The world produces enough food for everyone. This does not ensure it reaches all people when they need it. Leaders in developing countries maintain that famine can be eradicated, but it has not happened yet.

**HORN OF AFRICA: Humanitarian snapshot**

The Horn of Africa crisis continues to affect 13.3 million people, including 3 million people in southern Somalia. In Djibouti, the population is facing the country’s sixth consecutive failed rainy season.

**Some of the worst**

1816-1817, IRELAND: STARVING POTATO FARMERS

Ireland was the first place where Famine was identified. In 1816 and 1817, the potato crop failed, leading to massive displacement of people and economic crisis. By 1820, over 200,000 people died. A combination of low rainfall, disease and crop failure led to famine, and the government did not act to prevent it.

1921-1922, CHINA: GREAT GOAT Famine

This famine affected northern and eastern China, where over 10 million people died. It was caused by drought and crop failure, exacerbated by political instability and social unrest.

1931-1932, JAPAN: GREAT Drought

Japan was hit by the worst drought in its history, leading to widespread crop failure and famine. Thousands of people died, and many more were displaced as they moved in search of food.

1942-1943, EGYPT: GOAT Famine

This famine affected Egypt, where over 1 million people died. It was caused by a severe drought, which led to crop failure and food shortages.

1944-1945, VIETNAM: GREAT HUNGER

The Red River Delta in Vietnam was hit by a severe drought, leading to widespread crop failure and famine. Over 1 million people died, and many more were displaced.

1959-1961, CHINA: THE GREAT HUNGER

This famine affected China, where over 36 million people died. It was caused by a combination of poor harvests, political repression, and ideological beliefs.

1974-1975, SEVERAL COUNTRIES: THE GREAT Famine

This famine affected several countries in southern Asia, including India and Pakistan, where over 10 million people died. It was caused by a combination of drought, crop failure, and political instability.


This famine affected Kenya, where over 250,000 people died. It was caused by a combination of drought, crop failure, and political instability.


This famine, known as the “Holocaust of the 1990s,” affected Ethiopia, where over 1 million people died. It was caused by a combination of drought, crop failure, and political instability.

1997-1999, INDIA: THE GREAT HUNGER

This famine affected India, where over 10 million people died. It was caused by a combination of drought, crop failure, and political instability.

2007-2008, SOUTH AFRICA: THE GREAT HUNGER

This famine affected South Africa, where over 1 million people died. It was caused by a combination of drought, crop failure, and political instability.

A case study ...

**Famine land**

Famine land is a term used to describe areas where there is a lack of food due to various factors, such as drought, crop failure, or political instability. Famine land is often characterized by widespread malnutrition, high death rates, and mass displacement of people.

**How malnutrition takes its toll**

Malnutrition is a serious problem that affects millions of people around the world. It is caused by a lack of essential nutrients in the diet, which can lead to a number of health problems, including stunted growth, weakened immune systems, and increased susceptibility to infectious diseases.

**On the move: how famine becomes a driving force**

On the move: how famine becomes a driving force

Famine can have a profound impact on societies, leading to widespread displacement of people in search of food. This can result in overcrowding in refugee camps and displacement in different areas.

Fact file

- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates that there are around 820 million undernourished people worldwide.
- The World Food Programme (WFP) estimates that there are over 270 million people affected by food insecurity in the world.
- The UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) estimates that there are over 150 million children affected by stunting worldwide.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that there are over 20 million cases of severe anemia in children worldwide.
- The International Organization for Migration (IOM) estimates that there are over 70 million people displaced by conflict worldwide.

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