**Case Study**

**Amina’s Situation - June**

Amina is a ten months old girl living in the country Lidoba, who is acutely malnourished. Her MUAC (Middle Upper Arm Circumference) is 11.2 cm. She is the youngest of 12 children and her mother is pregnant. Since becoming displaced due to war 5 months ago, the family lives in a make shift tent. They have no latrine or access to a latrine. Chickens, goats, and babies roam and crawl freely around the tent where they also defecate. The younger girls fetch water twice a day from the river.

For the past week, Amina has had diarrhea. Her mother has cut down on the amount of food and breast milk she is giving her, after advice from her mother in law. “If it does not go in then it will not come out“, she is told. In her community, lactating mothers like Amina’s are not allowed to eat meat because it is believed it brings bad luck to the baby. Amina’s mother understands that this is not right, but her husband does not allow her to eat meat because of this belief.

Amina’s mother took her to the health facility, but it was closed. She had to walk one hour each way to get there. She is not willing to waste another 2 hours tomorrow to take Amina back to the health facility. Besides the distance, she has heard that they do not have medicines and that she has to pay to be seen. Amina’s mother walks a total of 3 hours 4 times a week to go back to her fields near her village to plant and take care of her crops. It is soon harvest season, and she cannot afford to lose her crops. Her family is barely surviving on the food aid they receive and scavenging for wild foods. She says that her chickens have not started laying eggs yet, which means she cannot sell these on the market and buy maize for her family. Her goats are not finding enough food to eat either. She is concerned that the family will not get any assistance because they do not belong to the same sub-clan as the settlement leader.

**Questions**

* What do you think the immediate, underlying, and basic causes of Amina’s malnutrition are?
* How do they compare to the causes of malnutrition in the area where you are working?