@KateRussellONE
www.one.org
kate.russell@one.org

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# The role of open data for addressing human nutrition challenges in Africa

Kate Russell

Policy Director, Agriculture and Inclusive Growth, ONE

@KateRussellONE
www.one.org
kate.russell@one.org

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# What don't we know in a food security emergency?

- Estimates of the number of dead from the 1983-85 Ethiopian famine range from 200,000 to 1,000,000.

- Has anyone seen a map of the who was affected?

- Much of the real-time data came from journalists, surveys of victims in resettlement areas, limited meteorological and cropping data, etc.

- A corrupt government used aid a tool against insurgents, exacerbating the effects of the drought.

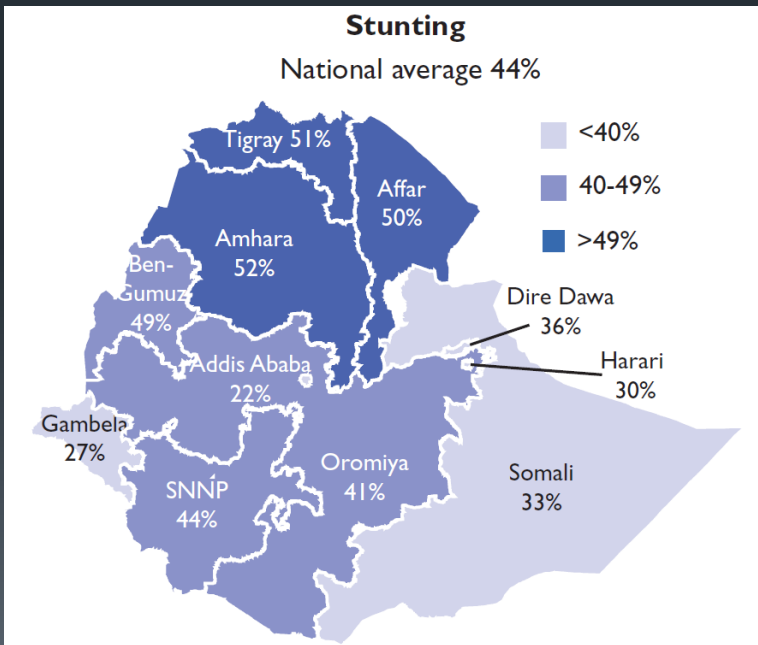- As a result, FEWSNET and the PSNP were born.

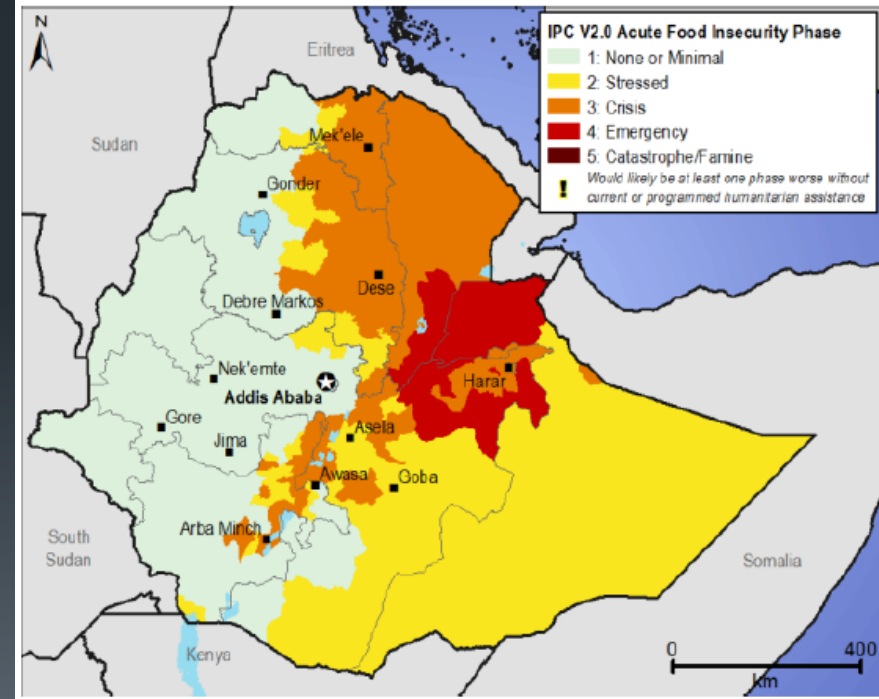# What don't we know in a food security emergency?

- Now we have FEWSNET to map projections of areas affected.
- We have (representative) household surveys to map trends.
- We have the Core Humanitarian Standard.
- What is missing?

Source: FEWSNet

Source: 2011 DHS Children's Health and Nutritional Status report



**Stunting**
National average 44%

Tigray 51%
Affar 50%
Amhara 52%
Ben-Gumuz 49%
Dire Dawa 36%
Harari 30%
Addis Ababa 22%
Gambela 27%
SNNP 44%
Oromiya 41%
Somali 33%

<40%
40-49%
>49%



Projected food security outcomes, January to March 2016

IPC V2.0 Acute Food Insecurity Phase
1: None or Minimal
2: Stressed
3: Crisis
4: Emergency
5: Catastrophe/Famine
! Would likely be at least one phase worse without current or programmed humanitarian assistance

@KateRussellONE
www.one.org
kate.russell@one.org

# Why nutrition?

WHICH
APPS
ARE
BEST
FOR
YOUR
DIET?

the developed world's view
of nutrition

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www.one.org
kate.russell@one.org

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# Why nutrition?
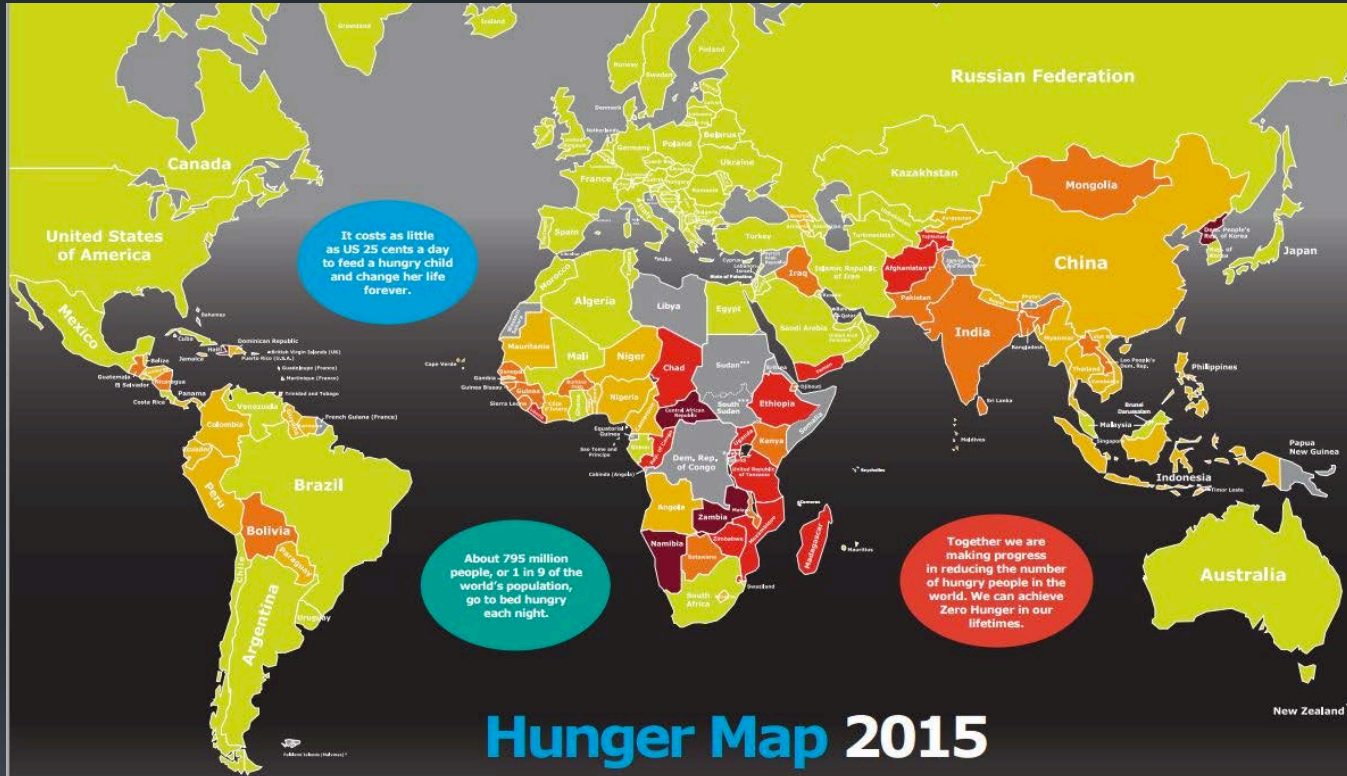


Developing countries have a different view

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www.one.org
kate.russell@one.org

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# Why Nutrition?

- Stakes are too high:

  - Nearly half of all deaths of children under 5 are linked to malnutrition.
  - Malnutrition in first 1,000 days causes permanent cognitive and physical damage.
  - Children who aren't exclusively breastfed are 14x more likely to die than those who are.

- Funding levels abysmally low:

  - Nutrition-specific funding stands at less than 1% of official development assistance (ODA)

- Potential gains too good to miss:
  - Nutrition = $1:16 return on investment
  - Malnutrition reduces GDP (by 10% in Malawi, e.g.)

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# What is undernutrition?: 5 indicators

| Indicator | What it means | What it does | How many? | Global Target |
|---|---|---|---|---|
|  Stunting<br>Photo credit: Rodrigo Abt | low height/age | ⬇ cognitive & physical development, health, productive capacity<br>⬆ risk of infection & degenerative disease | 162 million children | 40% ⬇ |
| **Anemia** | ⬇ hemoglobin | ⬆ risk of low birth weight, miscarriage, stillbirth, prematurity | 38% of pregnant women | 50% ⬇ |
| **Low birth weight** | < 5.5lb | ⬆ risk of non-communicable diseases<br>Indicator of neonatal mortality | 15-20% of births | 30% ⬇ |
| **Exclusive breastfeeding** | | lack of it contributes to 12% of child deaths | 38% of infants | ⬆ to 50% |
|  Wasting<br>Photo credit: UNICEF | low weight/height | ⬆ risk of disease & death | 52 million children | ⬇ to 5% |

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# What is current state of accountability?

- Financial Outputs:
  - From multiple budget lines and multiple types of sources
  - To multiple funds and bilateral programs
  - Under multiple initiatives
  - Donors not always reporting nutrition-sensitive
  - Required nutrition-specific reporting incomplete
- Outcomes:
  - Data sources: World Bank, UNICEF, WHO, FAO, others
  - 61 countries don't have enough data to make an assessment of more than 1 target
  - Only 74 have enough data to make an assessment across 5 targets
  - 12 interventions: 6 have no comparable data, 3 have proxy data, and 3 have comparable data
  - Particularly missing: diets of infants and young children
- Data funding = 0.16% of ODA (27% of which went to Africa in 2013)

## messy and incomplete

# Why does ONE care?

- 2006-2013: only 28 of 49 Sub-Saharan African countries had household survey data on income and consumption – so the the 414 million people living on <$1.25/day? – a guestimate.

- On top of that: household survey data excludes the most marginalized (the homeless, the unregistered, the remote, the nomadic).

How do I push leaders to prioritize nutrition if I don't know how much they're investing now, who is affected , or even if the data can be trusted?

# Why does ONE care?

$$\$\$\$ \text{ \& Policies} \rightarrow \text{Interventions in households \& communities} \rightarrow \text{Outcomes}$$

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# We Need a(n) (Open) Data Revolution!

The World is facing a data crisis: missing, out of date and bad data is feeding corruption, bad management, and undermining the fight against ending hunger.

"Wrong data, wrong diagnosis, and wrong policy"
-- Statistician General of Nigeria

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# What is ONE doing about it?

- Spurring an effort to create a digital, accessible accountability framework for Sustainable Development Goal 2 ("End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable growth"). Join us!

- Founding partner of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data and member of the Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition partnership (GODAN).

- Campaigning to fill data gaps as part of our 2016 Nutrition for Growth 2 campaign and for signatories to make SMARTer commitments (Specific, Measurable, Assignable, Realistic, and Time-bound).

- Ultimately, open data must serve those most vulnerable to malnutrition and leave no one behind, with the aim of reaching the global nutrition targets.

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DATA

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# What are some promising solutions?

- GSMA mHealth's mobile phone programs provide nutrition education, register pregnant women, real time feedback on interventions, etc.
- UNICEF's "Wearable for Good" competition: mobile technology for, e.g., MUAC measurements.
- Premise uses a network of mobile data collectors for measurements such as food prices at local markets in Nigeria and Ghana.
- And many more examples
- But the outcomes for nutrition have yet to be demonstrated. . . .