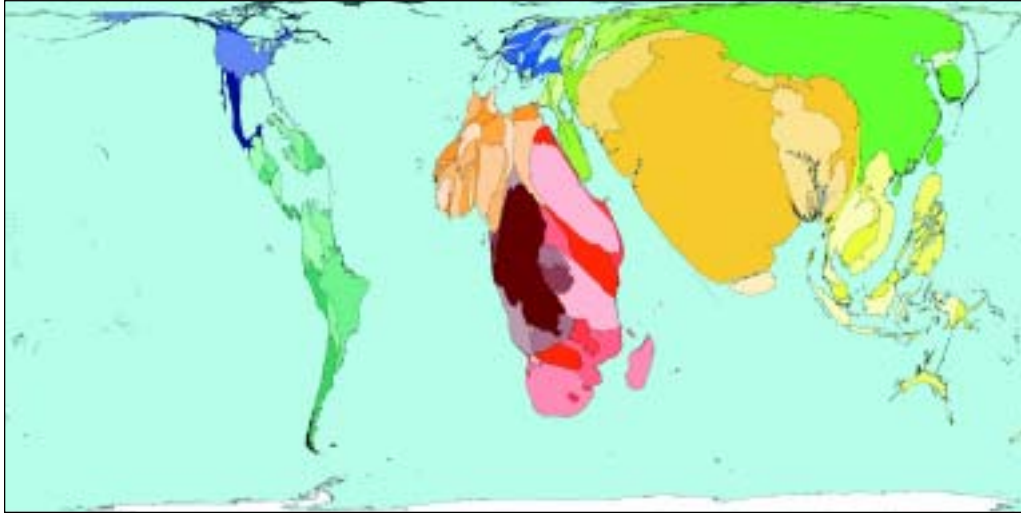
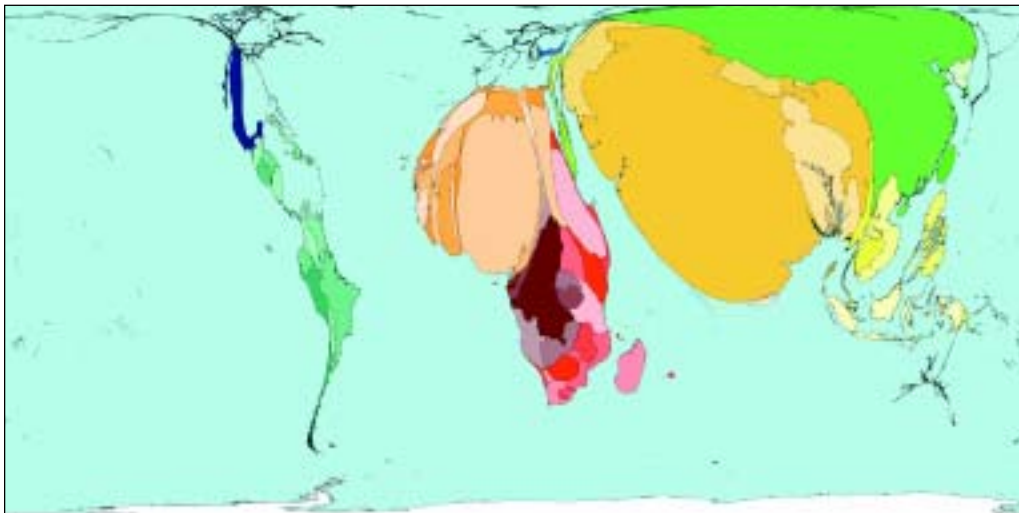


## The World: A different view

We continue the series (see *Natl Med J India* 2006;19:234–5, 293).



In Map 1, the size of each territory is shown proportional to the number of undernourished people that lived there in the year 2000.<sup>1</sup> In 2000, the number of such people in the world was 858 million, i.e. 14.3% of the total world population (1990: 840 million, 16%), including 556 million in Asia and 216 million in Africa. The countries with the largest number of such people were India (212 million; 21% of population), China (139 million; 11%) and Bangladesh (44 million; 32%). The countries with the largest proportion of undernourished people in their populations were Democratic Republic of Congo (75%; 36 million), Tajikistan (71%; 4 million) and Burundi (70%; 4 million). For these data, the prevalence of undernourishment is based on the United Nations definition,<sup>2</sup> i.e. 'Proportion of the population below the minimum level of dietary energy consumption, i.e. the percentage of the population that is undernourished or food deprived, whose food intake falls below the minimum level of dietary energy requirements (food insecurity line).'<sup>3</sup>



In Map 2, the size of each territory is shown proportional to the number of people living there on less than or equal to US \$1 in purchasing power parity (PPP; amount of local currency of the country that equals the purchasing power in that country to that of US \$1 a day in the United States of America).<sup>3</sup> The World Bank considers this limit as defining *extreme poverty* which affects 1073 million persons in the world (17% of the world population); another term it uses is *moderate poverty*, defined as living on less than US \$2 a day, which affects 2.7 billion people. India is home to the largest number of people living on less than US \$1 (364 million; 34.7% of its population), followed by China (215 million; 16.6%), Nigeria (85 million; 70.2%) and Bangladesh (52 million; 36%). Thus, India accounts for 34% of such people in the world, whereas its population is only 17% of the world's population.

### REFERENCES

- 1 <http://www.sasi.group.shef.ac.uk/worldmapper/display.php?selected=178#> (accessed on 20 November 2006).
- 2 <http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Metadata.aspx> (accessed on 20 November 2006).
- 3 <http://www.sasi.group.shef.ac.uk/worldmapper/display.php?selected=179#> (accessed 20 November 2006).