



Famine Appeal: Nigeria, South Sudan, Somalia and Yemen

There is a severe hunger emergency across four countries. According to the United Nations, it is the largest humanitarian crisis since 1945. Twenty million people in South Sudan, Somalia, Nigeria and Yemen are at risk of famine and in parts of South Sudan famine has already been declared.

By Country:

Somalia: Two consecutive droughts, combined with ongoing conflict, have led to more than six million people needing humanitarian assistance because of a severe lack of food and water.

Many Somalis are pastoralists, meaning they depend on buying and selling livestock for their livelihoods. Because of the drought, the water sources and grazing land for their animals are quickly disappearing, and livestock are dying off.

Other Somalis are small-scale farmers who grow their food on small plots of land. Drought has caused their crops to wither and die. Government leaders in Somalia face significant challenges. Food prices are high due to prolonged conflict, and poor health infrastructure and lack of clean water means illnesses that would normally be preventable or treatable are causing people to die.

The 2011 famine in Somalia killed 260,000 people, many of them children.

South Sudan: Violent conflict in South Sudan has led to a declaration of famine in parts of the country.

The conflict has forced over three million people to flee their homes in search of safety. Many South Sudanese are small-scale farmers, and because of the war, can't get to their fields to grow the food they depend on. Others are unable to access their livestock herds due to the insecurity. Famine has been declared in Unity State, affecting about 100,000 people and another 4.9 million people (42% of the population) are in need of urgent food assistance.

Nigeria: Boko Haram, an Islamic militant group based in Nigeria, has created chaos in the north-east area of the country. The region is already poor, and the insurgency of Boko Haram has left it devastated. Insecurity means farmers haven't been able to plant their crops. 14 million people need humanitarian assistance.

Yemen: Two years of civil war in Yemen has threatened the lives of millions of people. Almost two thirds of the population (18.8 million people) are in need of humanitarian assistance. 17 million people are food insecure, and seven million "do not know where their next meal is coming from and are at risk of famine."

What is famine?

Famine happens when people are dying due to lack of food. The Foodgrains Bank recognizes the definition of famine as set out in the [Integrated Food Security Phase Classification](#), which says that for famine to be declared, 20% of an area's population must be experiencing an extreme lack of food, 30% must be suffering from acute malnutrition, and a minimum of 2 out of every 10,000 people are dying from hunger each day.

Why is it important to respond before famine is declared?

If we wait until famine has been declared before we respond it means we're too late—people are already dying.

Responding before a famine is declared can help avoid needless death and suffering, and prevents people from using up their stored grain and selling off livestock—all things that make recovering after the famine has ended much easier.

How is the Foodgrains Bank through its members responding?

Somalia: Through ERDO, the Foodgrains Bank is providing 850 vulnerable households (about 6,000 people) across six villages in northern Somalia with five monthly cash transfers they can use to purchase locally available food.

Through ADRA Canada, the Foodgrains Bank is providing 1,000 households in the South West state with four monthly emergency vouchers redeemable at approved local shops for a set amount of rice, beans, sorghum and other household staples. Many of the people benefitting from this project have come to this region in search of food after losing all their livestock, as well as widowed and child-headed households.

South Sudan: Since December 2013 when the conflict began, the Foodgrains Bank has committed over \$6 million dollars to providing emergency food and nutrition assistance to over 114,000 people.

Through World Relief Canada, the Foodgrains Bank is supporting emergency nutrition clinics in Unity State, the region suffering from famine. Through this project, children and mothers are being screened for malnutrition. Children suffering from severe acute malnutrition, meaning that without treatment they are close to death, are receiving treatment through emergency therapeutic feeding. Through another project with World Relief Canada, we are also providing emergency food assistance to conflict-affected

people in and around the capital city of Juba.

In neighbouring Uganda, where roughly 700,000 South Sudanese have fled in search of safety, the Foodgrains Bank is responding through ERDO to the needs of 2,500 pregnant and nursing mothers who have arrived in the country severely malnourished.

Nigeria: Through World Renew, the Foodgrains Bank is distributing emergency cash vouchers to 750 households (about 5,250 people) facing severe hunger. The households can use the vouchers to purchase food in local markets.

I hear the Government of Canada is matching my donation to your Famine Appeal. How does that work?

When you make a donation to our Famine Appeal, the Government of Canada will match that amount on a 1:1 basis. The government will then put their match into its Famine Relief Fund, together with matching funds from other organizations across Canada. After June 30, organizations responding to at least one of the four crises are chosen by the government to receive those funds. That means your matched donation does not necessarily go to the Foodgrains Bank, although it will still go toward helping end hunger.

Is my donation to the Famine Appeal still matched 4:1 by the Canadian government?

Your donation to the Famine Appeal is eligible to be matched on a 4:1 basis through the Foodgrains Bank's ongoing agreement with the Canadian government. This is in addition to the 1:1 match mentioned above.

What can I do?

Give: Help us provide for the 20 million people affected by extreme hunger and famine. You can make a donation online at www.foodgrainsbank.ca/donate-now/ or mail a cheque to Canadian Foodgrains Bank, Box 767, Winnipeg, MB, R3C 2L4.

Pray: Pray for those affected. Find prayers and resources for South Sudan, Yemen, Nigeria and Somalia here: <http://foodgrainsbank.ca/news/prayers-and-resources-for-the-current-humanitarian-crisis/>

Advocate: Let the Canadian government know you think responding to emergency hunger situations is important. Send a letter or email your member of Parliament to show them Canadians care about those who are affected or at risk of famine overseas. For tips on communicating with the Canadian government go to <http://foodgrainsbank.ca/get-involved/advocacy/>

For more information visit www.foodgrainsbank.ca or call 1.800.665.0377.

Foodgrains Bank members: ADRA Canada (Adventist Development and Relief Agency) * Canadian Baptist Ministries * Canadian Lutheran World Relief * Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada * Development & Peace—Caritas Canada (Canadian Catholic Church) * Emergency Relief & Development Overseas (Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada) * Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada * Mennonite Central Committee Canada * Nazarene Compassionate Ministries Canada * Presbyterian World Service & Development * Primate's World Relief & Development Fund (Anglican Church of Canada) * The Salvation Army * The United Church of Canada * World Relief Canada * World Renew (Christian Reformed Church)