



## 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

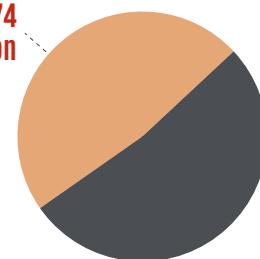


**80%**

rely on agriculture for  
their livelihoods

funding to-date

**USD 174  
million**



funding gap

**USD 191  
million**

The world is facing 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.

Even though famine has been contained for now in South Sudan, hunger has continued to spread with an increase of 40 percent in the number of people at risk of famine from February to June 2017. An estimated 6 million people – more than half the population – are severely food insecure.

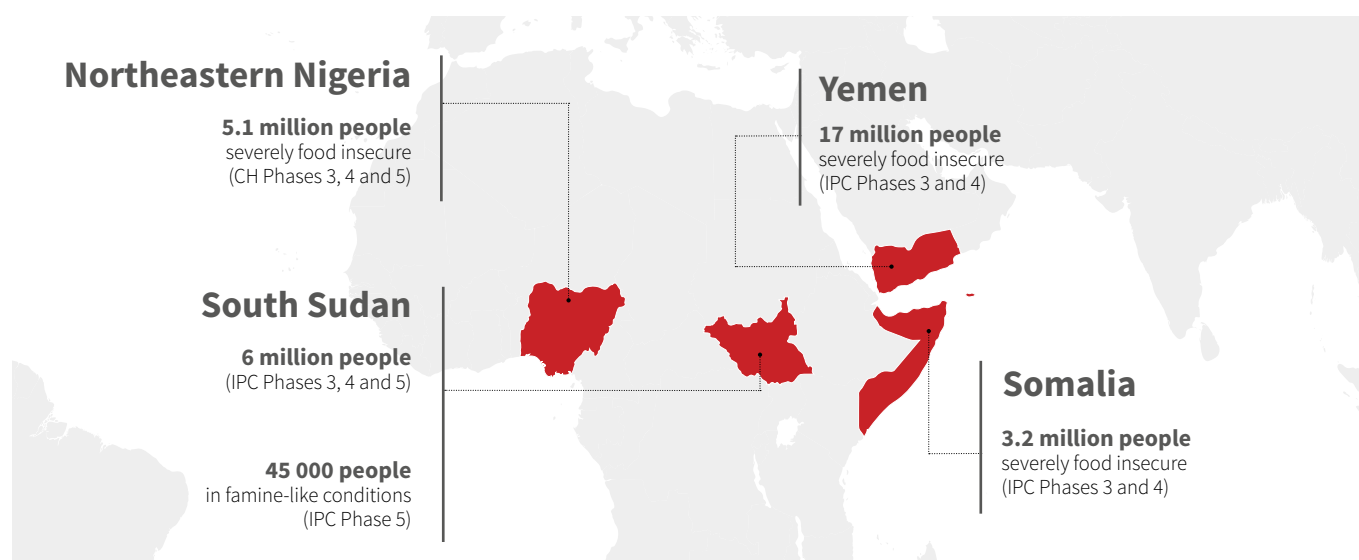
Current levels of food insecurity in the four countries reflect continued underinvestment in agriculture and livelihoods within the wider humanitarian and development fields. Conflict and drought are forcing people to abandon their homes and their lands. As agricultural seasons are repeatedly missed 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. Famine often starts in rural areas and must be prevented in rural areas – agriculture cannot be an afterthought.

FAO is on the ground in these countries delivering emergency livelihood assistance to kick-start food production. This assistance includes providing inputs like crop and vegetable seeds, and fishing and dairy kits – which are crucial for providing highly nutritious food. In parts of South Sudan, 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, livelihood support needs to be scaled up and income opportunities improved for affected families. Supporting agriculture now is not only investing in food production today, but food security tomorrow.

### Overview



# Northeastern Nigeria

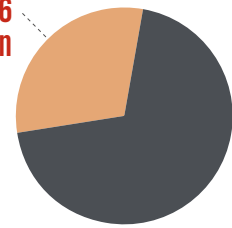


**5.1 million**  
people severely food insecure



**>80%**  
depend on agriculture

funding to-date  
**USD 18.6 million**



funding gap  
**USD 43.4 million**

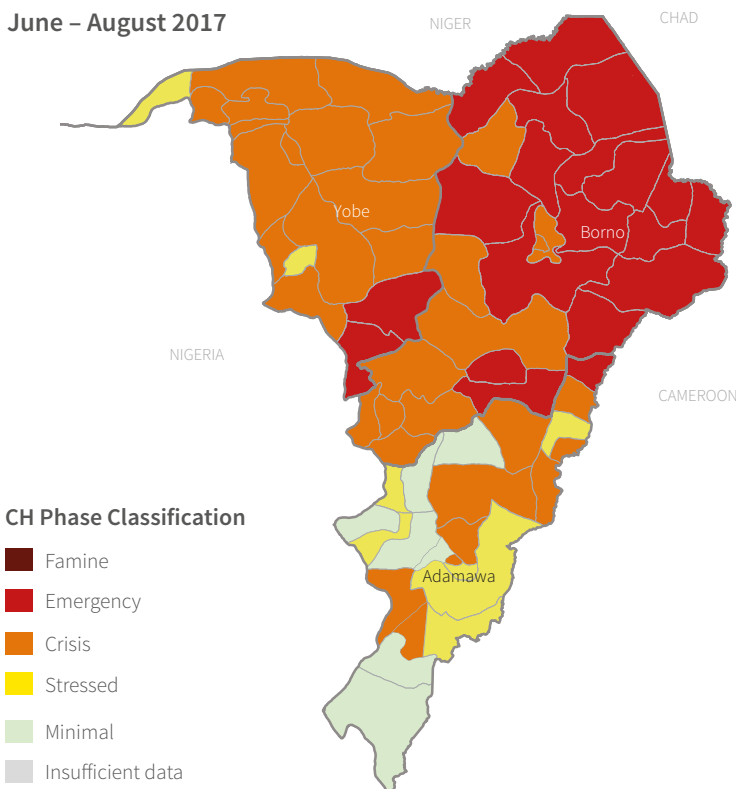
From June to August 2017, it is projected that a total of 5.2 million people may face severe food insecurity during the coming lean season in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States of northeastern Nigeria. Conflict and resulting displacement have left millions without access to food and are adopting negative coping strategies, such as selling 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 insecurity has disrupted markets and food production.

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

However, agriculture has largely been overlooked during the response to affected areas. 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 in northeastern Nigeria. The main planting season is ongoing, providing a critical opportunity to significantly improve food security and resilience. Enabling at-risk families to produce their own food will support affected populations to restart their livelihoods and create income-generating opportunities. Immediate funding is needed to avert famine; failure to intervene with livelihoods support now will lead to continued reliance on humanitarian assistance through 2018.

## Food security situation

June – August 2017



## Current FAO response



**2017 main season**

Distributing over 2 000 tonnes of cereal, legume and vegetable seeds and 3 500 tonnes of fertilizers to 1.12 million families for the main planting season



**Livestock support**

200 000 livestock benefiting from treatment and vaccination campaign

Restocking programme is underway – targeting mainly women-headed households

# Somalia

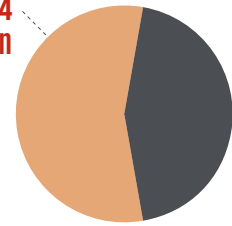


**3.2 million**  
people severely food insecure



**>90%**  
of people in IPC Phase 4  
are in rural areas

funding to-date  
**USD 102.4  
million**



funding gap  
**USD 82.6  
million**

Poor rains and extended drought over multiple seasons have had a major impact on rural livelihoods and food security in Somalia. The country faces a very real risk 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), half a million more than 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 to June rains that support Somalia's main

Gu growing season and rejuvenate pastoral lands started late and rainfall has been below average in many places. Meanwhile, displacement, disease and compounding needs are causing food security to further deteriorate.

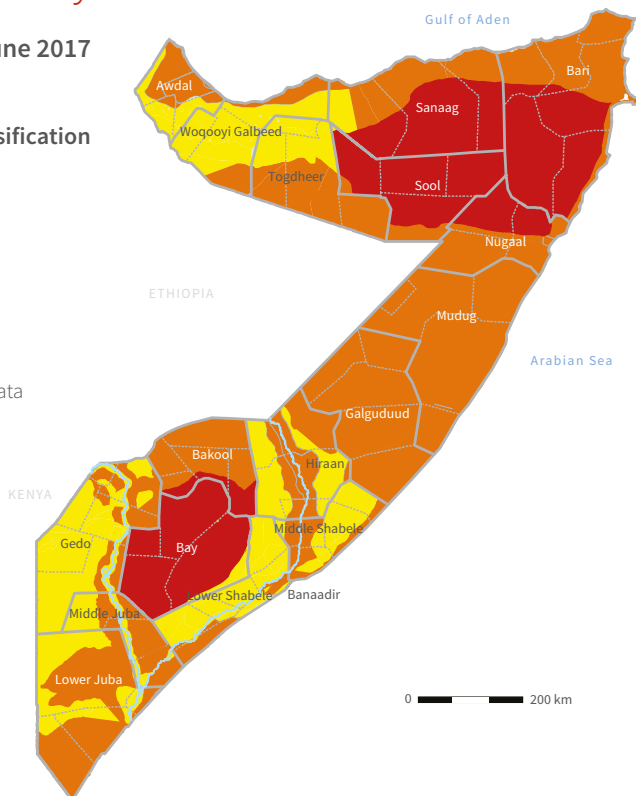
Livelihoods are people's best defence against hunger. Famine can be prevented in Somalia, but will ultimately depend on efforts to save, protect and invest in rural livelihoods. FAO has been rapidly scaling up its support, focusing on cash and livelihood and drought-related animal health support. However,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

## Food security situation

February – June 2017

### IPC Phase Classification

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



## Current FAO response



**Cash transfer and cash+  
(livelihood support)**

300 000 people received cash (cash-for-work and unconditional)

230 000 people received cash+ livelihood support

200+ agricultural infrastructure rehabilitated



**Emergency livestock support**

20 million livestock treated, benefiting 3 million people

14 million litres of water delivered to 107 sites across Somalia

# South Sudan



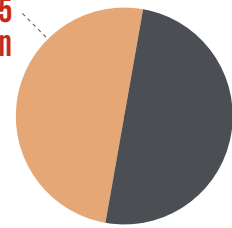
**6 million**  
people severely food insecure



**>80%**  
depend on agriculture

funding to-date

**USD 35 million**



funding gap  
**USD 35 million**

While South Sudan is no longer technically experiencing a famine – largely owing to a massive scale up in the humanitarian response, some 45 000 people in parts of Unity State and in areas of Greater Jonglei are currently living in famine conditions.

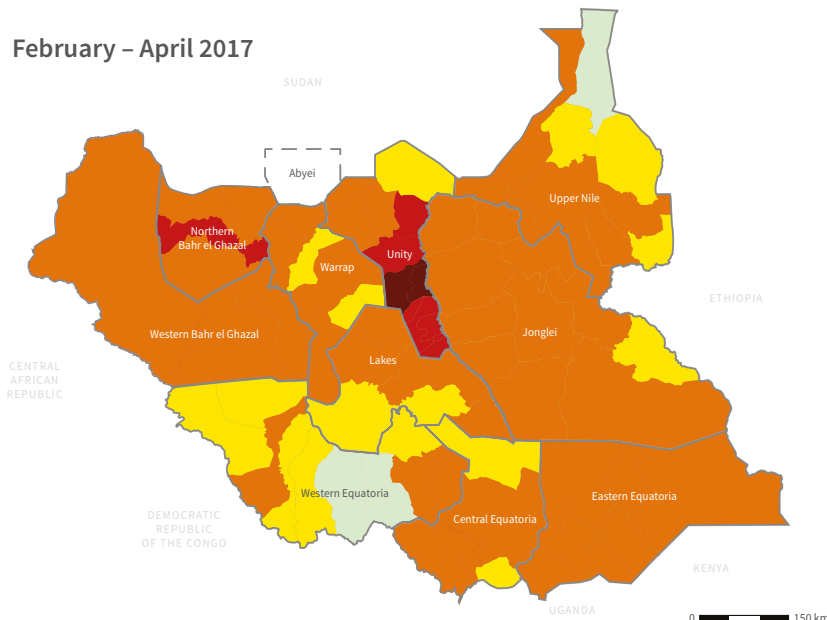
Hunger has continued to spread and deepen across the country, with 6 million people now severely hungry, 1.7 million of whom are at risk of famine (IPC Phase 4). Food insecurity is linked to continued armed conflict, which has resulted in massive population displacement, disruptions to people's livelihoods, trade and access to humanitarian assistance, which remains people's main source of food in conflict areas. This is compounded by below-average food

production and high food prices, which have eroded household purchasing power.

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 has already scaled up the distribution of fishing kits in critical famine areas where people are living in the swamps, offering a much-needed source of food and protein. 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.

## Food security situation

February – April 2017



### IPC Phase Classification



## Current FAO response



### Emergency livelihood support

3.3 million people have received emergency livelihood support during 2017

Preparations for the second planting season in Greater Equatoria are now underway



### Livestock support

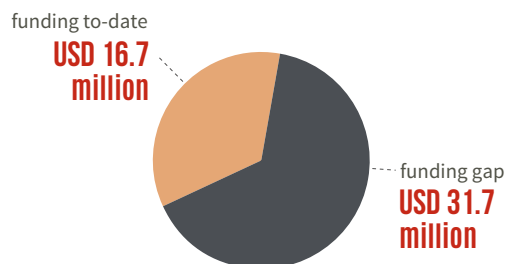
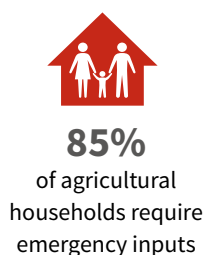
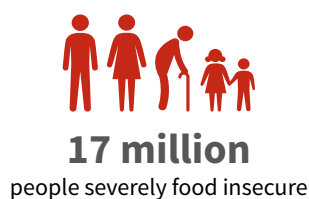
Over 2 million animals vaccinated and more than 900 000 treated so far in 2017



### Famine-hit area

200 000 people received vegetable and fishing kits in Unity

# Yemen



With an estimated 17 million people in Emergency or Crisis levels of food insecurity, Yemen is currently facing one of the worst hunger crises in the world. After two years of deadly civil war, more than two-thirds of the population 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 crop, livestock and fish production. As a consequence, the supply and

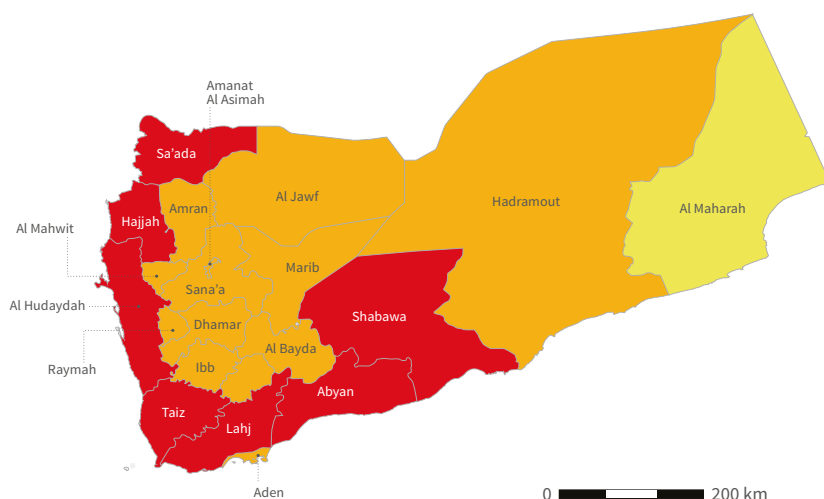
availability of locally produced food at markets is decreasing significantly, having devastating effects on the livelihoods and the nutrition situation.

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 must therefore be an integral part of the humanitarian response to prevent Yemen's dire food security situation from worsening.

## Food security situation

March – July 2017



### IPC Phase Classification



## Current FAO response



### Emergency livelihood kits

More than 16 200 people have received emergency agriculture assistance (cereal and 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

200 tonnes of animal feed concentrate distributed



### Improve and diversify income and livelihoods

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

[www.fao.org/emergencies/crisis/fightingfamine](http://www.fao.org/emergencies/crisis/fightingfamine)

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