



## ADDRESSING FAMINE

A famine in South Sudan and looming famines in Nigeria, Somalia and Yemen have put an estimated 20 million people—roughly the populations of Mississippi, Vermont, New Jersey and Virginia combined—at risk of starvation. Approximately [1.4 million children](#) are at imminent risk of death without immediate action by the international community. This massive, multi-country humanitarian crisis may have far-reaching impacts on security and stability in already volatile regions of Africa and the Middle East.

### NIGERIA

[In northeast Nigeria](#), the home of terrorist group Boko Haram, some 2.1 million people are displaced and approximately 4.5 million are in need of food assistance. Many live in dangerous and hard-to-reach places and a disproportionate number are children. Almost 250,000 children are suffering from severe [acute malnutrition](#) and some 49,000 children may die if they are not reached soon.

### SOMALIA

In addition to facing decades of conflict, Somalia has also been the victim of severe droughts—the tripling of water prices and the wiping out of crops and death of livestock has left nearly half of the already fragile population increasingly desperate for assistance. [According to the World Food Programme](#), “as of January 2017, close to 3 million people cannot meet their daily food requirements today and require urgent humanitarian assistance, while another 3.3 million Somalis need livelihood support to keep from sliding into crisis.” In addition, hundreds of thousands of children will face acute malnutrition and potentially starvation.

### SOUTH SUDAN

Years of civil war following South Sudan’s 2011 independence have led to a collapsing economy and internal divisions. By July of this year, the number of people without adequate access to food may reach [5.5 million](#) if nothing is done. Currently, some 100,000 people are on [the brink of starvation](#) and nearly five million are without enough food. Despite fertile land, conflict has made it impossible for farmers to produce crops. Hyperinflation has also meant that prices have increased some 800 percent—the equivalent of a \$3.50 loaf of bread in the U.S. increasing to \$28. For a country where much of the population lives on less than one dollar per day, this level of inflation is a recipe for starvation. One in four South Sudanese children under the age of five is already stunted due to [malnutrition](#).

### YEMEN

Due to ongoing conflict, approximately 65 percent of households in Yemen do not have access to enough food and some 7.3 million need emergency food assistance. UNICEF reports that 462,000 children are suffering from severe acute malnutrition—a nearly 200 percent increase since 2014, making it one of the [highest rates of child malnutrition](#) in the world. The situation in Yemen is now so dire that a [child under five dies every ten minutes](#). Parents are forced to make [horrific decisions](#), including whether to pursue medical attention for one sick child over buying food to feed their other children; they are forced to choose which children live and die.

### SPECIFIC ASK TO CONGRESS

Congress should support **ONE BILLION** in additional money in the FY 2017 budget. This would be a valuable contribution to the \$4.4 billion urgently needed to prevent and contain famine.