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F.a.o. Report On Malnutrition & Poor Sanitation Standards In Latin America

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According to a report by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) presented March 16 in Mexico City, the incidence of hunger and malnutrition in Latin America has increased in recent years. Government and private organization experts in nutrition and social welfare program planning from 19 countries participated in the "Foro regional sobre nutricion en Latinoamerica."

The FAO report indicated that 183 million Latin Americans live in conditions of poverty. The number of malnourished persons is estimated at 55 million. Latin Americans suffering from anemia total 60 million, and goiter, 30 million. FAO regional representative Rafael Moreno said that millions are affected by diseases linked to malnutrition, such as obesity, diabetes, and certain types of cancer.

In addition, millions suffer from diseases linked to inadequate environmental safeguards and sanitation in the cultivation and preparation of foodstuffs. Moreno said the economic crisis of the 1980s revealed the structural deficiencies of economic development in the previous two decades. Existing social and economic inequalities were exacerbated, and health, education and nutrition programs declined in quality and quantity. The cholera epidemic, he added, has exposed serious inadequacies of two essential public services potable water and sewage treatment throughout Latin America. (Basic data from Agence France-Presse, 03/16/92)

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