



Time	45–90 minutes
Level	intermediate
Skills	speaking, reading, writing
Knowledge goal	raising awareness of poverty and hunger
Materials	Ss' worksheets: p. S1 - a copy for every student, p. S2 - slips for miming, role-play

1 Lead-in

- Ss discuss the following quotation:
What did the author mean by this?

**"A hungry man can't see right or wrong.
He just sees food."**

Pearl S. Buck (1892 – 1973)

Variation: Miming words. Ss make groups according to the number of slips and mime what is written on them. They can use their dictionaries. The other Ss make guesses.

- Ss brainstorm the vocabulary associated with the key word "hunger".

2 Main activity – Reading

- Pre-teaching vocabulary. Distribute the worksheet from p. S1. Ss match the words with their definitions (Ex. 1).
- Ss skim the text "My fight against hunger" and answer the three questions (Ex. 2 A).
- Ss read it again and decide if the statements under the text are TRUE or FALSE (Ex. 2 B).
- Vocabulary check. Ss complete the text with the expressions in bold from the text (Ex. 2 C).

3 Follow-up – Role play

Distribute the roles from p. S2. Student A will be an aid agency worker and student B will be a member of Mr. Mokao's family.

4 Follow-up

What can nomads or poor people in general do if they live in places like this?

Who do you think can help them and how?

What can local governments do?

How can aid agencies help?

What can individuals in the Western world do to help such people?

5 Follow-up – Writing activities

- Based on the role-play, student A writes a report based on his findings. Student B writes a note to his family about the conversation.
- Based on the role-play, Ss write their dialogue as a radio programme.
- Ss write their opinion on one of the questions from the discussion.

KEY

Ex. 1 – Matching words with their definitions:

1E, 2A, 3B, 4G, 5F, 6D, 7C

Ex. 2 A – First reading:

1. They were seriously affected by drought. 2. Yes, it is. 3. Local government and some aid agencies.

Ex. 2 B – True/False statements: 1F, 2T, 3T, 4F

Ex. 2 C – Vocabulary: 1. eat, 2. improved, 3. seriously, 4. steps, 5. shelters

Niger

Full name: The Republic of Niger

Population: 14.2 million (UN, 2007)

Capital: Niamey

Area: 1.27 million sq km
(489,000 sq miles)

Major languages: French (official),
Arabic, Hausa, Songhai

Major religions: Islam, indigenous beliefs

Life expectancy: 58 years (men), 56 years (women) (UN)

Main exports: Uranium, livestock products

Economy: Niger is rated as one of the world's least-developed countries by the UN.





1 Match the words with their definitions

1	drought	A	place where you are protected from weather
2	shelter	B	stomach
3	belly (informal)	C	the amount of crop that is collected
4	cattle	D	land covered with grass where sheep or cows are kept
5	well	E	a long period of time when there is little or no rain and crops die
6	pasture	F	a deep hole that is dug in the ground to provide the supply of water
7	harvest	G	cows and bulls kept by farmers for their milk or meat

1	2	3	4	5	6	7

2 My fight against hunger

A. Read the text quickly to find the answers to the following questions:

1. What happened to the nomad's family last year?
2. Is their situation now back to normal?
3. Who is helping the nomads?

*D. Mokao is a nomad from northern Niger. His people were **seriously** affected by last year's drought.*

Last year, the earth was bare. Nothing grew. There were no rains. Cold and strong winds were blowing everywhere. Our animals had no **shelter** because there was no grass left. They could not hide and their bellies were empty. A lot of elderly people died. So did children who could not get milk. Last year, the nomads lost thousands of animals.

My family lost 59 animals and now there are only 14 left. This is why we've stopped travelling. We are all staying around the well I bought here three years ago.

It's very hard when nomads lose their animals. They live with them, can eat because of them, can buy clothes for their children because of them. We cannot live without them. And we don't know any other job. If we lose our cattle, we lose everything – it's very serious. We don't know where to go or what to do.

The situation has now **improved** – the rains finally came, so now our animals have enough to **eat**. But we need many more years of good rains and harvests before we can get back to where we were before the drought.

A lot of people now rely on outside help for food and the government is trying to find solutions. Some aid agencies have also taken **steps** to help us.

Adapted from BBC NEWS:
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/africa/4661942.stm>

B. Read the following statements and decide if they are true (T) or false (F)

1. Mr. Mokao's family was hungry because the animals ran away.	
2. Without cattle Mr. Mokao could not maintain his family.	
3. The recent change in weather made the situation better.	
4. A lot of people are leaving to find help outside the country.	

C. VOCABULARY: Use the words in bold from the text to complete the gaps:

1. In times of drought, many people in large areas of Africa have nothing to _____ .
2. The help given by aid agencies _____ the living conditions in towns and villages.
3. A lack of food _____ threatens people's health.
4. We shall take all necessary _____ to save the starving population.
5. Journalists visited poor families living in temporary _____ s.



Miming activity:

Being a nomad	Being a journalist doing an interview
Being a cow in search of green pastures and water	Harvesting crops
Using a well	Strong wind blowing but with no rain

Role-play:

Student A	Student B
<p>You are an aid agency worker. You arrive in northern Africa to get information on the best way of helping the poor.</p> <p>The following items might help you to ask about the situation.</p>	<p>You are a member of Mr. Mokao's family. You are describing their situation. The following items might help you.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• most serious problems• living conditions• education, jobs• accommodation (tents, blankets)• kind of clothing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• weather• animals• pastures, earth• clothing• food• medicines

