



Famine response and prevention

Northeastern Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen



9.8 million

people on the brink of famine
(IPC Phase 4)



30 million

people severely food insecure
(IPC Phase 3, 4 and 5)



80%

rely on agriculture for
their livelihood



USD 340 million

required

The world faces the largest food crises in 70 years, with more than 10 million people in four countries — northeastern Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen — on the brink of famine, and a further 30 million severely food insecure.

Famine has already been declared in parts of South Sudan, where 100 000 people are at risk, 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 assistance. 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, working around the clock 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 remote 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

5.2 million people •
severely food insecure
(CH Phase 3, 4 and 5)

1.5 million people •
on the brink of famine
(CH Phase 4 and 5)

South Sudan

5.5 million people •
facing severe food insecurity by July
(IPC Phase 3, 4 and 5)

1 million people •
on the brink of famine
(IPC Phase 4)

100 000 people •
currently in famine
(IPC Phase 5)

Yemen

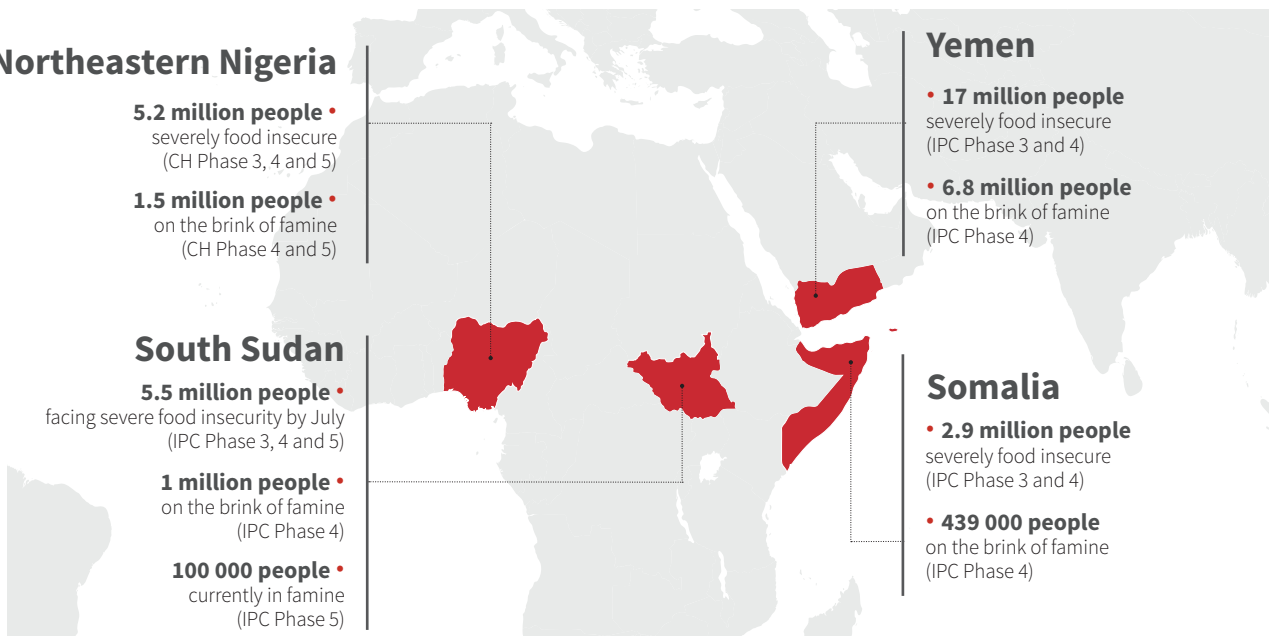
• **17 million people**
severely food insecure
(IPC Phase 3 and 4)

• **6.8 million people**
on the brink of famine
(IPC Phase 4)

Somalia

• **2.9 million people**
severely food insecure
(IPC Phase 3 and 4)

• **439 000 people**
on the brink of famine
(IPC Phase 4)



Northeastern Nigeria



USD 62 million

(USD 10.2 million received to-date)



5.2 million

people in CH Phases 3, 4 and 5 in three states of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe (projected *Cadre Harmonisé* analysis)



>80%

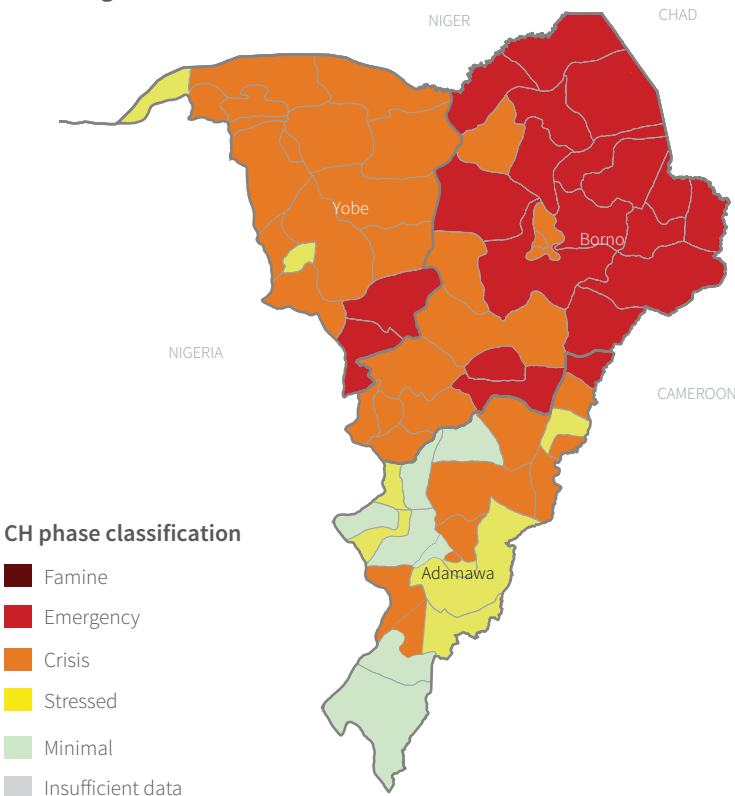
depend on agriculture

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 priorities:



2017 main season

Fast-maturing nutrient-rich cereal and pulse seeds, fertilizers, seed multiplication assistance, post-harvest storage, vegetable & fruit production, food processing, agricultural infrastructure



Alternative livelihoods support (year-round)

Viable, sustainable aquaculture, livestock infrastructure, animal health, livestock feed and restocking, SAFE kits for women (fuel-efficient stoves, solar lanterns, whistles), agriculture and market rehabilitation-related cash transfers.

Somalia



USD 160 million

(USD 70 million received to-date)



2.9 million

people in IPC Phases 3 and 4



>90%

of people in IPC Phase 4 are in rural areas

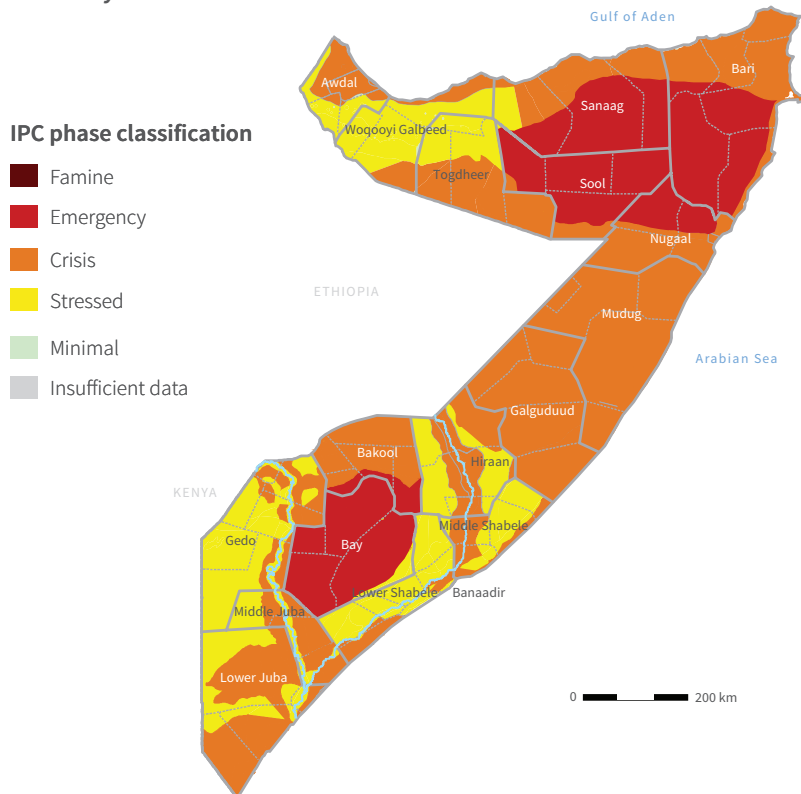
Over the last six months, the number of people most at risk of hunger in Somalia – in IPC Phases 3 and 4 – more than doubled to 2.9 million. Among them, those on the brink of famine in IPC Phase 4 increased twenty-fold to 439 000 people. Consecutive seasons of poor rainfall and low river levels have led to crop failures and left farmers without seeds to plant, cut wage labour income by at least 50 percent, and increased food and water prices throughout Somalia. In northern pastoral areas, where families rely entirely on livestock to survive, massive livestock losses and destitution are reported. As livelihoods and coping strategies erode, people are becoming destitute and migrating out of rural areas. With forecasts indicating below-average rain in most of the country during the coming *Gu* season, a further

deterioration of food security is possible.

The warnings are clear: in a worst-case scenario where (i) the 2017 *Gu* (April-June) season performs very poorly, (ii) purchasing power declines to levels seen in 2010/2011, and (iii) humanitarian assistance is unable to reach populations in need, famine (IPC Phase 5) is expected.

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



FAO's priorities:



Cash

Cash-for-work and unconditional cash transfers to meet immediate food (and water) needs



Livelihood support and cash ("Cash+")

Restore food production while ensuring families meet their immediate food needs



Emergency livestock support

Save livestock assets and related food and income

South Sudan



USD 70 million
(USD 22 million received to-date)



4.9 million
people in IPC Phases 3, 4 and 5



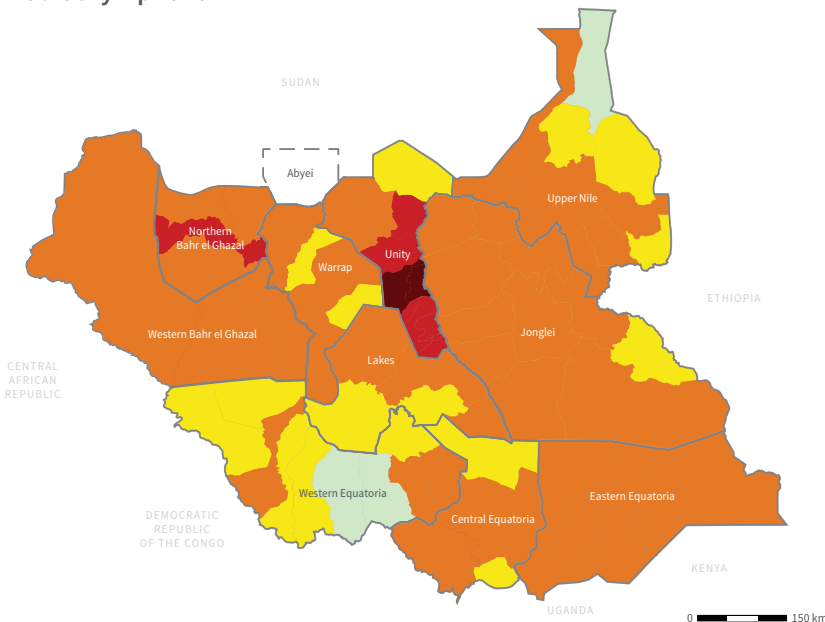
>80%
depend on agriculture

Over 100 000 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

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

FAO's priorities:



Emergency livelihood support

Livelihood inputs for the 2017 agricultural campaign and dry season, livestock vaccination and treatment, voucher scheme to increase nutrition, and urban agriculture



Increase seed production

Inputs, training and extension in accessible areas seed fairs

Yemen



USD 48.4 million
required



17 million
people in IPC Phases 3 and 4



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.

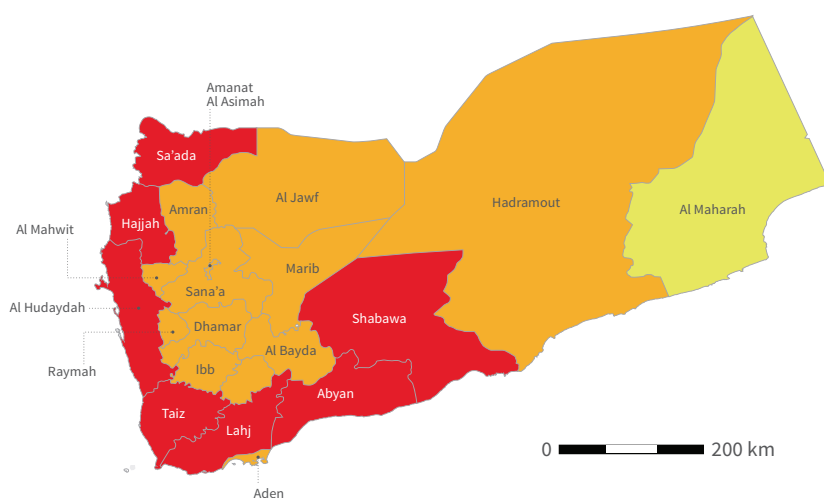
The ongoing conflict has severely affected the agriculture sector, causing extensive losses in crops, livestock and fish production. As a consequence, the

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 priorities:



Emergency livelihood kits

Agricultural kits and tools, vegetable production kits, and irrigation systems



Emergency protection of livestock

Vaccination and treatment, animal feed and training of community animal health workers



Alternative livelihoods support

Cash-for-work programmes initiated; poultry and bee keeping initiatives and support for fishing provided



www.fao.org/emergencies | www.fao.org/resilience