

# DP IB Geography: SL



Your notes

## Stakeholders in Food & Health

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## The Role of International Organisations in Food & Health

# International Organisations Food & Health

## Roles of International Organisations

- **International organisations** are important in the fight against **food insecurity** and **disease**
- They provide:
  - Key **policies** for food provision
  - **Funding** for food production and consumption
  - **Education**
  - **Research**
- They also influence the **Nutrition Transition**, working towards improving food and reducing disease

## World Food Programme

- **The World Food Programme (WFP)** was founded by the United Nations in 1961
- **Mission:** Ending the global hunger crisis and food insecurity, and supporting sustainable development
  - Food support during emergencies and crises
  - Helping communities with nutrition and resilience
  - Development aid and relief
- Main focus points of the WFP:
  - **Emergency response and preparedness**
    - Response to natural disasters, pandemics and conflict
    - Preparing for emergencies, reducing the impact and providing early warning systems
  - **Climate Action**
    - Disasters caused by climate change e.g. floods or droughts can damage food production systems
    - Preparation, mitigation strategies and insurance support
    - **Forecast-based Financing** - providing money to at-risk families, to purchase food and make their homes more resilient to disaster e.g. Bangladesh flooding in 2019



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- **Nutrition**
  - Battling malnutrition (deficiencies and surplus) to support **Sustainable Development**
  - Programmes to support healthy diets for vulnerable groups e.g. pregnant women, children and immunocompromised people (HIV)
- **School-based programmes**
  - Provision of school meals to support child nutrition and education
  - Homegrown school feeding sources food locally, bringing income to local farmers
  - Also working to provide water, sanitation and deworming
- **Small farms**
  - Helping small farms produce sustainable food with business training
  - Improving infrastructures like roads to transport food to markets
- **Resilience**
  - **Food Assistance to Assets Programme** - provides money for people to afford food, so their focus goes towards other vital projects e.g. climate disaster resilience
  - **Cash Assistance** - provision of money or vouchers to improve food choices. This also supports local food production and the economy
  - **Country Strategic Plans** - educating those who work in the public, private and civil sectors, to better mitigate disaster and improve food security. It also provides investment into early warning systems for disasters
    - E.g. The Ethiopian government received support in using drones to track flooding areas
- It is **donation-based** and is currently experiencing a **funding crisis**, with a heavy financial shortfall in 2023
- In 2022, the WFP supported around 160 million people, a new record

## Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)

- Part of the United Nations, which focuses on ending world hunger and ensuring food security
- Founded in 1945
- **Mission:**
  - **Ending food insecurity, malnutrition and world hunger**
  - **Improving sustainability and productivity of agriculture**

- Ensuring agricultural efficiency to reach food security
- **Lower poverty in rural areas**
  - Hunger and food insecurity are higher in rural areas
- **Inclusivity and efficiency in agricultural systems**
  - The globalisation of agriculture has caused inequality for small-scale farmers
- **Disaster protection**
  - Natural disasters or conflicts can affect vital food resources, impacting those dependent on food production and consumption
- An example of an FAO programme:
  - **Brazil-FAO International Cooperation Programme:**
    - School feeding projects in Latin America and the Caribbean
    - Latin America and the Caribbean Without Hunger 2025 initiative
    - Sustainable Rural Development in Latin America and the Caribbean
    - Development of sustainable **aquaculture** in Latin America and the Caribbean



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## World Health Organization

- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** is the leader in health emergency response
- The organisation:
  - Is working towards improving **health care access**, preventing **diseases** and supporting **wellbeing**
  - Is part of the **United Nations**
  - Was founded in **1948**
  - Working towards **Goal 3 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals:**
    - *'Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages'*
  - Funded through the 194 member states' **'memberships'** and other **voluntary donations** from organisations and the private sector
  - Vital for leading the world on health advances, research, creating policies and tracking world health
  - Led successes e.g. the eradication of smallpox

## Role of Governments

- Governments are vital in providing policies and research that support food security:



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- **Import policies and subsidies e.g. the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)**
  - **Stabilises** food supply, **protects** farmers and their money, and **maintains** the environment and rural beauty
  - Ensures food is of good quality, safe and affordable
  - Ensures there is enough food
  - Improves standard of living for farmers
  - Main ideas:
    - **Viable food production**
    - **Sustainable resource management**
    - **Balancing rural development**
  - CAP uses roughly 40% of the EU's budget
  - It has been criticised as it increases **prices** for consumers and increases **competition** for developing countries
  - It has also resulted in food dumping from an **overproduction** of food
- **Local projects, e.g. in the UK**
  - Free school meals
  - **Meals on wheels**
- **Government support in combatting disease:**
  - **Laws or policies for disease control**
    - **COVID-19** lockdowns, border closures and other mitigation strategies
    - **Ebola** in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; the **CDC** supported the country with personnel aid, including surveillance, testing, tracing and education
  - **Vaccine rollouts**
    - Global **COVID-19 vaccine**
    - The **Malaria Vaccine** Implementation Programme 2019 (by the WHO) began the rollout of the first malaria vaccine
  - **Health education**
    - In 2008, the Chinese Government introduced the **National Health Literacy Promotion Project**
      - Media advertisements about important healthcare information

- Health literacy to become part of school learning
- Health education in workplaces and other public areas
- Extra support where development is lower



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## Role of NGOs

- NGOs or Non-Governmental Organisations are non-profit or charity organisations
- This means they are primarily donation and volunteer-based

## The Trussel Trust

- This is a UK-based **foodbank initiative**
- There are 1300 Trussel Trust foodbanks across the country
- The organisation:
  - Provides food to those in need, through **food donations**
  - Provides support to help improve people's lives
  - Works towards **ending** the need for UK food banks
- In 2022/2023, the Trussel Trust provided nearly 3 million food parcels

## NothingButNets (United to Beat Malaria)

- This is part of the **United Nations Foundations**
- It is a **grassroots** organisation, working to combat Malaria
- The organisation:
  - Has supported 39 million people with nets and other resources
  - Pushes for more global assistance and funding
  - Gives high priority for the most **vulnerable** groups e.g. children, pregnant women, displaced people and rural communities

## MSF (Medecins Sans Frontiers) – Doctors Without Borders

- Provides **Medical support** to those in need e.g. people hit by disasters, conflicts, epidemics
- Founded in 1971 by French doctors, following the war in Nigeria
- The founding principles of MSF are:
  - **Impartiality**

- Independence
- Neutrality
- Bearing witness to inequalities
- Being transparent
- Donation-based, with volunteers and permanent staff



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## Transnational Corporations & Food Consumption



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# The Influence of Transnational Corporations & Food Consumption

## Transnational Corporations (TNCs)

- **Transnational Corporations (TNCs)** are companies that operate globally
- As a result of **globalisation**, TNCs have developed
  - TNCs are companies which operate in two or more countries
  - As communications and transport have improved so have the number of TNCs
- TNCs are **powerful** and can majorly influence our food consumption habits

## Agribusinesses

- **Agribusiness** is the different stages of commercial agriculture, controlled by a TNC
- They operate through:
  - **Expansion** (purchasing smaller holdings)
  - **Deforestation** and **land clearing** to increase the size of the land cultivated
  - **Monoculture** (in large amounts)
  - Heavy **pesticide** and **fertiliser** use
  - Using **technologies** and **high-yielding seed** varieties
- Agribusinesses are **vertically integrated**
- **Examples** of Agribusinesses include:
  - Cargill
  - Syngenta
  - Alpha Foods
  - Monsanto
  - DuPont
- Agribusinesses **lower costs** for consumers as large-scale production is cheaper





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- They increase **food security** globally through **exports**
  - This improves food access for areas with food shortages
- TNCs control **where food is sold**
  - TNCs bring in more 'Westernised' products into nonwestern developing countries
  - This can impact nutrition patterns (and resulting nutrition-related diseases)
- Through **monoculture**, TNCs control the **food market**
  - Farmers grow whatever TNCs require, meaning farmers grow fewer cultural or local foods
  - Consumers therefore have less choice
- TNCs focus on **food enjoyment**, rather than providing foods that are nutritious
  - This encourages people to **buy and consume more**

## The influence of the media

- TNCs often use the **media** to shape people's consumption patterns
- TNCs **market** or **advertise** their products, to encourage consumption
- As LICs develop, they become more **technologically connected**
  - TNCs can then advertise via the media
- This could be both good and bad:
  - Marketing of **highly processed foods** can impact **obesity** rates and other **food-related diseases**
  - May impact **younger people**, as adverts are more appealing to the younger generation
    - Some adverts have **pester power**, so parents purchase unhealthy foods for their children
  - Can completely change **attitudes** toward foods e.g. **the avocado**
    - Avocados were previously an unknown fruit - the alligator pear
    - The negativity surrounding high-fat diets during the 1980s impacted the sale of avocado
    - An avocado mascot appeared - Mr Ripe Guy!
    - The Superbowl marketed the humble avocado, with a guacamole recipe competition with NFL players
    - Through major advertising, avocados are now a hugely successful commodity
- Foods are advertised as **convenient** and **quick**, which panders to the majority of the population

- Using **celebrities** and **well-known/trusted individuals** influences more people
- The growth of **TikTok** and other **social media platforms** allows TNCs to gain greater influence over people's diets



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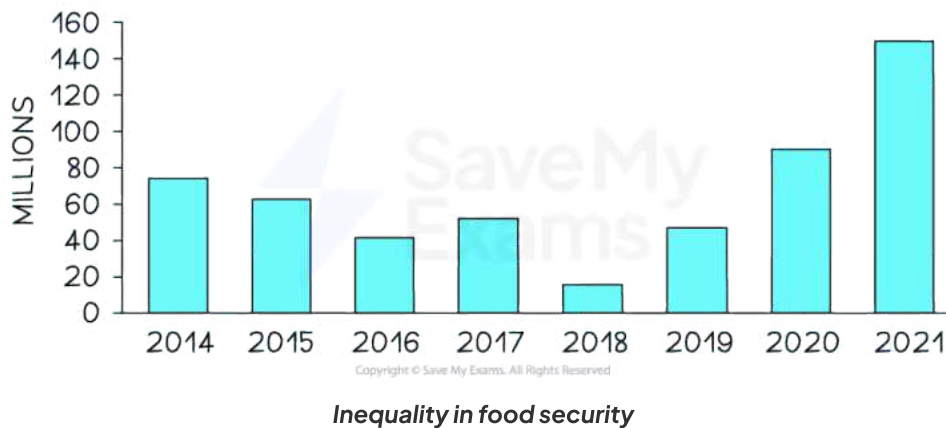
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## Gender Roles, Food & Health

# Gender Roles & Food Production

## Women in food production

- Women are more at risk of **food insecurity** as a result of gender disparities in the **division of labour**, **decision making** and **resource access** within agriculture



- If men and women had **equality** in food production, **productivity** would be higher:
  - Supporting **food security**
  - Reducing poverty** and **growing the economy**
  - Supporting the move to **sustainable agriculture**
- With higher incomes from food production, women could spend more money on education and healthcare
  - This would boost **development levels**

## Division of labour

- The **division of labour** can impact food production
- Typically in the developing world:
  - Men take the lead in **large-scale commercial** agriculture
  - They will undertake the physical tasks within agriculture:

- Ploughing
- Transporting food
- Women tend to take a more **subsistence** role:
  - Weeding, planting or looking after animals
  - Marketing
  - Food preparation
- This division of labour can impact **productivity** and **economic growth**
  - Women miss out on economic growth opportunities and making profit within this sector
  - Productivity within food production may not increase, as women undertake these smaller-scale activities
- **Education** is vital for improving food production and reducing food insecurity and malnutrition
  - Men have higher education rates
  - Many girls still do not have equal access to schooling

## Decision-making

- Within the agricultural industry, men tend to make more of the **decisions** e.g. the types of crops, distribution and finances
- Women typically don't contribute to decision-making
- Particularly in the developing world, this is a major **cultural barrier**
- **Female empowerment** in decision-making is vital to improving income

## Resource Access

- Women have less access to large-scale agriculture, credit, funding and land **tenure**
- Men typically have better access to **agricultural resources**
  - These resources support agricultural production
- Women struggle to find or **afford** tools and technology
  - Lower incomes or lack of funding mean women cannot afford to buy high-quality seeds, pesticides, fertilisers or other vital resources to boost productivity
- Land is often passed down to men **generationally**
  - Less land means lower yields
  - Women are less likely to put effort into land that isn't theirs



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- Women struggle to access markets, reducing their incomes
- In some countries, **governments** may limit women's access to resources
- Women also use their **time** for other activities like collecting freshwater or caring for family
  - This means women may struggle to be productive in the agricultural sector

## Closing the gender gap

- Many strategies are being put in place to combat these issues
- Several projects work to support women in agriculture:
  - **PepsiCo and CARE in Uganda**
    - Providing education and technology to female farmers to help grow sustainable crops
    - 'Closing the Crop Gap' is an awareness campaign, where women speak their experiences to the world
  - **The World Bank**
    - Women in agriculture are now at the forefront of their goals
    - Supporting women in accessing land and incomes
  - **Feed the Future (US government's food initiative)**
    - Provided 2.4 million women with skills in agriculture
    - Helped 420,000 women access financial support

## Gender Roles & Disparities in Health

### Females and health

- Women have longer **life expectancies** than men
  - Gender inequality impacts the health of females
  - They may have higher rates of age-related diseases like arthritis or depression
- Women in developing countries may have more **gynaecological** issues. This is because:
  - The issues are a **Taboo** topic
  - There may be rules around male doctors/health carers touching women
- During **pregnancy**, lack of healthcare access in developing countries may result in higher rates of deficiency-related diseases



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- This can impact the health of newborn babies
- Women may be more likely to be in **poverty**, due to lower rates of **stable employment**
  - Poverty can impact health (poor quality food, lack of healthcare and limited health education)
- Within the health industry, more women tend to work as carers or nurses (in health and social care)
  - In developing countries, education rates for women are lower
  - Results in more **male doctors**
  - This can result in **discrimination** towards women
- Women have less **autonomy** over their bodies, for example, in sexual relationships
  - This can result in unwanted pregnancy or disease
- Women may not be able to make **decisions** about their bodies and their healthcare options
  - They may not be able to access information about the support they need

## Males and health

- Men typically have **lower life expectancies** than women due to **lifestyle choices**
  - Men may eat more unhealthy foods or may be more likely to drink more alcohol and smoke
  - More likely to be involved in violent or dangerous activities
  - May have multiple sexual partners, increasing their risk of sexually transmitted diseases
- Outdated concepts of **masculinity**
  - **'Manning up'** may push men away from finding healthcare

## Gender diversity

- Individuals not conforming to the **gender binary** may be more likely to experience higher rates of mental illness like depression and anxiety
  - **Transgender** individuals may have the same experience
- Transgender people may also face higher rates of **mistreatment** in healthcare
  - They may also experience higher rates of **violence**



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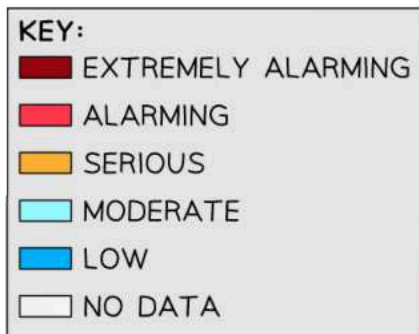
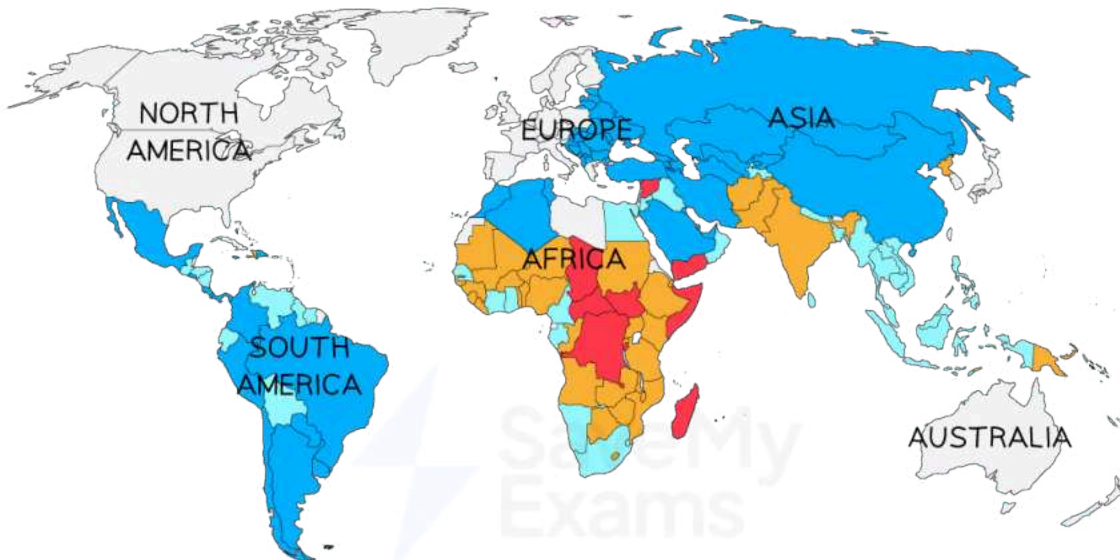


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## Factors Affecting the Severity of Famine

# Factors Affecting the Severity of Famine

- Famine is the result of an **extreme lack of food**
- Famine can cause extreme **malnutrition, starvation** and even **death**
- Numerous factors affect the **severity** of a famine



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*Global pattern of hunger in 2020*

## Governance



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- Some governments do not **prioritise food supply** in their country, resulting in a higher risk of famine
  - In **Liberia**, soils are perfect for agricultural production. However, there is very little access to tools and resources, so more food is imported at a higher price
  - If people can't afford food, this results in a **Food Entitlement Deficit (FED)**
  - In other countries, famine would most likely not occur, as food is produced in **excess** e.g. in more developed countries
- **Conflict** and **corruption** can severely impact food security:
  - If corruption exists in a country, there is very little focus on economic development and providing citizens with food
  - Conflict can cause **displacement**; many people become refugees and have food access restrictions
  - Corrupt governments may also **misuse foreign aid**
  - People may have to spend their vital income on **food bribes**, as there is less food to go around
  - Food may be **weaponised** in a conflict, limiting people's access
  - Conflicts can **damage** crops and kill livestock, reducing food availability
  - If food availability goes down, this results in a **Food Availability Deficit (FAD)**
- How governments deal with famine also impacts the severity
  - The Great Famine of 1845 (potato famine) in Ireland resulted from potato blight
  - The British government **exacerbated** the famine
    - Britain sent in grain as food support, but Ireland didn't have enough infrastructure to process the grain
    - Poor and starving people were forced out of their homes by their British landlords as they couldn't afford rent
    - Exports to the rest of Britain, of meat and other high-quality food products continued throughout the famine

## Power of the media

- **Media campaigns** can make people more aware of a famine situation in another country e.g. the news
  - Images of famine-stricken areas can often play with people's emotions
  - This means that people are more likely to **donate** money



- With the rise of **social media**, this is even more prevalent
- **Celebrities** support fundraising campaigns e.g. Live Aid concerts to raise money for the famine in Ethiopia
- Media campaigns may cover up the root cause of the issue, manipulating viewers and donors
- Continuous media barrages may cause **compassion fatigue**

## Aid availability

- Other countries send food aid or funding to support food shortages after conflicts or disasters
- **Governments** or **non-government organisations (NGOs)** and **charities** donate money
- Aid may be provided but under certain conditions
  - This results in an uneven **power complex**
  - Countries become dependent on aid, making it difficult for future development
- With food aid, **food supplies** will naturally increase in the country
  - This lifts people out of **food insecurity**
  - Increased food supplies cause local food **prices** to go down, impacting local producers
  - Farmers may also be less inclined to produce food
- Food aid may be **stopped** if it is handled incorrectly
  - USAID and the World Food Programme sent food aid to Tigray in Ethiopia in 2023
  - Food was being mishandled, diverted and stolen
  - This resulted in a **Food Pause**, causing even more deaths

## Population

- The global population is growing, resulting in the need for more food
- If the population grows in an area at risk of food shortages, this could increase the risks of famine
- More land is used for housing instead of food production
- **Thomas Malthus**, an economist and demographic theorist, stated that:

**'Famine will be inevitable as the population rises because food production simply cannot keep up'**

- Although there have been many arguments against **Malthusian Theory**, many of Malthus' ideas seem to make sense in less developed nations

## Poverty



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- In areas already facing **extreme poverty**, famine severity may be high
- Farmers may not have access to **technology** to support agricultural production
  - They rely on more **traditional** methods, which may not be productive
- Countries may **export** more of their food, whilst not being able to afford to **import** food, resulting in food shortages
- Countries may have poor-quality **transport infrastructure** to distribute food

## Physical characteristics

- **Climate** can impact how severe a famine may be
  - In places with warmer climates, drought is more likely to occur
  - **Climate change** may bring more severe droughts and reduced rainfall
  - This can impact the success of **crop yields**
  - Droughts that last a long time also create a higher risk of famine
- How the land is used could also impact famine
  - Some land is converted for non-food crops e.g. food for animals or **biofuels**
  - This reduces the amount of land available for food growth, possibly causing or exacerbating existing famine
- **Natural disasters** like hurricanes, flooding or earthquakes can damage crops, causing severe famine



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## Case Study: Famine



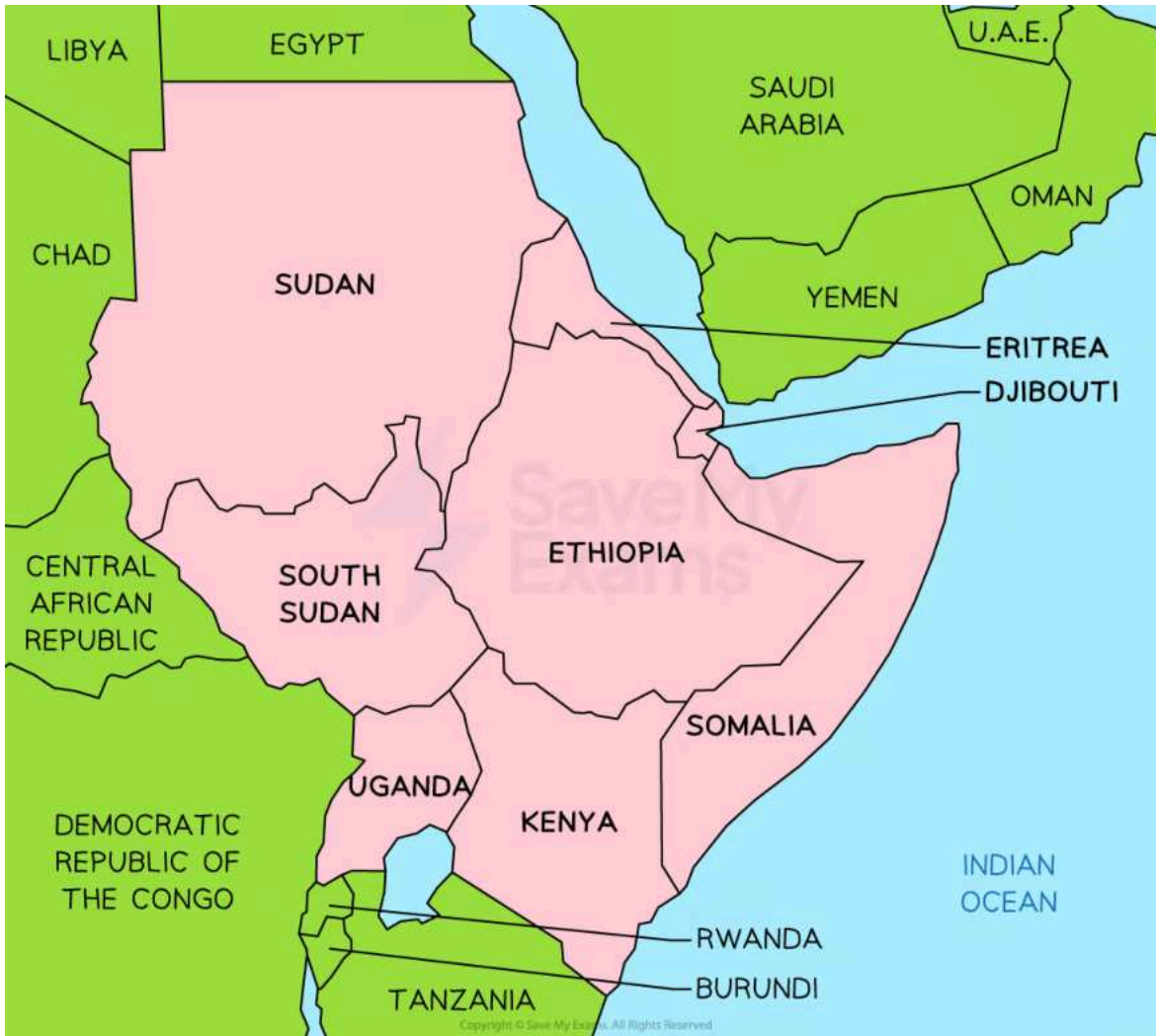
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# Case Study: Famine in the Horn of Africa

- The Horn of Africa is the region in **East Africa**
- The famine began in this area in 2011, affecting Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia
  - It affected roughly **13 million** people in the region
  - Roughly **250,000** people died in Somalia
  - **50%** of these were children under the age of five years old
- As of 2023, another acute famine is **predicted** to arrive



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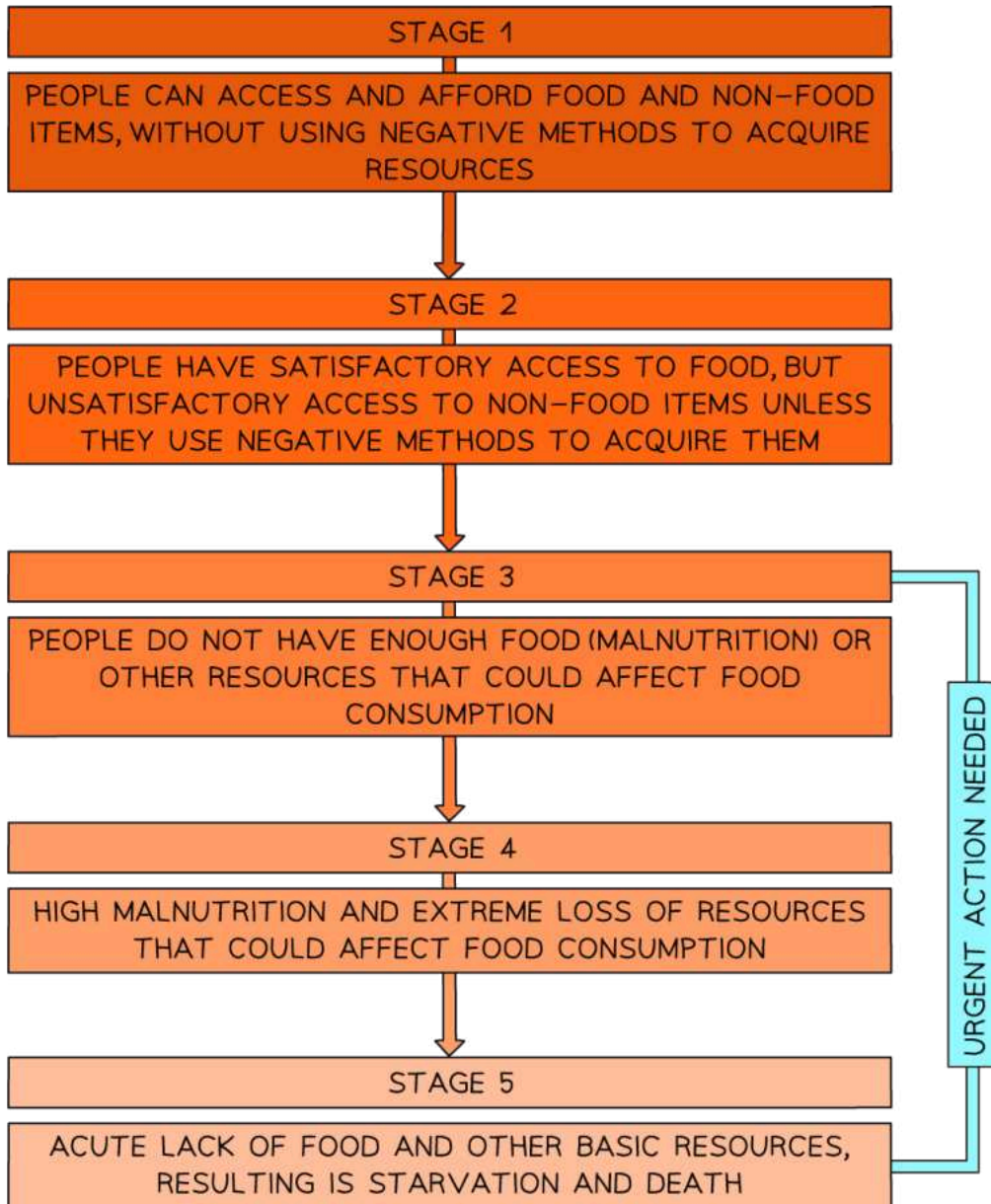
Map of the Horn of Africa

## IPC scale

- The **IPC scale (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification)** measures how severe a famine is
- In 2011, parts of East Africa, e.g. Somalia, hit **phase 5**, a catastrophe
- Other areas, like Kenya, hit **phase 3+**, where urgent action is required



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IPC scale

## Causes of the famine

### Drought

- Drought was one of the major culprits of the 2011 famine
- The area experienced very low rainfall over several years, leading to extreme drought
- This meant crop growth was impossible

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#### *Map of drought-affected areas in 2011 at the Horn of Africa*

## Conflict

- Parts of the Horn of Africa were experiencing conflict, e.g. in Somalia
- The **Siad Barre** regime was removed from power in 1991
- Since then, there has been no leading government, causing conflict
- For years, the country has been riddled with Civil War
- Fighting caused damage to crops
- The **Al-Shabaab militant group** began to rise to power
  - This group caused a blockade of food aid during the famine
  - Al-Shabaab controlled certain areas, where aid was not allowed in
  - Killed aid workers
- Displaced people migrated to Kenya, as a result of the conflict

## Poverty

- The countries in the Horn of Africa were already suffering under extreme poverty
- Farmers don't have access to **technologies** which may increase productivity
- High population rates and regular food shortages are a recipe for disaster
- Food prices increased massively in 2011, like corn and maize
  - This was a result of decreased food supply globally
  - The land was used for the growth of biofuel instead of food e.g. US corn ethanol

## Responses

- The response to the crisis was incredibly slow, roughly 6 months
  - Some donors wanted to see evidence of the crisis, rather than trying to stop it from happening



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- Early warning systems detected the crisis in 2010
- By 2011, malnutrition was high
- **Oxfam funding appeal:**
  - Oxfam worked to bring people and emergency support to the area
  - Raised over \$100 million
- The **UN World Food Programme (WFP)**, the **World Health Organisation (WHO)** and the **UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)** supported relief efforts
- Funds from the **Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)** were funnelled into food aid and other vital areas e.g vaccination and sanitation



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