

## Drought Leaves Ethiopia Facing Food Crisis

12th February, 2016



International charities have issued a stark warning about a looming humanitarian catastrophe in Ethiopia. The North African country has been hit by its worst

drought for 50 years. It is widely expected that emergency food aid for 10 million Ethiopians will run out unless more funds can be found. John Graham, the head of the charity Save the Children in Ethiopia, said: "The international community has just three weeks to provide \$245 million in emergency food aid to help prevent a potentially catastrophic escalation in severe malnutrition cases." He added that: "If these emergency funds do not arrive in time, there is no question that there will be a critical fracture in the food aid supply pipeline."

Ethiopia is Africa's second most populous country. It is no stranger to natural disasters of this kind. Famine killed over one million Ethiopians in 1984. The latest drought was brought on by the El Nino weather phenomenon, which has caused drought and flooding across much of Africa. Ethiopia is one of the countries hardest hit. Charities say that over 400,000 Ethiopian children under the age of five will suffer from severe malnutrition this year. In addition, 1.7 million under-fives, pregnant women and breast-feeding mothers will need treatment for malnutrition. Mr Graham warned that, "the window for action is rapidly closing" as it can take four months to buy food aid and transport it into the landlocked country.

Sources: [geeskaafrika.com](http://geeskaafrika.com) / [news.sky.com](http://news.sky.com) / [www.iol.co.za](http://www.iol.co.za)

### Writing

Leaders of rich countries have a duty to stop people dying in droughts. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

*charities / humanitarian / catastrophe / emergency / food aid / community / supply / populous / famine / drought / flooding / malnutrition / pregnant / window / transport*

### True / False

- Charities have warned of a terrible catastrophe about to hit Ethiopia. T / F
- Ethiopia has been hit by its worst drought ever. T / F
- Ten million Ethiopians are in need of food aid. T / F
- Ethiopia needs \$245 million in food aid in the next three months. T / F
- Ethiopia has the second highest population of any country in Africa. T / F
- The latest drought is because of El Nino. T / F
- Charities say half-a-million 5-year-olds will be severely malnourished. T / F
- It takes four weeks to buy food aid and transport it to Ethiopia. T / F

### Synonym Match

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. issued      | a. most recent  |
| 2. catastrophe | b. increase     |
| 3. expected    | c. medical care |
| 4. escalation  | d. disaster     |
| 5. fracture    | e. serious      |
| 6. latest      | f. given        |
| 7. phenomenon  | g. quickly      |
| 8. severe      | h. believed     |
| 9. treatment   | i. event        |
| 10. rapidly    | j. break        |

### Discussion – Student A

- Why are there still people in danger of starving in today's world?
- What can we do to help those at risk in Ethiopia?
- Why don't the world's billionaires provide more funds?
- Two jet fighters cost more than the aid needed. Why are jet fighters more important than feeding 10 million people?
- What is malnutrition?
- What would you do if you were head of a charity?
- What can you do today to help the people in Ethiopia?
- What three adjectives best describe this story?

## Phrase Match

- |                                               |                          |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. a looming humanitarian                     | a. expected              |
| 2. hit by its worst drought                   | b. populous country      |
| 3. widely                                     | c. pipeline              |
| 4. provide \$245 million in                   | d. of five will suffer   |
| 5. a critical fracture in the food aid supply | e. rapidly closing       |
| 6. Africa's second most                       | f. emergency food aid    |
| 7. caused drought and flooding                | g. catastrophe           |
| 8. children under the age                     | h. across much of Africa |
| 9. mothers will need treatment                | i. for 50 years          |
| 10. the window for action is                  | j. for malnutrition      |

## Discussion – Student B

- Should world leaders be held responsible for deaths due to famine?
- How does El Nino affect the weather?
- What natural disasters are there in your country?
- Why isn't this story in the news every day?
- Why doesn't just one billionaire provide the \$245 million of aid needed?
- Why are people more interested in celebrities than starving people?
- When will malnutrition completely disappear from our world?
- What would you like to ask world leaders?

## Spelling

- a looming humanitarian chotpsearta
- engcrmeye food aid
- The international tnyioucmm
- rseeve malnutrition cases
- there will be a licatirc fracture
- in the food aid supply nieeplpi
- Africa's second most puosuolp country
- It is no stranger to natural essiartsd
- the El Nino weather eohnpnmnoe
- caused drought and gioflond
- tpennarg women and breast-feeding mothers
- tmtateenr for malnutrition

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. d	3. h	4. b	5. j
6. a	7. i	8. e	9. c	10. g

## Role Play

### Role A – Aid workers

You think aid workers are most important in a famine. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): blankets, wood or mobile phones.

### Role B – Blankets

You think blankets are most important in a famine. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): aid workers, wood or mobile phones.

### Role C – Wood for fire and cooking

You think wood is most important in a famine. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): blankets, aid workers or mobile phones.

### Role D – Mobile phones

You think mobile phones are most important in a famine. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): blankets, wood or aid workers.

## Speaking – Resources

What are most important in a famine? Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners and share your rankings again.

- aid workers
- army
- 4WD trucks
- water tablets
- blankets
- basic medicine
- wood for fire and cooking
- peace

### Answers – True False

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

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.