



Food security is a concern in the US, according to risk perception survey

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**New York, 16 October 2013 – As the global community comes together to fight hunger on World Food Day, the Swiss Re Risk perception survey shows that the epidemic is prevalent also in the US.**

According to the survey, 22% of Americans go hungry at least once per year. Of the 19 markets canvassed, this is the highest rate directly after South Africa, Indonesia and Mexico and higher than in other industrialized nations, including the UK, Canada and Japan.

Interestingly, as one of the richest countries on earth, the number one reason for hunger in the US is financial hardship. Of those who faced hunger in the US, 60% did so because they lacked the money to buy food.

And, many Americans perceive that this problem will only become more widespread. Almost one quarter - 24% - believe it is going to become more difficult to feed their family over the next 20 years.

"This survey shows that hunger isn't just a problem for developing nations," said Nikhil DaVictoriaLobo, Senior Vice President of Global Partnerships for Swiss Re. "Soaring food prices, climate change, water and energy shortages, and the lack of adequate infrastructure can endanger our highly vulnerable global food system. There is a need to look for – and implement – ways to increase resiliency in the face of food insecurity."

As one of the world's leading agricultural re/insurers, Swiss Re offers innovative risk transfer solutions tailored to the needs of farmers, who are an important link in the global food supply chain.



## Notes to editors

### About the Risk perception survey

Swiss Re's [Risk perception survey](#) was carried out in April and May 2013 by The Gallup Organisation – Europe.

Results are based on telephone and online interviews with more than 1 000 people per country, aged 15 and older, conducted in 19 markets. The samples are representative of the total population aged 15 and older in most markets; in five markets, interviews were only conducted in urban areas. The 19 markets selected for this study were:

- Canada, the United States, Brazil (only urban areas) and Mexico
- France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and South Africa (only urban areas)
- Australia, China (only urban areas), Hong Kong, India (only urban areas), Indonesia (only urban areas), Japan, Singapore and South Korea

### Swiss Re

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