







Grenada - Version May 2023 



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Convo

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# THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN SMALL ISLAND STATES



Climate change poses significant challenges to food production, especially in small island states. As the climate continues to shift, these regions face not only environmental difficulties but also economic disruptions that threaten their nutritional security. Here's how climate change exacerbates food insecurity and leads to a trade imbalance, resulting in the influx of non-nutritional food items.

Climate Change and Food Production Small island states often rely heavily on local agriculture and fishing for their food supply. Climate change affects these food systems in several ways:

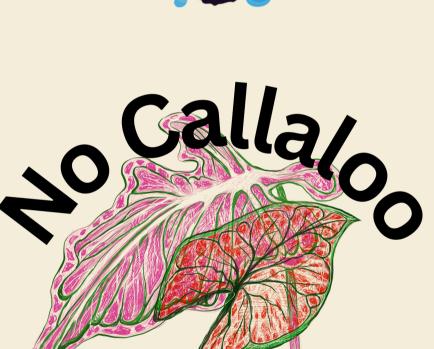
Rising Sea Levels: Increased salinity of soil and freshwater sources can reduce agricultural productivity.

Temperature Changes: Altered growing seasons and increased frequency of extreme weather events can damage crops and reduce yields.

Ocean Warming and Acidification: These factors can decrease fish populations, a vital protein source for many island communities.

As a result, the traditional sources of nutrition—both plant and marine-based—are becoming less reliable.

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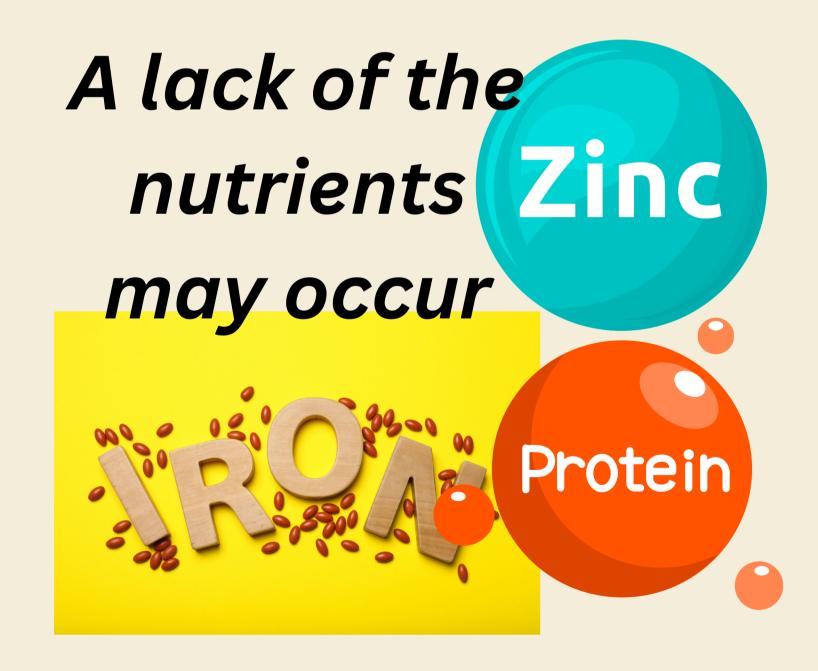


Damage to the forest and water systems.



## Risk! Risk! Risk!











### **Economic Impacts and Trade Imbalance**

The environmental impact on food production leads to economic consequences. Small island states often lack the capacity to produce sufficient food domestically under changing climatic conditions, leading to a dependence on imports. However, this reliance creates a significant trade imbalance:

**Economic Strain:** Importing food becomes more expensive, straining limited financial resources.

Influx of Non-Nutritional Foods: To manage costs, imported food often includes cheap, non-nutritional items like processed foods high in sugar, salt, and unhealthy fats. These items replace traditional, nutrient-rich foods that are now scarce.





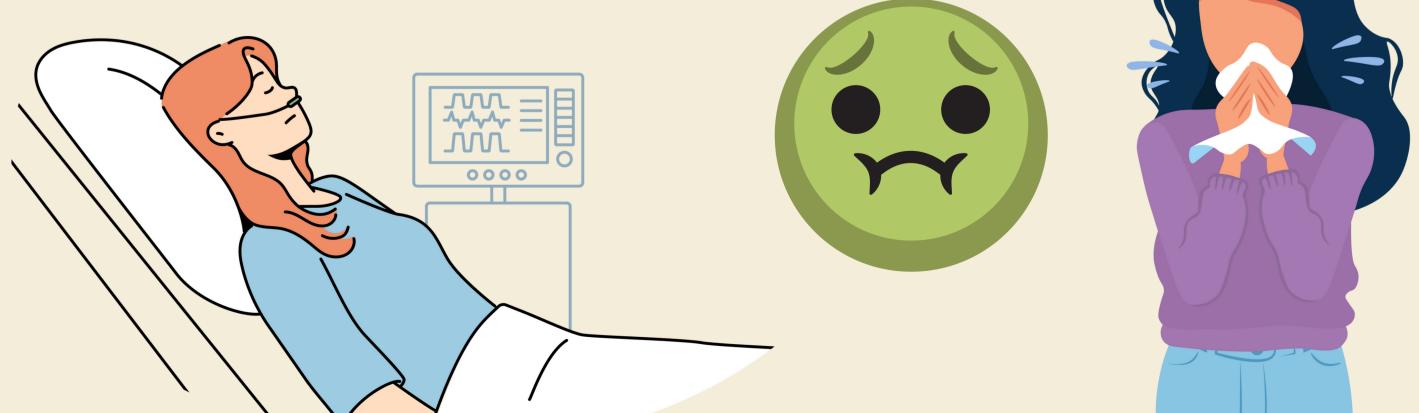


## Health Consequences

The shift from locally sourced, nutritious food to imported, non-nutritional food has severe health implications:

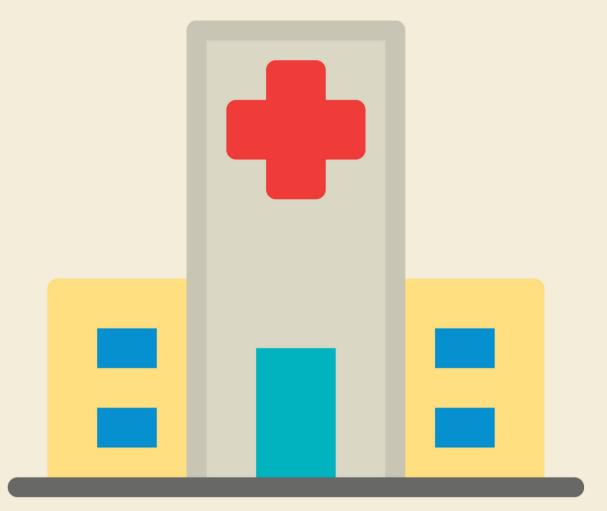
Nutritional Deficiency: The lack of essential nutrients can lead to various health issues, including malnutrition and related diseases.

Chronic Diseases: Diets high in processed foods contribute to an increase in chronic conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, and obesity.



## Leading to:

over burden













#### **Solutions and Recommendations**

Addressing these challenges requires multifaceted approaches:

Strengthening Local Food Systems: Supporting sustainable agricultural practices and improving local food production can reduce dependency on imports.



#### **Policy Changes:**

Implementing trade policies that favor the import of nutritious food items over processed ones is crucial.



Minimize the usage and import of pesticides and insecticides.

Climate Resilience: Investing in climate-resilient agricultural technologies and practices can help mitigate the adverse effects of climate change.



**Education and Awareness:** Raising awareness about the importance of nutrition and promoting healthier food choices can help combat the influx of non-nutritional foods.



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