

HUNGER CRISIS

BAPTIST WORLD AID

2024
Christmas
APPEAL

Famine has been declared in Sudan. What exactly is a famine?

Famine is when a population of people are extremely deprived of food, and experience widespread malnutrition, destitution and death from starvation.

- 20 per cent of households in the region face an extreme lack of food
- 30 per cent of children suffer from acute malnutrition
- Two adults or four children for every 10,000 people are dying each day from starvation.

Famine is different from food insecurity, which is when families don't have regular access to enough nutritious food to develop, grow, and be active and healthy. While people experience food insecurity at different levels, acute food insecurity is when lack of food—usually caused by a major shock such as a flood, economic collapse, or conflict—puts a person's life or livelihood in immediate danger.

Famine is an extreme form of acute food insecurity. At this point, food is so scarce that many people face death by starvation.

What Causes Famine?

Many of us think of drought when we hear the word 'famine', but lots of situations can cause catastrophic levels of food insecurity, such as a natural hazard, animal diseases, crop pests, or economic crisis.

One of the most common causes, though, is conflict. Large-scale violence displaces entire communities, making it hard to produce food. Conflict also destroys infrastructure, market centres and transport routes— things that are critical for food distribution in a community.

A region where this is happening right now is Sudan.

**One third of Sudan at risk of starvation.
Famine has officially been declared in the Sudanese city,
El Fasher, where around 600,000 displaced people are living.**

A widespread conflict is driving a catastrophic hunger crisis amongst civilians.

Sudan has experienced an unprecedented displacement crisis since military conflict began in April 2023, with over 10.7 million people forced to flee their homes. The chaos of displacement, combined with soaring food prices and below average agriculture production, has led to acute food insecurity.

In some reports, people are queuing for hours to receive just one meal a day from humanitarian agencies struggling to transport food. If things continue, humanitarian experts predict that 230,000 children, pregnant women and new mothers could die from malnutrition in the coming months.

The Hunger Crisis Appeal as part of our Christmas Appeal will assist Baptist World Aid's Christian Partners serving in places facing acute food insecurity.

Prayer Points

Pray that God would bring an end to the conflict in Sudan and lasting peace

Pray that families who have fled their homes would find shelter, food, clean water and hygiene items

Pray that aid organisations will be able to provide assistance and overcome the barriers to their work

