



*A victim of drought
at Korem camp.*

What is Famine?

Famine is the actual condition when the whole population, human and animal, is deprived not just for days or weeks or months but for years of the very elements of life itself — food of any kind and water. It is the inability of an entire society to be able to overcome that basic hunger. It is the resulting destruction of individual life, the social order and the natural world. It is with the victims though, in the eyes and faces of the men, women and particularly the children, with shrunken and distorted bodies, where one sees the full impact of famine.

How Many People are Affected?

More than 30 million people are in a life-threatening situation, that is, they cannot find or produce enough food and water to sustain life; and 150 million people, between a third and a half of the population of the African continent, have been affected in more than 20 countries. This has created massive internal disruptions within national boundaries and across borders. Literally, millions of Africans are on



*Sand dunes in
Nouakchott,
Mauritania.*