



Food Assistance  
Convention

## Food Assistance Committee Comité de l'assistance alimentaire

London, 17 March 2017

### PRESS RELEASE

#### **Food Assistance Committee Members Respond to Famine Threat in Four Countries**

This year an unprecedented [70 million people across 45 countries](#) will be in need of emergency food assistance, driven by persistent conflict, severe drought and economic instability. Four countries face the threat of famine, putting a combined 20 million people at risk of dire food insecurity according to the UN. The members of the Food Assistance Committee are deeply concerned by the declaration of famine in South Sudan and the risk of famine in Somalia, Yemen and Nigeria.

Acting swiftly in response to UN Secretary General's call for urgent action to avert catastrophe, FAC members are working together with the rest of the international community to help mitigate the impacts of food insecurity in these countries, ensuring the needs of the most vulnerable are addressed. To date in 2017, FAC members have provided USD 1.4 billion in food assistance to Nigeria, South Sudan, Somalia, and Yemen.

"These crises are man-made and the direct consequence of conflict," said FAC Chair, Matthew Nims, "We are in unprecedented times of food insecurity, but we don't want it to be the year when famine becomes a more commonplace word."

We call on the governments of the affected countries to help ensure that there is unimpeded humanitarian access to everyone facing famine, or at risk of famine. Without access, the most vulnerable cannot be reached and aid efforts will not be able to help avert escalating catastrophe.

We also call on other donors and members of the international community to provide timely additional humanitarian assistance to save lives and support the people of South Sudan, Nigeria, Somalia, and Yemen. Only immediate action will save millions of lives in these countries.

PR (FAC March 2017)