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**"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"**

**The Breaking News English.com Resource Book**

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## **3.8 million Kenyans in need of food aid**

[http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/0909/090919-food\\_aid.html](http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/0909/090919-food_aid.html)

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# THE ARTICLE

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/0909/090919-food\\_aid.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/0909/090919-food_aid.html)

Many parts of Kenya are experiencing severe drought, putting at risk the lives of millions. The World Food Programme (WFP) says 3.8 million Kenyans are in need of food assistance. The U.N. agency warns it does not have enough food or money to feed those who need it. WFP spokesperson Josette Sheeran told reporters the organization only had funds to feed around 400,000 people. This means 3.5 million Kenyans could starve. Sheeran said: "The funding shortfall is so severe that we will have to start reducing the size of rations [in October]. The hardship people are facing is going from bad to worse." There are fears a humanitarian crisis will hit Kenya and thousands will starve to death or die of thirst.

The Secretary General of Kenya's Red Cross Society Abbas Gullet said there are serious food shortages throughout his country. Many food prices have gone up by as much as 80 per cent. Another factor raising the alarm for aid agencies is the number of livestock dying. There is not enough food or grazing land for farmers to keep their animals alive. Local communities are fighting each other for access to the little water they can find. Mr. Gullet said: "Farmers cannot sit and watch their livestock die and their livelihoods disappear. So they will fight for every drop of water and metre of grass available." There is such a crisis that Masai farmers are herding their cows in the suburbs of the Kenyan capital, Nairobi.

# WARM-UPS

**1. FOOD AID:** Walk around the class and talk to other students about food aid. Change partners often. Sit with your first partner(s) and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

*severe drought / being at risk / assistance / starving / funding / rations / die of thirst / Red Cross / rising food prices / raising the alarm / livestock / livelihood / the suburbs*

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. HELPING KENYA:** What can we do to help Kenya? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners and share your ideas. Change again and share what you heard. Vote as a class on who has the best ideas.

	How?	Will it work? (Why?)	Will we do it? (Why?)
Us right now			
Using the Internet			
Writing letters			
Collecting money			
Street campaign			
Something crazy			

**4. NEVER AGAIN:** Students A **strongly** believe one day the world will never again let people in Africa die because of a lack of food; Students B **strongly** believe governments will never do enough to help. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**5. CAUSES OF DEATH:** Match the words for these ways of dying. Talk about them with your partner(s). Do they happen in your country?

- |                 |                     |                   |                  |
|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| • lack of food  | • living to be 100  | • freeze to death | • shot to death  |
| • lack of water | • too cold for life | • electrocution   | • suffocation    |
| • electricity   | • can't breathe     | • starve          | • drowned        |
| • in the water  | • from a bullet     | • die of old age  | • died of thirst |

**6. AID:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'aid'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/0909/090919-food\\_aid.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/0909/090919-food_aid.html)

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| a. Many areas of Kenya have had no rain for a long time.                     | T / F |
| b. The UN World Food Programme has insufficient funds to feed Kenyans.       | T / F |
| c. In October, the World Food Programme will give Kenyans more food.         | T / F |
| d. There is very little chance that Kenyans will die due to a lack of water. | T / F |
| e. Even though there are food shortages, food prices remain stable.          | T / F |
| f. Cows and other farm animals cannot find enough grass to eat.              | T / F |
| g. Farmers are fighting each other for water and food for their animals.     | T / F |
| h. There are no signs of the drought in Kenya's capital, Nairobi.            | T / F |

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article.

- |                |                      |
|----------------|----------------------|
| 1. severe      | a. help              |
| 2. assistance  | b. farm animals      |
| 3. funds       | c. all over          |
| 4. size        | d. money             |
| 5. hardship    | e. serious           |
| 6. throughout  | f. income            |
| 7. raising     | g. suffering         |
| 8. livestock   | h. amount            |
| 9. livelihoods | i. residential areas |
| 10. suburbs    | j. increasing        |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |                                    |                      |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. parts of Kenya are experiencing | a. of water          |
| 2. Kenyans are in need of          | b. his country       |
| 3. money to feed                   | c. severe drought    |
| 4. going from bad                  | d. raising the alarm |
| 5. starve to death or die          | e. food assistance   |
| 6. food shortages throughout       | f. Kenyan capital    |
| 7. Another factor                  | g. of thirst         |
| 8. grazing land                    | h. to worse          |
| 9. they will fight for every drop  | i. those who need it |
| 10. the suburbs of the             | j. for farmers       |

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# WHILE READING / LISTENING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/0909/090919-food\\_aid.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/0909/090919-food_aid.html)

**GAP FILL:** Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Many parts of Kenya are experiencing \_\_\_\_\_ drought, putting at risk the lives of millions. The World Food Programme (WFP) says 3.8 million Kenyans are in \_\_\_\_\_ of food assistance. The U.N. agency warns it does not have enough food or money to \_\_\_\_\_ those who need it. WFP spokesperson Josette Sheeran told reporters the organization only had \_\_\_\_\_ to feed around 400,000 people. This means 3.5 million Kenyans could \_\_\_\_\_. Sheeran said: "The funding shortfall is so severe that we will have to start reducing the \_\_\_\_\_ of rations [in October]. The hardship people are facing is going from bad to \_\_\_\_\_. There are fears a humanitarian crisis will hit Kenya and thousands will starve to death or die of \_\_\_\_\_.

*funds*  
*need*  
*worse*  
*thirst*  
*severe*  
*starve*  
*feed*  
*size*

The Secretary General of Kenya's Red Cross Society Abbas Gullet said there are serious food \_\_\_\_\_ throughout his country. Many food prices have gone up by as \_\_\_\_\_ as 80 per cent. Another factor raising the \_\_\_\_\_ for aid agencies is the number of livestock dying. There is not enough food or grazing land for farmers to keep their animals \_\_\_\_\_. Local communities are fighting each other for \_\_\_\_\_ to the little water they can find. Mr. Gullet said: "Farmers cannot sit and watch their \_\_\_\_\_ die and their livelihoods disappear. So they will fight for every \_\_\_\_\_ of water and metre of grass available." There is such a crisis that Masai farmers are herding their cows in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Kenyan capital, Nairobi.

*access*  
*drop*  
*much*  
*alive*  
*shortages*  
*suburbs*  
*livestock*  
*alarm*

## LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/0909/090919-food\\_aid.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/0909/090919-food_aid.html)

Many parts of Kenya are experiencing severe drought, \_\_\_\_\_ lives of millions. The World Food Programme (WFP) says 3.8 million Kenyans \_\_\_\_\_ assistance. The U.N. agency warns it does not have enough food or money to feed those who need it. WFP spokesperson Josette Sheeran told reporters the organization \_\_\_\_\_ feed around 400,000 people. This means 3.5 million Kenyans could starve. Sheeran said: "The funding shortfall \_\_\_\_\_ we will have to start reducing the size of rations [in October]. The hardship people \_\_\_\_\_ from bad to worse." There are fears a humanitarian crisis will hit Kenya and thousands will starve to \_\_\_\_\_.

The Secretary General of Kenya's Red Cross Society Abbas Gullet said there \_\_\_\_\_ shortages throughout his country. Many food prices have gone up by as much as 80 per cent. Another \_\_\_\_\_ alarm for aid agencies is the number of livestock dying. There is not enough food or grazing land for farmers \_\_\_\_\_ animals alive. Local communities are fighting each other for \_\_\_\_\_ water they can find. Mr. Gullet said: "Farmers cannot sit and watch their livestock die and their \_\_\_\_\_. So they will fight for every drop of water and metre of grass available." There is such a crisis that Masai farmers are herding their cows \_\_\_\_\_ the Kenyan capital, Nairobi.

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# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/0909/090919-food\\_aid.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/0909/090919-food_aid.html)

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'food' and 'aid'.

food	aid

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• severe</li><li>• in need</li><li>• funds</li><li>• size</li><li>• worse</li><li>• thirst</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• serious</li><li>• gone up</li><li>• alarm</li><li>• alive</li><li>• access</li><li>• cows</li></ul>
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# STUDENT KENYA FOOD AID SURVEY

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/0909/090919-food\\_aid.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/0909/090919-food_aid.html)

Write five GOOD questions about food aid for Kenya in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

## FOOD AID DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the term 'food aid'?
- c) Do you think countries will always need food aid?
- d) Do you think the system of food aid is a good one?
- e) What have you done in the past to help people in great need?
- f) Can you imagine what life is like in the worst affected parts of Kenya?
- g) What's the hungriest you've ever been?
- h) What will happen if things go from bad to worse?
- i) Can the world do more to help countries in need like Kenya?
- j) Ten billionaires could get together and feed the 3.8 million Kenyans. Why do you think they don't?

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## FOOD AID DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) Have there ever been food shortages in your country?
- c) What would you do if food prices went up by 80 per cent?
- d) How can we increase the amount of money agencies have for food aid?
- e) Is spending money on food the best way to help people?
- f) What is the biggest hardship you've ever faced in your life?
- g) What message would you give to someone your own age who is suffering in Kenya?
- h) Have you ever had to fight for something?
- i) Why is this happening in the twenty-first century?
- j) What questions would you like to ask Abbas Gullet?

# LANGUAGE – MULTIPLE CHOICE

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/0909/090919-food\\_aid.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/0909/090919-food_aid.html)

Many parts of Kenya are experiencing (1) \_\_\_\_ drought, putting at risk the lives of millions. The World Food Programme (WFP) says 3.8 million Kenyans are in (2) \_\_\_\_ of food assistance. The U.N. agency warns it does not have enough food or money to feed those who need it. WFP spokesperson Josette Sheeran told reporters the organization only had funds (3) \_\_\_\_ feed around 400,000 people. This means 3.5 million Kenyans could (4) \_\_\_\_\_. Sheeran said: "The funding shortfall is so severe that we will have to start reducing the size of rations [in October]. The (5) \_\_\_\_ people are facing is going from bad to worse." There are fears a humanitarian crisis will hit Kenya and thousands will starve to death or die of (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

The Secretary General of Kenya's Red Cross Society Abbas Gullet said there are serious food (7) \_\_\_\_ throughout his country. Many food prices have gone up by as (8) \_\_\_\_ as 80 per cent. Another factor raising the alarm for aid agencies is the number of livestock dying. There is not enough food or grazing land for farmers to keep their animals (9) \_\_\_\_\_. Local communities are fighting each other for access to the (10) \_\_\_\_ water they can find. Mr. Gullet said: "Farmers cannot sit and watch their livestock die and their livelihoods disappear. So they will fight (11) \_\_\_\_ every drop of water and metre of grass available." There is (12) \_\_\_\_ a crisis that Masai farmers are herding their cows in the suburbs of the Kenyan capital, Nairobi.

## Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- |     |               |                |                |               |
|-----|---------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1.  | (a) severed   | (b) severely   | (c) sever      | (d) severe    |
| 2.  | (a) need      | (b) needy      | (c) needed     | (d) necessary |
| 3.  | (a) for       | (b) to         | (c) by         | (d) so        |
| 4.  | (a) starving  | (b) starvation | (c) starve     | (d) starved   |
| 5.  | (a) hardy     | (b) hard       | (c) hardship   | (d) hardly    |
| 6.  | (a) thirsty   | (b) thirst     | (c) thrift     | (d) thrifty   |
| 7.  | (a) shortfall | (b) shortening | (c) shorts     | (d) shortages |
| 8.  | (a) much      | (b) many       | (c) more       | (d) most      |
| 9.  | (a) live      | (b) alive      | (c) livelihood | (d) livestock |
| 10. | (a) tiny      | (b) few        | (c) small      | (d) little    |
| 11. | (a) at        | (b) out        | (c) for        | (d) it        |
| 12. | (a) such      | (b) much       | (c) so         | (d) many      |

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# HOMework

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find out more about food aid. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. DROUGHT:** Make a poster about drought. Include some history and how we can reduce the effects of drought. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. HARDSHIP:** Write a magazine article about a Kenyan experiencing severe hardship. Include imaginary interviews with that person and a billionaire.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

**5. LETTER:** Write a letter to the Secretary General of Kenya's Red Cross Society Abbas Gullet. Ask him three questions about food aid in his country. Give him three suggestions on how he could get more help from the international community. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## TRUE / FALSE:

- a. T      b. T      c. F      d. F      e. F      f. T      g. T      h. F

## SYNONYM MATCH:

- |                |                      |
|----------------|----------------------|
| 1. severe      | a. serious           |
| 2. assistance  | b. help              |
| 3. funds       | c. money             |
| 4. size        | d. amount            |
| 5. hardship    | e. suffering         |
| 6. throughout  | f. all over          |
| 7. raising     | g. increasing        |
| 8. livestock   | h. farm animals      |
| 9. livelihoods | i. income            |
| 10. suburbs    | j. residential areas |

## PHRASE MATCH:

- |                                    |                      |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. parts of Kenya are experiencing | a. severe drought    |
| 2. Kenyans are in need of          | b. food assistance   |
| 3. money to feed                   | c. those who need it |
| 4. going from bad                  | d. to worse          |
| 5. starve to death or die          | e. of thirst         |
| 6. food shortages throughout       | f. his country       |
| 7. Another factor                  | g. raising the alarm |
| 8. grazing land                    | h. for farmers       |
| 9. they will fight for every drop  | i. of water          |
| 10. the suburbs of the             | j. Kenyan capital    |

## GAP FILL:

### 3.8 million Kenyans in need of food aid

Many parts of Kenya are experiencing **severe** drought, putting at risk the lives of millions. The World Food Programme (WFP) says 3.8 million Kenyans are in **need** of food assistance. The U.N. agency warns it does not have enough food or money to **feed** those who need it. WFP spokesperson Josette Sheeran told reporters the organization only had **funds** to feed around 400,000 people. This means 3.5 million Kenyans could **starve**. Sheeran said: "The funding shortfall is so severe that we will have to start reducing the **size** of rations [in October]. The hardship people are facing is going from bad to **worse**." **There** are fears a humanitarian crisis will hit Kenya and thousands will starve to death or die of **thirst**.

The Secretary General of Kenya's Red Cross Society Abbas Gullet said there are serious food **shortages** throughout his country. Many food prices have gone up by as **much** as 80 per cent. Another factor raising the **alarm** for aid agencies is the number of livestock dying. There is not enough food or grazing land for farmers to keep their animals **alive**. Local communities are fighting each other for **access** to the little water they can find. Mr. Gullet said: "Farmers cannot sit and watch their **livestock** die and their livelihoods disappear. So they will fight for every **drop** of water and metre of grass available." There is such a crisis that Masai farmers are herding their cows in the **suburbs** of the Kenyan capital, Nairobi.

## LANGUAGE WORK

- 1 - d    2 - a    3 - b    4 - c    5 - c    6 - b    7 - d    8 - a    9 - b    10 - d    11 - c    12 - a