

Global Day of Prayer to End Famine

- 21 May 2017 -

Why the Church is needed

- **More people face famine today than anytime in modern history.** Famine has been declared in South Sudan. Somalia, Nigeria and Yemen are on the brink of famine. The UN is calling this the largest humanitarian crisis since 1945.
- **We believe churches have a prophetic role** in calling their members, the wider society and governments to pray and make a difference during this unprecedented period of suffering.

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” Matthew 25:35.

“So God created humankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” Genesis 1:27



Overview of the Famines & Hunger Crisis

- More than 20 million people South Sudan, Somalia, Yemen and Nigeria are facing famine, while millions more in countries like Ethiopia and Kenya suffer from extreme hunger. The number of people globally requiring urgent lifesaving food support has increased 35% in just one year.
- Already, 1.4 million children in the four countries facing famine are suffering from severe acute malnutrition, the deadliest form of malnutrition. If left untreated, more than one-third of these children will die from starvation and disease.
- Conflict is the common denominator across all four countries facing famine. To prevent future famines and hunger crises, we must find peaceful solutions to violence and conflict and address other key underlying drivers of extreme poverty and hunger.
- Children caught up in conflict and famine face higher risk of malnutrition, early marriage, exploitation and domestic abuse because of the stresses on communities and families and breakdown of household and community protection systems.

Why 21 May is a critical date

- **World leaders meeting at the G7 Summit in Italy on 26-27 May.** This is an important opportunity to highlight the urgency of the famine in South Sudan and looming famines in Nigeria, Somalia and Yemen, while also drawing attention to the unfulfilled G7 pledge from 2015 to lift 500m people out of hunger and malnutrition.
- **According to OCHA, only 26% of the required funding has been committed globally**
- **We cannot wait until famines are officially declared.** In 2011, conflict created extreme food shortages in Somalia and more than 260,000 people lost their lives - half died before famine was declared and the full scale of tragedy was not known for years.



MAIN MESSAGES - DRAFT

- Food is more than a human right; it is a divine gift that cannot be impeded
- Hunger crises are preventable, if we reflect, act, and move together
- Churches have a prophetic role in calling its members, wider society and governments to make a difference during this unprecedented period of suffering
- We are commanded to see the divine in those who are suffering and to appreciate their resilience, opinions, and solutions and to respect their dignity
- Let us join in prayer, particularly for the children and families in immediate need, as well as for those who make sacrifices while responding to the crisis
- Let us pray for justice and peace, and for an end to the violence that hurts both current and future generations