

CHAPTER 17

UNDERNUTRITION THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

REAL LIFE SCENARIO

Jamal traveled to the Philippines with his church group during spring break. During their stay, they were to help build shelters for people in the village where a few weeks before a storm had destroyed most of the housing. Jamal noticed that many of the children in the village were short, much shorter than the children in his neighborhood. Mothers in the village stated that their children often had diarrhea and were ill. Jamal also noticed that the children are not as lively as he would expect.

A Filipino nurse at the local health clinic pointed out that these children generally do not have enough to eat and that health problems were rampant. She hoped that the recent storm would spur the Philippine government to send supplies to the village, particularly food and medicines.

Should Jamal have been surprised by the widespread disease and general listlessness of the Philippine children? What nutrients are likely to be deficient in the diets of these children, in turn contributing to their poor health status?