

Nuclear Famine Report

Key Takeaways



A Rutgers University-led international team calculated how much sun-blocking soot would be generated by cities incinerated under various scenarios of a nuclear war.

The research team studied the impact of 6 war scenarios causing 5 to 150 teragrams (Tg) of soot causing irreparable damage to agriculture and oceanic food supply.

Global Impact of Nuclear War

Soot from burning cities would be lofted miles above the clouds, blown around the world, and float up there for years. It would blot out the Sun, and temperatures would plummet. Crops and agriculture would subsequently perish.

Possible Nuclear Famine Scenarios:

1 Tg = One million metric tons

5 Tg Soot

after 1-5 years, 7% decrease in global average calorie production

47 Tg Soot

after 1-5 years up to 50% decrease in global average calorie production

150 Tg Soot

after 3-4 years after nuclear war years, 90% decrease in global average calorie production



A large-scale nuclear war between the United States and Russia would kill more than 5.7 billion people across the world



Even a "limited" nuclear war, involving less than 3% of the world's nuclear arsenal, would trigger a global famine that would kill more than two billion people, or every third human being, and destroy modern civilization.

Our Tools

This is not the future that must be.

We have the tools to avoid this worldwide humanitarian catastrophe. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) is the first.



Any of the nine nuclear-armed nations can cause immense worldwide suffering, agricultural and societal collapse, and mass death. It's time to take action now.