

In November this year, it will be 50 years since the Juba river flooded, causing widespread devastation in Somalia. An [international relief effort](#) was launched, including an [RAF airlift](#), which Dad commanded, as well as flying many of the supply drops himself.

And 50 years later, Somalia is in desperate need again, this time because of one of the worst droughts ever in the Horn of Africa, a drought which has gone on for several seasons and which has placed 14.5 million people at risk of death from starvation or thirst.

The human suffering is profound – and made worse by Al-Shabab, an Al-Qaeda-linked militant group which is holding much of the country hostage, and preventing aid groups from reaching the people who need them the most.

The [African Union has now moved troops into Mogadishu](#) to try to clear the way for relief efforts; people are starving to death in the middle of a war zone.

The UN World Food Programme has begun airlifting food in, but they have a \$252 million funding shortfall. Can you help? Every little bit makes a difference, and may keep someone alive.

Click [here](#) to donate directly to the WFP campaign, or go to [this ABC News page](#) for a list of relief organisations and links to them. Organisations involved include the WFP, Doctors Without Borders (MSF), UNICEF and many others.

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