, who is conscripted by the rebels, and forced to fight, to work, and to be a sexual slave at their demand. She is the last to eat, needing medical care, having no money of her own as to buy food.

\*She is the young woman in a Palestinian refugee camp, born there, never knowing peace, always hungry, wondering if she should consider marriage as she sees no hope and considers suicide..

\*She is the young Afghan woman, told she could go to school after liberation, then captured on the route to school and raped and now pregnant and with HIV/AIDS. Her family wanted to force her into early marriage, but is now ashamed of her, and she is vulnerable to an honor killing.

\*She is the Cambodian grandmother who never recovered from illness during the war, who hides under her bed at night and screams at the gunfire that remains in her mind. She has no resources, no family to care for her, never enough food, always hunger and malnutrition.

\*She is an American woman, deserted by her husband, without a pension or income, ashamed at her poverty, living in one-room, surviving on cat food and food stamps.

\*She is everywoman, trying to provide for her children, her family, herself, reeling in the storms of war, conflict, refugee status, internal displacement, political and social insecurity, lack of basic services as health care, unaware of her human right to food, safe water, sanitation.



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## MILITARY SPENDING VS. GENDER EQUALITY - YOU GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR!



You get what  
you pay for!

<b>1</b>	or	<b>700</b>	or	<b>2928</b>
year of the world's military expenditures (USD1464 billion 2008)		years of the UN regular budget		years of the new women's agency

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE  
FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM







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**SOMALIA - CONFLICT - WOMEN - POVERTY - HUNGER**



Jehad Nga for The New York Times

Somalia Women and children waited for food from the United Nation's World Food Program.



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**IRAQ - WOMEN & WAR - POVERTY, DISPLACEMENT, LOSS, DESPAIR**



© Panos Pictures / M. Saman

IRAQ - A desperate mother searches for her two children after they disappeared amid a gigantic fire at an illegal petrol station in central Baghdad. ICRC



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**AFGHANISTAN - GIRL CHILD POVERTY**





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**POVERTY IS NOT A RESULT OF SCARCITY,  
BUT OF INEQUALITY, ESPECIALLY GENDER INEQUALITY**

Inequality is a result of power relations that favor certain sectors of society, and is driven by the policies and actions of the state and other powerful actors.

Inequality is an issue of social justice, gender justice.

It is very important to address women's extreme poverty from a human rights and intersectional dimension.





**CHINA'S WEALTH GAP - WOMEN**



Qin Guiying, Ningxia Province – BBC

"My husband died a long time ago so I brought up my children myself. My son died in a car accident. I have two grandchildren and I live in an old sun-dried mud house.

I have no money. The government gave us aid once three years ago, but never again. We cannot compare our lives to those who live in the city. I have no choices."



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**ETHIOPIA - FAMILY POVERTY**





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**WOMEN - NATURAL DISASTERS - CRISES - POVERTY - BANGLADESH CYCLONE**







**INFANT GIRL - STARVING - MALNOURISHED - INDIA**



India - A malnourished 3-month-old girl is fed at a rehabilitation center in Shivpuri in Madhya Pradesh.

Photo: Ruth Fremson/The New York Times

According to the Save the Children's statistics, around 3.5 million children die in a year because of malnutrition. In India alone, one million children's lives could be saved every year if they were not malnourished.





**FOR EVERY POOR AND HUNGRY CHILD, THERE IS A POOR  
MOTHER, HOPEFULLY ALIVE, IN DEEP DESPAIR THAT SHE  
CANNOT PROVIDE HER CHILD WITH ADEQUATE BASIC NEEDS  
OF LIFE, FOR SURVIVAL.**



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**MAMA, I'M HUNGRY**

WUNRN - 2011

Mama, I'm hungry  
My tummy hurts, also at night,  
My hair and skin are now so dry.  
I am only 8 years old.

My baby brother cries.  
He is hungry, too.  
You say your milk has stopped.  
You need food and safe water.

Daddy died some months ago.  
Villagers say he killed himself.  
There were so many debts.  
He tried to buy food for us.

You say I can't go to school.  
I want to be a teacher.  
You send me work with bricks.  
I am so tired, so very hungry.

The men look at me strangely.  
They offer me food, candy.  
They are rude. I am afraid.  
But I am so hungry, Mama.

You married off my big sister  
Now one less mouth to feed here.  
But I know she's not happy.  
Her eyes are sad and full of fear.

Mama, I'm cold at night alot.  
I want food to keep me warm.  
To cover me, you give me paper.  
The hunger pangs won't let me sleep.

Will we lose our house as well?  
Without home and land, can we survive?  
I am so very hungry, Mama.  
Can we really stay alive?

Will I grow up? I am not so sure.  
I get very sick. I cannot play.  
You talk about the big city.  
But where there would we stay?

I have hopes and I have dreams.  
They seem so far away.  
Like our food, dreams disappear.  
I can only hope and pray.

Mama, I'm Hungry!