Chalabi et al. (2011) Climate Change Crop Yields and Child Undernutrition


It could be assumed that climate change would have an effect on undernourishment in African regions. Many would immediately think of how a change in climate would effect the growth of crops or the liveliness of cattle, which of course is accurate, but there are other aspects that would also change and effect undernourishment when the climate changes. The study done by Chalabi determines an estimate for how future climate change will effect undernourishment and what portion of that change in undernourishment would be due to food. Isn't all undernourishment ultimately linked to food? Can you clarify what you mean here?

"'Undernourishment' is not a health outcome per se; it is a theoretical model-based estimate of access to calories developed by the FAO and is defined as the proportion of people "whose dietary energy consumption is continuously below a minimum dietary energy requirement for maintaining a healthy life and carrying out light physical activity with an acceptable minimum body-weight for attained-height," (Chalabi, 2011) There are three rather than four quotation marks here so I can't tell where the quotation begins or ends or if this is one or two quotes. Please make this clearer and add a page number for the quote or quotes. Undernourishment can be directly linked to stunting in children because regardless of their origin, children will grow at an equally consistent rate if given proper nutrition (Chalabi, 2011). Using stunting, which can be measured in children, and a calculated equation, they determined that climate change will increase stunting in all regions measured in Africa by 30-50% (but did they say how much climate change is needed? this implies that any climate change will cause stunting); in addition to this data, they found that 40% of stunting would be directly related to change in food supply and not other socioeconomic conditions (Chalabi, 2011). Ok now I think I understand your comment in the first paragraph, which nonetheless needs to be clarified.

The effect of climate change on undernutrition has the potential to be significant and possibly devastating to regions of Africa. Other regions of the world probably would not be effected as harshly and it is most likely for this reason that Africa was the focus of this study. It is not just because Africa tends to have poorer countries, because those can be found across the globe, but because of the food that Africans regularly consume that climate change could have such a drastic affect on their undernourishment; this is not grammatically correct and should be reworded. The climate in Africa is often harsh and species varied, so the food they can and are used to growing could easily be incapable of being grown with just a few degrees of difference awkward phrasing, could be reworded. They generally don't import their food, so once they're incapable of growing the crops and tending the animals they always have in the ways their accustomed to, major shortages would of course ensue. This would obviously lead to undernourishment and thereby stunting in children. Socioeconomic problems would then prevent these regions from being able to aid themselves when they can't avoid contractions providing off of their own land. They would be economically incapable of importing food from elsewhere and at the same time incapable of bringing in new forms of farming or new crops to provide for themselves. It would become a mixed problem of lack of food and lack of money to have any source of regaining stability. It is not so much the lack of resources in African regions that will cause the substantial increase in undernourishment but rather the delicate nature of the food they consume and their inability to change this. This is a generally good overview but not a lot of evidence of critical thought.