



Solving the World's Biggest Problems

The Copenhagen Consensus Center (CCC) is a think tank in Denmark that works with governments and NGO's to help them spend aid and development money for the best results. The idea is to make optimal use of limited funding based on facts, science, and data. The CCC also sponsors conferences, inviting outside experts in different fields who can help analyze information and set priorities.

A 2008 meeting convened eight of the world's leading economists, including five Nobel Prize winners, to identify what they considered the world's biggest problems and the best ways to solve them. The group outlined ten major problem areas to address: air pollution; conflicts in and among nations; disease; education; global warming; malnutrition and hunger; water and sanitation; subsidies and other barriers to free trade; terrorism; and women and development.

They also identified and ranked solutions in order based on need and impact. Their top fifteen solutions are:

1. Micro-nutrient supplements (vitamin A and zinc) for children
2. Widen free trade to boost global incomes
3. Micro-nutrient (iron and iodized salt) for all
4. Expand immunization for children
5. Breed crops to increase their nutritional value
6. Deworming and nutrition programs in schools
7. Lower the cost of schooling
8. Increase education for girls
9. Organize / strengthen community-based nutrition programs
10. Medical and prenatal care for women
11. Heart attack care and treatment
12. Malaria prevention and treatment
13. Tuberculosis screening and treatment
14. Clean, low-carbon energy technologies
15. Bio-sand filters for household water treatment

Which area of need is **NOT** clearly addressed in the 15 top solutions?

- | | |
|------------------|--------------|
| A. air pollution | C. education |
| B. diseases | D. terrorism |

Which words in the reading offer a context clue to the meaning of "optimal" in the first paragraph?

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| A. think tank | C. limited funding |
| B. best results | D. outside experts |

Expanding childhood immunizations, school deworming and nutrition programs, lowering costs of schooling, and increasing girls' education all address

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| A. educational improvement. | C. children's development. |
| B. conflicts among nations. | D. female health issues. |

Based on the reading, which action would the CCC be **LEAST LIKELY** to take?

- A. Hire experts to devise solutions to a nation's problem.
- B. Suggest specifics for a regional free trade agreement.
- C. Provide a nation weapons to fight against a neighbor.
- D. Advise a government leader about use of resources.