

# Famine and Disease in Africa

# Georgia Performance Standards

**SS7CG3 The student will analyze how politics in Africa impacts standard of living.**

- b. Describe the impact of government stability on the distribution of resources to combat AIDS and famine across Africa.

# Background Information

- Three biggest problems in Africa (create a triangle of misery):
  1. Civil war
  2. Famine
  3. AIDS
- Africa is a large continent, but also the poorest continent in the world.
- Had many natural resources before European colonization, but today there is widespread poverty

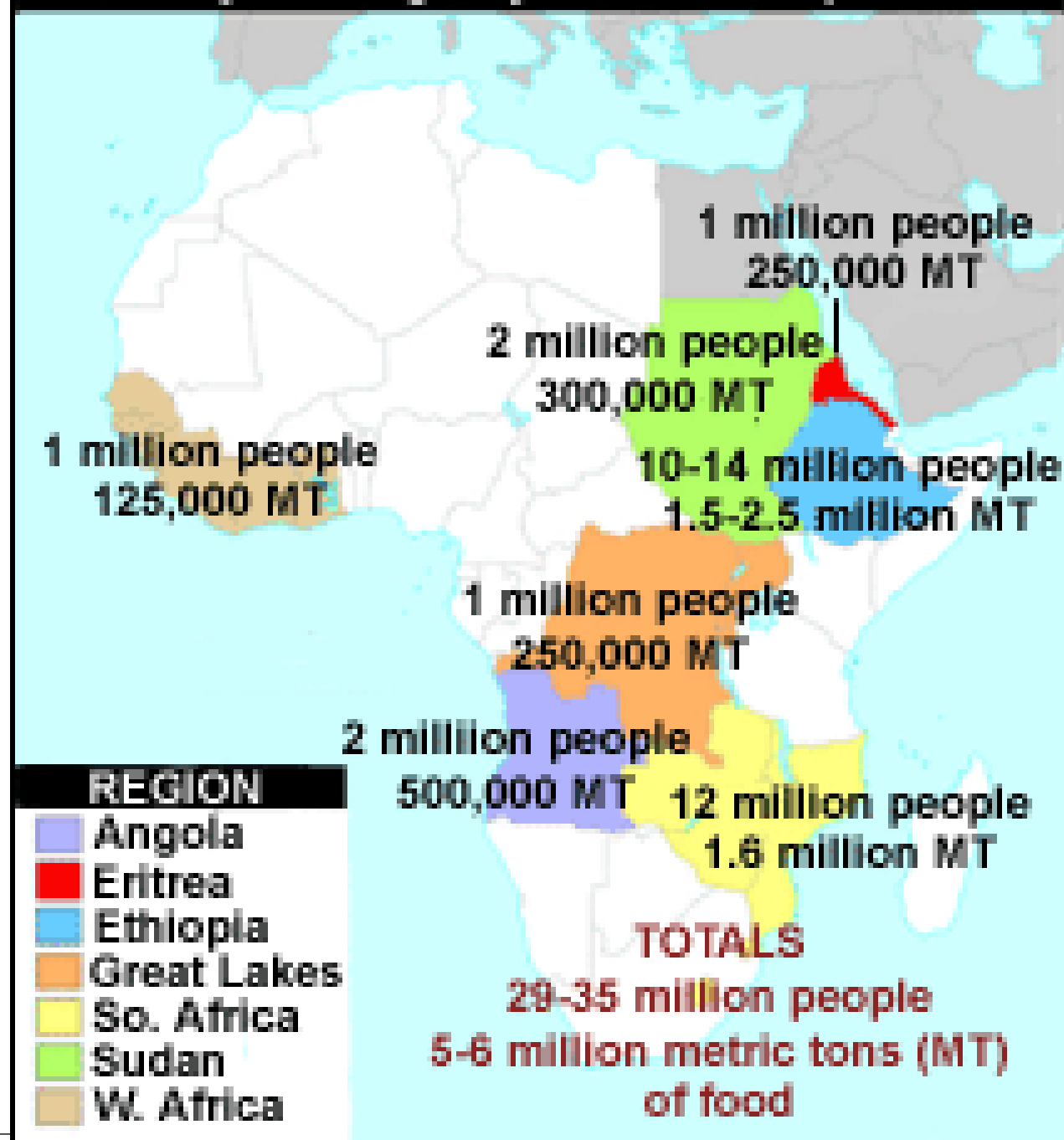
# Background Information (cont.)

- Many health problems are caused or made worse by poverty.
- Poverty creates poor living conditions, such as lack of clean water or food.
- Those living in poverty often get sick.
- They may live in crowded, dirty areas.
- They may not have doctors or medicine.
- They may not have the education to know how to stop the spread of disease.

# Famine in Africa

- **Famine**—occurs when a region does not have enough food for a long period of time
- More than 25 million Africans needed emergency aid in 2008 and 200 million suffer from chronic hunger.
- Factors that have led to famine in Africa:
  1. **Climate changes:** drought (lack of rain) makes food scarce because crops die
  2. **Human forces**, like wars, can disrupt farming which causes food shortages
  3. **Weak economies:** Poor prices of African goods on the world market
  4. **Disease** (like AIDS and malaria)
  5. **Poorly organized and/or corrupt governments** (some even steal food from humanitarian organizations that should be going to the people)

## 2003 Major Emergency Food Aid Requirements



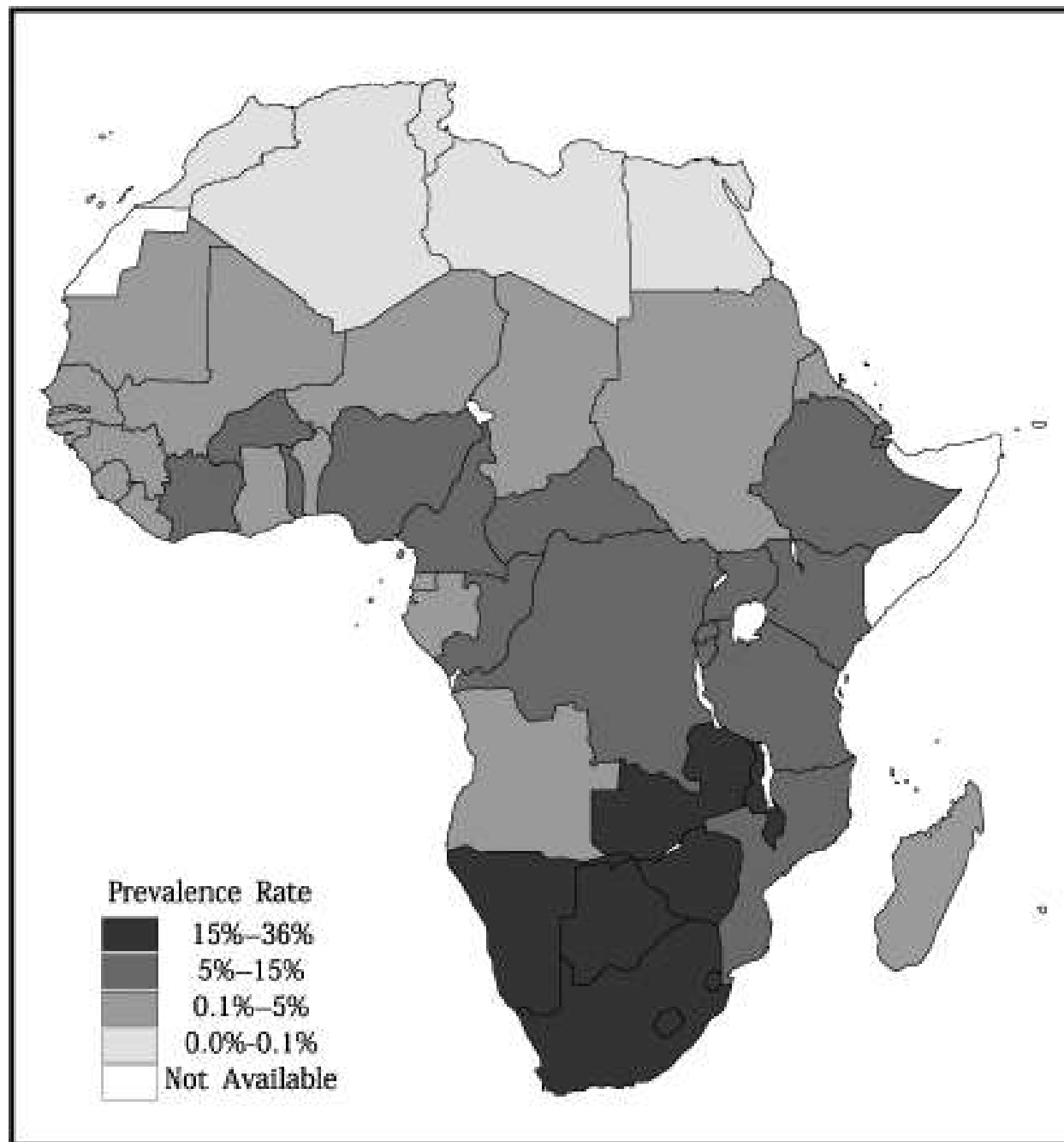
# Famine in Africa

- There is simply not enough food on Earth for everyone to eat well.
- Many people live where they cannot grow food or where food cannot be transported easily.
- Sub-Saharan Africa (Africa south of the Sahara) has the highest risk of famine in Africa.
- **It is considered a Humanitarian Crisis**—one in which many human lives are at risk in a region.

# HIV / AIDS in Africa

- Sub-Saharan Africa (the countries below the Sahara desert) is more heavily affected by HIV and AIDS than any other region of the world.
- An estimated 22.4 million people are living with HIV in the region - around two thirds of the global total.
- In 2008 around 1.4 million people died from AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa and 1.9 million people became infected with HIV.
- Since the beginning of the epidemic more than 14 million children have lost one or both parents to AIDS.





- Adult HIV/AIDS rates in Africa (adapted from UNAIDS, 2000)

# HIV / AIDS in Africa

- Average life expectancy in sub-Saharan Africa is now 47 years, when it could have been 62 without AIDS.
- There are drugs that slow down the progress of HIV infection to AIDS, but there is no cure.
- Education and prevention are the most important tools for fighting AIDS.
- Africa needs more money to pay for education and prevention programs.

# What do politics and economics have to with AIDS?

- As African countries gained their independence, the governments had to deal with civil wars and famine, so AIDS did not receive the attention it needed.

(Health issues get worse because of political instability)

- The African economies have suffered due the staggering burden of healthcare and lack of healthy workers.

(Economies always suffer when health issues plague a country.)

- Botswana did not have the political instability that other African countries did, so they have had the resources to help it citizens and was the first African country to offer drug therapy to all its citizens infected with AIDS.



# Essential Questions

- What are the 5 factors that have contributed to famine in Africa?
- How has government stability impacted the distribution of resources to help fight famine and AIDS in Africa?
- What are some realistic ways to help combat famine and AIDS in Africa?