



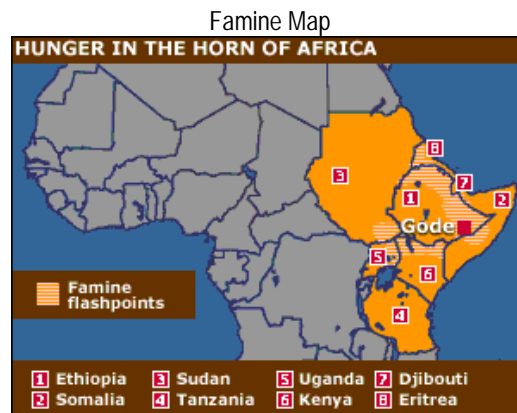
Northern Africa & SW Asia

February 6, 2001 10:01 AM

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Based on the text (P.113) Famine is a severe shortage of food occurring over a wide area and causing deaths by starvation and by diseases that take advantage of a reduced ability to fight them following malnutrition. Famine results from shocks to natural and human systems that disrupt food production and/or distribution.

For example, right now according to an article by BBC NEWS [<http://www.bbc.co.uk/>]. More than 8 million people face starvation in drought stricken areas of Africa. With many countries in the middle of protracted wars with neighboring countries famine is becoming severe in many cases complicating efforts for relief.



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[Dr. Gatrell's Comments: This GeoNote addresses the household structure in throughout Africa and challenges facing traditional cultures]

According to the Washington Post, (<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/inat1/longterm/africans/abidjan/abidjan.htm>) a family of fifteen is crammed into a two bedroom house managing their everyday needs. The family lives in a matchbox of a house in Abidjan. Clement Ouattara and his wife, Claude Kouassi, live with their five children and eight nephews and cousins. They have a little bit of food, space, and money, but still share the wealth between the fifteen of them the best way possible. Some of the children came to live with Clement and Claude because they needed a place to stay during their university years. A few of the other children needed a place to live while they found jobs. This particular family is very supportive within their [community].