What is a famine?

A famine is the worst case scenario of a food crisis. It is declared when alarming measures of mortality, malnutrition and hunger are met - it essentially means people are starving to death right now. This growing humanitarian catastrophe is the result of ongoing conflict, drought and climate change. In many of the countries at risk harvests have failed, water points have dried up and violence has prevented the delivery of much-needed assistance.

We are facing the largest humanitarian crisis since World War II. If the world doesn’t act, the health and lives of millions of people in South Sudan, Somalia, Yemen and Nigeria continue to be in danger.

More than 20 million people are currently at risk – that is the population of the 5 biggest European capitals combined. This includes an estimated 1.4 million children facing death from severe malnutrition.

CARE is responding. Our emergency teams are delivering life-saving assistance. CARE is on the ground right now in all four countries and the surrounding regions. But more help is urgently needed before this crisis escalates further.

“This is the worst drought I have ever experienced. When I first came to the camp there was nothing, no work, no water, no food. I am really glad that I can participate in CARE’s Cash For Work Program and provide for my family.”

Ashha, a 50-year-old mother of six in Somaliland
There is still time to save lives. But we must act now.

In 2011, despite repeated early warnings of a famine and food crisis in Somalia and the Horn of Africa, the global community was too slow to respond and more than 260,000 people died.

While CARE was able to assist more than 2.8 million people in response to this crisis, we cannot allow such a massive loss of life to happen again. We still have time to help people access food and keep hundreds of thousands of women and children from suffering crippling malnutrition.

CARE has scaled up our emergency programming in South Sudan, Somalia, Yemen and Nigeria to meet the growing threat of famine in all four countries.

SOUTH SUDAN

In South Sudan, 6 million people are in urgent need of assistance. Right now, every two minute a child becomes severely malnourished. CARE has reached over 465,000 people providing life-saving assistance. Before famine was declared earlier this year, CARE was already implementing emergency response programs reaching more than 350,000 people. These activities include food assistance, nutrition, livelihood support, health and programs focused on addressing gender-based violence.

We are also prioritizing rapid response assistance in counties that are at risk of falling into famine and building people’s resilience going forward.

SOMALIA

Severe drought has hit the Horn of Africa, affecting Kenya, Ethiopia and particularly Somalia, where more than 6.2 million people are in need of assistance.

CARE Somalia has reached more than 500,000 people in Somaliland, Puntland and south central Somalia with clean water, cash transfers, relief supplies, nutrition and protection assistance for women and girls. CARE plans to reach further 200,000 Somalis in the coming months with crucial humanitarian aid such as food and water.

YEMEN

17 million people are food insecure and need humanitarian assistance. Since the escalation of conflict in March 2015, CARE has reached more than 1.6 million people with food, water, hygiene and sanitation support. CARE also supports people with cash assistance, small loans and training, so people can build up small businesses and have alternative sources of income.

NIGERIA

CARE has been working in the Lake Chad Basin (Chad, Niger, Cameroon) supporting those affected by ongoing conflict in the region. In Nigeria, CARE aims to support 136,000 women and girls with sexual and reproductive health services. CARE plans to scale up its response and provide vital life-saving assistance. Across Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad and Niger 17 million people are in need of assistance.

Your help is urgently needed.

CARE is working with communities to reduce the severity of this hunger crisis, but we need your help to meet the escalating need before it’s too late.

Your donation will help CARE rush emergency support to those countries facing the threat of famine.

Donate now: www.care-international.org