



# WFP: Six Decades of Fighting Famine, Responding to Emergencies and Working to End Hunger

**2017: Famine** is declared in South Sudan in February. In this year some 20 million people in in **South Sudan, Yemen, Somalia and northern Nigeria** live on the brink of famine. Conflict is the main driver of this unprecedented world hunger crisis but drought also plays a part. Massive intervention by WFP and partners helps fight famine and push back the tide of human misery.

**2011: Somalia famine**, brought on by drought and aggravated by insecurity, causes refugees to flee to Ethiopia and elsewhere. The food crisis affects the whole Horn of Africa region and within one year, WFP feeds 1.5 million people.

**2010: In Haiti** more than 230,000 people are killed and 2-3 million forced from their homes when on 12 January 2010, a 7.0 magnitude **earthquake strikes**. Within hours of the quake, WFP begins distributions of high energy biscuits. At the peak of the operation WFP reaches some 4.5 million people with food aid.

**2004:** WFP launches a massive relief operation for victims of the Indian Ocean earthquake and **tsunami** which affects 14 countries including Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, the Maldives, Myanmar, the Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania and Thailand.

**1996: DPRK** is reeling after years of famine triggered by floods. WFP begins shipping food aid, much of it from the USA, to the North Korean people.

**1989: Operation Lifeline Sudan** is launched. Leading a consortium of UN agencies and charities alongside UNICEF, WFP releases 1.5 million tons of food into the skies above what has since become South Sudan. The 20-aircraft, three-sorties-a-day operation remains, to this day, the largest humanitarian airdrop in history.

**1984: Ethiopia** suffers its worst famine in 100 years. Distressing images prompt world public opinion to mobilize with events such as Live Aid and Band Aid. WFP delivers 2 million tons of food in relief operations over two years.

**1970s:** During **famines in the western Sahel** region of Africa, WFP uses everything in its power – from car to camel, from road to river – to assist those in need. Thirty cargo aircraft, drawn from 12 national air forces, take to the air to deliver food.

**1962: Earthquake in northern Iran** in September. More than 12,000 people die. Cataclysmic for its victims, the tremor is also a baptism of fire for the newly-formed **World Food Programme**. Survivors receive in total 1,500 tons of wheat, 270 tons of sugar and 27 tons of tea.

**1960:** Proposed at the UN General Assembly on September 1, the World Food Programme is envisaged as **“a workable scheme” for providing food aid through the UN system** by US President Dwight D. Eisenhower. **WFP is established in 1961.**