



Famine response and prevention

Northeastern Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen



20 million

people at risk of famine,
an additional **10 million** threatened
by famine in the coming months



80%

rely on agriculture for
their livelihood



USD 218 million

funding gap

The world faces one of the largest food crises in 70 years, with 20 million people in four countries — northeastern Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen — at risk of famine. If no action is taken, an additional 10 million will be threatened by famine.

Famine has already been declared in parts of South Sudan, where 100 000 people are affected, and more than 5.5 million people will not have any reliable source of food by July.

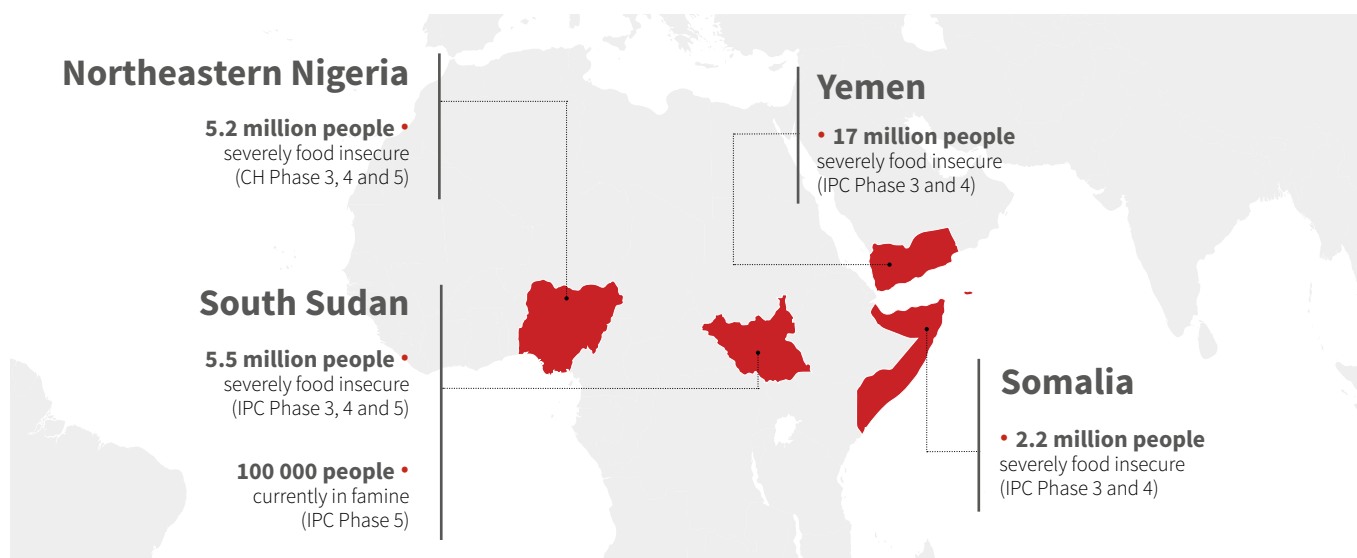
The current levels of food insecurity in the four at-risk countries reflect continued underinvestment in agriculture and livelihoods within the wider humanitarian and development fields. Conflict and drought are forcing people to abandon their homes and their lands. As agricultural seasons are repeatedly missed and livelihoods abandoned, the humanitarian caseload builds and the number of people on the brink of famine rises. With approximately 80 percent of the affected

populations relying on agriculture for their livelihoods, we must invest now in pulling people back from the brink. Often famine starts in rural areas and must be prevented in rural areas – agriculture cannot be an afterthought.

FAO is on the ground, in these countries to deliver emergency livelihood assistance to kick-start food production. This assistance includes inputs like crop and vegetable seeds, fishing and dairy kits – which are crucial for providing highly nutritious food. In parts of South Sudan, the fishing kits are the only lifeline to food for many families, while in Yemen, dairy kits are helping to provide life-saving milk for children.

To avert a humanitarian catastrophe in the four countries over the coming months, we need to scale up livelihood support and income opportunities to affected families. Supporting agriculture now is not only investing in food production today, but food security tomorrow.

Overview



Northeastern Nigeria



USD 62 million
(USD 17.3 million received to-date)



5.2 million
people severely food insecure



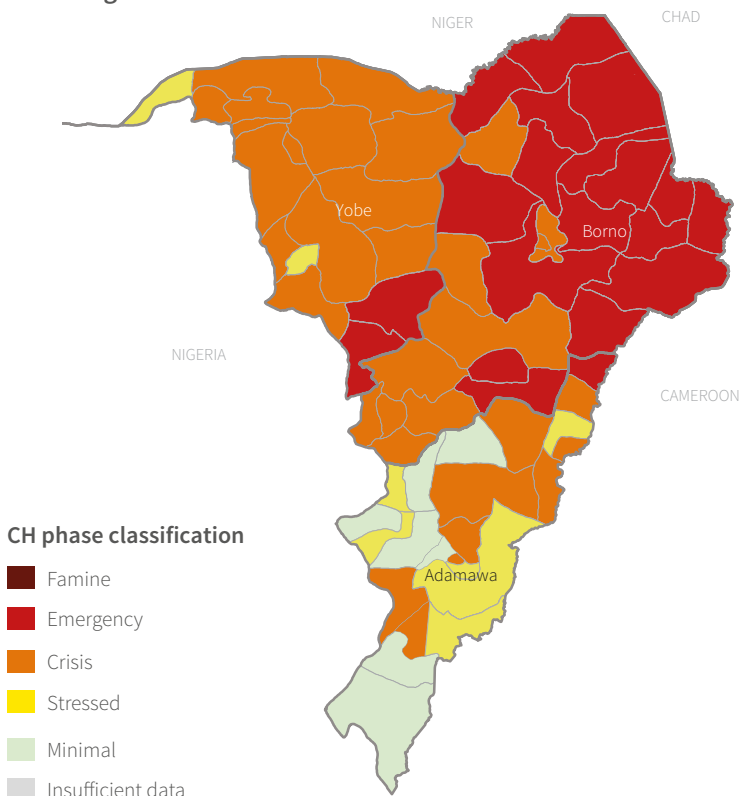
>80%
depend on agriculture

In the projected period (June–August 2017), a total of 5.2 million people may face severe food insecurity during the coming lean season in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States of northeastern Nigeria. Conflict and the resulting displacement have left millions without food and adopting negative coping strategies like the sale of critical assets just to survive. Already poor and vulnerable hosting communities have absorbed large numbers of people fleeing violence, placing considerable pressure on fragile agricultural and pastoral livelihoods, while the insecurity has disrupted markets and food availability.

The Government, United Nations and humanitarian partners are scaling up their assistance and reaching more people with life-saving support every month.

However, agriculture has so far been overlooked during the response. With more than 80 percent of the area's population relying on agriculture for their livelihoods, a combination of food assistance and food production support is the only way to address the scale of hunger facing the people of northeastern Nigeria. The main planting season starts in May/June, providing a critical opportunity to significantly improve food insecurity and resilience by enabling at-risk families to produce their own food. Failure to intervene now with livelihoods support will lead to continued reliance on humanitarian assistance through 2018. Immediate funding is needed to avert famine and support affected populations to restart their livelihoods and create job opportunities.

June–August 2017



FAO's response:



2017 main season

- Prepositioning critical inputs for upcoming planting season to support almost 1.4 million people.



Livestock support

- Supporting animal restocking for 1 700 households (target of 30 500) and vaccinating 105 850 animals.

Somalia



USD 160 million

(USD 66 million received to-date)



2.2 million

people severely food insecure



>90%

of people in IPC Phase 4 are in rural areas

Poor rains and extended drought over multiple seasons have had a major impact on rural livelihoods and food security in Somalia, pushing the country to the brink of famine just five years after the crisis of 2011 that claimed the lives of over a quarter of a million people. Over half of the country's population – 6.7 million people – are now acutely food insecure (IPC Phases 2, 3 and 4), compared with 6.2 million in February 2017. Of these, 3.2 million are coping with severe food insecurity (IPC Phases 3 and 4). Food insecurity is particularly intense in rural areas: 68 percent (2.2 million) of all people in IPC Phases 3 and 4 are rural farmers and pastoralists. The April-June rains that each year support Somalia's main Gu

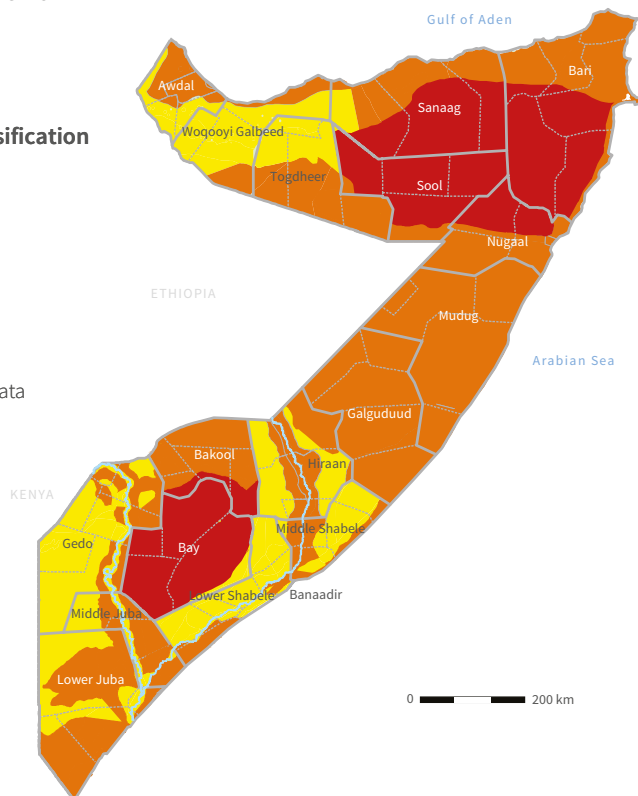
growing season and rejuvenate pastoral lands have now started – but they've started late and rainfall has been below average in many places. Meanwhile, displacement, disease and compounding needs are causing food security to further deteriorate. The situation is dire and the risk of famine persists.

Livelihoods are people's best defence against hunger. Famine can be prevented in Somalia, but will ultimately depend on efforts to save, protect and invest in rural livelihoods. FAO has been rapidly scaling up its support in Somalia, focusing on cash, livelihood and drought-related animal health support. However, further funding is urgently needed to scale up sufficiently to avert famine.

February-June 2017

IPC phase classification

- Famine
- Emergency
- Crisis
- Stressed
- Minimal
- Insufficient data



FAO's response:



Cash transfer and cash+ (livelihood support)

- USD 8.5 million injected in the country's economy through cash payments to 440 000 people.
- 848 tonnes of cereal, legume and vegetable seeds distributed for Gu planting.
- 136 agricultural infrastructures rehabilitated.



Emergency livestock support

- 8.9 million livestock treated during March-April 2017 (270 000 per day).
- 11.4 million litres of water delivered to 107 sites across Somalia.

South Sudan



USD 70 million
(USD 27.3 million received to-date)



5.5 million
people severely food insecure



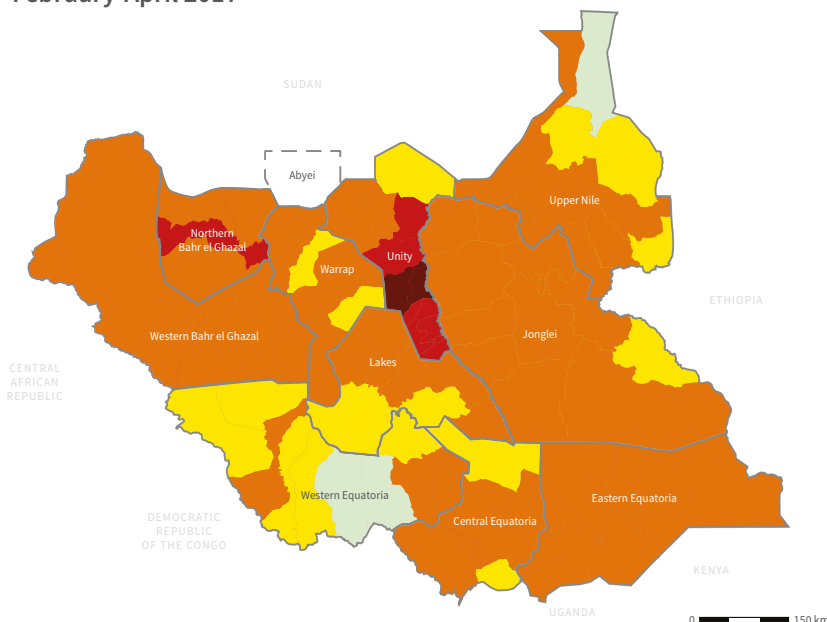
>80%
depend on agriculture

Over 90 000 South Sudanese face starvation, with famine declared in parts of South Sudan's Unity State, reflecting the impact of prolonged conflict, constrained humanitarian access and declining production. The scope of the food crisis is unprecedented, with many people in IPC Phase 4 for over a year. A total of 5.5 million South Sudanese (almost half of the population) face severe food insecurity at the peak of the coming lean season in July 2017. Of these, 1 million are on the brink of famine in IPC Phase 4. Market failure is devastating people's income and purchasing power, resurgent fighting and resulting displacement have prevented farmers from planting or harvesting their crops, while continued insecurity

and the economic crisis have rendered the food supply pipeline from Uganda dysfunctional.

An immediate, massive, multisectoral response is critical to save lives. Emergency food assistance and support to agriculture are complementary in the response to the current crisis. FAO is already scaling up the distribution of fishing kits in critical famine areas where people are living in the swamps, offering a much-needed source of food. In 2017, food security will be heavily influenced by the success of the coming cropping season. Providing farmers with inputs to plant on time and protecting the livestock of pastoralists are crucial to tackle hunger, prevent the spread of famine and begin to stem refugee flows to neighbouring countries.

February-April 2017



IPC phase classification



FAO's response:



Emergency livelihood support

- 2.9 million people have benefited from FAO's dry season livelihood assistance since November 2016.
- Distributing over 1 200 tonnes of crop seed and seed fairs ongoing providing a further 1 200 tonnes of crop seeds. FAO aims to reach up to 2.1 million people by the end of the main planting season.



Livestock support

- 1.8 million livestock treated through a wide-reaching livestock and vaccination campaign.



Famine-hit area

- 199 000 people received vegetable and fishing kits in Unity State

Yemen



USD 48.4 million
(USD 12 million received to-date)



17 million
people severely food insecure



85%
of agricultural households require
emergency inputs

With an estimated 17 million people in 'emergency' or 'crisis' levels of food insecurity, Yemen is currently one of the worst hunger crises in the world. After two years of deadly civil war, more than two-thirds of people are struggling to feed themselves and urgently require life and livelihood-saving assistance.

Taiz and Al Hudaydah, traditionally food producing governorates, have been the focus of intense violence since the current crisis escalated. Without additional humanitarian and livelihoods support, these two governorates accounting for almost a quarter of Yemen's population, risk slipping into famine.

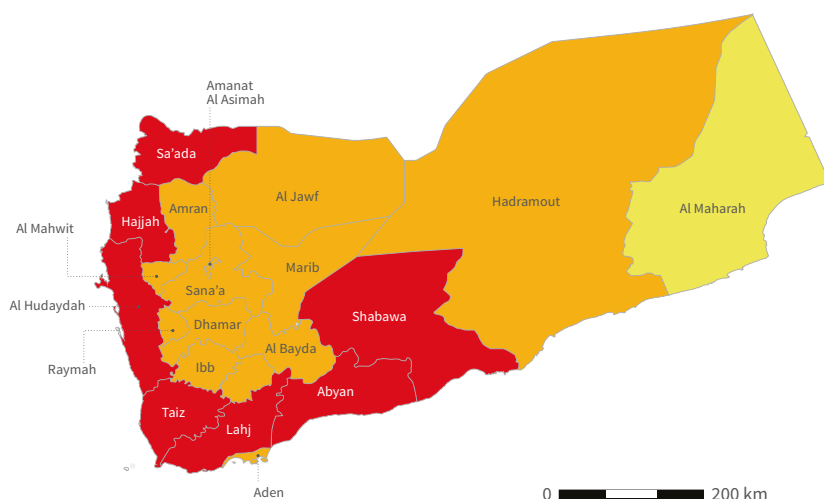
The ongoing conflict has severely affected the agriculture sector, causing extensive losses in crops, livestock and fish production. As a consequence, the

supply and distribution of locally-produced food to the markets is becoming scarce, placing devastating effects on livelihoods and the nutrition situation.

Across Yemen, 2 million households (14 million people) rely on agriculture as their main source of livelihood and lack access to critical inputs, including seeds, fertilizer and fuel for irrigation pumps. High fuel prices also make irrigation prohibitively expensive.

With increased insecurity, humanitarian access may soon be limited to a few kilometres around main towns, leaving rural communities in dire need of aid. Agricultural support, provided only once or twice a year can have a long-lasting effect. It therefore must be an integral part of the humanitarian response to prevent Yemen's dire food security situation from worsening.

March-July 2017



IPC phase classification

■ Famine	■ Crisis	■ Minimal
■ Emergency	■ Stressed	■ Insufficient data

FAO's response:



Emergency livelihood kits

- More than 20 000 people have received emergency agriculture assistance (cereal seeds, vegetable seeds and hand tools).



Emergency protection of livestock

- Almost 40 000 households received livestock vaccination and treatment. In addition, veterinarians in Al Hudaydah and Hajjah received training.



Improve and diversify income and livelihoods

- 600 people have received dairy equipment and 580 women received water management training.



www.fao.org/emergencies/crisis/facingfamine