

EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM  
JUNE 2017

# HUNGER AND FAMINE CRISES

This is the largest hunger emergency in the world. A crisis we cannot ignore. We can still stop the spread of famine and prevent a catastrophic loss of life if we act now.



Photo credit: Tina Hillier/Oxfam

Countries tip into famine and dangerous levels of hunger when people are unable to find, grow, or pay for food. Chronic poverty is part of the cause, coupled with weak governance and conflict—especially when the fighting displaces families, cutting them off from outside assistance, while destroying their markets and making it impossible for them to make a living or work their fields.

## OXFAM'S RESPONSE

### South Sudan

More than 5 million people in South Sudan (40 percent of the population) are facing extreme hunger, and 7.5 million people (60 percent of the population) are in need of humanitarian aid. Oxfam has been providing clean water and sanitation services to help prevent the spread of diseases—like cholera and diarrhea—which can lead to malnutrition and prove fatal. In 2016, we helped more than 600,000 people across the country. We are currently providing emergency food to 415,000 people. Many people have fled famine-hit areas and made their way to Panyijar County in Unity State, where we have helped about 40,000 of the most vulnerable. Some of

them are now living in a swampy area on remote islands to escape the conflict and Oxfam has been helping them with travel vouchers, so they can take canoes to food distribution points.

“ I moved here because of the drought. I lost my livestock. I had shoats and camels. Before, I used to have 60 animals, now I just have 20. I have one camel which is still alive. I have 5 children living with me. I had 11 children. One is being looked after by my aunt, two have gone to stay with their father to look for our camel. I am worried about my children now. What will they eat? We are getting some help – we have some food and water. We need many things. We need food which is nourishing. Food is our biggest need. ”

ABOVE: Fadumo (32) - Pastoralist

### Nigeria

In northeast Nigeria, Oxfam has helped about 245,000 people since May 2014. We have been providing families with emergency food, and cash or vouchers so they can buy food in local markets. We have also been working to provide clean water and better sanitation services. Oxfam is also helping refugees

from Nigeria and others affected by the conflict in neighboring Chad and Niger.

### Somaliland

We have reached over 31,000 people in the Sool and Sanaag Regions with clean water, sanitation services and cash assistance for food. With your support, we hope to significantly expand our work to help over 200,000 more people over the next 12 months.

### Ethiopia

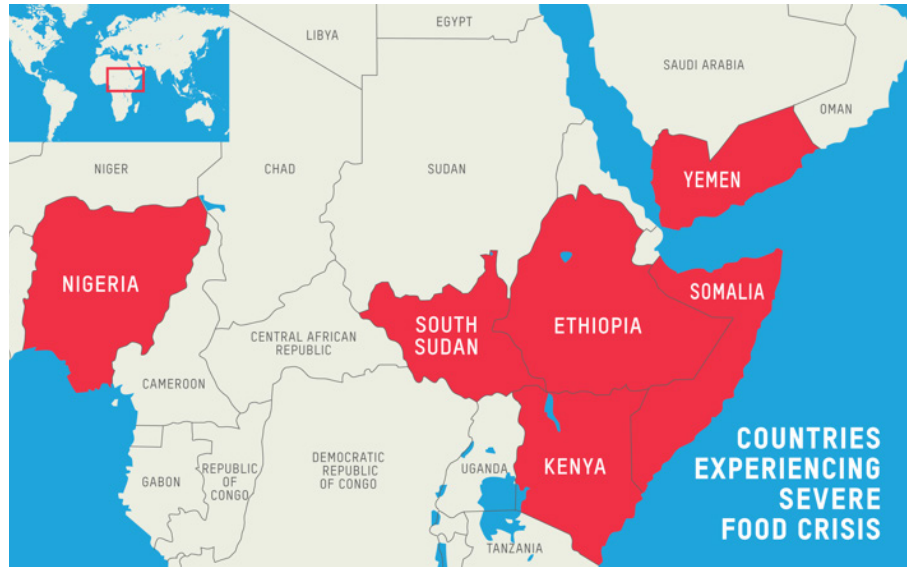
Recurring drought has left communities across Ethiopia struggling to survive. We have reached 318,000 people (and 84 schools and hospitals), providing them with clean water. In the coming months we intend to help 700,000 people with clean and safe water, sanitation, and cash to help families buy food and keep their livestock alive.

### Kenya

In parts of northern Kenya, where for years we have worked with communities to help build their resilience to droughts, we are helping communities repair their wells to ensure families can survive this unusually severe emergency. We plan to help 600,000 people over the next six months with cash assistance for food and clean water.

## Yemen

A shocking 17 million people (60 percent of the population) don't know where they'll get their next meal, with seven million on the verge of famine in Yemen. Since July 2015 Oxfam has reached more than one million people in eight governorates of Yemen with water and sanitation services, cash assistance, and food vouchers. In response to an outbreak of cholera, Oxfam is delivering water, sanitation, and hygiene to help prevent the spread of the disease. The delivery of clean water, the cleaning and chlorination of water sources, along with the building of latrines and the organization of hygiene awareness sessions have benefitted 920,000 people, including 380,000 children.



## DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT

On May 24th, 2017 the Government of Canada announced for every eligible donation made by individual Canadians to registered Canadian charities between March 17th and June 30th, 2017, the Government of Canada will contribute an equivalent amount to Global Affairs Canada's Famine Relief Fund. This fund will support Canadian and international organizations currently hard at work helping those in need in the affected countries and neighbouring regions.



Photo Credit: Allan Gichigi / Oxfam

## YOUR GIFT IS PROVIDING LIFE-SAVING ACTIVITIES LIKE:

- Clean water for drinking, cooking, and bathing is essential in any humanitarian emergency to avoid deadly water-borne diseases like cholera. But any stomach ailment from dirty water or poor hygiene will rob people of the nutrition they can derive from whatever food they can find. Children under five are particularly vulnerable. Oxfam helps improve and repair wells, and trucks in water to areas where there is none.
- Proper sanitation is also essential for preventing disease. Oxfam helps construct latrines, and distributes hygiene items like soap so people can wash their hands.
- When food is available in markets, but might be scarce or very expensive for some, Oxfam distributes cash (sometimes in exchange for labor). Oxfam also distributes emergency food when necessary.
- In areas where farmers can plant crops, Oxfam is helping supply seeds, tools, and other assistance so people can grow their own food. We also help farmers raising livestock with veterinary services, animal feed, and in some cases we distribute animals to farmers to help restock their herds.
- Oxfam works with a network of local partners to help farmers improve and insure their harvests, create drought early-warning systems, and help people find other ways of earning money for food when crops fail. Much of the water and sanitation work Oxfam does is in close collaboration with local groups.

LEFT: Across Somaliland, water levels have rapidly declined and widespread loss of livestock is devastating communities who depend upon them for milk, meat and to make a living. There is an increasingly serious threat of water-borne diseases, and rising food prices make it increasingly difficult for families to cope. Oxfam has been trucking clean water to over 20,000 people in Sanaag and Sool Regions.

## THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OXFAM'S LIFE-SAVING RESPONSE TODAY!

Oxfam is a global movement of people working together to end the injustice of poverty. With 70 years of experience in more than 90 countries, Oxfam takes on the big issues that keep people poor: inequality, discrimination and unequal access to resources including food, water and land. We help people save lives in disasters, build stronger futures for themselves and hold the powerful accountable. To join our efforts or learn more, go to [oxfam.ca](http://oxfam.ca). Oxfam Canada is a member of Oxfam International. Charitable Registration No. 12971 6866 RR0001. 39 McArthur Avenue, Ottawa ON K1L 8L7.

