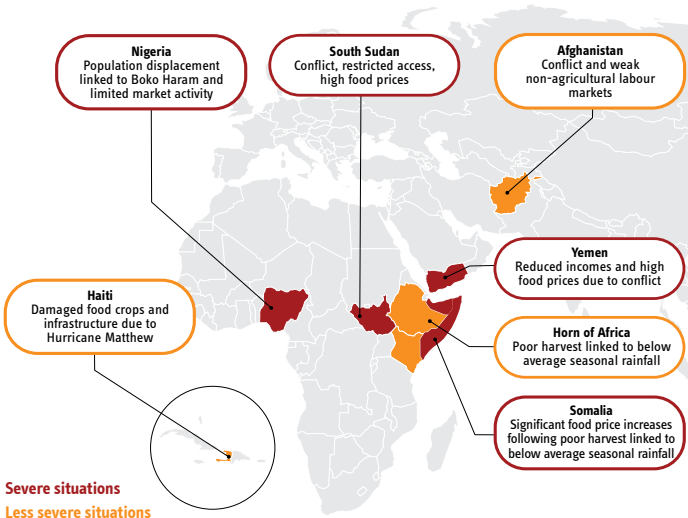


Food insecurity: between past and present

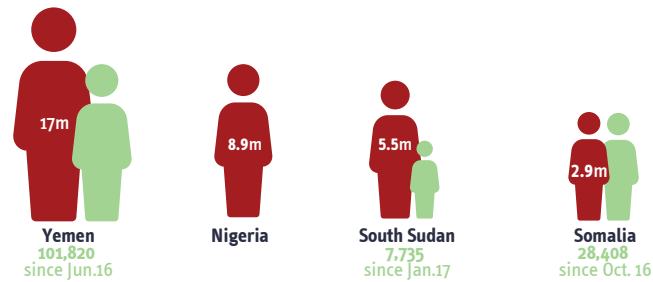
Food crises in four countries have been heavily publicised recently: Nigeria, South Sudan, Yemen and Somalia. 70 million people across 45 countries will require emergency food assistance this year, up from 45 million in 2015. Fatalities are likely to increase further due to concomitant pandemics, as undernourishment weakens the immune system and both food insecurity and illness appear under similar conditions. But what exactly is the current state of play and how is the international community responding?

Current crises and historical trends

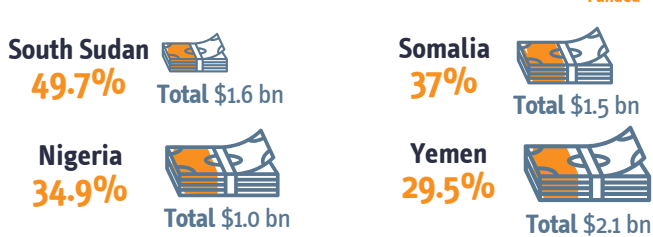
Current food crises



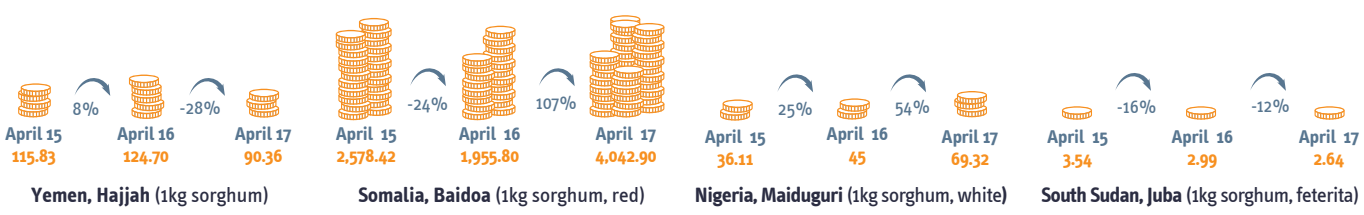
Current food crises: people in crisis, emergency and famine by July 2017



Funding for humanitarian response plans for 2017 (as of 23 June)



Food prices in local currencies (real)

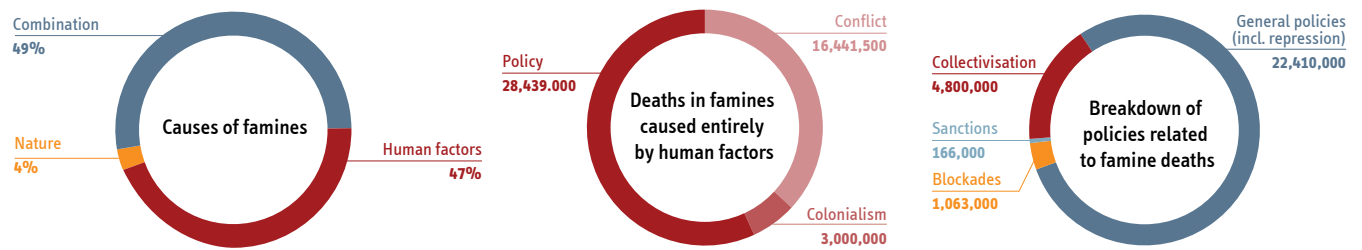


Real (inflation-adjusted) food prices are soaring in Yemen and Somalia, while nominal prices (the price observed in the market), have increased even more substantially in all cases. In the most extreme example of South Sudan, real prices fell by 25% between April 2015 and April 2017, and nominal prices rose by 919%. Funds raised by the international community to respond to these four crises have been limited, and, except in the case of South Sudan, seem unlikely to meet their target.

Methodological note: EUISS analysis based on the World Peace Foundation's 'Famine trends' dataset; the interpretation may differ to that of the creators of the dataset.

Historical famine trends

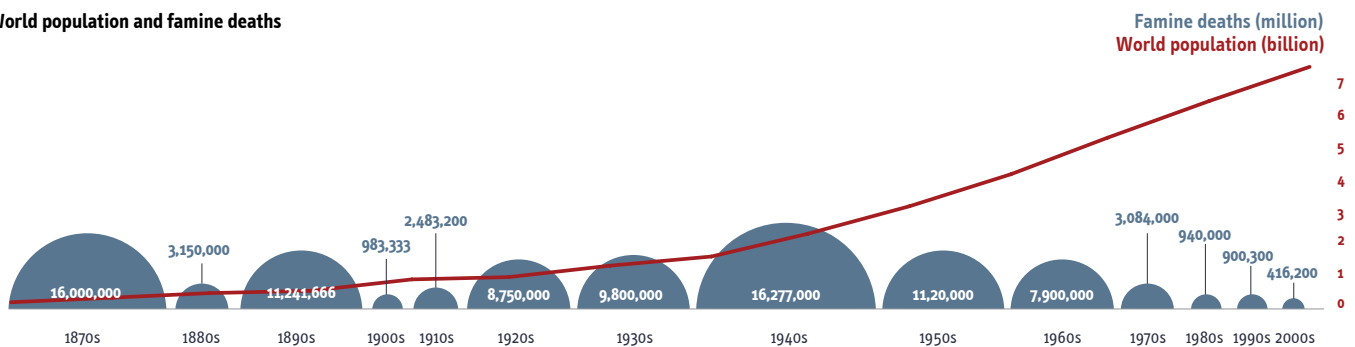
Causes of famines and famine deaths (1870-2010)



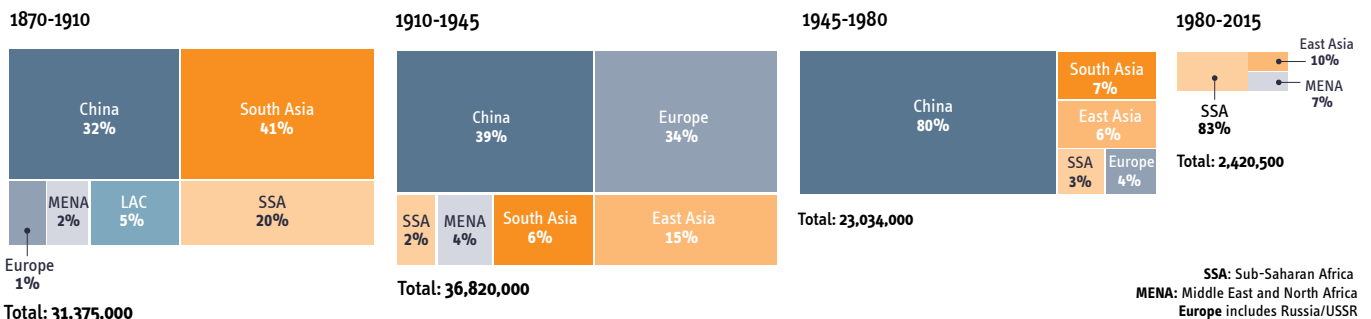
96% of famines since 1870 were caused partially or entirely by man. Of the **57** famines caused by human factors: **30** were due to conflict, **27** due to repression or policy.

Even though the world has become more populous, famine-related deaths have declined quite dramatically in the second half of the 20th century. However, there has been a geographical shift: while until the 1970s famine deaths took place overwhelmingly in China and other parts of Asia, including South Asia, it is Africa which has been the epicentre in recent years.

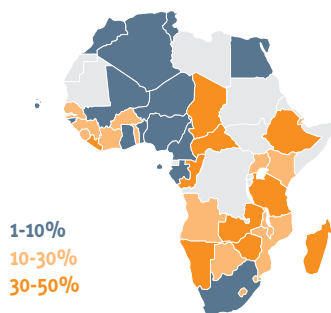
World population and famine deaths



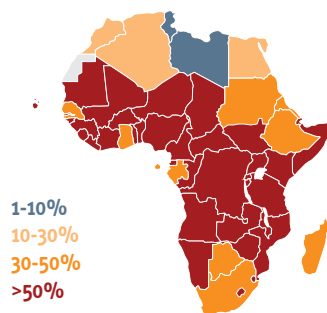
Locations of famines and famine deaths (1870-2010)



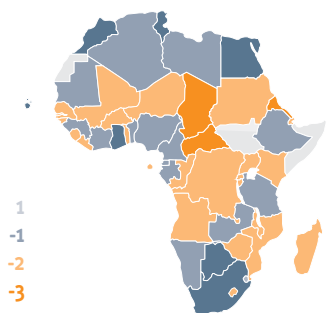
Undernourishment (% population)



Deaths caused by communicable diseases and maternal, prenatal and nutrition conditions (% of total)



Climate change vulnerability (-4 = most vulnerable ; 4 = least vulnerable)



As Africa already suffers from high levels of undernourishment and many deaths due to communicable diseases, the continent seems particularly vulnerable to future famines. Moreover, sub-Saharan Africa is very vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Africa will therefore remain at risk in the future, especially if poor policymaking and conflict persevere.

Data sources: WHO, FEWS.net, FAO, FTS OCHA, World Bank, Tufts Fletcher School (World Peace Foundation)

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