



2020

GLOBAL REPORT ON FOOD CRISES

JOINT ANALYSIS FOR BETTER DECISIONS

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FOREWORD

The number of people battling acute hunger and suffering from malnutrition is on the rise yet again. In many places, we still lack the ability to collect reliable and timely data to truly know the magnitude and severity of food crises gripping vulnerable populations. And the upheaval that has been set in motion by the COVID-19 pandemic may push even more families and communities into deeper distress.

At this time of immense global challenges, from conflicts to climate shocks to economic instability, we must redouble our efforts to defeat hunger and malnutrition. This is crucial for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and building a more stable and resilient world.

We have the tools and the know-how. What we need is political will and sustained commitment by leaders and nations. This report should be seen as a call to action and I commend its contents to a wide global audience.

António Guterres

Secretary-General of the United Nations



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



SICA
Sistema de la Integración
Centroamericana



unicef
for every child



**World Food
Programme**

ACRONYMS

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--|----------------------|---|
| 3RP | Regional Refugee & Resilience Plan | | Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome |
| ACAPS | Assessment Capacities Project | HNO | Humanitarian Needs Overview |
| ALPS | Alert for Price Spikes indicator | HRP | Humanitarian Response Plan |
| ALG | Liptako-Gourma Authority (Autorité de Développement Intégré de la Région du Liptako Gourma) | ICRC | International Committee of the Red Cross |
| CADC | Central America Dry Corridor | IDMC | Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre |
| CFSAM | Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission | IDP | Internally Displaced People |
| CFSVA | Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis | IFPRI | International Food Policy Research Institute |
| CH | Cadre Harmonisé | IFRC | International Federation of the Red Cross |
| Cholera/AWD | Cholera and Acute Watery Diarrhoea | IGAD | Intergovernmental Authority on Development (in Eastern Africa) |
| CILSS | Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control | IMF | International Monetary Fund |
| CPI | Consumer Price Index | IOM | International Organization for Migration |
| DEVCO | International Cooperation and Development of the European Commission | IPC | Integrated Food Security Phase Classification |
| DHS | Demographic and Health Survey | IPC AMN | Integrated Food Security and Nutrition Phase Classification Acute Malnutrition Analysis |
| DTM | Displacement Tracking Matrix | ISIL | Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant |
| ECHO | European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations of the European Commission | IYCF | Infant and Young Children Feeding |
| EC-JRC | European Commission – Joint Research Centre | JMP | Joint Monitoring Programme |
| ECOWAS | Economic Community of West African States (or CEDEAO) | JRP | Joint Response Plan |
| | (Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest) | MAD | Minimum Acceptable Diet |
| EFSA | Emergency Food Security Assessment (Evaluación de Seguridad Alimentaria de Emergencia) | MAEP | Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fishery (Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Élevage et de la Pêche) |
| EHES | Eswatini Household Income and Expenditure survey | MAM | Moderate Acute Malnutrition |
| FAO | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations | MARN | Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales) |
| FAO-GIEWS | Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations - Global Information and Early Warning System | MCNA | Multi-Cluster Needs Assessment |
| FCS | Food Consumption Score | MDD | Minimum Dietary Diversity |
| FEWS NET | Famine Early Warning Systems Network | MICS | Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey or Ministry and National Institute for Health (Ministerio de Salud-Instituto Nacional de Salud) |
| FSIN | Food Security Information Network | MoPH | Ministry of Public Health |
| FSNA | Food Security and Nutrition Assessment | (WFP's) | World Food Programme's mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping |
| FSNMS | Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring System | mVAM | |
| GAM | Global Acute Malnutrition | NDVI | Normalized Difference Vegetation Index |
| GDP | Gross Domestic Product | NM | Nautical Miles |
| gFSC | Global Food Security Cluster | NNS | National Nutrition Survey |
| GIFMM | Interagency Group on Mixed Migration Flows – Colombia (Grupo Interagencial de Flujos Migratorios Mixtos) | NRC | Norwegian Refugee Council |
| gNC | Global Nutrition Cluster | OCHA | United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs |
| GRFC | Global Report on Food Crises | PDM | Post-Distribution Monitoring |
| HDP | Humanitarian – Development – Peace nexus | PDS | Public Distribution System |
| HIV/AIDS | Human Immunodeficiency Virus Infection and | R-ARCSS | Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan |
| | | rCSI | Reduced Coping Strategy Index |
| | | RMRP | Refugee and Migrant Response Plan |
| | | RPCA | Food Crisis Prevention Network (Réseau de |

ACRONYMS cont...

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| | Prevention des Crises Alimentaires) |
| SADC | Southern African Development Community |
| SAM | Severe Acute Malnutrition |
| SENS | Standardised Expanded Nutrition Survey |
| SICA | Central American Integration System |
| SIPRI | Stockholm International Peace Research Institute |
| SMART | Standardised Monitoring and Assessment of Methodology Relief and Transitions |
| SNNPR | Ethiopian Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region |
| SPLM-N | Sudan People's Liberation Movement – North |
| TMC | Transitional Military Council |
| UAG | Unidentified Armed Groups |
| UEMOA | West African Economic and Monetary Union (Union économique et monétaire ouest-africaine) |
| UN | United Nations |
| UNAIDS | Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS |
| UNAMA | United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan |
| UNCTAD | United Nations Conference on Trade and Development |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| UNHCR | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees |
| UNICEF | United Nations Children's Fund |
| UNMISS | United Nations Mission in South Sudan |
| UNRWA | United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East |
| USAID | United States Agency for International Development |
| USD | United States Dollar |
| USDA GAIN | United States Department of Agriculture - Global Agricultural Information Network |
| VAC | Vulnerability Assessment Committee |
| VAM | Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping |
| WASH | Water, Sanitation and Hygiene |
| WB | World Bank |
| WFP | World Food Programme |
| WHO | World Health Organisation |

ICONOGRAPHY

Drivers of acute food insecurity

-  Conflict/insecurity
-  Weather extremes
-  Economic shocks
-  Pests
-  Health shocks

Nutrition

-  Acute malnutrition (wasting)
-  Chronic malnutrition (stunting)
-  Dietary diversity
-  Breastfeeding
-  Anaemia
-  Access to safe drinking water

Displacement

-  Internally displaced people (IDPs)
-  Refugees/asylum-seekers
-  Returnees

GRFC 2020 in brief

The Global Report on Food Crises (GRFC) 2020 is the result of a joint, consensus-based assessment of acute food insecurity situations around the world by 16 partner organizations.

The number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) is the highest since the GRFC launched in 2017. This also reflects the inclusion of additional countries.

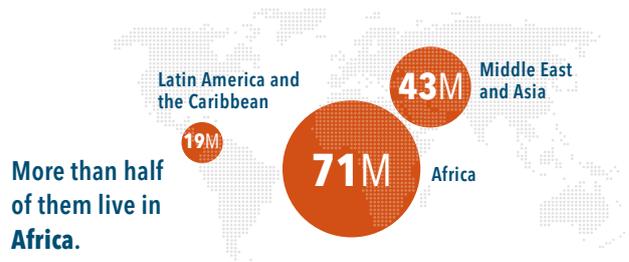
When only comparing the 50 countries that were in both the 2018 and the 2019 analyses, the population in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) rose from 112 to 123 million. This reflects worsening food insecurity in key conflict-driven crises, notably the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan and Afghanistan and growing severity of drought and economic shocks as drivers in countries such as Zimbabwe, Haiti, Guatemala and Pakistan.

The report found that 183.5 million people were classified in Stressed (IPC/CH Phase 2) conditions, on the verge of slipping into Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) if confronted by an additional shock or stressor.

For children living in food crises, limited access to nutritiously diverse diets, clean drinking water, sanitation and healthcare continued to weaken the health and nutrition status of children living in food crises, with dire consequences for their development and long-term productivity.

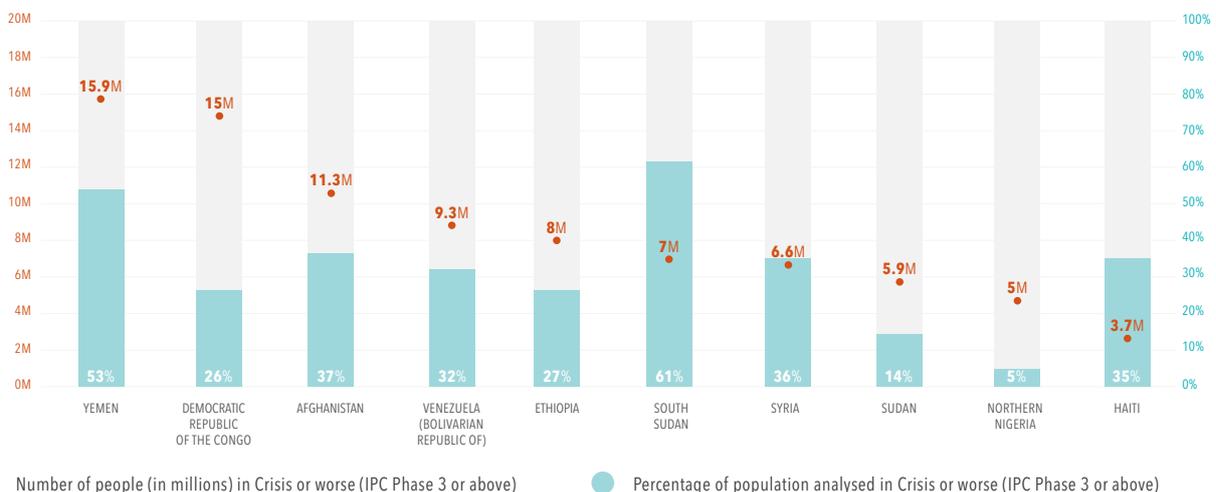


The number of acutely food-insecure people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) has risen across **55 countries and territories** analysed



Conflict/insecurity was still the main driver of food crises in 2019, but **weather extremes** and **economic shocks** became increasingly significant

The 10 worst food crises in 2019 by number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above)



Drivers of acute food insecurity

Conflict/insecurity was still the primary driver of food crises in 2019. Over half of the 77 million people in countries where conflict was identified as the primary driver were in the Middle East and Asia. Food insecurity continued to increase in cross-border areas, particularly in the Lake Chad Basin and Central Sahel, which have relatively high poverty levels, lawlessness, lack of infrastructure and low access to basic services.

The growing intensity and severity of extreme weather events contributed to the increased number of food-insecure people by comparison with 2018. Africa had the largest numbers of acutely food-insecure people in countries badly affected by weather events, particularly in the Horn of Africa and Southern Africa, followed by Central America and Pakistan's drought-affected Sindh and Balochistan provinces.

The report reflects the growing influence of economic crises on food insecurity levels, particularly in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Zimbabwe, Haiti and the Sudan.

Displacement can aggravate food insecurity and malnutrition. Food insecurity can also trigger displacement, often exacerbated by and entwined with conflict to form a vicious cycle. By mid-2019 some 79 million were forcibly displaced – 44 million of them internally displaced and 20 million were refugees under UNHCR's mandate. More than half of these refugees were hosted in countries with already-high numbers of acutely food-insecure people. In countries where funding constraints have reduced rations in refugee camps, refugees' food security is severely threatened.

Short-term outlook for 2020

The food insecurity situation looks set to worsen in several countries and territories where intensifying conflict, civil unrest and intercommunal violence, extreme weather events and/or economic crises will lead to loss of livelihoods, higher food prices and increased displacement.

Yemen will likely remain the worst food crisis with 17 million or more people potentially facing Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) levels of acute food insecurity and even graver levels of acute malnutrition.

In conflict-affected West Africa and Sahel countries – Burkina Faso, Chad, the Niger, Nigeria and Mali – increasing violence, new displacements and disrupted agriculture and trade in tandem with adverse climate will aggravate the deteriorating food crisis.

Weakening currency in Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic is expected to continue, decreasing food flows, pushing food prices up and reducing people's access to food.

Towards the end of 2020 up to 6.5 million people in Zimbabwe could be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above).

The outflow of Venezuelans is expected to continue in 2020, making it one of the world's largest migration crises. In Haiti mass protests and violence may further weaken the economy, driving up food prices and unemployment.

The drivers of food crises, as well as lack of access to diverse food, safe water, sanitation and health care will continue to create high levels of child malnutrition. A grave concern is that disease outbreaks including COVID-19, cholera and Ebola could outstretch countries' health system capacities.



15M

children under-5 were acutely malnourished in the 10 worst food crises in 2019



In 2020 crop pests such as **desert locusts** and disease outbreaks such as **COVID-19** may compound the effects of the three main drivers – conflict, weather extremes and economic shocks

Urgent call to improve data analytics

If governments, humanitarian actors and development agencies are to prevent food crises from getting worse in both severity and magnitude they need reliable, timely and accessible data and analysis.

Major data availability challenges both for food security and nutrition remain in inaccessible areas of countries, chiefly because of conflict and insecurity.

This year's report highlights that there is no comparable analysis available for refugee populations.

All partners are in agreement with the analysis provided in the report. However, across the four editions of the GRFC, no consensus was reached on estimating the number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Haiti.

The humanitarian and development community needs to systematically engage with countries that face data gaps and/or consistently lack technical consensus.

It must invest in technology-savvy monitoring systems and predictive analysis to provide credible, relevant and timely evidence for strategic and operational decision-making.

Introduction and methods

WHY THIS REPORT?

Reliable data and analysis are important tools in tackling the root causes of food crises

The Global Report on Food Crises is the result of a joint assessment of acute food insecurity situations around the world by 16 partners.

By carrying out collective analysis and providing clear, independent evidence the partners aim to guide coherent and coordinated strategic humanitarian and development investments. The report tracks the numbers and locations of people most in need of emergency food, nutrition and livelihood assistance and it captures how food insecurity and

malnutrition conditions have changed over time. It identifies the main drivers of acute food insecurity and malnutrition – and explores whether and how conflict, weather extremes and economic shocks interact and exacerbate food crisis situations. It also examines how chronic, structural or seasonal issues combine with shocks to exacerbate situations.

The data and evidence presented here can inform timely, cost-efficient and needs-based humanitarian and resilience-building actions, and ultimately enable agencies to seek high-level political action and coordinate policies and actions for durable and innovative ways to tackle the root causes of food crises. In concrete terms, agencies, governments and other key stakeholders can use the information to bolster the



Global Network Against Food Crises

The Global Network Against Food Crises was co-founded by the European Union, FAO and WFP at the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) in response to the call for new approaches to tackle protracted crises and recurrent disasters, reduce vulnerability and better manage risks by bridging the divide between development, humanitarian and conflict-preventing action. The latter is often referred to as the humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) nexus.

The Global Network brings together partners from across the spectrum of interventions to tackle food crises, incorporating humanitarian and development actions and linking to other sectors, such as education, health, the environment and peace. It aims to develop evidence-based approaches, build capacities and provide knowledge to more effectively prevent, prepare for and respond to food crises, ultimately contributing to longer-term recovery, development and resilience-building efforts.

The Global Network addresses the multiple facets of food crises that cannot be successfully tackled by individual actors working under their own specific mandates. It

facilitates a fundamental change in the way international and local actors interact and promotes a holistic approach to address food crises worldwide. Partners in the Global Network work together and achieve results at national, regional and global level in three key areas:

- Evidence-based analyses of food crisis risks and of people's resilience to various shocks; knowledge management and communication monitoring, evaluation and learning.
- Strategic investments for addressing and preventing food crises.
- Synergies and coordination with other sectors to address the full spectrum of humanitarian, development and peace-building needs. This aims to deliver a more inclusive, equitable, resilient and sustainable set of context-specific responses and solutions.

Within the Global Network's framework and approach, the Food Security Information Network (FSIN) facilitates the consensus-building process around food security and nutrition analyses, and ensures a constant flow of information and exchange between stakeholders at country, regional and global level around food security and nutrition analysis.

case for changing food systems, building resilience to extreme weather events, resolving conflict, promoting durable peace and upholding international humanitarian law.

This report is the flagship publication of a series of analytical products facilitated by the Food Security Information Network (FSIN) and produced under the initiative of the Global Network Against Food Crises.

The humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) nexus has emerged as a major focus of policy debate in the years since the UN Secretary General's 2015 report for the World Humanitarian Summit. The Commitment to Action signed at the WHS called on humanitarian, development and other relevant actors to work collaboratively towards collective outcomes that reduce needs, risks and vulnerabilities over multiple years through a "New Way of Working".

Funding and financing tools, instruments, policies and approaches have not had time to adapt to the new HDP policy agenda proposed at the WHS. Moreover, practical challenges in the operationalization of the humanitarian and development collaboration in links with peace are emerging. In particular, stakeholders at country level report lack of clarity regarding roles and rules of engagement, as well as significant divergences in principles and practices, limiting the convergence between actors along the nexus. The Global Network Against Food Crises is an attempt to foster greater collaboration and cohesive action along the nexus.

WHAT IS FOOD INSECURITY?

Food insecurity refers to the lack of secure access to sufficient amounts of safe and nutritious food for normal human growth and development and an active and healthy life. For people to be food secure, food must be both *consistently available* and *accessible* in sufficient quantities and diversity and households must be able to *utilise* (store, cook, prepare and share) the food in a way that has a positive nutritional impact.

Acute food insecurity

Acute food insecurity is any manifestation of food insecurity at a specific point in time of a severity that threatens lives, livelihoods or both, regardless of the causes, context or duration. These acute states are highly susceptible to change and can manifest in a population within a short amount of time, as a result of sudden changes or shocks that negatively impact on the determinants of food insecurity and malnutrition (IPC, 2017). Transitory food insecurity is a short-term or temporary inability to meet food consumption requirements related to sporadic crises, indicating a capacity to recover.

WHAT DRIVES ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY?

The drivers of food insecurity are often interlinked and mutually reinforcing, making it difficult to pinpoint the specific trigger or driver of each food crisis. The GRFC 2020 takes a practical approach by estimating which are the most salient for each country/territory out of three broad categories – conflict/insecurity, weather extremes and economic shocks – as explained below.

Conflict and insecurity

Such as interstate conflicts, internal violence, regional or global instability, civil unrest or failed states

In conflict civilians are frequently deprived of their income sources and pushed into acute food insecurity. Food systems and markets are disrupted, pushing up food prices and sometimes leading to scarcities of water and fuel, or of food itself. Landmines, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices often destroy agricultural land, mills, storage facilities, machinery etc.

Conflict prevents businesses from operating and weakens the national economy, reducing employment opportunities and increasing poverty levels. Health systems are usually damaged or destroyed leaving people reliant on humanitarian support – yet increasingly insecurity and roadblocks prevent humanitarian convoys from reaching the most vulnerable. Or agencies face lengthy delays, restrictions on personnel or the type or quantity of aid supplies, or insufficient security guarantees. Food insecurity itself can become a trigger for violence and instability, particularly in contexts marked by pervasive inequalities and fragile institutions. Sudden spikes in food prices tend to exacerbate the risk of political unrest and conflict (SOFI 2017).

Weather extremes

Such as droughts, floods, cyclones and hurricanes

Weather-related events can directly affect crops and/or livestock, cut off roads and transport systems and prevent markets from being stocked. Poor harvests push up food prices and diminish agricultural labour opportunities, lowering income at a time when households are more market-reliant because of reduced food stocks. Adverse weather events are particularly grave for smallholder farmers who cannot afford to invest in the systems and inputs required to withstand and recover from the impacts of such shocks, or for pastoralists who are vulnerable because they rely on rain-fed rangeland for grazing livestock and have very few fixed assets.

People's vulnerability to weather shock events rests on their capacity to adapt, the scale and frequency of shocks and their

dependence on the affected sector. Repeated events further erode capacity to withstand future shocks. Weather events and changes in climate often lead to conflict between pastoralist herders and farmers over access to water and grazing. There is ample evidence suggesting that natural disasters – particularly droughts – contribute to aggravating existing civil conflicts.

Economic shocks

Economic shocks can affect the food insecurity of households or individuals through various channels. Macroeconomic shocks, characterized by high inflation or hyperinflation, currency depreciation, worsening terms of trade, lack of employment opportunities and loss of income, a contraction in export markets and decrease in investments and other capital inflows coincide with increases in acute food insecurity. Increases in international prices of oil or agricultural inputs can affect food availability, food prices and incomes.

Countries with weak governance and institutions, or facing armed conflict, civil unrest or instability, are particularly vulnerable to the impact of economic decline. High debt constrains economic growth, increases vulnerability to economic shocks and detracts from development spending. Unsustainable debt levels in already fragile situations threaten countries' ability to move out of crisis.

Other drivers

Other drivers are used in the GRFC but are not recorded yet as the primary driver in any of the countries analysed.

Health shocks – Disease outbreaks (occurrence of disease cases in excess of normal expectancy) are usually caused by an infection, transmitted through person-to-person contact, animal-to-person contact, or from the environment or other media. Water, sanitation, food and air quality are vital elements in the transmission of communicable diseases and in the spread of diseases prone to cause epidemics. Displaced populations – particularly in overcrowded camps – are more susceptible to disease outbreaks which strained health systems cannot prevent or control (WHO). Epidemics and pandemics can also affect the ability of people to carry on their activities and livelihoods and, in the worst cases when widespread, may also affect market and supply chains.

Crop pests – Fall armyworms, desert locusts, etc can damage crops and may lead to severe production shortfalls.

Natural disasters (non-weather related) – Disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions that can lead to major property, infrastructure and/or environmental damage as well as loss of human life.

A note on displacement

Displaced people are often more vulnerable to food insecurity and malnutrition after abandoning livelihoods and assets, travelling arduous journeys and settling in areas or camps with limited access to basic services and social networks. Their rights are often restricted due to a host country's legal frameworks, resulting in a lack of access to land, employment and movement. They are often dependent on humanitarian assistance to meet their food needs. Hosting communities often face a strain on basic services, food, land and water resources.

Forced displacement is the movement of people who have been obliged to leave their homes, particularly to avoid the effects of armed conflict, generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters.

A **refugee** is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war or violence. Refugees are recognized under various international agreements. Some are recognized as a group or on a 'prima facie' basis while others undergo an individual investigation before being given refugee status. The 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of

Refugees provide the full legal definition of a refugee.

An **asylum-seeker** is a person seeking sanctuary in a country other than their own and waiting for a decision about their status. The legal processes related to asylum are complex and variable, which is a challenge when it comes to counting, measuring and understanding the asylum-seeking population. When an asylum application is successful, the person is awarded refugee status.

Internally displaced people (IDPs) are those forced to flee their homes as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights, or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an international border.

A **stateless person** is someone who does not have a nationality of any country. Some people are born stateless, but others become stateless due to a variety of reasons, including sovereign, legal, technical or administrative decisions or oversights. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights underlines that "Everyone has the right to a nationality" (UNGA, 1948, article 15).

WHERE DOES THE FOOD INSECURITY DATA IN THE GRFC 2020 COME FROM?

IPC/CH analyses for the peak number of acutely food-insecure people in 2019

In countries where the government and food security stakeholders have adopted the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) or the Cadre Harmonisé (CH) as the protocol for classifying the severity and magnitude of acute food insecurity, the number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) corresponds to the highest estimates registered for the calendar year, independent of seasonality.

Populations in Crisis (IPC/CH Phase 3), Emergency (IPC/CH Phase 4) and Catastrophe (IPC/CH Phase 5) are deemed to be those in need of urgent food, nutrition and livelihood assistance. Populations in Stressed (IPC/CH Phase 2) require

a different set of actions – ideally disaster risk reduction and livelihood protection interventions – and are also indicated in Chapter 2. See overleaf and Annex 1 for more explanation of IPC/CH and phase descriptions.

Other sources for countries with no IPC/CH analysis

A handful of countries classified as being in need of external food assistance have not adopted the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) or the Cadre Harmonisé (CH) or did not conduct such analyses in 2019. Other sources used were IPC-compatible analyses from FEWS NET, WFP assessments using CARI methodology and/or Humanitarian Needs Overviews.

Sources for the forecast numbers of acutely food-insecure people in need of urgent action in 2020

The sources for the outlook and projected trends for 2020 vary. They are based on IPC and CH projections, FEWS NET's projected emergency food assistance needs and other

Table 1

Criteria for selecting countries for inclusion in GRFC 2020

71

countries were selected for inclusion in GRFC 2020



47

countries that requested external assistance for food and/or faced shocks as assessed by FAO GIEWS:

- ▶ in 2019 or
- ▶ at least once in the past 3 years or
- ▶ at least 3 years in the past 10 years.



24

low or middle-income countries that did not meet GIEWS criteria, but had populations in need of humanitarian assistance as a result of:

- ▶ hosting refugee populations who were assisted by UNHCR and WFP
- ▶ having over 1 million or at least 20% of its population forcefully displaced
- ▶ having populations affected by weather shocks
- ▶ having populations affected by conflict and insecurity.

High income countries, countries that did not ask for any humanitarian assistance to cope with the shock(s) or countries in which the shock(s) had little impact on food security were not included.

36

of the selected countries were identified as major crises in 2019 based on the following non-mutually exclusive criteria

- ▶ at least 20% of the population analysed in IPC/CH Phase 3 or above
- ▶ at least 1 million people in IPC/CH Phase 3 or above
- ▶ any area in IPC/CH Phase 4 or above
- ▶ included in the IASC humanitarian system-wide emergency response – level 3.



Table 2

IPC/CH acute food insecurity phase description

| Phase | Technical description | Priority response objective |
|-----------------------------|--|---|
| 1 None/Minimal | Households are able to meet essential food and non-food needs without engaging in atypical and unsustainable strategies to access food and income. | Resilience building and disaster risk reduction. |
| 2 Stressed | Households have minimally adequate food consumption but are unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures without engaging in stress-coping strategies. | Disaster risk reduction and protection of livelihoods. |
| 3 Crisis | Households either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have food consumption gaps that are reflected by high or above-usual acute malnutrition; <i>OR</i> • Are marginally able to meet minimum food needs but only by depleting essential livelihood assets or through crisis-coping strategies. | URGENT ACTION REQUIRED Protect livelihoods and reduce food consumption gaps. |
| 4 Emergency | Households either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have large food consumption gaps which are reflected in very high acute malnutrition and excess mortality; <i>OR</i> • Are able to mitigate large food consumption gaps but only by employing emergency livelihood strategies and asset liquidation. | URGENT ACTION REQUIRED Save lives and livelihoods. |
| 5 Catastrophe/Famine | Households have an extreme lack of food and/or other basic needs even after full employment of coping strategies. Starvation, death, destitution and extremely critical acute malnutrition levels are evident. (For Famine Classification, area needs to have extreme critical levels of acute malnutrition and mortality.) | URGENT ACTION REQUIRED Revert/prevent widespread death and total collapse of livelihoods. |

Table 3

IPC acute malnutrition reference table

| Phase name and description | Phase 1 Acceptable | Phase 2 Alert | Phase 3 Serious | Phase 4 Critical | Phase 5 Extremely critical |
|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| | Less than 5% of children are acutely malnourished. | 5–9.9% of children are acutely malnourished. | 10–14.9% of children are acutely malnourished. | 15–29.9% of children are acutely malnourished. The mortality and morbidity levels are elevated or increasing. Individual food consumption is likely to be compromised. | 30% or more children are acutely malnourished. Widespread morbidity and/or very large individual food consumption gaps are likely evident. |
| | The situation is progressively deteriorating, with increasing levels of Acute Malnutrition. Morbidity levels and/or individual food consumption gaps are likely to increase with increasing levels of Acute Malnutrition. | | | | |
| Priority response objective to decrease Acute Malnutrition and to prevent related mortality. | Maintain the low prevalence of Acute Malnutrition. | Strengthen existing response capacity and resilience. Address contributing factors to Acute Malnutrition. Monitor conditions and plan response as required. | Urgently reduce Acute Malnutrition levels by: scaling up treatment and prevention of affected populations. | Urgently reduce Acute Malnutrition levels by: significantly scaling up and intensifying treatment and protection activities to reach additional population affected. | Urgently reduce Acute Malnutrition levels by: addressing widespread Acute Malnutrition and disease epidemics by all means. |
| Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) based on weight for height Z-score (WHZ) | <5% | 5.0 to 9.9% | 10.0 to 14.9% | 15.0 to 29.9% | ≥30% |
| Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) based on Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) | | 5% | 5–9.9% | 10–14.9% | ≥15% |
| *GAM based on MUAC must only be used in the absence of GAM based on WHZ; the final IPC Acute Malnutrition phase with GAM based on MUAC should be supported by the analysis of the relationship between WHZ and MUAC in the area of analysis and also by using convergence of evidence with contributing factors. In exceptional conditions where GAM based on MUAC is significantly higher than GAM based on WHZ (i.e. two or more phases), both GAM based on WHZ, and GAM based on MUAC should be considered, and the final phase should be determined with convergence of evidence. | | | | | |

1 The mortality mentioned above refers to the increased risk of mortality with the increased levels of Acute Malnutrition.
 2 Priority response objectives recommended by the IPC Acute Malnutrition Reference Table focus on decreasing Acute Malnutrition levels; specific actions should be informed through a response analysis based on the information provided by analyses of contributing factors to Acute Malnutrition as well as delivery-related issues, such as government and agencies' capacity, funding and insecurity in the area.
 3 GAM based on WHZ is defined as WHZ < -2 or presence of oedema; GAM based on MUAC is defined as MUAC < 125mm or presence of oedema

reliable sources (name them). FEWS NET food assistance outlook briefs provide information on the projected severity and magnitude of acute food insecurity (using ranges) and indicate each country's food-insecure population in need of urgent humanitarian food assistance (IPC Phase 3 or above). FEWS NET projections are based on a scenario development approach where a set of assumptions regarding the evolution of food security drivers and their impacts on food security outcomes. The report presents projections from what is considered to be the most-likely scenario.

CH projections were generated in October–November 2019 and forecast the number of people in CH Phase 3 or above for the West African and Sahel lean season in June–August 2020 in a scenario in which no food assistance is provided.

Sources for the drivers of acute food insecurity

A wide range of sources – websites and literature – are used to examine the drivers of food insecurity and complement the analysis.

MALNUTRITION

The global estimates in this report refer to the defined conditions of acute food insecurity. The analysis complements that information with assessments of the degree of malnutrition, especially among children, using conventional nutrition indicators.

What is malnutrition?

Malnutrition exists in different forms; it includes undernutrition and overnutrition. Undernutrition is more than a lack of food – it is a combination of factors: insufficient energy, protein and micronutrients coupled with frequent infections or disease. Malnutrition stunts children's growth, deprives them of essential vitamins and minerals, and makes them more susceptible to frequent and severe disease and infections (UNICEF).

There are also other forms of malnutrition. While not a focus of this report, it may also refer to overnutrition leading to obesity. This form of malnutrition is on the rise in almost every country in the world. Undernutrition and overnutrition frequently coexist within the same country, community, and even within the same individual. Stunted children, for example, face a greater risk of becoming overweight as adults (UNICEF).

Acute malnutrition

A child being too thin for his or her height as a result of rapid weight loss or the failure to gain weight is a sign of acute malnutrition (wasting) which, although treatable, can lead to illness, disability or death. Moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) using the weight for height indicator is identified by

Table 4

WHO severity index for:

Prevalence of wasting in children aged 6–59 months

| Prevalence ranges | Label |  |
|-------------------|-----------|---|
| < 2.5% | Very low | |
| 2.5 - < 5% | Low | |
| 5 - < 10% | Medium | |
| 10 - < 15% | High | |
| ≥ 15% | Very high | |

Prevalence of stunting in children aged 0–59 months

| Prevalence ranges | Label |  |
|-------------------|-----------|---|
| < 2.5% | Very low | |
| 2.5 - 10% | Low | |
| 10 - < 20% | Medium | |
| 20 - < 30% | High | |
| ≥ 30% | Very high | |

weight for height z scores (WHZ) below -2 and above -3 of the reference population, and severe acute malnutrition (SAM) by WHZ below -3. Global acute malnutrition (GAM) reflects the total presence of both MAM and SAM in a population. Children affected require urgent feeding, treatment and care to survive. Acute malnutrition rates depict the nutrition situation in the general population at a specific time: they can show marked seasonal patterns and can change quickly over time.

Chronic malnutrition

A child being too short for his or her age (stunting) is a sign of chronic malnutrition. This condition is preventable from the 1 000 days between a woman's pregnancy and the time her child turns two. The physical and cognitive damage caused by stunting can be irreversible and has far-reaching consequences, from diminished learning and school performance, to lower future earnings and can affect the next generation. Stunted children under 5 years old are identified by a height for age z score (HAZ) below -2 of the reference population. Severe stunting is defined as HAZ below -3.

Micronutrient deficiencies

Caused by a lack of intake, absorption or use of one or more vitamins or minerals such as vitamin A, iron and zinc – are often referred to as 'hidden hunger' because they develop gradually over time, and a large percentage of the population may be deficient without showing any clinical symptoms or signs of deficiency.

Nutrition indicators used in GRFC 2020



In addition to the total number and/or prevalence of children aged 6–59 months in need of treatment for acute malnutrition and the prevalence of stunting among under 5-year-olds, this report also refers to the following nutrition indicators:

Minimum dietary diversity for children aged 6–23 months

This indicator refers to the percentage of children aged 6–23 months who receive foods from more than five out of eight food groups a day. The eight food groups are: i. breastmilk; ii. grains, roots and tubers; iii. legumes and nuts; iv. dairy products (infant formula, milk, yogurt, cheese); v. flesh foods (meat, fish, poultry and liver/organ meats); vi. eggs; vii. vitamin-A rich fruits and vegetables; viii. other fruits and vegetables.

In some surveys minimum dietary diversity is calculated based on seven food groups, excluding breastmilk. In these cases, the indicator refers to the percentage of children aged 6–23 months who receive foods from more than four out of seven food groups a day.

Minimum meal frequency

The indicator refers to the proportion of breastfed and non-breastfed children aged 6–23 months who receive solid, semi-solid or soft foods at least the minimum number of recommended times a day.

Minimum acceptable diet

This is a composite indicator that combines meal frequency and dietary diversity to assess the proportion of children aged 6–23 months consuming a diet that meets the minimum requirements for growth and development.

Percentage of households not consuming micronutrient rich food

(Analysed in refugee populations) This refers to the proportion of households with no member consuming any vegetables, fruits, meat, eggs, fish/seafood, and milk/milk products over a reference time period of 24 hours. The food group of vegetables, fruits, meat, eggs, fish/seafood, and milk/milk products are the same as the 12 food groups defined by FAO (2011).

Exclusive breastfeeding

This indicator refers to the percentage of infants fed exclusively with breast milk up to six months of age, as recommended by WHO.

Prevalence of anaemia

This indicator refers to the proportion of children aged 6–59 months and of reproductive age women (15–49 years) who are anaemic.

Anaemia is a condition in which the number of red blood cells or their oxygen-carrying capacity is insufficient to meet physiological needs, which varies by age, sex, altitude, smoking and pregnancy status. Iron deficiency is thought to be the most common cause of anaemia globally, although other conditions, such as folate, vitamin B12 and vitamin A deficiencies, chronic inflammation, parasitic infections and inherited disorders can all cause anaemia. In its severe form, it is associated with fatigue, weakness, dizziness and drowsiness. Pregnant women and children are particularly vulnerable (WHO).

Access to basic drinking water services

Improved drinking water sources are those which, by nature of their design and construction, have the potential to deliver safe water. The WHO and UNICEF Joint Monitoring Program for Water Supply Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP) subdivides the population using improved sources into three groups (safely managed, basic and limited) according to the level of service provided. In order to meet the criteria for a safely managed drinking water service, people must use an improved source meeting three criteria: accessible on premises; available when needed; free from contamination.

If the improved source does not meet any one of these criteria but a round trip to collect water takes 30 minutes or less, then it is classified as a basic drinking water service. If water collection from an improved source exceeds 30 minutes, it is categorized as a limited service (WHO and UNICEF).

For refugees, the indicator refers to the type of drinking water source used by the household serves to indicate whether their drinking water is of a suitable quality or not.

IPC acute malnutrition phase classification

The analysis process reviews all contributing factors affecting acute malnutrition in the area of analysis and classifies the severity of a nutrition situation in a population, using defined indicators. The level of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) is used to classify the severity of acute malnutrition and key factors such as dietary intake, disease, feeding and care practices, health and WASH environment and contextual information such as access to services, mortality etc are all included in the analysis.

In 2019, 11 countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, the Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Uganda, Somalia and South Sudan) conducted an IPC acute malnutrition analysis in areas known to have high rates of acute malnutrition. The results of this analysis are shared in this report.

What are the drivers of malnutrition in food crises?

The immediate cause of acute malnutrition is a severe nutritional restriction either as a result of inadequate food intake, or a recent bout of illness, such as diarrhoea, that hinders appropriate intake and absorption of nutrients. The determinants of malnutrition also include adequate access to healthcare, water and sanitation services, appropriate child feeding and care practices, as described in the UNICEF framework .

Children require an adequate amount of nutrient dense foods for their optimum growth and development, to build immunity to infections and protect against disease. Exclusive breastfeeding in the first six months of life followed by the timely introduction of safe and nutritionally adequate complementary foods with continued breastfeeding until 2 years of age or beyond, ensures children receive all the nutrients they need. Pregnant and lactating women also need to consume foods from a variety of food groups, with adequate and appropriate nutrients and energy to meet the increased physiological requirements, to sustain healthy fetal growth and development, and support lactation.

During humanitarian crises, access to nutritious foods may be limited by food shortages or disrupted food systems compromising the availability of adequate and safe complementary foods for vulnerable children. When food production is limited, and/or markets and infrastructure are functioning poorly the cost of food increases. Consequently, vulnerable households with limited purchasing power will

struggle to provide children with the nutritious diet they require.

In addition, caregivers during emergencies may have reduced time to prepare nutritious meals and care for children because they may, for instance, have to take on additional agricultural tasks, care for other vulnerable family members or take longer to access services and water. In some contexts – such as during displacements – the precarious living conditions may also hinder the hygienic preparation of meals.

Displaced populations often face severely compromised access to safe water and improved sanitation and are at increased risk of frequent outbreaks of infectious disease, which weakened health systems cannot treat, prevent or control. Measles, cholera, Ebola and dengue fever outbreaks are illnesses that have a negative impact on the overall health and nutritional status of individuals, especially young children. In crises children are often not able to access other preventive services such as micronutrient supplementation and immunization, further increasing the risk of malnutrition. Displacement can also result in the break-down of familial and community networks that provide the necessary support and guidance needed for looking after young children.

Where does the malnutrition data in the GRFC 2020 come from?

The GRFC reviews and analyses most recent available country data on anthropometry, dietary intake, infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices, health and WASH indicators from nutrition surveys – conducted at national and also sub-national level. These include representative SMART (Standardized Monitoring and Assessment for Relief and Transitions) surveys, Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS), Multiple Indicators Cluster Surveys (MICS), National Vulnerability Assessments and Analysis, and Infant and Young Child Feeding – Knowledge Attitude and Practices Assessments (IYCF KAP). For refugee populations nutrition data comes from UNHCR Standardized Expanded Nutrition Surveys (SENS).

For the estimates of the number of children affected by acute malnutrition it uses the in-country calculations officially approved by the nutrition clusters/sectors and shared in key planning documents such as Humanitarian Needs Overviews (HNO) and Humanitarian Response Plans (HRP).

And for the drivers of malnutrition it consults the surveys described above as well as relevant links from WHO, UNICEF, OCHA, ACAPS, UNHCR and other sources.

LIMITATIONS

Consensus

All partners are in agreement with the general magnitude and severity of acute food insecurity indicated for the countries included in this report, except in the cases of Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti and Ethiopia, for which FEWS NET's analyses of available evidence suggest that the population requiring emergency food assistance in 2019 was lower than the estimates based on the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC). The differences stem from varying interpretations of the data related to factors contributing to food insecurity.

Data gaps and challenges

Omission of 16 countries because of insufficient evidence to produce estimates of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) – Displaced populations in Algeria/Western Sahara, Bolivia, Comoros, Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Syrian refugees in Egypt and Jordan, Eritrea, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Lao, Nepal, Venezuelan migrants in Peru, Philippines and Tajikistan.

Underestimation of numbers of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) for many countries – Data collection is not always national, and may only take place in accessible areas or those affected by a localized shock. Data collection might as well have been conducted out of the peak season. In

Urgent call to action to better inform comprehensive analysis and programming

Gaps in the availability of food security and nutrition data occur for varied and interlinked reasons: inadequate access to the affected population because of security concerns, lack of financial and technical resources to conduct timely assessments, lack of alignment within sectors to collect data to support analysis of the drivers and the rapid situational changes in conflict-affected regions. Collecting and analysing data on nutritionally vulnerable populations – especially women, adolescent girls, young children and populations in marginalised and isolated areas in food insecure countries– is a vital exercise.

Across the four editions of the GRFC, data has consistently been missing for the following countries: Republic of Congo, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Eritrea, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, the Philippines and Sri Lanka. Although the first three editions of the GRFC had insufficient data on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, an assessment in 2019 provided an estimate for the 2020 edition.

Across all editions of the GRFC, a lack of consensus on the number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) has consistently led to a disclaimer for three countries, namely Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Haiti. Disclaimers have also been used in previous editions for Burundi and in the current one for Ethiopia. These recurrent divergences in interpreting the data related to the factors contributing to food insecurity must be addressed by the data community.

In recent years, progress has been made by governments, international organizations, research organizations

and academic institutions in gathering, collating and analysing data. Data availability allows for a systematic and integrated situation analysis that identifies not only outcomes but also key drivers of food crises for a targeted and integrated response. Still, more regular, detailed and disaggregated data by gender, sex, age and disabilities are needed.

The data community must make the data easy to access, interpret and use by policymakers and relevant stakeholders to make evidence-based decisions.

Therefore, priorities under pillar 1 of the Global Network should be to engage with countries, regional institutions and relevant stakeholders in:

- Investing in data collection and leveraging technologies for greater availability of data in countries facing data gaps and to improve predictive analyses;
- Facilitating strategic dialogue and technical support to countries experiencing recurrent lack of consensus in their analyses and interpretations of data
- Improving access to data and their interpretation by policymakers.

Table 5

Data gaps

Data gaps can mean data that are:



**Not collected/
area inaccessible**



**Not disaggregated
by gender, age or
IPC/CH phases**



**Scattered across
various sources**



**Not comparable
across time or
geographical
areas**



Incomplete

addition, the number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) does not necessarily reflect the full population in need of urgent action to decrease food gaps and protect and save lives and livelihoods. This is because some households may only be classified in IPC Phase 1 or 2 because they receive assistance, and are in fact in need of continued action. The number in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) refers to populations in need of action further to that already provided.

Gaps in estimations of population in Stressed (IPC/CH Phase 2) for eight out of the 55 countries and territories for which an estimate of populations in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) is provided – Bangladesh, Burundi, Iraq, Libya, Nicaragua, Rwanda, Uganda and Ukraine. This is mainly the case when using FEWS NET, HNOs or to a lesser extent WFP analyses as the source.

Lack of data availability for refugee food security – Refugee food security is measured in various ways across refugee populations and data is not systematically collected, disaggregated, consolidated or shared. Detailed, comparative analysis on refugee food security at country, regional or global level is not possible with current systems and processes, and particularly not in a comparable way to IPC/CH protocols.

Limited roll-out of IPC acute malnutrition analysis in many countries – Only 10 countries – Chad, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda – conducted an IPC acute malnutrition analysis in 2019.

Lack of predictive analysis – Too many countries lack forward-looking predictive analyses and, in many of those where an estimate was available, it consisted of a range, rather than a point estimate. Not all countries with a 2019 IPC acute malnutrition analysis had a projection beyond publication of the GRFC 2020.

Comparability challenges

Most IPC results presented in this report are based on the IPC Technical Manual Version 3.0, which was launched in April 2019 and CH Technical Manual Version 2.0 for analyses carried out in October–November 2019. The use of these revised protocols does not affect the comparability of numbers of food-insecure people with previous analysis periods and between countries.

For some countries, the coverage of food security analyses within and between years varies in terms of population (e.g. rural only vs. rural and urban) and/or areas analysed (e.g. part of the country vs. whole country). This affects the comparability of the number of food-insecure people between time periods. In a few countries (e.g. Bangladesh, Burundi, Djibouti), no IPC acute food insecurity analysis was conducted in 2019. Depending on whether other comparable sources of information could be found, this hampers comparability with previous years and highlights the importance for countries that face food crises to conduct an IPC analysis at least on a yearly basis.

HUMANITARIAN AND DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FUNDING FLOWS FOR FOOD CRISES IN 2017-2018

Humanitarian contributions dedicated to food security, agriculture and nutrition sectors in major food crisis hotspots increased from USD 5.3 billion in 2016 to USD 6.5 billion in 2018, according to an analysis of funding flows for humanitarian and development assistance in 32 of the 53 food crisis countries included in the GRFC 2019.

Unsurprisingly, these 32 most severe food crises accounted for the vast majority of humanitarian contributions to food security, agriculture and nutrition assistance worldwide.

The analysis of funding flows for humanitarian and development assistance in the major food crisis hotspots was carried out by international development organization Development Initiatives, and members of the Global Network technical support unit (Development Initiatives and FAO, 2019). The 32 countries analysed represented 106 million people out of 113 million people identified as experiencing acute hunger (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) in 2018.

There were deep inequalities between recipient countries that had similar levels of needs in terms of acute food insecurity. For instance, Yemen, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Afghanistan each had more than 10 million acutely food insecure people in need of assistance, but Yemen received five times more humanitarian assistance than the Democratic Republic of the Congo and seven times more than Afghanistan.

However, these inequalities can also be the result of higher costs of response in certain contexts due to populations also needing medical aid or other support, or governments only providing low levels of support or because it is more costly to operate in some countries than others.

Similarly, South Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, and the Sudan each accounted for 6.0-6.5 million people in acute food insecurity and had similar needs, but South Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic received four times more assistance than the Sudan.

Although Afghanistan had almost 5 million more people in need of urgent food, nutrition and livelihoods assistance than South Sudan, the latter received about three times more humanitarian funding than Afghanistan. However, these significant differences between countries must again be considered in the light of the variety of contexts and the different ability of governments to respond to humanitarian crises.

Figure 1

Growth of humanitarian funding to meet rising commitments to food crises

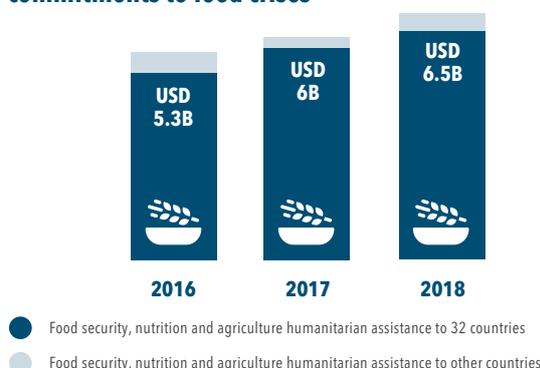


Figure 2

Development assistance in food crises in 2016 and 2017

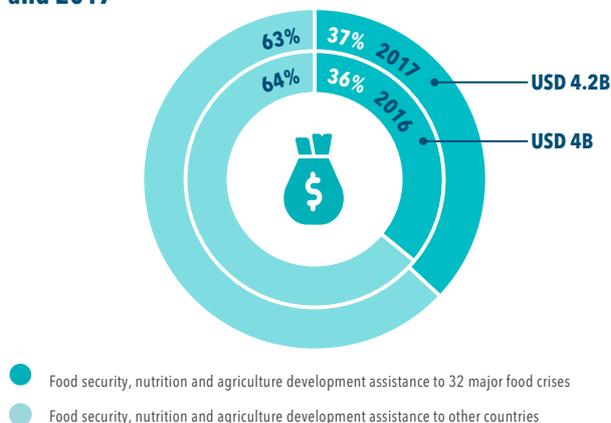


Figure 3

Humanitarian assistance and development assistance to food crises in USD in 2017

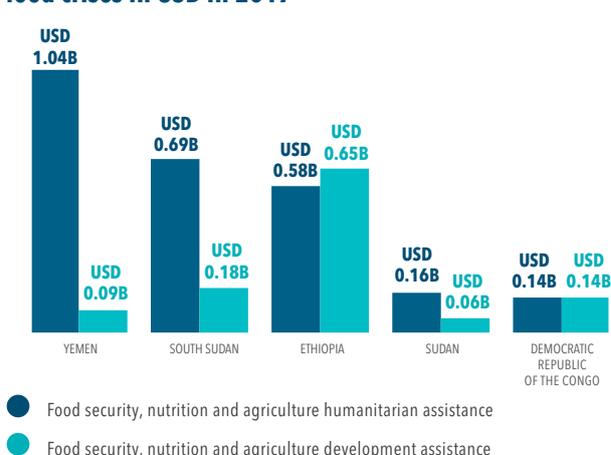
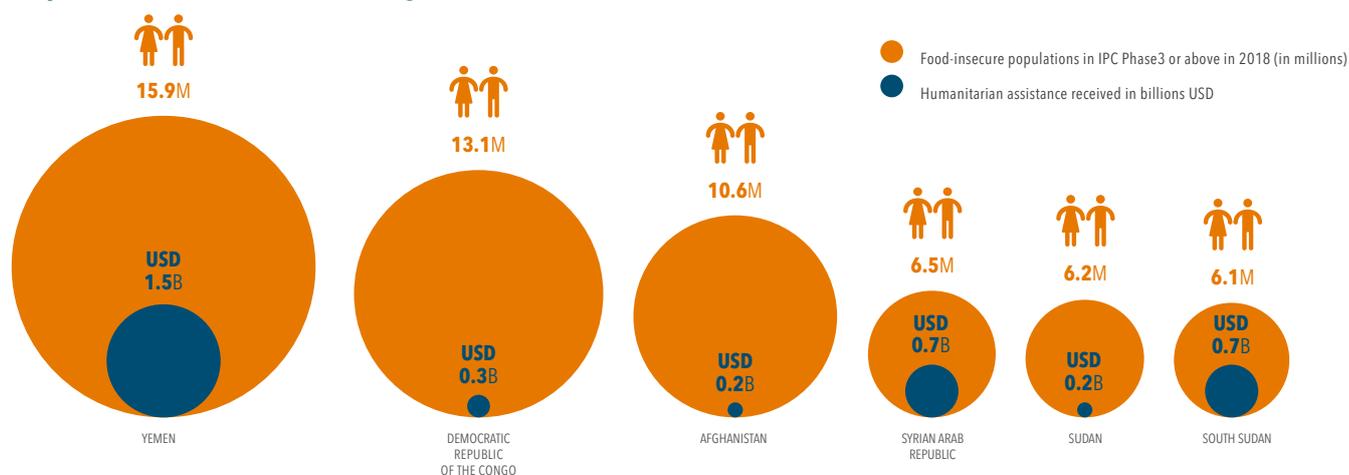


Figure 4

Inequalities in humanitarian funding allocation in 2018



Looking at investment in development the analysis revealed that the 32 countries/territories with major food crises received significant funding (USD 4.2 billion) for the food security, agriculture and nutrition sectors, representing roughly 40 percent of the total funding to food-related sectors to these countries in 2017. This also represents 37 percent of the total global spending on food security, agriculture and nutrition development programmes.

In many countries, especially those affected by protracted conflict, the spending on humanitarian assistance far outweighed that on development assistance.

For instance, in 2017 South Sudan received almost USD 700 million in humanitarian assistance and less than USD 200 million for development.

In Yemen that same year, humanitarian assistance reached more than USD 1 billion, while less than USD 100 million was spent on development assistance. Overall, around USD 4.2 billion was allocated to development and USD 6 billion

to humanitarian assistance in food-related sectors in the 32 countries in 2017. Some countries had more balanced spending on the humanitarian and development assistance. The Democratic Republic of the Congo received comparable levels of humanitarian and development assistance, though both were limited. Ethiopia represents another case where the assistance is balanced and large-scale, most probably due to the presence of a relatively stable and well-established investment environment and policy frameworks.

There is clear potential to improve coordination between humanitarian and development efforts in a way that would maximize impact and address the root causes of protracted crises. However, more analysis is needed at country level to understand how development assistance in the food security, agriculture and nutrition sectors is invested, how it contributes to decreasing food insecurity and building resilience, and how it could be better aligned and coordinated with the humanitarian efforts in the same sectors, particularly in fragile and conflict-affected contexts.

Table 6

How to use this report



Chapter 2

This chapter starts with a graphical and textual analysis of the key findings of the GRFC 2020. It provides the main list of 55 food crises, supplying the peak 2019 number of acutely food-insecure people in 2019.

Refer to the rest of the chapter for regional overviews of 2019 food crises: three regions of Africa; Asia and the Middle East; Latin America and the Caribbean.

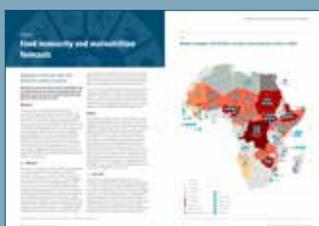


Chapter 3

This chapter covers the 36 most serious food crises in alphabetical order from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe.

There is a graphical overview page for each country/regional crisis providing the key relevant food security and nutrition data by country/territory; a summary of the main drivers in order of their contribution to the country's food crisis and the displacement figures that are most relevant for the country/territory.

The rest of each country profile provides a more granular analysis of the acute food insecurity and nutrition situation in 2019 and discusses the drivers in some depth. Each profile is illustrated with maps that give a sense of severity by region and, where possible, graphs that convey changes over time.



Chapter 4

This chapter provides a table with estimates of the number of people in need of urgent action in 2020.

It provides an analysis of expected trends by country/territory in 2020. It identifies which countries are likely to experience improving food security and those where the situation is likely to remain static or deteriorate. It explains the assumptions underlying the food insecurity forecasts for 2020. Regional maps of Africa, Asia and Latin America/Caribbean indicate the projected ranges of the numbers of people in IPC Phase 3 or above as well as primary drivers and risks by country.

Analysis of food crises in 2019

Figure 5
Numbers of acutely food-insecure people in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) by region

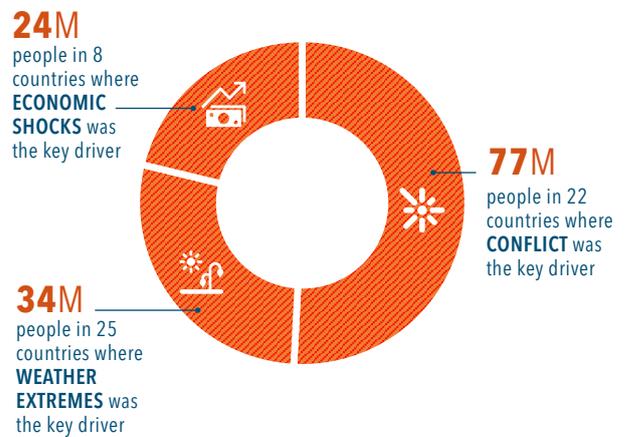


135M people
2019 in 55 countries were in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above)

Numbers in previous years

| Year | Number of People | Number of Countries |
|------|------------------|---------------------|
| 2016 | 108M | 49 countries |
| 2017 | 124M | 51 countries |
| 2018 | 113M | 53 countries |

Figure 7
Numbers of acutely food-insecure people in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) by key driver



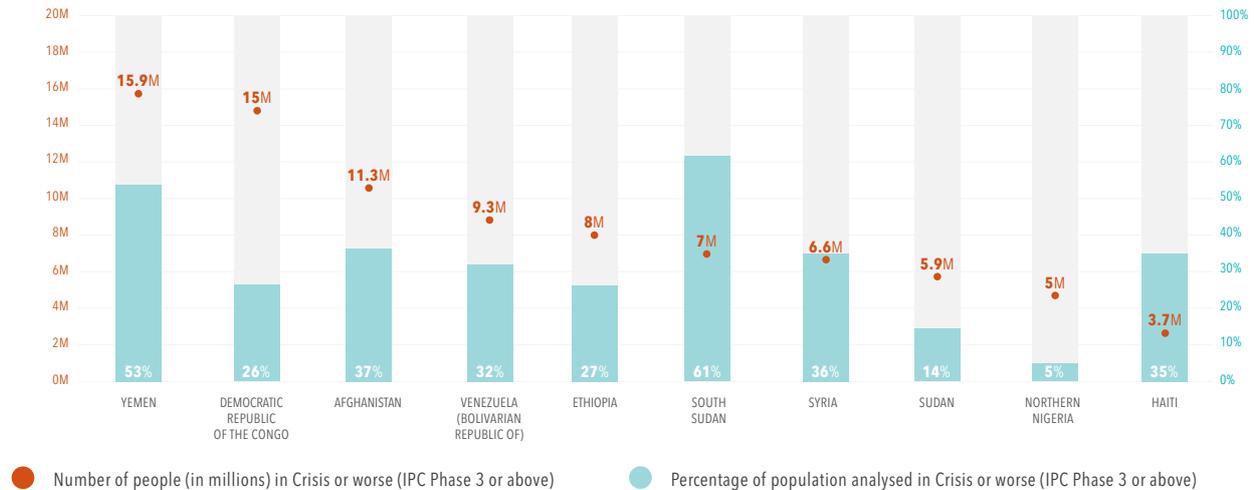
183M people
2019 in 48 countries were in Stressed (IPC/CH Phase 2)

Figure 6
Numbers of acutely food-insecure people in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) by driver in each region

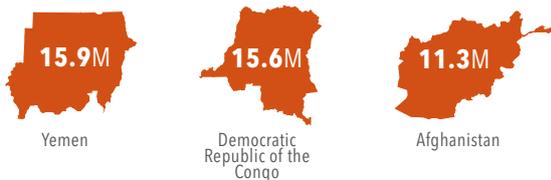


Figure 8

The 10 worst food crises in 2019 by number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above)



One third of populations in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) were in three countries



5M additional people were pushed into Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) since 2018 by **adverse weather extremes**

14M additional people in countries where **economic shocks** was the main driver mainly because of the inclusion of Venezuela and worsening situation in Haiti and Zimbabwe

3M additional people were in **conflict-affected** countries, with violence increasing in Burkina Faso, Cameroon and the Niger

Figure 9

Migrant/refugee populations with a high proportion of food insecure in need of urgent assistance

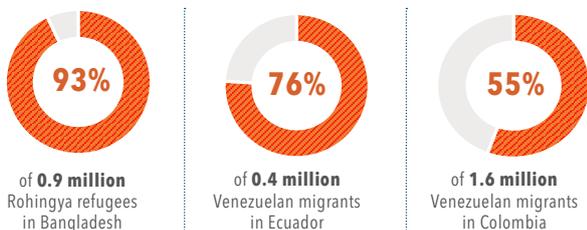


Figure 10

Countries with lowest access to at least basic drinking water services

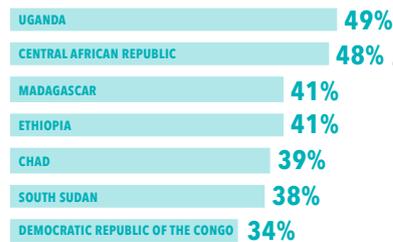


Figure 11

Countries with lowest dietary diversity among children aged 6-23 months

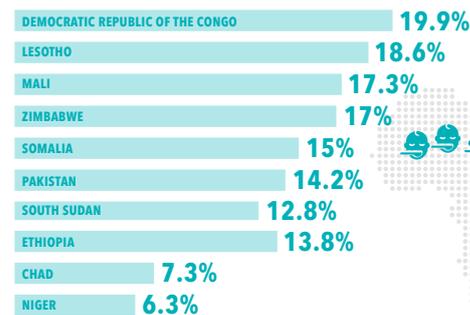
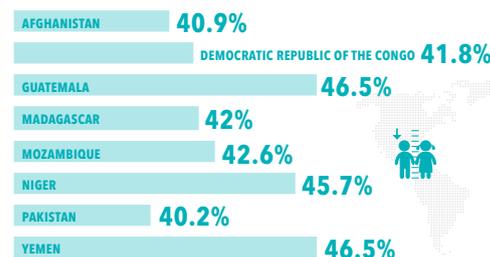


Figure 12

Countries/territories in which more than 40% of children were stunted



FOOD CRISES IN 2019

In 2019, almost 135 million acutely food-insecure people across 55 countries or territories, or 17 percent of the total population analysed, experienced Crisis conditions or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above). This marks the highest number in the four years since the *Global Report on Food Crises* launched.

Does this represent a major increase compared with previous years?

There was a 22 million increase in the number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) between 2018 and 2019, reflecting the worsening food insecurity conditions in key conflict-driven crises, notably the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan and Afghanistan and growing severity of drought and economic shocks as drivers in countries such as Zimbabwe, Zambia, Haiti, Guatemala and Pakistan. Burkina Faso, Cameroon and the Niger in West Africa also saw big increases in the numbers in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above), largely as a result of increasing conflict and displacement.

However, the increase between 2018 and 2019 also reflects increased geographical coverage thanks to greater data availability: in 2019, data became available for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, United Republic of Tanzania, Angola, Namibia and Rwanda, which added an additional 11.3 million people in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) to the global total. When comparing the same 50 countries between 2018 and 2019, the number in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) increased by almost 11 million people – from 112.5 million to 123.3 million people.

The 2019 total also significantly exceeds that of 2017 (124 million people) and 2016 (108 million) but again availability of data played an important role in the difference between the years.

Which are the worst-affected countries and regions?

For the second year in a row, three conflict-affected countries, namely Yemen, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Afghanistan, had the largest populations in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above). These three countries represented 32 percent of the total population in food crises in 2019. Yemen and the Democratic Republic of the Congo each had nearly 16 million people living in Crisis conditions or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) while Afghanistan had over 11 million. In 2019 Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) became the world's fourth largest food crisis with 9.4 million in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) people.

Ten countries – Yemen, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Afghanistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Ethiopia, South Sudan, Syria, the Sudan, Nigeria and Haiti – constituted the worst food crises and accounted for 66 percent of the total population in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) or 88 million people.

In terms of prevalence, seven countries – South Sudan, Yemen, Central African Republic, Zimbabwe, Afghanistan, Syrian Arab Republic and Haiti – stand out as major food crises in 2019, each with more than 35 percent of their population analysed in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above), peaking at 61 percent in South Sudan followed by 53 percent in Yemen. Three migrants and refugee populations analysed in hosting countries stand out in terms of the prevalence of acute food insecurity: Venezuelan refugees in Ecuador (76 percent) and Colombia (55 percent) and Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh (Cox Bazaar; 37 percent).

Africa was still the continent most affected by food crises, accounting for 52 percent of the global total number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above). The number in Southern Africa was the highest at 30.3 million, increasing from 23.3 million in 2018, partly due to the addition of three countries (United Republic of Tanzania, Angola and Namibia) where data was unavailable last year, but also due to a deterioration in the food insecurity situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Zimbabwe and Zambia.

Countries in the Horn of Africa accounted for 27.5 million people in food crisis, representing a slight increase from 2018 (26.7 million), mainly due to weather-related shocks in Kenya, and weather extremes and conflict in South Sudan.

Food crisis countries in West Africa and the Sahel accounted for more than 12 million people in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) in 2019. This represents a slight increase from 2018, when around 11 million were in food crisis due to a notable increase in food insecurity in the Niger, Burkina Faso, and Cameroon while there was a decline in Chad, Senegal, Nigeria, and Mali.

The Middle East and Asia accounted for 32 percent of the total with an increase in the number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, the total number people in food crisis was 9.2 million across seven countries and represented around 7 percent of the population facing Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) worldwide.

What is driving the worsening situation?

The Global Report on Food Crises 2020 demonstrates that high numbers of people in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) are persisting and that the severity of needs is not diminishing. Conflict/insecurity was still the primary driver of food crises in 2019. The total number people in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) living in conflict-driven food crises rose from 74 million in 19 countries in 2018 to more than 77 million people in 22

countries, in 2019. The majority of these people (40 million) were in nine countries in the Middle East/Asia where protracted armed conflict and violence were frequently fuelled by political, social and economic grievances or geopolitical tensions.

In the Horn of Africa armed conflicts, violent extremism, communal violence and other localized tensions continued to affect peace and security particularly in South Sudan and continued to drive large refugee populations into Uganda. In West Africa there were two major hotspots: The Lake Chad Basin – made of sub-national areas in northern Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad and the Niger – and the Central Sahel crisis, which affected Burkina Faso, Mali and the Niger. In both insecurity led to massive displacement of populations, destruction or closure of basic social services, disruption of productive activities, markets and trade flows. Burkina Faso was one of the world’s fastest growing crises with the daily lives and livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of civilians disrupted by insecurity and violence in central and northern regions.

The growing intensity and severity of extreme weather events also contributed to the increased number of people in food crises in 2019 by comparison with 2018. Weather extremes was considered the primary driver of the acute food insecurity situation of almost 34 million people in 20 countries in 2019 by comparison with 29 million in 2018. Half of of these countries were in Africa with the largest numbers of people in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) in countries badly affected by weather events in the Horn of Africa (13.2 million) and Southern Africa (11.2 million). Four of the countries were in Central America (4.4 million people). Drought-affected Sindh and Balochistan provinces in Pakistan accounted for 3.1 million people.

While still considered the tertiary driver of acute food insecurity globally, economic shocks were considered the main driver for 24 million people in eight countries – up from 10 million in 2018. While the economic crises persisted in the Sudan and worsened in Zimbabwe over the last year this increase is largely due to the inclusion of Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) were 9.4 million people were in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) largely as the result of a man-made economic crisis.

Populations in Stressed (IPC/CH Phase 2)

Countries with large numbers of acutely food-insecure people in need of urgent assistance tend to have even higher numbers of vulnerable people ‘on the cusp’ of Crisis (IPC/CH Phase 3). Classified in Stressed (IPC/CH Phase 2) these populations have minimal adequate food consumption and have to use food related coping strategies, such as cutting portion sizes or skipping meals.

In 2019 around 183.5 million people were classified in Stressed (IPC/CH Phase 2) conditions across 48 countries, with 75 percent of them concentrated in 26 countries in Africa. Around 40 percent of them were in just four countries – the Democratic Republic of

Figure 13
Numbers of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in 40 comparable countries 2016–2019

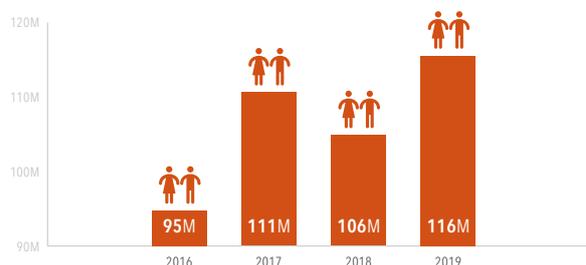
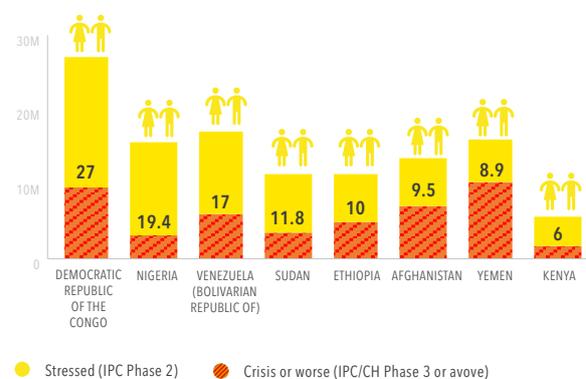


Figure 14
Countries with highest numbers of people facing Stressed (IPC/CH Phase 2) in 2019



40% of populations in Stressed (IPC/CH Phase 2) were in four countries in 2019



183 million people in 48 countries were in Stressed (IPC/CH Phase 2). The numbers have changed very little the last few years.

Figure 15
Over 70% of people in Stressed (IPC/CH Phase 2) were in Africa in 2019



Table 7

Peak numbers of acutely food-insecure people in countries with food crises, 2019

For the most recent analysis for the numbers of acutely food-insecure people in 2019 see annex 5.

| COUNTRIES OR TERRITORIES | TOTAL POPULATION ANALYSED (MILLIONS) | PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION ANALYSED OUT OF TOTAL POPULATION OF REFERENCE | POPULATION IN STRESSED (IPC/CH PHASE 2) | | POPULATION IN CRISIS OR WORSE (IPC/CH PHASE 3 OR ABOVE) | |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|---|---|---|---|
| | | |  NUMBER (MILLIONS) | PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL POPULATION ANALYSED |  NUMBER (MILLIONS) | PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL POPULATION ANALYSED |
| Afghanistan ¹ | 30.7 | 95% | 9.5 | 31% | 11.3 | 37% |
| Angola (24 communes in 3 provinces) ¹ | 0.9 | 3% | 0.2 | 21% | 0.6 | 62% |
| Bangladesh (Cox's Bazar and host populations) | 3.5 | 100% | N/A | N/A | 1.3 | 37% |
| Burkina Faso ¹ | 21.4 | 100% | 3.6 | 17% | 1.2 | 6% |
| Burundi | 11.5 | 100% | N/A | N/A | 0.2 | 2% |
| Cabo Verde | 0.5 | 86% | 0.06 | 13% | 0.01 | 2% |
| Cameroon (7 regions) ¹ | 16.1 | 64% | 3.8 | 24% | 1.4 | 8% |
| Central African Republic (excluding Lobaye) ¹ | 4.4 | 91% | 1.8 | 41% | 1.8 | 41% |
| Chad ¹ | 14.3 | 91% | 2.7 | 19% | 0.6 | 4% |
| Colombia (Venezuelan migrants) | 1.6 | 100% | 0.7 | 41% | 0.9 | 55% |
| Côte d'Ivoire | 19.8 | 77% | 2.6 | 13% | 0.06 | 0% |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo (109 territories) ¹ | 59.9 | 69% | 27.0 | 45% | 15.6 | 26% |
| Ecuador (Venezuelan migrants) | 0.4 | 100% | 0.09 | 24% | 0.3 | 76% |
| El Salvador (Eastern region) ¹ | 1.4 | 22% | 0.5 | 34% | 0.3 | 22% |
| Eswatini (rural population) ¹ | 0.9 | 67% | 0.4 | 39% | 0.2 | 25% |
| Ethiopia (selected areas in 6 regions) ¹ | 28.7 | 26% | 10.0 | 34% | 8.0 | 27% |
| Gambia | 2.0 | 89% | 0.4 | 23% | 0.2 | 10% |
| Guatemala ¹ | 16.6 | 95% | 4.8 | 29% | 3.1 | 18% |
| Guinea | 10.1 | 75% | 1.4 | 14% | 0.3 | 3% |
| Guinea-Bissau ¹ | 1.3 | 63% | 0.3 | 26% | 0.1 | 10% |
| Haiti ¹ | 10.5 | 93% | 3.2 | 31% | 3.7 | 35% |
| Honduras (13 departments) ¹ | 5.1 | 53% | 1.8 | 35% | 1.0 | 18% |
| Iraq | 39.3 | 100% | N/A | N/A | 1.8 | 5% |
| Kenya (Arid and Semi-Arid Lands) ¹ | 13.9 | 26% | 6.0 | 43% | 3.1 | 22% |
| Lebanon (Syrian refugees) | 0.9 | 100% | 0.6 | 63% | 0.3 | 29% |
| Lesotho (rural population) ¹ | 1.5 | 63% | 0.6 | 38% | 0.4 | 30% |
| Liberia | 4.3 | 87% | 0.8 | 19% | 0.04 | 1% |
| Libya | 6.7 | 100% | N/A | N/A | 0.3 | 5% |
| Madagascar (southern, south-eastern and eastern areas) ¹ | 4.6 | 19% | 1.3 | 29% | 1.3 | 28% |
| Malawi ¹ | 15.3 | 84% | 5.0 | 33% | 3.3 | 22% |
| Mali ¹ | 20.5 | 100% | 2.9 | 14% | 0.6 | 3% |
| Mauritania ¹ | 4.1 | 87% | 1.2 | 28% | 0.6 | 15% |
| Mozambique (39 districts) ¹ | 5.0 | 18% | 1.6 | 32% | 1.7 | 34% |
| Myanmar | 54.0 | 100% | 0.02 | 0% | 0.7 | 1% |
| Namibia | 2.4 | 97% | 0.8 | 35% | 0.4 | 18% |
| Nicaragua | 6.0 | 100% | N/A | N/A | 0.08 | 1% |
| Niger ¹ | 21.8 | 100% | 4.5 | 20% | 1.4 | 7% |
| Nigeria (16 states and Federal Capital Territory) ¹ | 103.5 | 51% | 18.8 | 18% | 5.0 | 5% |
| Pakistan (Balochistan and Sindh drought-affected areas) ¹ | 6.0 | 3% | 1.4 | 23% | 3.1 | 51% |
| Occupied Palestinian Territory | 5.0 | 100% | 0.8 | 17% | 1.7 | 33% |
| Rwanda | 12.6 | 100% | N/A | N/A | 0.1 | 1% |
| Senegal ¹ | 13.2 | 81% | 1.8 | 14% | 0.4 | 3% |
| Sierra Leone ¹ | 8.1 | 100% | 2.6 | 33% | 0.3 | 4% |
| Somalia ¹ | 12.3 | 80% | 4.2 | 34% | 2.1 | 17% |
| South Sudan ² | 11.4 | 100% | 3.2 | 28% | 7.0 | 61% |
| Sudan (excluding West Darfur) ¹ | 41.9 | 98% | 11.8 | 28% | 5.9 | 14% |
| Syrian Arab Republic | 18.3 | 100% | 2.6 | 14% | 6.6 | 36% |
| Turkey (Syrian refugees) | 2.7 | 75% | 1.6 | 58% | 0.5 | 17% |
| Uganda | 40.0 | 100% | N/A | N/A | 1.5 | 4% |
| Ukraine (Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts, and IDP) | 6.1 | 15% | N/A | N/A | 0.5 | 9% |
| United Republic of Tanzania (16 districts) ¹ | 4.8 | 8% | 1.7 | 34% | 1.0 | 20% |
| Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) | 28.5 | 100% | 17.0 | 60% | 9.3 | 32% |
| Yemen ² | 29.9 | 100% | 8.9 | 30% | 15.9 | 53% |
| Zambia (86 districts) ¹ | 9.5 | 53% | 3.1 | 33% | 2.3 | 24% |
| Zimbabwe (rural population) ¹ | 9.4 | 64% | 2.7 | 28% | 3.6 | 38% |

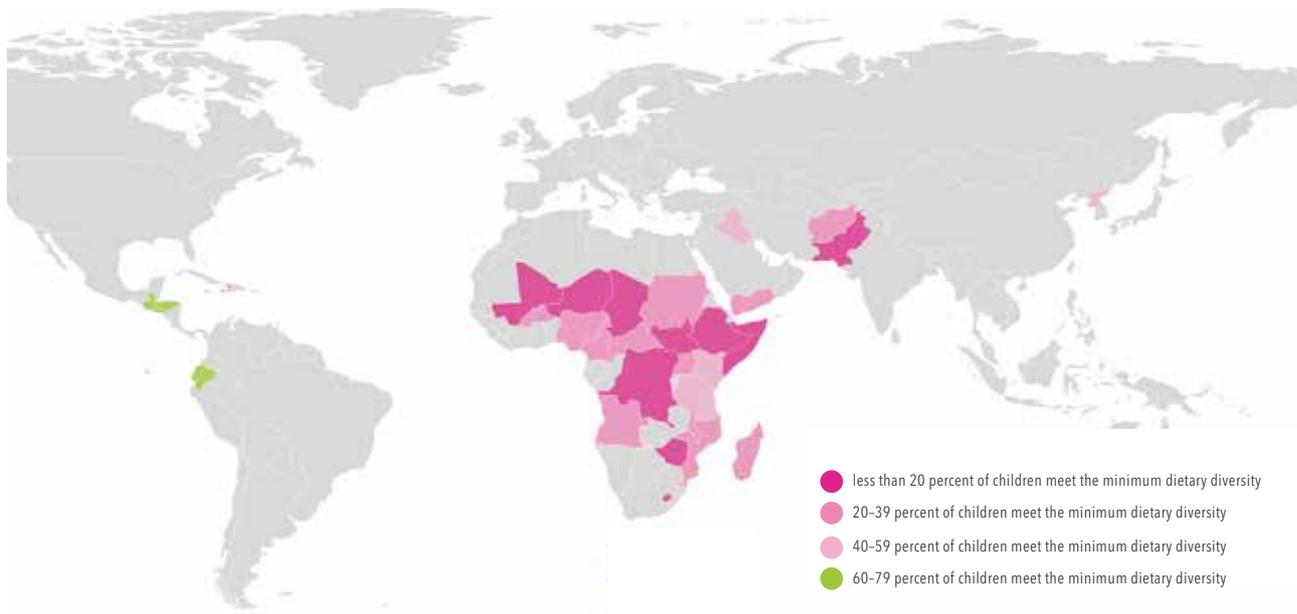
¹ The estimates for this country contains population classified in Emergency (IPC/CH Phase 4)

² The estimates for this country contains population classified in Emergency (IPC/CH Phase 4) and in Catastrophe (IPC/CH Phase 5)

All partners are in agreement with the general magnitude and severity of acute food insecurity indicated for the countries included in this report, except Afghanistan, The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia and Haiti, for which FEWS NET analyses of available evidence suggest the population requiring emergency food assistance in 2019 was lower than Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) estimates, because of different interpretation of data released to factors contributing to food insecurity.

Map 1

Minimum Dietary Diversity (MDD) among children in countries affected by severe food crises



the Congo, Nigeria, Venezuela and the Sudan – and another 20 percent were in Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Yemen and Kenya.

The data shows that the numbers facing Stressed (IPC/CH Phase 2) conditions has changed very little over time. In the 39 countries for which data was available in both 2018 and 2019, the population classified in Stressed (IPC/CH Phase 2) slightly increased from 142.4 million in 2018 to 144.1 million in 2019.

OVERVIEW OF MALNUTRITION IN FOOD CRISES IN 2019

The 2019 Joint Malnutrition Estimates report indicates that 49.5 million children under 5 years of age suffer from wasting with 16.6 million of them severely wasted, and almost 149 million are stunted (UNICEF, WHO, WB, 2019). UNICEF estimates that at least 340 million children under 5 years – around one in two children – suffer from hidden hunger due to micronutrient deficiencies (UNICEF, 2019).

In countries affected by food crises, where food availability and access to nutrient-rich food groups are severely restricted, the nutritional status of already vulnerable children is extremely concerning, with one out of two stunted children living in countries affected by a food crisis. In nine of the food crises profiled in this report more than 40 percent of children were stunted. Wasting levels are generally high in these food crisis-affected countries. In terms of numbers of acutely malnourished children the situation is particularly concerning in Pakistan, Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Sudan,

Afghanistan and Yemen, which account for nearly 20 million wasted children, or 40 percent of the global total.

Globally two in three children between 6–23 months of age are not fed the minimum recommended diverse diet for healthy growth and brain development. In poor households the situation is worse, with four out of five children not consuming a diverse diet (UNICEF, 2019). As this report demonstrates the situation in food crises is often extremely concerning. In 10 countries among the severe food crises, less than 20 percent of the young children received the minimum recommended diverse diet (see map x). In the Niger, Chad, Cameroon and among the Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar district of Bangladesh less than 10% of young children received a minimum recommended diverse diet.

Disease increases the risk of malnutrition

Flood, displacement and collapsing health systems contributed to high levels of disease outbreaks in many food crisis countries. Somalia and Chad experienced measles outbreaks, Ethiopia, Yemen, Somalia and Mali had cholera while the Democratic Republic of the Congo experienced measles, cholera and Ebola. High morbidity compromises the health and nutritional status of the population.

Access to basic health services in addition to appropriate sanitation and clean water is critical to prevent the occurrence of disease and outbreaks. In countries with high morbidity such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Chad, Madagascar and South Sudan, around 60 percent of households – or more – did not have access to at least basic drinking water services.

Focus

Population displacement and food insecurity¹

Global trends in displacement

Conflict, persecution, generalized violence and human rights violations kept the levels of forced displacement very high at 79.4 million in mid-2019 (UNHCR, February 2020). This figure consisted of 20.2 million refugees under UNHCR's mandate, over 5 million Palestinian refugees under UNRWA's mandate, 43.9 million internally displaced people (IDPs), 0.5 million returned refugees, 2.3 million returned IDPs, 3.7 million asylum-seekers and 3.9 million stateless people.

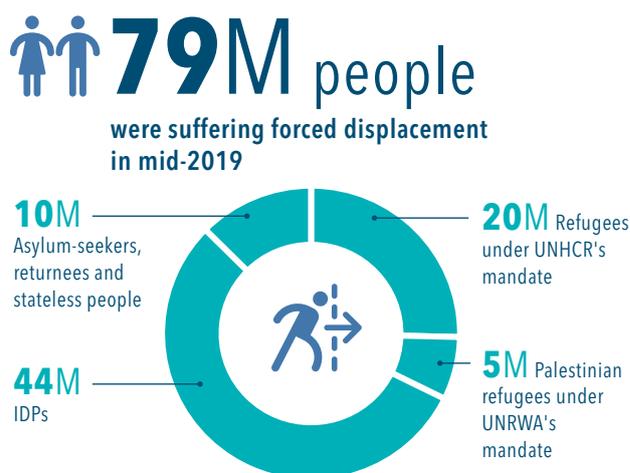
In the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela the total number of displaced increased from under 3.1 million at the beginning of 2019 to over 4.1 million by the middle of the year. Conflicts in sub-Saharan Africa, including in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Mali, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Sudan, all fueled new displacements in 2019.

More than half of all refugees under UNHCR's mandate are hosted in eight countries that have very high numbers of people in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) – sometimes because of the presence of the refugees. Some 6.2 million of the world's refugees are hosted in sub-Saharan African – the majority of them in East and the Horn of Africa (4.2 million), with Uganda and the Sudan hosting the largest numbers in the region.

Displacement fuels food insecurity

Vulnerable refugee and IDP populations often find it difficult to access food perhaps because of legal restrictions on their rights to work or cultivate food. Displacement results in livelihoods and productive assets being left behind and reduces income/economic opportunities. Following arduous – and costly – journeys people are less able to put in the physical effort to cultivate and produce food or invest in the inputs required to do so. Trauma can thwart efforts to seize economic opportunities and escape poverty. Those who fared well before displacement may end up among the poorest once in exile. Limited access to services and overcrowded/squalid conditions often increase malnutrition levels.

Figure 16



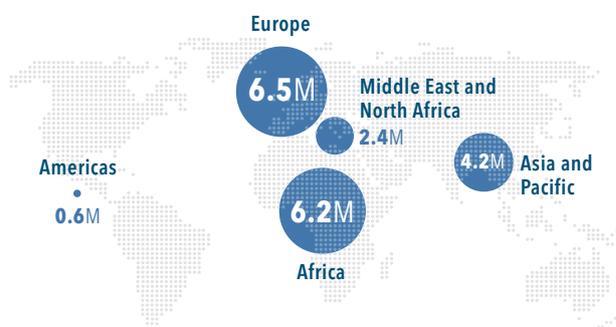
Source: UNHCR Mid-Year Trends 2019



of the world's refugees are hosted in **8 food crisis countries**: Turkey, Pakistan, Uganda, The Sudan, Lebanon, Bangladesh, Jordan and Ethiopia

Figure 17

Numbers of refugees hosted by region in mid-2019



Source: UNHCR Mid-Year Trends 2019

¹ Please note that the figures contained in this section are taken from UNHCR's mid-year trends. There may be a slight discrepancy between them and those included in chapter 3 of this report, which provides the latest estimates from the online data portal

Refugees who settle in host countries with restrictive legal frameworks that impede their access to land, employment, freedom of movement and other basic human rights usually face a heightened dependency on humanitarian support or possible abuse in the informal labour market.

The path to recovery is highly dependent on the policies and laws of host countries. Prospects can remain unclear for a relatively long period of time, making it difficult for displaced people to invest efforts and resources in long-term endeavours.

Food insecurity can trigger displacement

As well as being an outcome of displacement food insecurity can trigger it, often exacerbated by and entwined with conflict to form a vicious cycle. Limited or deteriorating access to productive assets such as land, water, livestock, agricultural inputs, as well as low agricultural productivity and/or price spikes reduce household food security and can be among the many push factors leading to migration and displacement. By definition, this is not forced displacement, but a similar phenomenon that some have called 'survival migration' (FAO, IFAD, IOM, WFP, 2018). In conjunction with poverty, food insecurity may increase the likelihood and intensity of armed conflict (Holleman et al).

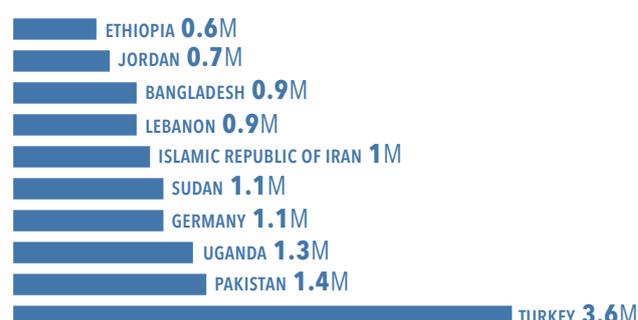
Refugees from Bangladesh and East and West Africa report food insecurity and economic vulnerability as key drivers for outward migration, while Syrians and Afghans claim that lack of safety and security as well as sustained conflict that destroyed employment opportunities and markets, triggered their migration (WFP, May 2017). Food shortages and high food prices were the leading causes of displacement reported by Venezuelans who fled to Colombia, Peru and Ecuador (WFP, 2019).

Food insecurity and nutrition

In many host countries refugees' ability to obtain food in sufficient quantity and quality depends mostly on their access to humanitarian food assistance. Refugees in 35 countries receive humanitarian food assistance to help promote food security and support livelihoods, but in some cases the size of rations and other basic assistance have been cut as a result of funding constraints (see box on refugees in Malawi on the following page). This has resulted not only in increased food insecurity and malnutrition, but greater protection risks as refugees engage in negative coping strategies to meet their essential needs (WFP, December 2019).

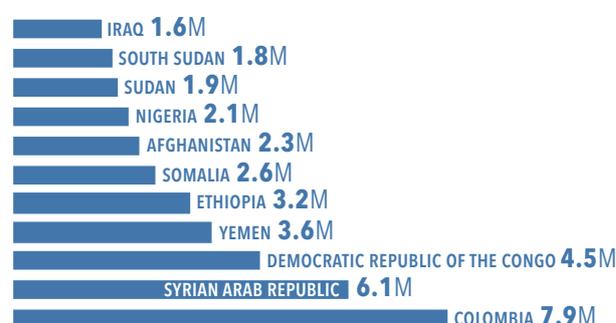
While acute malnutrition among refugees is improving in many areas, it remains of major concern in Bangladesh, eastern Chad, Gambella (Ethiopia), the Sudan and South Sudan. Chronic malnutrition in refugee populations is extremely concerning with almost half of refugee sites above the critical threshold (≥ 30 percent) for stunting. Two thirds of sites have very high anaemia prevalence which is greater than the threshold for public health concern (UNHCR, January 2020).

Figure 18
Top 10 refugee-hosting countries



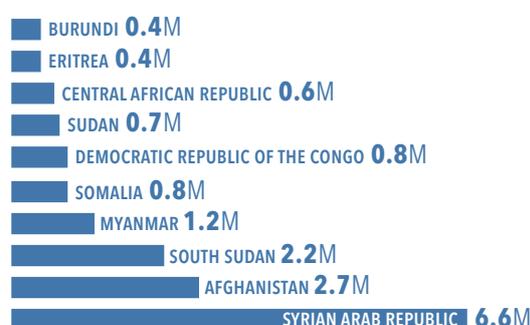
Source: UNHCR Mid-Year Trends 2019

Figure 19
Countries with the largest number of IDPs



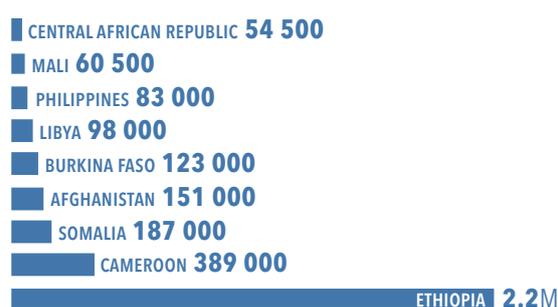
Source: UNHCR Mid-Year Trends 2019

Figure 20
The main origin countries of refugees



Source: UNHCR Mid-Year Trends 2019

Figure 21
Countries with the highest number of new internal displacements in the first six months of 2019



Source: UNHCR Mid-Year Trends 2019



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Mujinikile Kabika Marie, age 52, from the Democratic Republic of the Congo sells potatoes at the weekly Dzaleka market to help support her five children.

Consequences of cuts to food assistance on refugees in Malawi

Malawi hosts over 45 000 refugees or asylum seekers in Dzaleka refugee camp in Dowa district. The majority (62 percent) originate from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, followed by Burundi, Rwanda, Ethiopia and Somalia (UNHCR Feb 2020). Many have been displaced for decades, but there is still a steady stream of new arrivals, with approximately 470 arriving in the camp each month (UNHCR, December 2019).

More than half reportedly want to develop businesses, engage in agriculture and/or find employment to be able to meet their own needs. However, they are unable to do so because of a legal framework that denies them the rights to work, access to land, and freedom of movement (WFP, November 2018). Only 14 percent of the refugee households cultivate crops and 12 percent own livestock, mainly poultry (WFP, December 2019). As a result, they are highly dependent on food assistance.

Some 83 percent are below the national poverty line and 70 percent below the ultra-poverty line, according to a 2017 analysis (UNHCR/WFP, December 2018). A large number of women and young girls in the camp reported regularly engaging in transactional sex (several times a day) to meet their basic needs (UNHCR/WFP, December 2018 & UNHCR, April 2018).

WFP has provided in-kind food assistance for years. For around half of the refugee households it is the main source of income (WFP, December 2019). But the ration was reduced to 50 percent from May 2019 due to funding shortfalls (WFP, August 2019).

According to WFP's December 2019 PDM data, the proportion of household expenditure allocated to food has increased drastically since food assistance was cut, with 80 percent of refugee families spending more than half on food compared to around 50 percent before the cuts. The proportion of households spending 65 percent or more on food increased from around 26 percent in 2018 to 54 percent in 2019 (WFP, December 2019). This indicates that the majority of the little income they have is used to purchase food.

The proportion of refugee families with inadequate food consumption (i.e. poor or borderline diets) increased slightly from 36 percent in 2018 to 42 percent in 2019 – due mainly to an increase in those with 'borderline' diets. The consumption-based coping strategies index reached its highest level, meaning that households were turning to negative coping strategies to maintain food consumption (transactional sex, begging, selling assets, theft etc). Vulnerable populations – women, girls, children, the ill, disabled and elderly – who have few other avenues for obtaining food were particularly likely to resort to coping strategies that are harmful to their wellbeing (UNHCR & WFP, December 2018).

Recently, there have been pockets of protests by refugees in the camp over food cuts and insecurity, which have the potential to escalate. At the same time, Malawi is struggling with high national poverty rates so host communities lack the economic resilience to cope with and recover from shocks and stressors (UNHCR, March 2020).

Regional overview

Greater Horn of Africa

In 2019, nearly 28 million people in six IGAD countries (Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, the Sudan and Uganda), were classified in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above). This figure represents around 20 percent of the global total number of acutely food-insecure people in need of urgent humanitarian food and livelihood assistance.

The trend of rising numbers of acutely food-insecure people in the region – observed each year since 2016 – continued into 2019. The number of people in need of food assistance (IPC Phase 3 or above) increased by 650 000 compared to 2018,¹ mainly driven by rising food insecurity in South Sudan, Kenya and Uganda. The food security situation was stable in Ethiopia and improved in the Sudan and Somalia.

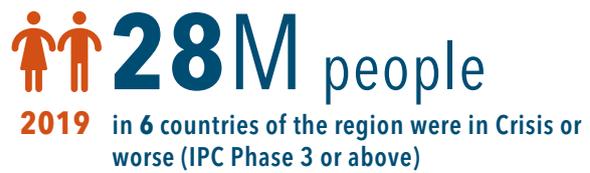
Across the region, weather extremes, conflict and insecurity, and macroeconomic challenges were the main drivers of food insecurity. Most countries faced all three challenges, with negative impacts reinforcing each other, adding to the complexity of the food security situation.

Weather extremes

A higher number of people were acutely food insecure primarily as a result of adverse weather extremes in 2018 than 2019 (13.1 million versus 11.9 million in 2018). In the first half of 2019 many agricultural and pastoral areas of the Horn of Africa experienced a second consecutive poor rainy season, following that of late 2018. By late April, cumulative rainfall totals were up to 80 percent below normal across much of the region (FAO GIEWS, July 2019).

The unfavourable weather conditions, among the driest on record in several areas, were largely caused by Tropical Cyclone Idai, which formed in early March in the Mozambique Channel and redirected precipitations away from East Africa (FAO GIEWS, April 2019). The severe dryness resulted in germination failures and crop wilting, with a negative impact on the planted area and yields. Above-average precipitation in late April and May reduced moisture deficits and marginally improved vegetation conditions, but damage to crops was irreversible in several cropping areas as precipitation occurred too late during the growing season (FAO GIEWS, July 2019).

¹ Unlike in 2018, 2019 regional estimates do not include Djibouti due to a lack of data. In 2018, there were 157 000 food-insecure people in rural areas of Djibouti.

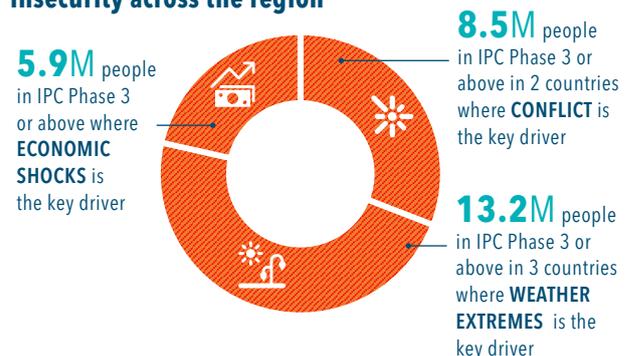


75% of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) across the region were in three countries



Note: No estimates for Uganda.

Figure 22
Weather extremes is the key driver of acute food insecurity across the region



In southern Somalia, for example, the output of the main Gu harvest was estimated at 60 percent below-average, the lowest since 1995. Below-average harvests were also gathered in Uganda, Ethiopia's Belg/Gu/Genna receiving areas, and Kenya's south-eastern and coastal marginal agricultural zones. An early depletion of household food stocks, coupled with rising market prices due to limited market supplies, restricted food access for many vulnerable households.

The drought was particularly harsh for pastoralists, who were still recovering from the severe livelihood asset losses (e.g. animal herds) incurred during the 2016/17 drought. Below-average rangeland conditions resulted in poor livestock body conditions, atypical livestock movements and related resource-based conflicts, and limited milk availability for pastoral households.

In October 2019, widespread flooding affected nearly 3.4 million people throughout the region (OCHA, January 2020), aggravating the effects of the recurrent drought and instability in the region by causing population displacements, livelihood disruptions, and increased humanitarian needs. South Sudan, Somalia and Ethiopia were the most affected. Kenya and Uganda experienced landslides.

Conflict/insecurity

Armed conflicts, violent extremism, communal violence and other localized tensions continued to affect peace and security in the region and constituted the primary driver of food insecurity for 8.5 million people in South Sudan and refugee populations in Uganda.

Efforts have been made to promote peace and security in the region and the UN Secretary General approved a Comprehensive Regional Prevention Strategy for the Horn of Africa in May 2019 (Office of the Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa, July 2019). The implementation of the peace agreement between Ethiopia and Eritrea has taken a positive trend and ushered in a new era of peace and cooperation between the two countries.

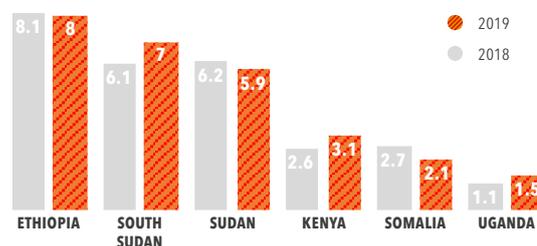
However, progress towards implementation of the South Sudan peace agreement remained slow and the situation was still volatile, with frequent episodes of intercommunal violence.

Al-Shabaab still posed a threat to peace and stability in Somalia and the wider region. Cross-border conflicts continued to manifest in Mandera (UNDP, July 2019) and Karamoja, mainly driven by cattle rustling and disputes over access to water and pasture. Although the number of conflict events fell by 10 percent compared to 2018 and related fatalities declined by 26 percent, insecurity was still severe and widespread (ACLED).

Conflicts have reduced communities' resilience capacities, disrupted food value chains, led to loss of human and animal lives, increased dependency on aid, and forced many people to move to safer locations, abandoning their livelihoods and social ties.

Figure 23

Total number of people (millions) in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above), 2018 vs 2019



2018-2019

There was a slight deterioration mainly due to weather-related shocks in Kenya and a confluence of weather and conflict shocks in South Sudan

2M Ethiopia had the world's highest number of new IDPs in the first half of 2019

Economic shocks

Economic shocks were the primary driver of food insecurity for 5.9 million people in the Sudan, where the economic crisis worsened in 2019. Strong inflationary pressures, the sharp currency depreciation that dampened private consumption and deterred investment (Economist Intelligence Unit, January 2020) and contraction of GDP, coupled with sanctions and shortages, pushed fuel prices up to exceptionally high levels. Prices of cereals, which started to surge in October 2017, were at record highs by the end of 2019. (FAO-GIEWS, December 2019). Some 58 percent of households were estimated to be unable to afford the local food basket (WFP, 2019). Notably, in Khartoum state, the number of people facing acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) almost doubled between 2018 and 2019, indicating increasingly severe food access constraints for market-dependent urban households.

South Sudan and Ethiopia also faced severe macroeconomic challenges that resulted in extremely high food prices.

Displacement

At the end of 2019, there were over 4 million refugees and asylum seekers in the IGAD region. Some 300 000 of the region's refugees were newly arrived, seeking protection during the 2019 year. Around half of the refugees and asylum seekers originated from South Sudan, followed by Somalia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Sudan and Eritrea. An even higher number (7.6 million) were internally displaced with the highest number in Somalia.

According to UNHCR's mid-year trends East and Horn of Africa hosted 21 percent of the world's refugees.

Uganda hosts the third largest number of refugees globally, and the highest number in the Greater Horn of Africa region (UNHCR, accessed January 2020). In 2019 persistent armed conflict, inter-ethnic violence and limited access to basic social services drove over 190 000 additional refugees and asylum seekers to seek refuge in the country, mainly from South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, increasing the overall refugee population to almost 1.4 million by the end of December 2019 (UNHCR, accessed January 2020). The Sudan hosted the fifth largest number of refugees in the world with around 1 million, mainly from South Sudan.

Across the region around 81 percent of refugees were women and children below 18 years of age, considered the most vulnerable to protection-related risks. Some countries – particularly the Sudan – have high numbers of IDPs, but are also hosting refugees or asylum seekers.

The refugee population remains heavily dependent on humanitarian food assistance to meet its minimum food and nutrition needs, but funding shortfalls have forced ration cuts in food and non-food assistance in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and the Sudan. Rations do not always cover the recommended 2 100 kcal per person per day, and from time to time are missing food commodities such as sugar, salt and fortified foods. In addition, as a result of funding shortfalls UNHCR was unable to provide adequate supplies of non-food assistance, which resulted in shortfalls in the supply of firewood for cooking, water containers, soap, latrine access and adequate shelters in some of the refugee sites in the region.

Nutrition

Approximately 13.5 million children under 5 years of age (almost 1 in 3 children) are stunted across the region, with the 'vey high' numbers in Ethiopia, the Sudan and Uganda. These children will likely not reach their full growth and developmental potential because of the irreversible physical and cognitive damage caused by persistent nutritional deprivations at an early age.

The levels of acute malnutrition remain high across the region, with an estimated 9.5 million children suffering from acute malnutrition in six countries of the region in 2019, including around 2 million children with life-threatening severe acute malnutrition. The highest numbers are in Ethiopia and the Sudan.

Lean season increases in life-threatening severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in children under five years persist in areas of all six countries. Some areas in these countries frequently record very high (>15 percent) levels of GAM.

The key contributing factors to the high rates of malnutrition in the IGAD countries in 2019 include poor IYCF practices – in

Figure 24
Numbers of IDPs; refugees/asylum seekers hosted; and source countries of refugees by country

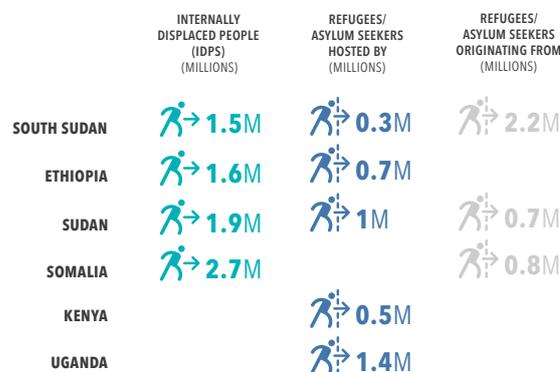


Figure 25
Numbers of children (millions) under 5 years who are acutely malnourished

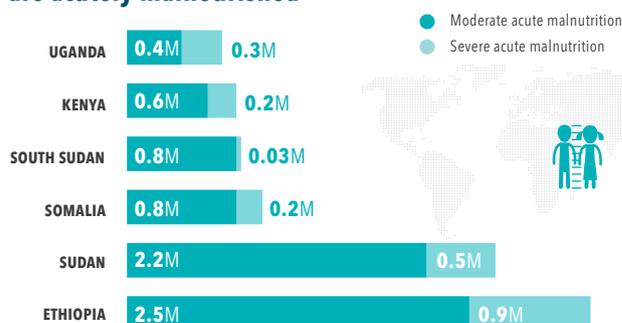
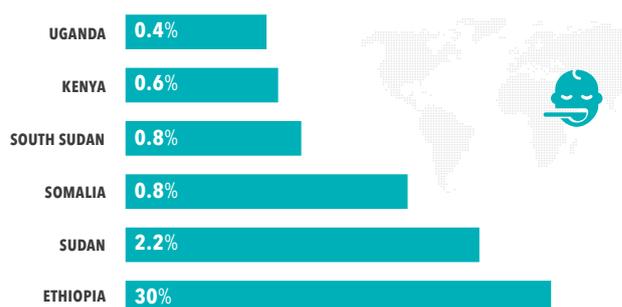


Figure 26
Percentage of children under 5 years who consume a minimally diverse diet for growth and development



particular the low proportion of children who receive a diverse diet between the ages of 6 and 24 months; food insecurity; lack of access to adequate safe water and sanitation facilities; and diseases outbreaks. Acute malnutrition rates among refugees in the region were concerning in the overwhelming majority of surveyed camps in Ethiopia, the Sudan and South Sudan (SENS). Child nutrition had improved in camps in Uganda following the resumption of full rations since 2018.



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The Greater Karamoja cross-border region has particularly low social development indicators and poor access to services when compared with national averages for Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan and Uganda.

Fragility in cross-border areas in Greater Karamoja

The Greater Karamoja Cluster encompasses the south-western parts of Ethiopia, north-western Kenya, the south-eastern parts of South Sudan and north eastern Uganda. Pastoralism is the principal source of livelihood. Livestock transhumance is the key strategy employed by pastoralists and agro-pastoralist communities to cope with shocks and seasonal events.

Despite the ongoing efforts by IGAD and national governments, the cluster remains among the poorest and most food insecure of the region. This cross-border region has the lowest social development indicators and the worst access to services when compared with national averages for each country. Although livestock represents the most important source of income and food for communities, the area is poorly

integrated into national livestock health monitoring systems and market routes of the Horn of Africa. In addition, frequent and persistent droughts are a recurrent feature of the area and their impact is exacerbated by advancing desertification and environmental degradation of rangelands.

Changing borders within states have contributed to tensions and restricted the mobility of pastoral communities. In addition, extreme climatic events have worsened intercommunal conflicts, increasing disputes over already scarce natural resources, straining pastoralists' ability to move their herds beyond their communities' own lands. For these reasons, pastoralists have become heavily armed to protect their herds as well as their communities.

East Africa's regional organization – IGAD

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in Eastern Africa is a Regional Economic Community of eight countries: Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, the Sudan and Uganda.

It was created in 1996 to supersede the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD), which was founded in 1986 to mitigate the effects of the recurring severe droughts and other natural disasters that resulted in widespread famine, ecological degradation and economic hardship

in the region, such as during the Great African Famine of 1982–84.

The founding leaders of IGAD were motivated by a vision where the people of the region would develop a regional identity, live in peace and enjoy a safe environment, alleviating poverty through appropriate and effective sustainable development programmes. The IGAD Secretariat as the executive body of the Authority was given the mandate to achieve this goal.

Source: IGAD Regional Strategy – the Framework, vol. 1, January 2016

Regional overview

Southern Africa

In 2019 over 30 million people in 11 countries of Southern Africa – Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe and United Republic of Tanzania – faced Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) levels of acute food insecurity.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, decades of armed conflict and displacement coupled with very high levels of poverty, weak political and economic governance, bad roads, lack of electricity, poor health, water and sanitation services, low agriculture productivity and limited access to cultivable land, ensured that it was the world's second worst food crisis in 2019 with the numbers of food-insecure people almost as high that of Yemen.

The total figure for the region is not comparable with that of 2018 (23.3 million) which did not include data for Angola, Namibia or United Republic of Tanzania, which in 2019 accounted for 2 million acutely food insecure people. However, the data does show a grave deterioration in the food insecurity situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Zimbabwe and Zambia. Madagascar and Mozambique were the only two countries to experience slight improvements between 2018 and 2019.

Weather extremes

Southern Africa is experiencing the brunt of the climate crisis: it is warming at about twice the global rate and many countries were buffeted by multiple weather shocks in 2019 (OCHA, November 2019). The region has had only two favourable agricultural seasons since 2012 and many areas have yet to fully recover from the devastating impact of the 2015-2016 El Niño season (WFP, UNICEF & FAO, 2019). In 2019 Angola, Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe declared states of emergency due to drought.

At the start of the year dry conditions affected staple food production across Angola, Lesotho, southern Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe, central South Africa and northern Namibia. Meanwhile in Malawi flooding in Chikwawa led to loss of crops. Two tropical cyclones in Madagascar and Tropical Storm Desmond in Mozambique caused flooding and displacement (OCHA, February 2019). Then in March and April 2019, the region was hit by two consecutive tropical cyclones, Idai and Kenneth, that left a trail of death, damage and destruction in Malawi, Mozambique

 **30M** people
2019 in 11 countries of the region were in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above)

 **22%** of the global number of people facing Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) were in this region

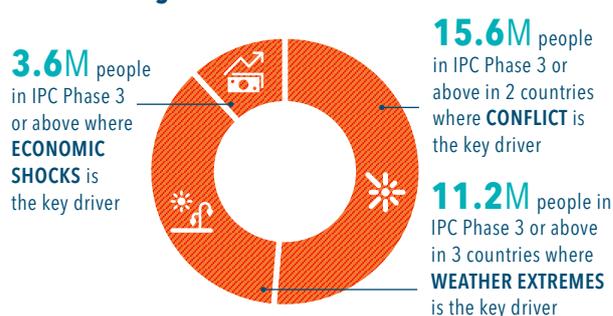
80% of the people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) across the region were in four countries



 **44.4M** people
2019 in 11 countries in the region were in Stressed (IPC Phase 2)

Figure 27

Conflict is the key driver of acute food insecurity across the region



and Zimbabwe. This was the first time in recorded history that two cyclones struck the coast of Mozambique in such close succession, and the furthest north that a cyclone had ever made landfall in the country. Overall, the cyclones and floods affected an estimated 3.8 million people. They occurred during the main harvest, destroying hundreds of thousands of acres of crops (OCHA, July 2019).

Southern parts of Zambia experienced the poorest rainfall season since 1981, which sharply reduced cereal crop production, leading to an increase in food import requirements (FAO GIEWS, September 2019).

Poor livestock body conditions and adverse weather triggered an increase in disease outbreaks among animals, leading to movement restrictions, which further curbed food availability, and lowered potential earnings for agricultural households (IAPRI, 2019).

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo flooding, crop pests and below-average rains all disrupted the main season food crop production, which was forecast below the previous five years, limiting market supplies and prompting an early start to the lean season in northern, central-eastern and south-eastern provinces (FAO and GIEWS, September 2019).

Economic shocks and weather extremes

Zimbabwe is experiencing its worst hunger crisis in a decade. The country has only experienced normal rainfall in one of the last five growing seasons. At the same time it is facing an economic crisis characterized by acute currency shortages, hyperinflation, lack of fuel and prolonged power outages that have crippled industry and work opportunities (WFP, December 2019). Extreme poverty was estimated to have risen from 29 percent in 2018 to 34 percent in 2019, which equates to 5.7 million people (WB, October 2019).

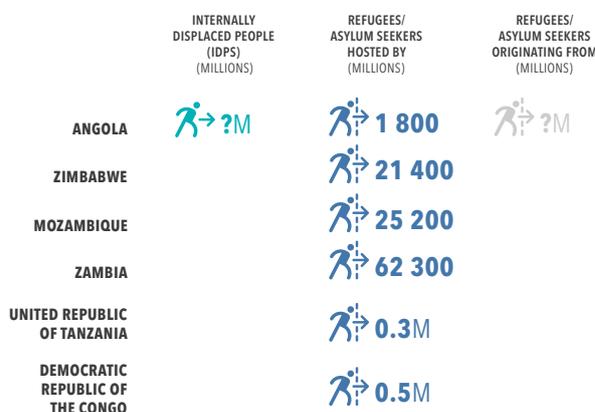
After flooding and landslides associated with Cyclone Idai caused severe damages to crop and agriculture infrastructure in March (OCHA, August 2019) the country then experienced its worst drought in decades, with temperatures hitting 50 degrees Celsius in some areas (WFP, January 2020).

The 2018/19 national maize production was over 40 percent below the five-year average (FAO-GIEWS, October 2019), severely depleting the country's strategic grain reserve. Data from the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe indicated that food prices increased by 640 percent between February and December 2019. In Zambia steep food price hikes, combined with lower incomes, sharply reduced households' financial access to food.

Figure 28
The number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above)



Figure 29
Numbers of IDPs; refugees/asylum seekers hosted; and source countries of refugees by country



2018-2019

The number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) increased by 7 million due to the addition of 3 countries and a worsening situation in others

Figure 30

Percentage of children under 5 years who consume a minimally diverse diet for growth and development

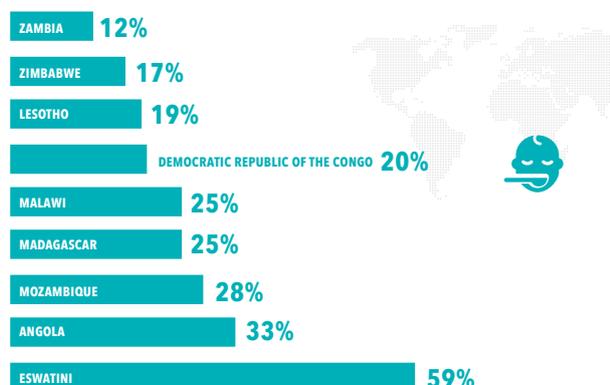
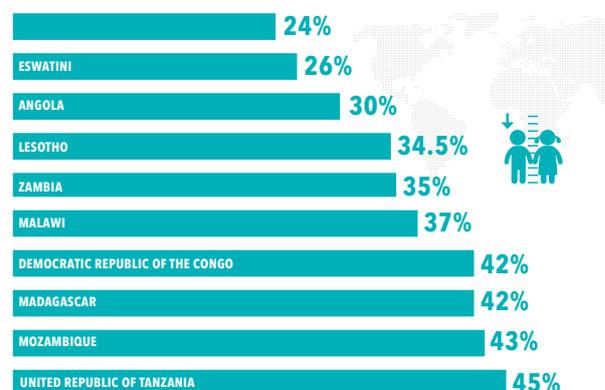


Figure 31

Percentage of children under 5 years who are chronically malnourished (stunted)



Conflict and insecurity

Although armed conflict diminished in some areas of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2019, it intensified in others, especially in the eastern areas of North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri (ACLED, December 2019). Violence – around half of it against civilians – included inter-ethnic and inter-communal conflicts, and clashes between multiple armed groups that attacked and obliterated villages, destroying fields and harvests and stealing herds (FEWS NET, December 2019).

Conflict severely hindered the response to the Ebola outbreak and the number of cases increased dramatically from March 2019, making it the world's second largest Ebola epidemic on record. The outbreak disrupted agricultural activities and limited people's access to their livelihoods (FEWS NET, April 2019).

The country's vast IDP population (at 5.1 million, including almost a million forced to abandon their homes and livelihoods in 2019, it is the largest in Africa) are among the most food insecure as well as over 527 000 refugees from Rwanda, the Central African Republic, South Sudan and Burundi (UNHCR, January 2020). Other vulnerable people include 2.1 million returnees, people living in conflict-active zones or in areas hosting large numbers of displaced people.

Armed violence in Mozambique's northernmost province of Cabo Delgado continued to force people to abandon their homes, crops, livelihoods and assets and prevent humanitarian organisations from reaching those in need and local populations from accessing basic services (ICRC, December 2019).

Nutrition

Across the region drought and floods increased the rates of communicable disease outbreaks, a main driver of malnutrition. In 2019 there were cholera outbreaks in Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mozambique, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe and measles outbreaks in Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Madagascar and Lesotho.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo some 3.4 million children under 5 years are acutely malnourished, of whom 1.1 million are affected by SAM.

Across the region children under 5 tend to have diets that are lacking in essential nutrients – particularly in Zambia and Zimbabwe. Chronic malnutrition rates are particularly high in United Republic of Tanzania, Mozambique, Madagascar and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

SADC – The South African Development Community

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) is an inter-governmental organization comprising 16 southern Africa countries, namely Angola, Botswana, Comoros, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Its objectives are to achieve economic development, growth, peace and security, alleviate poverty, enhance the standard and quality of life of the peoples of southern Africa, and support an increased regional integration between member countries.

For more information on SADC: <https://www.sadc.int/>

Regional overview

Western Africa, the Sahel and Cameroon

More than 12.3 million people in 16 countries analysed were estimated to be in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) in October–December 2019 in the Sahel and West Africa region (including Liberia and Cameroon). The highest numbers were in Northern Nigeria (4.9 million), Cameroon (1.4 million), the Niger (1.4 million) and Burkina Faso (1.2 million).¹ Around 49 million were classified in Stressed (CH Phase 2) with minimally adequate food consumption and unable to afford some essential non-food items without resorting to harmful coping strategies. They were highly likely to slip into a more acute phase of food insecurity were they to face an additional shock or stressor.

The overall number of people facing Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) throughout the region remained relatively stable, with a 10 percent increase from 11.2 million people requiring food assistance in 2018. In Burkina Faso, Cameroon and the Niger, food insecurity worsened primarily because of increasing violence and insecurity. Cameroon, in particular, faced almost a trebling of the number of people in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above), from 0.5 to 1.4 million people. The crisis in Burkina Faso escalated rapidly in 2019. Although acute food insecurity was considerable in March–May 2019 with 420 000 in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above), it increased to almost 688 000 during the pre-harvest period between June and August 2019 (RPCA, October 2019) and to 1.2 million at the end of the year. The figure represents a fourfold increase in the number of people in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) since October–December 2018 (CILSS-CH, November 2018).

Around 25 percent of the total number of people in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) in the region were in the three states of north-eastern Nigeria (Borno, Yobe and Adamawa). Inaccessible areas in northeastern Nigeria were also likely experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity (REACH, June 2019, ECHO, November 2019) but could not be classified within the CH protocols because they were not accessible for enumerators to gather data.

In the Sahel region, around 5.2 million people were in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) across nine countries – Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Chad, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, the

 **12M** people
2019 in 16 countries analysed in the region were in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above)

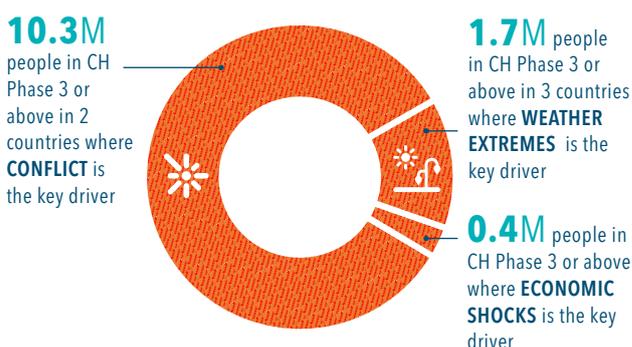
 **9%** of the global number of people in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) were in this region

75% of people in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) across the region were in four countries



 **49M** people
2019 in 16 countries analysed in the region were in Stressed (IPC/CH Phase 2)

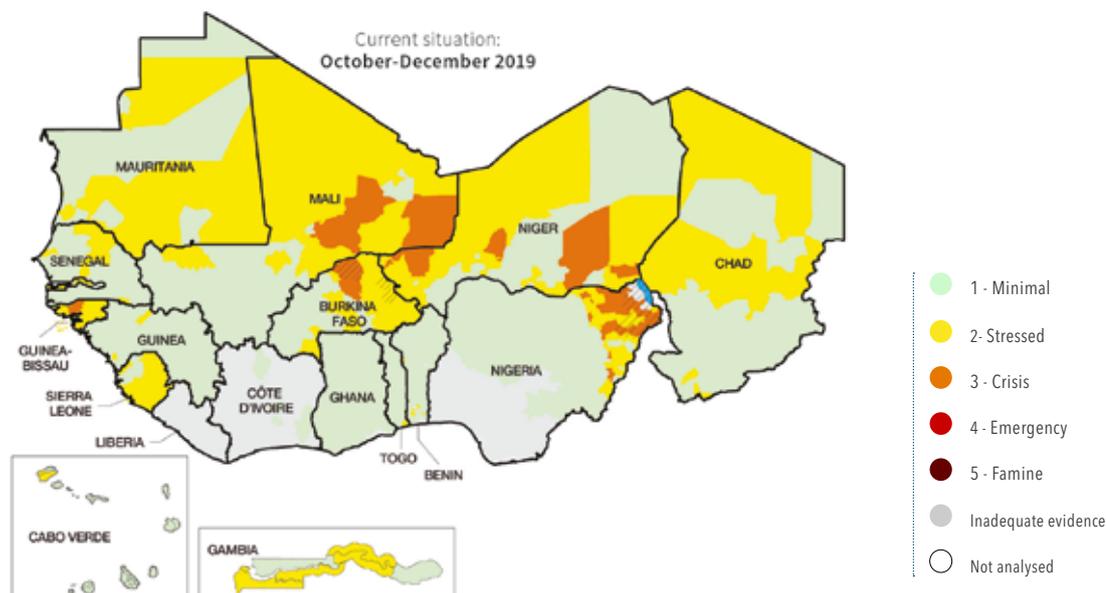
Figure 32
Conflict is the key driver of acute food insecurity across the region



¹ These countries are: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cameroon Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo. Of these 16 countries, six are profiled in chapter 3.

Map 2

West Africa and the Sahel: food and nutrition situation



Source: CILSS Cadre Harmonisé analyses, regional concertation meeting, Niamey, the Niger, November 2019.

Niger and Senegal. The level of food insecurity in the Sahel was three percent higher than in 2018 when pastoralist areas were affected by prolonged dry spells compounded by conflict and insecurity.

Conflict/insecurity

Conflict and insecurity were the primary drivers of acute food insecurity in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Mali, the Niger and northern Nigeria. Insecurity led to massive displacement of populations, destruction or closure of basic social services, disruption of productive activities, markets and trade flows. In particular, continuous insecurity in conflict-affected areas, associated with renewed attacks, looting, banditry and border closure measures, affected market functioning and hindered access to fields and to pastoral transhumance routes, incurring severe consequences for food security.

There were two major hotspots: The Lake Chad Basin – made of sub-national areas in Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad and the Niger – and the Central Sahel crisis, which affected Burkina Faso, Mali and the Niger. In 2019 Burkina Faso was one of the world's fastest growing crises with the daily lives and livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of civilians disrupted by insecurity and violence in central and northern regions. In December 2018, a state of emergency was declared in several provinces of Burkina Faso (WB, October 2019).

In 2019, the West Africa and Sahel region hosted around

1.2 million refugees and 4.4 million people were internally displaced (IDPs). Between late 2018 and the end of 2019 the number of IDPs in the Central Sahel countries increased dramatically because of insecurity – by 300 percent in the Niger's regions of Tahoua and Tillabéry, by 66 percent in Mali and by 1 270 percent in Burkina Faso. Despite humanitarian assistance, the food and nutrition situation of IDPs and refugees remains a major concern due to limited resources, continued displacement and limited humanitarian access. More than a third, or 262 000 people living in IDP camps in nine local government areas (LGAs) in Borno State, Nigeria, were in CH Phase 3 (Crisis) or worse; similarly, 17 000 of the 70 000 Malian refugees in five official camps in the Niger were in need of increased urgent assistance (RPCA).

Weather extremes

Weather events also played a critical role in shaping the food security situation in the region, mostly in tandem with the effects of conflict and insecurity. They were the principal drivers of food insecurity in Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania and Senegal.

Recurrent shocks, such as localized deficits in cereal and forage production due to drought or floods, have eroded people's coping capacities. In 2019 floods and heavy rains damaged crops in several areas in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Sierra Leone. Prolonged dry spells and poor spatial and temporal distribution

of rains affected agricultural and forage production, particularly in Mauritania's border areas with Mali and Senegal, between the Niger and Chad, and in north-central Burkina Faso. Mali, Burkina Faso, the Niger and Chad faced significant fodder deficits, which disrupted the transhumance patterns of pastoralists, leading to a concentration of livestock in some non conflict-affected areas of the four countries, increasing the risk of inter-communal tensions (RPCA, November 2019).

Economic shocks

Economic shocks were the main drivers of food insecurity in Liberia and Sierra Leone, where the national currencies depreciated by 22 percent and 10 percent respectively compared to 2018 level (CILSS, November 2019). Weather extremes, insecurity and belowaverage crop production also contributed to economic decline in other countries. Year-on-year inflation rates in 2019 were above 10 percent in Liberia (30.9 percent) Sierra Leone (15.2 percent) and Nigeria (11.6 percent), and close to 10 percent in Guinea (9.4 percent) and the Gambia (7.6 percent). Cereal prices were generally lower than 2018 and the fiveyear average supply was greater than demand across most of the subregion. However, insecurity and market disruption in conflict-affected areas, such as the Lake Chad Basin and Liptako-Gourma pushed up food prices (FAO-GIEWS, December 2019).

In the coastal countries of Cote D'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone, around 0.7 million people were in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above), 4.9 million of them in Nigeria. Up from 5.6 million in 2018, this slight change is mostly due to natural hazards and production shortfalls in Guinea, Nigeria and Sierra Leone, as well as ongoing conflict in Nigeria.

Nutrition

The nutrition situation remained alarming throughout many areas in the region as insecurity exacerbated pre-existing drivers of malnutrition by, for instance, forcing the closure of health centres. While there was a slight decrease in the prevalence of acute malnutrition in some areas of the Niger and northeastern Nigeria, the GAM rate exceeded the 'very high' threshold (>15 percent) in some areas of Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali and Mauritania. In Burkina Faso nearly 466 000 children under 5 years were acutely malnourished, 133 000 severely so. In Mali 660 000 were acutely malnourished, 160 000 severely so. Chronic malnutrition rates were 'high' in Burkino Faso, Mali and Cameroon and 'very high' in Chad, Nigeria and Niger, where they reached 46 percent.

Figure 33 Numbers of IDPs; refugees/asylum seekers hosted; and source countries of refugees by country

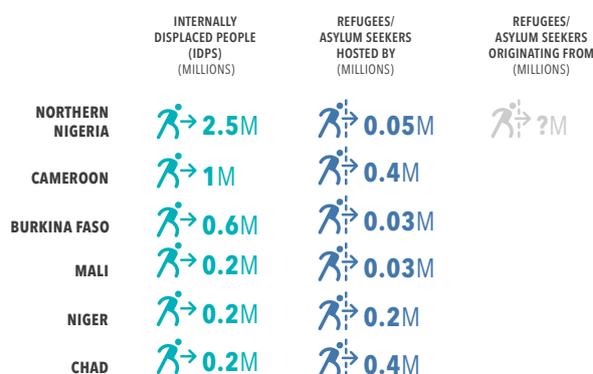


Figure 34 Percentage of children under 5 years who consume a minimally diverse diet for growth and development

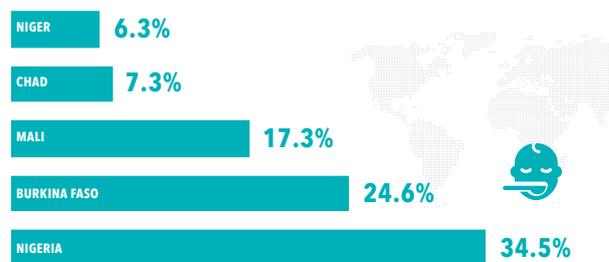
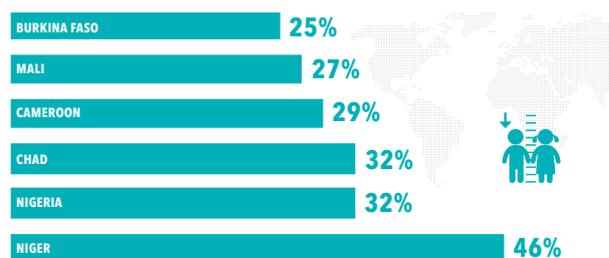


Figure 35 Percentage of children under 5 years who are chronically malnourished (stunted)



FRAGILITY IN BORDER AREAS IN WEST AFRICA AND THE SAHEL

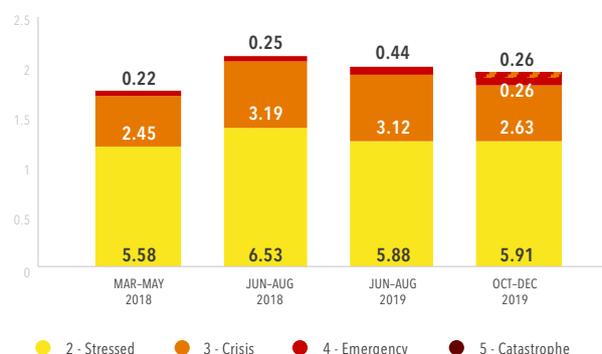
In recent years, food insecurity has increased significantly in cross-border areas. Although cross-border dynamics in food crises are largely context-specific, there are some common vulnerabilities. For instance, poverty and food insecurity levels are higher in the Central Sahel (Liptako-Gourma triangle) and the Lake Chad Basin border areas than they are in other parts of those countries. Local populations are largely engaged in agriculture and pastoralism, or in the case of the Lake Chad Basin, fishing, and are therefore highly dependent on dwindling natural resources. The increased intensity and frequency of climatic shocks – such as recurring droughts in the Central Sahel – are further degrading natural assets (e.g. cropland, water resources, pastures) and generating increased competition over those resources, thereby increasing the risk of inter-communal violence between pastoralist groups.

The Central Sahel and the Lake Chad Basin are also characterized by a lack of presence of State systems, including limited access to basic services, the absence of security and administrative forces, and limited border control. These limitations are particularly applicable to pastoralist communities, who are under-represented in local public institutions (FAO, forthcoming). Conflicts between pastoralist groups can be difficult to contain and spill across borders since pastoralists are mobile (UNOWAS, 2018). The mobile nature of their livelihoods also creates difficulties for governments and non-state humanitarian and development partners to meet the needs of these populations (FAO, forthcoming).

Armed groups and transnational organized criminal gangs have also profited from the absence of State control, limited border control, and marginalized local populations to operate in multiple countries, disrupt regional trade, or impose their rule on communities. Since 2017, insecurity and armed groups have spread from the north and centre of Mali across the borders

Figure 36

Number of people (millions) in CH Phase 2 or above in 2018-2019, Lake Chad Basin



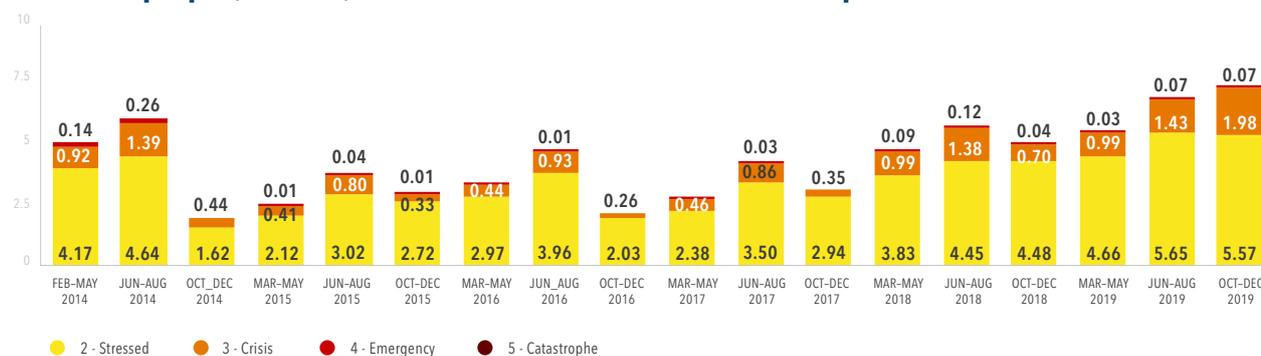
Source: CILSS, Cadre Harmonisé

of the Liptako-Gourma areas into the Niger and Burkina Faso with civilians often the victims of violence and displacement widespread, particularly in Burkina Faso. Insecurity has also severely disrupted regional trade, notably in the Sahel regions of Burkina Faso, Mopti in Mali, and Tillabéri in the Niger (RPCA, 2019).

The limited presence of the State in the Lake Chad Basin has facilitated the rise of violent activity by Boko Haram or Boko Haram-affiliated armed groups since 2014. Armed groups benefit from fluid borders to engage in criminality, banditry and attacks against communities across state lines, leading to a growing tide of refugee and internally displaced populations and placing additional pressure on the food security status of both host and displaced communities. The persistent insecurity in the Lake Chad Basin, in addition to border closures in Nigeria, have also affected trade in the region, contributing to higher food prices and limited access to markets in certain regions (RPCA, 2019). Violence has inhibited humanitarian access to vulnerable populations in both the Central Sahel and the Lake Chad Basin, (FAO-GIEWS, 2018).

Figure 37

Number of people (millions) in CH Phase 2 or above in 2014-2019, Liptako Gourma



Source: CILSS, Cadre Harmonisé

West African regional organizations

The Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control (CILSS) is a regional organization, consisting of 13 countries in the Sahel region. Its objectives are to invest in research for food security and the fight against the effects of drought and desertification in the Sahel. The 13 countries are Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger, Senegal and Togo. It facilitates the consistent use of the Cadre Harmonisé (CH) by 18 countries in West Africa and the Sahel (its member states, members of the regional Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA) and Cameroon) to prevent food crises by quickly identifying affected populations and proffering appropriate measures to improve their food and nutrition security.

The Réseau de Prévention des Crises Alimentaires (RPCA) is an international consultation and co-ordination platform co-ordinated by the CILSS drawing on the political leadership of the Communauté Economique Des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (CEDEAO or ECOWAS) and West African Monetary and Economic Union (UEMOA) Commissions, and includes all CILSS countries, plus Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone. As an open forum for discussion and information-sharing, the network analyses the food and nutritional situation of the region, and promotes consistent and concerted action.

CEDEAO itself is made up of 15 member countries that have both cultural and geopolitical ties and shared common economic interest. The countries are: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, the Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo.

UEMOA consists of countries that have the CFA Franc in common. Its member states are Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, the Niger, Senegal and Togo.

The G5 Sahel is a joint regional force, bringing together Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger and Chad, and supported by the African Union and the United Nations.

Created in February 2014, this regional force aims at improving the coordination of the countries at a regional level for development policies and security and defence activities. It aims especially at fighting the terrorist threat, starting with the securitization of borders area.

The Autorité de Développement Intégré de la Région du Liptako Gourma (ALG) or Liptako-Gourma Authority is a regional organization seeking to develop the contiguous areas of Mali, Burkina Faso and the Niger.

Number of people in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) in 2019 by regional organizations

9.7M in 15 member countries of CEDEAO

5.6M in 13 member countries of CILSS

4.6M in 5 countries of the G5 Sahel

4M in 7 member countries of UEMOA

3.3M in 3 member countries of ALG

Regional overview

Asia and the Middle East

About 43 million people were estimated to be acutely food insecure across 10 countries in the Middle East and South/South East Asia in 2019.

In Yemen – still the world's gravest food crisis in 2019 – millions of people were still at risk of famine. High acute food insecurity levels persisted in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Yemen and Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar in 2019 with slight improvements in the situation in Iraq and Lebanon. While the numbers of food-insecure people increased in Afghanistan and Pakistan's Sindh and Balochistan provinces, this is mainly linked with the higher analysis coverage in 2019.

Conflict and insecurity

Protracted armed conflict and violence, frequently fuelled by political, social and economic grievances or geopolitical tensions remained the main drivers of acute food insecurity across the region (OCHA, December 2019).

In Yemen although violence abated in the critical port city of Hodeida following the 2018 Stockholm Agreement, missile and air strikes increased in other areas and fighting continued across 10 out of 22 governorates. The protracted conflict continued to severely disrupt economic activity, damage infrastructure, destroy basic public services (WB, October 2019) and to restrict access to markets and services (ACAPS, October 2019).

Nine years into the crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic the scale and complexity of humanitarian needs and protection concerns remained high. In the north-east, increased conflict since the onset of the Turkish-led military offensive in October 2019 resulted in civilian deaths and significant displacement (OCHA, December 2019).

Fighting in Afghanistan continued, prompting the displacement of over 400 000 people in the first 10 months (OCHA, December 2019). From July–September the number of civilian casualties was the highest since 2009 (UNAMA, October 2019).

In Iraq the formal conclusion of major military operations against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in late 2017 paved the way for millions of displaced Iraqis to return home. But intercommunal and societal tensions persisted on multiple fronts and the spectre of armed conflict and renewed displacement lingered (OCHA, December 2019).

 **43M** people
2019 in 10 countries of the region were in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above)

 **32%** of the global number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) were in the Middle East (20%) and South/South East Asia (12%)

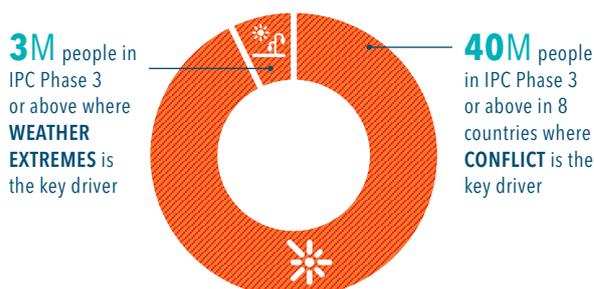
79% of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) across the region were in 3 countries



 **25M** people
2019 in 8 countries in the Middle East (14.5M) and South/South East Asia (10.9M) were in Stressed (IPC Phase 2)

Note: No estimates for Iraq or Bangladesh

Figure 38
Conflict was the key driver of acute food insecurity across the region



In Gaza the ongoing blockade, combined with regular flare-ups of hostilities, affected all aspects of civilian life and threatened to ignite a wider confrontation (OCHA, December 2019).

Economic decline

The economic decline and lack of sustainable livelihoods that accompany protracted conflict have exhausted individual and community coping mechanisms. In Yemen acute shortages of foreign exchange and collapse in government revenues have interrupted the purchase of essential imports and payment of public sector salaries and pensions (WB, October 2019). Around two in five Yemeni households have lost their primary source of income and find it difficult to buy even the minimum amount of food (WB, October 2019).

The depreciation of the Syrian Pound against the USD, high unemployment, low salaries, high competition for labour opportunities and escalating food prices curtailed Syrians' purchasing power (WFP, 2020).

In Afghanistan poverty is climbing, with more than 80 percent of people living on less than USD 1.90 per day. (OCHA, December 2019). In Gaza unemployment increased in the second quarter of 2019, with youth unemployment at 64 percent, the highest in the world. Nearly half the population lives below the poverty line (WB, September 2019). In the Syrian Arab Republic households' purchasing power was limited by high unemployment, low salaries, high competition for labour opportunities and escalating food prices (CFSAM, September 2019).

In Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh more Rohingya refugee and host community families were running up debts (REVA, 2019). About 80 percent of refugee households were in debt (UNHCR/WFP, October 2019). Many in the host community have lost access to farmed lands and work opportunities and were facing a sharp drop in daily wages due to the increased supply of unskilled labour (JRP, March 2020).

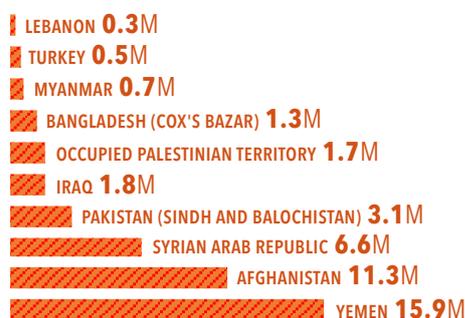
Weather extremes

Some countries in the region also experienced extreme climate events in 2019. In Sindh province of Pakistan, the 2018 monsoon season rains were almost 70 percent below average and in Balochistan they were 45 percent below average, resulting in acute shortages of water, food and fodder into 2019.

In Afghanistan some households had still not fully recovered their lost livelihood assets following the 2018 drought (FEWS NET, October 2019), while hundreds of thousands were affected by seasonal floods across almost all provinces (OCHA, December 2019). In September, Cox's Bazar experienced heavy monsoon rains that triggered serious landslides and flooding.

In Iraq heavy March/April rains caused flooding in central and southern governorates that caused temporary displacement and disrupted clean water supplies in some areas (OCHA, May 2019).

Figure 39
The number of acutely food-insecure people (IPC Phase 3 or above or equivalent)



2018-2019

There was an increase in the numbers of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in Afghanistan and in Balochistan and Sindh provinces, Pakistan

Figure 40
Numbers of IDPs; refugees/asylum seekers hosted; and source countries of refugees by country



In the Syrian Arab Republic Hasakeh Governorate faced the worst flooding in a decade (IFRC, April 2019) following heavy rains in late March, affecting vulnerable IDPs and causing damage to homes and agricultural land (IFRC, April 2019). High temperatures and strong winds caused fires on standing crops before harvesting time (CFSAM, September 2019).

Displacement

The scale of displacement across the region is staggering. Around 30 million have been displaced (UNHCR, UNRWA, IOM), many of them multiple times, either internally or as refugees to neighbouring countries.

In the Syrian Arab Republic alone, an estimated 5.9 million people remain internally displaced with around 1 million of them living in last-resort IDP sites, many of which are over-crowded and lack adequate essential services, including water and sanitation. At least 5.6 million have sought safety abroad as registered refugees in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt, although the numbers are likely higher as not every refugee has registered (3RP, January 2020). Turkey alone hosted 18 percent of the world's refugees and the refugee population increased by 5.8 percent in 2018 (OCHA, December 2019).

In Yemen as many as 4 million civilians have been displaced, including 375 000 during 2019 alone (UNHCR). Even countries with large numbers of internally displaced people, such as Yemen, the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq, are also hosting hundreds of thousands of refugees and asylum seekers from countries in the region.

Refugees and IDPs – as well as returns of both – often settle in urban centres, straining basic services, increasing competition for scarce labour opportunities and reducing daily wages for the hosts by providing cheaper competition. This is a concern in Afghanistan, Iraq, the countries hosting Syrian refugees and Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar district.

Nutrition

Millions of children under the age of 5 across the Middle East and South Asia are acutely malnourished and in need of urgent nutrition assistance. For instance, in Yemen 2 million children aged 6–59 months are acutely malnourished, 400 000 of them severely so. In Afghanistan the number of acutely malnourished children under 5 years of age increased by 25 percent since 2018 to an estimated 2.5 million children in 2019. Of them 690 000 were severely malnourished and in need of life-saving treatment. Chronic malnutrition rates among children were also alarmingly high in Yemen, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Conflict has contributed to pre-existing child malnutrition by lowering access to nutritious food, forcing displaced people to live in over-crowded conditions, destroying health services and increasing disease outbreaks.

Figure 41

Percentage of children under 5 years who consume a minimally diverse diet for growth and development

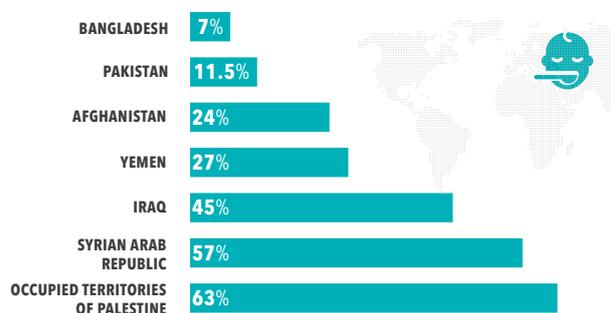
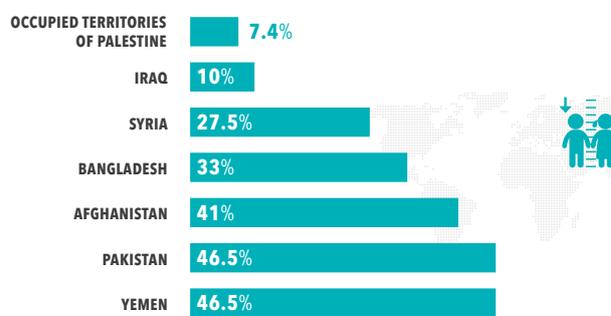


Figure 42

Percentage of children under 5 years who are chronically malnourished (stunted)



Humanitarian access constraints

Humanitarian organizations in the region have faced multiple challenges that have obstructed their access to populations in need of assistance. The operating environment in Yemen has become one of the most non-permissive in the world. At least 5.1 million people in 75 hard-to-reach districts have been cut off from humanitarian assistance by restrictions imposed by authorities (OCHA, December 2019).

In Iraq widespread protests and insecurity had significant impacts on humanitarian operations. Intermittent curfews were imposed in Baghdad and the southern governorates, resulting in missions being delayed or cancelled. In Ninewa UN agencies and NGOs were unable to carry out relief activities in camps because of delays in getting approvals and access letters (OCHA, November 2019).

Violations of international humanitarian law, including attacks on health and education facilities, continued to make Afghanistan one of the most dangerous countries in the world for aid agencies to operate (OCHA, December 2019).



© WFP/MARMA/AMAD

Farmers busy preparing land before planting the maize crop in Sinchon County, South Hwanghae province. Dry spells, high temperatures and floods severely hampered production in a country with high reliance on manual labour and little irrigation.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea

In May 2019 an estimated 10.1 million people (40 percent of the population) were acutely food insecure, (poor food consumption score), and in need of food assistance. Only 7 percent of surveyed households had an acceptable diet that included a more frequent intake of high-protein foods and fruits. The other 93 percent with poor and borderline food consumption had a daily diet that was insufficient in diversity and nutrients. The situation was expected to further deteriorate during the lean season from May to September 2019 unless urgent humanitarian action was taken (FAO/WFP, May 2019).

The main drivers were prolonged dry spells, abnormally high temperatures and floods that severely reduced the 2018 main season cereal production (mostly rice and maize). The early season wheat, potato and barley crops, harvested in June and important to fill food gaps during the lean season, were affected by low snow cover, which exposed crops to freezing temperatures, limited water availability and poor rains.

Sanctions-related shortages of fuel, electricity and lack of spare parts for agricultural equipment also contributed to pushing the aggregate 2018/19 cereal production to well-below the previous five-year average. Post-harvest losses were higher than usual due to fuel and electricity shortages that hampered the timely transport and processing of crops as well as the ventilation of stocks (FAO/WFP, May 2019). For the 2018/19 marketing year, the uncovered cereal deficit was estimated at about 1.36 million tonnes (FAO/WFP, May 2019).

Limited arable land (only 15 percent of the largely mountainous country is suitable for cultivation) and lack of irrigation also curtail domestic production (WFP, November 2019). The Government continues to rely on international humanitarian assistance, which is challenged by lack of funding as well as by lack of banking channels for in-country operational costs (UNRC, March 2019).

The population relies on the Public Distribution System (PDS) and any reduction in the entitlements affects food security nationwide (UNRC, March 2019). From January 2019, rations reduced to 300 grammes per person per day, a 21 percent fall compared to the same period in 2018 and was far from the 2019 target of 550 grammes. Further reductions were expected until September when the main crops would be available (FAO/WFP, May 2019).

PDS households had to rely on markets and kinship support to fill the food gap. WFP's regular market monitoring surveys found a general trend of increasing market prices in early 2019 compared to 2018, which was likely to cause further stress on people's access to food and worsen overall food consumption (FAO/WFP, May 2019).

Food insecurity and malnutrition are strongly interrelated. Diet diversity is inadequate and particularly young children and pregnant and lactating women suffer from chronic malnutrition because their diets lack vitamins, minerals, proteins and fats (UNRC, March 2019).

Disclaimer: The GRFC team acknowledges that there are notable limitations to the use of the Rapid Food Security Assessment to estimate the population in need according to IPC Phases. The estimate relies on one indicator, specifically the Food Consumption Score, and the population in need was determined to be equivalent to the population reporting a Poor Food Consumption Score. The data was purposively sampled and consisted of 179 households, 125 of whom were surveyed in November 2018 and 54 of whom were surveyed in early 2019.

Regional overview

Latin America and the Caribbean

The major food crises identified in Latin America and the Caribbean are the four countries of the Central America Dry Corridor (Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua), Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Venezuelan migrant populations living in Colombia and Ecuador, and Haiti. In 2019, 18.6 million people in these countries were in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above), representing 14 percent of the total global population living in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above).

Half of these people were in Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), which became the world's fourth worst food crisis in 2019. Around 9.3 million Venezuelans were food insecure and in need of assistance according to WFP's Emergency Food Security Assessment carried out in July–September 2019. Of these, 2.4 million, were considered severely food insecure and 7 million moderately food insecure (WFP, February 2020). Another 1.2 million Venezuelan migrants were acutely food-insecure in Colombia and Ecuador.

When considering the areas analysed in both 2018 and 2019 rounds in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, the number of food-insecure people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Emergency (IPC Phase 4) increased from 2.7 million (15 percent of the population analysed) in 2018 to 3.2 million (18 percent) in 2019. The number of areas classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) increased from four to 13 in 2019, with Guatemala and Honduras seeing the most significant deterioration since 2018.

Haiti has seen an increase of almost 600 000 extra people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in rural areas since the same period a year earlier, including an increase of more than 400 000 in Emergency (IPC Phase 4).

Economic shocks

Although Venezuela (Bolovarian Republic of) possesses the world's largest oil reserves, 2019 marked the fifth consecutive year of deep recession for its economy. Food prices soared and Venezuelans' purchasing power to buy goods eroded by more than 8 000 percent in 2019 (Banco Central de Venezuela, 2019). The high cost of agricultural inputs and general lack of them – reflecting the depreciation of the currency and import difficulties – led to a reduction in the planted area and expected below-average maize harvest (OCHA, November 2019). Consequently,

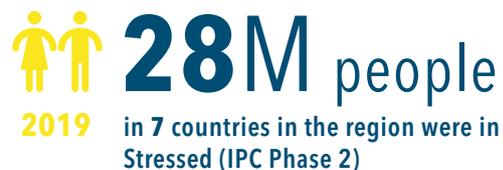
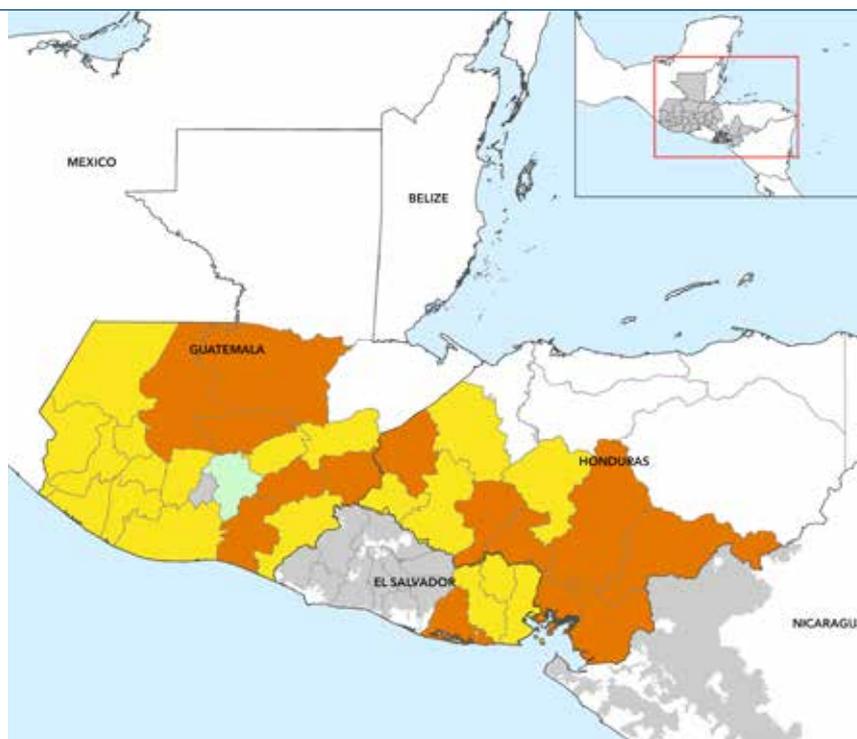


Figure 43
Economic shocks is the key driver of acute food insecurity across the region



Map 3

Central American Dry Corridor, IPC Acute food insecurity situation (based on 2019 peak data by country)¹



Source: El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras IPC Technical Working Groups

reliance on imported food increased, but with dwindling foreign exchange earnings, food shortages became increasingly pressing.

Vulnerable households and smallholders in the Dry Corridor area were also affected by poor economic conditions and reduced purchasing power. Low international coffee prices as well as increases in input costs severely affected production and the incomes of the 1.3 million producers and pickers who rely on the sector for their livelihoods across the region. High beans and maize prices – even following the harvest – had a particularly dire impact on poor households that spend a high proportion of their total expenditure on food. In April, WFP found that among its beneficiaries in the CADC 25 percent of households had insufficient cash to purchase the minimum food basket (WFP, 2019).

In Haiti the political and socio-economic crisis was the primary driver of worsening food insecurity in 2019. The resignation of the former Government in March led to a slowdown or halt of public services and suspension of bilateral investment and support, while the depreciation of the Haitian Gourde triggered high inflation and record or near record high food prices.

Urban unemployment soared and the most vulnerable households in rural areas lacked agricultural work opportunities. Around 3.7 million people were in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) – 35 percent of the population analysed – from October 2019 to February 2020, which was almost 600 000 more in rural areas than during the same period a year earlier.

Weather extremes

The world's second-most disaster-prone region, Latin America and the Caribbean is feeling the impacts of climate change, with stronger seasonal hurricanes in the Atlantic and recurring climate shocks in Central America. Such shocks compound existing socioeconomic vulnerabilities and deep economic inequity (OCHA, December 2019).

In 2019, acute food insecurity in the Dry Corridor was primarily driven by drought, which adversely affected subsistence maize and beans farmers, small coffee farmers and agricultural labourers who had not yet fully recovered from the severe 2018 drought and five years of erratic seasonal weather patterns.

When considering the areas analysed in both 2018 and 2019 rounds in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, the number of food insecure people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Emergency (IPC Phase 4) increased from 2.7 million (15 percent of the population analysed) in 2018 to 3.2 million (18 percent) in 2019. The number of areas classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) increased from four to 13 in 2019, with Guatemala and Honduras seeing the most significant deterioration in food insecurity levels since 2018.

The drought was severe in southern, central and eastern Honduras; northern and central Nicaragua, eastern El Salvador and most of Guatemala. Aggregate maize crop production was forecast at 1.7 million tonnes below average in Guatemala, 0.47 million below in Honduras and 0.36 million below in Nicaragua (FAO-GIEWS, October-December 2019).

The Caribbean region comprises many small island developing states (SIDS) that are especially susceptible to a wide range

¹ El Salvador (April–July 2019), Guatemala (March–June 2019), Honduras (November 2019–February 2020)

of natural hazards – including droughts, earthquakes, floods, hurricanes and landslides – which cause an estimated USD 3 billion in annual losses. With climate change expected to increase the intensity of extreme weather events, Caribbean countries are faced with formidable challenges in protecting people, livelihoods and infrastructure and in maintaining their economic, social and environmental gains (WFP, 2019).

Haiti stands out as the island where the impact of weather events and natural disasters have had the strongest impact on food security in the three previous years. El Niño induced rainfall deficits contributed to a 12 percent fall in 2019/2020 aggregate cereal production since the previous year (IPC, October 2019).

Displacement

Since the start of the crisis in Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) some 4.8 million Venezuelans (15 percent of the total population) have fled country as refugees and migrants, making it the second largest refugee crisis in the world after the Syrian Arab Republic. Of them 3.9 million are in Latin America and the Caribbean, including 1.6 million in Colombia, 862 000 in Peru and 385 000 in Ecuador (IOM, December 2019; UNHCR, December 2019).

The majority of Venezuelan migrants and refugees have poor or limited access to food, forcing them to adopt coping strategies to deal with a lack of food. Additional visa restrictions have also adversely impacted migrants’ revenue generating capacities.

Combined with socio-political unrest, food insecurity, increasing poverty, and a lack of economic opportunities, widespread human rights violations perpetrated by criminal gangs spurred the number of refugees and asylum-seekers from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras to reach around 387 000 in 2019. Many have been displaced more than once within their own countries or have been deported back home, often into dangerous situations.

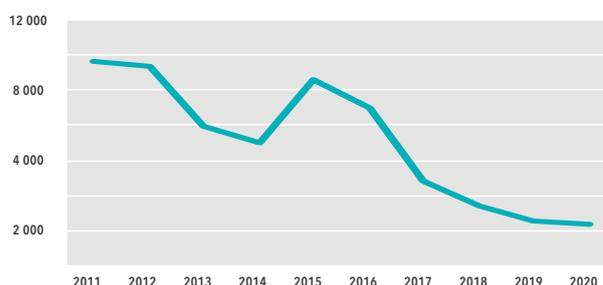
Political turmoil in Nicaragua since April 2018 also compelled thousands of people to flee violence and human rights violations in 2019, the majority into neighbouring Costa Rica (UNHCR, accessed 17 February 2020).



Figure 44
The number of acutely food-insecure people (IPC Phase 3 or above or equivalent)



Figure 45
GDP per capita (USD) for Venezuela, 2011–2020



Regional organization - Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana (SICA)

SICA is the institutional framework of regional integration in Central America, consisting of Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama. The Program of Information Systems for Resilience in Food and Nutrition Security of the SICA region (PROGRESAN-SICA) aims to increase the sustainability of livelihoods and increase countries' adaptation capacities to climate change. It seeks to generate relevant, timely, valid and reliable information as a basis for the development of effective public strategies and policies. It focuses on building people's resilience to shocks with the ultimate aim of defeating poverty, hunger and malnutrition.

Major food crises in 2019

| | |
|--|-----|
| Afghanistan | 48 |
| Angola | 52 |
| Bangladesh (Cox's Bazar) | 56 |
| Burkina Faso | 60 |
| Cameroon | 64 |
| Central African Republic | 68 |
| Chad | 72 |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo | 78 |
| El Salvador | 82 |
| Eswatini | 86 |
| Ethiopia | 90 |
| Guatemala | 94 |
| Haiti | 98 |
| Honduras | 102 |
| Iraq | 106 |
| Kenya | 110 |
| Lesotho | 114 |
| Madagascar | 118 |
| Malawi | 124 |
| Mali | 128 |
| Mozambique | 132 |
| The Niger | 138 |
| Nigeria | 144 |
| Occupied Palestinian Territory | 150 |
| Pakistan | 154 |
| Somalia | 158 |
| South Sudan | 164 |
| The Sudan | 172 |
| Syrian Arab Republic | 176 |
| Uganda | 180 |
| United Republic of Tanzania | 184 |
| Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela | 188 |
| Yemen | 192 |
| Zambia | 196 |
| Zimbabwe | 200 |

Country profile **Afghanistan**

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY 2019

Total population of country **32.2M**



Population analysed **30.7M** (95% of total population, including displaced populations)

11.3M IPC Phase 3 or above in November 2019–March 2020

8.6M IPC Phase 3 **Crisis** **2.7M** IPC Phase 4 **Emergency**

9.5M IPC Phase 2 **Stressed**

2018-19 Change

The number of food-insecure people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) increased due to the inclusion of the urban population in the 2019 analysis. Among the rural population, food insecurity decreased compared to 2018.

2020 Forecast

The situation is expected to persist at similar levels, despite the cumulative impacts of decades of conflict, climate shocks, and economic stressors.

NUTRITION INDICATORS

2.5M children under 5 years are acutely **malnourished**, of whom **690 000** are affected by SAM. **40.9%** of children under 5 years are **stunted**.

24.3% of children 6–23 months meet the recommended **dietary diversity** requirement. **43.3%** of children under 6 months are exclusively **breastfed**.

46.4% of children under 5 years and **42%** of women 15–49 years are **anaemic**. **67%** of households have access to at least basic **drinking water** services.

DRIVERS OF FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION

Conflict/insecurity **Economic shocks** **Weather extremes**

- ▶ The number of civilian casualties reached record-highs, 42 percent higher in July–September 2019 than the same period in 2018.
- ▶ Intensified conflict continued to displace people and to prevent humanitarian workers from reaching people in need.
- ▶ Unemployment levels soared, incomes fell and food prices climbed.
- ▶ Residents and returnees competed for scarce work, particularly in urban areas.
- ▶ Seasonal flooding affected more Afghans than normal, but the impact of flooding on harvest was likely to be minimal.
- ▶ Households were still struggling to recover their livelihoods after the devastating 2017–2018 drought.
- ▶ The crisis worsens access to health services, water and sanitation, and severely limits children's diets.

DISPLACEMENT

4.2M were **internally displaced**. **72 065 refugees** were in Khost and Paktika provinces. **3.3M** returned from abroad and **4.6M** IDPs returned.



After living as a refugee in Pakistan for 40 years, 90-year-old Haji Sakhi Ralman (left) is trying to rebuild his life in Tarakhail Daag, a barren suburb of east Kabul with limited access to public services including healthcare and water.

BACKGROUND

In 2020, Afghanistan enters its 40th year of a conflict that 'shapes all aspects of everyday life' (OCHA, December 2019). In 2019 civilian casualties reached a record high (UNAMA, October 2019). The conflict has had a devastating impact on the country's development. A quarter of the labour force is unemployed and over half (54.5 percent) live below the national poverty line (WB, October 2019). Political uncertainty, poverty, escalating personal debt and repeated exposure to natural disasters have eroded coping capacities, pushing vulnerable people into dire humanitarian need (OCHA, December 2019).

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY OVERVIEW

Over a third (37 percent) of the population, or 11.3 million people, were forecast to be acutely food insecure and in need of urgent humanitarian assistance between November 2019 and March 2020. Of them, 8.6 million people were forecast to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and nearly 2.7 million in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). In addition, around 9.45 million were expected to be in Stressed (IPC Phase 2). Six provinces – Ghor, Nimroz, Badakhshan, Daykundi, Nuristan and Uruzgan – were classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) (IPC, November 2019).

Comparison with the 2018 (IPC, October 2018) peak numbers among the rural population shows that the numbers of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) reduced compared to the previous year but remained high due to the prominent impacts of the 2018 drought. Badakhshan, Balkh, Hirat, Kabul and Nangarhar were expected to have the highest numbers of acutely food-insecure populations in need of urgent assistance.

FACTORS DRIVING ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY

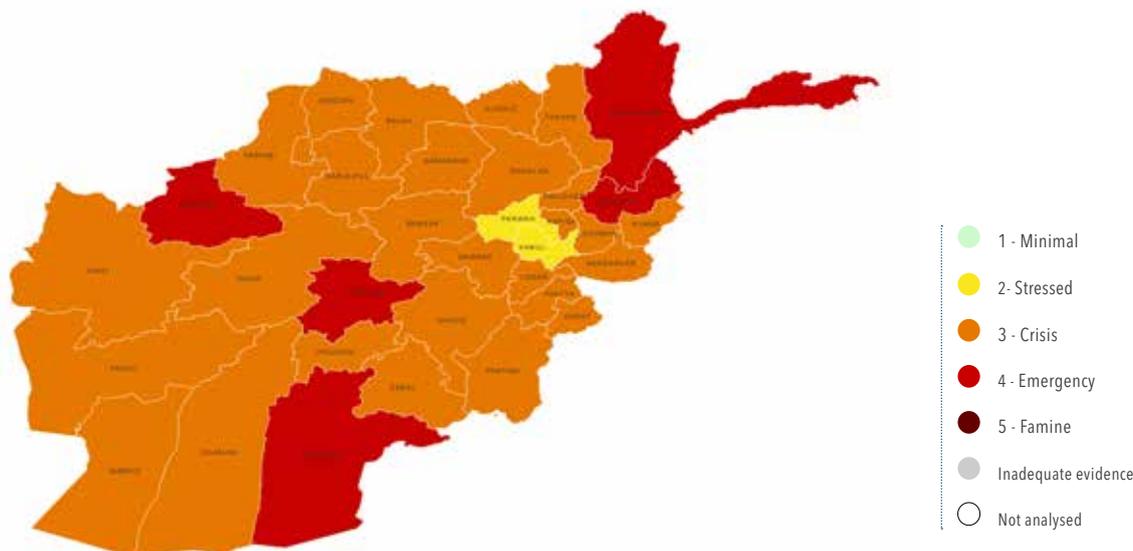
Conflict and insecurity

From July–September the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) documented a record-high number of civilian casualties, mostly caused by anti-government elements. From August to mid-October, there was a further uptick in conflict, with the largest number of events near Kabul, Helmand and Kunduz provinces (FEWS NET, October 2019).

Conflict and insecurity continued to displace people, with over 400 000 fleeing their homes in the first 10 months of 2019 across 32 out of 34 provinces (OCHA, December 2019). Those displaced in areas of temporary conflict were likely to return home to rebuild their livelihoods, including agricultural production, but those displaced in areas of frequent conflict faced a longer period of displacement and challenges finding new income sources

Map 4

Afghanistan, IPC Acute food insecurity situation, November 2018–February 2019



Source: Afghanistan IPC Technical Working Group, October 2018

(FEWS NET, October 2019). Many of the displaced accumulate debts that take years to pay off (OCHA, December 2019).

During 2019, about half a million Afghan refugees returned, mainly from Iran (430 000), followed by Pakistan and other countries (OCHA, December 2019). Voluntary repatriation was down by 49 percent compared to 2018, to just 8 000 returnees (UNHCR).

Despite generally favourable livestock conditions in the third quarter of the year, in some areas conflict made pastureland inaccessible and prevented farmers from accessing their fields to prepare for winter wheat planting (FEWS NET, October 2019).

Economic shocks

Sustainable, paid employment is scarce and 80 percent rely on self-employment, daily labour or unpaid work. A quarter of the labour force is unemployed (WB, October 2019). Returnees (mainly from Iran) compete with residents for work, leading to labour supply further outstripping demand and depressing daily wage rates (OCHA, December 2019). Remittances from Iran were below average due to worsening economic conditions there. Casual labour opportunities were below the five-year average because of lower demand in construction and other industrial sectors (FEWS NET, June 2019). Daily wage labour rates were below the two-year average, leading to an overall decrease in household purchasing power (FEWS NET, October 2019).

According to the Seasonal Food Security Assessment, of the

63 percent of households that claimed to have experienced shocks, 29 percent referred to loss of employment, 25 percent reduced income and 9 percent increased food prices (FSAC, September 2019).

In May inflation rates reached almost 5 percent and the food component of the Consumer Price Index increased to 7 percent but returned to 2 percent in September 2019. The inflation rate is mainly due to changes in food prices. Following the Government of Pakistan's ban on wheat and wheat flour exports, wheat grain prices increased in all markets in July–August 2019. Prices differ between provinces with wheat grain costing 25 percent more in Kandahar than in Herat (FAO-GIEWS, December 2019).

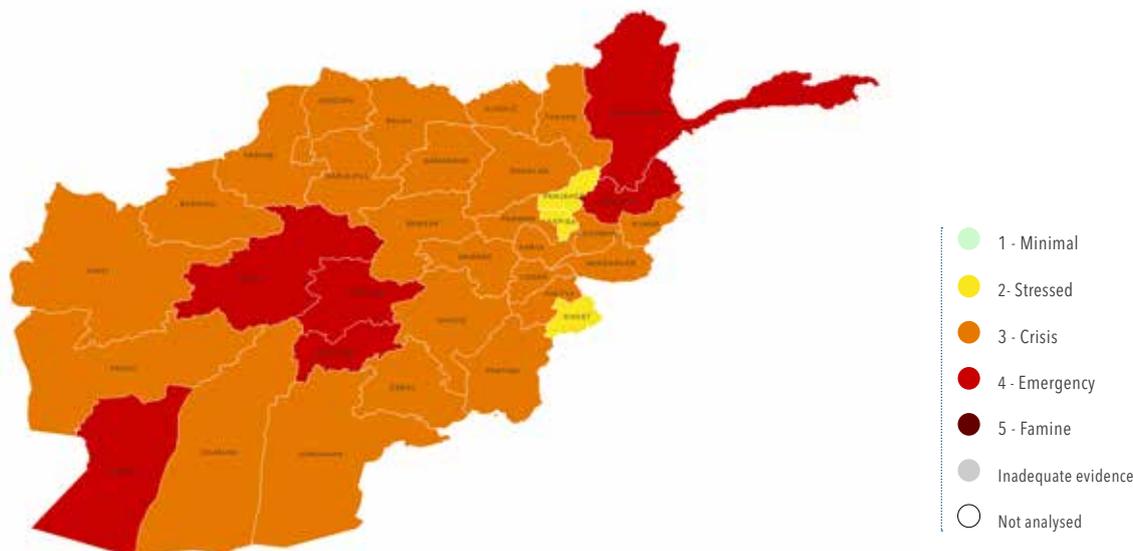
The Whole of Afghanistan Assessment shows the financial situation of displaced people worsens over the first two years of displacement. It is only after an average of two years that IDP households begin to reduce their overall debt, but they still fall short of ever recovering to a pre-displacement debt level (REACH, September 2019).

Weather extremes

Nationwide, some households had not fully recovered their lost livelihood assets following the 2018 drought (FEWS NET, October 2019). Despite average to above-average livestock prices, purchasing power was below average for pastoral and agropastoral households across wealth groups because of below-normal herd sizes following livestock losses (FEWS NET, October 2019). Above-average precipitation improved pasture availability

Map 5

Afghanistan, IPC Acute food insecurity situation, November 2019–March 2020



Source: Afghanistan IPC Technical Working Group, November 2019

for livestock in most rangelands (FAO-GIEWS, December 2019).

The number of people affected by seasonal floods was unusually high in 2019, reaching 300 000 in 32 out of 34 provinces (OCHA, December 2019). However, the floods had minimal impact on the national 2019 cereal harvest (FEWS NET, June 2019), which was one-third above than that of the 2018 drought-reduced harvest and 7 percent above the five-year average. Winter wheat planting was expected to be above average due to abundant rains (FAO-GIEWS, December 2019).

NUTRITION OVERVIEW

The number of acutely malnourished children under 5 years of age increased by 25 percent since 2018 to an estimated 2.5 million children, with 690 000 of them being severely malnourished and in need of life-saving treatment. The findings of the most recent nutrition surveys across the country show that 25 out of 34 provinces (Kapisa, Wardak, Nangarhar, Laghman, Bamiyan, Paktika, Paktya, Kunar, Nuristan, Badakhshan, Takhar, Kunduz, Samangan, Balkh, Sar-e-Pul, Ghor, Daykundi, Uruzgan, Zabul, Jawzjan, Faryab, Helmand, Badghis, Herat, Farah) had an under 5 wasting prevalence above emergency thresholds (>15 percent) (OCHA, December 2019).

Rapid nutrition assessments in IDP settlements found child 'high' wasting levels at 11–13 percent in Badghis, and close to 11 percent in Hirat (ANC, July 2019). Population displacement and poor water and sanitation conditions trigger disease,

particularly diarrhea, and raise the risk of malnutrition. Around 563 000 PLW were under-nourished (OCHA, December 2019). The overwhelming majority (92 percent) of rural women faced problems accessing health care services, with distance and cost as the major barriers (DHS 2015).

Drivers for malnutrition include sub-optimal childcare and feeding practices, poor access to health services, sanitation and safe water, acute food insecurity and the negative impact of conflict-related shocks. Only 16 percent of children aged 6–23 months receive the minimum acceptable diet for their development with around half receiving an adequate number of meals, and only 24 percent receive a nutritionally diverse diet (at least four food groups) (DHS 2015). Outbreaks of measles and the Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever continued to affect most provinces. Afghanistan remains one of the last countries yet to have eradicated polio (OCHA, December 2019).

Country profile

Angola



ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY 2019

Total population of country **31.8M**



Population analysed **0.9M** (3% of total population, NOT including displaced populations)¹

562 000 IPC Phase 3 or above in October 2019–February 2020



193 000 IPC Phase 2 **Stressed**

2018–19 Change

No data was available for 2018.

2020 Forecast

Improved seasonal rainfall has helped regenerate pasture and water resources and has boosted crop production prospects for 2020.



NUTRITION INDICATORS

8.2% of children under 5 years are acutely **malnourished**.

VAC 2019

33.2% of children 6–23 months meet the recommended **dietary diversity** requirement.

IIMS 2015–16

64.8% of children under 5 years and **47.7%** of women 15–49 years are **anaemic**.

WHO 2016, IIMS 2015–16

29.9% of children under 5 years are **stunted**.

VAC 2019

37.5% of children under 6 months are exclusively **breastfed**.

IIMS 2015–16

56% of households have access to at least basic **drinking water** services.

JUNE 2017

DRIVERS OF FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION

Weather extremes Economic shocks

- ▶ Erratic and below-average rainfall reduced crop yields and national cereal output.
- ▶ Currency depreciation and poor agricultural output pushed cereal prices up to record highs.
- ▶ The severe drought and soaring temperatures in southern provinces led to animal fodder shortages and high livestock mortality rates.

- ▶ In April 62 percent of the refugees (mainly from the Democratic Republic of the Congo) in Lovua settlement had inadequate food consumption.
- ▶ Besides household food insecurity, poor child feeding practices and low access to safe water drive child malnutrition.

DISPLACEMENT

55 000 refugees were from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire and Mauritania. The number of Congolese refugees decreased from 36 500 in November 2018 to 12 500 in November 2019 and rose again to **23 500** in December.

UNHCR 2019

¹ This IPC analysis was conducted with minimal support from the IPC Global Support Unit



In Angola's Lóvua refugee settlement almost two in three of the Congolese refugees who fled conflict in the Kasai region from 2017 are food insecure.

BACKGROUND

During the 27-year civil war, which ended in 2002, many people moved to cities, which shifted the country from a primarily agrarian economy to a net food importer. Angola's dependence on food imports and small-scale subsistence farming leave it particularly vulnerable to increased temperatures and rainfall variability (USAID, October 2018) and even minor dry spells may lead to acute food insecurity (JRC-GDO, October 2019). Domestic cereal production covers about 60 percent of needs (FAO-GIEWS, October 2019). Despite the end of the war almost two decades ago, Angola still has around 105 square kilometres contaminated by landmines (Government of Angola, August 2019), which holds back socio-economic and sustainable development and agriculture in particular (SIPRI, November 2019).

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY OVERVIEW

Between October 2019 and February 2020, almost 562 000 people were projected to be in Crisis conditions or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above), including 290 000 in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) across 23 communes in the Cuando Cubango, Cunene and Huila provinces. In addition, over 193 000 were in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) conditions and required action for disaster risk reduction and to preserve livelihoods (IPC, October 2019).¹

Fourteen communes out of 23 were classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) mainly in the municípios of Cahama, Cuangar, Cuanhama, Gambos/ex-Chiange, Ombadja and Quilengues. The remaining nine were all classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), even though four communes in Cuangar and Cuchi had more than one in two inhabitants facing Crisis conditions or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) (Bondó, Kutato) or even more than two in three inhabitants in the Chinguanja and Cuchi communes (IPC, October 2019).

This constituted a 33 percent increase in the numbers of people in need of urgent food assistance compared with July–September 2019, when approximately 422 000 were food insecure and required urgent action in the 23 communes.

¹ This analysis was conducted with minimal support from IPC Global Support Unit.

By December the drought had affected over 857 000 people and one million cattle, and around 72 000 animals, including cattle, goats and pigs, had died as a result of dry conditions and poor animal health in Cunene (Government of Angola, December 2019). It also destroyed agricultural fields (Government of Angola, November 2019), and reduced households' resilience in a context of recurrent shocks, as it spurred many to adopt extreme coping mechanisms, including taking children out of education to work (Government of Angola, September 2019).

Economic shocks

The national currency depreciated by 54 percent against the USD between January 2018 and March 2019 due to the implementation of a floating exchange rate (IMF, June 2019). Although over the past two years year-on-year the inflation rate decreased, it remained high at 17 percent in July 2019 because of weak economic activity and exchange rate depreciation (WB, 2020). Cereal prices reached record highs (FAO-GIEWS, October 2019). In October maize flour prices were 19 percent higher than their levels a year earlier in Luanda, and 38 percent higher than two years earlier, while cassava flour prices were 9 percent above their October 2018 levels and 25 percent above their 2017 levels (FAO-GIEWS, January 2020). In the provinces affected by drought, shortages in staples led to a steep rise in food prices in the main markets, further limiting food access, which was already hampered by the poor state of road infrastructure (IPC, October 2019).

NUTRITION OVERVIEW

An estimated 464 500 children under 5 years old were affected by acute malnutrition and 1.7 million by chronic malnutrition in 2019 (VAC, July 2019). Acute malnutrition prevalence has increased from 5.9 percent in 2015-16 to 8.2 percent in 2019, considered a 'medium' prevalence, with an additional 333 000 children wasted. The increased levels of food insecurity are likely driving the increasing levels of acute malnutrition. Meanwhile, rates of chronic malnutrition have fallen from 37.6 percent in 2015-16 to 29.9 percent, considered as 'high'.

Poor child-feeding practices are also contributing to malnutrition. In 2015-16 only 13.3 percent of children aged 6-23 months consumed a minimum acceptable diet required for their growth and development, while only one out of three children had acceptable dietary diversity. Just 37.5 percent of infants were exclusively breastfed (IIMS, 2015-16).

A total of 71 vaccine-induced polio (cVDPV2) cases were found in Angola in 2019 (WHO, December 2019), and Capunda municipality in Malanje province reported 11 deaths related to measles (Government of Angola, October 2019). A small number (19) of cholera / AWD cases were confirmed in the first part of 2019 (UNICEF, May 2019).

Country profile

Bangladesh (Cox's Bazar and host populations)



ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY 2019

Total population in Cox's Bazar district **2.7M** plus **915 000** refugees

Population analysed **1.3M** (100% of total population, including displaced people)

1.3M Food-insecure people in need of assistance in January–December 2019

2018-19 Change

There was **no change** in the number of Rohingya refugees and members of the host community who were reliant on humanitarian food assistance.



2020 Forecast

tbd

WFP

JOINT RESPONSE PLAN FOR ROHINGYA HUMANITARIAN CRISIS JAN-DEC 2019

NUTRITION INDICATORS

Refugee population



48 300 children under 5 years are acutely **malnourished**, of whom **3 900** are affected by SAM.

UNHCR 2019



32.6–39% of children under 5 years are **stunted**.

ENHVCAROUND 4, 2019



12.6% of children 6–23 months in the makeshift settlements and **37.4%** in Nayapara camp meet the **minimum dietary diversity**.

ENAR 2018



50% of children under 6 months in the makeshift camps and **74%** in Nayapara are exclusively **breastfed**.

SMART 2018



37.1–41.6% of children under 5 years and **20.2–31.8%** of women 15–49 years are **anaemic**.

ENHVCAROUND 4, 2019

DRIVERS OF FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION



Conflict/insecurity



Weather extremes



Economic shocks

- ▶ Until the root causes of the conflict in Myanmar have been addressed Rohingya refugees remain displaced in Cox's Bazar and reliant on food assistance.
- ▶ Incidents of tension and violence have been observed, both within the camps and between refugees and host communities.
- ▶ Refugees have depleted their savings; daily labour wages are low and they are increasingly falling into a cycle of debt.

- ▶ Bangladeshi residents have lost access to previously farmed lands and casual labor opportunities due to competition with cheaper refugee labour.
- ▶ Refugees live in highly challenging circumstances, exposed to cyclic climatic shocks- monsoon elements and cyclones, whose results are soil erosion, slope failure, wind, storm and rain.
- ▶ Early marriage, poor infant and caring practises.

DISPLACEMENT



There were **915 000** Rohingya refugees.*

UNHCR

There are 26 refugee camps in Ukha with **631 500** refugees in Kutupalong camp and extension camps and **180 400** refugees in camps 14, 15 and 16.

There are 16 refugee camps in Teknaf with **45 597** refugees in camps 21, 22 and 23.

* Rohingya refugees/Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMN) registered under the joint Government-UNHCR registration exercise as of 31 December 2019. This figure was released after the completion of the JRP 2020 planning process, which was undertaken using a planning figure of 855,000 persons.



A Rohingya refugee girl in Cox's Bazar stands outside shelters damaged by floods during September's heavy Monsoon rains that triggered landslides, flash flooding and renewed displacement.

BANGLADESH

BACKGROUND

Between August and December 2017, about 724 000 Rohingya nationals crossed into Bangladesh following a major offensive against them in Rakhine state, Myanmar. They joined about 169 000 refugees already living in camps in Cox's Bazar. Kutupalong and Nayapara registered camps and the makeshift camps have become the world's largest refugee settlements. The influx exacerbated an already-fragile situation, overwhelming infrastructures for health, education and WASH. Two years on the situation has improved thanks largely to assistance provided by the Government and humanitarian community and resilience of the Rohingya. But socio-economic challenges, such as poverty and constrained livelihood opportunities, raise serious food security concerns (UNHCR/WFP, October 2019).

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY OVERVIEW

In 2019, 1.3 million people were food insecure and in need of humanitarian food and livelihood assistance in Cox's Bazar district of Bangladesh. Around two thirds of them were Rohingya refugees (855 000) in Ukhiya and Teknaf upazilas and 444 000 were members of the Bangladeshi host community (JRP, March 2020).

According to the latest Refugee Influx Emergency Vulnerability Assessment (REVA 3), the percentage of refugee households with inadequate food consumption remained unchanged at 42 percent (REVA, 2019) compared to 44 percent in November 2018 (REVA, 2018). Around 94 percent of refugees were entirely dependent on assistance to help them meet their minimum essential needs (REVA, 2019).

Buying food on credit, borrowing money to buy food and selling off humanitarian assistance continued to be the most adopted coping strategies to support consumption in 2019 (REVA, 2019). Half of refugee households were buying food on credit or borrowing money to buy food, a reduction from around 60 percent in 2018 (UNHCR/WFP, October 2019).

The most vulnerable included unregistered refugees who arrived in the camps prior to the influx, newly-arrived refugees, large families with fewer adults potentially involved

Map 8

Bangladesh, Cox's Bazar, Rohingya refugee population (as of 31 December 2019)

Note: Rohingya refugees/Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMN) registered under the joint Government-UNHCR registration exercise as of 31 December 2019. This figure was released after the completion of the JRP 2020 planning process, which was undertaken using a planning figure of 855,000 persons.

Source: Joint Response Plan, 2020



in income generation, single parents and child-headed households, especially if they had to support vulnerable household members such as disabled persons (REVA, 2018 and UNHCR/WFP, October 2019).

The food security situation among the host community improved since 2018 (REVA, 2018) and 2019 (REVA, 2019) as the percentage of households with inadequate food consumption dropped from 30 to 21 percent and utilization of consumption based coping strategies remained low. The share of households who purchased food on credit and/or were borrowing money to buy food halved from around 45–50 percent in 2018 to 25 percent in 2019.

DRIVERS OF ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY

Conflict/insecurity

Despite progress, the stateless Rohingya still face an extremely precarious future as the root causes of the conflict in Myanmar have not been addressed (OCHA, accessed January 2020).

In 2018 UNHCR, UNDP and the Government of Myanmar signed an agreement that aimed to create conditions conducive to their return (JRP, January 2019). But until these refugees/Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals are given citizenship in Myanmar and officially recognized and accepted

as one of many ethnic groups in the country with the same rights as all Myanmar nationals, they will remain as refugees in the camps in Cox's Bazar and compelled to rely upon government support and humanitarian aid (UNHCR/ WFP, October 2019).

Incidents of tension and violence have been observed, both within the camps and between refugees and host communities, exacerbated by congested conditions in the camps and limited opportunities for education and skills development. Relocations and displacement related to weather hazards, inter-community tensions and new arrivals increased the need for rapid food assistance (JRP, January 2019).

Economic shocks

Displacement from Myanmar has almost tripled the total population in Ukhiya and Teknaf Upazilas, with profound consequences for the Bangladeshi residents. While the rapid population increase has brought economic opportunities to segments of the local population, the influx has led to higher inflation and a sharp drop in daily wages due to the increased supply of unskilled labour (JRP, January 2019).

The food and nutrition security of the poorest among the host community is a growing concern. Many have lost access to previously farmed land/forest and have lost work opportunities to the cheaper refugee labour market. Forest products on which they previously depended are no longer available (JRP, March 2020).

While in late 2017 a large share of the refugee population had some savings or household items and jewellery that could be monetized, by 2019 their resource base had largely been depleted. About 70 percent of households borrowed money (or food) from other refugees in the camp and about 80 percent were in debt. The REVA 2 identified a looming risk of getting stuck in a vicious circle of indebtedness (UNHCR/WFP, October 2019). Another analysis found the percentage of refugee households taking on new debts increased from 35 percent in July 2018 to 45 percent in January 2019 to 69 percent in August 2019 (JMSNA, September 2019).

According to surveys conducted with 1 034 Rohingya refugees in 30 camps in April 2019, there was a 15 percent increase in the percentage of respondents reporting that people in their community sold aid items – mainly food – to meet their need for cash (59 percent). Food was also named as the most common purchase when using money from selling aid (Ground Truth solutions, June 2019)

Weather extremes

Although they have access to the basics, refugees are still extremely vulnerable, living in highly challenging circumstances, exposed to the monsoon elements (OCHA, accessed January 2020).

By mid-year, 50 500 refugees had been affected by soil erosion, slope failure, wind, storm and rain, with over 6 000 temporarily displaced to family, friends and collective centres inside the camps while the floodwaters receded and shelters could be re-established (JRP, June 2019). In early September, Cox's Bazar experienced 200–300mm of rain which triggered serious landslides and flash flooding, particularly in the low-lying regions of Teknaf sub-district. Following the flooding the restricted telecommunications services and decreased mobile and internet signal hampered the emergency response, including the delivery of critical, life-saving healthcare services (ISCG, October 2019).

NUTRITION OVERVIEW

According to the 2020 JRP, 76 000 people were in need of essential curative nutrition services (JRP, March 2020).

The acute malnutrition rates in Nayapara, Kutupalong and Makeshift camps were classified as 'high'. The findings indicated a decline in Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) in Makeshift camps from 19.3 percent in 2017 to 10.9 percent in 2019. The prevalence was 12.1 percent in Kutupalong camp and 13.3 percent in Nayapara. Stunting was slightly lower in Makeshift camps (32.6 percent) compared to Nayapara and Kutupalong (35.4–39 percent) (SMART, October 2019).

Anaemia levels among children age 6–59 months were

'severe' in Kutupalong camp, at 41.6 percent. In the other camps anaemia levels among children of this age group were 'moderate' ranging from 37.1–39.4 percent. For women of reproductive age anaemia was 'moderate' ranging from 20.2–31.8 percent (SMART, 2019).

In the two weeks before the September/October nutrition surveys over 25 percent of children aged 6–59 months had had diarrhoea in the Makeshift and Nyapara camps (SMART, October 2019). While 84 percent of children had received measles vaccinations in Kutupalong camp, the rate dropped to 76 percent in Nayapara and 25 percent in makeshift camps (SMART, October 2019).

Safe sanitation, hygiene, and solid waste management are inadequate and inequitable: only 69 percent of refugees had access to functional latrines, with space availability remaining the core constraint (JRP, June 2019). Open defecation remained common practice for children under 5 years. In some camps the share of households using self-made latrines reached 46 percent (UNHCR/WFP, October 2019).

Household level water contamination remained a critical concern: only 25 percent of households used water treatment options, and only 34 percent had knowledge of important hand-washing times (UNICEF/WASH Sector/REACH, May 2019). In July, 71 percent of household samples of drinking water were contaminated with faecal coliforms and 35 percent with E.coli. Secondary contamination of drinking water – during collection and storage – remained a challenge across all camps (UNHCR/WFP, October 2019).

Country profile

Burkina Faso



ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY 2019

Total population of country **21.4M**



Population analysed **21.4M** (100% of total population)

1.2M CH Phase 3 or above in October–December 2019

1.2M CH Phase 3 **Crisis** **28 400** CH Phase 4 **Emergency**

3.6M CH Phase 2 **Stressed**

2018–19 Change

The number of acutely food-insecure people **increased** by 28 percent as violence and insecurity spread through significant portions of northern and eastern Burkina Faso, displacing large populations and disrupting livelihoods.



2020 Forecast

Conflict is expected to continue, displacing growing numbers of people from their homes and livelihoods and **increasing** reliance on humanitarian assistance.



NUTRITION INDICATORS

465 800 children under 5 years are acutely **malnourished**, of whom **133 100** are affected by SAM. **25%** of children under 5 years are **stunted**.

24.6% of children 6–23 months meet the recommended **dietary diversity** requirement. **55.8%** of children under 6 months are exclusively **breastfed**.

86.2% of children under 5 years and **49.6%** of women 15–49 years are **anaemic**. **61%** of households have access to at least basic **drinking water** services.

DRIVERS OF FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION

Conflict/insecurity **Economic shocks** **Weather extremes**

- ▶ An escalation of armed conflict displaced more than half a million people in the Centre-Nord, Sahel, Nord, and Est regions in 2019.
- ▶ Conflict disrupted livelihoods, especially agriculture and livestock movements, and constrained access to markets in the Sahel region, particularly for grain and livestock.
- ▶ Drought and conflict led to significant fodder deficits in the Sahel region, threatening pastoralist-based livelihoods and aggravating the risk of conflict between farmers and animal herders.
- ▶ Insecurity, carjacks and kidnappings of humanitarian staff prevented humanitarian actors from reaching vulnerable populations in need of urgent food assistance.
- ▶ This escalating crisis exacerbates poor child feeding practices, disease prevalence and low access to safe water, sanitation and health services, driving up malnutrition.

DISPLACEMENT

25 900 refugees were from Mali, with little change since September 2018. Over **500 000** have been **internally displaced** in 2019, bringing the total to **560 000**.

© WFP/MARKHAM



BURKINA FASO

The number of internally displaced people has increased following rapidly escalating armed conflict that has spread from northern to eastern parts. Conflict cut off humanitarian access to some camps and IDP hosting areas, particularly in the Centre-Nord and Sahel regions.

BACKGROUND

In December 2018, a state of emergency was declared in several provinces of Burkina Faso (WB, October 2019). In 2019 the humanitarian situation was one of the world's fastest growing crises with the daily lives and livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of civilians disrupted by insecurity and violence in central and northern regions.

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY OVERVIEW

In October–December 2019, over 1.2 million people were acutely food insecure, including about 28 400 people in Emergency (CH Phase 4) in Centre-Nord and Sahel provinces. The largest numbers were in the Sahel, Nord, Est and Centre-Nord regions, particularly in the areas of Bam, Sanmatenga, and Soum (CILSS-CH, November 2019). The figure represents a fourfold increase in the number of acutely food-insecure people (CH Phase 3 or above) since October–December 2018 (CILSS-CH, November 2018).

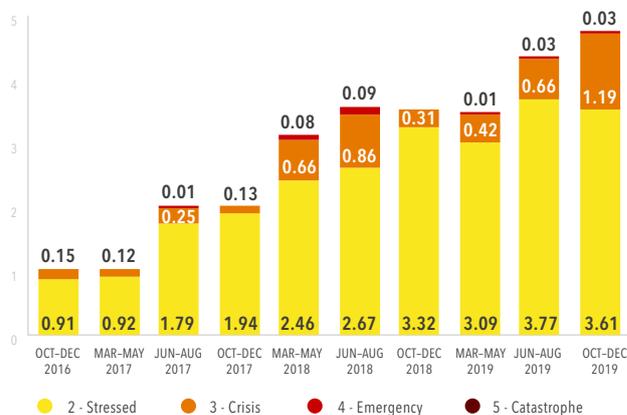
The escalation of the crisis is particularly concerning when considering the rate at which it has advanced. Although acute food insecurity was considerable in March–May 2019 with 420 000 in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above), it increased to almost 688 000 during the pre-harvest period between

June and August 2019 (RPCA, 2018–2019) and to 1.2 million at the end of the year. A further 3.6 million people were classified in Stressed (CH Phase 2) during that period.

Refugee food insecurity

Burkina Faso hosts more than 23 000 Malian refugees who live in and around two consolidated camps in the Sahel region. The prolonged crisis and increased insecurity in Mali, in most of the return zones, prevents a return in safety and

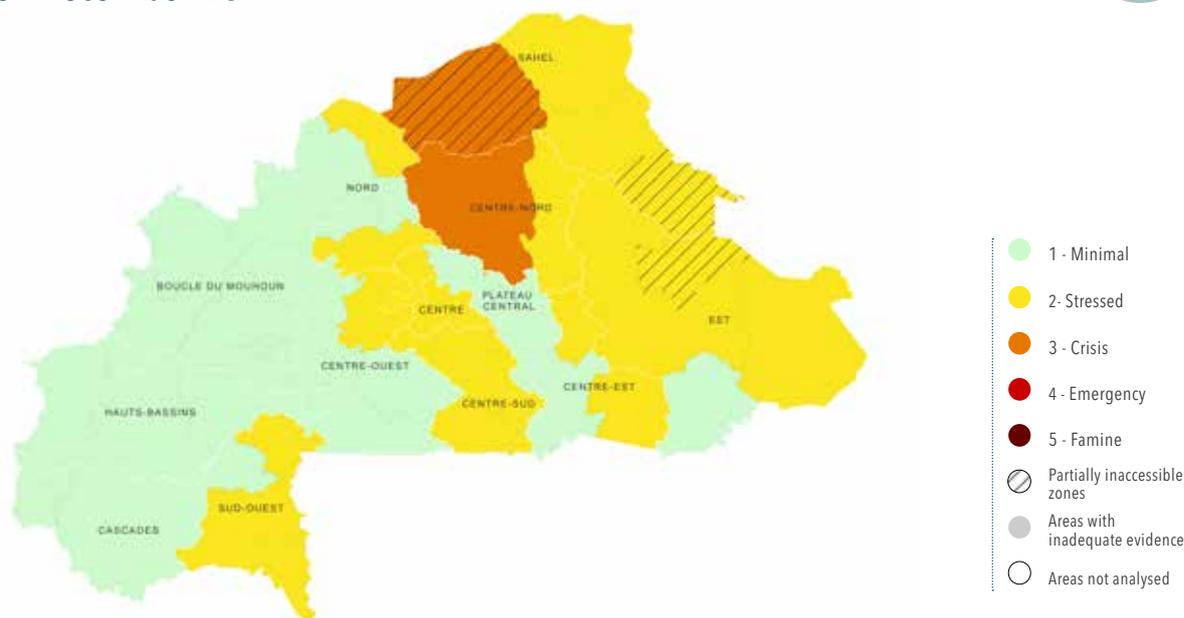
Figure 46
Number of people (millions) in CH Phase 2 or above in 2014–2019



Source: CILSS, Cadre Harmonisé

Map 9

Burkina Faso, CH Acute food insecurity situation, October–December 2019



Source: Cadre Harmonisé, November 2019

dignity. At the same time, security in the Sahel region is rapidly deteriorating and there is a possibility that Malian refugees will spontaneously relocate to safer areas.

Refugee food insecurity deteriorated significantly between 2018 and 2019 with the percentage of households with inadequate food consumption increasing from 20 percent in 2018 to 38 percent in 2019 (WFP, 2019).

FACTORS DRIVING ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY

Conflict and insecurity

The security situation deteriorated as violence spread from the northern regions to eastern parts. A state of emergency in 14 provinces – declared in December 2018 – was extended until January 2020 (ACAPS, December 2019).

The number of violent incidents in 2019 was almost three times higher than in 2018, while reported civilian deaths in the first half of the year were four times higher than the total for 2018 (ACLED, January 2020). The severity of the conflict contributed to the displacement of 560 000 people as of December 2019, up from 47 000 in January (UNHCR, December 2019). In conflict-affected areas, agricultural activities decreased by 20–70 percent, while land cultivation dropped by 50 percent compared to 2017–2018. Difficulties in

accessing fields, the destruction of production infrastructure, and looting and loss of livestock disrupted market functioning and households' livelihoods (FAO, October 2019).

Consequently, displaced populations faced a major deficit in the quality and quantity of food consumption since they were unable to resort to other coping or adaptation strategies (RPCA, November 2019). Conflict cut off humanitarian access to a number of camp areas and IDP-hosting areas, particularly in the Sahel region, where a large number of IDPs and the majority of Malian refugees were located (UNHCR, May 2019).

Economic shocks

Conflict constrained access to markets in the Sahel region and vulnerable households were obliged to rely on host communities and humanitarian assistance (AVI, November 2019). Insecurity disrupted normal livestock market functioning (RPCA, November 2019), particularly in northern regions. However, livestock prices remained stable or declined by 5–10 percent relative to the average (FEWS NET, November 2019). Although weak cereal prices ensured favourable terms of trade for livestock owners as of November 2019, a rapid deterioration was forecast in areas suffering from limited fodder resources due to insecurity (RPCA, November 2019).

Incomes from cash crop production and sales were expected to remain below average because of localized declines in production (FEWS NET, December 2019).

Map 10

Burkina Faso, CH Acute food insecurity situation, June–August 2019



Source: Cadre Harmonisé, March 2019

Weather extremes

Pockets of drought were reported during August in some of the main crop-producing areas such as Boucle du Mouhoun, Sud-Ouest and Hauts-Bassins, leading to a 5 percent decline in cereal output compared to 2018 (PREGEC, November 2019). Fodder deficits were estimated at between 1 320 and 1 350 tonnes in all regions except for the Sud-Ouest (FSC, November 2019). Reports of restricted mobility of animal herds and concentration of animals in more secure regions could increase the risk of conflict between pastoralists and other livelihood groups (RPCA, November 2019). In areas least-affected by insecurity, the growing season was favourable and the late 2019 harvests were expected to be above the five-year average (FEWS NET, December 2019).

NUTRITION OVERVIEW

Nationally in 2018, 8.5 percent of children aged 6–59 months were wasted, 1.7 percent severely so, reaching 13 percent ('high') in the Sahel region. The national prevalence of stunting was 'medium' at 25 percent (MoH, December 2018).

Preliminary results of the national SMART survey carried out in 2019 show high levels of acute malnutrition in Sanguié (Centre Ouest region), Boulgou (Centre Est region) and Seno (Sahel region). Out of the 33 provinces analysed, 27 showed a 'high' or 'very high' prevalence of stunting, with Seno and

Yagha provinces (Sahel region) reporting a prevalence above 40 percent (45 percent and 48 percent respectively). An estimated 465 800 children aged 6–59 months were acutely malnourished, 133 100 severely so and in need of nutrition prevention and treatment programmes (OCHA, July 2019).

Results from a rapid SMART survey conducted in November 2019 in areas most-affected by violence and insecurity (Sahel, Nord, Centre Nord and Est regions) found a deteriorating nutrition situation among children and women in communities with high concentrations of displaced people. The acute malnutrition prevalence in children aged 6–59 months was above 10 percent in most municipalities surveyed. The prevalence was 'very high' in Barsalogho and Djibo at around 17 percent. A 'high' prevalence exceeding 10 percent was observed among pregnant and breastfeeding women in the communes of Matiacoali and Kaya, as well as at the Barsalogho host site. Overall, the situation was most concerning among IDPs (FEWS NET, December 2019).

By November 2019 71 health centres had been closed, while services in 75 others had been impaired by insecurity and armed attacks. This left some 881 000 people with limited or no access to health care (OCHA, November 2019).

Acute malnutrition in Mentao and Goudebou camp was below 10 percent (8.5 percent and 7 percent respectively). Chronic malnutrition ranges from 32–36 percent in the two camps while anaemia is of significant public health concern, >63 percent in both camps (SENS 2017).

Country profile
Cameroon



ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY
 2019

Total population of country **25M**



Population analysed **16.1M** (64% of total population, including IDPs, returnees and refugees)

1.4M CH Phase 3 or above in October–December 2019

1.2M CH Phase 3 **Crisis** **171 700** CH Phase 4 **Emergency**

3.8M CH Phase 2 **Stressed**

2018–19 Change

Acute food insecurity levels **rose sharply** in North-West and South-West regions and remained concerning in the Far North.



2020 Forecast

The cessation of hostilities in North and South Western regions should **improve** the situation, but severe levels of acute food insecurity were expected to persist in the Far North.



NUTRITION INDICATORS

Host population

4.3% of children under 5 years are acutely **malnourished**, of whom **1.6%** are affected by SAM.
28.9% of children under 5 years are **stunted**.

10% of children 6–23 months meet the **minimum acceptable diet**.
39.7% of children under 6 months are exclusively **breastfed**.

57.4% of children under 5 years and **39.7%** of women 15–49 years are **anaemic**.
60% of households have access to at least basic **drinking water** services.

Refugee population

17 700 children under 5 years are acutely **malnourished**, of whom **2 400** are affected by SAM in 11 sites.
42.2–54.9% of children under 5 years in 11 camps are **stunted**.

31.4% of households do not consume micronutrient rich food in Minawao camp.
40–87.3% of children under 6 months in 11 camps are exclusively **breastfed**.

33.2–60% of children under 5 years in 8 camps and **24.7–62.5%** of women 15–49 years in 7 camps are **anaemic**.
6.6–100% of households in 11 camps have access to improved **drinking water** sources.

DRIVERS OF FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION

Conflict/insecurity **Weather extremes**

- ▶ Clashes in the North and South West regions forced huge numbers to abandon their homes, crops and livelihoods.
- ▶ In the Far North intensified Boko Haram related violence and insecurity prevented people from farming or working.
- ▶ The food security status of 416 200 refugees from neighbouring countries worsened as humanitarian food rations shrank.

- ▶ In the Far North, crops were destroyed by floods, birds and fall armyworm leading to reduced income for farmers and reduced food availability, floods reduced food availability locally.
- ▶ The drivers of food insecurity also inhibited child feeding practices, access to safe water, sanitation and health services to the detriment of child nutrition.

DISPLACEMENT

950 300 were internally displaced, up by one third since late 2018, with a huge increase in Oct 2019.

There were **416 200 refugees** and **asylum seekers**, mainly from Central African Republic (72%) and Nigeria (27%). **16 700** refugees arrived in 2019 but the increase rate was slower than in previous years.

347 900 IDPs returned. The number of returnees has been stable in recent years.



Violence in Nigeria drives thousands across border. A Nigerian woman looks out from a makeshift shelter in the Cameroonian town of Goura.

BACKGROUND

A country endowed with rich natural resources, Cameroon enjoyed several decades of stability, but in recent years it has been grappling with attacks by Boko Haram in the Far North and for the past four years with a secessionist insurgency in the North West and South West Anglophone regions (WB, October 2019). In 2014, 24 percent of Cameroonians were living in extreme poverty (USD1.90 a day) (WB). Refugees from the Central African Republic and Nigeria are putting additional strain on an already difficult situation.

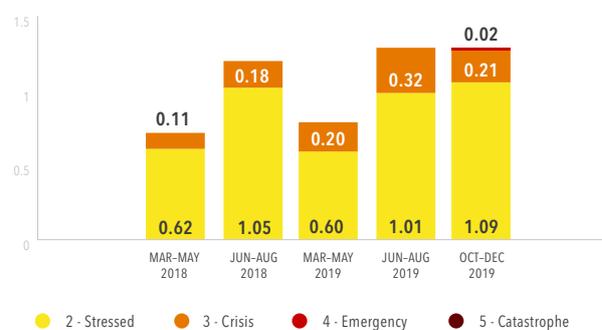
ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY OVERVIEW

The number of people in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) peaked at almost 1.4 million (8 percent of the population analysed) in October–December 2019 (CILSS-CH, November 2019). Over 70 percent of them (968 500) were in the Anglophone regions while around 17 percent (233 000) were in the Far North. Of the 171 700 classified in Emergency (CH Phase 4), around 89 percent were in the Anglophone regions. In addition, 3.8 million people were in Stressed (CH Phase 2).

The acute food insecurity situation was worse in the post-harvest period than it had been during the lean season. In June–August 2019 947 700 people were in Crisis (CH Phase 3)

Figure 47

Number of people (millions) in CH Phase 2 or above in 2018-2019



Source: CILSS, Cadre Harmonisé

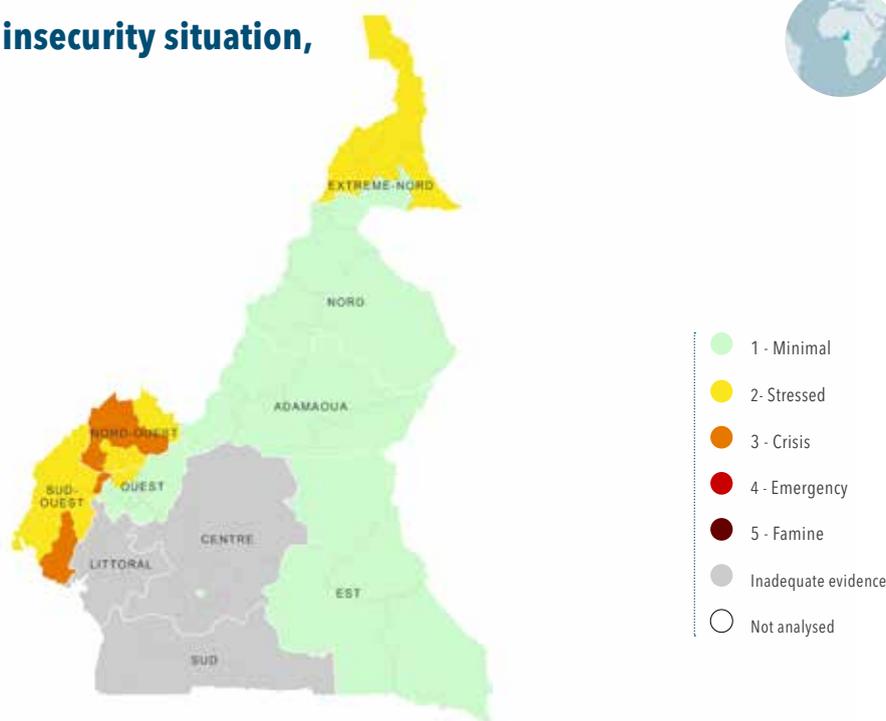
and at least 25 percent of the populations of Bui, Menchum, Momo and Boyo departments in the North-West and Mémé, Manyu, Lebialem and Ndian in the South West were classified in Crisis (CH Phase 3) or worse.

Refugee food insecurity

Cameroon hosts 416 200 refugees and asylum seekers, mainly from the Central African Republic (72 percent) followed by Nigeria (27 percent). In 2019 the refugee population increased by 16 700, although this marks a slower rate of increase than previous years (UNHCR, December 2019).

Map 11

Cameroon, CH Acute food insecurity situation, October-December 2019



Source: Cadre Harmonisé, November 2019

Cameroon has more Central African refugees than any other country, with 252 000 in the East and Adamaoua, where poverty levels are high. Over 70 percent live in host communities. The influx has overstretched already-weak basic services, systems and resources (OCHA, January 2019).

Refugees' food insecurity deteriorated from 18 percent with a poor Food Consumption Score in 2016 to 37 percent in 2019. Over 150 000 Central African Republic refugees were in need of food assistance, with poverty the main driver. Funding shortfalls caused a break in all food assistance, raising extreme concerns about food security in the near future (WFP, January 2019). Rural areas in Anglophone regions are often inaccessible to humanitarian agencies making it hard to assess IDPs' needs or provide them with aid (OCHA, 2019).

FACTORS DRIVING ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY

Conflict and insecurity

Cameroon is experiencing the impact of three distinct, complex humanitarian crises fuelled primarily by violence and insecurity (OCHA, January 2019). In the Far North the security situation stemming from the Lake Chad Basin worsened in 2019, with the number of Boko Haram incursions increasing from 20 per month between January and August to 28 in the following three months. Communes along the

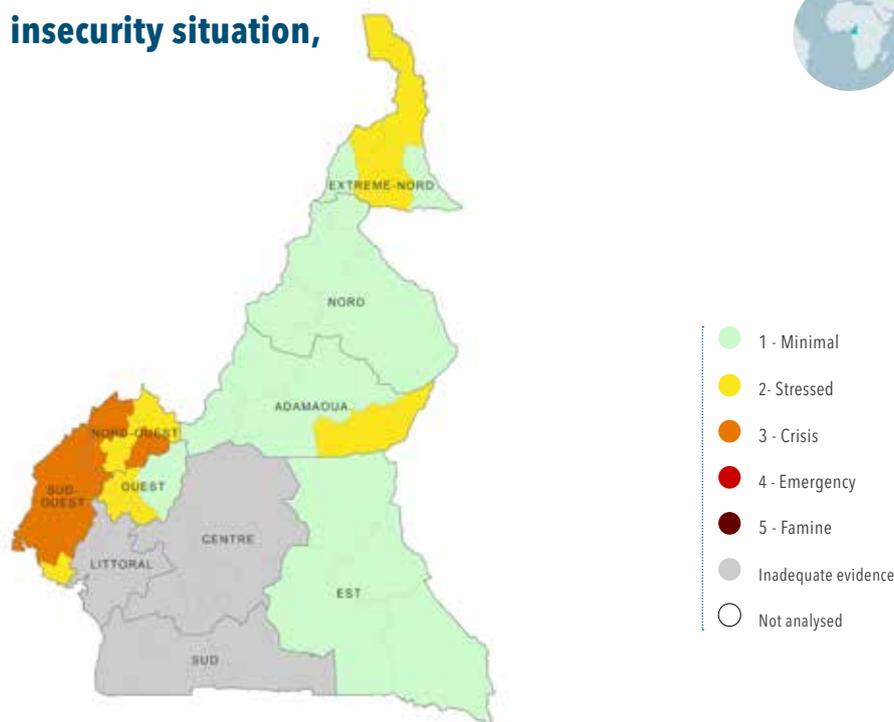
border with Nigeria faced abductions, livestock theft and destruction of property (OCHA, 2019). Incursions constrained agricultural production, causing localized production shortfalls and prevented people from moving far, limiting income generation, especially in places where border trade is an important means of livelihood (FEWS NET, December 2019). By the end of the year the Far North hosted around 297 400 IDPs (IOM DTM, November 2019) and around 109 000 Nigerian refugees (UNHCR, December 2019).

In the Anglophone regions, what began as a political crisis turned into a significant, complex humanitarian emergency (OCHA, December 2019). Although the conflict diminished in intensity from September, the security situation remained precarious as clashes persisted between separatists and the national army. Roadblocks, general strikes, kidnappings, fires and destruction of property continued to impair livelihoods, prompting people to flee towards forests or urban centres. Limited access to fields and lack of maintenance of plantations diminished crop production by comparison with the pre-crisis (FEWS NET, December 2019).

By December 2019 the regions had 679 400 IDPs and 347 900 returnees. Stripped of their assets, livelihoods and ability to grow crops, they could not ensure their food security without assistance from aid agencies or host households or the use of negative coping strategies (UNHCR, 2019). This displacement has strained the resources and livelihoods of the host population too.

Map 12

Cameroon, CH Acute food insecurity situation, June–August 2019



Source: Cadre Harmonisé, March 2019

Weather extremes

In the Mayo Danay department in the Far North region, crops were destroyed by floods, birds and fall armyworm (CILSS-CH, 2019) leading to reduced income for farmers and reduced food availability locally (FEWS NET, November 2019). Localized floods affected over 40 000 people in Logone-Chary and Mayo-Dany in September–October, destroying crops and depleting stocks at the end of the lean season (OCHA, October 2019). The floods further limited humanitarian access to vulnerable populations, led to new displacements, and aggravated the already serious humanitarian situation.

Economic shocks

In the North-West and South-West regions the closure of land borders curbed trade and added additional upward pressure on prices in border markets (FEWS NET, 2019).

NUTRITION OVERVIEW

Although nationally the prevalence of acute malnutrition among children aged 6–59 months was classified as ‘low’ (4.3 percent) it was ‘high’ in the Far North (10.1 percent) and Adamaoua (10.0 percent) regions (DHS 2018).

Nationally stunting in children under 5 was considered ‘high’ (28.9 percent), reaching ‘very high’ levels in North (41.3 percent), Far North (37.3 percent), East (37.3 percent) and

Adamaoua (34.6 percent) regions. Children in rural areas were far more likely to be chronically malnourished than in urban (36.2 percent vs. 19.8 percent). (DHS 2018).

At around 40 percent exclusive breastfeeding rates of children under 6 months were better than those of neighbouring Chad, the Niger and Nigeria, but from six months only one in 10 received the minimum acceptable diet. Child anaemia rates (57.4 percent) were a ‘severe’ public health issue (DHS 2018). Just 39 percent of rural Cameroonian households had access to at least basic drinking water services (UNICEF/WHO, 2017).

Households in many areas have limited access to health services (WHO, Dec 2019). In the North-East and North-West attacks on medical staff and infrastructure were frequent and more than 80 percent of Government-run health facilities were closed (OCHA December 2019). By December 1 071 cases of cholera and 1 170 suspected cases of measles had been reported (WHO, Dec 2019).

Nutrition status of refugees

The wasting prevalence was ‘very high’ in two out of eight Central African refugee camps in the eastern regions. In the Far North, wasting was 4.2 percent among Nigerian refugees in Minawao camp and 8.2 percent among out-of-camp refugees. Stunting was particularly concerning among under 5s in camps (40.2 percent– 54.9 percent) as were anaemia levels (50 percent in most camps, peaking at 68 percent in Mbile camp) (SENS 2015/2016).

Country profile

Central African Republic



ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY 2019

Total population of country **4.8M**



Population analysed **4.4M** (91% of total population, including displaced populations)

1.8M IPC Phase 3 or above in May–August 2019

1.3M IPC Phase 3 **Crisis** **0.5M** IPC Phase 4 **Emergency**

1.8M IPC Phase 2 **Stressed**

2018–19 Change

Although the number of food-insecure people in need of urgent assistance fell slightly, deterioration was notable in eastern and south-eastern areas.

2020 Forecast

Without taking into account the effect of humanitarian assistance, food insecurity is projected to **increase** as attacks by armed groups intensify in some areas.

NUTRITION INDICATORS

178 000 children under 5 years are acutely **malnourished**, of whom **49 000** are affected by SAM. HNO 2020

37.7% of children under 5 years are **stunted**. SMART 2018

35.6% of children 6–23 months meet the recommended **dietary diversity** requirement. SMART 2018

36.3% of children under 6 months are exclusively **breastfed**. SMART 2018

71.9% of children under 5 years and **46%** of women 15–49 years are **anaemic**. WHO 2016

48% of households have access to at least basic **drinking water** services. JMP 2017

DRIVERS OF FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION

Conflict/insecurity **Economic shocks** **Weather extremes**

- ▶ Despite the February 2019 peace agreement, the level of violence and attacks only decreased temporarily.
- ▶ In eastern and south-eastern prefectures, in particular, insecurity and conflict limited agricultural activities.
- ▶ Displaced people were unable to work as insecurity prevented them from returning to their area of origin putting pressure on local resources.

- ▶ Violence and insecurity curtailed trade and contributed to high food prices and staple shortages.
- ▶ Below-average rainfall and floods affected agricultural production, but the 2019 harvest was above five-year average.
- ▶ Malnutrition is linked with poor access to health, water and sanitation services and is higher among displaced populations and in remote rural areas.

DISPLACEMENT

687 200 people were **internally displaced**. ICMP NOV 2019

There were **7 500 refugees**, mostly from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan and Chad. **594 000** Central Africans are refugees, mainly in Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Chad. UNHCR NOV 2019

There were **130 300** spontaneous **returnees**, **13 700** facilitated repatriations and **61 400** IDP returnees. UNHCR NOV 2019 / ICMP NOV 2019

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CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Traumatized by having been imprisoned and threatened at knife and gunpoint by armed group members, including her own father, 19-year-old Fatime Ramadam now lives in an IDP shelter in Bria.

BACKGROUND

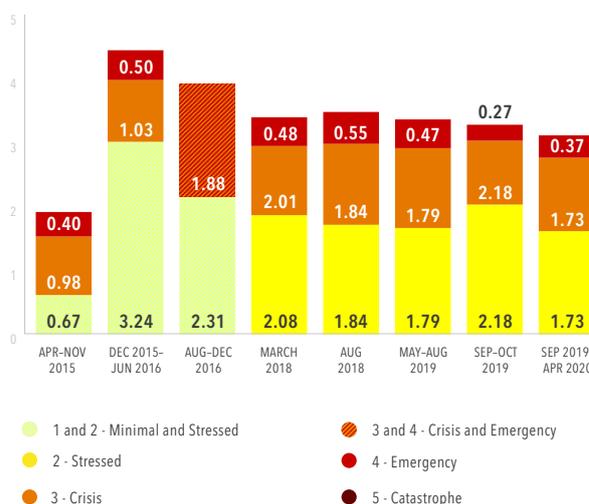
After more than six years of hostilities between rival armed groups, a ceasefire was brokered through the Khartoum peace agreement in February 2019 (ACAPS, September 2019). But some armed groups firmly opposed participating in dialogue and violence against civilians increased in several areas (OCHA 2019). The country ranks 188 out of 189 in the 2019 Humanitarian Development Index (UNDP, 2019). The most recent estimates show that more than 71 percent of the population was living below the international poverty line (USD 1.90 per day) in 2018 (WB, 2019).

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY OVERVIEW

Over 1.8 million people (representing 41 percent of the analysed population) were acutely food insecure and in need of urgent assistance (IPC Phase 3 or above) during the lean season between May and August. This included around 466 000 people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). In addition 1.8 million people were classified in Stressed (IPC Phase 2).

The most-affected areas were the east and south-east prefectures of Mbomou, Haute Kotto and Haut Mbomou and five areas with a high concentration of IDPs – Bria, Kaga-Bandoro, Obo, Rafai and Zémio – which experienced

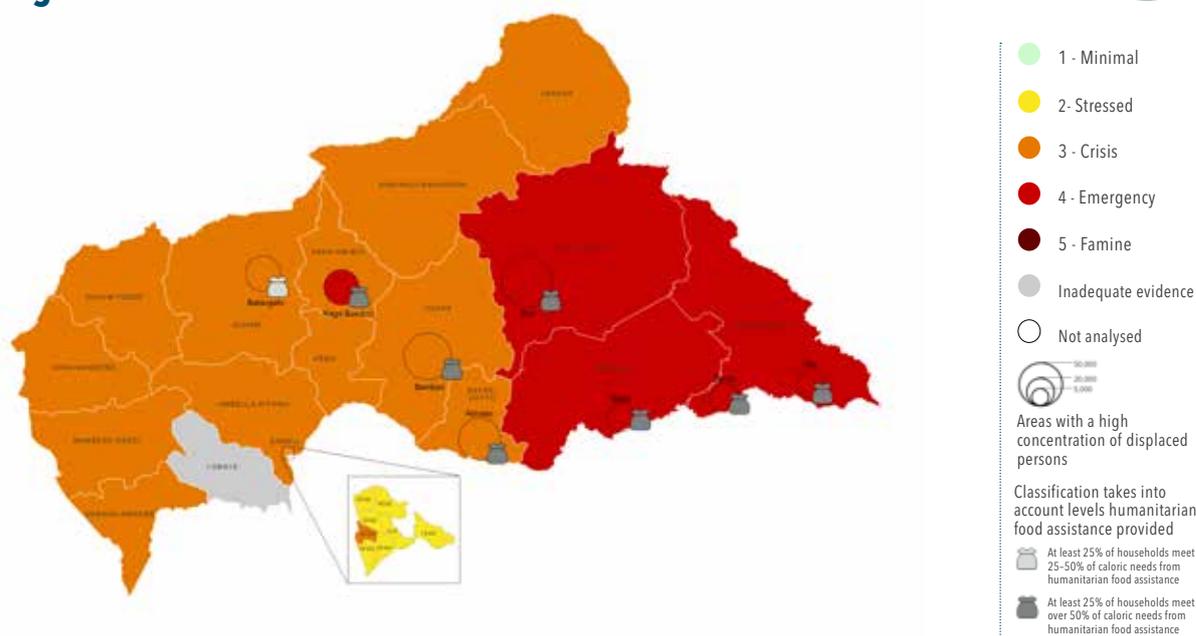
Figure 48
Number of people (millions) in IPC Phase 2 or above in 2015-2020



Source: Central African Republic IPC Technical Working Group

Map 13

Central African Republic, IPC Acute food insecurity situation, May–August 2019



Source: Central African Republic IPC Technical Working Group, June 2019

Emergency conditions (IPC Phase 4). Three areas with a high concentration of IDPs (Alindao, Bambari and Batangafo) and 13 prefectures were in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). Around 326 000 IDPs and host populations in high concentration areas were in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above), representing 56 percent of the population analysed (IPC, June 2019).

While the overall number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) was similar to that of 2018, the numbers were higher in Mbomou, Haut Mbomou and Haute Kotto prefectures (IPC, June 2019). In the last quarter of 2019, the food security situation was forecast to improve, but still critical for 1.6 million people in need of urgent assistance, including nearly 375 000 in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). Eight sub-prefectures in Haut Mbomou, Haute Kotto, Kémo, Ouaka, and Ouham prefectures were classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and another 47 sub-prefectures in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) (IPC, November 2019).

FACTORS DRIVING ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY

Conflict and insecurity

Despite the peace agreement, the level of violence and attacks only decreased temporarily throughout the country and the overall levels of violence remained worrying, with women and children among the most affected (MINUSCA, October

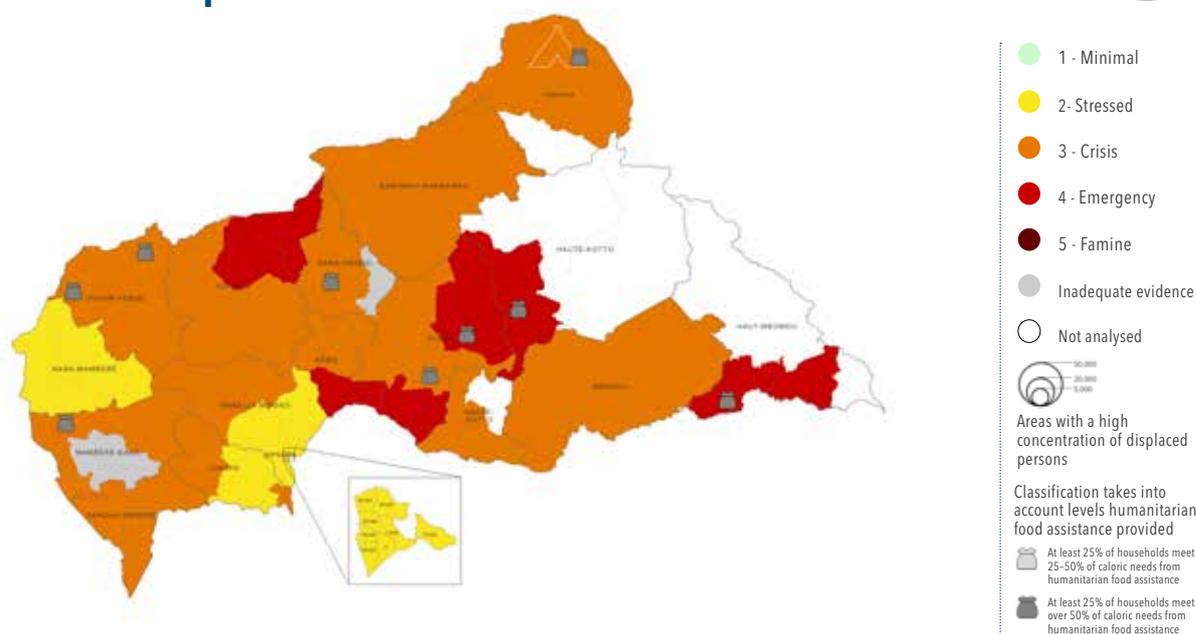
2019). After a decline in June and July, violence intensified in August and September, including in areas previously unaffected. Clashes in August led to the displacement of an estimated 13 000 civilians (UNSC, October 2019). Violence and armed groups hindered humanitarian access with more than 100 attacks reported between January and August (ACAPS, September 2019). As of 30 September, over 600 000 people were still internally displaced, with almost two in three living among host communities (Shelter Cluster, September 2019). Basic services were dysfunctional or non-existent in many areas of the country, and people's access to livelihood opportunities severely hindered (FAO, October 2019).

Violence and insecurity constrained food production because of abandonment and lack of access to fields, particularly in the eastern and south-eastern areas (IPC, June 2019). However, thanks to voluntary returns of farmers and overall adequate and well-distributed rainfall, 2019 agricultural output was estimated to be above-average – but still below pre-crisis levels. Localized production shortfalls were reported in Basse Kotto, Mbomou and Ouaka due to the activities of armed groups (FAO-GIEWS, December 2019).

Raiding, theft and attacks by armed groups have devastated the livestock sector. Pastoralist mobility remained difficult in north-western areas, exacerbating tensions with farmer communities and affecting livestock herding and production (FAO, October 2019). Lack of vaccinations increased animal disease outbreaks (FAO, March 2019).

Map 14

Central African Republic, IPC Acute food insecurity situation, September 2019–April 2020



Source: Central African Republic IPC Technical Working Group, November 2019

Economic shocks

Insecurity severely affected trade activities and contributed to high food prices and macroeconomic difficulties. Two in three households depended on markets for food during the lean season from May– August 2019 (IPC, June 2019). In May, cassava prices increased by 54 percent, while maize and rice increased by 19–23 percent compared to the same period in 2018 (WFP, May 2019).

A bowl of cassava was six times more expensive in eastern markets than in western in September. The same month, the closure of the border between the Sudan and Vakaga and Upper Kotto prefectures in response to the hostilities had a further negative impact on trade (FEWS NET, September 2019). In November, insecurity-related supply and trade disruptions kept the prices of cassava, maize and rice 50 percent higher year-on-year (FAO-GIEWS, December 2019).

Returnees, IDPs and refugees faced lack of assets and inputs to restart agriculture and cattle-rearing (IPC, November 2019).

Weather extremes

Delayed rainfall affected the first agricultural season and contributed to localized production shortfalls in western prefectures, the breadbasket of the country (IPC, November 2019). Flooding of the Oubangui and Ouaka rivers affected at least 57 000 people in October (FEWS NET, November 2019), and damaged crops in the prefectures of Bangui,

Ombella-Ponko, Ouham, Ouaka and Basse-Kotto (FAO-GIEWS, December 2019).

NUTRITION OVERVIEW

The latest nutrition survey in 2018 found that 7 percent of children aged 6–59 months were acutely malnourished, 2.1 percent severely so. Vakaga (11.1 percent) and Basse Kotto (10.1 percent) had the highest rates of wasting, indicating a 'high' prevalence (MoH, December 2018).

According to the most recent estimates, 178 000 children aged 6–59 months were acutely malnourished, 49 000 of them severely so. Children in IDP sites and remote rural locations with limited access to basic services were more likely to be affected by wasting. The supply chain for nutritional products is challenged by persistent insecurity in some areas in the centre and south-east (OCHA, October 2019).

In 2018 stunting among children under 5 years of age was considered 'very high' with a 37.7 percent prevalence (MoH, December 2018). An estimated 367 000 children were chronically malnourished and in need of malnutrition treatment and prevention (OCHA, October 2019).

Child-feeding practices in 2018 were far from optimal with just 17.4 percent of children aged 6–23 months consuming the minimum acceptable diet required for their growth and development (MoH, December 2018).

Country profile

Chad



ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY 2019

Total population of country **16M**



Population analysed **14.3M** (91% of total population, including displaced populations)

0.6M CH Phase 3 or above in June–August 2019

619 000 CH Phase 3 **Crisis** **22 000** CH Phase 4 **Emergency**

2.7M CH Phase 2 **Stressed**

2018–19 Change

Thanks to a good harvest and pasture conditions (and the provision of humanitarian assistance?), food security improved compared to 2018 when almost one million people were classified in CH Phase 3 (Crisis) or above.

2020 Forecast

The situation is expected to worsen during the next lean season especially in the Sahelian belt and the Lac region.

UN DESA, WB 2018
CADRE HARMONISE MARCH 2019

NUTRITION INDICATORS

Host population

12.9% of children under 5 years are acutely **malnourished**, of whom **2.9%** are affected by SAM. SMART 2019

32% of children under 5 years are **stunted**. SMART 2019

7.3% of children 6–23 months meet the recommended **dietary diversity** requirement. SMART 2018

17.7% of children under 6 months are exclusively **breastfed**. SMART 2018

63.6% of children under 5 years and **39.8%** of women 15–49 years are **anaemic**. SMART 2017/19

39% of households have access to at least basic **drinking water** services. JUNE 2017

Refugee population

23 600 children under 5 years are acutely **malnourished**, of whom **3 300** are affected by SAM, in 19 camps. SENS/UNICR 2017/19

29.9–49.9% of children under 5 years in 19 camps are **stunted**. SENS 2017/19

14.9–30.5% of households do not consume micronutrient rich food in 3 camps in Eastern Chad. SENS 2017

1.7–83.6% of children under 6 months in 19 camps are exclusively **breastfed**. SENS 2017/19

26.1–60% of children under 5 years and **11.7–53.5%** of women 15–49 years in 19 camps are **anaemic**. SENS 2017/19

DRIVERS OF FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION

Conflict/insecurity **Weather extremes** **Economic shocks**

- ▶ The Boko Haram conflict, related violence and insecurity have created large scale displacement and damaged livelihoods in the Lake Chad area.
- ▶ Crops were damaged/ destroyed by pests in the Sahelian belt and by floods.
- ▶ Internal displacement and the ongoing arrival of refugees from conflict affected neighbouring countries put additional stress on vulnerable host populations.

- ▶ In Tibesti, markets were disrupted by increasing violence and the temporary border closure with Libya.
- ▶ Recurrent drought over the last years in the Sahelien belt has depleted livelihoods and eroded people's resilience to shocks.
- ▶ Extremely low rates of exclusive breastfeeding and low dietary diversity are among the drivers of a deteriorating malnutrition crisis.

DISPLACEMENT

The IDP population increased by 3% to **170 300** compared to 2018, but has almost doubled since 2017. IOM 2019

There were around **438 000 refugees** and **3 700 asylum seekers**, mostly Sudanese (76%) and Central African (22%). UNHCR NOV 2019

There were **69 600 returnees** from Central African Republic and **47 400 IDP returnees** in the Lac region. UNHCR 2019, IOM 2019



© UNHCR/STEPHANE NGAROUNE

Newly arrived Sudanese refugee Achta Amine cooks gruel for her sister and nine-month-old daughter in Adre, Chad, after fleeing violence in West Darfur. Gruel is the only food they have eaten since their arrival 12 days previously.

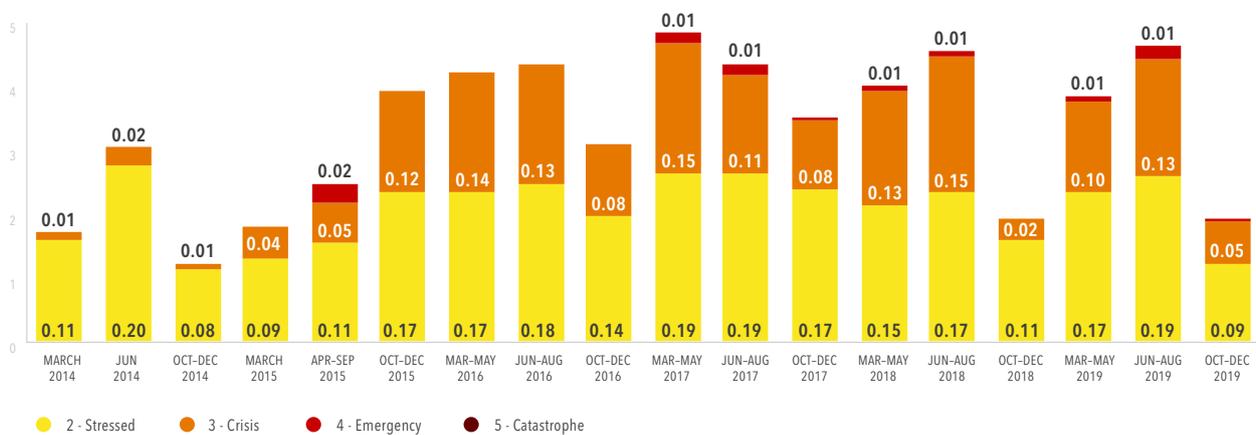
BACKGROUND

Chad is facing a series of humanitarian crises against a backdrop of chronic poverty and low economic and social development. The humanitarian situation deteriorated significantly in 2019. In August the Government declared a state of emergency in the east, following a resurgence of inter-community conflicts. Regional insecurity has prompted hundreds of thousands of people from the Sudan, the Central

African Republic and Nigeria to flee and seek refuge in Chad. Outbreaks of disease overwhelm a weak health system, with prevention measures extremely limited. Active since 2009 in Nigeria, Boko Haram launched its attacks in Chad from March 2015 (ISS, May 2019). While the country has made some progress in reducing the poverty rate (from 55 percent in 2003 to 47 percent in 2011), the number of poor people was projected to increase from 4.7 million to 6.3 million between 2011 and 2019 (WB, October 2019).

Figure 49

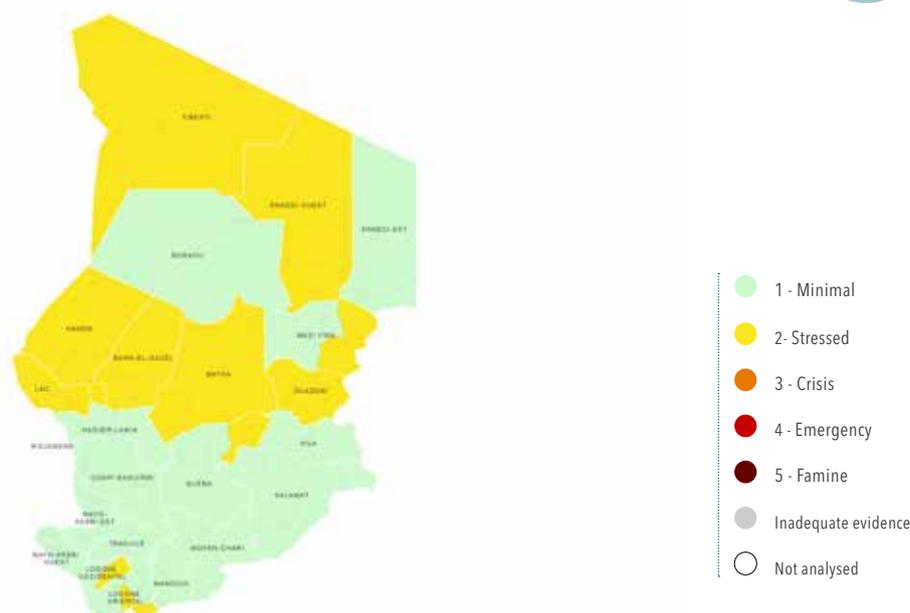
Number of people (millions) in CH Phase 2 or above in 2014–2019



Source: CILSS, Cadre Harmonisé

Map 16

Chad, CH Acute food insecurity situation, October–December 2019



Source: Cadre Harmonisé, November 2019

of the population was targeted with food assistance. Livelihood support was extremely limited and refugee households remained reliant on food assistance to meet their needs (WFP, June 2019 and UNHCR, December 2017).

FACTORS DRIVING ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY

Conflict / insecurity

Deteriorating insecurity linked to Boko Haram and military operations in the Lac region and increasing violence linked to militant and criminal groups in the Tibesti region (ACAPS, 2019) impeded trade flows as well as the movement of people and animals, degrading food availability, livelihoods and food access (FEWS NET, August 2019). In addition, insecurity forced pastoralists to stay close to cities, increasing tensions between herders and farmers.

Lac, Ouaddai, Sila and Tibesti regions were all under a 'state of emergency' due to ongoing violence, preventing affected populations from accessing their livelihoods and humanitarian assistance (ACAPS, October 2019).

The protracted violence and insecurity in the Lac and Tibesti regions increased the number of internally displaced people from 165 300 at the end of 2018 to 170 300 by the end of October (UNHCR, 2019).

Weather extremes

While abundant rainfall in 2018 pushed the country's cereal production to 14 percent above the five-year average, improved pasture conditions (FAO-GIEWS, June 2019) and kept food prices below their five-year average, longer-than-usual dry spells and pests decreased crop production in the Sahelian belt (CILSS-CH, November 2019). In recent years recurrent drought has stressed livelihoods and made households less able to cope with and recover from any type of shock (FAO, April 2019).

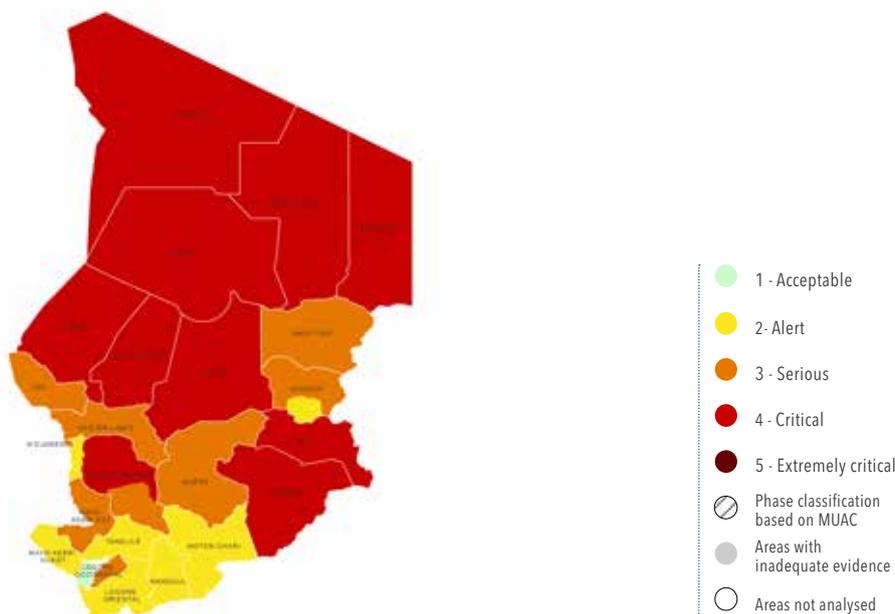
Rains caused widespread flooding in many provinces affecting 171 200 people by the end of October. Around half of these people were in the southern province of Mayo-Kebbi East, where torrential rains and floods caused extensive destruction of houses, loss of animals, food stocks and other assets (OCHA, November 2019).

Economic shocks

In Tibesti households' limited income, mainly from petty trade, the black market, livestock sales, remittances from migrant workers and gold panning, has fallen since the conflict started, while the cost of food in markets remained high. A significant proportion of food in markets is imported from Libya or other parts of Chad, but trade routes have been disrupted (FEWS NET, August 2019), and the border temporarily closed (CILSS-CH, March 2019).

Map X

Chad, IPC Acute malnutrition situation, June–September 2019



Source: Chad IPC Technical Working Group, December 2019

In Lac IDP households were relying primarily on humanitarian assistance, which barely met their food needs. Income from salaried agricultural work also declined. Closed borders with Nigeria and the Niger limited access to food markets and trade (OCHA, June 2019 and FAO-GIEWS, June 2019).

NUTRITION OVERVIEW

Nationally a 'high' percentage of children suffered from GAM (12.9 percent). Of them, 2.9 percent were affected by SAM (SMART 2019). Some 1.8 million children aged 6–59 months will require treatment for acute malnutrition in 2020 (IPC AMN, December 2019).

In 9 out of 23 provinces GAM prevalence was above the 'very high' threshold and above 20 percent in Ennedi Est, Borkou, Barh El-Ghazel, Ennedi Ouest, Salamat and Kanem. In 12 provinces SAM prevalence was over 2 percent (SMART, 2019).

The national stunting prevalence was considered 'very high' at 32 percent of children aged 6–59 months. Regionally the levels were over 40 percent in Kanem, Mayo Kebbi Ouest and Logone Occidental (SMART, 2019).

Childcare and feeding practices were extremely poor. The exclusive breastfeeding rate was 17.7 percent. Only 13.3 percent of children aged 6–23 months met the minimum acceptable diet for their growth and development. Just 7.3 percent of children of this age consumed food from five or

more food groups, satisfying the minimum dietary diversity. Minimum meal frequency was 37.8 percent (SMART, 2018).

Anaemia affected 63.6 percent of children aged 6–59 months, indicating a 'severe' public health concern (SMART, 2019). It affected 39.8 percent of reproductive-age women, indicating a 'moderate' public health significance (SMART, 2017).

Nationally, only two out of five households (39 percent) had access to basic drinking water sources (UNICEF and WHO 2017) and only 15.9 percent had access to improved sanitation facilities (SMART, 2019). By the end of 2019 a measles outbreak was still ongoing. A total of 26 623 suspected cases were reported throughout the year (WHO, Dec 2019).

Nutrition status of refugees

Across the 19 camps 23 600 children were acutely malnourished, 3 300 severely so. The wasting prevalence was classified as 'very high' among refugees in four out of 19 camps, and 'high' in four others. The severe wasting prevalence was over 2 percent among refugees in five camps. All these camps with high wasting were located in north-eastern Chad (SENS 2017 & 2019). Stunting levels were 'very high' (over 30 percent) in 18 camps. Barely any children in camps had adequate dietary diversity (5–6.9 percent). In eight camps anaemia levels among children were 'very high' (SENS 2017 & 2019). The percentage of breastfed children (52.2 percent) has been deteriorating in camps over recent years.

Country profile

Democratic Republic of the Congo



ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY 2019

Total population of country **86.8M**



Population analysed **59.9M** (69% of total population, including displaced populations)

15.6M IPC Phase 3 or above in July–December 2019

11.7M IPC Phase 3 **Crisis** **3.9M** IPC Phase 4 **Emergency**

27M IPC Phase 2 **Stressed**

2018–19 Change

Food insecurity **worsened** in eastern areas where violence intensified and forced huge numbers to abandon their homes, exacerbated by the Ebola outbreak in North Kivu.

2020 Forecast

If the security situation improves and the Ebola epidemic is contained improvement is possible next year in some areas. The agricultural forecast is fairly good, but likely persisting clashes in some areas and structural issues should keep overall numbers similar next year.

UN DESA, WB 2018, DRC IPC TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP, JUNE 2019

NUTRITION INDICATORS

Host population

3.4M children under 5 years are acutely **malnourished**, of whom **1.1M** are affected by SAM.

41.8% of children under 5 years are **stunted**.

15% of children 6–23 months meet the recommended **dietary diversity** requirement.

53.5% of children under 6 months are exclusively **breastfed**.

63.2% of children under 5 years and **41%** of women 15–49 years are **anaemic**.

33.6% of households have access to at least basic **drinking water** services.

Refugee population

4.6% of Burundian, **4–6.5%** of Sudanese and **4.1–12.4%** of Central African children under 5 years are **malnourished**, of whom **2.6%** of Burundian and **0–3.2%** of Central African children are affected by SAM.

51.9% of Burundian, **30–35%** of South Sudanese and **32.6–61.4%** of Central African children under 5 years are **stunted**.

19.6–72.2% of children under 6 months in 4 camps are exclusively **breastfed**.

32.6–61.4% of Burundian, **66%** of South Sudanese and **45–63%** of Central African children of children under 5 years are **anaemic**.

36.5–100% have access to improved **drinking water**.

DRIVERS OF FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION

Conflict/insecurity **Weather extremes** **Economic shocks**

- ▶ Violent inter-ethnic conflict between armed groups drove mass displacement and abandonment of livelihoods.
- ▶ Conflict/insecurity severely damaged food production, trade, transport systems and market functioning.
- ▶ It hampered the delivery of basic services and drove up food prices.

- ▶ Plant diseases and pests lowered agricultural productivity.
- ▶ The Ebola epidemic in North Kivu aggravated the situation in a conflict zone.
- ▶ Malnutrition is linked with acute household food insecurity, poor childcare and feeding practices, disease, poor access to health services, water and sanitation, and conflict-related shocks.

DISPLACEMENT

5M people were **internally displaced**.

There were **524 100 refugees** and **3 200 asylum-seekers**, largely from Rwanda, Burundi, Central African Republic and South Sudan.

2.1M returned since August 2019, mainly from Angola.

OCHA/DEC 2019, UNHCR 2019, OCHA/DEC 2019



Widow Deborah Malala and her nine children were displaced by conflict in July 2019, abandoning their livestock, the family's only income source, to travel to an IDP camp in Kalemie.

BACKGROUND

Although the December 2018 elections marked the country's first peaceful transfer of power and armed conflict diminished in some areas in 2019, it intensified in others. Decades of armed conflict, displacement and lack of civilian protection coupled with very high levels of poverty, weak political and economic governance and persistent structural deficiencies aggravate humanitarian needs (OCHA, December 2019). The country hosts Africa's largest IDP population at over 5 million (UNHCR, January 2020).

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY OVERVIEW

In the latter half of 2019 an estimated 15.6 million people were in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above), representing 26 percent of the analysed rural population. Of these, 3.9 million were in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). The situation was worst in 15 areas classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) in Ituri, South Kivu, the Kasais and Tanganyika provinces. Another 52 territories were classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). Some 27 million people were in Stressed (IPC Phase 2).¹

The most vulnerable included forcibly displaced populations (IDPs, returnees and refugees) as well as people living in conflict-active zones or in areas hosting large numbers of displaced people.

The June–December 2019 number of acutely food insecure is not directly comparable with that of 2018 since they did not cover exactly the same geographical areas. However, when considering the areas analysed in both years, there was a 1.3 million increase. The major deterioration in food insecurity was in South Kivu province where an additional 711 000 people were in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above), a rise from 13 percent to 26 percent of the population. While the number of acutely food insecure decreased in Kasai and Tanganyika provinces, the proportion of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) remained extremely high at around 40 percent.

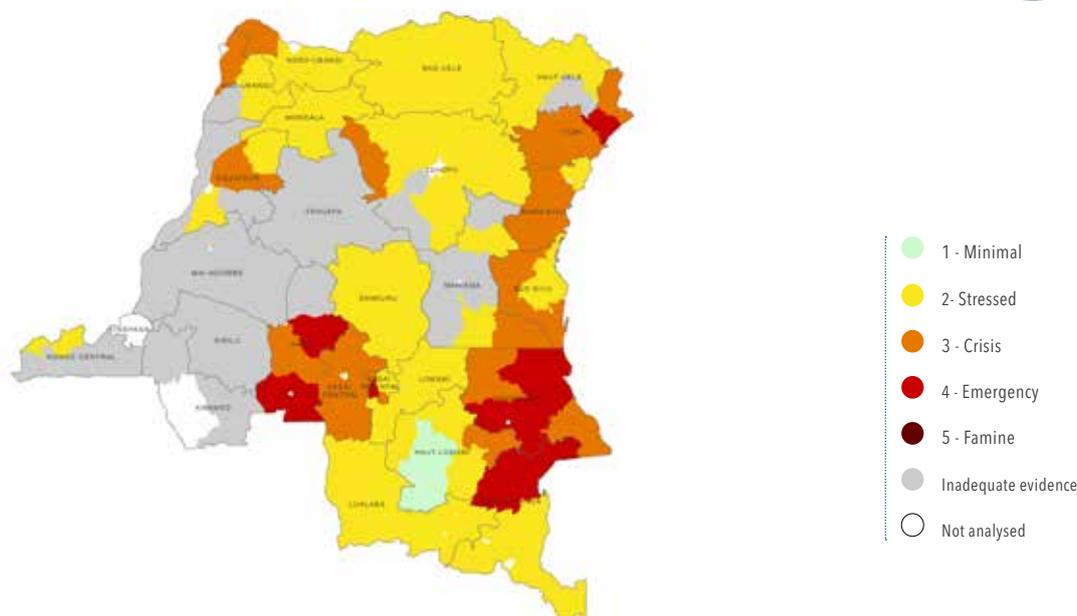
Refugee food insecurity

The country hosts a refugee population of 524 100, largely from Rwanda, the Central African Republic, South Sudan and Burundi: 26 percent live in 11 camps or sites and 74 percent in host communities (UNHCR, January 2020). Although all Burundian, South Sudanese and Central African refugees receive food assistance, a large percentage face poor or borderline food consumption and employ coping strategies to meet basic needs. While refugee households with poor food

¹ FEWS NET's analysis of available evidence suggests the population requiring emergency food assistance in 2019 was lower than the IPC estimate. For more information, see <https://fews.net/southern-africa/drc>

Map 18

Democratic Republic of the Congo, IPC Acute food insecurity situation, August 2018–June 2019



Source: Democratic Republic of the Congo IPC Technical Working Group, June 2018

prompting the lean season to start a month earlier than usual in northern, central-eastern and south-eastern provinces (FAO and FAO-GIEWS, September 2019).

Economic shocks

Maize flour prices remained high in many markets because of low production levels over the last five growing seasons and limited availability in local markets, particularly in Kasai. This was exacerbated in south-eastern areas by the dire shortage of maize in the main supplying countries, including Zambia and Zimbabwe, and by weak local currency (FEWS NET December 2019).

NUTRITION OVERVIEW

In 2019 an estimated 3.4 million children were wasted, 1.1 million of them severely so, requiring urgent treatment for acute malnutrition (HNO, December 2019). The GAM prevalence was 'medium' at 6.5 percent, reaching 'high' levels in Nord Ubangi, Ituri, Kwilu, Tshuapa and Haut Uélé. The national prevalence of stunting was 'very high' at 41.8 percent and exceeded 50 percent in Kwango, Kasai Central and Sankuru (MICS, 2017–18).

Child feeding practices are extremely poor. Overall just 8 percent of 6–23 month-olds consumed the minimum acceptable diet required for their growth and development (MICS, 2017–18).

Anaemia levels are of 'severe' public health significance for both children under 5 and women of reproductive age (WHO, 2016). More than two thirds of households do not have access to an improved source of water within 30 minute round trip from home (UNICEF & WHO, 2017).

Displaced people are often denied access to health care, safe drinking water and adequate sanitation. Immunization schedules for children are interrupted by violence and attacks on health providers and centres prevent people from receiving treatment (WHO, April 2019).

The country is grappling with the outbreak of many diseases. Besides the world's second biggest ever Ebola outbreak in North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri provinces, it has one of the world's most severe measles epidemics with a total of 311 471 suspected cases in 2019 (WHO, January 2020). Over 30 300 cases of cholera were reported in 23 out 26 provinces by the end of 2019 (WHO, January 2020).

Refugee nutrition

Nutrition surveys conducted in three refugee populations in 2019 found under-5 acute malnutrition rates of 5 percent in Burundian camps, 4–6.5 percent in South Sudanese and 5–12 percent in Central African . Chronic malnutrition and anaemia are serious public health problems in all camps ranging from 45–66 percent. Breastfeeding practices are concerning especially in South Sudanese camps (SENS, 2019).

Country profile

El Salvador



ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY 2019

Total population of country **6.5M**



Population analysed **1.4M** (22% of total population)

302 000 IPC Phase 3 or above in April-July 202

240 000 IPC Phase 3 **Crisis** **63 000** IPC Phase 4 **Emergency**

473 000 IPC Phase 2 **Stressed**

2018-19 Change

The number of food-insecure **increased** largely due to the effects of dry spells and excessive rains, crop losses and low grain reserves from the previous year.



2020 Forecast

Food insecurity is expected to **increase** due to seasonal increase in grain prices, reduction of demand for agricultural workers, lower grain stocks during the lean season, and depleted household assets.

UN DESA WB 2018 2019
EL SALVADOR IPC TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP NOVEMBER 2018

NUTRITION INDICATORS

2.1% of children under 5 years are acutely **malnourished**, of whom **0.4%** are affected by SAM.

MICS 2014



78.3% of children 6-23 months meet the recommended **dietary diversity** requirement.

MICS 2014



30.6% of children under 5 years and **22.7%** of women 15-49 years are **anaemic**.

WHO 2016

13.6% of children under 5 years are **stunted**.

MICS 2014



46.7% of children under 6 months are exclusively **breastfed**.

MICS 2014



97% of households have access to at least basic **drinking water** services.

JMP 2017

DRIVERS OF FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION

Weather extremes **Economic shocks** **Conflict/insecurity**

- ▶ Several short dry periods affected the eastern part of the country causing crop losses and water scarcity.
- ▶ Excessive rains affected production in northern and western areas.
- ▶ Deterioration of livelihoods and assets and the effects of the 2018 drought left poor households severely affected.

- ▶ Lower international coffee prices in 2019 affected production while erratic and excessive rains lowered the harvest
- ▶ High levels of insecurity and lack of economic opportunities intensified food insecurity and out-migration.

DISPLACEMENT

71 500 people were internally displaced.

IOM 2019



© AMPHILIO QUILANO

For the last five years smallholder farmer Cirilo Mendoza's crops have been severely damaged by recurrent drought and he has been unable to find a job to support his wife and young child. He borrowed money to migrate to the US but was detained and deported home.

BACKGROUND

El Salvador is densely populated and suffers from persistent low levels of economic growth. However, it has experienced a moderate reduction in poverty (the poverty rate declined from 39 percent in 2007 to 29 percent in 2017) and inequality and improvements in public services in recent years (WB, October 2019). Its challenges include insufficient food production and high dependence on imports (WFP, November 2019). It is frequently exposed to natural hazards including earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. Its territory is entirely within the Dry Corridor and is highly vulnerable to climate change impacts, including higher frequency of floods, droughts and tropical storms (WB, October 2019). Recurrent droughts hamper progress in poverty and food insecurity alleviation. Around 33 percent of households live in multidimensional poverty and on average allocate 65 percent of expenditures to food (WFP, August 2019).

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY OVERVIEW

Over 302 000 people, 22 percent of the analysed population, were estimated to be in Crisis or worse conditions (IPC Phase 3 or above) from April to July 2019. This includes 63 000 in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and 240 000 in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) (IPC, November 2018).

The number of food-insecure people increased by over 88 000 between 2018 and 2019 in the areas analysed, but the increase could be even higher as several areas in the northern and western parts of the country, which suffered a reduction in agricultural production, were not assessed in 2019 (IPC, 2019).

The situation was most critical in the seven areas classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) in the eastern part of the country. Usulután in particular, had the highest proportion (35 percent) and number of people (134 000) facing Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) conditions. In cities, where the population relies on buying food, the poorest were affected by high maize prices in 2019 (IPC, November 2018).

Subsistence farmers and minimum wage labourers were the most vulnerable to food insecurity, especially households headed by women as in recent years high levels of out-migration have left many women single-handedly heading farms and families (WFP et al., 2017).

Map 19

El Salvador, IPC Acute food insecurity situation, April–July 2019



Source: El Salvador IPC Technical Working Group, November 2018

FACTORS DRIVING ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY

Weather extremes

Rainfall amounts during planting of the main season were more than 50 percent above the long-term average. However, this was followed by drought in June–July, which particularly affected production in eastern parts (FAO-GIEWS, October 2019). Between June and August five dry periods affected the main season in eastern El Salvador (MARN, August 2019)

Irregular rains and above-average temperatures in July and August affected agriculture production in the main season in many areas of the country, particularly in El Salvador, La Unión, San Miguel and Santa Ana. This marks the second consecutive year of poor primera season harvests and particularly high losses for subsistence farmers across the Dry Corridor, after the severe drought of 2018 (GEOGLAM, October 2019). However, the aggregate main maize crop in 2019 was anticipated to be around average at 835 000 tonnes (FAO-GIEWS, October 2019).

Heavy rains in September affected Morazán, La Unión, Santa Ana, Chalatenango and Cabañas departments, causing interruption of access to potable water for 450 households (OCHA, October 2019), and delayed planting operations for the second season in the large producer departments of San Miguel and La Unión (FAO-GIEWS, October 2019).

The rains damaged crops and the Government estimated that 18 300 tonnes out of a forecast 250 000 tonnes of postrera season beans would be lost, with most losses in the central and western parts, particularly in Ahuachapán, La Libertad, Cuscatlán and Santa Ana departments (El Economista, October 2019). Some coffee losses were also expected, while flooding in pasture areas caused animal disease (El Diario de Hoy, October 2019). In addition, the local producer association (CAMPO) estimated 5 percent of the postrera season maize crop would be lost (El Economista, November 2019).

Economic shocks

In the last decade the country suffered a great decline in coffee production, once the most important source of revenues from exports. The sector had not recovered from the leaf rust damages of 2011–2013 and continued to decline due to low international prices, lack of investment and also from the erratic weather and dry conditions that affect flowering and bean development. In the last six years jobs in the sector halved to 44 600, prompting migration to urban areas or abroad, with 30 percent of farmers abandoning their farms (USDA GAIN, May 2019).

However, the sector still represents an important source of work. The 2019 decline in international coffee prices particularly affected households reliant on the sector in Morazán, San Miguel and Usulután (IPC, November 2018).

While the price of white maize remained lower year-on-year,

the price of red beans increased in September 2019 with the news of the effect of rains on the main season output (FAO-GIEWS, October 2019).

Insecurity

Criminal actors generate widespread human rights violations (NRC, June 2019). The homicide rate in 2018, estimated at 50.3 per 100 000 people, was the third highest in the world after Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Jamaica (IGARAPE Institute, 2018).

Widespread violence forced thousands to flee their homes. In 2018, around 46 800 Salvadorans sought asylum worldwide, with the country ranking as the sixth country of origin for new asylum seekers globally. In addition, at least 71 500 Salvadorans have been internally displaced by violence (UNHCR, July 2019),¹ accumulating a total of 246 000 people by 2018 (IDCM, 2019).

NUTRITION OVERVIEW

Acute malnutrition (GAM) among under 5-year-olds in El Salvador was classified as 'very low' in 2014. GAM was considered 'medium' in Usulután (7.4 percent) and Santa Ana (7 percent) departments. At 13.6 percent stunting levels were classified as 'medium' (MICS, 2014).

Young child-feeding practices need improvement, as fewer than half (46.7 percent) of infants under 6 months of age were exclusively breastfed and 67 percent of children aged 6-23 months consumed a minimum acceptable diet (MICS, 2014). Anaemia was also found to be a 'moderate' public health concern among children and women (WHO, 2016).

Around 13 percent of children suffered from diarrhoea two weeks prior to MICS data collection (MICS, 2014). By 2017 access to basic drinking water services was good (97 percent of the households) (JMP, 2017).

In 2019 El Salvador was experiencing a dengue outbreak with a 220 percent increase in the number of reported cases compared to 2018. By the end of July almost 8 900 cases were reported with nine possible deaths linked to the disease (OCHA, July 2019).

¹ UNHCR. 2019. Press Release of 26 July 2019. July 2019. <https://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2019/7/5d3ab64a4/el-salvador-joins-regional-effort-address-forced-displacement-central-america.html>

Country profile

Eswatini



ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY

2019

Total population of country **1.4M**



Population analysed **0.9M** (67% of total population, not including displaced populations)

232 000 IPC Phase 3 or above in October 2019–March 2020

185 000 IPC Phase 3 **Crisis** **47 000** IPC Phase 4 **Emergency**

370 000 IPC Phase 2 **Stressed**

2018-19 Change

The number of people facing severe acute food insecurity remained **unchanged** reflecting a second consecutive year of localised shortfalls in food production, which continued to constrain households' food availability.

2020 Forecast

Food insecurity is forecast to persist at current levels in early 2020, although an above-average harvest is expected for a second successive year and will likely improve the situation.

NUTRITION INDICATORS

1.5% of children under 5 years are acutely **malnourished**, of whom **0.4%** are affected by SAM.

26.3% of children under 5 years are **stunted**.

59% of children 6–23 months meet the recommended **dietary diversity** requirement.

64.8% of children under 6 months are exclusively **breastfed**.

42% of children under 5 years and **27.2%** of women 15–49 years are **anaemic**.

69% of households have access to at least basic **drinking water** services.

DRIVERS OF FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION

Weather extremes **Economic shocks**

- ▶ Rainfall deficits triggered localized shortfalls in staple food production in 2019.
- ▶ The lower harvests reduced availability of food for rural households and constrained income-generating opportunities.
- ▶ Prices of the main cereal staple, maize, increased in 2019, impeding access to food.

▶ Chronic malnutrition is a far greater problem than acute malnutrition. Lack of knowledge, myths, misconceptions and misinformation lead to parents and caregivers failing to adequately nourish with just over half of children aged 6–23 months receiving a minimum acceptable diet.

DISPLACEMENT

There were **900 refugees** and **800 asylum seekers**.



Eswatini is still recovering from the 2015/16 El Niño-induced drought, which dried up water sources and caused widespread crop failure and hunger. In 2019, rainfall deficits again caused shortfalls in food crop production.

BACKGROUND

Eswatini's economy is closely tied to South Africa. Agriculture is the primary livelihood for the predominantly rural population (WB, 2019). However, amid low agricultural productivity, the country remains structurally deficit in key food staples (KoE, December 2018). A high rate of poverty, estimated at 59 percent in 2017, limits improvements in agricultural productivity and food security, with slow economic growth, high inequality, high HIV/AIDS prevalence and weather shocks being key factors inhibiting significant improvements in the population's welfare (WB, 2019).

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY OVERVIEW

An estimated 232 000 people faced Crisis and Emergency levels (IPC Phase 3 and 4) of acute food insecurity between October 2019 and March 2020, representing 25 percent of the rural population during this peak hunger period. Out of this total, 47 000 people were classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and 185 000 people were in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). The majority of the population analysed were in IPC Phases 1 (Minimal) and Phase 2 (Stressed), with an estimated 370 000 in Stressed (IPC Phase 2). At the sub-national level, the highest rates of acute food insecurity were assessed to reach

25–35 percent of the population in HhoHho, Shiselweni and Lubombo regions (IPC, July 2019).

The situation had been slightly better between June and September 2019 – following the 2019 harvest – when around 205 000 people (22 percent of the rural population) were experiencing acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 and 4).

Compared to the previous year's peak (December 2018–March 2019) (IPC, December 2019), the number of people in need of urgent humanitarian food assistance remained largely unchanged with a negligible improvement of 6 percent, as a second consecutive year of localized shortfalls in cereal production maintained high humanitarian needs. Food security conditions improved seasonally in mid-2019 immediately following the 2019 harvest. Nevertheless, crop failures and a consequent decrease in labour opportunities, combined with higher food prices, caused a worsening of food insecurity towards the end of the year (IPC, July 2019).

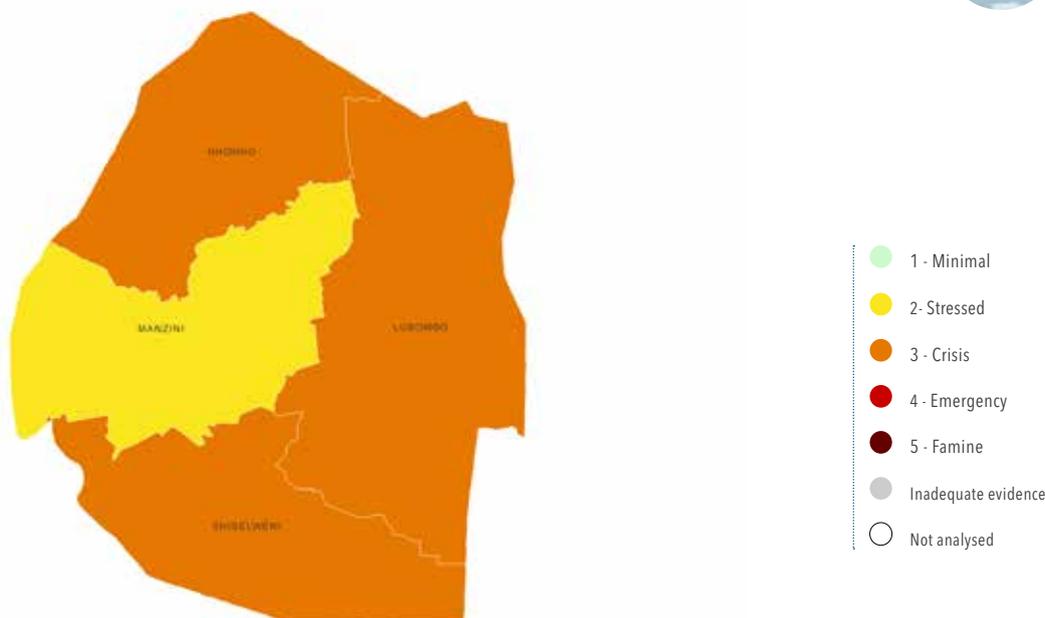
FACTORS DRIVING ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY

Weather extremes

Eswatini is still recovering from the 2015/16 El Niño-induced drought, which cost the country over SZL 3.8 billion

Map 20

Eswatini, IPC Acute food insecurity situation, October 2019–March 2020



Source: Eswatini IPC Technical Working Group, July 2019

(USD 264 million). As most of the food crop production is rain-fed and irrigation infrastructure remains unaffordable to smallholder farmers (KoE, December 2018), the rainfall deficits during a critical crop development phase in the 2018/19 cropping season caused localized shortfalls in food crop production in 2019, which underpinned the poor food security situation (FAO-GIEWS, October 2019).

Over one in four people reported having experienced a weather-related shock, such as drought, irregular rains or dry spells in 2019, rising to almost half of the population in Lubombo region (EVAC, July 2019).

The aggregate national cereal harvest in 2019 declined by about 16 percent compared to the previous year, with most crop failures concentrated in the eastern Lubombo and southern Shiselweni regions because of erratic rainfall. Cereal import requirements increased to 200 000 tonnes which is slightly above the average (FAO-GIEWS, October 2019). Comparing households' harvests in 2019 with the previous year, about 46 percent reported to have harvested half of the previous season and around 9 percent had no harvest or experienced total crop failure (EVAC, July 2019).

Although the 2019 cereal harvest fostered a cyclical improvement in food security between June and September, reflecting a boost in food stocks and a seasonal increase in income-generating opportunities, these improvements were short-lived. By October the 25 percent of the rural population classified as acutely food insecure had depleted their food

stocks earlier than normal and were engaged in crisis or emergency coping strategies, such as the sale of productive assets, to meet their essential food needs (IPC, July 2019).

Economic shocks

Structural challenges and widespread poverty, with higher rates in rural areas, continued to accentuate the impacts of weather shocks on food security in 2019 (WB, 2019). Low incomes constrain access to farming inputs, while poor access to markets and agricultural-related information further impede improvements in agricultural productivity. The lack of competitive labour skills also limits households' ability to find alternative employment when weather shocks minimize agricultural work opportunities (WB, 2011).

Out of the top six main livelihood activities, which cover some 83 percent of the population, only three could be considered fully sustainable: formal labour (18 percent), small business (14 percent) and remittances (17 percent), while food crop production (12 percent) and casual labour (11 percent), particularly in the agriculture sector, are highly susceptible to weather anomalies. Social grants represent the primary income for 11 percent of the population, indicating either unemployment or lack of working-age people in those families (EVAC, July 2019).

In mid-2019 casual labour opportunities were limited and by June unemployment in Lubombo region had increased to 29 percent and was expected to increase even further

towards the end of the year (IPC, July 2019). At national level unemployment was estimated at 28 percent (EHES, 2018). Over 80 percent of households in most areas experienced a loss of income. Only around 10 percent fully recovered from the shocks they experienced, which included loss of assets (EVAC, July 2019).

Almost 40 percent of households had depleted their food stocks within three months of harvest, and were reliant on markets for food, resorting to coping strategies when they were unable to afford to buy the food they needed (EVAC, July 2019). The National Maize Corporation (NMC) kept prices of the main staple maize meal stable until mid-June when the retail price increased (FAO-GIEWS, October 2019). By October 2019 the national average maize meal price was 11 percent higher than its year-earlier level. Much of the price growth during 2019 was due to rising prices in South Africa, the country's main supplier of grains (FAO-GIEWS, December 2019). However, market regulations, administered by the NMC, lessened the effects of imported inflation and contributed to more stable domestic retail prices of maize meal (FAO-GIEWS, October 2019).

A combination of low incomes and increasing food prices made it particularly challenging for the poorest, rural dwellers to access food (KoE, December 2018).

NUTRITION OVERVIEW

Acute malnutrition among children under 5 years of age remained 'very low' (1.5 percent) but the stunting prevalence was 'high' at 26.3 percent – with boys more affected than girls by almost 10 percentage points. Some regions experienced both undernutrition and overweight. For example, Hhohho region had the highest rates of stunting at 28.6 percent, but above national-average levels of overweight at 16.4 percent. Stunting levels were higher in areas categorized in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) levels of acute food insecurity (EVAC, July 2019).

Reproductive aged women (15–49 years) had low levels of underweight (3 percent) based on body mass index while 27 percent were overweight and another 29 percent obese (EVAC, July 2019).

Just over half (51 percent) of children aged 6–23 months received a minimum acceptable diet with Manzini and Lubombo regions recording below-national levels. Around 59 percent of children received recommended dietary diversity (EVAC, July 2019). Consumption of fruits and vegetables remained below global recommendations. Besides household food insecurity, limited knowledge paired with misconceptions about child-feeding challenges children's adequate nutrition (KoE, December 2018).

Eswatini has one of the highest HIV prevalence rates in the world. In 2018 27.3 percent of the adult population were living with HIV, representing 210 000 people. Well over half of them (63 percent) were women (UNAIDS, 2018).

Nationally a third of households do not have access to at least basic drinking water services, dropping to 21.8 percent in Manzini. On average, it takes up to 30 minutes for people to collect the water during the dry season (EVAC, July 2019).

Country profile **Ethiopia**



ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY 2019

Total population of country **112.1M**



Population analysed **28.7M** (26% of total population, including displaced populations)

8M IPC Phase 3 or above in July–September 2019



6.1M IPC Phase 3 **Crisis** **1.9M** IPC Phase 4 **Emergency**

10M IPC Phase 2 **Stressed**

2018-19 Change

The number of food-insecure people in need of urgent assistance was almost as high as in 2018, despite difference in population coverage of analyses.

2020 Forecast

Numbers forecast to **increase** February–June 2020 (to 8.5 million). Access will be constrained due to declining stocks and above-average food prices in pastoral zones and Belg dependent areas.

NUTRITION INDICATORS

Host population

4.5–5.5M children under 5 years are acutely **malnourished**, of whom **0.9M** are affected by SAM. **36.8%** of children under 5 years are **stunted**.

13.8% of children 6–23 months meet the recommended **dietary diversity** requirement. **58.6%** of children under 6 months are exclusively **breastfed**.

56.9% of children under 5 years and **24.3%** of women 15–49 years are **anaemic**. **41%** of households have access to at least basic **drinking water** services.

Refugee population

38 900 children under 5 years are acutely **malnourished**, of whom **7 400** are affected by SAM. **4.0–51.0%** of children under 5 years in 24 camps are **stunted**.

23.0–90.6% households in 11 camps do not consume micronutrient rich food. **56.5–98.4%** of children under 6 months in 24 camps are exclusively **breastfed**.

12.0–60.3% of children under 5 years and **3.3–44.7%** of women 15–49 years in 24 camps are **anaemic**. **97.5–100%** have access to improved **drinking water** sources.

DRIVERS OF FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION

Weather extremes **Conflict/insecurity** **Economic shocks**

- ▶ Below-average and erratic seasonal rains diminished crop and livestock production.
- ▶ Pastoralists' recovery was later curbed by floods that killed livestock and increased animal diseases and by locust infestations.
- ▶ As a result of an intense period of conflict and climate shocks between January and April, the number of IDPs reached 3.2 million.
- ▶ IDPs experienced deplorable conditions in camps, and limited access to basic services and livelihoods.

- ▶ By October cereal prices were up to 70% higher than year earlier levels as a result of reduced crop production, local currency depreciation and increased prices of fuel and agricultural inputs.
- ▶ Drought, displacement, poor sanitation and low access to health care contribute to disease outbreaks and deteriorating malnutrition.

DISPLACEMENT

1.6M were **internally displaced**. There were around **735 200 refugees** from South Sudan (45%), Somalia (26%), Eritrea (21%), and the Sudan (7%). There were **1.1M returnees**.



Following years of drought and poor rainy seasons in the Somali region pastoralists faced another extended dry and hotter-than-average period in 2019.

BACKGROUND

While Ethiopia has made development gains over the last two decades (WFP, January 2020), 27 percent of the population, or 30.2 million people, were still living below the poverty line (USD 1.90 a day). Over 70 percent of rural Ethiopians are severely poor according to the Multidimensional Poverty Index (OPHI, September 2019). Frequent and severe droughts have eroded resilience for rural households that have lost productive assets and have had little time for recovery between drought events (WFP, January 2020).

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY OVERVIEW

About 8 million people faced acute levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) across Afar, Amhara, Oromiya, Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' region (SNNPR), Somali and Tigray from July–September 2019, despite receiving humanitarian food assistance. This includes about 1.9 million in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) of whom over one in three of the populations in Somali and Oromiya faced Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above). An additional 10 million people were classified in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) (IPC, November 2019).¹

¹ FEWS NET's analysis of available evidence suggests the population requiring emergency food assistance in 2019 was lower than the IPC estimate. For more information, see <https://fews.net/east-africa/ethiopia>

The population in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) was similar to that of 2018, when the HNO estimated that 8.1 million people were food insecure and in need of assistance (OCHA, February 2019). At the start of Meher harvests in October 2019, food security improved, but about 6.7 million people remained acutely food insecure (IPC Phase 3 or above). (IPC, November 2019).

Ethiopia is the second largest host of refugees in Africa (UNHCR, December 2019). The result of the annual SENS report indicated that monthly food assistance for refugees lasted from 14–25 days, creating food gaps for up to 17 days a month. Dietary diversity was often poor mainly due to lack of access to fresh fruits and vegetables (UNHCR/WFP, 2016).

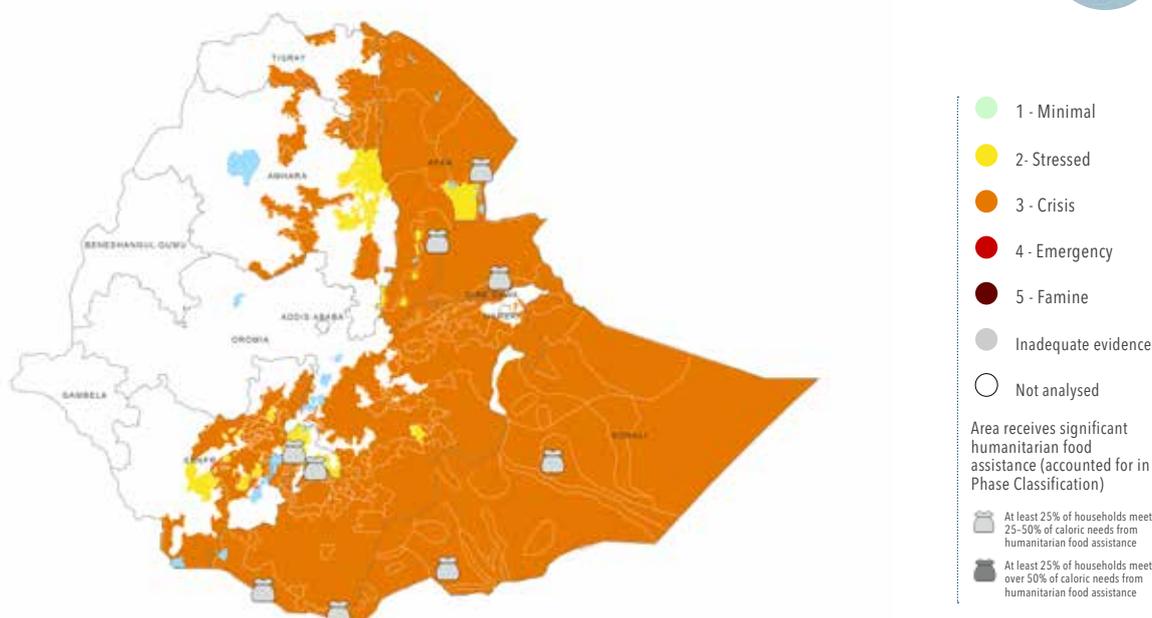
FACTORS DRIVING ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY

Weather extremes

The February–May Belg rainy season started late and rainfall distribution was erratic and below-average. There were also dry spells. This prompted late planting, especially in central and eastern Oromiya and areas of eastern Amhara and southern Tigray, and reduced the area planted. Nationally Belg crop production was expected to be below average with significant shortfalls in eastern Oromiya (FEWS NET June 2019, FAO-GIEWS, December 2019).

Map 21

Ethiopia, IPC Acute food insecurity situation, July–September 2019



Source: Ethiopia IPC Technical Working Group, November 2019

Yet to recover from the 2016/17 drought and following a poor October–December 2018 rainy season, pastoralists in southern and south-eastern areas of Somali, Bale lowlands, parts of Guji, and East and West Hararghe zones of Oromiya faced an extended dry and hotter-than-average period through April 2019. The Gu/Genna (March–May) rains were delayed, erratically distributed and below normal, resulting in poor regeneration of pasture and water resources and poor livestock body conditions and little to no milk production (FEWS NET, June 2019).

In pastoral and agropastoral areas of southern SNNPR, southern and eastern Oromiya and southern Somali regions, abundant October–December 2019 Deyr-Hageya rains regenerated rangeland resources and improved vegetation conditions, livestock body conditions and conception rates. However, pastoralists' recovery was curbed by widespread floods that killed livestock and increased waterborne animal diseases, as well as by locust infestations damaging pasture (FAO-GIEWS, December 2019).

Conflict and insecurity

Continued inter-communal violence as well as clashes between Government forces and unidentified armed groups (UAG) in rural areas persisted, driving internal displacement, disrupting livelihood activities and distorting food market systems and prices (OCHA, 2020). While violent events occurred in all regions, most were in western and southern

Oromia. Violence in Gambella affected local communities and refugees, while ethnic tensions in Amhara and areas bordering Benishangul Gumuz and Tigray displaced thousands. Many communities continued to be affected by unresolved historical tensions and grievances over resources, mainly land and water, as well as political, administrative and social rights (OCHA, 2020).

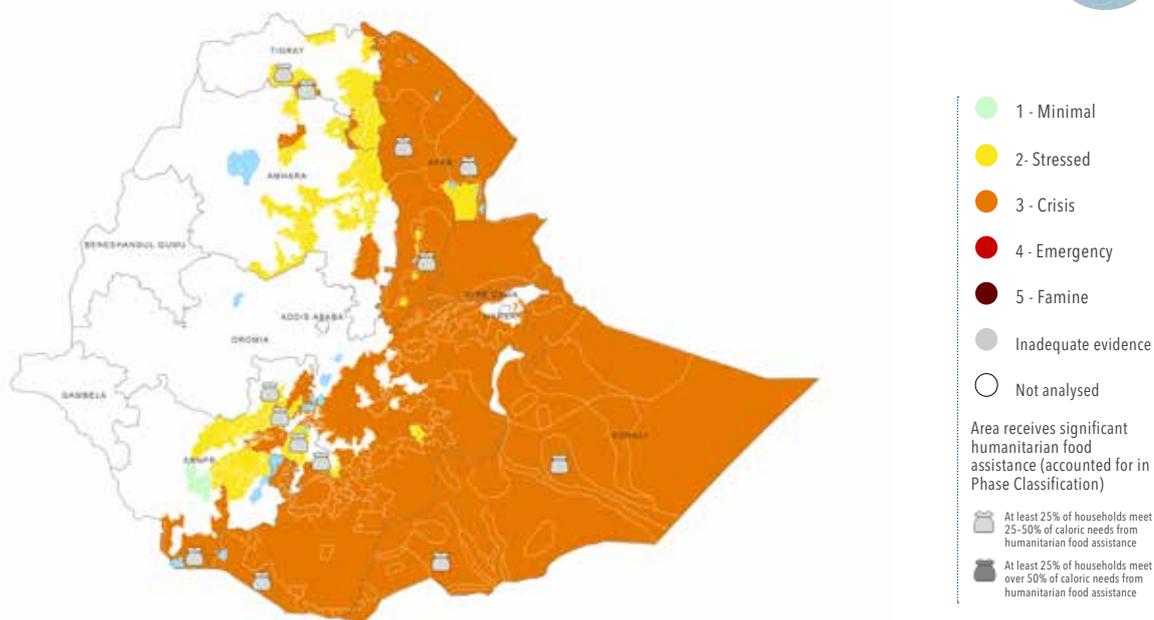
Of the 1.6 million IDPs, about two thirds were displaced by inter-communal violence. However, at the peak of the displacement crisis between January and April 2019, conflict and climate shocks brought the number of IDPs to 3.2 million (OCHA, 2020). IDPs in collective sites experience deplorable conditions and limited access to basic services and lack of opportunities to rebuild their livelihoods (OCHA, January 2020).

Economic shocks

Prices of maize were 20–30 percent above their year-earlier levels in July (FAO-GIEWS, September 2019) and 35–70 percent above year-earlier levels by October as seasonal upward trends were amplified by reduced supplies from the Belg harvest, and by depreciation of the local currency that increased the prices of fuel and agricultural inputs, inflating transport and production costs. Prices of other cereals, including teff, wheat and white sorghum were up to 40 percent above their year-earlier levels in the capital, Addis Ababa, by October (FAO-GIEWS, December 2019).

Map 22

Ethiopia, IPC Acute food insecurity situation, October 2019–January 2020



Source: Ethiopia IPC Technical Working Group, November 2019

Although prices of livestock increased through 2019 in the southern Somali region due to lower supplies, staple food prices increased at faster rates. The deterioration of terms of trade created severe food access constraints for pastoralist households, at a time when they were trying to repopulate their herds and had few animals to sell (FAO-GIEWS, December 2019).

High youth unemployment (64 percent of the population is under 25) was identified by the Government as a key contributor to political fragility and increased migration (internationally and rural to urban) (OCHA, January 2020).

As a result of sluggish export performance and a foreign exchange crunch purchases of food for humanitarian relief were constrained (OCHA, January 2020).

NUTRITION OVERVIEW

Nationally acute malnutrition rates are classified as 'medium' at 7 percent (Ministry of Finance and UNICEF, October 2019). Almost 1 million children have severe acute malnutrition annually (EmDHS, 2019). Malnutrition rates are highest in rural, hard-to-reach, areas where people face difficulties and/or discriminations in accessing health and nutrition services and among pastoralist populations (OCHA, January 2020).

Although stunting decreased significantly among children under 5 from 58 percent in 2000 to 37 percent in 2019, it is

still classified as 'very high' (DHS, 2000–2019). In Afar, Amhara and Tigray regions stunting levels exceed 40 percent, and only 7 percent of children receive a minimum acceptable diet (OCHA, January 2020).

Food insecurity along with water shortages, poor sanitation facilities and lack of access to quality healthcare contributed to deteriorating child nutrition. Nationally sanitation coverage is only 57 percent – in other words more than 45 million people lack access to improved sanitation (IFRC, July 2019). As of 8 December 2019 and since the beginning of the outbreak in April 2019, 2 089 cases of cholera had been reported (ECDC, December 2019). There were 9 672 cases of measles in Amhara, Afar, Oromiya and Somali and five cases of vaccine-derived polio reported in 2019 (WHO, December 2019).

Nutrition status of refugees

Refugee nutrition was concerning in the 21 camps assessed by the 2019 SENS: 33 percent of camps had GAM rates above the 'very high' threshold, while 48 percent had 'high' levels. In over 60 percent of camps anaemia among children aged 6–59 months was of 'high' public health significance. Population displacements elevate infant morbidity and acute malnutrition as nursing mothers may stop breastfeeding due to psychological distress and insufficient access to food and water. Unsolicited donations of breast milk substitutes and milk products risked undermining adequate young child feeding (IYCF) practices (OCHA, January 2020).

Country profile  **Guatemala**

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY 2019

Total population of country **17.6M**



Population analysed **16.6M** (95% of total population)

3M IPC Phase 3 or above in March–June 2020

2.5M IPC Phase 3 **Crisis** **568 400** IPC Phase 4 **Emergency**

4.8M IPC Phase 2 **Stressed**

2018–19 Change 

Intense climate shocks, crop losses and high prices **increased** the number of acutely food-insecure people. 

2020 Forecast 

For the rural population, the number of food-insecure is forecast to **increase** as staple grain prices surge and households deplete their assets and resort to corrosive coping strategies. 

UN DESA WB 2018
2019
GUATEMALA IPC TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MARCH 2019

NUTRITION INDICATORS

 **0.7%** of children under 5 years are acutely **malnourished**, of whom **0.1%** are affected by SAM. DHS 2014-15

 **46.5%** of children under 5 years are **stunted**. DHS 2014-15

 **62.6%** of children 6–23 months meet the recommended **dietary diversity** requirement. DHS 2014-15

 **53.2%** of children under 6 months are exclusively **breastfed**. DHS 2014-15

 **36.5%** of children under 5 years and **16.4%** of women 15–49 years are **anaemic**. WHO 2016

 **94%** of households have access to at least basic **drinking water** services. JMP 2017

DRIVERS OF FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION

 **Weather extremes**  **Economic shocks**  **Conflict/insecurity**

- ▶ Erratic rainfall and a prolonged dry period during the main season affected most of the country, causing major crop losses.
- ▶ Subsistence households were particularly badly affected and had very low grain stocks.

- ▶ Minimum wage workers and agricultural labourers had insufficient income to cover their basic needs and maize and beans prices were higher than normal.
- ▶ Households were yet to recover their livelihoods and assets following the 2018 drought.

- ▶ Internal displacement and migration due to insecurity, lack of economic opportunities, evictions and food insecurity.



Around 6 in 10 Guatemalans live in multidimensional poverty, facing deprivation in food security, nutrition, decent employment, health, housing and education.

BACKGROUND

Guatemala has one of the largest economies in Central America, but around six in 10 Guatemalans live in multidimensional poverty, meaning they face deprivation in multiple aspects of their lives, including food security, nutrition, decent employment, health, housing and education (MPPN, November 2019). It is also one of the most socially unequal societies with indigenous peoples particularly disadvantaged (ACAPS, November 2019). Social inequality is aggravated by the country's high vulnerability to climate change. Over the past three years, extended dry seasons have had a severe impact on the livelihoods of subsistence farmers, who rely on rain-fed agriculture, especially in the Dry Corridor (WFP, accessed January 2020).

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY OVERVIEW

Around 3 million people – 18 percent of the analysed population – were estimated to be acutely food insecure (IPC Phase 3 or above) and in need of urgent food and livelihood assistance during March–June 2019. This included 568 396 in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and 2.5 million in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). An additional 4.8 million were classified in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) (IPC, March 2019).

The situation was most critical for the rural population yet to recover from the 2018 drought in the six departments facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) conditions, namely Alta y Baja, Verapaz, Quiché, Santa Rosa, Jalapa and Chiquimula (IPC, March 2019) and extended later in the year also to Suchitepéquez and Retalhuleu (IPC, December 2019).

The lean season was expected to extend until August 2019. And due to high agricultural losses in the Primera season, subsistence farmers were particularly affected (IPC, March 2019). By September, some areas in Huehuetenango, Retalhuleu, Totonicapán and Jutiapa were estimated to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) by the IPC-compatible analysis (FEWS NET, September 2019). Towards the end of 2019, food security improved in rural areas thanks to the Postrera harvest and related labour opportunities (IPC, December 2019).

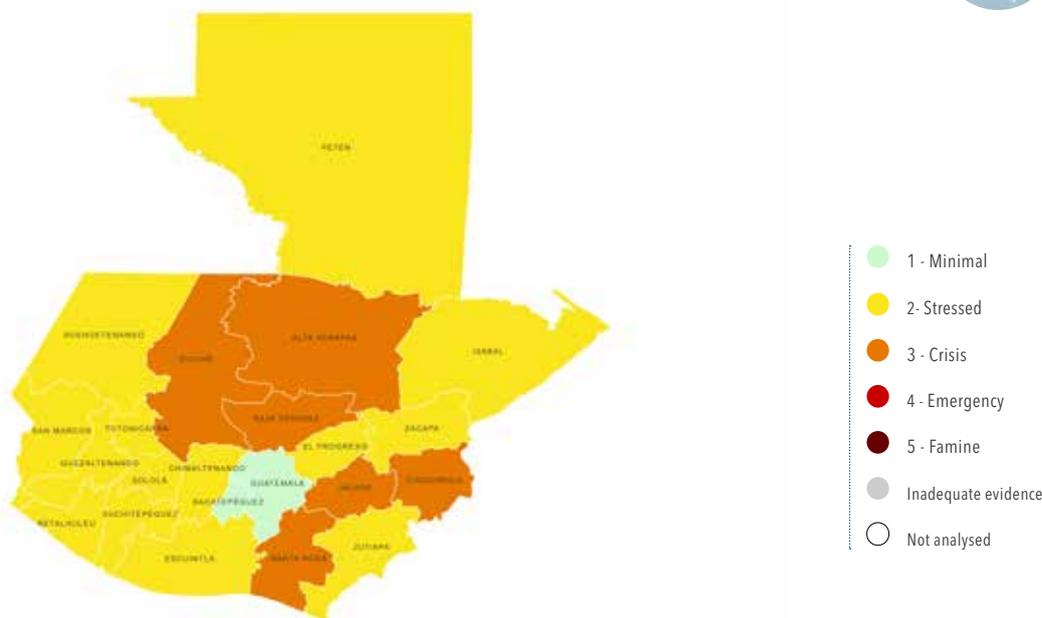
FACTORS DRIVING ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY

Weather extremes

The year 2019 marked the second consecutive year of poor Primera season harvests and particularly high losses for subsistence farmers after the severe drought of 2018 (GEOGLAM, October 2019). In contrast to the previous year when drought affected mostly subsistence production

Map 23

Guatemala, IPC Acute food insecurity situation, March–June 2019



Source: Guatemala IPC Technical Working Group, March 2019

regions, the lower precipitation in the 2019 main season had negative impacts at the national level. The most affected northern departments of Alta Verapaz, Petén and Quiché, which contribute about 40 percent of the main season output, received rainfall that was 20–30 percent below average (FAO-GIEWS, November 2019).

By September, El Progreso, Jutiapa, Zacapa, Chiquimula, Baja Verapaz and Quiché departments of the Dry Corridor were affected by irregular rains, late onset of rains and high temperatures, which resulted in 50 percent losses of the Primera harvest (FEWS NET, August 2019). In central and eastern parts, subsistence farmers' yields were 75 percent below average, while some larger producers in Quiché and Retalhuleu departments reported around 40 percent reductions (GEOGLAM, October 2019).

Improvement in rainfall from mid-September was promising for the Postrera maize and bean harvests, which account for 20 percent of the annual production (FAO-GIEWS, November 2019) but June–August irregular rainfall and excess humidity in October resulted in low yields in Guija and Chorti micro-regions (IPC, December 2019). Thus, below-average overall aggregate maize production was anticipated for 2019 (FAO-GIEWS, November 2019).

Heavy rains in September caused flooding and landslides, and led to localized crop damages in Chiquimula, Escuintla, Jutiapa, Quetzaltenango and Retalhuleu departments (FEWS NET, October 2019). By November, almost 1.3 million

people nationwide had been affected by the rains with reported injuries, evacuations and damages to infrastructure (CONRED, November 2019).

In the first half of 2019, around 12 000 people were newly displaced by disasters. Between May and November excessive rains were responsible for over 5 000 displacements with many of them in need of shelter and food assistance (IDMC, January 2020).

Economic shocks

The poorest families in the Dry Corridor areas faced low incomes during April–May (FEWS NET, April 2019), and the situation remained the same towards the end of the year for subsistence farming families who had lost their Primera harvest. Their dependency on markets increased, they had to adopt consumption-based coping strategies and to consider atypical migration patterns (FEWS NET, October 2019; IPC, December 2019). In March, the minimum wage covered about 80 percent of a basic food basket while staple food prices remained more or less stable (FEWS NET, April 2019). Maize prices peaked during June–July before dropping to earlier levels by October, reflecting the seasonal pattern. The price of black beans however increased slightly from August (FAO-GIEWS, November 2019).

The coffee harvest represents a main source of labour for over 500 000 people dependent on work as small producers and/or cutters in the coffee industry in 204 out of 340

municipalities (IPC, December 2019). Coffee input costs increased and negatively affected production (FEWS NET, August 2019) lowering incomes for coffee-dependent families (FEWS NET, October 2019).

Insecurity

From January–May 2019, an average of 13 murders per day were recorded and gang-related violence is high. Overall, violence creates significant protection issues, especially for women, and poses a major constraint for humanitarian access (REDLAC, April 2019). The levels of violence, deficits of basic services and poverty continued to cause large groups to migrate to the United States or Mexico, although new border security measures and increasingly hostile immigration and asylum-seeking legislation and policies were of high concern for all Central American migrants (ACAPS, December 2019).

Insecurity and eviction of indigenous communities associated with large-scale business activities also drove internal displacement (IACHR, July 2018).

NUTRITION OVERVIEW

While acute malnutrition prevalence is very low (below 5 percent during March–June 2019 (IPC, March 2019),

stunting is very high with 46.5 percent of children below 5 years short for their age. District-level differences in stunting levels are wide, reaching 70 percent in some departments (DHS, 2014–15).

The Ministry of Health reported an increase in acute malnutrition in August (FEWS NET, August 2019). While the causes were not defined, the vulnerability of the population and infectious diseases undoubtedly played a role (FEWS NET, October 2019). Coverage of health services is poor and unequal, and is one of the biggest challenges in the country (PAHO WHO, 2020). Since July the country experienced an outbreak of dengue, which was worsened by the floods and heavy rains during the same period. Almost 40 600 cases were reported at national level from January to October 2019 (PAHO WHO, 2019). In addition, an increase in diarrhoeal diseases likely due to drinking untreated water also affected the population (IPC, December 2019).

General underlying causes of malnutrition include inadequate diets (52 percent of children aged 6–23 months consumed a minimum acceptable diet in 2014–15 (DHS, 2014–15)), morbidity, limited ability to acquire sufficient quantities and quality of food, limited purchasing power, poor access to services, limited household-level food production and knowledge gaps regarding nutrition (WFP, October 2017).

Country profile

Haiti



ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY

2019

Total population of country **11.3M**



Population analysed **10.5M** (93% of total population, not including displaced populations)

3.7M IPC Phase 3 or above in October 2019–February 2020



3.2M IPC Phase 2 **Stressed**

2018-19 Change

Poor economic and security conditions compounded by climate shocks and the long-term impact of natural disasters **worsened** food insecurity.



2020 Forecast

Food insecurity forecast to **increase** as the worsening economy and civil unrest are likely to deepen food insecurity during the lean season.



HHSI WRS 2018 HAITI IPC TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP OCTOBER 2019

NUTRITION INDICATORS

65 500 children under 5 years are acutely **malnourished**.
21.9% of children under 5 years are **stunted**.

HMO 2020 DHS 2016-17



25.4% of children 6–23 months meet the recommended **dietary diversity** requirement.
39.9% of children under 6 months are exclusively **breastfed**.

DHS 2016-17 DHS 2016-17



49% of children under 5 years and **66.3%** of women 15–49 years are **anaemic**.
65% of households have access to at least basic **drinking water** services.

DHS 2016-17 JMP 2017

DRIVERS OF FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION

Economic shocks **Weather extremes** **Conflict/insecurity**

- ▶ Currency depreciation and high inflation as well as reduced cereal production and low market availability increased staple prices.
- ▶ Work opportunities became scarcer for poor households both in rural and urban areas.
- ▶ Aggregate cereal output was expected to be 12 percent below year-earlier levels.
- ▶ Violent political demonstrations severely disrupted markets and livelihoods in urban area.
- ▶ Civil strife disrupted humanitarian access and basic services.
- ▶ Although chronic malnutrition is more of a public health concern than acute at the national level a sizeable number of under fives needed treatment for acute malnutrition in drought-affected areas. Very few (11%) children receive a diet that meets the minimum acceptable level of quality and quantity for growth and development.

DISPLACEMENT

34 500 were **internally displaced**, slightly down from 38 000 in March 2018.
302 100 of those internally displaced by the 2010 earthquake have **returned**.

IOM JAN 2019 IOM JAN 2019



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Unable to attend school because of the socio economic unrest, 14-year-old Bevalie Jean-Jacques stays at home to help her single-parent mother, who is struggling to make a living by selling the vegetables that they grow on their smallholding.

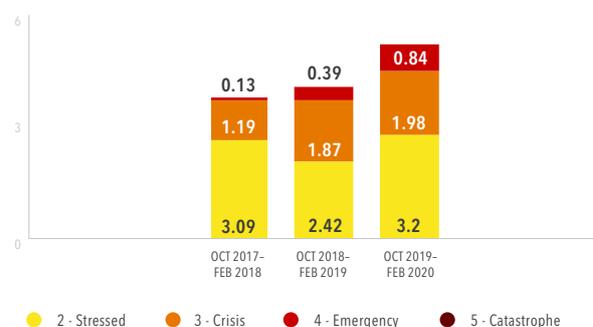
BACKGROUND

Haiti has slowly recovered from the 2010 earthquake and from 2016 hurricane Matthew, but more than 96 percent of the population is exposed to natural hazards (OCHA, January 2019, WB, October 2019). Around 25 percent of the population lives under the international poverty line (WB, December 2019). In February, violent anti-government protests and road-blocks gravely affected economic activities and public services (OCHA, June 2019). From March Haiti had no government and civil unrest re-emerged in September (UNSC, October 2019).

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY OVERVIEW

Around 3.7 million people – 35 percent of the population analysed – were food insecure (IPC Phase 3 or above) and in need of urgent assistance in the last quarter of 2019, including over 1 million in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). Moreover, 3.2 million people were in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) during that period (IPC, October 2019).¹ This marked an increase of almost 600 000 in rural areas since the same period a

Figure 50
Number of people (millions) in IPC Phase 2 or above in 2017-2020



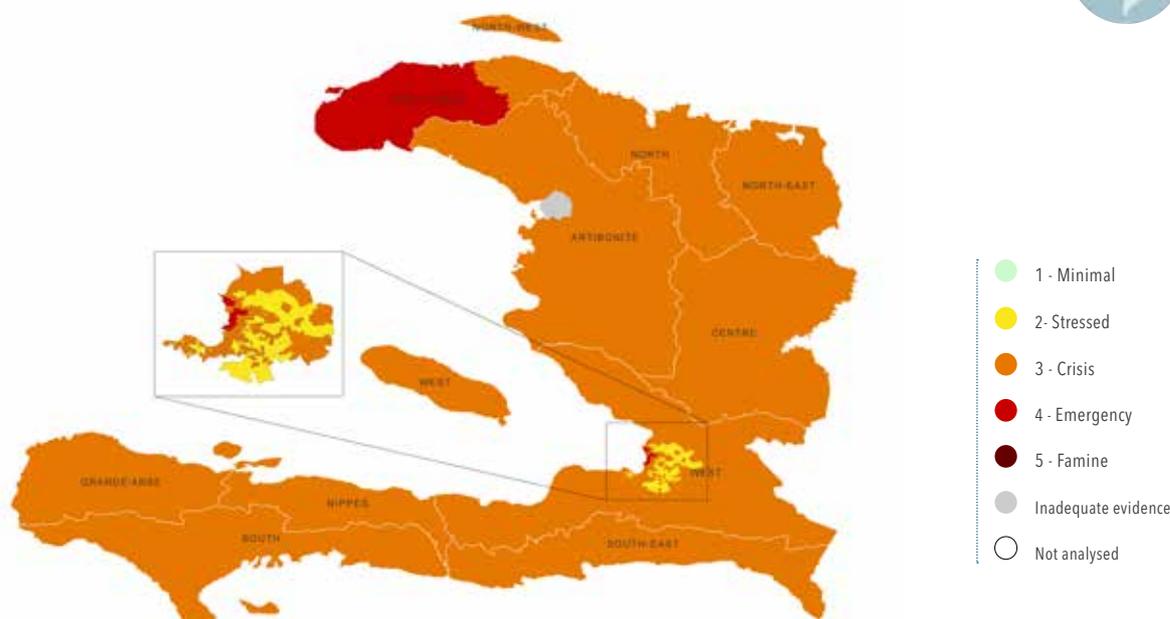
Note: These figures represent IPC numbers for rural areas only to allow comparability.

Source: Haiti IPC Technical Working Group

¹ FEWS NET's analysis suggests the population requiring emergency food assistance in 2019 was lower than the IPC estimate. See <https://fews.net/central-america-and-caribbean/haiti>

Map 24

Haiti, IPC Acute food insecurity situation, October 2019–February 2020



Source: Haiti IPC Technical Working Group, October 2019

year earlier, including an increase of more than 400 000 in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). Between late 2018 and late 2019, the low areas of Nord-Ouest remained in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and the very poor districts of Cité Soleil were classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) in October 2019. Four rural areas (in Artibonite, Nippes and Grande Anse) had 45–50 percent of their population in IPC Phase 3 or above. Four urban areas had up to 40 percent in IPC Phase 3 or above (IPC, October 2019).

The situation was already precarious at the beginning of the year when around 2.26 million people were acutely food insecure (IPC Phase 3 or above). It deteriorated to 2.63 million people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) during the lean season in March–June 2019 (IPC, December 2018).

FACTORS DRIVING ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY

Economic shocks

The Haitian Gourde depreciated by 35 percent against the US dollar between October 2018 and 2019 (FAO, December 2019), which triggered high inflation (23 percent year-on-year in October). Direct foreign investments, which fell by 78 percent in 2018, continued falling following the February civil strife (FEWS NET, June 2019). The lack of government compounded the situation with financing from international organizations blocked (FEWS NET, September 2019). Between 2018 and

2019, the national growth rate was reportedly the lowest since 2010, the year of the earthquake, prompting a rise in urban unemployment (IPC, October 2019).

In October, rice prices – mostly sourced from the international market – were at record or near-record highs despite sustained imports in the third quarter of 2019. Prices of local maize meal were on average about 50 percent higher than their year-earlier levels, and in the capital Port-au-Prince, they almost doubled compared to the October 2018 levels (FAO, December 2019).

In rural areas the most vulnerable households lacked agricultural work opportunities – because of high labour costs and limited resources of farmers (FEWS NET, April 2019) – and faced high food prices. They resorted to negative coping strategies and alternative sources of income such as migration, petty trade or selling charcoal (FEWS NET, March 2019).

Weather extremes

The El Niño phenomenon, which resulted in rainfall deficits and dryness in 2018, continued until mid-2019, affecting the main agricultural season for the second season running, particularly in the main producing areas in Ouest, Sud and Sud-Est (FAO, July 2019).

Combined with high production costs resulting from currency depreciation and high inflation, the 2019/2020 prospects for

Map 25

Haiti, IPC Acute food insecurity situation, March–June 2019



Source: Haiti IPC Technical Working Group, December 2018

aggregate cereal output (maize, rice and sorghum) decreased by an estimated 12 percent compared with the previous year (IPC, October 2019). From August–November, rainfall deficits and localized floods affected autumn harvest prospects (FEWS NET, October 2019).

Conflict and insecurity

Social unrest intensified from August 2018. In February, the growing demand for political reforms and better living conditions led to almost two weeks of demonstrations, which turned violent in some areas, blocked economic activities, and resulted in major market and livelihood disruptions in urban areas, such as Port-au-Prince, Cap Haïtien, Gonaïves, and Les Cayes (FEWS NET, February 2019).

In September, Haitians again took to the streets to protest against the lack of government and lack of fuel (FEWS NET, September 2019). Barricades, insecurity and high fuel prices hindered movement of people and goods, which reduced market supplies and increased food prices (IPC, October 2019).

Rural traders could not access markets, sell their products or buy supplies, while the poorest households faced limited income-earning opportunities because of restrictions on urban migration and petty trade (FEWS NET, October 2019).

Some humanitarian organizations had to suspend operations due to security concerns and lack of fuel (ACAPS, October 2019).

NUTRITION OVERVIEW

In 2019 an estimated 39 000 children under 5 years in drought-affected areas were acutely malnourished, 13 000 severely so, and in need of nutrition interventions (OCHA, 2019). Nationally, under-5 GAM rates were 'low' at 3.7 percent but stunting rates 'high' at 21.9 percent (Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population, July 2018).

Just one child in 10 consumes the minimum acceptable diet needed for growth and development, and one in four has minimum acceptable dietary diversity (MSPP, July 2018).

Anaemia affects 66.3 percent of children aged 6–59 months, indicating a moderate concern, while almost half (49.0 percent) of women of reproductive age are anaemic, classified as high (MSPP, July 2018).

Access to drinking water was a concern for malnutrition with just 65 percent of households having at least basic drinking water (WHO and UNICEF 2017).

Between 2010 and 9 November 2019 Haiti had around 820 450 suspected cholera cases – though the number fell from 3 777 in 2018 to 674 in 2019 (ECDC, November 2019).

High healthcare costs were the main reason for 58 percent of families with sick or injured members not seeking medical care (MSPP, July 2018). In 2019 hospitals and health centres closed because of access constraints, lack of medical supplies and staff (ACAPS, October 2019).

Country profile **Honduras** 

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY
2019

Total population of country **9.7M**



Population analysed **5.1M** (53% of total population)

1M IPC Phase 3 or above in November 2019–February 2020

787 100 IPC Phase 3 **Crisis** **176 800** IPC Phase 4 **Emergency**

1.8M IPC Phase 2 **Stressed**

2018-19 Change 

The food security situation **deteriorated** due to effects of the intense drought in 2018 and severe crop losses. 

2020 Forecast 

Numbers are forecast to **increase** due to increase in staple grain prices, lower than normal grain stocks for poor households, early start of lean season, lower activity in coffee sector and depleted household assets and coping strategies. 

UN DESA WRS 2018 HONDURAS IPC TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP NOVEMBER 2019

NUTRITION INDICATORS

1.4% of children under 5 years are acutely **malnourished**, of whom **0.3%** of them are affected by SAM. **22.6%** of children under 5 years are **stunted**.

DHS 2011-12 DHS 2011-12

67.7% of children 6-23 months meet the recommended **dietary diversity** requirement. **31.2%** of children under 6 months are exclusively **breastfed**.

DHS 2011-12 DHS 2011-12

31.4% of children under 5 years and **17.8%** of women 15-49 years are **anaemic**. **95%** of households have access to at least basic **drinking water** services.

WHO 2016 JMP 2017

DRIVERS OF FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION

 **Weather extremes**  **Economic shocks**  **Conflict/insecurity**

- ▶ A prolonged widespread drought during the main agriculture season led to a near total crop failure, livestock deaths and water scarcity in major cities.
- ▶ Structural issues including high levels of poverty and lack of economic opportunities, poor public services causing vulnerability to food and nutrition insecurity.

- ▶ Rapid deterioration of livelihoods and assets.
- ▶ Lower international coffee prices in 2019 increased economic difficulties for hiring manual labour for harvest, affecting rural labourers and farmers.
- ▶ Outmigration is linked to insecurity, lack of economic opportunities and food insecurity.

DISPLACEMENT

174 000 were **internally displaced** at the end of 2018. 

IOM/HR JUN 2019



HONDURAS

In the face of high levels of poverty and inequality as well as increasing climate shocks, inequitable access to land, insufficient food production and high unemployment, subsistence farming families work hard to diversify their sources of income.

BACKGROUND

During recent years Honduras has registered the second highest economic growth rates in Central America, only behind Panama (WB, October 2019). Despite an improvement in economic output and decrease in public debt in recent years, high levels of poverty exist and inequality is among the highest in the region and the world. While the poverty rate fell from around 61 percent to 53 percent between 2005 and 2017, the extreme poverty rate was over 17 percent, the highest rate in Latin American countries after Haiti (WB, October 2019). It is vastly exposed to natural adverse events and climate change, especially heavy and irregular rainfall and long periods of drought in the southern and western regions of the country, known as the Dry Corridor, leading to major crop losses that disproportionately affect the poor (WB, October 2019).

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY OVERVIEW

Almost 1 million people were estimated to be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in November 2019–February 2020, representing 18 percent of the 5.1 million people living in the analysed areas. Among those, 176 800 were in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). Around 1.8 million were in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) (IPC, December 2019).

However, it must be noted that three departments (Gracias a Dios, the central district of urban Francisco Morazán, Cortes and Atlántida) could not be analysed, the first because of lack of access and in the others data was not collected, so the actual number of acutely food-insecure people was likely higher than this (IPC, December 2019).

Of the 13 departments analysed, the situation was most severe in the seven areas classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), namely El Paraíso, Francisco Morazán (except central district), Intibucá, La Paz, Copán, Choluteca and Valle. The greatest number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) was in Choluteca with about 117 000, El Paraíso (99 000) and Olancho (97 000).

All areas analysed included between 2–6 percent of the population in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) (IPC, December 2019). The households most at risk of acute food insecurity were

Map 26

Honduras, IPC Acute food insecurity situation, November 2019–February 2020



Source: Honduras IPC Technical Working Group, December 2019

wage labourers and subsistence farmers, especially those in highly marginalized communities with difficult road and market access and those headed by women.

A comparative analysis for the Copan region which was also analysed earlier in the year showed an improvement in late 2019 compared to the March–June 2019 period, when around 288 000 people were classified in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above), compared to 240 000 in November 2019–February 2020 (IPC, February 2019, IPC, December 2019).

FACTORS DRIVING ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY

Weather extremes

In August the government declared a national state of emergency over drought, and the particular need to provide support to communities in approximately 100 municipalities in the central, eastern and southern parts of the country (FEWS NET, October 2019).

Rainfall amounts during June–August were more than 25 percent lower than the 29-year average in several maize-producing departments (FAO-GIEWS, October 2019). The low, sporadic rainfall resulted in 70–100 percent losses of the August–September Primera (main) maize harvest in eastern and southern parts.

In the areas where subsistence agriculture is dominant losses were above 85 percent. Nationally the losses were estimated at around 50 percent for maize, 25 percent for beans and 27 percent for rice with the greatest losses concentrated in the main-producing municipalities of Olancho and El Paraíso as well as Valle, the northern part of Choluteca, the south-western part of Francisco Morazán and the southern part of La Paz (FEWS NET, October 2019).

Rainfall amounts increased from mid-September, reducing soil moisture deficits and easing planting operations, so the minor season maize harvest in December was likely to be above-average. However, the aggregate maize crop in 2019 was anticipated to be below-average at 470 000 tonnes since the main season harvest accounts for about 80 percent of annual production. A large number of livestock also died due to forage and water deficits in Olancho department (FAO-GIEWS, October 2019)

This marks the second consecutive year of poor Primera season harvests and particularly high losses for subsistence farmers across the Dry Corridor, after the severe drought of 2018 (Crop Monitor, October 2019).

High temperatures and dry conditions also induced forest fires and pest outbreaks, further affecting crop production. During October heavy rainfall triggered flooding and landslides in western Honduras, affecting 700 people, destroying 100 houses and damaging several roads (ECHO, October 2019).

Poor soil conditions, over exploitation of forest resources, degraded lands, small plots, and lack of access to credit, agricultural supplies and technical assistance drive agricultural productivity and profitability further down (WFP, January 2020).

Economic shocks

Vulnerable subsistence farming families who lost their primera harvest crops needed a regular income to buy their food supplies in markets but employment opportunities were scarce and income not sufficient, so they were likely to resort to coping strategies such as money or grain borrowing and migration to urban areas (FEWS NET, October 2019). For instance, many poor households depend on work as small producers and/or cutters in the coffee industry. But the 2019 decline in international coffee prices hit coffee growers in western Honduras hard and depressed the demand for wage labourers (IPC, December 2019).

Domestic prices of white maize increased from the beginning of 2019 to September when they started to decline with the commercialization of supplies from the main season harvests. Prices of red beans were on the rise since May 2019, following seasonal trends. In September 2019, they were higher than a year earlier, reflecting reduced minor season outputs (FAO-GIEWS, October 2019).

Insecurity

Criminal actors generate widespread human rights violations (threats and intimidation, homicides, extortion, trafficking, kidnappings, child recruitment and sexual and gender-based violence). Recent human rights reports show that the current fear and insecurity among the civilian population can be compared with that experienced in armed conflicts (NRC, June 2019).

Despite a downward trend in recent years, the country's murder rate continues to be among the highest in the world (HRW, January 2020). Civil riots and protests lead to confrontations between military forces and civilians (UN, June 2019).

Gang-related violence, poverty and lack of education opportunities are causing thousands of children and families to flee their homes. Without access to protection and safe migration pathways, most are forced onto dangerous routes where they are at risk from violence, exploitation and abuse (UNICEF, April 2019).

NUTRITION OVERVIEW

Data on child nutrition in Honduras is quite outdated. According to the latest available figures, it has 'high' levels of children chronic malnutrition, which affects 22.6 percent of children under 5 years of age (DHS, 2011–12). The rate for acute malnutrition in 2011–12 was 'very low.' The rate for exclusive breastfeeding of infants was low at 31.2 percent (DHS, 2011–12). The most recent anaemia (WHO, 2016) rates – with 31.4 percent of children aged 6–59 months anaemic, indicating a moderate public health problem – suggests that children's diets may not contain adequate micronutrients.

People in Honduras have generally good access to an improved water source (93 percent). However, the difference between rural and urban areas is still wide at 14 percentage points, as almost all (99 percent) urban populations have access to improved water compared to 86 percent of rural people (JMP, 2017). Around 88 percent of people have access to improved sanitation and 7 percent practice open defecation, rising to 14 percent of the rural population (JMP, 2017).

In 2019, a dengue epidemic and diarrhoeal diseases – likely due to untreated water consumption and water scarcity in some areas – reached alarming levels. By October 2019 there were 86 705 cases of dengue, 20 percent of which were potentially lethal. There were also 197 cases of Cikungunya and 217 cases of Zika.

Country profile

Iraq



ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY 2019

Total population of country **39.3M**



Population analysed **39.3M** (100% of total population)

1.8M food-insecure people in need of assistance
Jan-Dec 2019

Data not available for marginally food-insecure people

2018-19 Change

The numbers in need of urgent humanitarian assistance, including for food and livelihoods, **fell**, but many groups remained vulnerable, facing protracted displacement and political volatility.

2020 Forecast

Conditions for refugees remain highly precarious amidst severe livelihood losses, refugee camp closures, and limited access to humanitarian assistance.

NUTRITION INDICATORS

Host population

2.5% of children under 5 years are acutely **malnourished**, of whom **0.8%** are affected by SAM.

9.9% of children under 5 years are **stunted**.

44.6% of children 6-23 months meet the recommended **dietary diversity** requirement.

25.8% of children under 6 months are exclusively **breastfed**.

24.1% of children under 5 years and **29.1%** of women 15-49 years are **anaemic**.

93.1% of households have access to at least basic **drinking water** services.

Refugee population

2% of children under 5 years in Duhok, **3.1%** in Erbil and **1.2%** in Sulaymaniyah are acutely **malnourished**.

13.9% of children under 5 years in Duhok, **13.8%** in Erbil, and **13.8%** in Sulaymaniyah are **stunted**.

DRIVERS OF FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION

Conflict/insecurity **Economic shocks** **Natural hazards**

- ▶ The security situation remained fragile, hampering displaced people's safe returns.
- ▶ Some 78 percent of nearly 1.5 million IDPs have been displaced for more than three years, competing for scarce work with host communities.
- ▶ Although return rates have slowed, around a million returnees grapple with resilience and recovery needs and face a lack of livelihoods.
- ▶ From October protests, corruption, unemployment and poor services became violent and further complicated the humanitarian response.
- ▶ Seasonal floods in March caused displacement and affected access to safe water.
- ▶ Child malnutrition rates seem not to be a concern, but exclusive breastfeeding rates are low and only one in three children receives a minimum acceptable diet.

DISPLACEMENT

- ▶ Over **1.4M** people were **internally displaced**.
- ▶ There were **245 800** Syrian **refugees**, up from 233 000 in July 2019.
- ▶ There have been almost **4.5M** IDP **returnees** since 2015.



© UNHCR/RASHED HUSSEIN RASHED

Five years after fleeing her home, Matra Nsayef is trying to rebuild her life in the small agricultural village of Yathreb – once known as the fruit basket of Iraq.

BACKGROUND

December 2019 marked two years since Iraq's military operations against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) ended. During ISIL's 2014–2017 occupation millions were displaced, infrastructure and livelihoods were destroyed, social cohesion eroded and basic services disrupted. The country still faces social, ethnic and sectarian tensions as well as political uncertainty and violence. Iraq is an anomaly of an upper middle-income country at 'very high risk' of a humanitarian crisis requiring international assistance (OCHA, November 2019).

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY OVERVIEW

Out of the 4.1 million people in Iraq in need of humanitarian assistance, about 1.77 million are in acute need of support, including food and livelihoods assistance. More than 816 000 of them are children. Half of those in urgent need are concentrated in only two governorates – Ninewa and Al-Anbar – which host high numbers of returnees. Diyala, Salah Al-Din and Kirkuk governorates also have high numbers of people in acute need of assistance (OCHA, November 2019).

Those directly affected by the 2014–2017 conflict are the most vulnerable. Several population groups find it particularly hard to meet their basic needs or access essential services. These

include IDPs in camps and in out-of-camp locations; recent returnees to areas where humanitarian needs are already high; female- and child-headed households, women and girls; people with perceived affiliations to extremists; victims of physical, mental and psychological violence and people living with disabilities (OCHA, November 2019).

IDPs' food consumption deteriorated in the first four months of 2019: by April 25 percent had inadequate food consumption, up from 8 percent in December 2018. Expenditure share on food purchases increased by 7 percentage points during the same time period (WFP, April 2019). By November over 30 percent of Syrian refugees in Iraq were adopting crisis-level livelihood coping strategies, up from below 10 percent in April (WFP, November 2019).

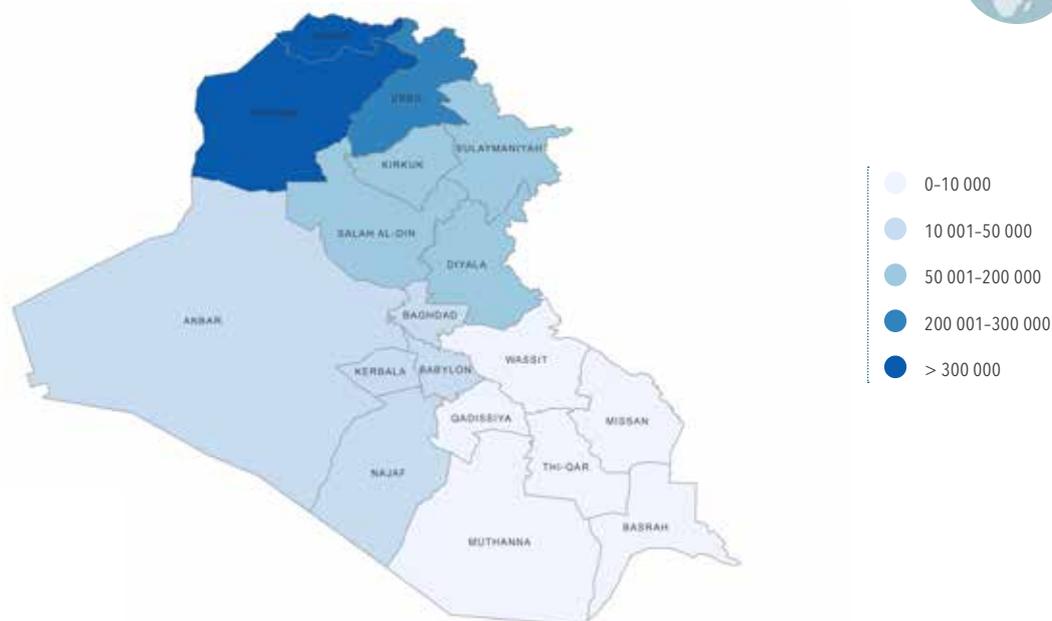
FACTORS DRIVING ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY

Conflict and insecurity

The security situation in Iraq remained unpredictable in 2019. The lack of civil and security control in disputed areas continued to enable non-state actors, including ISIL, to mount small-scale attacks almost weekly in certain governorates. Anti-government demonstrations against corruption, lack of basic services and high unemployment started in Baghdad and Shiite areas in October and later spread to other governorates

Map 27

Iraq, IDPs by governorate of displacement, December 2019



Source: FSIN, based on data extracted from IOM, December 2019

(ACLED, October 2019). By November, violence around the protests had escalated and the prime minister had resigned and by December around 400 people had died (ACLED, December 2019).

The protests and uncertain security affected humanitarian operations. Intermittent curfews were imposed in Baghdad and the southern governorates, resulting in missions being delayed or cancelled. In Ninewa UN agencies and NGOs were unable to carry out relief activities in camps because of delays in getting approvals and access letters (OCHA, November 2019).

By October there were still over 1.4 million IDPs across 18 governorates (IOM, November 2019). Out of 1.2 million people displaced outside of camps, more than two-thirds had not returned to their areas of origin for over three years (OCHA, November 2019). The remaining IDPs in camps include people who are not welcome to return due to unproven affiliations to extremist groups – they often face challenges in accessing assistance (ACAPS, October 2019).

However, some 4.4 million IDPs have returned since 2015 across eight governorates, usually to experience severe hardship (IOM, November 2019). Considerable secondary displacement has resulted from forced and premature returns and forced or coerced departures from camps and informal settlements in Ninewa, Salah Al-Din, Al-Anbar, Kirkuk and Diyala governorates (OCHA, November 2019).

In August the Government of Iraq consolidated and closed several IDP camps with the aim of all displaced people returning home by the end of 2020. Between August and October, on average 222 households left camps every day, many moving to non-camp settings, but 3 300 families transferred to other camps (IOM, October 2019). Many IDPs in out-of-camp locations are cut off from assistance (HNO, November 2019).

In October 2019 a military offensive by Turkey against Kurdish forces in north-east Syria compounded existing insecurity and uncertainty on Iraq’s western border (OCHA, November 2019). Around 19 000 Syrians crossed the border to Iraq between mid-October and December 2019 (IOM, January 2020).

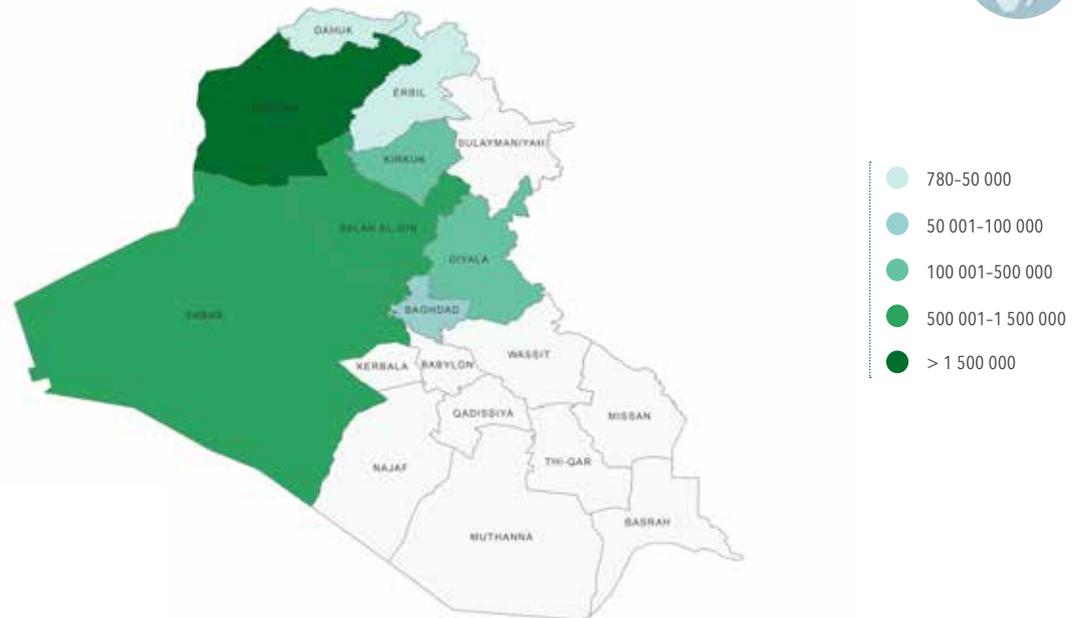
Insecurity and displacement continued to constrain farmers’ access to agricultural lands, while agricultural inputs and machinery remained expensive and in short supply (FAO-GIEWS, April 2019), worsening medium-term food security prospects. Even though the agricultural sector is small, it still plays a role in Iraq’s economy (FAO, January 2020).

Economic shocks

Iraq’s economy is slowly recovering, with GDP expected to grow 5 percent in 2019 mainly due to higher oil prices and better security (WB, October 2019). But progress on reconstruction and development is slow and much of the infrastructure damaged or destroyed (OCHA, November 2019).

Map 28

Iraq, IDP returns by governorate of return, December 2019



Source: FSIN, based on data extracted from IOM, December 2019

At nearly 49 percent the labour force participation rate is one of the lowest in the world, especially for women (12 percent) and 15–24 year-old youth (26 percent). The unemployment rate has increased beyond the 2012 level to 9.9 percent in 2017/18, but was nearly 21 percent for women. Underutilization is particularly high among IDPs, with almost 24 percent unemployed or underemployed (WB, April 2019).

The poor performance of the agricultural sector and lack of rural employment have driven migration to urban areas where people face poor public service delivery and increasing poverty (FAO, January 2020).

Even though physical market access for IDPs and returnees was good, they were often unable to buy essential goods because their monthly income was lower than the basic needs threshold (MCNA, December 2019). Based on WFP price data, cereal prices remained stable during 2019 except for rice, which peaked in March before dropping. Bread prices peaked in August (WFP, December 2019).

Weather extremes and natural disasters

Heavy rains during March/April caused flooding in several governorates with Salah al-Din, Bara and Missan the worst-affected. Floods caused temporary displacement and disrupted clean water supplies in some areas (OCHA, May 2019), affecting an estimated 273 000 people in central and southern governorates overall (USAID, June 2019). However, the 2019 cereal harvest was favourable – estimated at

5.6 million tonnes, over 80 percent above the 2018 harvest and 30 percent above the five-year-average (FAO-GIEWS, December 2019).

NUTRITION OVERVIEW

The 2018 MICS found 'low' prevalence (2.5 percent) of acute malnutrition among children aged 6–59 months. The highest prevalence of 5 percent was found in Najaf and Qadissiyah governorates. Like wasting, stunting was 'low' at 10 percent with the highest levels found in Kirkuk (15 percent) and Thiqr (14.5 percent) (MICS, 2018). Among pregnant and lactating women, only 3 percent were considered as acutely malnourished (CFSVA, 2016).

A very low percentage (25.8 percent) of children under 6 months are exclusively breastfed. Just 34 percent of children aged 6–23 months consume the minimum acceptable diet required for their growth and development (MICS, 2018).

Nationally 93 percent of households have access to at least basic water services, falling to 87 percent in rural areas (MICS, 2018). Access to safe water, however, has been fragile in Basra governorate, which experienced a water crisis in 2018 (HRW, July 2019). Health facilities suffered huge damage during the 2014–2017 conflict with half destroyed in 13 of the 16 assessed cities in Iraq (Word Bank, January 2018). From 1 January through 17 November 2019, Iraq had 1 222 confirmed cases of measles (WHO, November 2019).

Country profile

Kenya



ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY 2019

Total population of country **52.6M**



Population analysed **13.9M** (26% of total population, including IDPs, returnees and refugees)

3.1M IPC Phase 3 or above in August-October 2019

2.7M
IPC Phase 3 **Crisis**

357 000
IPC Phase 4 **Emergency**

6M IPC Phase 2 **Stressed**

2018-19 Change

The number of acutely food-insecure in need of urgent action **increased** by nearly 550 000 people mainly as a result of poor long rains.

2020 Forecast

Conditions are expected to **improve** due to short rains boosting livestock conditions and productivity, although the impact of desert locust infestations on food security had not yet been felt in early 2020.

UN DESA, WB 2018, 2019
KENYA IPC TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP, JULY 2019

NUTRITION INDICATORS

Host population

4% of children under 5 years are acutely **malnourished**, of whom **0.9%** are affected by SAM. DHS 2014

26% of children under 5 years are **stunted**. DHS 2014

36.3% of children 6-23 months meet the recommended **dietary diversity** requirement. DHS 2014

61.4% of children under 6 months are exclusively **breastfed**. DHS 2014

41.1% of children under 5 years and **27.2%** of women 15-49 years are **anaemic**. WHO 2016

59% of households have access to at least basic **drinking water** services. JMP 2017

Refugee population

14 600 children under 5 years are acutely **malnourished**, of whom **2 400** are affected by SAM. SENS 2018

18-27.3% of children under 5 years in 5 camps are **stunted**. SENS 2018

10.5% of households in Kakuma camp and **10.7%** in Dagahaley camp do not consume micronutrient rich food. SENS 2018

62.5-91.2% of children under 6 months in 5 camps are exclusively **breastfed**. SENS 2018

46.7-60.7% of children under 5 years and **27.5-53%** of women 15-49 years in 5 camps are **anaemic**. SENS 2018

99.7-100% of households in 5 camps have access to improved **drinking water** sources. SENS 2018

DRIVERS OF FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION

Weather extremes **Economic shocks** **Conflict/insecurity**

- ▶ Late onset of rains, dry spells and erratic rainfall caused cereal production shortfalls.
- ▶ Pastoral and marginal agricultural areas faced high prevalence of human/animal diseases.
- ▶ Flash floods and landslides disrupted livelihoods, displaced thousands, destroyed farmlands and crops and swept away livestock and irrigation systems, mainly in north-eastern, central and coastal regions.

- ▶ Insecurity, resource-based conflict and cattle rustling limited access to markets and resulted in loss of livestock.
- ▶ High food prices limited purchasing power of low-income households.
- ▶ The drought-related food crisis has lowered milk consumption and increased WASH-related illnesses, contributing to increased child malnutrition rates.

DISPLACEMENT

There were nearly **490 000** **refugees** and **asylum seekers** from Somalia (54%), South Sudan (24%), the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Burundi and the Sudan. UNHCR, DEC 2019



© FAO/UIS/MSD

KENYA

Young Pokot pastoralists milk a cow in the early morning. Years of inter ethnic strife, including armed cattle raids, and the effects of a rapidly changing climate have strained the tradition of resource and knowledge sharing between cross border tribal groups in West Pokot and Turkana in Kenya and Karamoja in Uganda.

BACKGROUND

Though down from 47 percent in 2005/06, more than one in three (36 percent) Kenyans were still living on less than the international poverty line¹ in 2015/16 (WB, October 2018). The most severe conditions exist in the arid and semi-arid drought-prone north, which accounts for 80 percent of the country's land-mass and is often affected by local conflicts. Rapid population growth, climate change, stagnating agricultural production, gender inequalities and underperforming food systems pose significant challenges to food and nutrition security (WFP, August 2019).

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY OVERVIEW

Almost 3.1 million people, representing 22 percent of the population analysed in arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs), were facing Crisis conditions or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) from August–October 2019. This included over 2.7 million in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and 357 000 in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) (IPC, October 2019).

The number of acutely food-insecure people in need of emergency food assistance increased throughout 2019 from

an estimated 1.1 million in February to 1.6 million in May and 2.6 million by July (GoK, 2018 & 2019). Some 43 percent of the population analysed had minimal adequate food consumption and were classified in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) (IPC, October 2019).

In July 2019 most of the acutely food insecure were pastoralist households in Turkana, Mandera, Baringo Wajir, Garissa, Marsabit and Tana River or marginal agricultural and agro-pastoral households in Kitui, Makueni, Kilifi and Meru North. By August these were still the main areas of concern, but with additional acutely food-insecure populations in Isiolo, Tharaka and Samburu (IPC, October 2019).

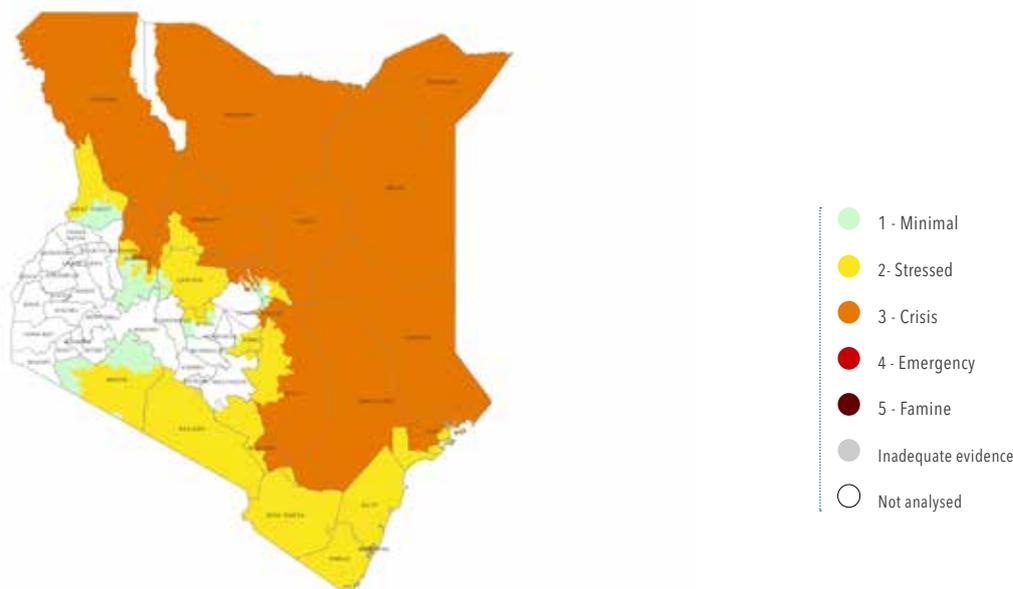
Refugee food insecurity

Refugees in Dadaab and Kakuma camps and Kalobeyei settlement have not been able to diversify their incomes enough to meet their basic needs because of restrictions on animal ownership, movement and formal employment. Refugees in the camps have faced ration cuts of 15–30 percent. The results of SENS 2018 indicated that their monthly food assistance lasted from 14–19 days. From 44–84 percent of refugees in the camps were forced to use one or more negative coping strategies.

¹ USD 1.90 per day in 2011 PPP

Map 29

Kenya, IPC Acute food insecurity situation, August–October 2019



Source: Kenya IPC Technical Working Group, October 2019

FACTORS DRIVING ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY

Weather extremes

The delayed onset of the March–May long rains for the second consecutive season and widespread drought led to poor crop and livestock production. With a significantly reduced planted area compared to the previous year, the long rains maize production outlook was estimated at 20 percent below the 2018 bumper harvest and 10 percent below the average 2016 harvest. In agropastoral and marginal agricultural areas of central, south-eastern and coastal Kenya, the long rains maize harvest, which finished in August, was estimated at about 50–60 percent below average, with a near failure of it reported in south-eastern areas (Crop Monitor, September 2019).

High prevalence of animal diseases in pastoral and marginal agricultural areas were reported (GoK, March 2019). Despite an improvement in rainfall towards the end of May, significant moisture deficits prevailed throughout the season, resulting in poor livestock conditions, limited milk production, atypical migration patterns and competition over natural resources (FAO-GIEWS, June 2019).

In unimodal high potential agricultural areas of Trans Nzoia, Uasin Gishu and Nakuru, delayed and erratic rains affected maize crop developments during the early planting and germination stages (FEWS NET, May 2019). The unimodal long

rains maize production was 25 percent below the five-year average (FAO, 2019).

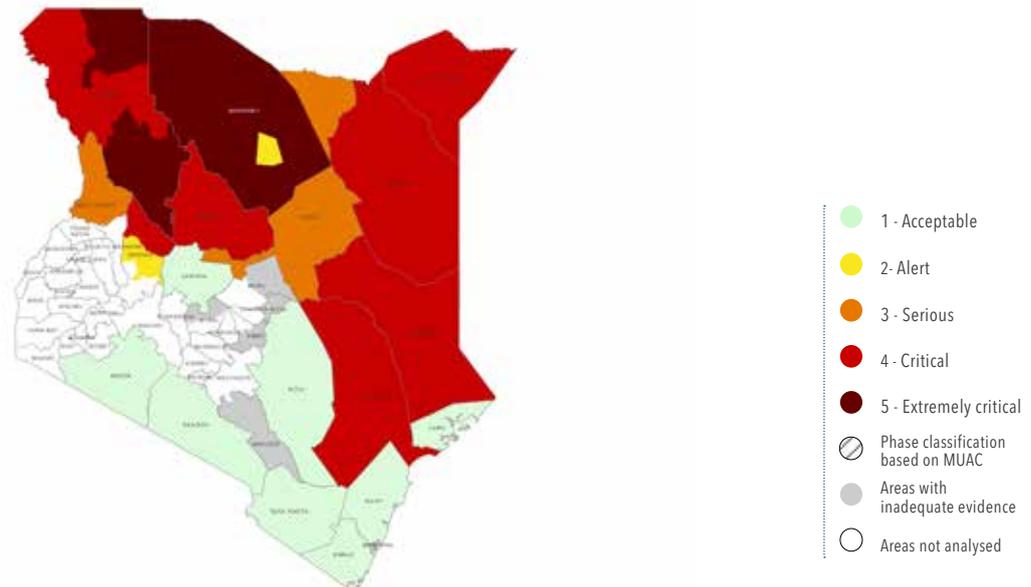
The short October–December rains were above average in many areas, favouring crop production in south-east and coastal areas and regenerating pasture and rangelands, allowing many to recover from the 2018/2019 drought (FEWS NET, 2019). However, these rains caused devastating flash floods and landslides that disrupted livelihoods, displaced thousands, destroyed farmlands and crops and swept away livestock, irrigation systems, roads, houses, health clinics and sanitation services, mainly in north-eastern, central and coastal regions. Up to 160 000 people in 31 counties were affected and 18 000 displaced (OCHA, November 2019).

Conflict/ insecurity

Deteriorated forage and water resources during the first half of 2019 led to atypical livestock migration resulting in increased resource-based conflicts over grazing rights and access to water resources in Meru North, Kitui, Samburu, Turkana, West Pokot, Marsabit, Tana River, Garissa, Isiolo and Nyeri counties. This however subsided with the October–December rains when livestock returned to their traditional grazing lands (FEWS NET, August 2019). Periodic cattle rustling led to increased tensions, loss of livestock and limited access to markets. Sporadic terrorist attacks against civilians and state security forces by Al Shabaab affected trade and commodity movements in counties bordering Somalia (RoK, 2019).

Map 30

Kenya, IPC Acute malnutrition situation, August–October 2019



Source: Kenya IPC Technical Working Group, October 2019

Economic shocks

Staple food prices remained high and increased across the country from March–October, which limited household purchasing power and constrained household food access. In September maize prices ranged from 12–31 percent above average in marginal agricultural reference markets and up to 24 percent above average in pastoral reference markets.

In the marginal agricultural areas of Kwale and Tharaka Nithi the casual labour wage-to-maize terms of trade was 23–25 percent below the five-year average (FEWS NET, October 2019). Across several pastoral markets, goat prices were below average, driven by poor livestock body conditions. The goat-to-maize terms of trade were 12–20 below average in West Pokot, Wajir, and Isiolo and 37–43 percent below average in Mandera and Garissa (FEWS NET, October 2019).

NUTRITION OVERVIEW

The nutrition situation deteriorated in several counties from February–July 2019. Laisamis, Turkana South and North were classified in Extremely Critical (IPC Phase 5). North Horr, Turkana Central and West, Mandera, Wajir, Garissa and Tiati in Baringo county were in Critical (IPC Phase 4); two counties were in Serious (IPC Phase 3) (IPC, July 2019). An estimated 541 309 children (6–59 months) required treatment for GAM in 2019, including 113 941 for SAM (UNICEF, March 2019).

Poor food availability (including low milk production and consumption) and increasing food prices are among the drivers of this high prevalence of acute malnutrition. Limited access to health and nutrition services following a scale-down of integrated outreaches in some areas such as Laisamis in Marsabit are also contributory factors. High morbidity, poor child-feeding practices, poverty, high illiteracy and poor infrastructure aggravate the problem (IPC, July 2019).

By the end of the year 5 150 cholera cases had been reported with the outbreak still active in Garissa, Wajir, Turkana and Kirinyaga counties (European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, accessed 27 January 2019). In the first half of the year, 418 measles cases were reported across Wajir, Tana River, Kilifi and Kwale counties. In September 425 suspected cases were reported in Kajiado county and in December a new outbreak was reported in Pokot North (WHO, January 2020).

Refugee nutrition status

The prevalence of GAM among under-5s was 12.7 percent in Kakuma, 9.3 percent in Kalobeyei and 8 percent in Dadaab camps in December 2018. The prevalence of stunting averaged 22.6 percent in Kakuma and Dadaab refugee camps. The high prevalence of anaemia (>40 percent among children aged 6–59 months and non-pregnant women aged 15–49 years) remained a key concern in these two camps. Nearly 11 percent of households were not consuming micronutrient-rich foods in Kakuma and Dagahaley camps (SENS, 2018).

Country profile

Lesotho



ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY

2019

Total population of country **2.3M**



Population analysed **1.5M** (63% of total population, NOT including IDPs, returnees and refugees)

433 000 IPC Phase 3 or above in October 2019–March 2020

362 000 IPC Phase 3 **Crisis** **71 000** IPC Phase 4 **Emergency**

553 000 IPC Phase 2 **Stressed**

2018-19 Change

Another year of reduced harvests increased households' market reliance while income earning opportunities fell and prices soared, maintaining high levels of food insecurity.

2020 Forecast

Unchanged/increase. Continuing dry-weather conditions could result in a poor 2020 harvest, worsening food insecurity.

NUTRITION INDICATORS

2.1% of children under 5 years are acutely **malnourished**, of whom **0.8%** are affected by SAM.

34.5% of children under 5 years are **stunted**.

18.6% of children 6–23 months meet the recommended **dietary diversity** requirement.

59% of children under 6 months are exclusively **breastfed**.

50.4% of children under 5 years and **27.4%** of women 15–49 years are **anaemic**.

79.4% of households have access to at least basic **drinking water** services.

DRIVERS OF FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION

Weather extremes Economic shocks

- ▶ Rainfall deficits caused a decrease in staple food production for the second consecutive year.
- ▶ The poor harvests reduced households' food supplies and income-generating opportunities in a country reliant on agricultural labour.

- ▶ Higher prices of staple cereal products diminished households' capacity to access food.
- ▶ Smallholders have limited use of irrigation, improved seed, fertilizers and pesticides, contributing to low yields and widespread rural poverty.

- ▶ Chronic malnutrition among under 5s is a greater concern than acute malnutrition and is mainly driven by children having diets that are severely lacking in nutritional diversity.

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Unpredictable weather conditions have reduced productivity in a country where more than 70 percent of the population works in agriculture. Makhomo, a 68-year-old widow from Boleka village, has experienced the impact of drought firsthand.

BACKGROUND

Half of the population lives in poverty, rising to 61 percent or 801 000 people in rural areas. Some 31 percent of rural Basotho live in extreme poverty.¹ Unemployment is estimated at 28 percent overall and 43 percent among youths aged 15–24. About 71 percent of the population is involved in some form of agricultural work, mainly low productivity subsistence agriculture and/or low-paying agricultural jobs. Smallholders have limited use of irrigation, improved seed, fertilizers and pesticides, contributing to low yields and widespread rural poverty. Climate change and environmental shocks are major challenges, especially frequent droughts and heavy seasonal floods (WB, December 2019).

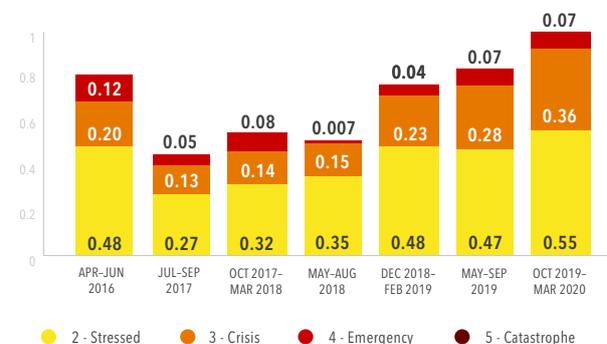
ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY OVERVIEW

An estimated 433 000 people – representing 30 percent of the population analysed – were assessed to be facing acute food insecurity in the October 2019–March 2020 period, with all areas of the country classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3).

¹ The extreme poverty line is based on a food basket required to achieve the minimum daily calorie requirement of 2 700 kilocalories (kcal) per adult equivalent per day.

Figure 51

Number of people (millions) in IPC Phase 2 or above in 2016–2020



Source: Lesotho IPC Technical Working Group

Map 31

Lesotho, IPC Acute food insecurity situation, October 2019–March 2020



Source: Lesotho IPC Technical Working Group, July 2019

Out of this total number, an estimated 362 000 people were classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and 71 000 in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) meaning they needed urgent action to save lives and livelihoods. Approximately 553 000 people faced Stressed (IPC Phase 2) conditions and were in need of longer-term resilience-building and livelihood protection measures (IPC, July 2019).

Compared to the acute food insecurity peak in December 2018, when 274 000 people needed urgent humanitarian food assistance, the number of people facing Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) conditions increased by 58 percent (IPC, November 2018).

FACTORS DRIVING ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY

Weather extremes

Lesotho experienced extreme rainfall deficits between October 2018 and January 2019 (FAO-GIEWS, December 2019). The Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) at the beginning of February was about 60–90 percent below normal (FEWS NET, February 2019).

The area planted for maize for 2018/19 dropped nationwide and was significantly lower than the past four years (LVAC, July 2019). Maize production, which accounts for the bulk of

the national cereal output, was estimated at about 35 000 tonnes, over 60 percent below the previous five-year average (FAO-GIEWS, December 2019). Compared with the previous year, 2018/19 maize production decreased by 73 percent, wheat by 61 percent and sorghum by 93 percent (LVAC, July 2019).

Although the overall availability of maize, the key food staple, remained stable as domestic supplies were buttressed by imports from South Africa, the harvest shortfalls led to food gaps for many rural households (BSO, 2018).

At the district level, there was a significant decrease in cereal production in southern Qacha's Nek (LVAC, July 2019), due to extreme rainfall deficits at the start of the cropping season. As a result of the steep production decline almost 10 percent of the district's population was classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) (IPC, July 2019).

Overall, 39 percent of households own livestock, rising to 60 percent in Mokhotlong, 59 percent in Thaba-Tseka and 51 percent in Mohale's Hoek. Livestock deaths were attributed to lack of water and pasture as well as diseases. Households sold stock to buy food, pay for education and medical expenses (LVAC, July 2019).

Economic shocks

After two consecutive years of reduced crop production, households' minimal food stocks made them more reliant on market supplies to meet their consumption needs. However,

lower income levels and higher food prices adversely affected their capacity to buy food (IPC, July 2019). In 2019 23 percent of households allocated at least half of their income for food purchases (LVAC, July 2019).

From June–October, labour opportunities during the harvest were limited by the poor harvest (LVAC, July 2019) and other earning opportunities, such as construction and domestic work, also decreased as many allocated limited incomes to food rather than hiring anyone (FEWS NET, June 2019). Agricultural employment improved towards the end of 2019 but remained below typical levels (FEWS NET, December 2019).

Sales of livestock products decreased by 70 percent, crop sales by over 64 percent and weeding by 53 percent. On average, 5.2 percent (102 families) reported to have at least one member of the household who had migrated to South Africa, rising to 35 percent in Leribe and 14 percent in Berea (LVAC, July 2019). According to the World Bank, remittances are declining as employment in South Africa, particularly in the mining sector, has recently declined (WB, December 2019).

Food prices were 7 percent higher year-on-year in November 2019 and, specifically, the price of bread and cereals, the country's primary staple foods, were up by 11 percent (BOS, November 2019). The increase in cereal prices mostly reflected high prices in South Africa, the country's main supplier of grains, while the reduced domestic harvest exerted additional upward pressure on food prices (FAO-GIEWS, December 2019).

NUTRITION OVERVIEW

The rates for acute malnutrition are 'very low' with 2 percent of children aged 6–59 months wasted, less than 1 percent severely so (MICS, 2018). This marks an improvement from 2017 when 5 percent were wasted (LVAC 2017). Prevalence of severe wasting among boys (2.4 percent) was slightly higher than among girls (1.7 percent) (MICS, 2018). Chronic malnutrition remains 'very high' with 34.5 percent of under-5s stunted rising to around 45 percent in foothills and mountains ecological zones (MICS, 2018).

Only 10 percent of children aged 6–23 months consume a minimum acceptable diet required for their growth and development, though the proportion rises to 19 percent among children in urban areas versus 6 percent in rural areas. Just under 60 percent of infants are exclusively breastfed until six months (MICS, 2018).

Close to 90 percent of households use improved drinking water sources but 9 percent of them take more than 30 minutes for water collection. Therefore, the percentage of those who have access to at least basic drinking water services reduces to 79 percent, ranging from 71 percent in rural areas

to 94 percent in urban areas. Seventy-three percent use improved sanitation facilities while 19 percent defecate in the open, increasing to 28 percent in rural areas (MICS, 2018).

By the end of the year the measles outbreak in Lesotho was ongoing in Qacha's Nek district. As of 15 November, a total of 59 suspected cases had been reported, with no reported associated deaths (WHO Bulletin, December 2019).

Lesotho has 340 000 people living with HIV. Among adults the prevalence is 23.6 percent. Of those with HIV, 57.6 percent are women (UNAIDS, 2018).

Country profile

Madagascar (eastern, southern and south-eastern districts)



ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY 2019

Total population of country **24.3M**



Population analysed **4.6M** (19% of total population, NOT including IDPs, returnees and refugees)

1.3M IPC Phase 3 or above in November 2018–March 2019

940 600 IPC Phase 3 **Crisis** **366 400** IPC Phase 4 **Emergency**

1.3M IPC Phase 2 **Stressed**

2018-19 Change

Food security remained significant in the 2019 lean season due to an early depletion of food stocks and high staple prices.

2020 Forecast

Food security is forecast to **improve** in 2020 due to multi-sectoral humanitarian response and good rainfall during the growing season.

NUTRITION INDICATORS

6% of children under 5 years are acutely **malnourished**, of whom **1%** are affected by SAM.

42% of children under 5 years are **stunted**.

25% of children 6–23 months meet the recommended **dietary diversity** requirement.

51% of children under 6 months are exclusively **breastfed**.

48.8% of children under 5 years and **36.8%** of women 15–49 years are **anaemic**.

41% of households have access to at least basic **drinking water** services.

DRIVERS OF FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION

Weather extremes Natural hazards Economic shocks

- ▶ Rainfall deficits had a negative impact on rice and maize crops in late 2018 in south western, eastern and extreme southern parts.
- ▶ In 2019 four cyclones—Desmond, Ekestang, Gelena and Belna—flooded maize and rice fields and displaced local populations. Lack of access to inputs and poor irrigation infrastructure contribute to a structural cereal deficit.

- ▶ Vulnerable households faced high food prices, low incomes and high agricultural production costs, especially in the Grand Sud.
- ▶ Natural disasters, particularly droughts, floods and tropical cyclones, coupled with chronic poverty, severely limit food availability and access especially during the lean season.

- ▶ Major contributing factors to the deterioration of the nutritional situation in some areas include inadequate food intake and low dietary diversity of children.
- ▶ Low vaccination rates and poor sanitation and hygiene lead to a high prevalence of diseases (diarrhoea, Acute Respiratory Infection, malaria and measles), but people lack access to health services.

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Travelling to market by Zebu cart: the lean season started early as rainfall deficits had a negative impact on rice and maize crops in late 2018 in southwestern, eastern and extreme southern parts—by January households had already depleted their food stocks and were market-reliant.

BACKGROUND

Madagascar's high exposure to natural disasters, including droughts, floods, tropical cyclones, locust invasions and epidemics, coupled with chronic poverty (75 percent of Malagasy live on less than USD 1.90 per day (WB, October 2019), severely limit food availability and access, particularly during the lean season. Southern areas have experienced repeated drought, notably in 2015/2016 and 2017/2018 (WFP, May 2019). In 2019 President Andry Rajoelina was inaugurated in January after peaceful elections in December 2018, therefore ending a decade-long period of political instability (UN, 2019).

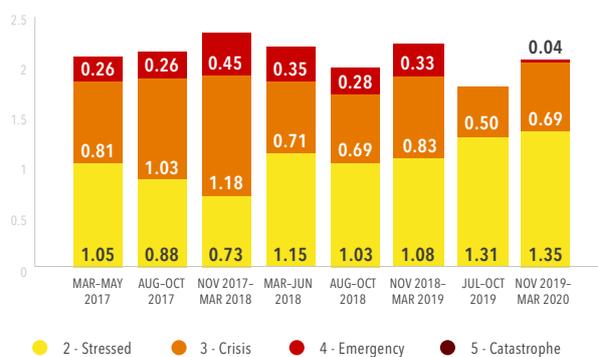
ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY OVERVIEW

At least 1.3 million people were food insecure and in need of urgent action during the lean season between November 2018 and March 2019 in southern and eastern districts, which included around 366 400 people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). Most of these acutely food-insecure people were in the arid Grand Sud area.¹ In addition over 1.3 million people were

¹ The 'Grand Sud' encompasses the following districts: Ambovombe, Bekily, Beloha, Tsihombe (Androy), Taolagnaro, Amboasary (Anosy), Ampanihy, Betsioky, Morombe and Toliara II (Atsimo Andrefana).

Figure 52

Number of people (millions) in IPC Phase 2 or above in 2017-2019

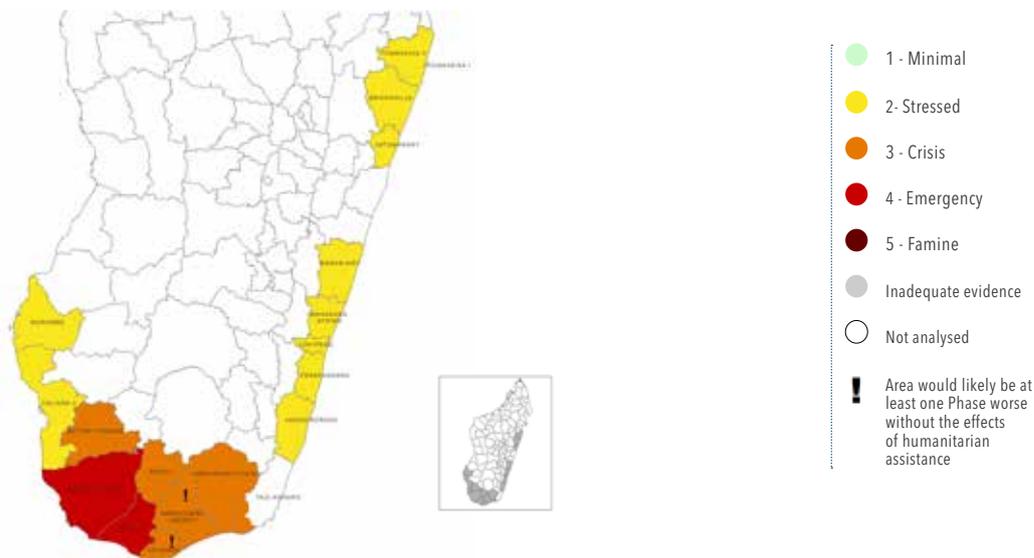


Note: These figures represent IPC numbers for common areas analysed to allow comparability

Source: Madagascar IPC Technical Working Group

Map 32

Madagascar, IPC Acute food insecurity situation, November 2018–March 2019



Source: Madagascar IPC Technical Working Group, October 2018

classified in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) during this period (IPC, October 2018).

Ampanihy and Beloha districts were classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4), while Ambovombe and Tsihombe were in Crisis (IPC Phase 3!) only thanks to the provision of humanitarian assistance. Amboasary, Betioky and Bekily faced Crisis (IPC Phase 3) conditions and all the other districts analysed faced Stressed (IPC Phase 2) (IPC, October 2018).

With the beginning of the main harvest period, the food security situation improved from June when around 730 500 were classified in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) including 135 000 in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) in three districts of the Grand Sud. Food security further improved by July–October when no populations were classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and around 500 000 were in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) (IPC, November 2019).² The number in need of urgent assistance started to increase again during the lean season from November, reaching 728 000 in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above). (IPC, November 2019).³

FACTORS DRIVING ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY

Weather extremes

Rainfall deficits had a negative impact on rice and maize crops in late 2018 in south-western, eastern and extreme southern parts (FAO-GIEWS, January 2019). Western areas faced an 80 percent decrease in local rice production because of well below-average rains, while in southern areas maize production was near zero following unevenly distributed rainfall, pest outbreaks and high costs of seeds (FEWS NET, April 2019).

Cyclones Desmond and Ekestang in early 2019 flooded maize and rice fields in south-western and middle-western areas (FEWS NET, January 2019), and cyclone Gelena brought above-average rainfalls in northern areas (FEWS NET, February 2019). Overall, the 2019 cereal production increased both compared to the previous year and to the five-year average, with significant increases in rice production, which was 18 percent above 2018 levels and cassava production, which was 12 percent above.

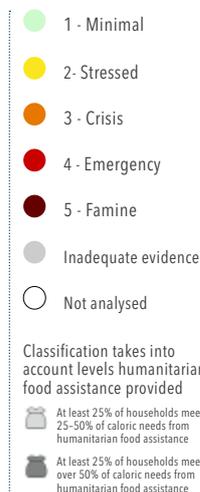
However, significant production shortfalls were reported locally, such as in the Grand Sud where the region of Androy has experienced a 100 percent decrease in rice production over the past six years. In these areas, despite favourable rainfall compared to the previous year, agricultural production remained constrained by the lack of inputs resulting from

² Humanitarian assistance was provided in Bekily, Beloha and to a lesser extent in Tsihombe between July and October.

³ October 2018 and November 2019 data are not comparable due to a different coverage of analysis. However, in the comparable areas, the number of acute food insecure in October 2019 – March 2020 was lower than during the 2018 lean season.

Map 33

Madagascar, IPC Acute food insecurity situation, July–October 2019



Source: Madagascar IPC Technical Working Group, November 2019

previous failed agricultural campaigns (MAEP, FAO & WFP, 2019). Localized dry spells and cyclones also affected the start of the 2019/2020 season. In late October around 80 percent of the Grand Sud faced ‘moderate’ or ‘severe drought’ (UNICEF, November 2019). On 9 December, tropical cyclone Belna made landfall on the western coast and displaced 2 300 people (OCHA, December 2019).

Natural disasters

Fall armyworm infestations also contributed to the 2018/2019 maize production being 30 percent below the five-year average, including significant shortfalls in the southern and south-western areas (FEWS NET, October 2019). According to FAO estimates, the outbreak infested half of maize crops (FAO, December 2019), which discouraged farmers from planting (FAO-GIEWS, November 2019). Locust infestations affected rice and pulse crops in southern and central-southern areas (FEWS NET, July 2019), although to a lesser extent than in the previous decade.

Economic shocks

By January, households were highly dependent on markets during the lean season because of the low 2018 cereal output and early depletion of food stocks (FEWS NET, March 2019), particularly in the southern and south-eastern areas. Heavy rains following the cyclones affected supply routes to southern markets (FEWS NET, January 2019) where around four in

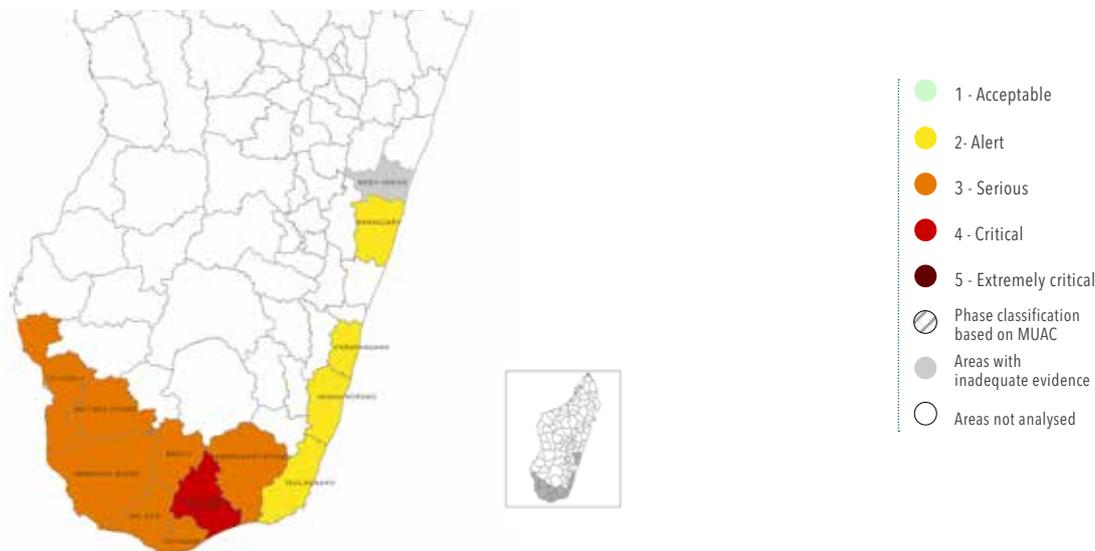
five communes faced shortages of cassava. Rice prices were 14 percent above their year-earlier levels, maize prices were 39 percent higher, and cassava 50 percent higher. Daily wages were low and decreasing due to a limited demand for labour. Four in five vulnerable households in the south, and two in three in the south-east had to reduce their number of daily meals as a coping strategy until April–May (SISAV, February & April 2019).

In the post-harvest period in July–August, rice prices were still 10 percent above their year-earlier levels in Grand Sud (SISAV, August 2019). The lean season started earlier than usual – in October instead of December – because of reduced production in these areas and early depletion of households’ stocks (FEWS NET, September 2019).

More generally, a structural issue continued to constrain food security in 2019, as rice production was curtailed by lack of access to inputs and poor irrigation infrastructures (FAO-GIEWS, June 2019). For instance, poor southern farmers cropped only half of agricultural land in early 2019 because they could not afford to buy seeds and cuttings (FEWS NET, February 2019). Despite the rebound in rice production in 2019, a significant cereal deficit remained and cereal import requirements for 2019/2020 were forecast at 600 000 metric tonnes (FAO-GIEWS, November 2019). However, high prices of local and imported products affected households’ purchasing power due to the 10 percent depreciation of the local currency against the USD (FEWS NET, June 2019).

Map 34

Madagascar, IPC Acute malnutrition situation, November 2019–February 2020



Source: Madagascar IPC Technical Working Group, August 2019

NUTRITION OVERVIEW

At national level, in 2018 wasting affected 6 percent of 6–59 month-old children, which is considered a ‘medium’ prevalence. Three out of 21 regions had a ‘high’ prevalence – Vatovavy Fitovinany (13 percent), Menabe (11 percent), and Betsiboka (11 percent). With a ‘very high’ level of children stunted (42 percent), chronic malnutrition is a major public health and development concern in Madagascar, in particular in Vakinankaratra (60 percent) Amoron’i Mania (55 percent) Haute Matsiatra (54 percent), and Bolngolava (52 percent) (MICS, November 2018).

In the first quarter of 2019, nutrition surveillance in eight southern districts of Madagascar showed a proxy GAM prevalence of 13.3 percent. The GAM prevalence was ‘very high’ in 22 out of 146 communes (UNICEF and WFP, February 2019).

Around 188 550 children were estimated to suffer from acute malnutrition from August 2019–February 2020, with 35 393

severe cases. The district of Bekily was classified in Critical (IPC AMN Phase 4) (IPC, August 2019).

Child-feeding practices in 2018 were far from optimal with half (51 percent) of children under 6 months exclusively breastfed, only 21 percent of children aged 6–23 months consuming a minimum acceptable diet and 25 percent meeting the minimum dietary diversity required for their growth and development (MICS 2018).

Low use of at least basic drinking water services (40 percent) is also a major concern (UNICEF & WHO, 2017). Due to low vaccination rates and poor sanitation and hygiene, Madagascar is regularly hit by epidemics.

The country faced an unprecedented measles outbreak in 2018–2019, with more than 204 000 registered cases and over 900 measles-related deaths. While the measles epidemic was mostly under control by the end of the year, there is a high possibility that a new epidemic could begin at any time, especially during the rainy season (UNICEF, December 2019).

Country profile

Malawi



ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY 2019

Total population of country **18.1M**



Population analysed **15.3M** (84% of total population)

3.3M IPC Phase 3 or above in October 2018–March 2019

2.9M IPC Phase 3 **Crisis** **449 200** IPC Phase 4 **Emergency**

5M IPC Phase 2 **Stressed**

2018-19 Change

The number of acutely food-insecure people remained **unchanged** between late 2018 and early 2019 as households were yet to recover stocks following the poor 2018 maize harvest and prices remained high.

2020 Forecast

A forecast increase in domestic maize production in 2019 due to conducive rainfall is likely to **improve** household level food availability and access.

UN DESA WB 2018

MALAWI IPC TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP AUGUST 2018

NUTRITION INDICATORS

2.7% of children under 5 years are acutely **malnourished**, of whom **0.6%** are affected by SAM.

DHS 2015-16

25.1% of children 6–23 months meet the recommended **dietary diversity** requirement.

DHS 2015-16

62.6% of children under 5 years and **32.7%** of women 15–49 years are **anaemic**.

DHS 2015-16

37.1% of children under 5 years are **stunted**.

DHS 2015-16

60.9% of children under 6 months are exclusively **breastfed**.

DHS 2015-16

69% of households have access to at least basic **drinking water** services.

JMP 2017

DRIVERS OF FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION

Weather extremes Economic shocks

- ▶ Rainfall deficits had caused cereal production shortfalls in 2018 and smallholders were yet to recover in early 2019.
- ▶ The poor harvests reduced households' food supplies and income-generating opportunities.

- ▶ Prices of maize rose to record highs, straining economic access to food for low income households.
- ▶ Chronic malnutrition is a major problem and is mainly linked to low birth weight, poor maternal nutrition, low levels of education among mothers, child illnesses, lack of sanitation, lack of dietary diversity in under fives and poor access to healthcare.

DISPLACEMENT

53 200 were internally displaced.

IOM NOV 2019

There were around **45 000** refugees, from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (60%), Burundi (23%) and Rwanda (16%).

UNHCR DEC 2019

© WFP/BAHAI



In Malawi many structural issues, including insecure land tenure, lack of irrigation, low access to farm inputs, declines in soil fertility and dominance of maize, which is a thirsty crop, keep yields low and make smallholders extremely vulnerable to adverse weather events.

BACKGROUND

Approximately 83 percent of Malawians are engaged in predominantly rainfed agriculture, making food security, employment and the economy highly sensitive to regular and increasing climate extremes (prolonged dry spells, extremely high temperatures, drought, cyclones, floods and landslides) that sharply increase the numbers of food-insecure people. The effects of climate shocks are further exacerbated by an estimated poverty rate of 52 percent, with an even higher rate in the southern region (NSO, January 2019).

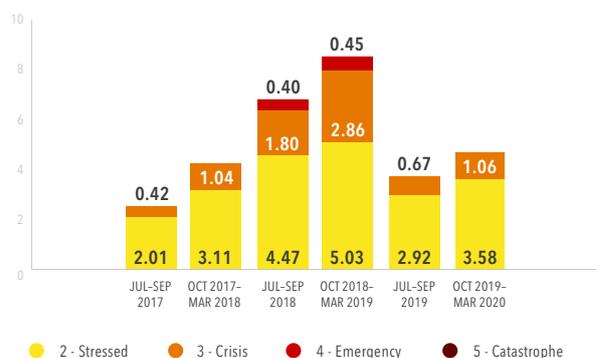
ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY OVERVIEW

An estimated 3.3 million people were assessed to be facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels of acute food insecurity from October 2018–March 2019, marking the peak period for 2019 (IPC, August 2018). Of this number, around 449 200 faced Emergency levels (IPC Phase 4). A very high number (over 5 million) were in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) with minimally adequate food consumption. The situation was worst in the southern part of the country, where 15 districts were classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3).

As the year progressed, the food security situation was assessed to have improved. From July–September 2019

Figure 53

Number of people (millions) in IPC Phase 2 or above in 2017–2019



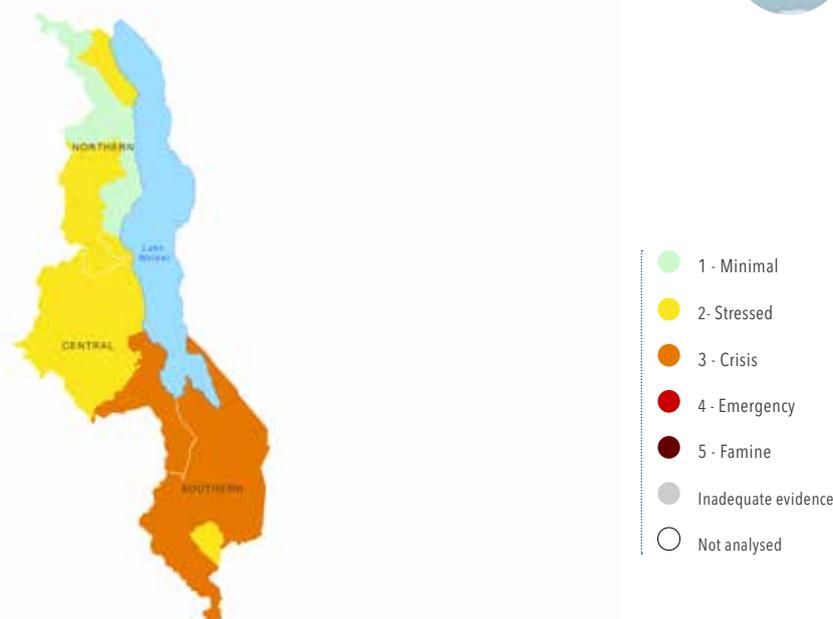
Note: July–Sept 2017 current and Oct 2017–March 2018 projected analyses cover only the rural population. The urban population represents around 5–6% of the population analyzed in the Jul–Sep 2018 and Oct 2018–Mar 2019 analyses.

Source: Malawi IPC Technical Working Group

around 670 000 people were estimated to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and 2.9 million in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) (IPC, August 2019). But by the start of the lean season in November nearly 1.9 million people were acutely food insecure with nearly all of them classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and a relatively small number (39 200) in Emergency (IPC Phase 4).

Map 35

Malawi, IPC Acute food insecurity situation, October 2018–March 2019



Source: Malawi IPC Technical Working Group, August 2018

FACTORS DRIVING ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY

Weather extremes

Well-below average cereal production in 2018 principally as a result of unfavourable rains in the central and southern regions (maize production fell by 20 percent compared with 2017), and consequently low household-level food stocks, increased households' reliance on markets to meet consumption needs until the harvest in the second quarter of 2019 (FAO-GIEWS, December 2018).

In early March 2019, cyclone Idai caused severe flooding, crop losses, damage and destruction of homes in 15 districts in southern Malawi, affecting more than 922 000 people, with 59 deaths and 677 injured (OCHA, February 2019). Widespread losses of food supplies, damage to soon-to-be harvested crops and reduced access to markets aggravated food insecurity (IFPRI, March 2019).

From mid-2019 food security improved thanks to seasonal rains in the central and northern regions increasing cereal production. The larger harvest boosted household food supplies and income-generating opportunities from crop sales, lessening the need for humanitarian food assistance. In the southern region prolonged periods of dry weather and the impact of Cyclone Idai caused shortfalls in cereal production that sustained high levels of food insecurity.

Economic shocks

Prices of maize, the country's key food staple, increased throughout 2019, only punctured by a brief seasonal decline between March and May, before reaching abrupt and unforeseen record highs towards the end of the year. The early 2019 rise was mostly driven by domestic supply pressure, and while the larger harvest helped to alleviate this pressure in the immediate period following the April–June harvest, it was subsequently offset by heightened demand from importing countries across the sub-region (Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Zambia) leading to further price gains.

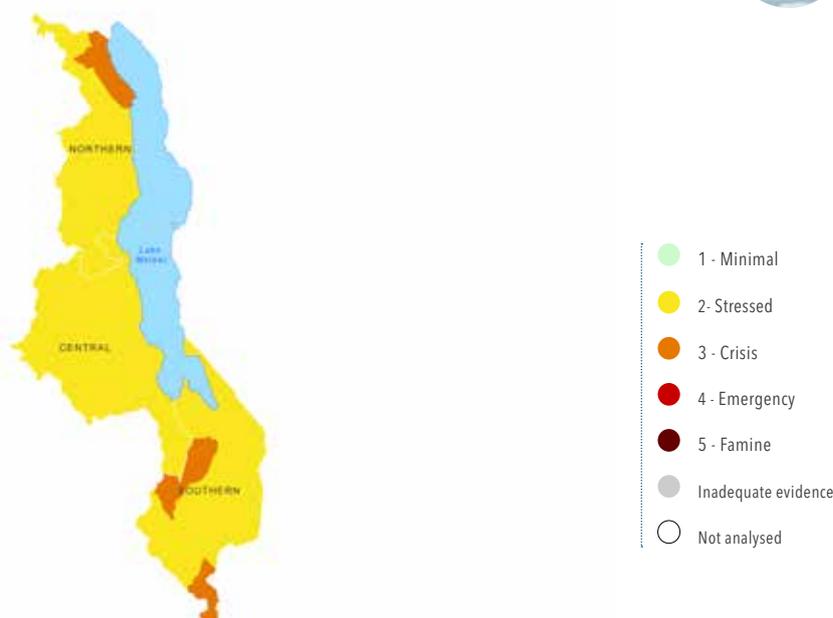
Institutional purchases, as the country sought to shore up the national strategic reserves, an upward revision to the farm gate price and a rise in petrol prices, combined to push up maize prices further at the end of the year (FAO-GIEWS, December 2019).

Purchasing power is also constrained by lack of income. Over 60 percent of all older youth and adults work in agriculture, but over a third of the working-age population is economically inactive, primarily youth aged 15–24, women and urban dwellers (IFPRI, May 2019).

Most of Malawi's 45 000 refugees and asylum seekers from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi and Rwanda live in the heavily congested Dzaleka Refugee Camp near the capital Lilongwe, which was set up in 1994 for 10 000 people. While many of these refugees have been in the country for

Map 36

Malawi, IPC Acute food insecurity situation, November 2019–March 2020



Source: Malawi IPC Technical Working Group, January 2020

decades, Congolese and Burundians continue to arrive at an average of 470 individuals per month (UNHCR, January 2020). The encampment policy limits refugees from accessing land, productive resources or formal employment and restricts freedom of movement. Without income-generating opportunities they are reliant on external assistance to meet their food and other basic needs.

Some 70.3 percent of refugees and asylum seekers in Dzaleka are below the ultra-poverty line (UNHCR and WFP, 2018). Faced with food assistance funding cuts and limited livelihoods opportunities, women and girls resort to harmful coping mechanisms, including transactional sex, for their survival and to support their families (UNHCR, 2018).

NUTRITION OVERVIEW

The 2015–16 Demographic and Health Survey found that child wasting levels were low at 3 percent. The southern region had higher wasting levels (3.5 percent) than northern (2.1 percent) and central (2 percent) regions. S

Just 8 percent of children aged 6–23 months consumed the minimum acceptable diet required for their growth and development. Twenty-five percent met minimum dietary diversity and 29 percent were fed the minimum frequency of meals. Exclusive breastfeeding rates have reduced from 71.4 percent (in 2010) to 61 percent in children below 6 months of age in 2015/16. Inadequate child feeding practices

were likely one cause of high anaemia levels (63 percent) among children aged 6–59 months (DHS, 2015–16).

High rates of HIV infection also contribute to malnutrition. Almost 9 percent of adults aged 15–49 years old are HIV positive with the urban prevalence (15 percent) double that of the rural (DHS, 2015–16).

Refugee nutrition status

Acute malnutrition rates among the refugee and asylum seeker population are very low, with the latest SENS nutrition survey in 2016 reporting a GAM prevalence of just 1 percent. However, chronic malnutrition rates are very high with 34.8 percent of children under 5 years affected by stunting. More than 22.7 percent of refugee children are anaemic. Younger children (around weaning age) are more likely to be malnourished.

Nearly 68 percent of children are exclusively breastfed in the first six months and 51.4 percent are introduced to complementary food at the age of 6 months. Diarrhoea incidence (27 percent) in children under 5 years in the camp was concerning (SENS 2016). All households accessed water from improved sources but quantities were low and the sources had potential to be contaminated during the rainy season (UNHCR 2017).

Country profile

Mali



ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY

2019

Total population of country **20.5M**



Population analysed **20.5M** (100% of total population, including IDPs, returnees and refugees)

648 300 CH Phase 3 or above in October–December 2019

609 600
CH Phase 3 **Crisis**

38 800
CH Phase 4 **Emergency**

2.9M CH Phase 2 **Stressed**

2018–19 Change

Despite a significant escalation in violence, food security **improved** as a result of above-average production and stable food prices.



2020 Forecast

Increasing insecurity is expected to **worsen** food insecurity in 2020 though population displacement, production and trade disruption.



NUTRITION INDICATORS

401 300 children under 5 years are acutely **malnourished**, of whom **166 200** are affected by SAM. HNO 2020

17.3% of children 6–23 months meet the recommended **dietary diversity** requirement. SMART 2019

81.9% of children under 5 years and **63.4%** of women 15–49 years are **anaemic**. DHS 2018

26.6% of children under 5 years are **stunted**. SMART 2019

40.3% of children under 6 months are exclusively **breastfed**. SMART 2019

78% of households have access to at least basic **drinking water** services. JMP 2017

DRIVERS OF FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION

Conflict/insecurity **Weather extremes** **Economic shocks**

- ▶ Persisting insecurity and intercommunal conflict continued to disrupt livelihoods and humanitarian access in the centre and north.
- ▶ Despite above average cereal production prospects, localized shortfalls occurred as insecurity forced farmers to abandon their fields.
- ▶ Unusual movements of herds were reported in central and northern areas and in neighbouring countries as well as cattle raids, and thefts.

- ▶ Localized rainfall deficits affected crop production and pasture conditions in the north and some regions of the centre and south-west.
- ▶ Traders were unable to access livestock and cereal markets in the northern and central areas.
- ▶ Malnutrition is linked with sub-optimal childcare and feeding practices, acute malnutrition, and conflict-related shocks.

DISPLACEMENT

201 400 were internally displaced, mainly as a result of insecurity in Mopti, Timbuktu, Gao, Kayes and Segou in 2018–2019. IOI, DEC 2019

There were **26 800 refugees** and **asylum seekers** from Mauritania, Burkina Faso and the Niger. UNHCR NOV 2019

There have been **561 600 IDP returnees** and **74 700 refugee returnees** from 2013, mostly from Burkina Faso, Niger, Mauritania and Algeria. Of those **5 300** refugees have returned since December 2018. IOI, DEC 2019



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Conflict and violence have progressively spread from northern to central regions of Mali with the epicentre of the Malian crisis now the densely populated region of Mopti, one of the country's major food-producing areas.

BACKGROUND

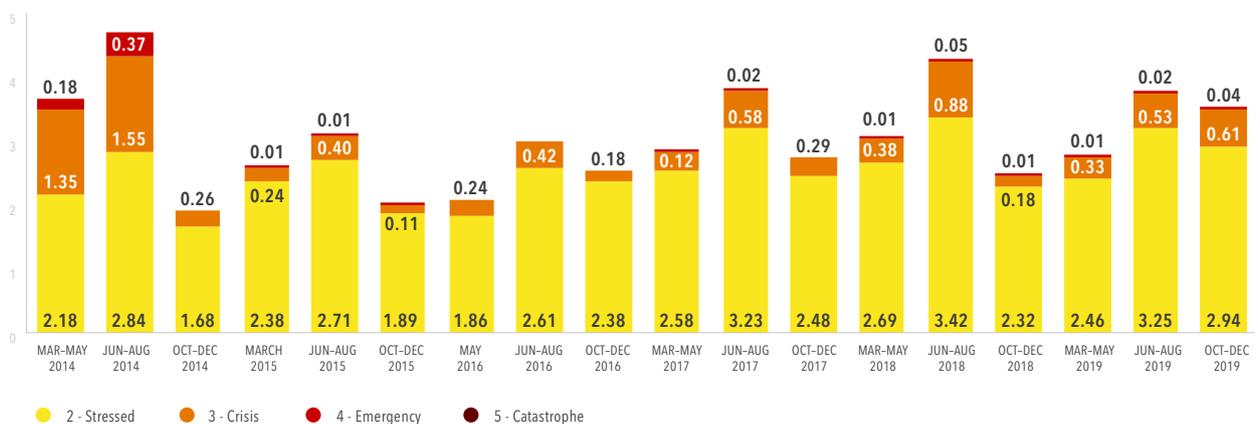
Mali has been the scene of perpetual conflict and displacement for eight years after soldiers in the capital, frustrated by the government's failure to quash a rebellion in the marginalized north, overthrew the president in 2012. Much of the 2015 Agreement of Peace and Reconciliation remains undelivered (Refugees International, December 2019). Since mid-2016 local conflicts and insecurity in central

and northern regions have multiplied, mostly targeting civilians, leading to increased vulnerability of populations and hampering humanitarian access.

Weather shocks, poverty and structural weaknesses contribute to the poor state of infrastructure, disruption of livelihoods and displacement (FAO, December 2019). Around 50 percent of the population lived under the international poverty line in 2009 (WB, 2019).

Figure 54

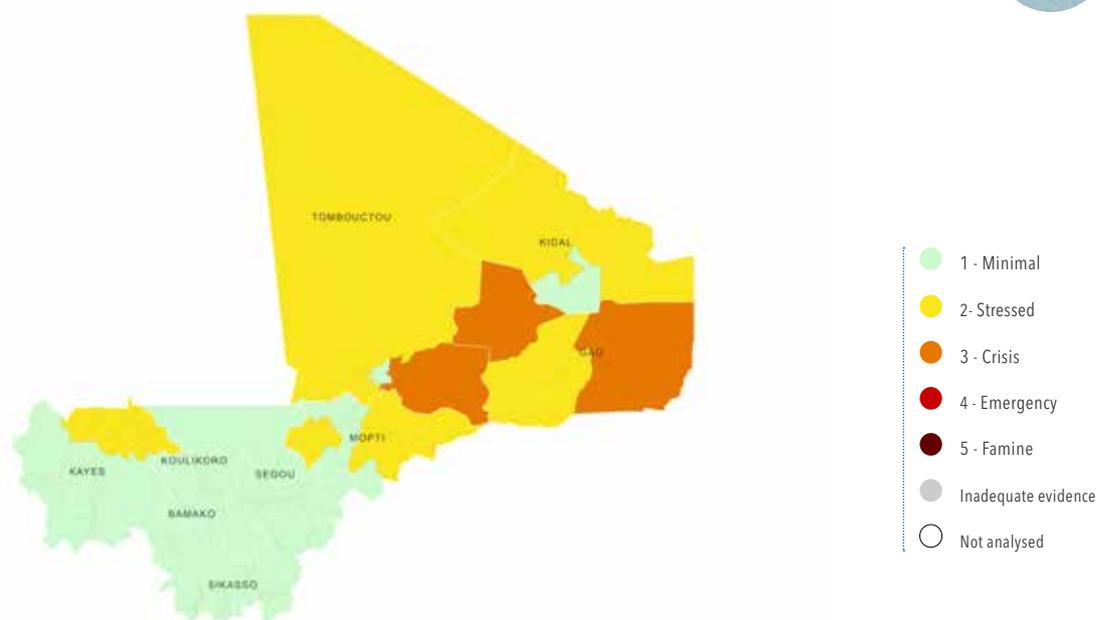
Number of people (millions) in CH Phase 2 or above in 2014-2019



Source: CILSS, Cadre Harmonisé

Map 37

Mali, CH Acute food insecurity situation, October–December 2019



Source: Cadre Harmonisé, November 2019

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY OVERVIEW

Between October and December 2019, around 648 000 people were in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above), including 39 000 people in Emergency (CH Phase 4). Three out of four of these people – including all populations classified in Emergency (CH Phase 4) – were in the northern regions of Timbuktu, Kidal and Gao. In addition, 2.9 million were facing Stressed (CH phase 2) conditions and at risk of slipping into Crisis were they to face an additional shock or stressor. Three areas were classified in Crisis (CH Phase 3) in Gao and Timbuktu, and 15 others were in Stressed (CH Phase 2), mainly in Timbuktu, Gao, Kidal, Mopti and Kayes (CILSS-CH, 2019).

The number of food-insecure people continued increasing throughout 2019, rising from about 336 000 people in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) in March–May to 554 000 in June–August. The number of people in Stressed (CH Phase 2) also increased overall, from around 2.5 million in March–May to 3.2 million in June–August (CILSS-CH, 2019). The central and northern regions have consistently been the most affected.

FACTORS DRIVING ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY

Conflict and insecurity

Increasing insecurity was characterized by cattle raids, destruction of food stocks and abandonment of pastures, markets, villages and fields in the regions of Mopti, Timbuktu, Gao and Segou. Despite above-average 2019 cereal production prospects, localized shortfalls in Kayes and Mopti. Pastoralists in these areas also faced insecurity and limited access to pastures, particularly during the pastoral lean season from April to July (FEWS NET, May 2019). As a result, unusual movements of herds were reported in the centre and north and in neighbouring countries – Mauritania, Burkina Faso, the Niger and Côte d'Ivoire – as well as cattle raids and thefts (Ministry of Agriculture, November 2019). Most economic activities, including fishing, were affected by insecurity in the inner delta of the Niger River (FEWS NET, October 2019).

As of late November around 199 000 people were internally displaced, which represents a 140 percent increase since early March 2019, mostly due to violence in Mopti, Gao and Menaka, and in the bordering areas between Mali and Burkina Faso. In addition, the country hosted around 27 000 refugees mostly from Mauritania, Burkina Faso and the Niger. Around 562 000 IDPs and 74 000 refugees have returned to their homes since the crisis broke out in 2012, (UNHCR, December

2019). One in two IDPs depend on humanitarian aid and one in three depend on third person and host communities for their livelihoods (IOM, November 2019).

Weather extremes

Mali experienced generally favourable harvests except in areas such as western Sahel, and northern and central parts of the country that were affected by inadequate rainfall and/or insecurity. (FAO, December 2019). Although slightly below 2018 levels, overall, cereal production was 17 percent above the five-year average (FEWS NET, October 2019). Prolonged dry spells were reported in early June and in late September, which led to a reduction in maize planting (FEWS NET, August 2019).

Localized vegetation stress was detrimental to pastoralist households in western Sahel areas of Kayes, in the north and centre-south of Timbuktu, and localized areas in Gao and Kidal. Floods affected around 90 000 people between June and October mostly in the regions of Mopti, Timbuktu, Segou, Koulikoro and Bamako (Ministry of Agriculture, September 2019) and lowered crop production, particularly in rice-growing areas of the Niger River valley. Flooding also hampered transhumance, leading to livestock concentrations in certain areas (FAO, December 2019).

Economic shocks

Insecurity curtailed trade flows as traders were not able to access livestock and cereal markets in the north, in the areas bordering Burkina Faso and in the Niger Delta. Pasture deficits in western Sahel along with the disruptions to movement in conflict-affected areas, were likely to negatively affect livestock feeding conditions and pastoral households' incomes (FAO, December 2019).

As of February, insecurity, intercommunal conflicts and border closures disrupted trade flows between Mali and Algeria, Senegal, Benin and Guinea. As a result, in early 2019 prices were above their year-earlier levels in Western Sahel areas of Kayes (OMA, SAP, FEWS NET, WFP & FAO, February 2019), as well as in Kidal, Menaka and Mopti (WFP, March 2019). According to WFP, seven markets – in Timbuktu, Gao, Mopti, Segou, Kayes and Sikasso – were in Crisis because of elevated price levels and one was in Alert as of April (WFP, April 2019).

Households depleted their stocks earlier than usual in the Niger River valley in Gao and Timbuktu, and in some areas of the Niger River inner delta, and had to resort to negative

coping strategies such as buying food on credit, selling productive assets, begging or migrating – in a context of insecurity and disrupted livelihoods (FEWS NET, October 2019).

In the regions of Gao and Mopti, livestock exports decreased significantly due to insecurity which limited traders' physical access to markets (FEWS NET, June 2019). In October, terms of trade were favourable to livestock owners overall, except in Gao, Menaka and in some areas of Timbuktu (Ministry of Agriculture, November 2019).

NUTRITION OVERVIEW

Preliminary results from the SMART survey in 2019 indicate unchanged acute malnutrition levels among children compared to 2018 (DHS, 2019), with 10 percent of children aged 6–59 months affected by wasting, 1.5 percent severely so (SMART, October 2019). This marks a 'high' GAM prevalence. The situation in the northern regions remains concerning with wasting at 'very high' levels exceeding 10 percent in Menaka (15 percent), Timbuktu (13 percent), Gao (12 percent), Kidal (11 percent) and Taoudenit (11 percent). Severe acute malnutrition rates exceeded 2 percent in Menaka (2.4 percent) and Timbuktu (2.5 percent) (SMART, October 2019). The stunting rate at national level was 'high' at 22.7 percent, rising to 'very high' in the regions of Sikasso (34.6 percent) and Mopti (31.7 percent).

Child-feeding practices in 2018 were very poor with only 8.5 percent of children aged 6–23 months consuming the minimum acceptable diet required for their growth and development. Twenty-eight percent consumed food from four or more food groups of the possible seven groups, indicating they met minimum dietary diversity.

Minimum meal frequency was adequate for just 22 percent of children. Even though breastfeeding was provided to 97 percent of children, exclusive breastfeeding until 6 months was available to only 40 percent (DHS, 2019).

The prevalence of anaemia among children aged 6–59 months is unchanged compared to 2001 levels, and affects 82 percent of children. Additionally, 63 percent of reproductive-age women were anaemic with the highest prevalence in Kayes region (73 percent).

Nationally, anaemia is considered a severe public health problem (DHS, 2019). Almost 1 200 cases of measles and 15 cases of yellow fever had been reported by December (WHO, December 2019).

Country profile

Mozambique



ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY 2019

Total population of country **27.9M**



Population analysed **5M** (18% of total population, not including IDPs, returnees and refugees)

1.7M IPC Phase 3 or above in October 2019–February 2020

1.4M IPC Phase 3 **Crisis** **265 000** IPC Phase 4 **Emergency**

1.6M IPC Phase 2 **Stressed**

2018–19 Change

Multiple and consecutive extreme weather events destroyed crops, disrupted livelihood systems and triggered food price rises, which significantly **worsened** food insecurity.

2020 Forecast

The same peak figure is used for 2019 and 2020 due to the lean season overlap between late 2019 and early 2020.

NUTRITION INDICATORS

67 500 children under 5 years are acutely **malnourished**, of whom **6 500** are affected by SAM.

42.6% of children under 5 years are **stunted**.

28% of children 6–23 months meet the recommended **dietary diversity** requirement.

43% of children under 6 months are exclusively **breastfed**.

60.2% of children under 5 years and **51%** of women 15–49 years are **anaemic**.

56% of households have access to at least basic **drinking water** services.

DRIVERS OF FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION

Weather extremes **Economic shocks** **Conflict/insecurity**

- ▶ Multiple climatic shocks, beginning with poor rains at the start of 2019, caused substantial agricultural losses in the South.
- ▶ Tropical Cyclones Idai, Kenneth and Desmond in March and April brought flooding that displaced tens of thousands of people.
- ▶ The flooding destroyed crops in key central producing areas, infrastructure and livelihoods.
- ▶ Abnormally high prices of staple maize grain constrained purchasing power of poor households.
- ▶ Armed violence in northern Cabo Delgado forced people to abandon their homes, crops, livelihoods and assets.
- ▶ Drought and floods exacerbated the root causes of acute malnutrition: poor child feeding and care practices, disease and poor access to safe water and sanitation.

DISPLACEMENT

93 500 were **internally displaced**.

There were **4 700 refugees** and **20 500 asylum-seekers** from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi, Somalia and Rwanda.

There were **8 800 refugee returnees**, and **8 800 IDP returnees**.



© WFP/PAULUS MASCARELLI

One month after Tropical Cyclone Idai caused catastrophic damage throughout Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe in March 2019, farmer Maria Rita Charler Tome and her husband sit on the ruins of their mudbrick house.

BACKGROUND

Two decades of peace and stability since the end of the 16-year-long civil war allowed Mozambique to make progress in social and economic terms. The Peace and Reconciliation agreement was signed in July 2019.

According to a World Bank report poverty fell from 59 percent of the population in 2008 to 48 percent in 2014, but these gains were accompanied by a widening gap between the better-off and the poor, hindering Mozambique's progress in achieving shared prosperity and ranking it among the most unequal countries in Sub-Saharan Africa (WB, November 2018).

It is one of the world's most disaster-prone countries, with extreme climatic conditions that destroy infrastructure and restrict economic growth, hindering efforts to achieve environmental sustainability and to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.

The southern and central regions are prone to drought, floods frequently occur along major river basins and in poorly drained urban settlements, while coastal areas experience cyclones, storms and flash floods (WFP, January 2020). The government is grappling with a new low-level so-called Islamic insurgency in parts of the gas-rich province of Cabo Delgado (WB, September 2019).

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY OVERVIEW

The number of people in need of urgent food and livelihood assistance (IPC Phase 3 or above) was expected to increase from almost 1.4 million, representing 27 percent of the population analysed, in April–September 2019 to almost 1.7 million, representing 34 percent of the population analysed, in the October 2019–February 2020 lean season. Of these around 265 000 were expected to be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4).

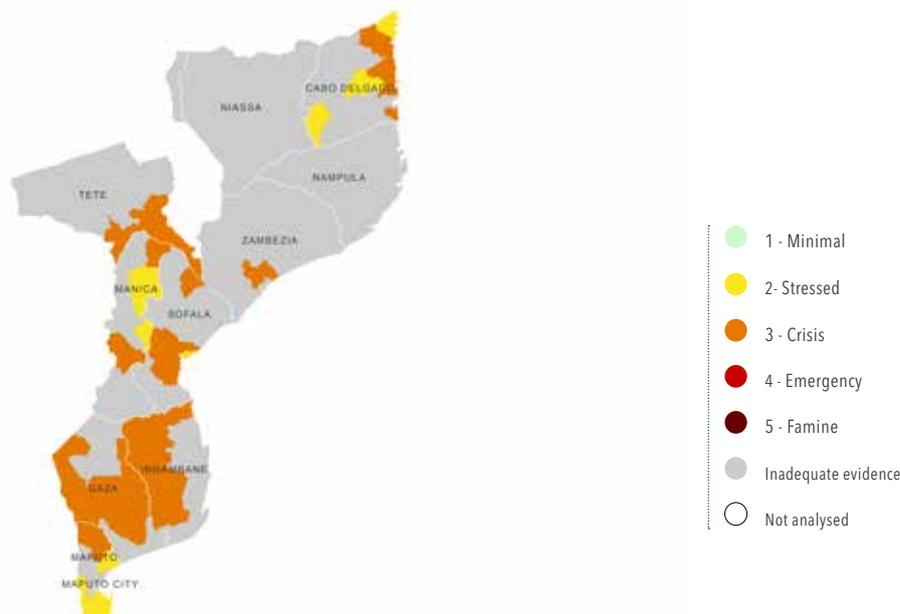
The number in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) was expected to fall from over 1.7 million to 1.6 million as people faced higher levels of acute food insecurity (IPC, July 2019).

Of the 39 districts analysed using IPC, it was estimated that from October 2019 at least 30 districts required a combination of urgent interventions such as food assistance, agricultural inputs, infrastructure reconstruction and livelihoods (IPC, July 2019).

While Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes were forecast for southern semi-arid areas as well as in parts of Tete and Zambézia from October 2019–January 2020, Stressed! (IPC Phase 2!) prevailed in central areas of Sofala and Manica and northern Cabo Delgado provinces as humanitarian assistance was mitigating more severe outcomes (FEWS NET, October 2019).

Map 38

Mozambique, IPC Acute food insecurity situation, October 2019–February 2020



Source: Mozambique IPC Technical Working Group, July 2019

Refugee food insecurity

After three years of internal political strife in Mozambique, the peace process concluded in 2018 has resulted in a revision of the Constitution and the integration of the former combatants of the opposition movement into the armed forces and police.

In this stabilizing political context, the majority of the Mozambican asylum-seekers in Zimbabwe were expected to return spontaneously in 2019 (UNHCR, February 2019). By the end of August 2019, there were 8 060 Mozambicans in Zimbabwe awaiting return.

Over 12 000 cases have been awaiting refugee status determination decision by the Minister of Interior since 2011 (UNHCR, April 2019). Refugees in Maratane refugee camp have the right to work, but over 75 percent rely on food assistance as their main income while 10 percent rely on crop or animal production.

Some two-thirds of in-camp refugees have acceptable food consumption, but over half (57 percent) are using high-risk coping strategies such as children contributing to family income, sale of assets and reducing adults consumption for children to eat.

An estimated 11 percent are 'vulnerable' and 18 percent 'moderately vulnerable' based on food consumption, coping and poverty (WFP, June 2019).

FACTORS DRIVING ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY

Weather extremes

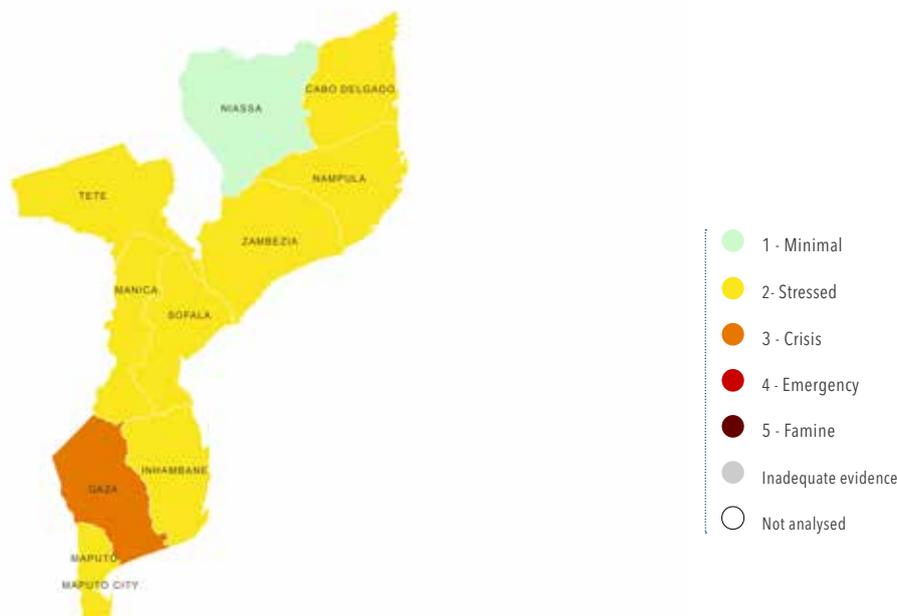
At the beginning of the year poor performance of the January–March rainy season in southern areas (Maputo, Gaza and Inhambane) caused substantial agricultural losses (IPC, July 2019).

Mozambique was hit by two consecutive tropical cyclones in March and April 2019, killing at least 648 people, injuring nearly 1 700 and leaving an estimated 2.2 million in need of humanitarian assistance and protection. Cyclone Idai made landfall in March 2019, bringing strong winds and torrential rains to Sofala, Zambezia, Tete and Manica provinces and Cyclone Kenneth struck the northern provinces of Cabo Delgado and Nampula six weeks later (HRP, 2019).

In the affected areas, where more than 80 percent of people are dependent on agriculture as their primary source of income, smallholders suffered major agricultural losses during the critical harvest period following an already-difficult lean season. They suffered destruction of infrastructure, assets and livelihoods. More than 715 000 hectares of crops were destroyed following Cyclone Idai's landfall (FAO, May 2019), while nearly 55 500 hectares were affected by Cyclone Kenneth (OCHA, May 2019).

Map 39

Mozambique, IPC Acute food insecurity situation, January–March 2019



Source: Mozambique IPC Technical Working Group, October 2018

Farmers in Manica and Sofala – the two provinces hardest-hit by Cyclone Idai and the subsequent catastrophic flooding – produce approximately 25 percent of the national cereal output, yet all communities in Manica and 80 percent in Sofala reported harvesting less than half of their maize (OCHA, May 2019). Affected households reported having well below-average food stocks leaving many vulnerable households without the prospect of another full harvest until March 2020 (FAO/WFP, September 2019).

Following two consecutive years of below-average production in southern semi-arid areas, most poor households were unable to keep some of their harvested grain to be used as seeds for 2019. The devastating floods caused by Cyclone Idai in the central region again reduced households' ability to retain seeds for the current season and increased their dependence on borrowing or humanitarian assistance (FEWS NET, December 2019). These repeated extremes alter households' recovery capacities and undermine their resilience.

Widespread fall armyworm outbreaks adversely affected crop yields, particularly maize crops. Dry weather conditions in some southern and central areas, prior to the cyclones, facilitated the spread of the pest, increasing its damage and impact on crop productivity. As a result of the sharp decline in maize production and decrease in paddy output, the 2019 cereal production was estimated at 2.8 million tonnes, about 16 percent lower than 2018, but still above the previous

five-year average. Production of sorghum and millet was estimated at an above-average level thanks to the crops' greater resilience to water stress and given that they are normally planted in higher altitude areas that are less affected by flooding (FAO/WFP, September 2019).

Economic shocks

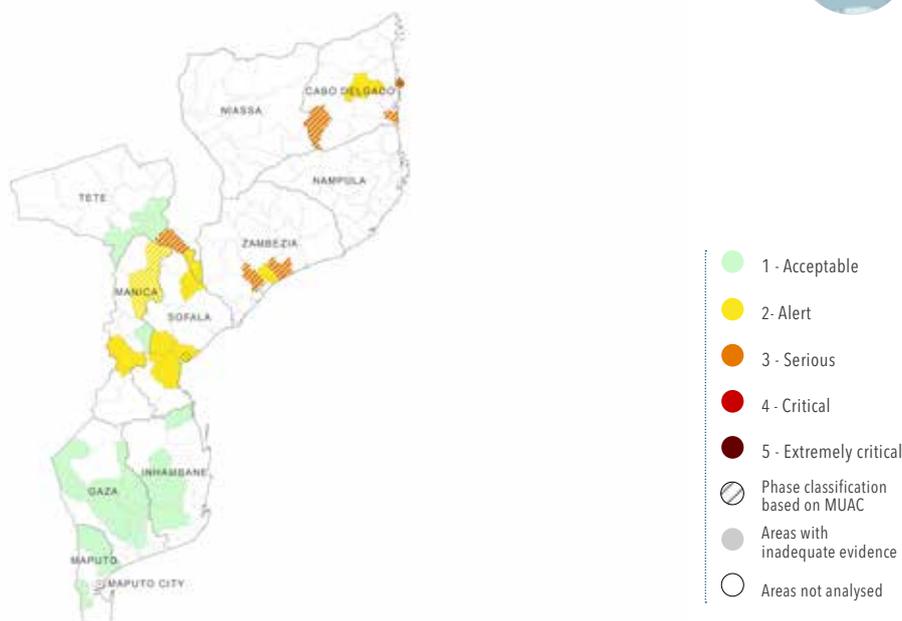
The economic growth for 2019 slowed, based on the losses suffered in the agricultural sector, as well as the disruptive consequences of the cyclones on other sectors, such as transport, housing, industry and commerce, and energy (Government of Mozambique, May 2019). Due to the impact of climate extremes on agricultural production and to higher year-on-year prices of maize grains in South Africa, a key supplier of maize in southern provinces of Mozambique, prices of white maize grain continued to rise in October and were about 50 percent above their year-earlier levels (FAO-GIEWS, December 2019). The abnormally high prices of staple maize grain were expected to further constrain the purchasing power of poor households who by October were relying heavily on market purchase for food (FEWS NET, November 2019).

Conflict and insecurity

Armed violence with attacks on civilians in Mozambique's northernmost province Cabo Delgado continued to force people to abandon their homes, crops, livelihoods and

Map 40

Mozambique, Acute malnutrition situation, October 2019–February 2020



Source: Mozambique IPC Technical Working Group, July 2019

assets. Villages and health centres have been destroyed, making it difficult for families to recover from Cyclone Kenneth. Recurrent since 2017, the violence has prevented humanitarian organizations from reaching those in need and local populations from accessing basic services with displaced people and host communities particularly vulnerable. Having lost their harvest to Cyclone Kenneth people have increasingly turned to charcoal production for income for fear of being attacked if they venture to their fields outside Macomia town (ICRC, December 2019).

Results from the annual food security and nutrition analysis (SETSAN) prior to Cyclone Kenneth already showed a concerning food security and nutrition situation in five districts in the north of Cabo Delgado province linked to conflict and violence. Two of the districts (Macomia and Quissanga) were hardest hit by Cyclone Kenneth (OCHA, May 2019).

NUTRITION OVERVIEW

The peak of acute malnutrition was expected during the lean season, from October 2019–February 2020, when an estimated 67 500 children under the age of 5 were forecast to need treatment for acute malnutrition, according to the IPC acute malnutrition analysis in 31 of the country’s 128 districts in June 2019. An estimated 6 500 of them were affected by severe acute malnutrition (IPC, July 2019). The number of districts facing a Serious (IPC Phase 3) situation increased

from two in April–September, to six in October 2019–February 2020 with Nicoadala, Maganja da Costa, Balama and Doa deteriorating from Alert (IPC Phase 2) (IPC, July 2019).

Generally, acute malnutrition increased in all analysed districts, particularly those affected by Cyclone Idai and floods (IPC, July 2019). However, the IPC analyses were conducted before Cyclone Kenneth hit Cabo Delgado. The cyclone was likely to reduce the quality and quantity of infant feeding, further increase the occurrence of diarrhoea and malaria, and lower coverage of health and sanitation services and access to safe water sources (OCHA, May 2019). Since the declaration of the cholera outbreak on 27 March 2019, by July 6 768 suspected cases had been reported in Sofala and 284 cases reported in Cabo Delgado province. An effective cholera vaccination campaign reached 98.6 percent of the population (WHO, July 2019).

Refugee nutrition status

There is a lack of recent nutrition data for refugees and asylum seekers. In Maratane camp the acute malnutrition prevalence was ‘low’ in 2015 (SENS, 2015), but reports from health facilities suggest a 56 percent increase in the number of acutely malnourished children since 2018 (UNHCR 2019). Stunting was ‘high’ at 28.6 percent and anaemia levels were ‘severe’ with 71.2 percent of children anaemic (SENS, 2015). Sanitation is poor with 30.8 percent of households practising open defecation due to lack of latrines (SENS, 2015).

Country profile

Niger



ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY

2019

Total population of country **23.3M**



Population analysed 21.8M (94% of total population, including displaced populations)

1.4M CH Phase 3 or above in October–December 2019

1.4M CH Phase 3 **Crisis** **86 100** CH Phase 4 **Emergency**

4.5M CH Phase 2 **Stressed**

2018–19 Change

Conflict and insecurity, crop losses and floods **drove up** the number of acutely food-insecure people.



2020 Forecast

The situation is expected to **worsen** further next year if nothing is done due the escalation of conflict in the central Sahel and the continuation of violence in Lake Chad. Biomass and crop production deficits will worsen the situation in localized areas.



NUTRITION INDICATORS

Host population

1.2M children under 5 years are acutely **malnourished**, of whom **396 500** are affected by SAM.

45.7% of children under 5 years are **stunted**.

6.3% of children 6–23 months meet the recommended **dietary diversity** requirement.

21.1% of children under 6 months are exclusively **breastfed**.

61.2% of children under 5 years and **45.1%** of women 15–49 years are **anaemic**.

50% of households have access to at least basic **drinking water** services.

Refugee population

12 500 children under 5 years in 5 camps are acutely **malnourished**, of whom **2 800** are affected by SAM.

37.5–50.2% of children under 5 years in 5 camps are **stunted**.

37% in Intikane camp, **8%** in Mangaize and **90+%** in the other three camps of children under 6 months are exclusively **breastfed**.

DRIVERS OF FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION

Conflict/insecurity Weather extremes

- ▶ Insecurity in Lake Chad Basin, Liptako Gourma, north Tahoua and south Maradi disrupted agricultural, pastoralist and trade activities.
- ▶ Conflict and insecurity forced large numbers of people to desert their homes, assets and livelihoods and become reliant on assistance.
- ▶ Rainfall irregularities, pest attacks and floods created cereal deficits for households in Tillabéry, Maradi, Tahoua and Zinder, prompting an early reliance on markets.

- ▶ In pastoral areas of Diffa, drought led to a sharp decline in the availability of pasture, reducing the purchasing power of livestock farmers.
- ▶ A grave malnutrition situation was exacerbated by insecurity lowering access to health services, and poor WASH services and child feeding practices, which are often worse among displaced populations.

DISPLACEMENT

Over **190 000** were **internally displaced**.

There were **217 000 refugees** and **asylum seekers** from Nigeria (74%) and Mali (26%).

There were **30 000 returnees** from Nigeria.



Farmer Al-Bashir Gamo Gamo was forced to flee his village in West Niger after an armed group killed five residents. Escalating violence is forcing people to abandon their homes, farms and livelihoods in the regions of Diffa, Liptako Gourma, north Tillabéri, north Tahoua and south Maradi.

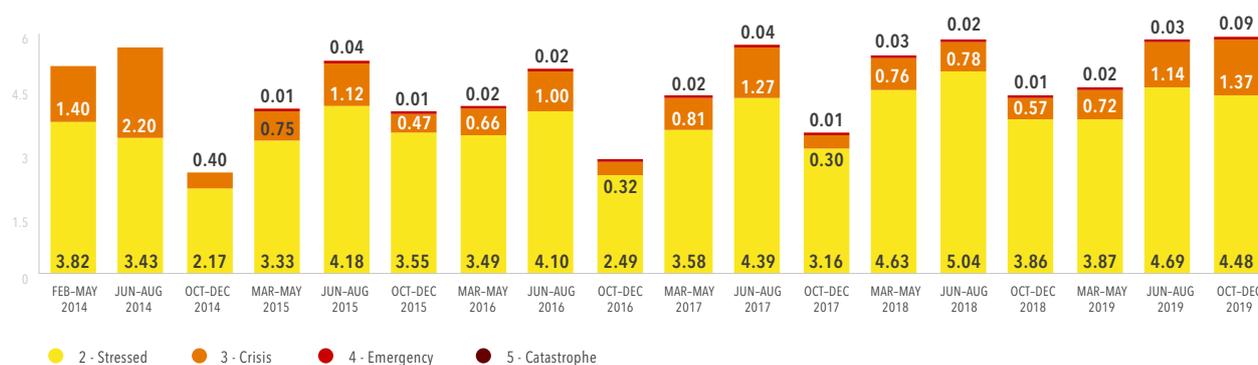
BACKGROUND

Insecurity, malnutrition, recurrent disease epidemics and outbreaks, cyclical floods, droughts and displacement are stretching the capacities of humanitarian partners to respond adequately (UNICEF, February 2020). Ongoing and increasing armed group violence in areas bordering Burkina Faso, Mali and Nigeria has resulted in an influx of tens of thousands of refugees, returnees, IDPs and migrants, all needing access to basic social services and protection for survival and with no immediate prospect of returning home (ECHO, April 2019).

In 2017 France, Germany, the EU, WB, ADB and UNDP launched the Sahel Alliance to help respond to the challenges faced by G5 Sahel member countries. Six other European countries have since joined the alliance (WB, October 2019).

In January the government extended the state of emergency in conflict-affected Diffa, Tahoua and Tillabéri regions. Extreme poverty remains very high, at an estimated 41.5 percent in 2019, affecting more than 9 million people (WB, October 2019). Niger was ranked last out of 189 countries in the 2019 Humanitarian Development Index (UNDP).

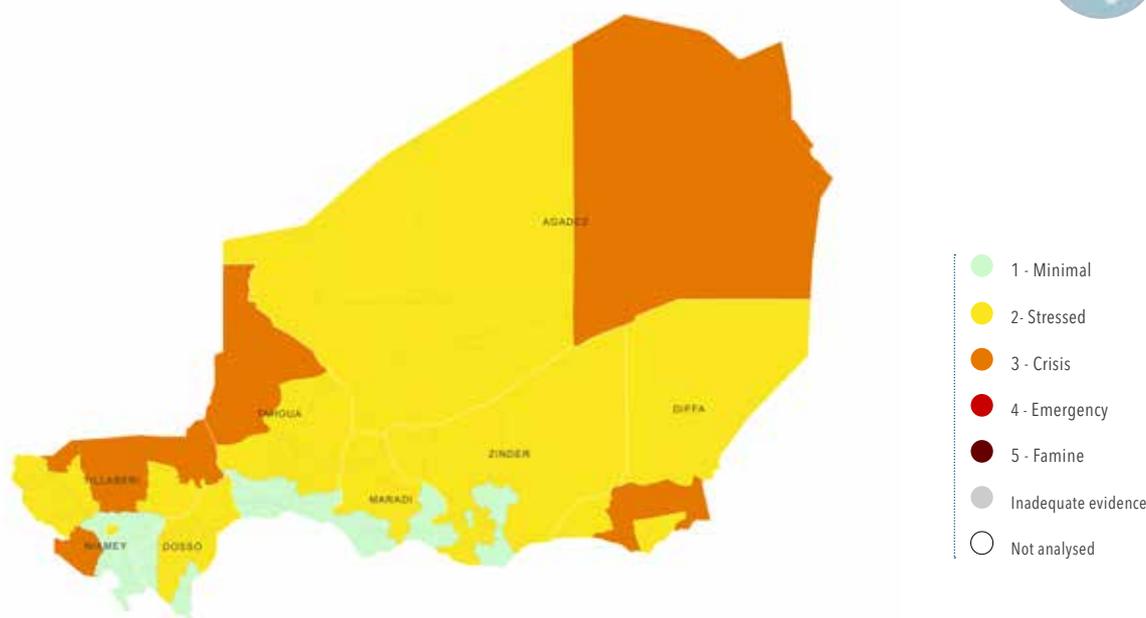
Figure 55
Number of people (millions) in CH Phase 2 or above in 2014-2019



Source: CILSS, Cadre Harmonisé

Map 41

Niger, CH Acute food insecurity situation, October–December 2019



Source: Cadre Harmonisé, November 2019

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY OVERVIEW

In the Niger the number of people in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) peaked at 1.4 million (7 percent of the population) in the October–December post-harvest period (CILSS-CH, November 2019). Of these 89 000 were classified in Emergency (CH Phase 4), including around 3 000 refugees. Additionally, some 4.5 million people were in Stressed (CH Phase 2).

The vast majority of the acutely food-insecure people were located in the four regions of Zinder (420 000), Tillabéri (355 000), Tahoua (262 000) and Maradi (214 000). Eight departments in those areas had more than 20 percent of their population in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above).

Food insecurity deteriorated between 2018 and 2019 and was particularly severe for displaced people and pastoralists. In 2019 the peak number of people in need of urgent humanitarian food assistance was 82 percent higher than the 2018 peak when 0.8 million were in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) during the lean period. However, the situation was not as dire as the June–August 2014 lean season when 2.2 million in rural areas only were in need of urgent food assistance.

Throughout 2019 the population in need of food support steadily rose from 0.7 million in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or

above) in the March–May period to around 1.2 million during the June–August lean period and peaked at the end of the year.

Refugee food insecurity

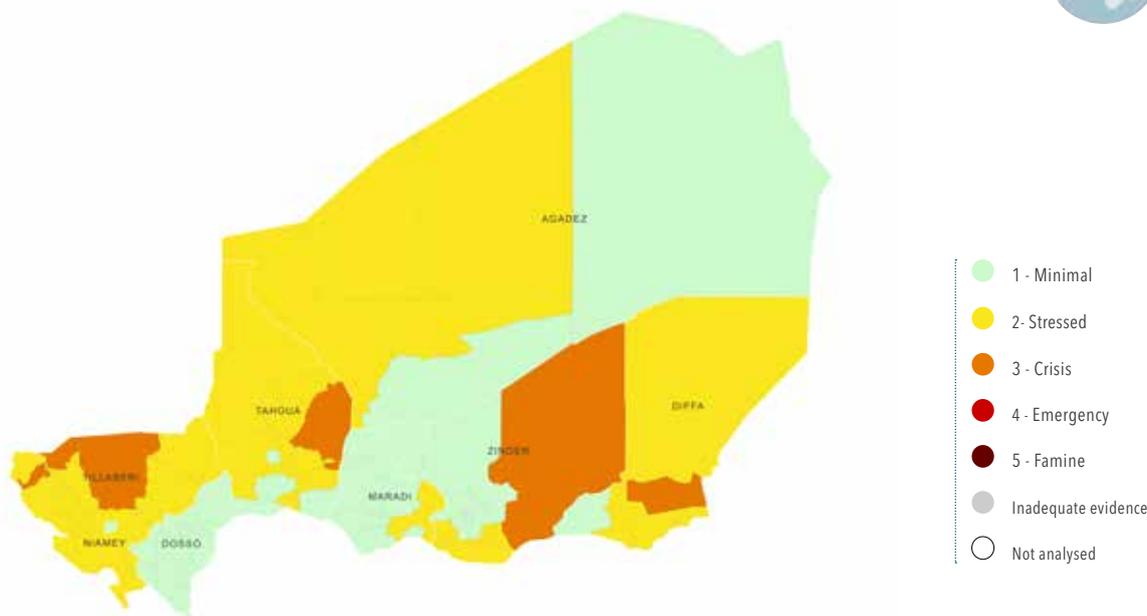
According to UNHCR, as of 31 October 2019, the Niger hosted a refugee population of 218 300, mostly from Nigeria and Mali. This includes 161 400 Nigerian refugees, who arrived since 2015, living in three camps and several other locations along the border with Nigeria and 56 500 Malian refugees, who arrived since 2012 living in four camps and many host communities in Tillabéri and Tahoua regions. Of the total number of Nigerian refugees, around 45 000 are recent arrivals, living along the border area in Maradi.

Refugees and host communities alike face factors that erode food security such as demographic pressure (including high fertility rates), limited agricultural resources, and deteriorating security in border areas where refugees are hosted, which further limits already scarce economic opportunities. Refugees especially have trouble accessing fertile land for farming.

An increasing number of Malian refugee households are now moderately or severely food insecure compared to 2017 (WFP, 2017 and 2019). Targeted food assistance introduced at the beginning of 2018 lowered refugees' capacity for self-sufficiency. The arrival of IDPs in the same regions has further limited the prospect of the refugee population sustaining itself without food assistance. In the Lake Chad region, the

Map 42

Niger, CH Acute food insecurity situation, June–August 2019



Source: Cadre Harmonisé, March 2019

situation has remained as challenging as in previous years. Even with food assistance, around a quarter of the 70 000 Malian refugees in formal camps (17 500 people) were in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) in October–December 2019.

FACTORS DRIVING ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY

Conflict/ Insecurity

The Niger's Diffa region of the Lake Chad Basin has experienced violent activity by Boko Haram or Boko Haram-affiliated armed groups since 2014 with the number of security incidents steadily increasing since December 2017 (OCHA, September 2019). Violence has also increased in the western part of the country in Tahoua and Tillabéri regions over the last two years. During the months of April and May 2019, the security environment deteriorated considerably in the border areas with Burkina Faso (OCHA, May 2019). In conflict-affected areas of Diffa, Liptako Gourma, north Tahoua and to a certain extent south Maradi, crop production, trade, markets and livestock mobility were severely disrupted in 2019, decreasing food availability (FEWS NET, December 2019).

By the end of 2019 there were 119 541 IDPs in the Diffa region and 80 844 IDPs living in host households in Tahoua

and Tillabéri (UNHCR, December 2019). Displaced people faced various food insecurity vulnerabilities because of the loss of their livelihoods. In Tahoua and Tillabéri community solidarity norms require host households to share their food with displaced persons, significantly reducing the quantities consumed in hosting households (FEWS NET, December 2019).

Meanwhile the escalating conflict in Mali and Burkina Faso since the end of 2018 led to an increase in the influx of refugees, with the number of Malian refugees reaching 58 000 by the end of the year. In addition, there were 119 500 Nigerian refugees in Diffa while the new hotspot of community tensions in the states of Zamfara and Sokoto in Nigeria led to 44 800 refugees being displaced in the Maradi region (UNHCR, December 2019).

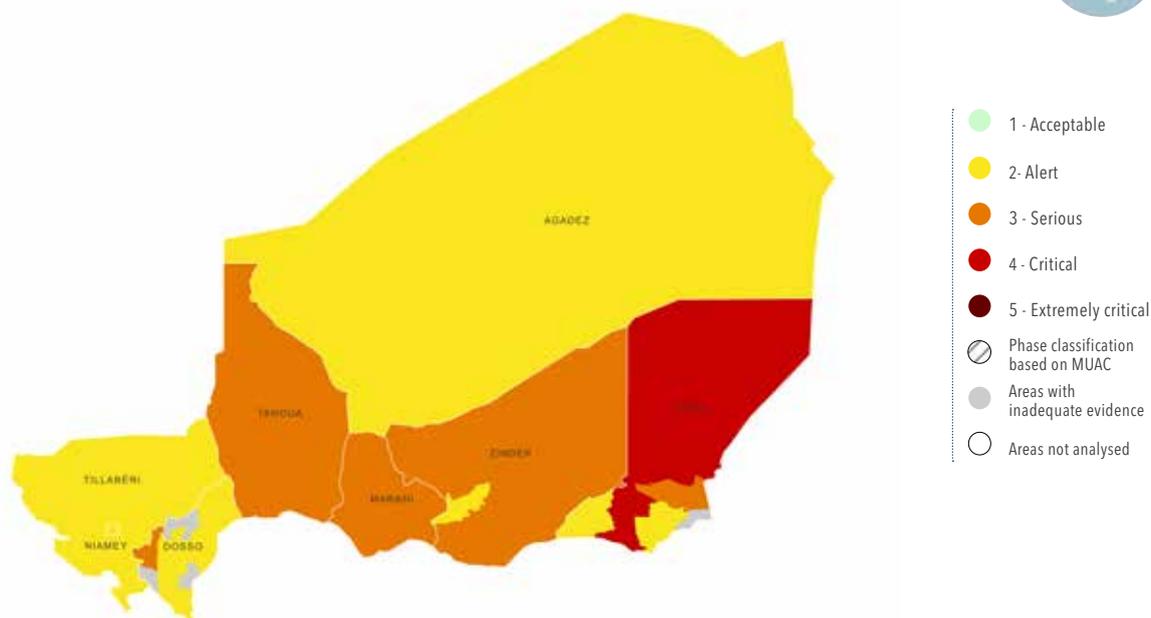
Weather extremes

Generally, the growing season was characterized by medium to good rainfall. However, households in Tillabéri, Maradi, Tahoua and Zinder regions faced cereal deficits largely caused by rainfall irregularities, pest attacks and floods, in addition to conflict and displacement. This resulted in a gradual dwindling of cereal stocks and an early reliance on markets (FEWS NET, December 2019).

Floods caused by heavy seasonal rains, which began in June, affected over 211 000 people, destroying crops and livestock. In the last week of August water levels of the Niger basin reached their highest levels since 2012 and overflow from

Map 43

Niger, IPC Acute malnutrition situation, June–October 2019



Source: Niger IPC Technical Working Group, January 2020

dams in neighbouring Burkina Faso and Mali contributed to the surging waters. The hardest hit regions were Zinder, Maradi and Agadez (OCHA, September 2019). In the Diffa region, in addition to the border conflict with Nigeria, heavy floods in October on irrigated pepper and rice crops damaged livelihoods and food availability.

In pastoral areas, drought led to a sharp decline in the availability of pasture, which significantly reduced the purchasing power of livestock farming households (FEWS NET, December 2019). The production of biomass (defined as ‘above-ground dry plant matter’) decreased between 2018 and 2019 with major and recurrent deficits over the last few years in the regions of Tillabéri, Tahoua, Zinder and Diffa, which is having a grave impact on the livelihoods and food security status of pastoralists (ACF, 2019). The 2019–2020 pastoral season recorded a deficit of more than 11 million tonnes of dry matter (Ministère de l’Agriculture, 2019).

NUTRITION OVERVIEW

According to the IPC Acute Malnutrition analysis in December 2019, 918 360 children were acutely malnourished and in need of treatment. The analysis was conducted at the department level in five regions (Agadez, Diffa, Dosso, Maradi and Zinder) and at the regional level in the remaining three (Tahoua, Niamey and Tillabéri). Tahoua region was classified in Serious phase and Niamey and Tillabéri in Alert. Out of

the 34 departments analysed in the other regions two were classified in Critical, 19 in serious and 13 in Alert (see IPC Acute Malnutrition map).

At 45.7 percent stunting levels were ‘very high’ in children aged 6–59 months, reaching 55.4 percent in Maradi and 52.9 percent in Zinder (SMART, 2019).

This grave malnutrition situation can be largely attributed to child feeding practices. Just 21.1 percent of children under six months were exclusively breastfed and only 6.3 percent of children aged 6–23 months received the minimum acceptable diet for their growth and development (SMART, 2019).

Anaemia was another major concern for malnutrition, affecting 61.2 percent of children aged 6–59 months and 45.1 percent of reproductive age women (SMART, 2019).

The limited access to WASH services presented a challenge. Only half of households had access to an improved source of drinking water within a 30-minute walk round trip from their home. The gap between rural (44 percent) and urban areas was significant (84 percent) (UNICEF & WHO, 2017).

The deteriorating security situation in bordering areas of Burkina Faso, Mali and Nigeria limited access to health services. As of December 18, 2019, four health centres and 47 health posts had closed due to insecurity in crisis-affected areas (WHO, December 2019). The high prevalence of malaria, diarrhoea and respiratory infections are also some of the major contributors to malnutrition in at least 18 out of the

34 departments analysed (IPC AMN 2019). In 2019, a total of 10 727 suspected cases of measles with 55 confirmed cases were reported in eight regions of the country but the case incidence gradually decreased following the vaccination campaign in September (WHO, December 2019).

Refugee nutrition status

Nutrition surveys conducted in host and refugee populations showed a 'high' to 'very high' percentage of children

affected by wasting in five refugee camps and settlements (12–16.1 percent GAM).

Four out of five of the refugee camps and settlements documented SAM prevalence higher than 2 percent. Chronic malnutrition is also highly concerning among refugees, with stunting above critical level (40 percent) in all camps/settlements (SENS, 2018). In 2016, 35.5 percent of households in Sayam Forage camps and 32.6 percent in Kbalaw were not consuming micronutrient-rich foods (SENS 2016).

Country profile

Nigeria



ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY

2019

Total population of country **201M**



Population analysed **103.5M** (51% of total population including displaced populations)

5M CH Phase 3 or above in June - August 2019

4.6M CH Phase 3 **Crisis** | **412 000** CH Phase 4 **Emergency**

18.8M CH Phase 2 **Stressed**

2018-19 Change

Nationally, the number of people in CH Phase 3 and above **decreased** by 7 percent or 340 636 people since 2018, but in the north-eastern conflict-affected states remained constant at about 3 million.

2020 Forecast

The situation is expected to **worsen** next year in the north-eastern states affected by conflict and insecurity, if nothing is done.

NUTRITION INDICATORS

7% children under 5 years are acutely **malnourished**, of whom **1.5%** are affected by SAM. NNHS 2018

32% of children under 5 years are **stunted**. NNHS 2018

34.5% of children 6-23 months meet the recommended **dietary diversity** requirement. NNHS 2018

27.2% of children under 6 months are exclusively **breastfed**. NNHS 2018

67.9% of children under 5 years and **57.8%** of women 15-49 years are **anaemic**. DHS 2018

71% of households have access to at least basic **drinking water** services. JMP 2017

DRIVERS OF FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION

Conflict/insecurity | Weather extremes

- ▶ In the north eastern states, over 1.8 million people were internally displaced by intensified Boko Haram related violence and insecurity, the highest number in three years.
- ▶ Around 800 000 displaced people were cut off from humanitarian aid in north eastern Nigeria due to conflict.
- ▶ In north western and north central states, banditry, kidnappings and communal clashes damaged livelihoods and displaced over 540 000 people.
- ▶ Those living in camps in Borno (host populations dealing with the additional strain on their livelihoods/ resources, and returnees wrestling to re-establish their livelihoods) were particularly vulnerable.

- ▶ In July, heavy rainfalls heightened the incidence of waterborne diseases especially in camps and camp-like settings with stagnant water, poor hygiene conditions and overcrowding.
- ▶ Between June and October flooding across 32 of the 36 states and FCT affected over 210 000 people, displaced about 130 000 and damaged crops across the country.
- ▶ Factors relating to conflict, including displacement, exacerbate pre existing drivers of malnutrition including poor diets, sub-optimal childcare and-feeding practices, lack of access to improved water, sanitation and health services.

DISPLACEMENT

2M were **internally displaced** in six states of the north-east. ICM 2019

540 000 were **internally displaced** in the north-west and north-central areas.

There were **55 000 registered refugees and asylum-seekers** from Cameroon (96%), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (1%) and the Central African Republic (1%), a considerable increase compared to 33 000 in late 2018. UNHCR 2019

There were **1.6M IDP returnees** from three north-eastern states affected by the Lake Chad Basin crisis. ICM 2019



© UNHCR/ROMAN DESJOURS

Soon after arriving in Teachers' Village Camp in Borno state in early 2019, this 20-year-old woman gave birth to a son. She had been hiding in the bush for days with no food or water following attacks by insurgents.

BACKGROUND

Persistent insecurity due to the 10-year-old Boko Haram insurgency is causing continuing misery and dangers for millions living in northern states. The situation appears to be getting worse as Islamic extremist groups grow stronger across the region (FEWS NET, February 2020). Climate change and a growing population is putting pressure on land, with growing tensions and violence between pastoralists and farmers leading to a lack of investment and failure to maximize the country's vast agricultural potential. Levels of poverty, especially in the north, remain stubbornly high, with half the people in Africa's most populous country estimated to be living on less than USD1.90/day (WB, April 2019).

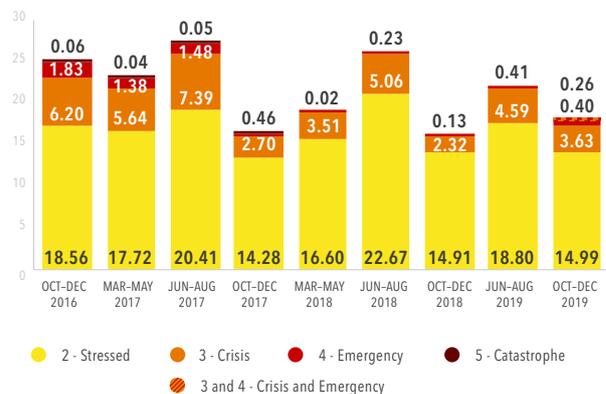
ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY OVERVIEW

In Nigeria acute food insecurity levels peaked from July–August 2019 when the number of people in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) reached almost 5 million, representing five percent of the population analysed in the 16 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). The figure included around 3 million people in the three states of north-eastern Nigeria, most of them in Borno (1.8 million), Yobe (945 000), and Adamawa (279 000). All 412 000 people classified in

Emergency (CH Phase 4) were in these three states (CILSS-CH, June 2019). The remaining two million were mainly in Sokoto, Katsina, Zamfara, Kaduna, Plateau, Bauchi and Gombe.

Inaccessible areas in north-eastern Nigeria were also likely experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity (REACH, June 2019, ECHO, November 2019) but could not be classified within the CH protocols because they were not accessible for enumerators to gather data. Of the 61 accessible or partially accessible Local Government Areas in Adamawa, Borno and

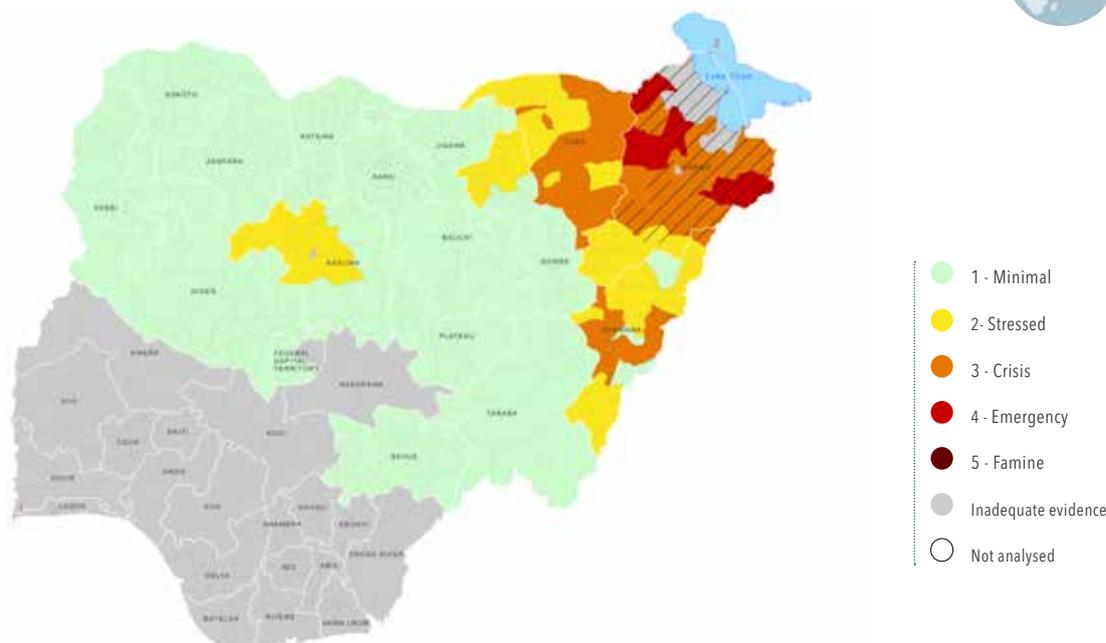
Figure 56
Number of people (millions) in CH Phase 2 or above in 2016–2019



Source: CILSS, Cadre Harmonisé

Map 44

Nigeria, CH Acute food insecurity situation, June–August 2019



Source: Cadre Harmonisé, March 2019

Yobe, 29 were classified in Crisis (CH Phase 3) and one – Kala Balge in Borno – in Emergency (CH Phase 4). Another 20 LGAs were classified in Stressed (CH Phase 2).

Across the 16 states analysed and FCT, 18.8 million people, or 18 percent of the population analysed, were in Stressed (CH Phase 2).

The 2019 peak figure of acutely food-insecure people for the 16 states and FCT was slightly lower than the 2018 peak of 5.3 million people in June–August 2018 and 45 percent lower than June–August 2017 (9 million). However, the situation showed little improvement in the north-eastern areas.

Although the number in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) decreased by around 18 percent to 4 million in October–December 2019 in line with seasonal patterns, the situation remained dire in the north-eastern conflict-affected areas with 22 still classified in Crisis (CH Phase 3). In the rest of the areas analysed more than 80 percent of the population was in Minimal (CH Phase 1) but still thousands were in Crisis (CH Phase 3) outside Borno, Adamawa and Yobe, with the highest number in Kano (429 000) and Kaduna (192 000).

Food insecurity: Displaced populations

The number of displaced people as a result of the insurgency in the north-east is currently estimated at 2 million in more than six states (IOM, November 2019). The forcibly displaced populations have very limited livelihood opportunities and

their food security remains precarious without humanitarian aid (CILSS-CH, 2019 & FEWS NET, October 2019). The November 2019 CH analysis in camps in Borno shows that humanitarian assistance has not met the food security needs of all households. Around 262 000 IDPs were in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above), in addition to 251 000 in Stressed (CH Phase 2) – out of a total of 680 000 IDPs analysed. Host populations also face great pressure on their livelihoods and resources, while returnees wrestle to reconstruct their livelihoods due to the destruction of their assets.

An additional 540 000 people are displaced by communal clashes and banditry in north-west and north-central areas (IOM, 2019), mainly in Benue and Plateau, while Sokoto, Katsina and Zamfara also have a large proportion of displaced populations, largely in host communities (IOM, 2019).

FACTORS DRIVING ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY

Conflict and insecurity

Although conflict occurred in fewer areas compared to previous years, north-eastern Nigeria saw an intensification of Boko Haram-related armed violence in 2019, especially in Borno state. By the end of the year there were an estimated 1.8 million IDPs in the region, the highest number since August 2016, with 92 percent of them displaced by the

2019). In early November more than 40 000 men, women and children – mostly IDPs – had little or no access to food or services in the remote conflict-affected town of Rann, Borno State, following heavy river flooding in neighbouring Cameroon. The flooding damaged an estimated 4 000 hectares of farmland, destroying crops that are the main source of food for IDPs (OCHA, November 2019).

NUTRITION OVERVIEW

Nationally 7 percent of children aged 6–59 months suffered from wasting, which is considered a ‘medium’ prevalence. Of them 1.5 percent were affected by severe wasting. The wasting prevalence in the three crisis-affected states was ‘high’ in Borno (10.6 percent) and ‘medium’ in Yobe (8.9 percent) and Adamawa (7.1 percent). Elsewhere Jigawa, bordering Yobe in the north, had the highest GAM prevalence (12.5 percent) followed by Sokoto (9.8 percent), and Bauchi (9.4 percent) (NNHS 2018).

Overall, 32 percent of children aged 6–59 months were stunted, which is considered a ‘very high’ prevalence. The prevalence was even higher in the BAY states, reaching an alarming 55.8 percent in Yobe, followed by 39.4 percent in Adamawa and 37.3 percent in Borno. Out of the 37 states covered in this analysis, stunting was considered ‘very high’ in 16, with six of them having a prevalence of over 50 percent (NNHS 2018).

Nationally the exclusive breastfeeding rate was low at 27.2 percent. Only 16.5 percent of children aged 6–23 months met the minimum acceptable diet for their growth and development. Minimum meal frequency was 40.2 percent and only 34.5 percent of children of this age consumed at least five out of eight food groups, which is the threshold for minimum dietary diversity (NNHS 2018). These child-feeding practices – already poor at the national level – are exacerbated in areas of protracted conflict where access to health and nutrition services are denied and food availability and access are compromised.

Anaemia was another major concern for malnutrition as more than two thirds of children aged 6–59 months (67.9 percent) and more than half of women of reproductive age (57.8 percent) were anaemic. (DHS 2018).

Around 30 percent of households were not able to use at least basic drinking water services (WHO and UNICEF 2017) and less than half of the households (46.8 percent) had access to improved sanitation facilities (NNHS 2018).

In many locations in Borno state, access challenges restricted the movement of mobile medical teams, ambulances, immunisation and medical supplies (WHO, January 2020). The crisis-affected areas were at high risk of infectious disease outbreaks. In Adamawa 895 suspected cases of cholera had been reported by November 2019. By November 2019 there had been 58 916 suspected cases of measles in 36 states including crisis-affected ones (WHO, January 2020).

Country profile

Occupied Palestinian Territory



ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY

2019

Total population of country **5M**
(**3M** in the West Bank and **2M** in the Gaza Strip)

1.7M food-insecure people in need of assistance

841 000 marginally food-secure people

2018-19 Change

PCBS

HMO 2020

The number of people in need of urgent food assistance did not change as there was no progress in resolving the Israeli Palestinian conflict and the situation on the ground continued to deteriorate.



2020 Forecast

Coping strategies for households are becoming increasingly strained, as livelihoods are put under increasing strain due to political and climatic pressures.

NUTRITION INDICATORS



1.2% of children under 5 years are acutely **malnourished**, of whom **0.4%** are affected by SAM.

MICS 2014



62.6% of children 6-23 months meet the recommended **dietary diversity** requirement.

MICS 2014



61.5% of households have access to improved drinking water sources.

MICS 2014



7.4% of children under 5 years are **stunted**.

MICS 2014



38.6% of children under 6 months are exclusively **breastfed**.

MICS 2014

DRIVERS OF FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION



Conflict/insecurity



Economic shocks



Natural hazards

- ▶ The protracted conflict and ongoing blockade on Gaza continued to restrict trade and access to resources and livelihoods.
- ▶ In Gaza unemployment rates increased from 43 percent in 2018 to almost 47 percent in the second quarter of 2019, with youth unemployment at 64 percent, the highest rate in the world.
- ▶ Poor vulnerable households were falling into a cycle of indebtedness to pay for electricity, water and grocery shopping.

- ▶ By the end of November 815 Palestinians, half of them children, had been displaced in the West Bank as a result of demolitions, almost double the equivalent figure for 2018.
- ▶ Continuous conflict, alongside sudden shocks, overwhelmed an already overburdened health system.

DISPLACEMENT



There were **5.6M** registered Palestinian **refugees** in the Gaza Strip (1.4M) and West Bank (854 000) as well as in Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic.

UNRWA 2018-2019



Maram, a six-year-old girl, lives with her seven siblings in Gaza City where a 12-year economic blockade, rampant poverty and high unemployment makes uninterrupted food assistance critical.

BACKGROUND

The protracted conflict between Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory continued to have a severe humanitarian impact on Palestinians in 2019, chiefly in the Gaza Strip as well as in Area C of the West Bank and East Jerusalem (OCHA, December 2019). Palestinians in these areas face restricted movement of people and goods, limited access to land, water and basic services, recurrent expropriation of land, property and assets, settler violence, civil unrest and periodic large-scale armed hostilities (UNCTAD, July 2016). The situation is aggravated by internal political divisions between the administrations of the West Bank and Gaza (ACAPS, May 2019).

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY OVERVIEW

Around 1.7 million Palestinians are food insecure and in need of assistance (OCHA, 2020). The majority of them live in the Gaza Strip and the remainder in the West Bank.

The most recent available food security data was gathered in September 2018. It showed that food insecurity was particularly severe and worsening in the Gaza Strip where the prevalence of food insecure people increased from 59 percent in 2014 to 68.5 percent in 2018. Of these some 47 percent

were severely food insecure and 22 percent moderately food insecure.¹ The situation was less severe in the West Bank where around 12 percent were food insecure, an improvement since 2014 (15 percent) although it was slightly higher among refugees (14 percent) (FSC, December 2018).

The most vulnerable people include widows/widowers, female-headed households, single male-headed households, people living with disabilities, the elderly and refugees, especially those living in camps (OCHA, January 2020). Palestinians increasingly resorted to negative coping mechanisms, such as withdrawing children from school (OCHA, January 2020).

Refugee acute food insecurity

Palestine refugees are defined as "persons whose normal place of residence was the Occupied Palestinian Territory during the period 1 June 1946 to 15 May 1948, and who lost both home and means of livelihood as a result of the 1948 conflict." The descendants of Palestine refugee males, including adopted children, are also eligible for refugee registration (UNRWA, accessed January 2020). Across the region there are around 5.5 million refugees with more than 1.7 million of them living in 58 recognized Palestine refugee

¹ Based on WFP CARI methodology.

camps² in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, as well as in Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic (UNRWA, May 2019).

In Gaza over 70 percent of the population (1.4 million Palestinians) are refugees. Almost 600 000 of them live in eight camps, which have some of the highest population densities in the world (UNRWA). The West Bank is home to around 850 000 Palestine refugees (UNRWA, May 2019), a quarter of whom live in camps.

The proportion of food-insecure refugees in the Gaza Strip increased between 2015 and 2018 from 57 percent to 67 percent. But at 70 percent an even higher percentage of non-refugees in Gaza were food insecure, up from 63 percent in 2014. In the West Bank the food security of refugees improved between 2014 and 2018 – with the percentage of food insecure falling from 20 percent to 14 percent. There was a particularly significant improvement in refugee camps in the West Bank, with the percentage of food insecure falling to 8 percent from 21 percent in 2014 (FSC, December 2018).

FACTORS DRIVING ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY

Conflict and insecurity

The prolonged occupation, blockade on Gaza and outbreaks of hostilities have eroded the resilience of Palestinians. They are increasingly less able to cope with sudden shocks, such as spikes in conflict, demolitions in the West Bank, and natural or environmental hazards, such as winter storms, the longer term effects of climate change, inadequate water and sanitation services and electricity cuts (OCHA, January 2020).

The situation in Gaza remained particularly fragile. The Great March of Return demonstrations since March 2018, calling for Israeli authorities to lift their blockade on Gaza and to allow Palestinian refugees to return to their villages and towns inside what is now Israel continued (Amnesty International, accessed January 2020).

Aid workers experience movement restrictions and difficulties in getting visas to access Gaza. The Israeli government bans the import of specific humanitarian items into Gaza, and Hamas imposes restrictions on humanitarian operations within the Gaza Strip. Confiscation of aid is common from all sides, including both Israeli and Palestinian authorities in the West Bank and Gaza (ACAPS, October 2019).

In the West Bank, settlement activity and related violence, loss of land, the demolition and threat of demolition of infrastructure, movement restrictions, and impeded access to basic services and livelihoods, including farming and grazing lands, as well as poor law enforcement on violent settlers continued (OCHA, December 2019). By the end of November 815 Palestinians had been displaced in the West Bank as a result of demolitions, almost double the 2018 number (OCHA, December 2019).

According to FAO, in the West Bank – where the olive sector provides primary or secondary sources of income for between 80 000 and 100 000 families – the olive yield in 2019 was estimated to reach a record 27 000 tonnes, an 84 percent increase over the previous year. However, in some areas, the realization of a potential record yield was compromised by access restrictions to groves and attacks and intimidation (OCHA 2019).

Economic shocks

Despite a slight improvement in the Gazan economy in 2019 (growing by 1.8 percent, following a steep recession of almost seven percent in 2018) unemployment rates increased from 43 percent in 2018 to almost 47 percent in the second quarter of 2019, with youth unemployment at 64 percent, the highest rate in the world (WB, September 2019).

The humanitarian situation in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, is less acute than in Gaza, but growth in 2019 was expected to slow to the lowest level of the last five years (1.2 percent), down from 3.1 percent in 2018 (WB, September 2019). Economic development is undermined by occupation, administrative and physical constraints, and by limitations on Palestinian access to land and natural resources especially in Area C, which makes up over 60 percent of the West Bank (OCHA, January 2020).

In June, a WFP survey in Gaza and the West Bank found that poor vulnerable communities were resorting to negative coping mechanisms and falling into a cycle of indebtedness to meet their most pressing needs.

In Gaza more than 80 percent of households had debts of between USD 1 810 and USD 3 498, made up of unpaid bills for electricity and water, grocery shopping, and lines of credit with friends and relatives. Nearly half (48 percent) of those interviewed reported an increased trend in purchasing food on credit compared to the previous month.

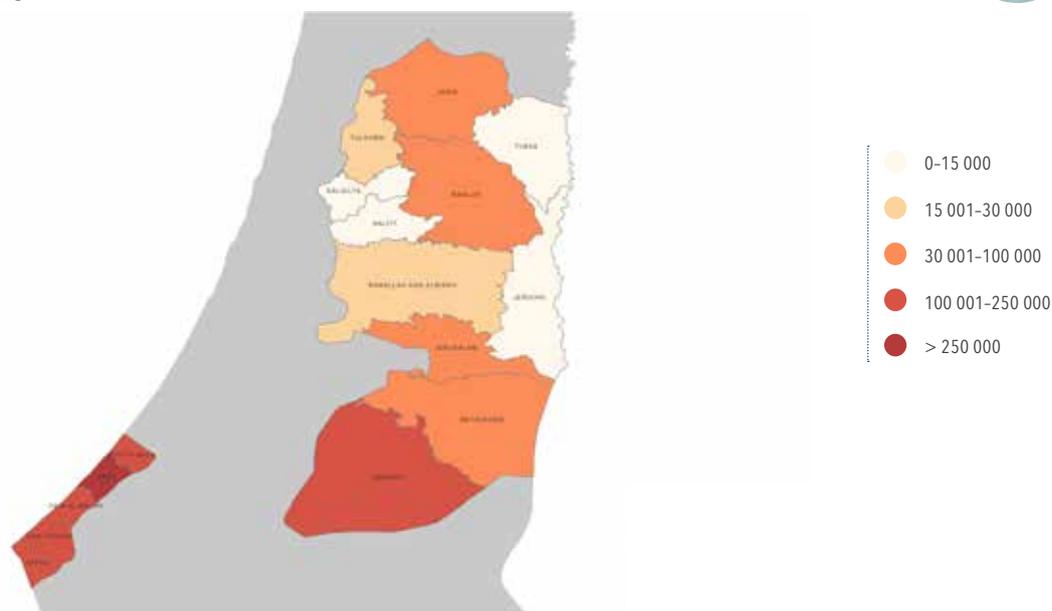
In the West Bank 48 percent had debts ranging from USD 1 796 to USD 3 418. Around 63 percent said they were more likely to purchase food on credit compared to the previous month (WFP, June 2019).

A recent World Bank report called for a review of the Israeli application of the system for dual use goods as it limits

² Defined as a plot of land placed at the disposal of UNRWA by the host government to accommodate Palestine refugees with facilities to cater for their needs. UNRWA also maintains schools, health centres and distribution centres in areas outside the recognized camps where Palestine refugees are concentrated, such as Yarmouk, near Damascus.

Map 46

Occupied Palestinian Territory, Number of food-insecure people by governorate, 2019



Source: WFP, 2018

economic diversification and sustainable growth in the Palestinian territories. In agriculture the dual use restrictions have lowered the concentration of active chemicals in fertilizers making them less effective and lowering land productivity to half of that in Jordan and only 43 percent of the yield in Israel (WB, April 2019).

In April the permissible fishing area along the southern and central parts of Gaza's coast was expanded from 6 to 15 nautical miles (NM) offshore, the furthest distance that Gaza's fishers have been permitted to access since 2000.

Access to the northern areas along the coast remained at up to 6 NM, well below the 20 NM agreed under the Oslo Accords (OCHA, November 2019).

NUTRITION OVERVIEW

While the national acute malnutrition was 'low' in 2014 (MICS, 2014), it reached 14 percent in Gaza strip in 2019. In addition, 18 percent of pregnant and 14 percent of lactating women were malnourished in 2019 (UNICEF, 2019).

Just 39 percent of children are exclusively breastfed in the first six months of life. The lack of

growth in exclusive breastfeeding over the past years is mainly due to aggressive marketing of breast milk substitutes and a lack of clarity regarding optimal infant feeding practices. Only 14 percent of young children in Gaza received a minimum acceptable diet for their growth and development (UNICEF, 2019). A high proportion were not eating iron-rich foods, increasing the risk of iron deficiency anaemia (UNICEF, 2019).

While there has been an improvement in the daily availability of electricity, and the supply of water and wastewater treatment since October 2018, the quality of basic services remained extremely poor in Gaza, particularly access to safe water and risk of winter flooding or exposure to environmental health risks along the Gaza shoreline. In the West Bank, poor service provisions and demolitions particularly in Area C remain a concern (OCHA, December 2019).

The protracted conflict, alongside sudden shocks, is overwhelming an already overburdened health system (OCHA, January 2020). The dual-use restrictions on medical equipment and a shortage of medical supplies are major contributors to the evolving health crisis in Gaza. The hospitals have limited capacity to manage injuries that require complex treatment including health services for women and children (UNICEF, September 2019).

Country profile



Pakistan (Balochistan and Sindh drought-affected areas)

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY

2019

Total population of country **216.6M**



Population analysed **6M** (3% of total population)

3.1M IPC Phase 3 or above in October 2018–July 2019

2.1M IPC Phase 3 **Crisis** **1M** IPC Phase 4 **Emergency**

1.4M IPC Phase 2 **Stressed**

2018–19 Change

The number of food-insecure people **increased**, but analysis is not comparable with 2018 due to change in data source and higher analysis coverage (Balochistan province was not included in 2018 analysis).

2020 Forecast

N/A

IPC WB 2018 PAKISTAN IPC TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP, APRIL 2019

NUTRITION INDICATORS

17.7% children under 5 years are acutely **malnourished**; **19%** prevalence in Balochistan and **23%** in Sindh.

40.2% of children under 5 years are **stunted**; **47%** prevalence in Balochistan and **46%** in Sindh.

14.2% of children 6–23 months meet the recommended **dietary diversity** requirement; **13%** in Balochistan and **10%** in Sindh.

48.4% of children under 6 months are exclusively **breastfed**; **44%** in Balochistan, and **52%** in Sindh.

53.7% of children under 5 years and **42.7%** of women 15–49 years are **anaemic**.

91% of households have access to at least basic **drinking water** services.

NNS 2018

NNS 2018

NNS 2018

NNS 2018

NNS 2018

JMP 2017

DRIVERS OF FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION

Weather extremes Economic shocks

- ▶ Prolonged drought/drought-like conditions have persisted since 2013 in arid south-eastern and western areas.
- ▶ Low availability of water and fodder resulted in livestock diseases, deaths and distress sales of animals.
- ▶ Subsistence farmers faced reduced food production and increased reliance on markets.
- ▶ In November 2019 food was 16 percent more expensive than a year earlier.

- ▶ Both acute and chronic child malnutrition rates are extremely concerning, particularly in rural drought-affected areas, where children consume poor quality diets and face poor water and sanitation conditions. Low vaccination coverage in Balochistan and high incidence of low birthweight in Sindh are also concerning.

DISPLACEMENT

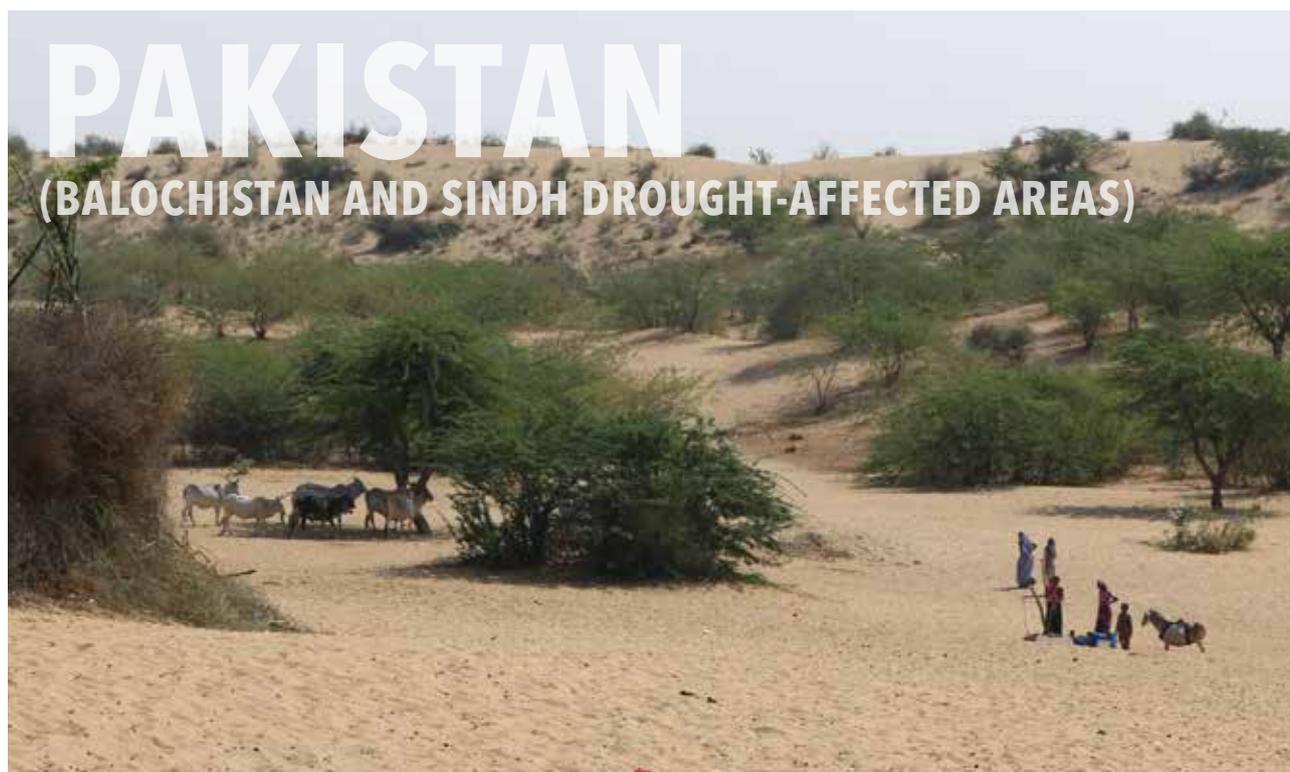
Around **96 000** were **internally displaced**.

There were **1.4M** registered **refugees** from Afghanistan, **324 200** in Balochistan and **64 000** in Sindh.

There were over **83 000** **IDP returnees**.

UNHCR JUN 2019 UNHCR DEC 2019

UNHCR JUN 2019



PAKISTAN

(BALOCHISTAN AND SINDH DROUGHT-AFFECTED AREAS)

Women and children fetch water near their village in a drought-affected area of Sindh Province. Since 2013, prolonged drought/drought-like conditions have persisted in southeastern and western parts of the country.

BACKGROUND

With a rural poverty headcount close to 50 percent, Sindh and Balochistan have the highest rural poverty rates among Pakistan's provinces and the highest urban-rural poverty gaps (WB, March 2019). The provinces have experienced drought conditions since 2013 and 2016, and the situation worsened during the last quarter of 2018 with adverse effect on rural livelihoods, cereal production and livestock (IPC, July 2019).

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY OVERVIEW

Over 3 million people – representing more than half of the population analysed in 21 rural, drought-affected districts in Balochistan and Sindh provinces – were in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in October 2018–July 2019. Of these more than 1 million people faced Emergency (IPC Phase 4) conditions. An additional 1.4 million people were in Stressed (IPC Phase 2). The food security situation was not expected to improve in the latter half of the year (IPC, July 2019).

In Balochistan 1.79 million people (48 percent of the rural population) in 14 drought-affected districts were in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or above in January–July 2019. Of these around 420 000 people were in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). Rural areas of two districts (Chaghai and Washuk) were in

Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and the remaining 12 districts in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). In Sindh 1.28 million people (57 percent of the rural population) in seven districts were in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) from October–July 2019. Of these, almost 600 000 people were in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). Drought-affected areas of four districts were in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) (IPC, July 2019).

FACTORS DRIVING ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY

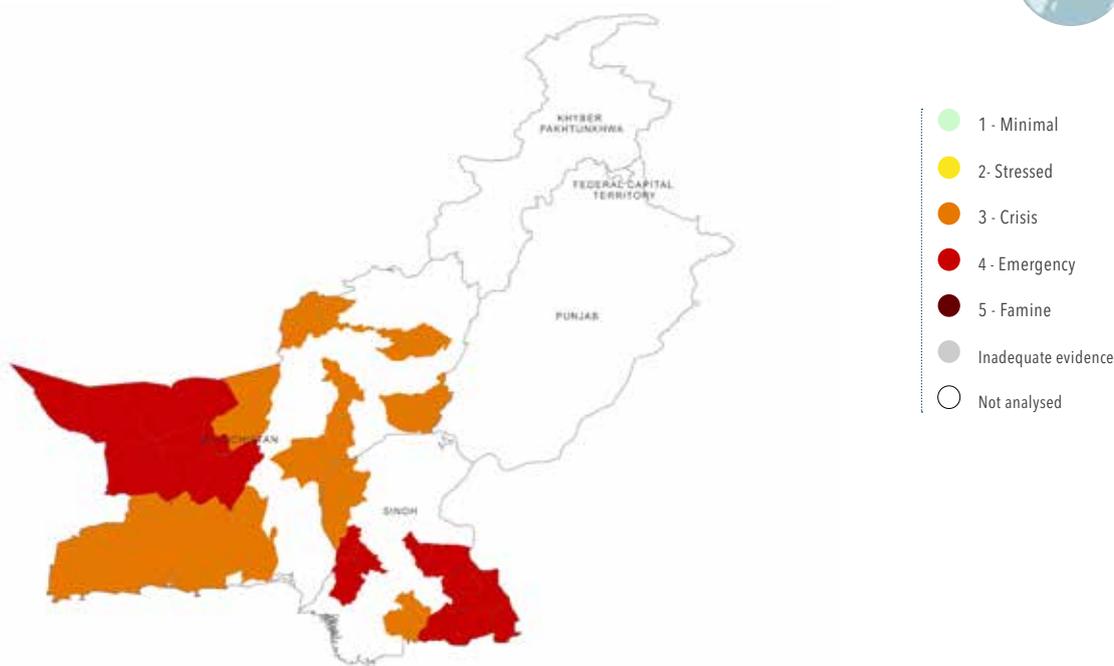
Weather extremes

Temperature rises, El Niño conditions and a decrease in monsoon rainfall have increased the frequency and severity of drought. The 2018 monsoon season rains were almost 70 percent below average in Sindh and 45 percent below average in Balochistan. This resulted in acute shortages of water, food and fodder into 2019.

In January 2019, the Government of Sindh declared some south-eastern and western districts as calamity-hit areas while a province-wide nutrition and drought emergency was declared in Balochistan (OCHA, March 2019). Despite moderate 2019 summer monsoon rains the effects of the drought in Balochistan were expected to persist (USAID, September 2019).

Map 47

Pakistan, IPC Acute food insecurity situation, October 2018–July 2019



Source: Pakistan IPC Technical Working Group, July 2019

The vast majority (87 percent) of households in drought-affected districts in Sindh own livestock (NDS, January 2019). Since 2013, fodder production has been low and water availability limited, leading to livestock diseases, deaths and distress-sales of animals (IPC, July 2019).

Heavy rains in February 2019 resulted in severe flash floods in six districts of Balochistan. Additional heavy rains in April caused floods in most districts of Balochistan and Sindh (IFRC, October 2019) while monsoon rains flooded several districts of Sindh in August (ECHO, August 2019).

Economic shocks

Half of the population of drought-affected districts are subsistence-level crop producers (NDS, January 2019), whose reliance on markets increases when they face lack of water for irrigation and decreased production of cereals and pulses (IPC, July 2019). Two-thirds were spending a high proportion of their total expenditures (65 percent or more) on food (NDS, January 2019), signifying their vulnerability if confronted with food price rises.

During Q3 of 2019 all five WFP-monitored markets in Pakistan met the criteria to be categorized in crisis based on Alert for Price Spikes (ALPS) indicator (WFP, October 2019). Between July 2018 and 2019 the market price of wheat and/or wheat flour increased by 9 percent, that of basmati rice by 12 percent and pulses by 13–40 percent (WFP, August 2019).

The food element of the Consumer Price Index increased by 2.4 percent between October and November 2019 and by 16.5 percent between November 2018 and 2019 (PBS, November 2019).

NUTRITION OVERVIEW

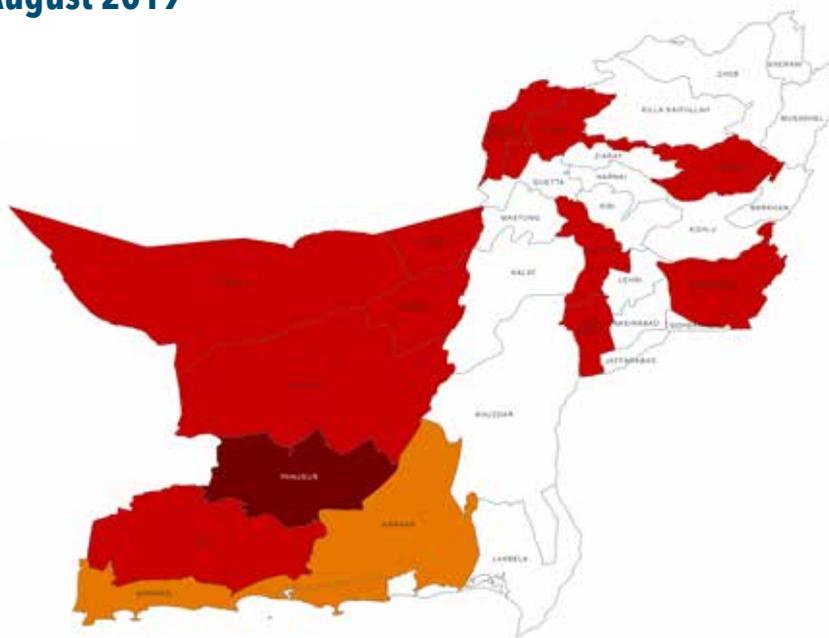
According to the 2018 National Nutrition Survey, child malnutrition in its different forms remains critical despite improvements in other socioeconomic indicators. Acute malnutrition rates measured by wasting were above 'very high' levels at 18 percent, up from 15 percent in 2011 and 8.6 percent in 1997. Rates were even higher in Balochistan and Sindh – the latter having the highest rates in Pakistan, affecting close to a quarter of children (NNS, June 2019).

Around 1.4 million children aged 6–59 months were in need of treatment for acute malnutrition in the 22 drought-affected districts from May–August 2019. In Balochistan's 14 drought-affected districts almost 400 000 children were wasted, half of them severely so. In Sindh over 1 million were wasted, 365 200 of them severely so (IPC, November 2019).

Sixteen of the 22 drought-affected districts were classified as Critical (IPC AMN Phase 4), while Panjgur district in Balochistan and Umerkot and Tharparkar in Sindh were classified as Extremely Critical (IPC AMN Phase 5) (IPC, November 2019).

Map 48

Pakistan (Balochistan Province), IPC Acute malnutrition situation, May–August 2019




- 1 - Acceptable
- 2 - Alert
- 3 - Serious
- 4 - Critical
- 5 - Extremely critical
-  Phase classification based on MUAC
-  Areas with inadequate evidence
-  Not analysed



Source: Pakistan IPC Technical Working Group, November 2019

Map 49

Pakistan (Sindh Province), IPC Acute malnutrition situation, May–August 2019




- 1 - Acceptable
- 2 - Alert
- 3 - Serious
- 4 - Critical
- 5 - Extremely critical
-  Phase classification based on MUAC
-  Areas with inadequate evidence
-  Not analysed



Source: Pakistan IPC Technical Working Group, November 2019

Chronic malnutrition prevalence is considered 'very high' at 47 percent in Balochistan and 46 percent in Sindh. Fewer than 4 percent of children aged 6–23 months receive a minimum acceptable diet (NNS, June 2019). Poor water

supply, sanitation, and hygiene and high levels of waterborne diseases – reflecting the widespread contamination of water supplies by sewage effluent – contribute to the high levels of childhood stunting (WB, December 2018).

Country profile

Somalia



ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY 2019

Total population of country **15.4M**



Population analysed **12.3M** (80% of total population, including IDPs, but NOT refugees)

2.1M IPC Phase 3 or above in October–December 2019

1.7M IPC Phase 3 **Crisis** **439 000** IPC Phase 4 **Emergency**

4.2M IPC Phase 2 **Stressed**

2018–19 Change

Despite poor rains, floods and insecurity the number of acutely food-insecure **decreased** since 2018 when households were still recovering from the 2016/17 drought.

2020 Forecast

Improving food security conditions are forecast due to the favourable impact of rains on crop and livestock production, although the impact of desert locust infestations on food security had not been felt in early 2020.

UN DESA WB 2018 SOMALIA IPC TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP AUGUST 2019

NUTRITION INDICATORS

Host population

1.1M children under 5 years are acutely **malnourished**, of whom **178 000** are affected by SAM. **25.3%** of children under 5 years are **stunted**.

15% of children 6–23 months meet the recommended **dietary diversity** requirement. **62.7%** of children under 6 months are exclusively **breastfed**.

55.8% of children under 5 years and **44.4%** of women 15–49 years are **anaemic**. **52%** of households have access to at least basic **drinking water** services.

Refugee population

18% of children under 5 years are acutely **malnourished**, of whom **3.5%** are affected by SAM.

DRIVERS OF FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION

Weather extremes Conflict/insecurity

- ▶ Two consecutive below-average rainy seasons resulted in the lowest cereal harvest since 1995 in southern Somalia.
- ▶ Many pastoral households, yet to recover from the 2016/17 drought, experienced reduced milk availability and took on large debts to cover basic needs.
- ▶ Poor harvests inflated the price of locally produced staples while low demand for agricultural labour depressed household income.
- ▶ Continued conflict and insecurity disrupted livelihoods, markets, trade flows and humanitarian access.
- ▶ Widespread flooding between October and December displaced 370 000 people.
- ▶ The country's 2.65 million IDPs lacked livelihood opportunities and those in settlements with poor sanitation were vulnerable.
- ▶ Lack of nutritious diets and waterborne diseases—worsened by the floods—underlie alarming acute malnutrition rates, especially among displaced households.

DISPLACEMENT

- ▶ Over **2.6M** were **internally displaced**.
- ▶ There were around **35 600 refugees** and **asylum-seekers** mainly from Ethiopia (60%) and Yemen (37%). The population has increased by 9% compared to November 2018.
- ▶ There were **91 200 IDP returnees** since December 2014.

UNHCR DEC 2019 UNHCR NOV 2019 UNHCR NOV 2019



© MAFIKENI OUMA

Fatuma Abdulah sits in the shade with her children in El Jalle village, Belet Weyne district, where devastating flooding by the Shabelle river prompted an estimated 273 000 people to flee their homes in October–November 2019.

BACKGROUND

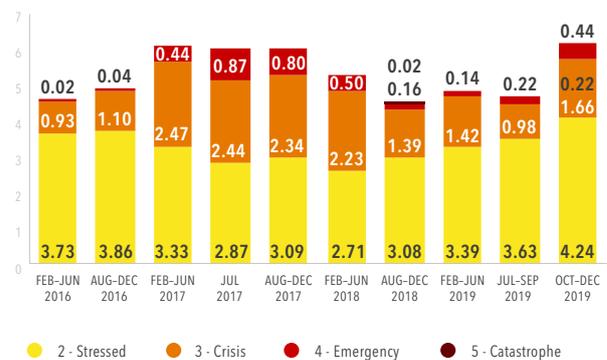
Over 20 years of conflict and political instability, coupled with recurrent climatic shocks, have driven widespread poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition. Around 69 percent of the population lives in poverty, with higher rates observed among rural and IDP populations (WB, April 2019). Multiple consecutive droughts have contributed to widespread food insecurity during recent years. Severe drought in 2010/11 resulted in a Famine (IPC Phase 5) in parts of southern Somalia (FSNAU & FEWS NET, September 2011). The 2016/17 drought created an increased risk of Famine (IPC Phase 5) that was only brought under control by sustained, large-scale humanitarian assistance and relative improvements in weather conditions in 2017 (FSNAU, 2017).

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY OVERVIEW

An estimated 2.1 million people faced Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) food insecurity in Somalia from October–December 2019 in the absence of humanitarian assistance. This included 439 000 people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). Areas of major concern included the Guban pastoral and Bay-Bakool low potential agropastoral livelihood zones in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and central and northern

Figure 57

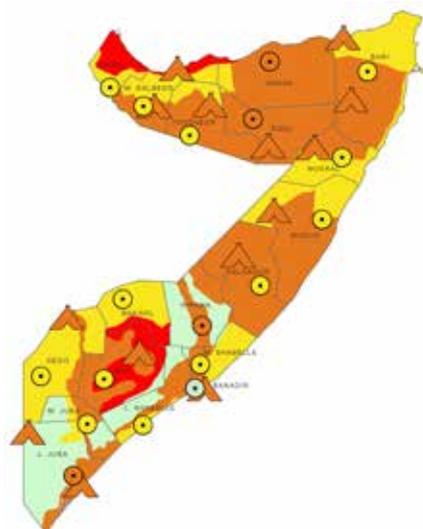
Number of people (millions) in IPC Phase 2 or above in 2016–2019



Source: Somalia IPC Technical Working Group

Map 50

Somalia, IPC Acute food insecurity situation, October–December 2019



- 1 - Minimal
- 2 - Stressed
- 3 - Crisis
- 4 - Emergency
- 5 - Famine
- Inadequate evidence
- Not analyzed
- IDP settlement—colour depicts phase
- △ Urban settlement—colour depicts phase
- ! Area would likely be at least one phase worse without effects of humanitarian assistance

Source: Somalia IPC Technical Working Group, September 2019

pastoral and agropastoral zones in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). An additional 4.2 million people were classified in Stressed (IPC Phase 2). Large-scale food assistance likely prevented worse outcomes (IPC, September 2019).

Most urban centres faced Stressed (IPC Phase 2) or Minimal (IPC Phase 1) food insecurity due to stable food prices and employment opportunities. However, Crisis (IPC Phase 3) conditions were observed in Awdal, Hirshabelle, Sanaag, and Sool regions (IPC, February 2019 & September 2019).

Food insecurity deteriorated during 2019 from 1.6 million people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in February–June to 2.1 million in October–December. But the end-of-year peak number was significantly lower than the February–June peak of 2018 when 2.7 million people were in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) as households were still recovering from the 2016/17 severe drought (IPC, February 2018 & 2019).

Displaced populations' food insecurity

The IDP population remained relatively stable compared to 2018 at 2.6 million while the refugee population (from Ethiopia followed by Yemen) increased by 9 percent to 35 600. Returnee flows slowed significantly from 10 800 in 2018 and 36 700 in 2017 to 3 700 in 2019, mainly from Kenya and Yemen (UNHCR, November 2018 & 2019).

Displaced people encounter difficulties in accessing labour opportunities and the poverty rate is high among them (WB,

2019). They face vulnerability to illness due to inadequate sanitation in IDP settlements (FEWS NET, October 2019). In 14 key IDP sites assessed, households in receipt of humanitarian assistance faced Stressed (IPC Phase 2) or Crisis (IPC Phase 3) conditions (IPC, September 2019).

FACTORS DRIVING ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY

Weather extremes

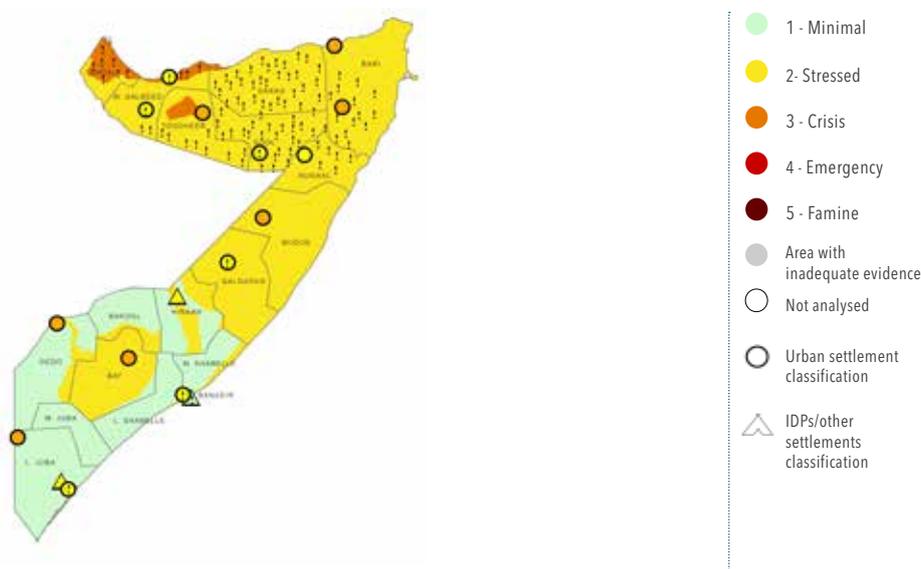
In late 2018, the October–December Deyr rains were late and below average with much of central Somalia, as well as parts of the north, receiving rainfall that was only 25–50 percent of average (IPC, February 2019). This was then followed by a late and erratic 2019 Gu season (April–June) with well below-average rainfall until mid-May.

Due to the very short rainy season and farmers being unable to plant on time, many cropping areas experienced a failed harvest and cereal production in southern Somalia was the lowest since 1995 – even lower than the pre-famine Gu harvest of 2011 – and 68 percent below the 1995–2018 average.

Cereal harvests in north-western Somalia were also 44 percent below the 2010–2018 average (FSNAU & FEWS NET, September 2019). Following the drought that persisted through mid-May 2019, Somalia received well above-average rainfall during the

Map 51

Somalia, IPC Acute food insecurity situation, January 2019



Source: Somalia IPC Technical Working Group, February 2019

2019 Deyr rains, with many areas experiencing rainfall that was more than three times the average (NOAA, October 2019).

Though these rains were generally beneficial for agricultural production and pastoral livelihoods, they also caused widespread flooding along the Shabelle and Juba rivers, affecting 547 000 people and displacing 370 000 (OCHA, November 2019).

Farmland, infrastructure and roads were destroyed, and livelihoods disrupted in some of the worst-hit areas (WFP, October 2019).

Flooding was responsible for the highest number of new internal displacements in 2019 (369 000), followed by conflict and insecurity (183 000) and drought (142 000) (UNHCR, November 2019).

Economic shocks

Though the price of imported foods remained at average to below-average levels, the poor harvests caused the price of locally-produced staples to rise, further limiting household food access.

Low demand for agricultural labour during the 2019 Gu season and the subsequent crop-marketing season depressed household income. Labour-to-cereals terms of trade remained low or declined from June to September in most agropastoral areas of southern Somalia (FSNAU & FEWS NET, October 2019).

As of November 2019, the cost of a minimum basket was above the five-year average in the Juba, Sorghum Belt, Banadir, Northeast, and Northwest regions (FSNAU, November 2019).

In pastoral areas, late season rains in May helped to partially, but not fully, replenish pastoral resources. However, many pastoral households, many of whom had already lost much of their herds during the 2016/17 drought, faced reduced milk availability from their remaining stock and took on large debts to cover basic food and non-food needs (FSNAU & FEWS NET, September 2019).

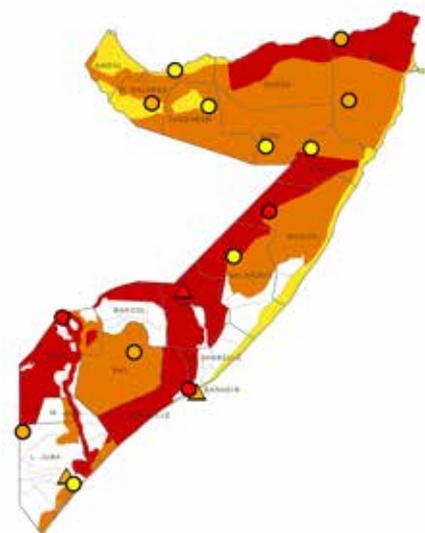
Conflict and insecurity

Clan disputes, protests, the weakness of the national forces, the gradual withdrawal of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), Islamic State and continuing Al Shabaab attacks continued to cause insecurity and instability, disrupting livelihoods, markets, trade flows and humanitarian access and forcing Somalis to abandon fields and productive assets (ACAPS, June 2019 and FSNAU, October 2019).

ACLED data indicated that there were approximately 2 400 conflict events in Somalia in 2019, resulting in 3 800 fatalities. Though still very high, this data indicates a slight decline compared to 2018 levels with conflict events down by 15 percent and fatalities down by 26 percent (ACLED, 2019).

Map 52

Somalia, IPC Acute malnutrition situation, August 2019 (based on June–July 2019 surveys)



Source: Somalia IPC Technical Working Group, August 2019

NUTRITION OVERVIEW

About 1.3 million boys, girls, pregnant and lactating women suffer from acute malnutrition, with 180 000 children under 5 years suffering from life threatening severe malnutrition (OCHA, January 2020).

The 2019 post-Gu season nutrition assessment, conducted in June–July, showed a similar median GAM estimate (14 percent) to that of 2018 (13.8 percent), and a non-statistically significant decrease when compared to Gu 2017 (17.4 percent).

The percentage of children with SAM was 2.3 percent– up from 2 percent in Gu 2018, but better than 3.2 percent in Gu 2017, which was an exceptionally difficult year characterized by severe drought in some parts of the country, particularly in the central south regions, leading to high levels of acute malnutrition. In Gu 2019 the average SAM rate was higher in rural areas (3 percent) compared to urban (2.1 percent). For IDPs the mean estimates were higher at 18 percent for GAM and 3.5 percent for SAM (FSNAU, September 2019).

In the Post-Deyr assessment conducted in November 2019, preliminary results of surveys conducted among IDPs and urban populations indicated a GAM prevalence of 13.1 percent, reflecting a slight increase since the 2018 Deyr (11.7 percent) and 2019 Gu (12.9 percent) for these populations. Furthermore, the acute malnutrition situation in 4 out of the 22 IDP or urban population groups surveyed

showed 'very high' levels with GAM above 15 percent, namely in Mogadishu, Galkacyo, Bossaso and Baidoa. This may reflect widening food consumption gaps, in light of low income and declining humanitarian food assistance levels in some settlements, as well as increased morbidity. In November morbidity among children was high (≥ 20 percent) in 13 out of 22 population groups surveyed, with five IDP settlements showing a prevalence above 30 percent (FSNAU, forthcoming).

A recent publication analyzing data for the 2007–2016 period shows that IDP households have consistently more likely suffered from malnutrition and morbidity than non-displaced populations. In the post-Gu analysis, the average GAM rate for IDPs was 18 percent, while the average SAM rate was 3.5 percent (FSNAU, September 2019).

The 2019 floods raised the risk of AWD/Cholera outbreaks especially in central-south Somalia. Episodes of prolonged diarrhoea are also associated with increased morbidity and mortality from other diseases, adverse neuro-development and growth stunting.

The incidence of measles in this period was also very high. According to joint WHO and Somalia Federal Ministry of Health reports, nearly 1 257 measles cases were reported from January to August 2019, keeping the outbreak at epidemic levels. In the same period, 1 909 cases of AWD/cholera were reported, an increase of 48 percent since June to August 2018 (FEWS NET/FSNAU, October 2019).

Country profile **South Sudan**

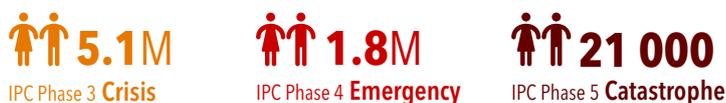
ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY 2019

Total population of country **11.4M**



Population analysed **11.4M** (100% of total population, including IDPs, returnees and refugees)

7M IPC Phase 3 or above in May–July 2019



3.2M IPC Phase 2 **Stressed**

2018–19 Change

Despite lower levels of conflict, the number of acutely food-insecure people increased to record levels.



2020 Forecast

Food security levels are forecast to improve, but conflict, poorly functioning markets, limited crop production, severe floods in certain areas, and potential impact of desert locust infestations are expected to continue driving high levels of food insecurity.



NUTRITION INDICATORS

Host population

860 000 children under 5 years are acutely **malnourished**, of whom **290 000** are affected by SAM.

15.6% of children under 5 years are **stunted**.

12.8% of children 6–23 months meet the recommended **dietary diversity** requirement.

69.4% of children under 6 months are exclusively **breastfed**.

58% of children under 5 years and **34%** of women 15–49 years are **anaemic**.

38% of households have access to at least basic **drinking water** services.

Refugee population

8 400 children under 5 years are acutely **malnourished**, of whom **1 000** are affected by SAM.

17.1–47.2% of children under 5 years in 8 camps are **stunted**.

41.5% of households in Ajuong Thok camp and **45%** in Pamir camp do not consume micronutrient rich food.

88.1–94.4% of children under 5 months in 3 camps are exclusively **breastfed**.

38–55.2% of children under 5 years and **12.9–56.9%** of women 15–49 years are **anaemic**.

DRIVERS OF FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION

- Conflict/insecurity
- Economic shocks
- Weather extremes

- ▶ Despite a reduction in hostilities multiple reinforcing factors relating to the six-year conflict pushed up food insecurity.
- ▶ An increase in inter- and intra-communal violence continued to displace people.
- ▶ The persistent macro-economic crisis and extremely high food prices weakened households' purchasing power and access to food.

- ▶ Delayed rainfall pushed back the green harvest and limited the availability of wild foods, fish and livestock products.
- ▶ Over 750 000 people needed food and nutrition assistance as a result of end of year floods.
- ▶ Returnees, host communities and displaced populations faced particularly high levels of food insecurity.

DISPLACEMENT

1.5M were **internally displaced**.

There were around **298 000 refugees** and **3 700 asylum seekers** from the Sudan (92%) and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (6%).

There were **1.2M returnees** from abroad since 2016, including **534 100** between September 2018 and March 2019.

IOA/JUNE 2019 UNHCR/DEC 2019 IOA/JUNE 2019

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SOUTH SUDAN

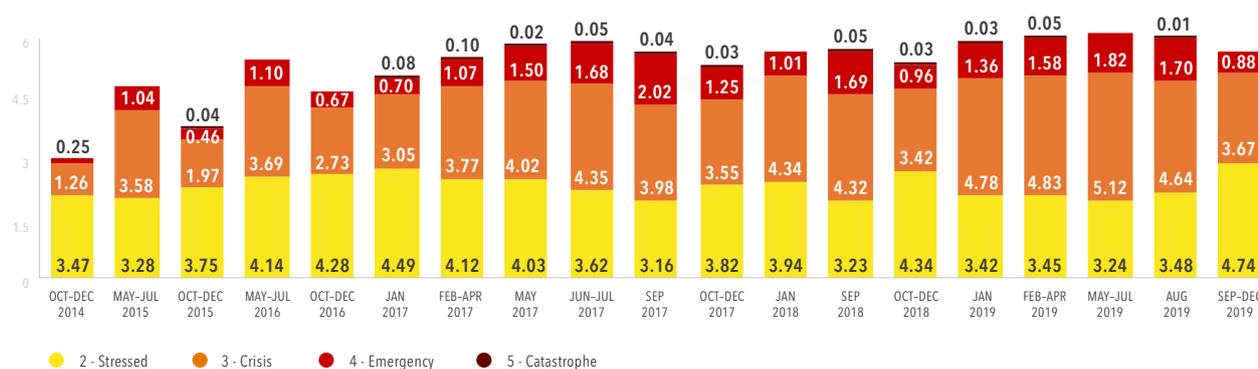
Deborah Nyakueth and her children escaped their home in Leer county across a wild wetland area for the safety of Nyal village in Unity state, where thousands of other displaced people are seeking refuge from conflict.

BACKGROUND

In the six years since the start of the civil war, an estimated 382 000 people have died, 2.5 million people have fled the country and 2 million have been internally displaced. The country remains in a serious humanitarian crisis due to the cumulative effects of years of conflict, which has destroyed people's livelihoods and led to alarmingly high levels of acute food insecurity and malnutrition. In early 2017 two counties were pushed into famine. The percentage of the population under the national poverty line rose from 55 percent in

2014 to 82 percent by 2016 (WB). After the signing of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS) in September 2018, the country started to show tentative signs of recovery, but gains were outpaced by factors relating to protracted conflict, macroeconomic collapse and weather extremes and the situation remains extremely fragile. President Salva Kiir and former VP Riek Machar were expected to form a unified transitional Government by 12 November 2019, but the pre-transitional period was extended by 100 days up to 22 February 2020 (UNHCR, November 2019).

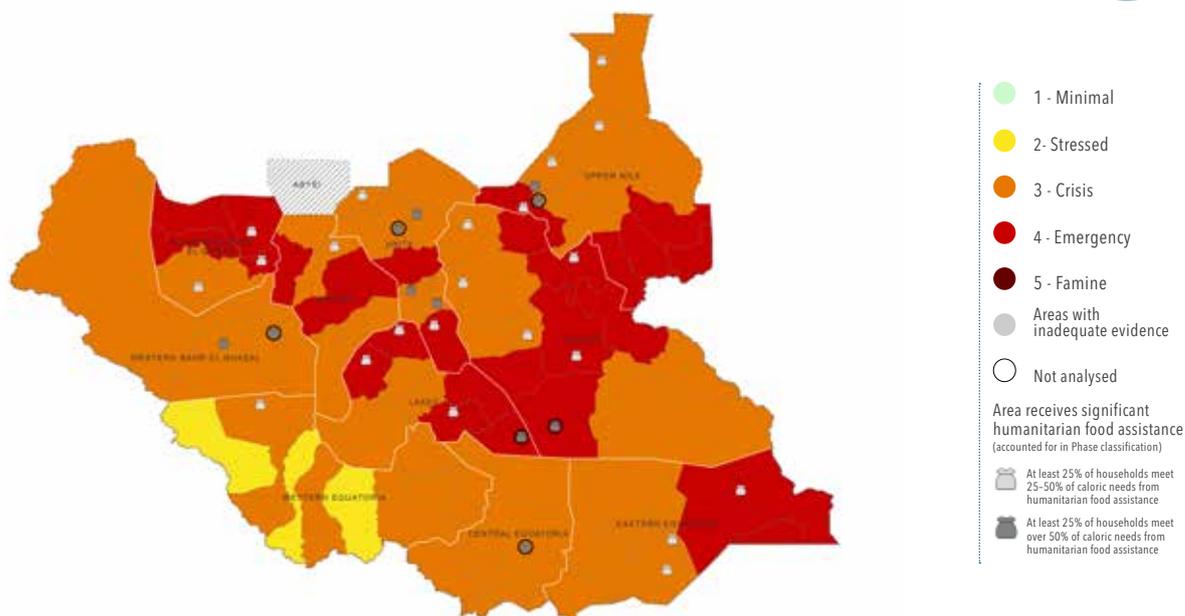
Figure 58
Number of people (millions) in IPC Phase 2 or above in 2014-2019



Source: South Sudan IPC Technical Working Group

Map 52

South Sudan, IPC Acute food insecurity situation, May–July 2019



Source: South Sudan IPC Technical Working Group, June 2019

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY OVERVIEW

In May–July 2019 almost 7 million people – representing 61 percent of the population – were facing Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above), the highest number of food-insecure people ever recorded in South Sudan. Of these, 21 000 were facing Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) and 1.8 million Emergency (IPC Phase 4). Additionally, 3.2 million were classified in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) and at risk of falling into worse levels of food insecurity classification (IPC, June 2019).

The 21 000 people facing Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) were located in Canal/Pigi (former Jonglei state), Cueibet (former Lakes state), and Panyikang (former Upper Nile State) and were the greatest source of concern in 2019 (IPC, June 2019).

According to the August 2019 IPC analysis the acute food insecurity situation was expected to improve in the course of the year as farmers began to harvest, with 6.35 million people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in August, reducing to 4.54 million (39 percent of the population) in September–December (IPC, September 2019).

The number of food-insecure people in late 2019 was expected to be substantially higher due to the significant flood-induced displacements and livelihood losses, but the IPC analysis was conducted before the floods (FAO-GIEWS, December 2019).

Compared with 2018 (IPC, September 2018), the 2019 food insecurity peak increased by 15 percent with 894 000 more people classified in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in 2019 (IPC, June 2019).

Acute food insecurity among refugees

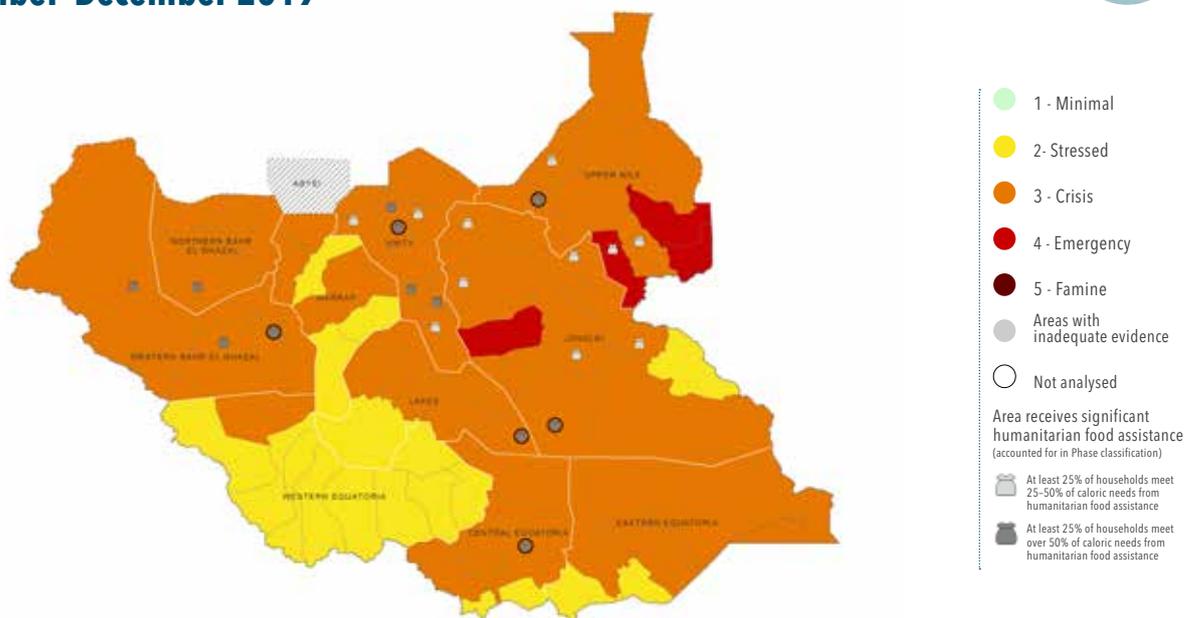
South Sudan has 1.46 million IDPs, 13 percent of them living in six UNMISS Protection of Civilians sites. It also hosts 290 000 refugees and asylum seekers, chiefly from the Sudan (92 percent) followed by the Democratic Republic of the Congo (6 percent).

Poor dietary diversity and a high prevalence of negative coping strategies have been observed among refugee populations. Some 71–80 percent of refugee households reported using one or more negative coping strategies¹ to fulfil their food needs. Most of the refugees rely on food assistance and approximately 60 percent of refugee households employ emergency livelihood coping strategies (FSNMS Round 24, September 2019).

¹ Negative coping strategies (missing or reducing meals; selling assets; taking loans with interest; begging, child labour; and involvement in risky and harmful activities).

Map 53

South Sudan, IPC Acute food insecurity situation, September-December 2019



Source: South Sudan IPC Technical Working Group, September 2019

FACTORS DRIVING ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY

Conflict

The ongoing implementation of the September 2018 R-ARCSS contributed to a lower level of conflict and hostilities throughout 2019 especially in many areas of Greater Upper Nile, Greater Bahr el Ghazal and some parts of Greater Equatoria (FEWS NET, June 2019).

Despite UNHCR’s non-return advisory, in the first 11 months of the year over 92 000 refugees and IDPs returned home (UNHCR, November 2019), encouraged by the perception of improved security, to cultivate their land and increase their own food production.

Lack of political consensus and resource constraints continued to limit completion of critical tasks to implement the peace agreement, and the political situation remained uncertain (OCHA, November 2019). Poor rule of law and easy access to arms resulted in an increase in inter- and intra-communal violence that continued to displace people (UNHCR, September 2019). In the first six months of 2019, 135 000 people were newly displaced as a result of conflict (IDMC, September 2019). Of the 1.46 million IDPs, 12 percent were staying inside six UNMISS Protection of Civilians sites (UNHCR, October 2019).

Cattle raids were a common source of tension, particularly between agro-pastoralist communities (ACAPS, December 2019). Inter-communal conflict in Lakes State as well as Kapoeta East, Pibor, Twic and Yei counties, resulted in loss of lives, displacement, disruptions to livelihoods and trade routes (IPC, FEWS NET June 2019). Cattle-raiding in Tonj North in Warrap and between communities of Rumbek East and Yirol East in Lakes State also led to the loss of lives and livestock (FEWS NET, April 2019).

Although a more stable political environment allowed for improved delivery of humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable populations in 2019 (WFP, UNICEF, FAO, September 2019), movement restrictions, bureaucratic impediments and security threats to humanitarian workers persisted (ACAPS, May 2019).

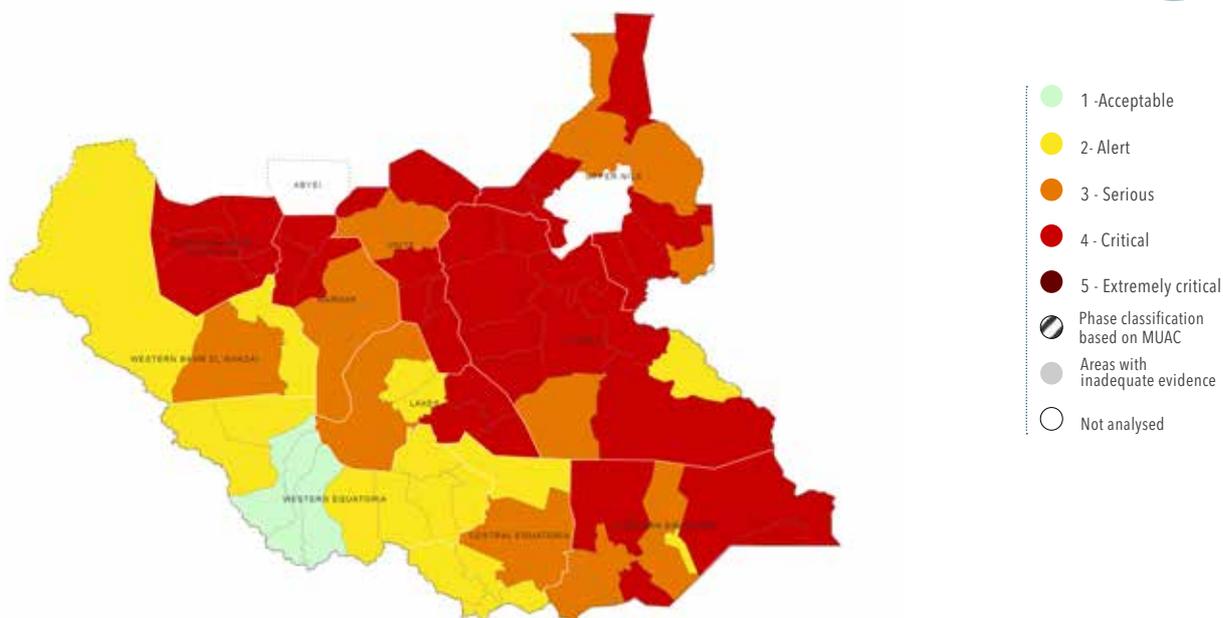
Economic shocks

Despite the increase in crude oil production (FEWS NET, February 2019), South Sudan’s economy remained severely challenged and on the brink of collapse because of many years of conflict, displacement and climatic shocks.

Consecutive poor harvests made households highly market-reliant for food, yet income sources were inadequate to cover most households’ minimum food needs, given the depletion of productive household assets over the course of the protracted conflict (FEWS NET, October 2019). While improved

Map 54

South Sudan, IPC Acute malnutrition situation, May–August 2019



Source: South Sudan IPC Technical Working Group, June 2019

security in localized areas increased trade flows, contributing to local improvements in market functionality (FEWS NET, April 2019) food prices remained exceptionally high, driven by local currency weakness, high production and transport costs, depletion of stocks from the record-low 2018 harvest and a still volatile security situation.

In the capital, Juba, prices of sorghum, maize and imported wheat increased by 30–60 percent between December 2018 and July 2019. In July, prices of cereals and other important staples, including groundnuts and cassava, were generally down or around their year-earlier levels, but still more than 10 times higher than in July 2015, when they started surging as the country's currency began to rapidly depreciate (FAO-GIEWS, August 2019).

In October, the parallel market exchange rate for the South Sudanese Pound (SSP) against the USD was nearly double at 313 SSP per USD and the rate was 45 percent higher year-on-year (WFP, October 2019).

Based on The Alert for Price Spikes (ALPS) indicator four out of the 12 monitored markets reached crisis levels in the third quarter of 2019 (WFP, October 2019). Poor macroeconomic conditions and rising food demand, driven by low cereal production and pressure by returnees, were expected to sustain high food prices and constrain food access (FEWS NET, October 2019).

Weather extremes

In the early part of the year below-average rainfall caused prolonged dry spells, particularly in the greater Equatoria region. From June–July, abnormally heavy seasonal rains caused severe flooding in large parts of the country including areas already experiencing high levels of conflict-related vulnerability.

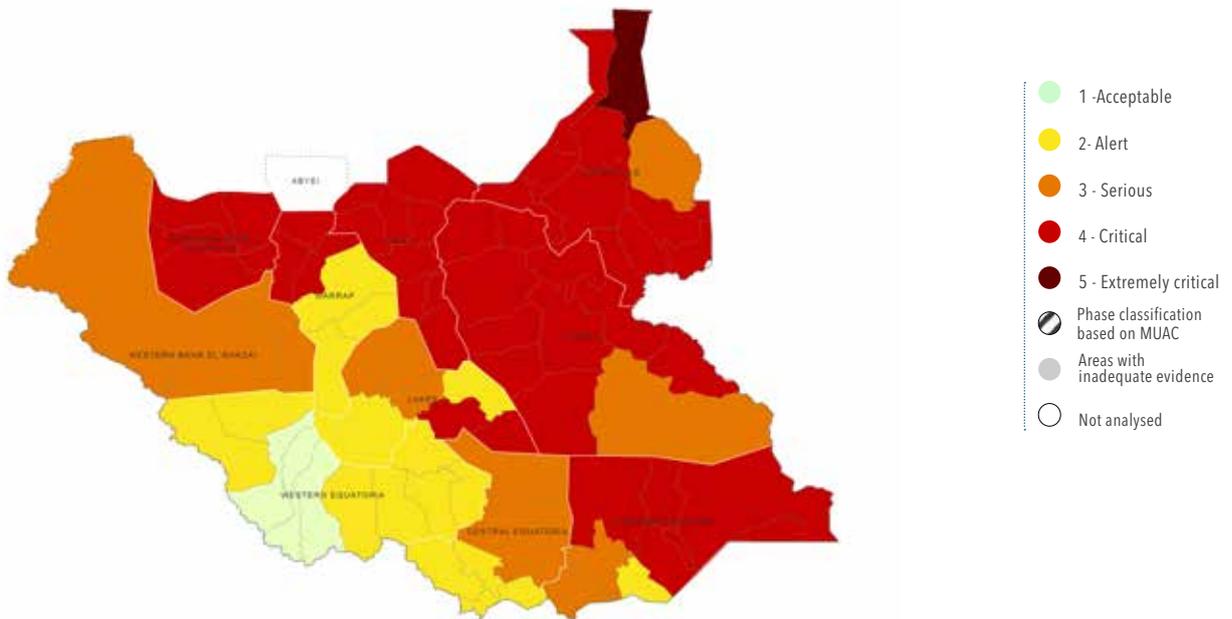
In late October the Government of South Sudan declared a state of emergency in 30 counties after the flooding submerged entire communities and destroyed livelihoods or rendered them inaccessible, and cut-off basic services and markets (OCHA, November 2019). By early November, 908 000 people were estimated to have been affected by the floods, out of which an estimated 420 000 were displaced (ACAPS).

Humanitarian needs were particularly high in the east and north east, especially in the counties of Pibor and Maban, which is home to over 150 000 refugees (OCHA, October 2019). According to WFP 755 500 people were in need of food and nutrition assistance as a result of the floods (WFP, November 2019).

Although 2019/20 national crop production was still expected to be slightly better than the previous year, cereal production deficits were expected to be higher than anticipated in the flood-affected areas in Upper Nile, Jonglei and Greater Bahr el Ghazal (FEWS NET, October 2019).

Map 55

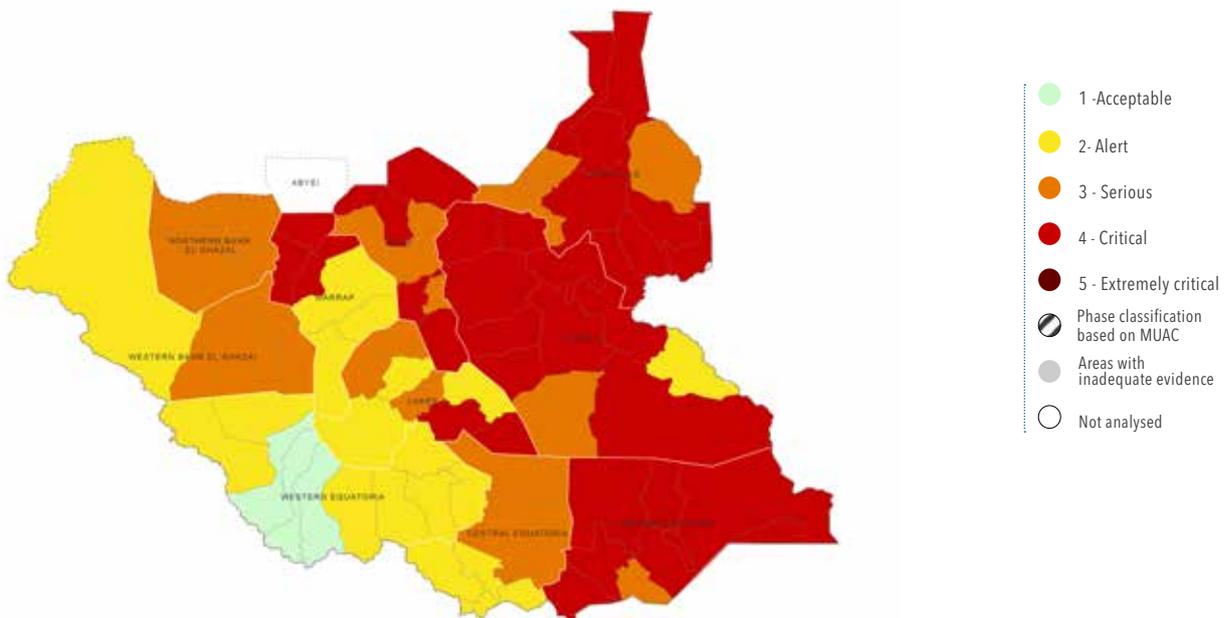
South Sudan, IPC Acute malnutrition situation, August 2019



Source: South Sudan IPC Technical Working Group, September 2019

Map 56

South Sudan, IPC Acute malnutrition situation, September-December 2019



Source: South Sudan IPC Technical Working Group, September 2019

NUTRITION OVERVIEW

The national prevalence of global acute malnutrition (GAM) increased from 13.3 percent in 2018 to 16.2 percent in 2019, which is considered 'very high' (FSNMS, July 2019). Based on the IPC acute malnutrition protocols, 58 counties had a GAM of 10 percent and above.

Some 43 counties were classified as Critical (GAM of 15.0–29.9 percent, IPC Phase 4) and 14 counties as Serious (GAM of 10.0–14.9 percent, IPC Phase 3). Most counties in Unity, Upper Nile, Jonglei and Warrap and parts of Eastern Equatoria and Lakes had Critical levels of acute malnutrition (IPC, September 2019).

The drivers of malnutrition are mainly sub-optimal childcare and feeding practices, food insecurity, high morbidity, poor water quality and sanitation practices. Just seven percent of children aged 6–23 months received diets that met the minimum standards of diversity and meal frequency.

Refugees' malnutrition

The prevalence of GAM in seven of the eight refugee camps in South Sudan was serious (5–9 percent), while the remaining camps faced acceptable levels (GAM <5). The prevalence of stunting was 'very high' in four of the camps and 'high' in three. Anaemia among children aged 6–59 months was at severe levels (>40 percent) in six of the camps. The prevalence of anaemia among non-pregnant women aged 15–49 years was severe (>40 percent) in one camp and of 'medium' public health significance (20–39 percent) in four camps. The remaining camps had acceptable levels (SENS, 2018).

Rates of early initiation of breastfeeding (84–93 percent), exclusive breastfeeding (88–94 percent), and continuing breastfeeding at one year (94–100 percent) were encouraging. Timely introduction of solid foods was less encouraging at 66–75 percent. Around 7–32 percent of children aged 6–59 months reportedly had diarrhoea. Younger children were more likely to be acutely malnourished and anaemic (SENS, 2018).

Country profile

Sudan



ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY 2019

Total population of country **42.8M**



Population analysed **41.9M** (98% of total population, including IDPs, returnees and refugees)

5.8M IPC Phase 3 or above in June–August 2019

4.8M IPC Phase 3 **Crisis** **1.0M** IPC Phase 4 **Emergency**

11.8M IPC Phase 2 **Stressed**

2018–19 Change

A marginal **decrease** in numbers of acutely food-insecure can be attributed to security improvements and a bumper 2018 harvest in the Greater Darfur region. The 2019 analysis also excluded West Darfur region.

2020 Forecast

A bleak macro-economic outlook, high food prices, reduced 2019 harvest and potential impact of desert locusts will maintain high levels of food insecurity.

UN DESA WB 2018
SUDAN IPC TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP JULY 2019

NUTRITION INDICATORS

Host population

2.7M children under 5 years are acutely **malnourished**, of whom **522 000** are affected by SAM.

36.8% of children under 5 years are **stunted**.

24.1% of children 6–23 months meet the recommended **dietary diversity** requirement.

61.5% of children under 6 months are exclusively **breastfed**.

38.8% of children under 5 years and **30.7%** of women 15–49 years are **anaemic**.

65.6% of households have access to at least basic **drinking water** services.

Refugee population

23 000 children under 5 years are acutely **malnourished** in 16 camps, of whom **4 500** are affected by SAM.

4.6–58.8% of children under 5 years in 15 camps are **stunted**.

24.8% of households in Kharasan camp and **36.5%** in Meiram camp do not consume micronutrient rich food.

29.4–90.9% of children under 6 months in 15 camps are exclusively **breastfed**.

23–56.8% of children under 5 years and **17.4–42.1%** of women 15–49 years in 15 camps are **anaemic**.

68.8–100% of households in 15 camps have access to improved **drinking water** sources.

DRIVERS OF FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION

Economic shocks **Weather extremes** **Conflict/insecurity**

- ▶ Contracting output, currency depreciation and sustained inflation lowered work opportunities, reduced imports of fuel and agricultural inputs and inflated food prices.
- ▶ Extremely erratic weather (dry conditions followed by torrential rains and floods) damaged livelihoods and destroyed crops.
- ▶ Severe pest infestations further constrained yields, and the 2019 cereal output was significantly below average.

- ▶ Civil unrest and ensuing security measures by the Government disrupted livelihood activities for several months.
- ▶ While conflict has declined considerably in recent years in Greater Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile, the country still hosts 2.1 million IDPs and 1.1 million refugees and asylum seekers requiring humanitarian assistance.

DISPLACEMENT

2.1M were **internally displaced**.

There were **1.1M** **refugees** and **asylum-seekers** mainly from South Sudan (78%).

There were **543 000** **IDP returnees**. **20 000** Sudanese refugees from neighbouring countries voluntarily **returned** from January–September 2019.

IOM/OCT 2019
UNHCR NOV 2019
UNHCR 2019/NOV OCT 2019



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In the Nuba mountain region of South Kordofan, vulnerable populations in non-government controlled areas have faced severely limited access to humanitarian assistance in recent years. Ongoing conflict is continuing to cause some new population displacements to government-controlled areas.

BACKGROUND

Since late 2017 the Sudan's severe economic crisis has degraded already-weak basic services. The country has experienced civil unrest since December 2018 when then President Bashir's government imposed emergency austerity measures to try to stave off economic collapse. The Sudan has external debt of over USD 50 billion, estimated at 88 percent of GDP, and has limited access to debt relief.

With close to 50 percent of the population estimated to be living below the poverty line, persisting macroeconomic challenges are resulting in daunting food access constraints for large segments of the population (OCHA, January 2020).

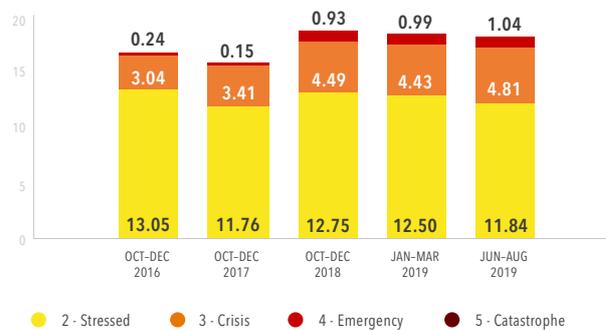
ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY OVERVIEW

Between June and August 2019, over 5.85 million individuals were estimated to be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) and in need of urgent humanitarian assistance to mitigate food insecurity. This figure included around 1 million people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). Nearly 11.8 million people were classified in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) (IPC, September 2019).

Key areas of concern includes Halaieab, East Jebel Marra and Bileil with area classifications in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and

Figure 59

Number of people (millions) in IPC Phase 2 or above in 2016-2019



For comparability purposes, all numbers presented exclude West Darfur since it was not included in the 2019 IPC exercise.

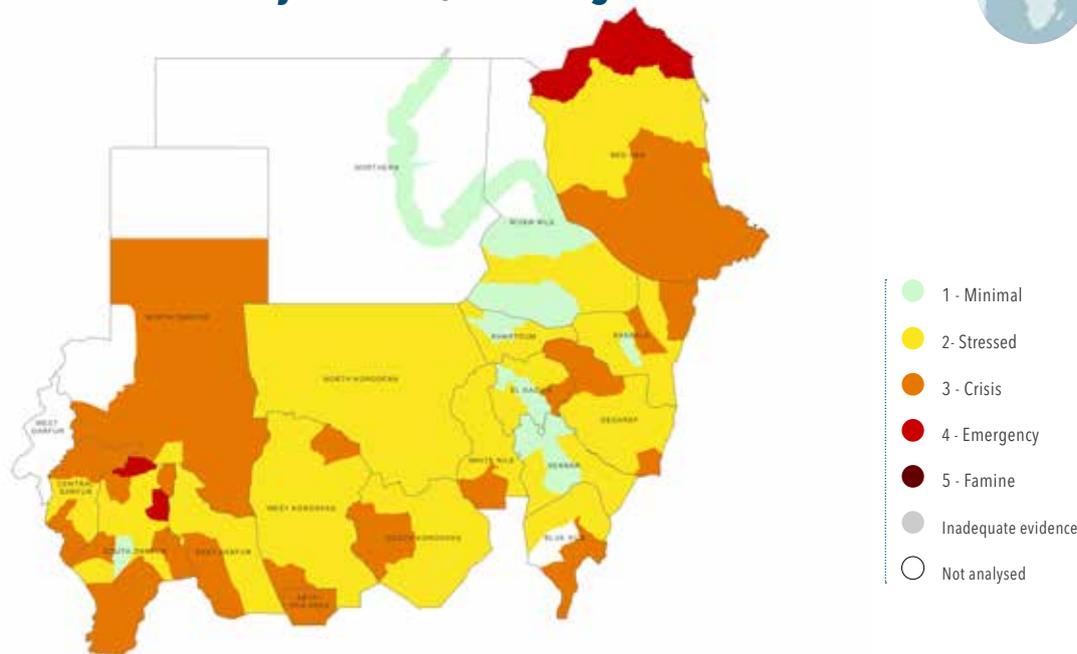
Source: Sudan IPC Technical Working Group

South Kordofan, Red Sea and the three Darfur States (Central, North and South) classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) (IPC, September 2019).

Compared to the peak of 6.2 million in May-July 2018 (IPC, April 2019), the food-insecure population (IPC Phase 3 and above) in the Sudan was relatively stable in 2019 mainly due to lower numbers in the Greater Darfur region. However, this improvement was mostly offset by a sharp deterioration in the

Map 57

Sudan, IPC Acute food insecurity situation, June–August 2019



Source: Sudan IPC Technical Working Group, September 2019

food security situation in Khartoum state, where the number facing acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) almost doubled, indicating increasingly severe food access constraints for market-dependent urban households.

FACTORS DRIVING ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY

Economic shocks

The economic crisis worsened in 2019 despite the efforts of the transitional government and its cooperation with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in implementing reforms to foster a recovery.

With expenditure remaining high on social and military spending, and oil export earnings stagnating, the Government faced limited scope for new borrowing, so monetized the deficit by printing money (EIU, January 2020). Year-on-year inflation increased from 43.6 percent in January to 60.7 percent in November (Central Bank of Sudan, November 2019).

As a result of these macroeconomic factors, and with traders reportedly hoarding their agricultural produce, regarded as a more reliable form of savings compared to the weakening local currency, food prices reached exceptionally high levels (IPC, September 2019 and OCHA, January 2020).

Some 58 percent of the households were estimated to be unable to afford the local food basket (WFP, 2019). Increasing food prices were the immediate cause of demonstrations that started in December 2018. (WB, April 2019).

Weather extremes

The June–September rains were erratically distributed with early onset of seasonal rains in May and adequate precipitation in June benefitting planting, but prolonged dry spells in July resulting in crop wilting, requiring multiple replanting. Exceptionally abundant late season rains from August–October, benefitted crop development, but triggered floods in 15 out of 18 states (OCHA, January 2020), affecting about 420 000 people (OCHA, November 2019), increasing the prevalence of human and livestock water-borne diseases and causing substantial crop losses.

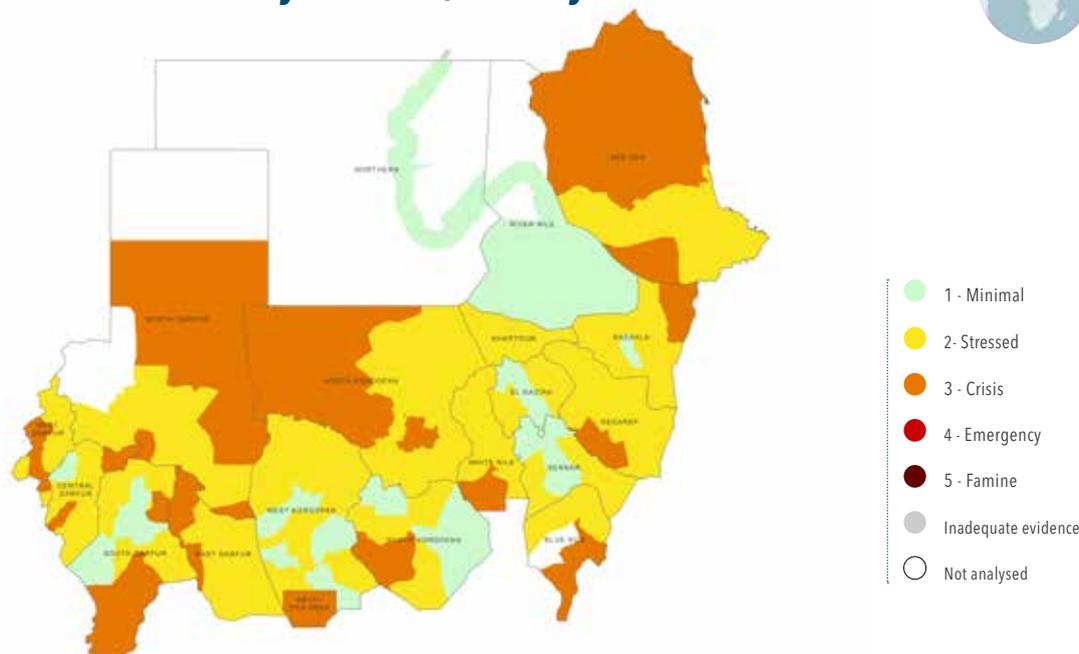
Severe infestations of birds, rodents and insects (sorghum midge and locusts) further affected crop yields. Production of cereals was forecast to decline sharply from the 2018 bumper output and to be significantly below the average of the previous five years (Government of the Sudan & FAO, 2020).

Conflict and insecurity

Security forces attempted to repress the widespread protests that resulted in more than 100 people killed, and several hundred injured (OCHA, January 2020). The Government

Map 58

Sudan, IPC Acute food insecurity situation, January–March 2019



Source: Sudan IPC Technical Working Group, January 2019

declared a State of Emergency in several areas, restricting movement, access to markets and livelihood activities (IPC, June 2019).

In the Greater Darfur region security improvements in 2018 allowed substantial numbers of IDPs to return home and engage in agricultural activities, pushing up millet production in this key producing area to record levels (FAO-GIEWS, March 2019) and lowering household market dependence. This lessened the impact of soaring food prices during the 2019 lean season. Incidents of fighting have also declined in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States. However, 1.9 million IDPs who could not afford the basic food basket and 1.1 million refugees and asylum seekers displaced by conflict continued to need humanitarian assistance, both in and out of camps and within host communities. Intercommunal tensions escalated in some areas in Darfur, Abyei and Eastern Sudan, with about 12 700 people newly displaced, mainly due to conflict in areas of Jebel Marra (Darfur) (OCHA, January 2020).

NUTRITION OVERVIEW

The Sudan has the fourth highest prevalence of acute malnutrition in the world (UNICEF, 2019) with an under-5 GAM rate of 14.1 percent. Eight of the country's 18 states recorded 'very high' GAM rates, peaking at 19.5 percent in North Darfur (S3M-II, 2019). Around 2.7 million under-5s are acutely malnourished, 522 000 severely so.

Increasing food prices, deteriorating health care, poor sanitation and water (with sources contaminated by flooding) and food insecurity aggravate persistently high levels of malnutrition (OCHA 2020). Just 24.1 percent of children receive an adequately diverse diet. One third of the population continues to practise open defecation.

Sudan experienced increased morbidity with disease outbreaks including cholera, chikungunya, dengue, malaria, measles and Rift Valley fever in 2019. Malaria cases were at epidemic levels in several states, with the MoH recording over 1.7 million cases, the majority in North Darfur, double the number of 2018. There were 3 813 cases of measles as of August 2019.

Refugee nutrition status

GAM among refugee populations was also above the 'very high' threshold in 13 of the 23 camps and was 'high' in seven camps. The prevalence of stunting was greater than the 30 percent 'very high' threshold in 10 out of 23 camps, 'high' in two camps, and 'medium' in 11 camps.

In more than half of the camps anaemia prevalence among children aged 6–59 months was at critical levels (>40 percent). The prevalence of anaemia among non-pregnant women aged 15–49 years was at critical levels (>40 percent) in four camps and acceptable in only one (SENS, 2018).

Country profile

The Syrian Arab Republic



ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY

2019

Total population of country **18.3M**



Population analysed **18.3M** (100% of total population, including displaced populations)

6.6M food-insecure people in need of assistance
Jan–May 2019

2.6M marginally food-insecure people

2018–19 Change

Food insecurity has remained somewhat stable, mainly related to escalated conflict in the north-west, displacements, limited livelihood opportunities and increasing prices.

2020 Forecast

Weakening local currency and unemployment, combined with continuing hostilities, displacements and returns are expected to thwart any potential improvements in the food security situation.

NUTRITION INDICATORS

92 800 children under 5 years are acutely **malnourished**, of whom **19 300** are affected by SAM.

27.5% of children under 5 years are **stunted**.

57.3% of children 6–23 months in 3 governorates meet the recommended **dietary diversity** requirement.

24% of children under 6 months are exclusively **breastfed**.

34.9% of children under 5 years and **33.6%** of women 15–49 years are **anaemic**.

97% of households have access to at least basic **drinking water** services.

DRIVERS OF FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION

Conflict/insecurity **Economic shocks** **Weather extremes**

- Escalation of hostilities particularly in north-west Syria continued to displace people inside the country, while almost 5.6 million registered refugees remained outside the country.
- Syrians' purchasing power was limited by high unemployment rates, low salaries, high competition for labour opportunities.
- Food prices were increased by up to 30 percent during the last quarter of 2019, and market supply routes continued to be affected by insecurity in some areas.
- The nominal exchange rate for Syrian Pound against USD depreciated by 18.4 percent between January 2019 and 2020.

- Agricultural production was slowly improving, but remained well below pre-conflict levels for all crops but barley.
- Despite increased area for cereal cultivation and ample rains, flooding damaged agricultural land and high temperatures and strong winds led to fires that destroyed over 85 000 hectares just before the harvest.
- Malnutrition is linked with poor childcare and feeding practices, limited access to basic services, and conflict-related shocks.

DISPLACEMENT

6.1M were internally displaced. **950 700** were newly displaced in Jan–Sep 2019, the majority from Idlib Governorate.

Syria hosts **27 800** refugees and asylum-seekers and around **438 000** Palestinian refugees.

There were **5.6M Syrian refugees** in neighbouring countries: Turkey (3.6M), Lebanon (900 000), Jordan (655 000), Iraq (246 000) and Egypt (129 400).

There were **467 000** spontaneous **IDP returns** and **96 000** refugee returns.



In 2016, single mother Zahida and her four children fled to Lebanon when armed groups overran their hometown of Souran, north of Hama in west-central Syria. Having struggled to making a living there they have come back to reclaim their former home, now reduced to rubble, in a town ravaged by conflict.

BACKGROUND

Syria has entered its ninth year of conflict (OCHA, October 2019). The conflict has caused almost 225 000 civilian deaths since 2011 (SNHR, 2020), and resulted in millions of people being internally displaced and millions seeking refuge in other countries (ACAPS, December 2019). By the end of 2019 almost 5.6 million Syrian refugees were hosted in countries in the region, chiefly in Turkey followed by Lebanon and Jordan, and a smaller number in Iraq and Egypt (UNHCR, December 2019).

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY OVERVIEW

The Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) Monitoring Report 2019 estimates that 6.6 million Syrians are food insecure and need food and livelihood assistance. This marks a 2 percent increase compared to the previous year. Similarly, the number of people at risk of food insecurity has increased by 4 percent to 2.6 million people (OCHA, October 2019).

The increase in numbers of food insecure is related to large displacements following an escalation of hostilities in north-west Syria and increasing returns and displacements across the country. Of particular concern were the north-eastern, northwestern and western governorates where they were large-scale displacements (OCHA, October 2019).

FACTORS DRIVING FOOD INSECURITY

Conflict/insecurity

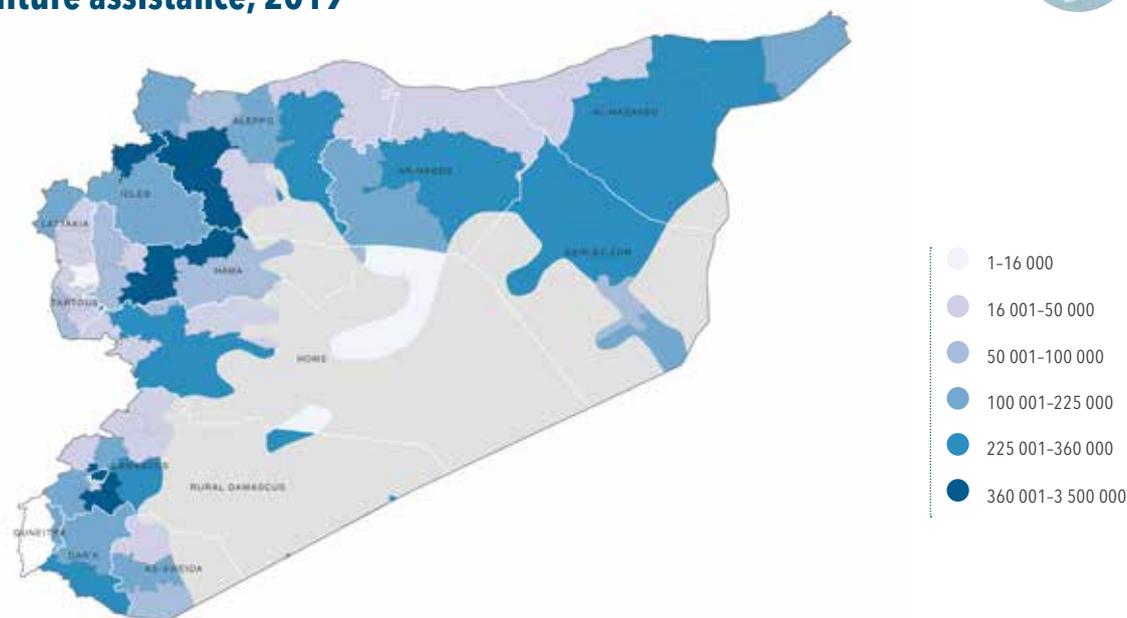
Despite improvements compared to earlier years of conflict, the security situation in Syria remains fragile. There was an increase in hostilities from February 2019 onwards in parts of southern Idlib, northern Hama and western Aleppo (OCHA, October 2019). Attacks in the north-west caused some 400 000 new internal displacements between May and August before the security situation further escalated in December with around 284 000 people, mainly from southern Idlib, leaving their homes to head north (OCHA, December 2019).

In the north-east, since Turkey announced the start of military operations on 9 October (OCHA, October 2019) clashes between the Syrian Democratic Forces, the Syrian Arab Army and Turkish-backed forces led to the displacement of over 75 400 people and disruption of water services (OCHA, November 2019). Between mid-October and December 2019, 19 000 Syrians crossed the border to Iraq (IOM, January 2020).

In the south-east, increased hostilities since November 2018 stressed IDP camps to capacity. Many, particularly young children, did not survive the harsh journey to camps (OCHA, February 2019). By March, the population of Al Hol camp exceeded 62 000 – over 90 percent women and children (OCHA, March 2019).

Map 59

The Syrian Arab Republic, distribution of people in need of food security and agriculture assistance, 2019



Source: OCHA, October 2019

In southern Syria, insecurity increased in the first few months of 2019, particularly in Dara'a governorate, where violence resulted in deaths, looting and other security incidents, displacing unknown numbers of people. Access to basic services, including health facilities, electricity and WASH, was difficult. The agricultural sector was highly affected. (OCHA, August 2019).

Mass displacement of rural Syrians has had a particularly negative impact on the agricultural industry with equipment losses and damages to irrigation, roads and energy infrastructure, which is particularly troubling since the sector contributes to a substantial share of Syria's GDP (FAO, 2019).

Regardless of insecurity, almost 91 000 former refugees returned home during 2019, an increase of 60 percent compared to 2018 (3RP, January 2020).

Economic shocks

Around 80 percent of Syrians depend on markets for food (CFSAM, September 2019). The relative improvements in security opened up some important trade routes that had been unusable since 2013. However, the economy remains troubled and around 70 percent of Syrians mentioned unemployment as their main problem (WFP, 2019).

Post-harvest losses, increased fuel prices and the depreciated Syrian pound (down by 18.4 percent against the USD between January 2019 and 2020 (WFP, January 2020) led to higher food prices across all 14 governorates (CFSAM, September 2019).

By November, the reference food basket price had increased by 11 percent compared to the previous month and by 21 percent compared to November 2018. The increase was highest in Al-Hasakeh governorate at 51 percent (WFP, November 2019).

Even though more land was cultivated than in 2018, wheat harvested areas were still 25 percent below the pre-crisis average. Farmers continued to face challenges with high production and transportation costs as well as limited quality inputs. Fruit and vegetable production was challenged by low purchasing power of consumers, the inability to export produce and shortage of domestic processing (FAO-GIEWS, September 2019).

For the 2018/19 season, agricultural prospects were positive as a result of favourable weather conditions and displaced farming households returning home. Wheat and barley planted areas increased by 23 percent in one year and 93 percent of the planted areas were harvested compared to 59 percent the previous year. Barley production exceeded pre-crisis levels, but wheat production was still far below and import requirements were almost 1.8 million tonnes (CFSAM, September 2019).

Weather extremes

Hasakeh governorate faced the worst flooding in a decade following heavy rains in March, affecting around 118 000 people, including IDPs (IFRC, April 2019). The rains increased yields, but high temperatures and strong winds caused fires on standing crops before the May/June harvest (CFSAM, September 2019).

NUTRITION OVERVIEW

Acute malnutrition among children was within acceptable levels, affecting around 92 800 children. Another 865 300 were expected to have micronutrient deficiencies. Chronic malnutrition was a concern, even before the crisis in Syria. Stunting among children aged 0–59 months was above 30 percent in Eastern Ghouta and Tel Abyed, based on SMART surveys conducted during 2019 (NC, August 2019).

In 2017 fewer than a third (31.9 percent) of children aged 6–23 months in Aleppo, Idlib and Hama governorates received a minimum acceptable diet (NC, April 2017).

Infant feeding was also concerning with only 24 percent of children under 6 months exclusively breastfed in 11 governorates in 2018 (HNO, March 2019) while nutrition surveillance data from 2019 suggests that in pockets, such as in north-western areas, exclusive breastfeeding was provided to only 10 percent of babies (NC, August 2019).

SYRIAN REFUGEES IN THE REGION

While almost 5.6 million Syrians are registered as refugees in the region the figure is estimated at 7.3 million when non-registered refugees are included (3RP, January 2020). While Turkey hosts the highest number, Lebanon and Jordan have more Syrian refugees per capita, at over 13 percent of the population in Lebanon and 6 percent in Jordan. When including the estimated numbers of unregistered refugees, the proportion rises to 22 percent in Lebanon and 13 percent in Jordan¹ (UNHCR, March 2019).

Food insecurity among Syrian refugees in Turkey worsened slightly compared to 2018, with around 23 percent classified as food insecure – a slight rise from above 18 percent in 2018. Adoption of consumption-based coping strategies to bridge food access gaps increased in (WFP, September 2019).²

Conversely in Lebanon refugee household level food consumption continued to improve for a third consecutive year with 29 percent considered food insecure compared with 34 percent in 2018. The worst areas were North and Mount Lebanon governorates. However, more households were resorting to crisis livelihood-related coping strategies to cope with a lack of food and/or the means to buy it, such as reducing expenditure on health, education and selling productive assets than in 2018. (VASyr, December 2019).

WFP programme monitoring indicates that in Egypt, during the first half of 2019, 70–90 percent of refugees had acceptable food consumption. Around 30–50 percent of households reduced the number of daily meals and/or meal sizes (WFP M&E, 2019). WFP monitoring in Iraq indicates that around 90 percent of Syrian refugee households had acceptable food consumption and 10–15 percent were reducing the number of daily meals or meal sizes (WFP M&E, 2019). In Jordan, an overall trend of increased consumption of nutritious foods was observed among Syrian refugee households during the first quarter of 2019. Around 20–30 percent of non-camp refugee households reduced the number of daily meals and meal sizes (WFP M&E, 2019).³

FACTORS DRIVING FOOD INSECURITY

Economic shocks

Lebanon is experiencing a macroeconomic crisis marked by very high levels of public debt. The cost of living has ballooned, salaries have stagnated and unemployment rates have risen, prompting a significant proportion of the country's well-educated youth to emigrate. A planned tax on free phone calls over social media applications, announced in October along with other austerity measures, prompted mass demonstrations bringing most of the country to a standstill (ICG, October 2019)

Cereal prices increased by around 10–30 percent between October and December 2019 (WFP, January 2020). The proportion of Syrian refugees living below the poverty line increased from 68 percent in 2018 to 73 percent in 2019. More than half live in extreme poverty. Around 66 percent of men and just 11 percent of women had a regular job, but the two main sources of income were WFP assistance (24 percent), and informal debt from friends and shops (22 percent). Nine out of 10 households were in debt with the average level per household increasing by USD 100 from 2018 to USD 1 115 in 2019. The main reason for borrowing was to buy food (75 percent). (VASyr, December 2019).

Triggered by a sharp depreciation of the Turkish Lira and a fall in investor confidence and domestic demand, by the end of 2018 Turkey had entered a recession, with inflation running at 20 percent (WB, April 2019). However, by August 2019, its headline inflation rate had dropped to its lowest level since May 2018 (TSI, August 2019). Both assisted and non-assisted Syrian refugees accumulated higher levels of debt than during 2017–2018. Around two-thirds of refugee families were borrowing money from non-relatives and buying food on credit (WFP, September 2019). Nearly half (46 percent) or 1.6 million Syrian refugees in Turkey were living in poverty and 10 percent or 215 000 were living in extreme poverty (WFP, May 2019).

¹ Comparison of country population in 2019 (UN DESA) against refugee numbers

² WFP. 2019. Emergency Social Safety Net Post Distribution Monitoring Summary, Round 8 (Cross-Section 4). September 2019.

³ WFP. 2019. Jordan Food Security Outcome Monitoring (January–March 2019). April 2019.; WFP. 2019. Jordan Food Security Outcome Monitoring (July–September 2019). October 2019.

Country profile **Uganda**

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY 2019

Total population of country **44.3M**



Population analysed **44.3M** (100% of total population, including displaced people)

1.5M IPC Phase 3 or above in April–July 2020

IPC Phase 2 data not available

2018–19 Change

The food-insecure population increased by 27 percent due to continued arrivals of refugees and asylum seekers from neighbouring countries and a particularly severe February–July 2019 lean season in Karamoja.

2020 Forecast

Food security conditions are expected to deteriorate due to floods, severe crop damage, and below-average crop production, as well as the potential impact of desert locust infestations on food security.

NUTRITION INDICATORS

Host population

3.5% children under 5 years are acutely **malnourished**, of whom **1.3%** are affected by SAM.

28.9% of children under 5 years are **stunted**.

30.3% of children 6–23 months meet the recommended **dietary diversity** requirement.

65.5% of children under 6 months are exclusively **breastfed**.

52.8% of children under 5 years and **31.7%** of women 15–49 years are **anaemic**.

49% of households have access to at least basic **drinking water** services.

Refugee population

50 800 children under 5 years in 12 camps are acutely **malnourished**, of whom **1 800** are affected by SAM.

8.4–32.6% of children under 5 years in 12 camps are **stunted**.

21.7–70.1% of households in 12 camps did not consume micronutrient rich food.

55.6–87.5% of children under 6 months in 12 camps are exclusively **breastfed**.

24.7–56.6% of children under 5 years and **24.5–38.8%** of women 15–49 years in 12 camps are **anaemic**.

61.0–100% have access to protected **drinking water**.

DRIVERS OF FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION

- Conflict/insecurity**
- Weather extremes**
- Economic shocks**

- ▶ The majority of food-insecure populations were refugees and asylum-seekers fleeing conflict and insecurity, ethnic clashes and lack of basic social services in their countries of origin.
- ▶ A failed sorghum harvest in 2018 in Karamoja resulted in an early, severe lean season in February–July 2019, significantly constraining poor and very poor households' food access.

- ▶ Staple food scarcity, late onset of early 2019 rains and poor terms of trade further constrained food access in Karamoja and parts of Teso.
- ▶ Production was around 30% below average in bimodal areas due to accumulated rainfall deficits.

DISPLACEMENT

There were **1.4M** refugees and **asylum seekers** from South Sudan (62%), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (29%) and Burundi (3%).

190 200 refugees and asylum seekers arrived in the year to December 2019.



Clashes in north-eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo forced thousands into Uganda in 2019, fleeing extreme brutality. Nearly two in three were children.

BACKGROUND

In 2019 Uganda hosted the third largest number of refugees globally, and the highest number in the Greater Horn of Africa (UNHCR, accessed January 2020). Agriculture provides 70 percent of the country's employment opportunities and about one-quarter of GDP (WB, November 2018). With favourable year-round climatic conditions, Uganda is self-sufficient in staple food production and plays a major role in regional food supply, though most production takes place at the smallholder level, under rainfed conditions. Many of the northern districts are prone to drought and rely on supplies from surplus-producing areas (FEWS NET, January 2017). Around 8 million Ugandans (21.4 percent of the population) live in poverty (Uganda Bureau of Statistics, 2019).

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY OVERVIEW

FEWS NET estimates that 1.5 million people were in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or above during April–July 2019. The majority were refugees and asylum seekers, as well as poor households in Karamoja affected by a failed 2018 season. Food insecurity had deteriorated since the early part of the year in the Eastern region and parts of Northern and Central regions, resulting in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) conditions (FEWS NET, April 2019).

Refugee populations in Uganda rely heavily on food assistance to meet their needs. According to WFP, approximately 62 percent of refugees experienced borderline or poor food consumption scores in May 2019, up from 28 percent at the same time in 2018 (WFP, May 2019).

During an atypically severe 2019 lean season (FEWS NET, December 2018), many households in Karamoja were consuming one meal per day, instead of a typical three (FEWS NET, June 2019), and in May 2019, 85 percent of households in the region had poor and borderline food consumption scores (WFP, May 2019).

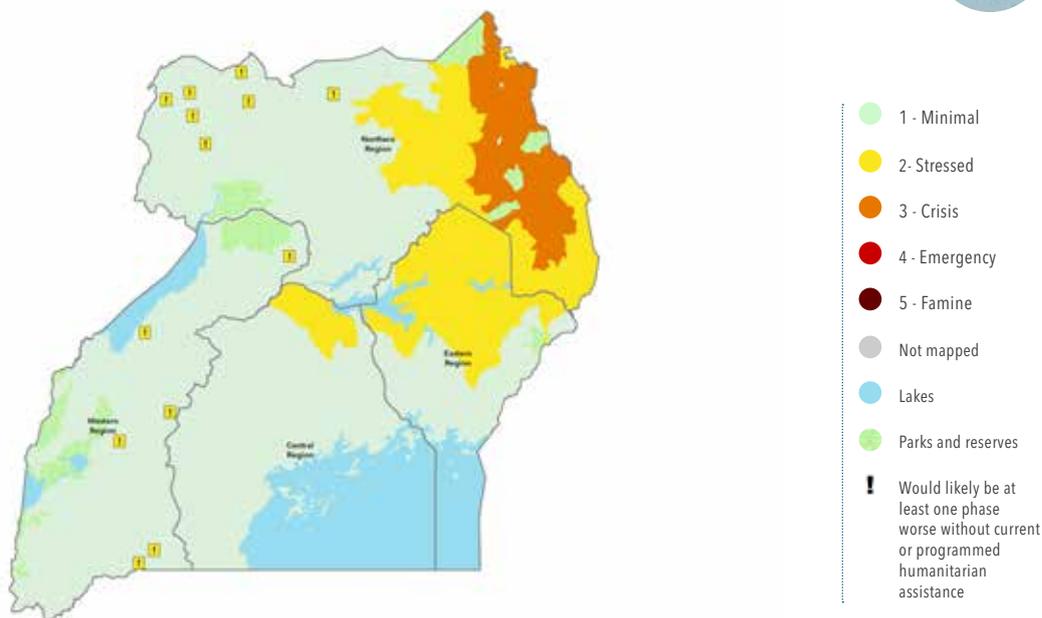
FACTORS DRIVING ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY

Conflict and insecurity

In 2019 persistent armed conflict, inter-ethnic violence and limited access to basic social services drove over 190 000 additional refugees and asylum seekers to seek refuge in Uganda, mainly from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan and Burundi, increasing the overall refugee population to 1.38 million by the end of December 2019 (UNHCR, accessed January 2020). Though Uganda has one of the most progressive refugee management policies in the world (WB, 2016 & Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, 2017),

Map 60

Uganda, Acute food insecurity situation, April–June 2019



Source: FEWS NET, April 2019

refugees in the settlements experience a number of obstacles that hinder their efforts to attain self-reliance and food security (FSNA, 2018). For example, despite WFP reaching approximately 85 percent of refugees with food or cash assistance, their typical monthly food ration sometimes only lasts 13–23 days, leaving a 7–18 days food gap (FSNA, 2018).

Additionally, refugee households assessed by UNHCR reported a reliance on a variety of negative consumption and livelihood-based coping strategies (e.g. reliance on less preferred or less expensive food, reduced number of meals consumed per day, reduced portion size, reduced consumption among adults to prioritize children, borrowing and begging). On a more positive note, however, a very low proportion of households across the settlements reported engaging in potentially risky or harmful coping strategies (SENS, 2017).

Weather extremes

A failed sorghum harvest in 2018 in Karamoja resulted in an early and severe lean season between February and July 2019, significantly constraining food access for poor and very poor households. Additionally, in 2019 Uganda experienced one of the driest first (March–April) rainy seasons on record (FAO-GIEWS, August 2019).

Most of the country, particularly bimodal areas, remained dry for the first half of the season, accumulating rainfall deficits of over 50 percent of the long-term March–April average,

while the eastern and north-eastern areas of Uganda (Teso, Karamoja, Lango, Acholi) had rainfall that was 60–80 percent below the long-term average (FAO-GIEWS, August 2019). Though rainfall improved late in the season, leading to late planted crops fully developing, the overall area planted was significantly reduced and ranged between 60 and 70 percent of normal (FEWS NET, June 2019). This in turn resulted in first season harvests across Uganda being approximately 30 percent below average, according to FEWS NET.

Late harvests, as well as a scarcity of seasonal income-generating opportunities, caused the lean season in the Karamoja region to be prolonged and more severe than usual, worsening food insecurity (FEWS NET, October 2019).

Economic shocks

High food prices during 2019 limited food access for poor households, particularly during the extended lean season in the Karamoja sub region. In this area, due to an earlier-than-usual depletion of household food stocks and the delayed dry harvest supplies from neighbouring regions, sorghum and beans prices remained above average until August when they began to decline with increased availability from the first season harvest.

According to WFP’s mVAM, May 2019 prices for staple foods in Karamoja were up by 24–42 percent compared to the previous year’s levels (WFP, May 2019). This reduced poor households’ purchasing power at a time when their own food stocks

were low and dependency on market purchases was high (FEWS NET, June 2019).

NUTRITION OVERVIEW

National prevalence of stunting among children under 5 years slightly reduced from 33 percent in 2011 to 29 percent in 2016 (DHS, 2016). However, the absolute number of stunted children has stagnated at about 2.1 million because of rapid population growth. A relatively low prevalence of wasting in children under 5 years (4 percent in 2016) masks significant regional inequities with Karamoja and West Nile recording particularly high wasting levels (≥ 10 percent) (DHS, 2016).

Nationally only 15 percent of children aged 6–23 months received a minimum acceptable diet (in the Acholi region this percentage goes down to 2.8 percent), and just 30 percent received the minimum recommended dietary diversity (dropping to 7.3 percent in Acholi region).

Following national reductions in anaemia in children under 5 years and women of reproductive age between 2006 and 2011, there was an increase between 2011 and 2016. Anaemia remains a 'severe' public health issue for children

under 5 (53 percent) and a 'moderate' public health issue for adolescent girls and women; 72 percent of children aged 6–8 months are anaemic, indicating insufficient iron stores at birth as a result of poor maternal nutrition (DHS, 2016).

Refugee nutrition status

According to the 2017 food security and nutrition assessment in West Nile settlements, refugee populations in Palabek had the highest GAM prevalence at 12.3 percent (FSNA, 2018). Other settlements with concerning GAM were Adjumani (11.8 percent), Bidibidi (11.8 percent), Palorinya (11.1 percent) and Arua (10.3 percent). In South West settlements, the GAM rate was below 5 percent. The prevalence of SAM was below 1 percent in the refugee settlements (SENS, 2017).

Recent improvements in food security among the refugees following the resumption of full rations since 2018 coupled with increased income opportunities in most settlements have significantly improved nutrition outcomes of refugees. However, nutritional vulnerability remains in refugee-hosting districts and in Karamoja in northern Uganda where 56 percent of refugees reportedly have poor and/or borderline food consumption.

Country profile

United Republic of Tanzania



ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY

2019

Total population of country **58M**



Population analysed **4.8M** (8% of total population)

1M IPC Phase 3 or above in November 2019–January 2020



1.7M IPC Phase 2 **Stressed**

2018-19 Change

No data was available.

2020 Forecast

Food security is expected to **improve** in 2020 mainly driven by favourable rainfall, good harvest and positive impact for agro-pastoralists, and decreasing food prices.

UN DESA - WB 2018
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA IPC TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP
DECEMBER 2019

NUTRITION INDICATORS

Host population

4.5% children under 5 years are acutely **malnourished**, of whom **1.2%** are affected by SAM.

34.4% of children under 5 years are **stunted**.

36.9% of children 6–23 months meet the recommended **dietary diversity** requirement.

59.2% of children under 6 months are exclusively **breastfed**.

57.9% of children under 5 years and **44.8%** of women 15–49 years are **anaemic**.

38% of households have access to at least basic **drinking water** services.

Refugee population

5 500 children under 5 years are acutely **malnourished**, of whom **800** are affected by SAM.

44.9% of children under 5 years are **stunted**.

XX% of children 6–23 months meet the recommended **dietary diversity** requirement.

72% of children under 6 months are exclusively **breastfed**.

27.1% of children under 5 years and **14.2%** of women 15–49 years are **anaemic**.

100% have access to protected **drinking water**.

DRIVERS OF FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION

Conflict/insecurity **Economic shocks** **Weather extremes**

- ▶ The 2019 aggregate cereal production was estimated to be 3 percent lower than that of 2018 and the average of the previous five years.
- ▶ Prolonged dry spells and erratic rainfalls resulted in low food availability and reduced income-opportunities for vulnerable households.

- ▶ Maize prices increased throughout 2019 due to sustained exports, reduced output and heavy rains that disrupted trade flows and inflated transport costs.
- ▶ Fall Armyworm infestation levels were estimated at more than 50 percent in several regions.
- ▶ The country hosted a significant refugee population as a result of the crises in neighbouring Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

DISPLACEMENT

There were over **285 000** refugees and asylum-seekers from Burundi (74%) and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (26%).

UNHCR DEC 2019



© WFP/MAXX/PHOTO/UNHCR

Velarie Ntahonicaye and her four grandchildren live in Kigoma refugee camp after fleeing Burundi because they were no longer able to pay bribes to armed groups. Tanzania hosts over 200 000 Burundian refugees.

BACKGROUND

The United Republic of Tanzania is generally a food-secure and self-sufficient crop producer, and one of the largest maize exporters of the sub-region (WFP, July 2019). However, weather shocks, such as drought and floods, frequently affect the country by disrupting livelihoods and damaging infrastructure (Erman et al, 2019). Such shocks have particularly severe consequences for almost half (49 percent) of the population who are under the international poverty line and are less able to cope and recover (2011) (WB, accessed January 2020). Agriculture is central to the economy and local livelihoods, as it represents 30 percent of GDP, supports about 80 percent of livelihoods in rural areas and meets 95 percent of the national food needs, but is characterized by limited use of modern farming techniques including irrigation (FAO, 2019).

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY OVERVIEW

During the 2019/2020 lean season from November 2019 to April 2020, around one million people were food insecure and in need of urgent assistance (IPC Phase 3 or above), representing over 20 percent of the population surveyed across 16 districts. The figure included 225 000 in Emergency

(IPC Phase 4). In addition, close to 1.7 million people were in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) conditions in these districts, and required resilience-building and disaster risk reduction interventions (IPC February 2020).

Ten districts were classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) – including Kishapu, Longido and Musoma with more than 30 percent of their population food insecure and in need of urgent assistance (IPC Phase 3 or above). The other six districts analysed were in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) (IPC, February 2020).

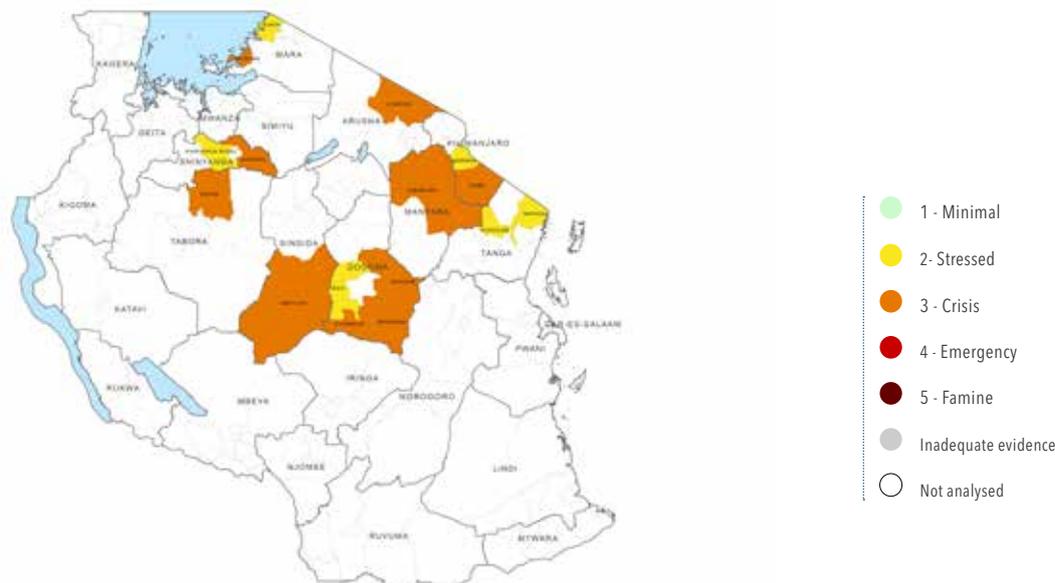
Refugee food insecurity

Tanzania has been hosting refugees and asylum seekers since 1994. By the end of 2019, 285 400 refugees were settled in the country, mostly from Burundi (73 percent) and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (27 percent) (UNHCR, December 2019). Close to 85 percent of them lived in camps – mainly in the Nyarugusu, Nduta and Mtendeli camps located in the Kigoma region – while over 8 percent were living among host communities in villages and urban areas, and 6 percent in informal settlements.

While the latest arrivals occurred in 2018, around 79 000 Burundian refugees and over 8 000 Congolese refugees returned to their home country between 2017 and 2019. In 2019, 20 900 Burundian refugees were assisted to voluntarily return up until November (UNHCR, November 2019).

Map 61

The United Republic of Tanzania, IPC Acute food insecurity situation, November 2019 - April 2020



Source: The United Republic of Tanzania IPC Technical Working Group, February 2020

Refugees in the four camps mostly rely on in-kind food assistance from WFP. They can buy food and basic items from small shops across the camps and markets are operational in Nduta and Mtendeli camps. They can also go to the community markets for a wider selection of items (SENS, 2019).

More than 80 percent of refugee households had acceptable food consumption in 2019, climbing from 81 percent in March to 84 percent in June and 86 percent in August. However, over the same time period, refugees increasingly resorted to consumption-based strategies to cover their food needs. The proportion reducing the number of daily meals increased from 40 percent to 61 percent (WFP, November 2019).

FACTORS DRIVING ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY

Weather extremes

The 2019 Msimu harvest, completed in June in western, central and southern unimodal rainfall areas, was estimated at above-average levels thanks to adequate and well-distributed rainfall. However, in northern, north-eastern and coastal bimodal rainfall areas, the Masika main season harvest, completed in August, was well below average, due to erratic rains in the March–May long rainy season and fall armyworm outbreaks, which were estimated at more than 50 percent

in Manyara, Geita, Kagera, Simiyu and Kilimanjaro region (FAO-GIEWS).

A needs assessment carried out by FAO in Iringa, Manyara and Morogoro – which account for 11 percent of the national maize production – found that in the three regions 64 percent of farmers suffered yield losses due to the pest and that on average they lost 11 percent of the total maize crop (Turot et al, forthcoming).

The 2019 aggregate cereal production was estimated at about 10 million tonnes, 3 percent down from the output obtained in 2018 and the average of the previous five years (FAO-GIEWS).

Exceptionally abundant rains during the October–December 2019 short rainy season boosted crop yields, but also triggered flooding, causing localized crop losses and damage to infrastructure. Mara was one of the most affected regions at the end of October with homes and infrastructure, including roads and bridges, either destroyed or damaged. Some 370 acres of crop farms were washed away (IFRC, November 2019).

Economic shocks

As a result of poor weather conditions and lower agricultural production, reduced labour opportunities in farming and above-average staple prices contributed to reducing households' purchasing power in 2019. Prices of maize followed a sustained, albeit irregular, increasing trend throughout 2019, as a result of sustained exports to Kenya,

Rwanda and particularly Zimbabwe as well as the reduced Masika harvest and the heavy rains that disrupted trade flows and inflated transport costs (FAO-GIEWS).

At the national level wholesale rice prices started increasing in August and by November they were around 20 percent above year-earlier levels. Maize prices were increasing since April and by December they were almost double year-earlier levels (WFP, November 2019). In November wholesale beans prices were 33 percent higher than in November 2018 (FEWS NET, December 2019). As a result, vulnerable households had to resort to negative coping strategies such as begging and selling productive assets (IPC, February 2020).

NUTRITION OVERVIEW

Acute malnutrition rates among children aged 6–59 months are 'low' at 4.5 percent, reaching 'medium' levels of 9 percent in Kusini Pemba and 8.7 percent in Kaskazini Pemba regions. Stunting at the national level was 'very high' at 34.4 percent (DHS 2015–2016) affecting around 3.6 million¹ children.

Among the main drivers of these extremely concerning rates of chronic malnutrition are child feeding practices: only 8.7 percent of children aged 6–23 months consume a minimum acceptable diet and 59.2 percent of infants are

exclusively breastfed. In 2018 around 142 000 people were affected by tuberculosis (WHO, accessed January 2020) and 1.6 million people were living with HIV with 4.6 percent of the adult population affected (UNAIDS, accessed January 2020). HIV/AIDS was the third most common reported cause of death (CDC, May 2019).

Tanzania faced the continued risk of importing Ebola Virus Disease from neighbouring the Democratic Republic of the Congo with the alert of a suspected case in September 2019 (UNICEF, 2019).

Refugee nutrition

The overall acute malnutrition status in refugees in Tanzania is acceptable. The latest SENS nutrition survey in 2019 reported that the GAM prevalence in the four major camps was under 5 percent and the SAM rate was below 0.2 percent. However, the chronic malnutrition status was over the 'very high' threshold in all camps (30 percent).

Refugees living in camps have access to health facilities within the camps. No major disease outbreaks occurred in 2019, but the malaria prevalence is generally high in the region, and the diarrhoea incidence in children under 5 is concerning (22.7–27.0 percent). All refugee households accessed water from an improved source (SENS, 2019).

¹ Country population*18% of population under 5*34.4%

Country profile

Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela



ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY

2019

Total population of country **28.5M**



Population analysed **1.6M** (100% of total population)

9.3M

Acutely food-insecure people in need of assistance in July–September 2019

7M

Moderately food-insecure people

2.4M

Severely food-insecure people

17M

Marginally food-insecure people

2018–19 Change

Food insecurity levels rose as the Venezuelans remaining in the country felt the acute impact of hyperinflation and were unable to meet their essential needs.



2020 Forecast

Economic hardship is expected to intensify for the Venezuelans left in the country. By the end of 2020, an estimated 6.5 million Venezuelans will have been forced to leave.

WB 2018
WB 2018

WFP EMERGENCY FOOD SECURITY ASSESSMENT

NUTRITION INDICATORS



6.3% of children under 5 years are **wasted**.

UNICEF 2019
JUNE 2019



30% of children under 5 years and **23.9%** of women 15–49 years are **anaemic**.

WHO 2016



96% of households have access to at least basic **drinking water** services.

JMP 2017



13.4% of children under 5 years are **stunted**.

DRIVERS OF FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION



Economic shocks

- ▶ Deep economic recession has persisted for five consecutive years with monthly inflation reaching 200% in January 2019
- ▶ More than a third of the population have experienced total loss of income
- ▶ The minimum monthly wage (USD 7) covered less than 5% of the basic food basket

- ▶ Food shortages became more prevalent as the harvest was below average and dwindling foreign exchange earnings limited imports
- ▶ Driven out by food shortages, high prices, lack of work and insecurity the number of Venezuelans emigrating rose from 3 million to 4.6 million between 2018 and 2019.

DISPLACEMENT



There were around **3.8M** Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Latin America and the Caribbean including: 1.6M in Colombia, 862 000 in Peru, 385 000 in Ecuador.

RAM, DECEMBER 2019



Since the start of the socioeconomic crisis, nearly 5 million Venezuelans have been driven out of their country as refugees and migrants, making it the second largest refugee crisis in the world. The majority are families with children, pregnant women, elderly people and people with disabilities.

BACKGROUND

Despite possessing the world's largest oil reserves, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is currently one of the world's most concerning food insecurity hotspots. The catalyst for the crisis was the sharp decline in global oil prices from 2013, prompting national oil production to almost half and the economy to contract by 45 percent between 2013 and 2018, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The loss of income-earning opportunities, hyperinflation and general collapse of the country's public infrastructure and services, have made daily life a struggle for survival for most Venezuelans (Wilson Centre, September 2019).

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY OVERVIEW

Around 9.3 million Venezuelans – a third (32 percent) of the total population – were food insecure and in need of assistance according to WFP's Emergency Food Security Assessment carried out in July–September 2019.¹ Of these, 2.3 million were considered severely food insecure and

7 million were moderately food insecure (WFP, February 2020). The majority of Venezuelans (60 percent) were marginally food secure, meaning they had acceptable food consumption by engaging in irreversible coping strategies and were unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures. These households were in danger of becoming food insecure if they faced any additional shocks.

The analysis shows that food insecurity is countrywide. Even in the states with the lowest rates of food insecurity, including Lara, Cojedes and Merida, approximately one in five people were estimated to be moderately food insecure. Eleven states had rates of severe food insecurity that were higher than the national prevalence, peaking at 21 percent in Delta Amacuro, followed by Amazonas (15 percent), Falcon (13 percent), Zulia and Bolivar (both 11 percent).

FACTORS DRIVING FOOD INSECURITY

Economic shocks

The year 2019 marked the fifth consecutive year of deep economic recession. GDP per capita (valued in USD) declined by 76 percent between 2015 and 2020 (IMF, January 2020). Food prices soared, and inflation peaked in January 2019 at over 200 percent per month. Although the pace of inflation

¹ At the end of the assessment 8 375 valid questionnaires were collected, ensuring statistical representation at state level. The prevalence of food insecurity was obtained by analysing food consumption patterns, food and livelihood coping strategies and economic vulnerability. For more information on the FCS and the CARI approach please see chapter 1.

Map 62

Venezuela, prevalence of severe food insecurity by state, 2019



Source: xx

decelerated to 33 percent in December after the government allowed transactions in US dollars, Venezuelans’ purchasing power to buy food eroded by more than 8 000 percent in 2019 (Banco Central de Venezuela, 2019).

In April 2019, the minimum wage was estimated at 7 USD per month and only covered 4.7 percent of the basic food basket (OHCHR, July 2019). An assessment concluded in December 2019 found that an average family required 55 minimum daily wages to cover the cost of a monthly basic food basket (CENDA, December 2019). The impact of the economic crisis has been magnified by the collapse of the country’s public infrastructure and services (IMC, February 2020).

More than a third of respondents in WFP’s 2019 EFSA (37 percent) said they had experienced a total loss of income, such as losing their only job or losing their business and half (51 percent) had suffered a partial loss, such as reduced salaries or the loss of one of two jobs. Results showed that 18 percent of households relied on government assistance and social protection systems (WFP, February 2020).

The 2019 maize harvest was expected to be below average following a significant reduction in the planted area because of high costs of and a general lack of agricultural inputs, reflecting the significant depreciation of the currency and import difficulties (OCHA, November 2019). Consequently, reliance on imported food increased, but with dwindling

foreign exchange earnings,² food shortages became increasingly pressing.

NUTRITION OVERVIEW

The Venezuelan government has not published nutrition data since 2007. UNICEF collected nutrition status data from 100 000 children under 5 years and pregnant and lactating women in 16 states in 2019. It found 6.3 percent of children within this group were wasted, considered a ‘medium’ GAM prevalence (UNICEF, December 2019).

In 2019, four major national blackouts left the majority of the country without electricity for several days. The power disruptions, coupled with medicine and equipment shortages, and mass exodus of healthcare workers and specialists, have pushed the healthcare system to the brink of collapse. Hospital patients – many of whom are already critically ill– have a higher risk of acquiring new infections while in the hospital, due to a lack of basic cleaning supplies. The disintegration of services disproportionately affects the most vulnerable, including indigenous populations, children under the age of five, pregnant and lactating women, adolescents, those with chronic and non-communicable diseases, and the elderly (IMC, December 2019).

² The decline foreign exchange earnings was mainly caused by the drop in oil production as the management of the state oil company went into disarray. Economic sanctions imposed on Venezuela further limited export earnings and access to external finance.

VENEZUELAN MIGRANTS IN THE REGION

The Venezuelan crisis has sparked the biggest mass migration movement in the region, and globally it is second after the Syrian refugee crisis. Food shortages, high food prices, lack of work, insecurity and violence have driven an estimated 4.8 million or 15 percent of the total population of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to abandon their homes and livelihoods and migrate since the outbreak of the crisis (R4V, February 2020). Most have remained in Latin America and the Caribbean (3.9 million), with over 40 percent or 1.6 million Venezuelans in Colombia (R4V, December 2019). By the end of 2020, around 2.4 million are expected to be in Colombia and 659 000 in Ecuador (up from 385 000) (RMRP 2020).

In Colombia, approximately 891 000 (55 percent of the analysed migrant population), were severely or moderately food insecure and in need of food assistance in 2019. Of them around 345 000 (21 percent) were severely food insecure and 546 000 were moderately food insecure (34 percent). An estimated 673 000 were marginally food secure (EFSA, November 2019).

In Ecuador, approximately 292 600 Venezuelan migrants (76 percent of the analysed population) were severely or moderately food insecure and in need of food assistance in 2019. Of them 100 000 (26 percent) were severely food insecure and 192 500 were moderately food insecure (50 percent). An estimated 92 000 were marginally food secure (EFSA, March 2019).

FACTORS DRIVING FOOD INSECURITY

While Colombia has increased migrants' access to employment since 2018 (RMRP 2020), for most their main source of income was irregular daily wage labour (59 percent), making them highly vulnerable to any potential shocks. As many as 75 percent of Venezuelan migrants in Colombia were living below the poverty line. Most of their expenses were spent on food (42 percent) and shelter (23 percent). One in

three were in debt, primarily to buy food. Living conditions provide an indicator of economic vulnerability. One in three migrants in Colombia lived in unacceptable accommodation, informal shelters or on the street and nearly half (45 percent) lived in crowded conditions. Most had to use emergency coping strategies, such as begging, to meet their basic food needs. (EFSA, November 2019).

In Ecuador 37 percent of Venezuelan migrants were living in poverty. Around 29 percent were living in critically crowded conditions, and 41 percent were homeless (EFSA, March 2019). Visa restrictions placed on Venezuelans entering Ecuador in 2019 have affected their ability to generate an income. More than half (55 percent) were not able to earn enough money to cover their basic needs (RMRP, 2020).

NUTRITION OVERVIEW

There is a lack of nutrition data on refugees and migrants from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. But malnutrition and food insecurity are of particular concern in rural and remote areas (RMRP 2020). Most Venezuelan migrants in Colombia were highly reliant on key food staples which were consumed more frequently than more nutritious and diversified food groups (dairy, vegetables and fruit) (EFSA, November 2019).

Access to safe water and solid waste management is challenging in several areas both for hosts and migrants, particularly when essential infrastructure is lacking or overwhelmed. (RMRP 2020). Four in 10 (40 percent) migrants did not have access to safe drinking water in their accommodation (EFSA, November 2019).

Although Colombia has increased health care coverage for Venezuelan migrants since 2018 (RMRP 2020) 58 percent of migrants assessed did not have access to medical services, and 28 percent of migrant children were in need of basic vaccinations (EFSA, November 2019).

An estimated 27 000 Venezuelan migrants in Ecuador were in need of nutrition support in 2019. Almost half (45 percent) of Venezuelan children suffer from anaemia, one in five (20 percent) from chronic malnutrition and 2 percent from acute malnutrition (RMRP 2020). One in three children under 2 years old were not breastfed. Around 40 percent of pregnant or breastfeeding Venezuelan migrant woman did not receive prenatal care.

Country profile

Yemen



ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY 2019

Total population of country **29.9M**



Population analysed **29.9M** (100% of total population including displaced populations)

15.9M IPC Phase 3 or above in December 2018-January 2019



8.9M IPC Phase 2 **Stressed**

2018-19 Change

Despite massive humanitarian assistance, food insecurity remains high due to persistent conflict, economic decline and disrupted livelihoods affecting over half of the population.

2020 Forecast

Despite massive humanitarian food assistance, **food insecurity remains high** due to persistent conflict, economic decline and disrupted livelihoods affecting over half of the population.

NUTRITION INDICATORS

2M children under 5 years are acutely **malnourished**, of whom **0.4M** are affected by SAM. HMD 2019

46.5% of children under 5 years are **stunted**. DHS 2013

26.6% of children 6-23 months meet the recommended **dietary diversity** requirement. DHS 2013

10% of children under 6 months are exclusively **breastfed**. DHS 2013

83.5% of children under 5 years and **69.6%** of women 15-49 years are **anaemic**. WHO 2016

63% of households have access to at least basic **drinking water** services. JMP 2017

DRIVERS OF FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION

Conflict/insecurity **Economic shocks** **Weather extremes**

- ▶ Insecurity continued to deny people access to livelihoods, markets and other basic services.
- ▶ Lack of foreign currency kept exchange rates high and informal rates even higher, disrupting essential imports and payment of public sector salaries.
- ▶ Food prices in the third quarter of 2019 were well above the five year average – rice by 83 percent and wheat by 50 percent.
- ▶ Acute fuel shortages increased prices from mid September.
- ▶ Over 40 percent of Yemeni households have lost their primary income source and labour opportunities are scarce.
- ▶ Total cereal production in 2019 was forecast at about 12 percent below the previous year.
- ▶ Conflict and economic collapse have exacerbated poor health care and inadequate childcare and feeding practices.

DISPLACEMENT

- ▶ Over **3.6M** were **internally displaced**. **390 500** people were displaced at least once in 2019. IOM DEC 2019
- ▶ There were around **277 300 refugees and asylum seekers**, mainly from Somalia followed by Ethiopia. UNHCR OCT 2019
- ▶ There were around **1.3M** IDP returnees and **44 800** Yemeni returnees from Saudi Arabia. UNHCR AUG 2019 / IOM 2019



Amina fled Hodeidah governorate with her parents and six siblings for a makeshift camp in Aden after mortars hit their neighbourhood.

BACKGROUND

In 2019, Yemen was still the worst humanitarian crisis in the world (UN, February 2019). The escalation of the decade-long conflict between the government and Houthi movement since 2015 exacerbated chronic poverty, weak governance, corruption, over-dependence on imports, dwindling oil revenues and water scarcity (ACAPS, December 2019). Poverty affects over 70 percent of Yemenis (WB, October 2019). A UN-brokered ceasefire in December 2018 reduced violence in Hodeidah, but fighting continued in 2019 on numerous active frontlines (ACAPS, December 2019).

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY OVERVIEW

An estimated 15.9 million people or over half (53 percent) of the country's population were acutely food insecure from December 2018–January 2019, despite ongoing humanitarian food assistance. Of these, about 5 million faced Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and 64 000 Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5).

Generally, the districts with active fighting (Hodeidah, Hajjah, Saadah, Taiz, Al Dhale, Al Baidhaa and Aljawf) were the worst-off, while IDPs, host families, marginalized groups, landless wage labourers facing difficulties in accessing basic services and conducting livelihood activities were the most vulnerable groups (IPC, December 2018).

A hotspot IPC analysis conducted in 29 worst-off districts in 12 governorates in July¹ found the number in need of urgent assistance (IPC Phase 3 or above) in these areas fell from 1.55 million in December 2018, when 44 000 were classified in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5), to 1.25 million, with no populations in IPC Phase 5 thanks to increased humanitarian assistance and seasonal food production (IPC, July 2019).

Based on FEWS NET, Famine (IPC Phase 5) risk persists, particularly if conflict disrupts port operations for a prolonged period of time, significantly limiting food imports and trade to markets inland (FEWS NET, December 2019). Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes were expected in Hajjah and Sa'adah while Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes were widespread.

FACTORS DRIVING ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY

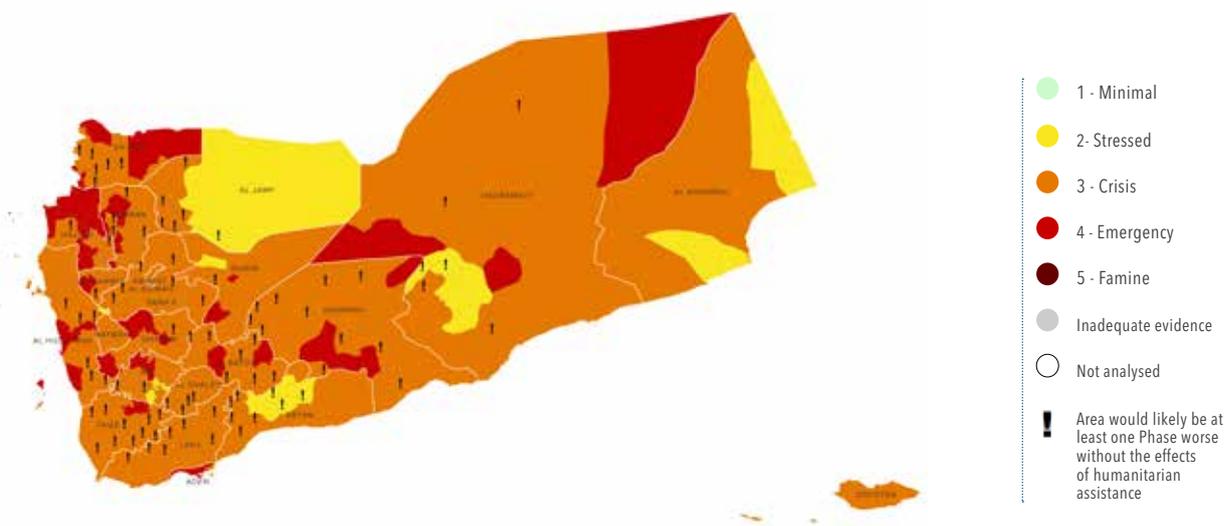
Conflict and insecurity

In April 2019 the UN Security Council members expressed grave concern that the 2018 Stockholm peace agreement had not been implemented and that the humanitarian situation was deteriorating. The escalation in violence in Hajjah and on the Yemeni-Saudi border risked undermining the ceasefire in Hodeidah (UNSC, April 2019).

¹ Logistical challenges prevented the analysis from being carried out in another 16 districts.

Map 63

Yemen, IPC Acute food insecurity situation, December 2018–January 2019



Source: Yemen IPC Technical Working Group, December 2018

In 2019 the conflict continued to disrupt economic activity and hydrocarbon exports, damage infrastructure and destroy basic public services (WB, October 2019). It continued to restrict people's access to markets and services, particularly in Aden, Hodeidah, Ad Dhali' and Hajjah (ACAPS, October 2019). September was one of the worst months for civilian casualties with an average of 13 killed or injured daily (OCHA, November 2019).

Some 3.6 million people are internally displaced, with over 390 000 displaced during 2019 (IOM, 2019).

Humanitarian access continued to be very challenging. Over 6 million people live in 75 hard-to-reach districts, with bureaucracy and conflict the main impediments to meeting their humanitarian needs (ACAPS, October 2019). June–July saw the highest number of violent incidents against humanitarian workers and assets, particularly in northern areas (OCHA, November 2019) and WFP suspended food distribution in Sana'a for over a month due to Houthi restrictions on beneficiary selection and monitoring (ACAPS, October 2019).

Economic shocks

The acute shortages of foreign exchange and fall in government revenues have interrupted the purchase of essential imports and payment of public sector salaries and pensions (WB, October 2019).

An estimated 40 percent of Yemeni households have lost their primary source of income and find it difficult to buy the minimum amount of food (WB, October 2019). Limited employment and depressed wages and salaries further increased reliance on humanitarian assistance (IPC, July 2019). Food prices in the third quarter were well above the five-year average – rice by 83 percent and wheat by 50 percent (WFP, October 2019). Sorghum, millet and maize prices were 140–170 percent higher than pre-crisis (FAO & FSTS, October 2019).

Fuel and gas shortages disrupted electricity, water, sanitation and health services and raised the cost of basic goods. In October, black market fuel prices reached nearly three times the official price (NRC, October 2019). WFP market data in the third quarter of 2019 estimated annual petrol prices increased by 22 percent compared to Q3 2018 (WFP, October 2019).

Weather extremes

In June rains and flash flooding affected close to 70 000 people, including IDPs, in over 10 governorates (OCHA, June 2019). Rains further intensified across the country and affected mostly western governorates, while Al Hudaydah and Al Mahwit suffered the most damage with housing, livestock and livelihoods washed away and IDP sites damaged (OCHA, August 2019). In September and October further heavy rains, thunderstorms and flooding hit southern areas, including IDP sites and some central areas (OCHA, October 2019).

Map 64

Yemen (29 worst-affected districts), IPC Acute food insecurity situation, July–September 2019



Source: Yemen IPC Technical Working Group, July 2019

Fall armyworm reportedly damaged maize crops (FAO-GIEWS, September 2019) and swarms of locusts formed on the western coast and moved northward (FAO, December 2019), damaging crops, livestock pastures and beehives, reducing food quantities for own consumption and sale (FEWS NET, December 2019). Total cereal production in 2019 was forecast at 385 000 tonnes, about 12 percent below the previous year's harvest (FAO-GIEWS, September 2019).

NUTRITION OVERVIEW

An estimated 7.4 million people required malnutrition treatment or prevention intervention, including 3.2 million children aged 6–59 months and over 1 million pregnant and lactating women in 2019 (OCHA, February 2019).

Several districts in Taizz, Abyan, Hajjah and Lahj governorates had a 'very high' GAM prevalence (above 20 percent), according to SMART surveys and Emergency Food and Nutrition Assessments (EFSNA) conducted between 2016 and 2019 in 74 districts of seven governorates (EFSNA/SMART, 2016–2019).

Nutrition surveillance in 42 districts also showed that 25 percent of children aged 6–59 months were affected by wasting and 52 percent by stunting between January and October. Results in Hodeidah have consistently shown a wasting prevalence above 30 percent since June (WHO, October 2019).

Women's dietary diversity was extremely poor with around 70 percent having a diet based on just two or three food groups (WFP, October 2019). Even before the escalation of conflict child-feeding practices were poor with only 15 percent of 6–23 month old consuming the minimum acceptable diet required for growth and development (DHS, July 2015).

Prevalence of anemia was a 'severe' public health concern for children aged 6–59 months (83.5 percent) and for reproductive-age women (15–49 years) (69.6 percent) (WHO, 2016).

Drinking water quality was another concern for malnutrition: 37 percent of households did not have access to 'at least basic' drinking water services (UNICEF and WHO, 2017).

Yemen's health care system has been devastated by conflict with almost half (49 percent) of the health facilities not or only partially functioning due to lack of staff, supplies, inability to meet operational costs or because of access constraints.

Equipment at hospitals is non-functioning or obsolete, and many health personnel have not received regular salaries for two years (OCHA, December 2019). As a consequence, approximately 19.7 million people lack adequate healthcare, of whom 14 million are in acute need of assistance (ACAPS, December 2019).

Over 2.2 million suspected cholera cases were reported in Yemen from October 2016–November 2019 with 3 886 related deaths (WHO, January 2020).

Country profile

Zambia



ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY 2019

Total population of country **17.9M**



Population analysed **9.5M** (53% of total population)

2.3M IPC Phase 3 or above in October 2019–March 2020

1.9M IPC Phase 3 **Crisis** **412 000** IPC Phase 4 **Emergency**

3.1M IPC Phase 2 **Stressed**

2018–19 Change

Food insecurity **increased** due to poor rainfall which resulted in crop failure and record high staple food prices.

2020 Forecast

Continued dry-weather in areas that suffered shortfalls in crop production in 2019 is expected to sustain high humanitarian needs but a foreseen upturn in the national agricultural output could alleviate overall food insecurity.

NUTRITION INDICATORS

Host population

4.2% children under 5 years are acutely **malnourished**, of whom **1.5%** are affected by SAM.

34.6% of children under 5 years are **stunted**.

12% of children 6–23 months meet the minimum acceptable dietary requirement.

69.9% of children under 6 months are exclusively **breastfed**.

58.1% of children under 5 years and **31.1%** of women 15–49 years are **anaemic**.

60% of households have access to at least basic **drinking water** services.

Refugee population

950 children under 5 years are acutely **malnourished**, of whom **82** are affected by SAM.

34.6–66.2% of children under 5 years are **stunted** in 3 camps.

0.9% of households in Mayukwayuka camp and **6.4%** in Meheba camp did not consume micronutrient rich food.

61.8% of children under 6 months in Mayukwayukw and **28.9%** in Meheba are exclusively **breastfed**.

42.4–45.8% of children under 5 years and **23.7–29.1%** of women 15–49 years are **anaemic** in Mayukwayukw and Meheba.

99.7–100% of households in Meheba Mayukwayukwa camps have access to improved **drinking water** sources.

DRIVERS OF FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION

Weather extremes Economic shocks

- ▶ Adverse weather led to a sharp reduction in the 2019 cereal harvest.
- ▶ Well below-average harvests curbed households' food supplies and limited income-generating opportunities.

- ▶ Tight domestic supplies triggered hikes in the price of key food staples, which reached record highs and diminished households' financial capacity to access food.
- ▶ Malnutrition is linked with poor childcare and feeding practices and morbidity.

DISPLACEMENT

There were **62 300** refugees and **asylum-seekers** from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (83%), Burundi (9%) and Somalia (6%).

There were **23 300** returnees.

UNHCR
OCT 2019

UNHCR
OCT 2019



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ZAMBIA

Katempa Chulu, a 33-year-old refugee who fled fighting in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, sells tomatoes in a bustling market in Mantapala in Zambia, which hosts around 46 000 refugees from its neighbour. The prices of key food staples reached record highs in Zambia in 2019.

BACKGROUND

Despite robust economic growth from 2004–2014 and progress in health and child malnutrition, poverty levels have remained stubbornly high at 76.6 percent in rural areas (CSO and WB, 2015). Almost two-thirds of the population gains their livelihood from agriculture, yet the sector only contributes around 10 percent of GDP (RoZ, December 2018). Most farmers remain locked into low-productivity subsistence agriculture characterized by lack of access to key inputs, extension services, poor road and market infrastructure, lack of access to financial services and over-reliance on rain-fed agriculture. Smallholders are extremely vulnerable to increased incidences of extreme and unpredictable weather events (WB, March 2018).

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY OVERVIEW

An estimated 2.3 million people, representing 24 percent of the population analysed, were acutely food insecure in October 2019–March 2020. Of these an estimated 412 000 were classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). Southern and western areas of the country faced the highest prevalence of acute food insecurity. In addition, 3.1 million people were classified in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) (IPC, August 2019).

Food insecurity conditions deteriorated compared to the 2018 peak¹, when an estimated 17 percent of the analysed population – almost 1.2 million people – were classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or above (IPC, July 2018). The increase is also related to a 14 percent point increase in the population size analysed between 2018 and 2019 (IPC, August 2019).

Refugee food insecurity

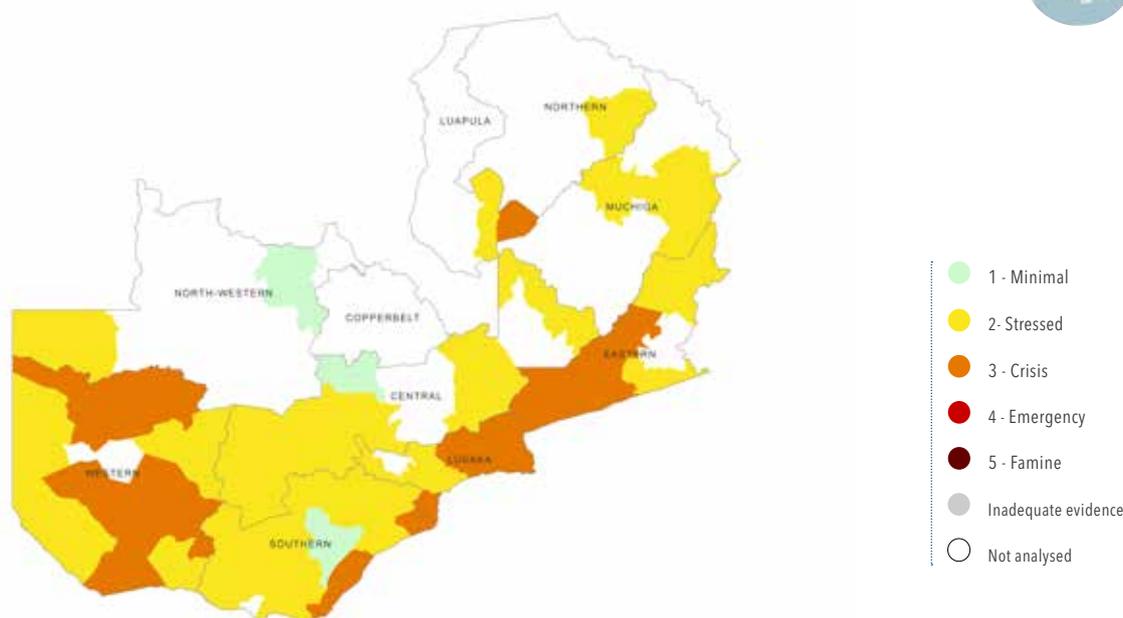
The number of refugees and asylum-seekers, mainly from the Democratic Republic of the Congo has been increasing since 2016 at an average rate of about 10 percent per year (UNHCR, September 2019). Refugees in Zambia's camps, except Mantapala, are expected to work and earn their daily living since general food distribution was phased out in June 2013 (WFP, July 2019). In Mantapala, humanitarian assistance is provided to meet food and other basic needs.

Refugee food security improved in 2019 compared to 2018 but deteriorated between January and September 2019. Households with inadequate (i.e. poor or borderline) food consumption increased from 32 percent in January to 68 percent in September 2019 with an increase in the use of negative consumption-based coping strategies to bridge food access gap (WFP monitoring database, extracted 18 February 2020).

¹ 018 is based in ZambiaVAC analysis, which is also key source for 2019 analysis

Map 65

Zambia, IPC Acute food insecurity situation, October 2018–March 2019



Source: Zambia IPC Technical Working Group, July 2018

FACTORS DRIVING ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY

Weather extremes

In 2019 southern parts of Zambia experienced the poorest rainfall season since 1981, which sharply reduced cereal crop production. Estimated at 2.3 million tonnes, the 2019 cereal output was about 1 million tonnes lower than the five-year average, leading to an increase in food import requirements (FAO-GIEWS, September 2019). The largest shortfalls were in southern, western, some part of Lusaka and central provinces, which also had some of the highest rates of food insecurity. These areas also experienced poor harvests in 2018, which meant that households had already faced food availability constraints since late 2018 (IPC, August 2019), a situation that compounded the impact of shocks in 2019.

The crop failures in 2019 resulted in regional food deficits across southern Africa and led to a decrease in food availability at the household and market levels (IAPRI, 2019). As a consequence, many households resorted to employing negative coping strategies, including cutting the number of meals per day.

A secondary impact of the lower harvests was that income-earning opportunities for rural households were curbed, on account of reduced crop surpluses for sale and limited seasonal labour needs (FAO-GIEWS, September 2019).

In parallel with the downturn in cereal production, body conditions of livestock deteriorated, reflecting the inadequate pasture and water availability. An increase in disease outbreaks among animals led to movement restrictions (IAPRI, 2019). Both these factors further curbed food availability and lowered potential earnings (IAPRI, 2019).

Economic shocks

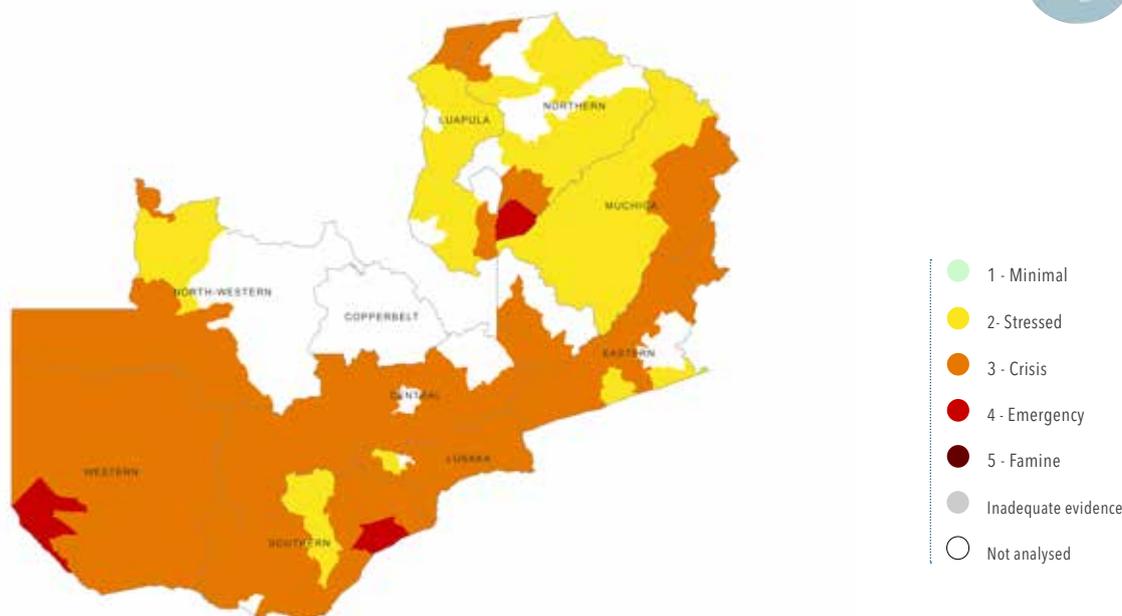
In the last decade, Zambia had become a key maize exporter in the region, but the decrease in maize production in 2019 led to the implementation of an export ban, as the country sought to stabilize domestic supplies and ease pressure on prices from export-driven demand (FEWS NET, September 2019).

The lower food stocks from own production also made rural households more reliant on markets to meet their consumption needs. As a result of these supply shortages and increased demand, prices of the main food staples increased sharply. The retail price of maize products rose by 50–70 percent between 2018 and 2019 (FAO-GIEWS, January 2020 & WFP, 2019).

To prevent further rises and ease access to food, the government, in agreement with millers, retailers and grain traders, introduced a ceiling on maize grain prices in August 2019 (FAO-GIEWS, September 2019). The depreciation of the national currency and higher import costs exerted further upward pressure on food prices (WB, October 2019).

Map 66

Zambia, IPC Acute food insecurity situation, October 2019–March 2020



Source: Zambia IPC Technical Working Group, August 2019

NUTRITION OVERVIEW

Child malnutrition has improved since DHS 2014/15. In 2018, acute malnutrition was down by two percentage points to 4.2 percent of children aged 6–59 months, considered a 'low' prevalence, with 1.5 percent severely wasted. Muchinga province recorded the highest rate (8.2 percent, 'medium'), followed by Luapula (6.2 percent), Lusaka (5.5 percent) and Copperbelt (5.4 percent). However, at 34.6 percent, the national prevalence of stunting was considered 'very high' – though down from 40 percent in 2014/15 (DHS, 2018). Rates ranged from 46 percent in Northern Province to 29 percent in Western and Southern Provinces (DHS, 2018).

High levels of chronic malnutrition can be at least partly attributed to inadequate infant and young child feeding practices. Only 42.1 percent of infants below 6 months were exclusively breastfed and 12 percent of children aged 6–23 months received a minimum acceptable diet. These factors also likely contribute to the very high (58.1 percent) anaemia levels among 6–59 month-old children. Anaemia among women was a 'moderate public health concern' at 31.1 percent, reaching 41.1 percent ('severe') among pregnant women (DHS, 2018).

A cholera outbreak was declared on 17 October 2019 (ZNPPI, October 2019) and over 1 500 cholera cases were reported during 2019 across the country (WHO, December 2019). An estimated 1.2 million Zambians are living with HIV even

though the prevalence has declined since 2001–2002. (UNAIDS, 2018).

The failure of two rainy seasons resulted in more than 20 000 drought-affected people lacking access to clean and safe water in November (OCHA, December 2019).

Refugee nutrition

The nutrition and health status of the refugees in the three settlements has been stable over the past few years. The 2017 SENS nutrition survey found 'medium' acute malnutrition prevalence in Mayukwayukwa (6.2 percent) and Meheba (5.7 percent) (SENS, 2017). The 2019 nutrition survey in Mantapala settlement found 'acceptable' levels of acute malnutrition (2.9 percent) (UNICEF 2019). The prevalence of stunting was 'very high' in all three camps, at 34.6 percent in Mayukwayukwa and Meheba, rising to 66.2 percent in Mantapala (SENS, 2017 & UNICEF 2019).

Child feeding practices in Meheba and Mayukwayukwa showed a diverse result. While 61.8 percent of children were exclusively breastfed for 6 months in Mayukwayukwa, the prevalence fell to 28.9 percent in Meheba (SENS, 2017). Both camps failed to meet the 95 percent UNHCR target for measles vaccination. As for the WASH situation, only 25.3 percent of households in Mayukwayukwa and 12.4 percent in Meheba reported using an improved toilet, which indicates an urgent need for better hygiene (SENS, 2017).

Country profile

Zimbabwe



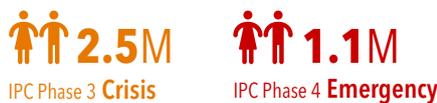
ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY 2019

Total population of country **14.6M**



Population analysed **9.4M** (64% of total population)

3.6M IPC Phase 3 or above in October–December 2019



2.7M IPC Phase 2 **Stressed**

2018–19 Change

Food insecurity **increased** as a result of escalating food prices, late onset and below average rains and cyclone.

2020 Forecast

A major deterioration in food insecurity is expected as a result of persisting economic difficulties, eroded household resilience, rainfall deficits and forecast low harvests.

NUTRITION INDICATORS

3.6% of children under 5 years are acutely **malnourished**, of whom **1.4%** are affected by SAM.

24% of children under 5 years are **stunted**.

17% of children 6–23 months meet the recommended **dietary diversity** requirement.

42% of children under 6 months are exclusively **breastfed**.

58.1% of children under 5 years and **31.1%** of women 15–49 years are **anaemic**.

64% of households have access to at least basic **drinking water** services.

DRIVERS OF FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION

Economic shocks Weather extremes

- ▶ Spiraling inflation and a dire shortage of local currency severely cut purchasing power.
- ▶ Prices of cereal products rose so steeply that only the most privileged could afford them.
- ▶ Low foreign currency supplies that reduced capacity to access food imports
- ▶ Severe drought and below average rains sharply reduced the 2019 harvest.
- ▶ Cyclone Idai caused severe damages with around 270 000 people affected in March.
- ▶ Deteriorating food insecurity and health conditions (inflation of the prices of medicines, cholera outbreak at the end of 2018 and progressive increase in the rates of diarrhoeal disease) have contributed to increasing levels of child malnutrition.

DISPLACEMENT

51 000 were **internally displaced** by cyclone Idai.

There were **21 400 refugees** from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (52%) and Mozambique (38%).



Drought and economic crisis have severely affected smallholder farmers like Elias Shamba. Following two failed rounds of planting and a very early start to the lean season he has borrowed money in order to get his land tilled.

BACKGROUND

Zimbabwe has only experienced normal rainfall in one of the last five growing seasons. It is also experiencing an economic crisis characterized by a significant shortage of currency, hyperinflation, lack of fuel and prolonged power outages that have crippled industry and work opportunities (WFP, December 2019). Widespread poverty, high levels of HIV/AIDS and low crop productivity also undermine food security (WFP, 2019). As a result, Zimbabwe is experiencing one of its worst food security crises in a decade, with atypically high humanitarian food assistance needs (FEWS NET, November 2019 and UN, December 2019).

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY OVERVIEW

Between October and December 2019, an estimated 3.6 million people were facing acute food insecurity and required urgent action to reduce food consumption gaps and save livelihoods (IPC Phase 3 or above). This includes over 1.1 million people facing Emergency (IPC Phase 4) conditions. This was a marked deterioration compared with the 2018 end-of-year peak. (IPC, August 2019). An additional 2.7 million were at risk of becoming acutely food insecure if their livelihoods were not supported (IPC Phase 2)

Of particular concern were the nine districts classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4), where the results of the ZimVAC and IPC analysis demonstrated an increase in the number of people facing food consumption gaps and forced to employ emergency strategies, thus jeopardizing their future (IPC, August 2019). The deepening hardship forced families to eat less, skip meals, take children out of school, sell off livestock and fall into a vicious cycle of debt. Little respite is expected for the most vulnerable, including subsistence farmers, who grow most of Zimbabwe's food and depend on a single, increasingly erratic rainy season (WFP, December 2019).

FACTORS DRIVING ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY

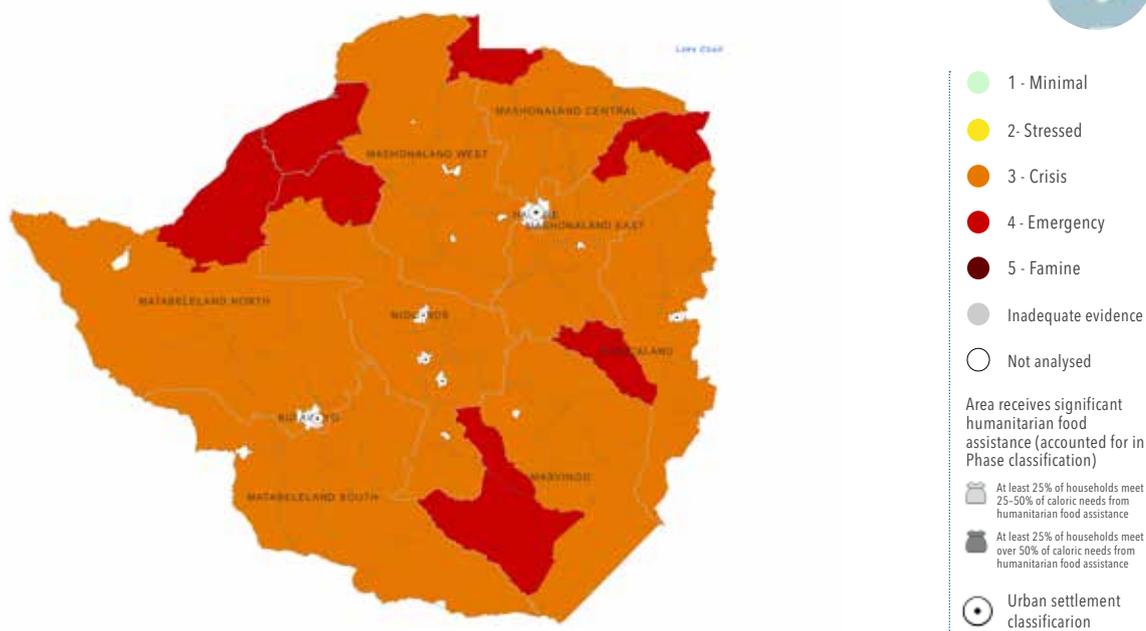
Economic shocks

The persisting poor macroeconomic environment, marked by hyperinflation, continues to affect the food security situation (IPC, August 2019). In July annual inflation reached 230 percent. Extreme poverty is estimated to have risen from 29 percent in 2018 to 34 percent in 2019, meaning that 5.7 million Zimbabweans are living in extreme poverty in 2019 (WB, October 2019).

The Zimbabwe dollar (ZWL) depreciated by 520 percent between February and late October, mostly due to continued

Map 67

Zimbabwe, IPC Acute food insecurity situation, October–December 2019



Source: Zimbabwe IPC Technical Working Group, August 2019

critical foreign currency shortages (FEWS NET, October 2019). The government made it the only legal tender in June 2019, ending the multi-currency regime that was in place for over a decade, but the ZWL continued to fall in value.

In October retail prices of maize meal were more than eight times higher than the previous year because of the weak currency, reduced domestic supplies following a drought-induced 2019 harvest and foreign exchange shortages that curtailed imports (FAO-GIEWS, December 2019).

In December most markets, even in typical surplus production areas, were without maize grain, increasing demand for maize meal and further contributing to high maize meal prices (FEWS NET, December 2019).

The low cereal harvests in the 2018/2019 agricultural season depleted household incomes from agricultural-related activities, further compounding the effects of inflated food prices (FAO-GIEWS, October 2019).

While casual labour remained the main income for 30 percent of rural families those relying on food crop sales reduced from 22 percent in 2018 to 8 percent in 2019. Cash shortages remained the most influential stressors experienced by households, followed by increases in cereal prices and drought, particularly in the provinces of Manicaland and Midlands (SADC, October 2019).

Weather events

In 2019 Zimbabwe experienced its worst drought in decades, with temperatures hitting 50 degrees Celsius in some areas (WFP, January 2020). The limited access to or non-existent irrigation facilities increased farmers' vulnerability (WFP, December 2019).

The record-high temperatures in late October to early November affected water sources, agricultural activities and livestock. A high number of cattle deaths were reported in southern and western areas mainly due to livestock diseases (IPC, August 2019), but also to poor pasture conditions and water availability (FEWS NET, November 2019).

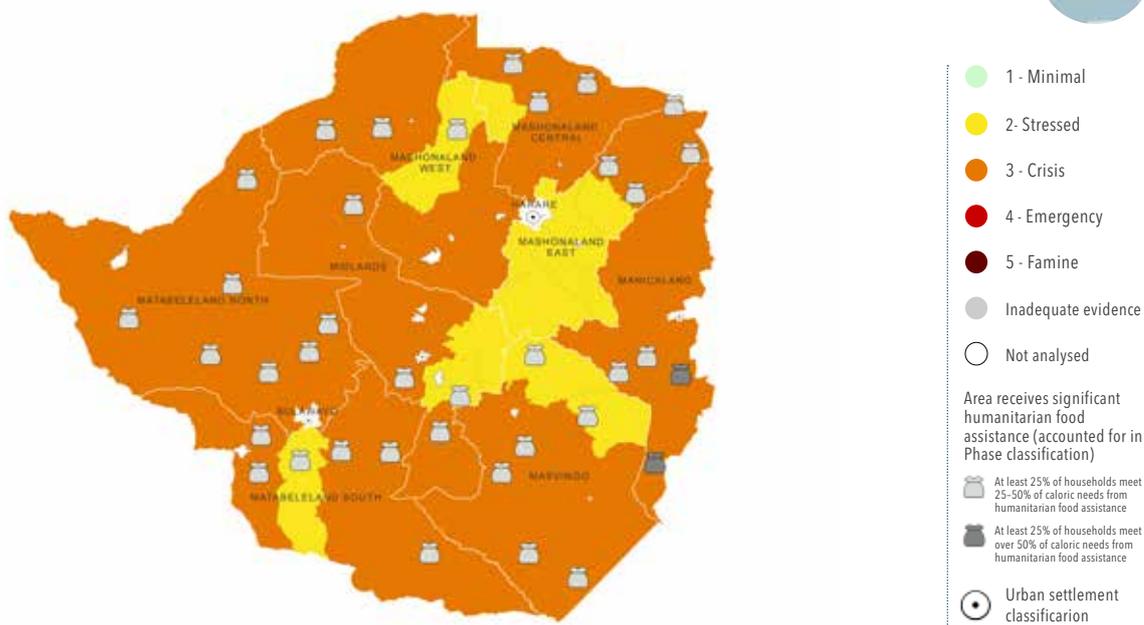
Cyclone Idai hit the country in March 2019 and affected around 270 000 people across nine districts in the Eastern region as well as parts of Southern Zimbabwe. The flooding and landslides that followed caused severe damages to crop and agriculture infrastructure (OCHA, August 2019).

Rainfall conditions were near to average between October and December 2019 despite late onset of rains countrywide and false starts in the southern and south-eastern parts of the country. Nevertheless, crop establishment was significantly affected (FEWS NET, October 2019).

At about 780 000 metric tonnes Zimbabwe's 2018/19 national maize production was over 40 percent below the five-year average (FAO-GIEWS, October 2019). The country's

Map 68

Zimbabwe, IPC Acute food insecurity situation, June–September 2019



Source: Zimbabwe IPC Technical Working Group, August 2019

strategic grain reserve was severely depleted. Out of the 60 administrative rural districts only 11 had enough cereal to last until the next harvest (OCHA, August 2019). Import requirements were significantly above the average.

NUTRITION OVERVIEW

Due to worsening food insecurity, inflation, a cholera outbreak from the end of 2018 and progressive increase in the rates of diarrheal disease, child nutritional status worsened (SADC, October 2019).

Acute malnutrition among children under 5 years of age remained 'low', although it rose to 3.6 percent in 2019 from 2.5 percent in 2018. A higher prevalence of GAM was recorded in Makoni (7.4 percent), Mutare (5 percent), Seke (5.7 percent), Mhondoro-Ngezi (5.8 percent), Sanya (5.5 percent), Binga (6.1 percent), Lupane (5.2 percent), Masvingo (7.4 percent) and Goromonzi (19.3 percent) (ZimVAC, 2019). Stunting affected 24 percent of children (MICS, 2019).

Of particular concern is that only 11 percent of children aged 6–23 months consume a minimum acceptable diet. Even though 83 percent of children are breastfed until their first birthday, only 42 percent are exclusively breastfed for the first 6 months (MICS, 2019). These are also likely to contribute to the severe anaemia levels among children (WHO, 2016) as well as the stunting levels.

Around half of rural households lack access to basic water sources. Almost a third (31 percent) use open defecation (MICS, 2019). Water treatment plants have critical shortages of chemicals due to lack of foreign currency (OCHA, October 2019). Around 780 000 people are at risk of WASH-related disease outbreaks (OCHA, August 2019).

HIV/AIDS remains high in Zimbabwe with 12.7 percent of adults or 1.3 million people affected, almost 61 percent of them women (UNAIDS, 2018).

Zimbabwe is also dealing with widespread and worsening lack of essential medicine coupled with poor access to health services (OCHA, October 2019).

Food insecurity and malnutrition forecasts

REGIONAL FORECAST FOR THE GREATER HORN OF AFRICA

Abundant seasonal rains from mid-2019 benefitted crops and rangelands but also brought damaging floods, and fostered a severe desert locust outbreak that will likely aggravate food insecurity in 2020

Djibouti

In January 2020, 178 000 people were food insecure, representing 17 percent of urban and rural inhabitants as well as 10 percent of the refugees living in camps across the country (WFP, 2020). The most-affected regions were Dikhil and Obock where 44–49 percent of the population was food insecure, as well as 23 percent of the population in Arta. Since late 2019, average to above-average rainfall and pasture and water availability improved livestock body conditions and benefitted pastoralist households through normal livestock production and sales (USAID, February 2020). However, the food insecurity situation of some rural populations could deteriorate as around 27 000 people, who are largely reliant on agro-pastoralism, are living in areas affected by desert locust infestations (FAO and Government of Djibouti, January 2020).

▲ Ethiopia

The number of food-insecure people in need of urgent assistance – in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) – is projected to seasonally increase from 6.7 million in October 2019–January 2020 to 8.5 million in February–June 2020, due to the depletion of stocks from 2019 harvests. The highest prevalence of food insecurity is expected in the pastoral Somali and Afar regions, where the lingering impact of consecutive poor rainy seasons has resulted in significant livestock losses, as well as in agropastoral areas of eastern Oromiya region, where herd sizes are below-average and the 2019 Belg harvest was reduced. The recent desert locust infestation will likely contribute to diminished agricultural production, placing additional pressure on an already complex and fragile food security context. Since June 2019, six regions

have experienced an infestation of desert locusts (Afar, Amhara, Dire Dawa, Oromia, Somali and Tigray), and by early 2020, the swarms were reported as having moved towards the Rift Valley, which is considered the breadbasket of Ethiopia (FAO, 2020).

A general election scheduled for May could worsen ongoing civil unrest and intercommunal violence. Further displacement of people is likely. Inflation is rising, driving up food prices (WFP, January 2020). The overall condition of IDPs and returnees will continue to be dire as hygiene and sanitation, as well as shelter conditions, are often inadequate (OCHA, December 2019).

Kenya

In the northern and eastern pastoral areas of Turkana, Samburu, Marsabit, Mandera, Wajir, Garissa and Tana River counties, the abundant 2019 October–December short rains boosted livestock conditions and productivity. This resulted in generally improved food security levels from Crisis (IPC Phase 3) in late 2019 to Stressed (IPC Phase 2) conditions in early 2020. These levels are expected to prevail until May 2020. However, households in areas that were the most affected by floods in Tana River, Mandera and Wajir counties are likely to remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). Desert locust swarms in northern and central areas, as well as along the shores of Lake Turkana in February 2020 were expected to expand further into the north-eastern areas of the country (FAO, 2020). As of January, 2–2.9 million people were estimated in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) levels of acute food insecurity (FEWS NET, February 2020).

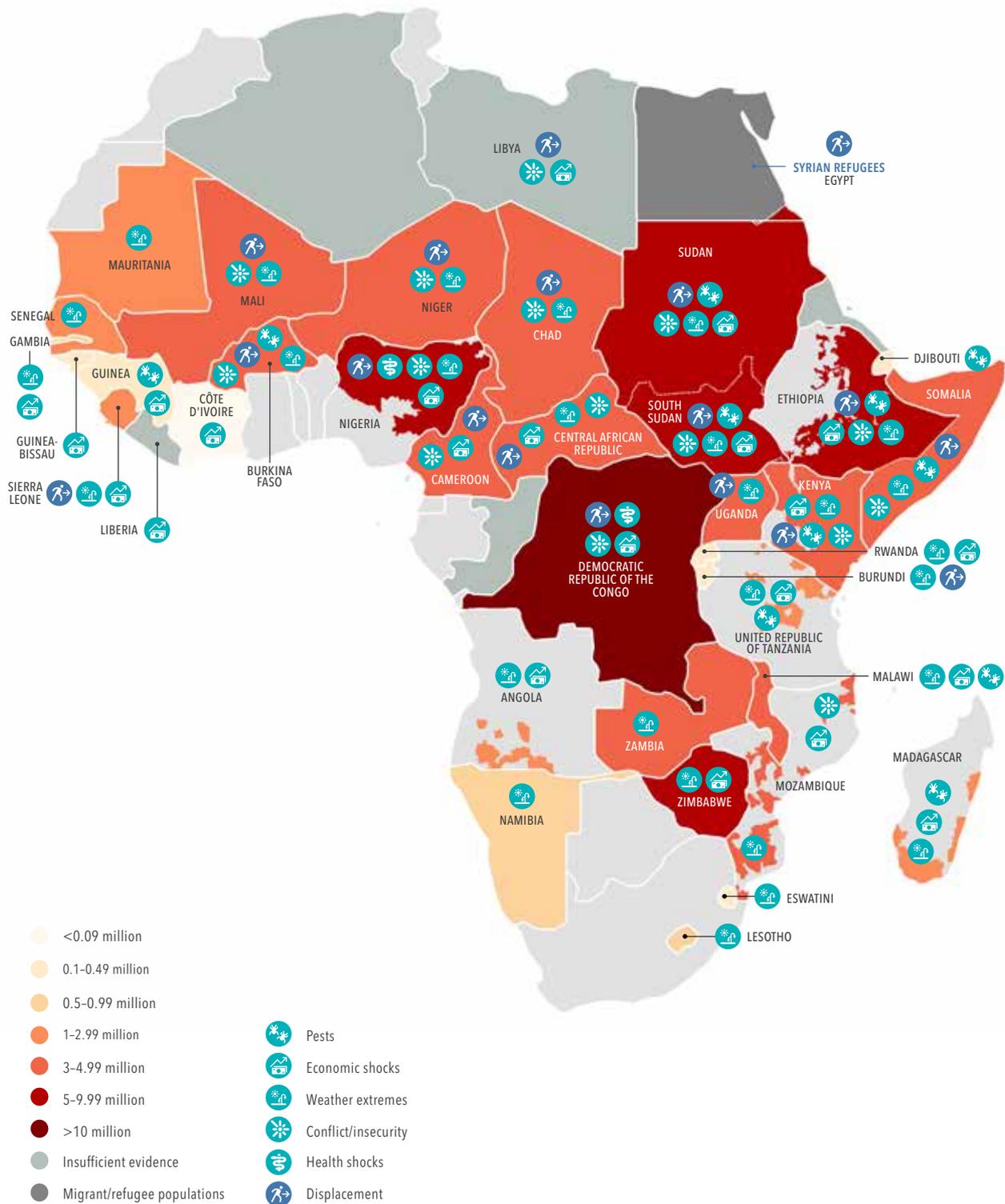
▼ Somalia

In Somalia the number of people facing Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) levels of food insecurity was estimated at 1.2 million in January 2020, 55 percent fewer than in late 2019, due to the favourable impact of the abundant October–December Deyr rains on crop and livestock production. In the period from February–September, the number of food-insecure people was projected to increase by 40 percent to 1.6 million people, mainly driven by substantial crop and pasture losses due to desert locusts, with the output of the main Gu harvest, to be gathered in July, forecast at 15–25 percent below-average. Forecast above-

Number of acutely food-insecure people forecast to: ▲ increase in 2020; ▼ decrease in 2020; ► persist in 2020 at 2019 levels

Map 69

Number of people in IPC/CH Phase 3 or above, drivers and risks in Africa in 2020



average April–June Gu rains were expected to cause the Juba and Shabelle rivers to overflow after very high water flows and levels in late 2019 had damaged embankments. This was likely to lead to additional crop production shortfalls in riverine areas (FSNAU-FEWS NET, February 2020).

▼ South Sudan

Food insecurity levels are forecast to remain poor throughout the first half of 2020 as the lean season is exacerbated by ongoing local conflicts, years of conflict-related asset depletion, a crippled economy, poorly functioning markets and lack of infrastructure. In addition, northern and eastern areas that were devastated by floods in late 2019 incurred severe livelihood losses. An estimated 63 percent of the 2020 national cereal needs have been met by harvests, while the ongoing economic crisis will continue to inhibit households' purchasing power and push up food prices. The number of people facing Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) levels of acute food insecurity is set to rise from nearly 5.3 million (45 percent of the population) in January 2020 to 6.5 million (55 percent of the population) by May–July. The highest prevalence of food insecurity will likely be in Jonglei State, the area worst affected by the floods, where close to 73 percent of the population will face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels of acute food insecurity by the middle of the year (IPC, February 2020).

► The Sudan

A deterioration of the food insecurity situation is expected until the end of the lean season in September 2020, with seasonal trends exacerbated by an earlier than usual depletion of food stocks from the reduced 2019 harvest and the worsening macroeconomic situation, which is driving extremely high food and non-food prices and constraining food access. Despite availability from newly harvested cereal crops in January 2020, Crisis (IPC Phase 3) levels of acute food insecurity continue for IDPs in SPLM-N controlled areas of South Kordofan. They also persist for IDPs and conflict-affected households in Jebel Marra region in Darfur, and in several areas of Abyei, northern parts of North Darfur, parts of North Kordofan and parts of Kassala and Red Sea states.

From February–May 2020, food insecurity is expected to deteriorate further, with Crisis (IPC Phase 3) levels expected in North Kordofan and Red Sea states, in areas affected by flooding in White Nile, Blue Nile and Kassala states and for additional households in North Darfur. In the absence of humanitarian assistance, acute food insecurity is likely to deteriorate to Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels for IDPs and conflict-affected people in parts of SPLM-N controlled areas of South Kordofan and Blue Nile states, and for IDPs in parts of Jebel Marra region. From June–September, 5–6 million people are expected to be food insecure and in need of urgent assistance.

Uganda

Food insecurity is at minimal levels, thanks to the above-average second season harvest, gathered in January 2020. However, Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security levels in Bundibugyo district are expected to rise through May due to recent floods, landslides and severe crop damage, which left little or no harvests available for own consumption or sale. High food prices have forced many households in flood-affected areas to reduce the quantity and frequency of meals. In the agropastoral north-eastern Karamoja region, below-average crop production will result in an earlier-than-usual depletion of household cereal stocks.

However, abundant rains in the second half of 2019 improved livestock conditions and productivity, and an above-average availability of livestock products will maintain food security at Stressed (IPC Phase 2) levels. Refugees from South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo could face deteriorating food insecurity if adequate levels of humanitarian assistance are not provided. Food security conditions could deteriorate further in the face of the recent arrival of a mature swarm of desert locusts in February 2020 (FAO 2020). Considering these factors, from May–June 2020, 1.2 to 1.6 million people will likely face Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) food insecurity conditions (FEWS NET, February 2020).

REGIONAL FORECAST FOR CENTRAL AFRICA

Protracted conflict and macroeconomic crises in tandem with the damages incurred by 2019 flooding in many areas will either maintain or increase food insecurity levels in parts of central Africa

▲ Central African Republic

Seven years since the start of the conflict, despite the signing of the peace agreement between the Government and several armed groups in February 2019, severe insecurity was expected to persist in 2020, mainly in western Ouham and Ouham-Pendé prefectures and in eastern and south-eastern Basse-Kotto, Haut-Mbomou, Mbomou and Haute-Kotto prefectures. Violence may further increase in the run-up to the election in 2020 (WFP, January 2020).

The number of people facing Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) levels of acute food insecurity is set to rise from nearly 1.6 million (35 percent of the population) in the September 2019–April 2020 post-harvest period to 2.1 million (47 percent of the population) in the May–August 2020 lean period. This represents a 17 percent increase compared with the same period in 2019.

In the areas most affected by insecurity, where large numbers of IDPs are located, the seasonal deterioration of the food security situation will be compounded by conflict-related livelihood losses



East Africa desert locust upsurge

The worst desert locust upsurge in decades is spreading across East Africa, threatening the livelihoods and food security of the region's rural population. It is the worst upsurge Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia have experienced in the last 25 years, Uganda in 60 years and in Kenya in 70 years (FAO).

The upsurge began in the Arabian Peninsula in 2018 after successive cyclones led to favourable breeding conditions, and ongoing conflict in Yemen limited pest control operations. By mid-2019, swarms had reached the Horn of Africa (northern Somalia, southern Eritrea and northern and eastern Ethiopia).

Exceptionally heavy rains across East Africa exacerbated locust reproduction, and by late 2019 and early 2020, the pests had also spread to coastal areas of the Sudan and Eritrea, central and southern Somalia, southern Ethiopia, Kenya, eastern Uganda and south-eastern South Sudan. Some locusts were also reported in northern United Republic of Tanzania and in north-eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Most areas infected by desert locusts, as of 17 February, were facing either Stressed (IPC Phase 2) or Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes. Crop and pasture losses had generally been minimal in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia with the exception of northern and south-eastern Tigray, north-eastern Amhara, and eastern Oromia regions in Ethiopia which reported localized damages to the Meher crops in 2019.

According to FAO's Locust Watch, a favourable climate forecast in 2020 will likely cause the pest to spread, with the start of the long rains season in March–April of particular concern as it corresponds with the regeneration of rangelands and the start of planting activities. Though control operations were underway, they were hampered by limited resources, as well as conflict and insecurity in Somalia and north-eastern Kenya.

The impact on future food security will be highly dependent on the magnitude of production losses, both in marginal agricultural zones and in key surplus production areas, as

well as for rangeland resources. In this context, the Greater Horn of Africa Food Security and Nutrition Working Group (FSNWG) has developed two scenarios based on the likelihood of infestations and expected impacts on crops, rangelands and ultimately the food security of local populations.

In the most likely scenario, households in areas where swarms have caused damages – particularly those relying on cropping activities that are already Stressed (IPC Phase 2) or worse – will experience significant impact on food security. Given the average-to-above-average rainfall forecast for the region, the main assumption rests on significant crop losses for affected households in certain areas resulting in below-average production in some areas at a sub-national level but the impact on national production and agricultural labour wages will be minimal. Vulnerable populations already affected by recent shocks and facing elevated levels of food insecurity are likely to face further deterioration, particularly in late 2020 and peaking during the 2021 lean season.

In the worst-case scenario, desert locust infestations would 1) cause significant losses during the 2020 main and secondary seasons, resulting in below-average harvests, and 2) cause major pasture and browse losses in arid and semi-arid regions, resulting in a more dire food security outlook. Food access, availability and stocks would be reduced. Pastoralists who face reduced rangeland availability would likely resort to atypical migration, thus accelerating the depletion of scarce rangeland resources and increasing the risks of livestock diseases and the likelihood of resource-based conflicts. Migration options would remain limited for the poorest pastoralists and for those living in conflict-affected areas. Under this scenario, a deterioration in food security outcomes would likely begin in mid-2020.

Source: FSNWG. 2020. Special Report – East Africa desert locust and Food Security Update: Current Upsurge Threatens Upcoming 2020 Agricultural Season. 17 February.

and disruptions. From May–August 2020, Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels of acute food insecurity are expected to prevail in several areas of Ouham-Pendé, Ouham, Nana Gribizi, Ouaka, Basse Kotto and Vakaga prefectures and in parts of Mambéré-Kadei, Sangha-Mbaéré, Kemo, Mboumou, and Haut-Mboumou prefectures.

► Rwanda and Burundi

With conflict leading to large population displacements from neighbouring countries, food security needs in Burundi and Rwanda are expected to remain significant in 2020 among displaced populations, in particular. Both countries hosted close to 76 000 Congolese refugees each in late 2019 (UNHCR, February 2020). In addition, around 73 000 Burundian refugees are displaced in Rwanda, having fled political unrest from April 2015 (UNHCR, February 2020), and 113 000 people were internally displaced in Burundi mainly because of weather events as of January 2020 (IOM, February 2020).

In Burundi, the above-average rainfalls since late 2019 resulted in extensive flooding, landslides and damaged crops. However, in both countries above-average harvest prospects were expected to support Minimal (IPC Phase 1) food security outcomes through May 2020. Around 150 000–350 000 people in Burundi as well as 85 000–125 000 in Rwanda are likely to face Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) levels of acute food insecurity.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Post-harvest improvements are likely to be short-lived as poor rains, high food prices and unresolved political and economic instability could worsen food insecurity levels

▼ The Democratic Republic of the Congo

Food insecurity is expected to remain extremely concerning in conflict-affected eastern regions in 2020. In areas of Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu provinces, where conflict intensified in 2019, the early 2020 harvest was expected to be below average because of disrupted agricultural activities and flood-related crop losses. Faster-than-normal depletion of household food stocks will result in an early onset of the lean season. In parts of Kasai Central, an outbreak of cassava mosaic virus could result in substantial crop losses. Maize availability is affected by reduced imports from neighbouring Zambia and Zimbabwe, where poor seasonal rains reduced 2019 maize harvests.

Despite the start of harvests, in January 2020 Crisis (IPC Phase 3) levels of acute food insecurity were expected to prevail through May in 17 out of 22 provinces analysed, with particularly high prevalence (35–45 percent) in Haut-Uele, Ituri, Kasai, Kasai Oriental and Tanganyika. The food insecurity situation is expected to further deteriorate in these areas with the progress of the lean season until July, when newly harvested crops will be available for consumption.

Around 13.6 million people were projected to face Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) food insecurity from January–May, including 3.6 million in Emergency (IPC Phase 4), which represents an improvement compared to 2019 mostly due to improved security conditions in certain regions such as Greater Kasai and favourable rainfall conditions.

At the time of publication no new case of Ebola virus disease had been reported since 17 February 2020, but there was still a high risk of re-emergence of the virus before the end of the outbreak being declared, and for several months following that declaration because of the long duration and large magnitude of the outbreak (WHO, March 2020).

► Eswatini and Lesotho

The situation in Eswatini is expected to improve in 2020, based on a likely above-average harvest for a second consecutive year. Similarly, in Lesotho, a production recovery is expected to decrease the number of people in need of assistance by the end of 2020 compared to the previous year.

Respectively, both countries had 0.2 and 0.4 million people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) between January and March 2020. Moreover, a production upturn in South Africa, the sub-region's main exporter and producer, would likely reduce prices, thereby helping to improve access to food staples for import dependent countries.

▼ Madagascar

The impact of rainfall deficits on agricultural production in southern, south eastern Madagascar was expected to lead to around 0.7 million people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in the January–March 2020 lean season. The population in these districts has limited capacity to withstand and recover from weather shocks, and even small production downturns can provoke a sharp deterioration in food insecurity.

The situation was likely to be worst in West Ampanihy District, where 30 percent of the population is expected to be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). However, the number of acutely food-insecure people was expected to seasonally decrease to 0.4 million between April and June (IPC, November 2019).

▼ Malawi

The 2020 harvest in Malawi is expected to remain near the average level. While this will contribute to stabilizing food security in 2020, high prices for staple foods prompted an upward revision to the numbers of food insecure people in 2019, and high prices in 2020 are likely to prevent a large reduction in food assistance needs. Around 1.9 million people face Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) food security outcomes until March 2020 (IPC, January 2020).

► Mozambique

In some areas affected by cyclones Kenneth and Idai in 2019, the recovery process may be slower than expected due to severe weather including heavy rains and flooding, lightning storms, hailstorms and strong winds. This may result in a prolonged lean season. Meanwhile, southern Mozambique and southern parts of Tete, Manica, and Sofala provinces are facing drought and abnormally high temperatures.

Insufficient and erratic rainfall resulted in multiple rounds of planting due to successive crop loss and production is expected to be well below average for the third consecutive season, with some areas facing total crop loss. Poor households are relying heavily on market purchases for food, but abnormally high maize grain prices are lowering their purchasing power (FEWS NET, January 2020). Political and economic instability, if unresolved, could trigger violence and displacement (OCHA, December 2019). Between January and February 2020, around 1.7 million people faced Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above).

► Namibia and Angola

Improved seasonal rainfall has helped regenerate pasture and water resources and boost crop production prospects in 2020 in northern Namibia and southern Angola, following extreme dry conditions in the previous year. Agricultural production is expected to increase and contribute to an improvement in food security conditions. In early 2020, Namibia had 0.4 million and Angola had 0.6 million food insecure people in Crisis or above (IPC Phase 3 or worse). This situation is mainly the product of poor weather conditions in 2019, although a slight decrease in food insecurity is projected through September in Namibia (IPC, October 2019).

► United Republic of Tanzania

Food security conditions are expected to improve, with the number of acutely food insecure people (IPC Phase 3 or above) projected to decline from about 1 million in November 2019–April 2020 to about 0.5 million in May–September 2020. This is the result of the “msimu” harvests which are expected to increase cereal availability and “masika” harvest which will boost availability. However, political and economic instability, if unresolved, could trigger violence and displacement (OCHA, December 2019).

► Zambia

Heavy rainfall since the beginning of January led to riverine and flash floods, mainly in the southern province. The flooding destroyed crops, including maize, in some of the areas heavily affected by the last season’s drought, according to the Government’s Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU). In addition, erratic rains and dry spells at the beginning of the rainy season in November had already compromised the

planting period in the southern region. These recurrent climate shocks could aggravate the already fragile food security situation. Before the floods, 2.3 million people were expected to face Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) levels of acute food insecurity during the lean season in October 2019–March 2020 (IPC November 2019).

▲ Zimbabwe

The alarming food insecurity situation is not expected to improve – and could even worsen – in late 2020. Persisting economic difficulties have acutely undermined food security and eroded the resilience of households. Given limited indications that there will be a significant turnaround in the economy during the first half of 2020, households are likely to continue to face severe food access constraints. Early rainfall deficits caused permanent wilting of crops in localized areas, while erratic rainfall is expected to result in a decline in crop productivity in the 2019/2020 season.

The ongoing economic crisis has hindered farmers’ access to agricultural inputs, causing an overall contraction in the areas dedicated to planting cereals. The 2020 harvest is forecast to remain below the five-year average, which would sustain a tight supply situation and curtail potential earnings from crop sales for farming households. As a result, the food-insecure population in need of urgent assistance is projected at around 5.5–6.5 million people from October–December 2020.

WEST AFRICA AND THE SAHEL

Increasing violence, new displacements and disrupted agriculture and trade in tandem with adverse climate in conflict affected West Africa and Sahel countries will worsen food security conditions in 2020

▲ Burkina Faso

The escalation of conflict in northern areas (Nord, Centre-Nord and Sahel regions) and its spread to the eastern areas (Est region) is driving one of the world’s fastest growing humanitarian crises. The number of acutely food insecure people (CH Phase 3 or above) during the June–August 2020 lean season is forecast at 1.8 million, 2.5 times the estimated number in the same period last year (CILSS-CH, November 2019). The sharp increase in the number and gravity of violent episodes has displaced 765 000 people as of February 2020 – a 16-fold increase compared to January 2019 – resulting in severe livelihood losses (UNHCR, February 2020). In conflict-affected areas, many farmers have been forced to abandon their fields, while pastoralists have faced restricted animal access to pasture and water points as well as episodes of cattle raiding. The concentration of livestock is rapidly deteriorating resources, such as pasture and water in accessible areas. Food markets are either closed or poorly attended by traders, sellers and buyers, while road ambushes and the looting

of trucks have disrupted trade flows between the country's main western cereal producing areas and the northern conflict-affected, cereal deficit areas (FEWS NET, January 2020). Constraints to humanitarian access often result in irregular and reduced food assistance operations.

▼ Cameroon

About 1.1 million people are forecast to be in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) levels of food insecurity from June–August 2020 (CILSS-CH, October 2019), down from 1.4 million in October–December 2019). The expected improvement of the food security situation mainly stems from the expected implementation of the Major National Dialogue recommendations, which should mitigate the negative impact of the socio-political conflict in the North-West and South-West regions (CILSS-CH, October 2019). However, Boko Haram attacks in the Far North region continue, as does the precarious situation in North West and South West regions, where clashes between armed secessionists and security forces are disrupting agricultural and market activities and causing new displacements. Consequently, continued violence and instability will continue to drive levels of acute food insecurity. Reduced exports to Nigeria also disrupt livestock and agricultural trade flows, lowering the purchasing power of producers (FEWS NET, January 2020). As of January 2020, the number of IDPs was estimated at 977 000, in addition to 293 Central African refugees and 111 000 Nigerian refugees (UNHCR, January 2020).

Prolonged dry spells, floods, economic shocks and disrupted regional trade will drive food insecurity in the coastal countries of West Africa

▲ Chad

The number of acutely food-insecure people in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) during the June–August 2020 lean season is forecast at 1.1 million, 74 percent higher than the estimated number in the same period last year (CILSS-CH, November 2019). This sharp deterioration is mainly driven by heightened violence in conflict-affected Lac and Tibesti regions, resulting in new displacements and increasing food prices. Climatic events such as prolonged dry spells in Bahr El Ghazal, Kanem and Hadjer Lamis regions are contributing to deteriorating crop and livestock conditions (FEWS NET, January 2020). Meanwhile, floods in Mandoul and Moyen-Chari regions in October resulted in displacements and livelihood losses (FEWS NET, October 2019).

▲ The Niger

The number of people facing Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) during the June–August 2020 lean season is forecast at 1.9 million, more than 50 percent higher than the same period last year (CILSS-CH, October 2019). This significant increase can be attributed to the prolonged conflict in neighbouring

Mali, Burkina Faso and Nigeria spreading into Niger, which is disrupting agriculture, transport and marketing activities and resulting in population displacements, particularly in Diffa, Tillabery and Tahoua regions. Dry spells, floods and pest attacks in 2019 affected crop production (down 7 percent compared to 2018 levels) particularly in parts of Dosso, Maradi, Tahoua and Tillabery regions, leading to an expected earlier than usual onset of the lean season (CILSS & Ministère de l'Agriculture et de l'Élevage, November 2019). Drought conditions, limited animal mobility due to conflict and the closure of the border with Nigeria have curtailed the demand for livestock and driven down livestock prices, negatively impacting pastoralist household incomes and purchasing power in 2020 (FEWS NET, January 2020).

▲ Mali

While security improved in northern areas in 2019, insecurity is severely affecting the more populated central areas, where transnational criminal organizations, terrorist groups and armed militia are mostly targeting civilians. As of January, persisting insecurity in the Liptako Gourma areas and in Menaka continued to disturb movements of livestock, which could lead to deteriorating livestock conditions (FEWS NET, January 2020). Widespread floods in 2019 caused significant crop and livestock losses that adversely affected IDPs. Violence and displacement is expected to continue in 2020. As a result, about 1.1 million people are expected to face Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) during the June–August 2020 lean season. This is double the estimated 2019 lean season number. More than 40 percent of the projected food-insecure population is located in the central Mopti region (CILSS-CH, November 2019).

▲ Northern Nigeria

The number of acutely food-insecure people (CH Phase 3 or above) during the June–August 2020 lean season is forecast at 5.9 million, almost 20 percent up from the same period last year (CILSS-CH, November 2019). The expected deterioration of the food security situation is mainly due to the intensification of Boko Haram-related armed violence in conflict-affected north eastern areas (Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states), where tight supplies continue to sustain high food prices. In the three northeastern states, around 3.6 million people were expected to be facing Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) food security conditions in June–August 2020 – which constitutes a significant increase (20 percent) compared to the same period in 2019. Escalating intercommunal conflict and armed banditry in north western and central areas (Katsina, Zamfara, Plateau, Kaduna, Niger, Kebbi, Kogi and Nasarawa states), and widespread floods between June and October 2019 also resulted in localized livelihood losses, affecting the food security of local populations in 2020 (FEWS NET, January 2020). Border closures continue to limit food imports – particularly of rice – and drive up prices (FAO GIEWS, February 2020).

▲ Senegal and Mauritania

Rainfall has been erratic and poor since late 2019. Prolonged dry spells resulted in pasture deficits for a third consecutive year in areas bordering the two countries and Mali, Niger, Chad and Burkina Faso, and created additional pressure on pastoral households and natural resources (FEWS NET, February 2020). Floods affected crop production, contributing to a fall in aggregate cereal production in Senegal (down 4 percent compared to 2018) and localized shortfalls in the southern areas of Mauritania. Despite well-supplied markets and stable food prices, an early onset of the lean season in 2020 and increased market reliance of agro-pastoral and pastoralist households is expected (FEWS NET, January 2020). Around 724 000 people are forecast to be in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) during the lean season in June-August 2020 in Senegal, as well as 610 000 in Mauritania (CILSS-CH, November 2019).

Sierra Leone, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Cote d'Ivoire

With 2019 crop production 7–13 percent lower than the previous year, food prices are expected to remain high in the Gambia and Sierra Leone in 2020. Currency depreciation in Guinea and Sierra Leone could also limit food access for the most vulnerable, market dependent populations (CILSS-CH, November 2019). Prices of cashew nuts in Guinea-Bissau are likely to remain below the government-fixed price level, and could further decrease following the next harvest, significantly constraining rural populations' incomes and access to food. The border closures in Nigeria continue to disrupt regional trade and result in economic and food losses in countries across the region such as Côte d'Ivoire (CILSS-CH, November 2019), where the appreciated value of the CFA franc against the USD will further affect exports and producers' incomes (ADB, January 2020). Around 1.1 million are expected to be facing Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) between June and August 2020 across the 5 countries.

THE MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA

Violent conflict will drive alarming rates of food insecurity and acute malnutrition levels across the most troubled areas of this region

► Afghanistan

In Afghanistan, high levels of hunger and malnutrition are expected in 2020 due to the cumulative impacts of decades of war, continued insecurity, repeated displacement, the lingering impact of the drought in rural areas, annual flooding, and related interruptions to agriculture. Other notable contributors to food insecurity include widespread unemployment, loss of livelihoods, grinding poverty, high market reliance and elevated food prices (OCHA, December 2019).

Given the political instability, the security outlook for early 2020 looks mostly unchanged from 2019. Average rainfall levels are expected in 2020 (OCHA, December 2019). Some 11.3 million people are estimated to be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) up to April 2020, based on projections for 2020 (IPC November 2019).

Bangladesh (Cox's Bazar)

The majority of the 915 000 Rohingya refugees currently residing in Teknaf and Ukhiya upazilas of Cox's Bazar are expected to remain in 2020.¹ The environment may become more complex, driven by factors such as evolving public opinion, decreasing social cohesion and government policy considerations, which may present humanitarian access constraints. Dependence on external aid will likely continue in 2020. Without continued funds, the basic services put in place for Rohingya refugees could be at risk, which has the potential to endanger lives and lead to a rapid breakdown of the security situation. The impact of a cyclone would be devastating for the fragile camps and the Bangladeshi communities, in particular those on the coastline (JRP, March 2020).

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea

The geopolitical situation will likely remain volatile, with the protracted humanitarian crisis experienced by the most vulnerable unlikely to abate. Prolonged dry spells, floods and limited agricultural inputs are likely to persist in 2020, ensuring that a lack of dietary diversity, food insecurity and malnutrition remain critical challenges. The health system faces a critical shortage of essential medical supplies (OCHA, December 2019).

Iraq

Intermittent conflict and socio-political unrest continue to aggravate and threaten livelihoods. High levels of unemployment, perceived corruption and lack of basic services sparked widespread protests from October 2019, incurring adverse consequences for food security (WFP, January 2020). Without communal reconciliation, large-scale reconstruction, and widespread economic rejuvenation, high numbers of IDPs, returnees and host communities will remain vulnerable. The pace of closures and consolidations of IDP camps is an area of uncertainty for 2020: when families are relocated to non-camp settings, it is harder for humanitarian organizations to service their needs or track their vulnerabilities (OCHA, December 2019).

¹ Rohingya refugees/Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMN) registered under the joint Government-UNHCR registration exercise as of 31 December 2019. This figure was released after the completion of the JRP 2020 planning process, which was undertaken using a planning figure of 855,000 persons.

Lebanon

Lebanon is facing a macroeconomic crisis, and the ongoing political deadlock that followed the Prime Minister's resignation under pressure from anti-government protests is likely to accelerate the economic decline. The country's very high public debt is placing a strain on foreign currency reserves, leading to reduced capacity to import critical goods, such as food and fuel. The local currency depreciated by 63 percent on the informal market between October 2019 and February 2020, eroding people's purchasing power (WFP, March 2020).

Occupied Palestinian Territory

The political situation and other main drivers of food insecurity are likely to remain largely unchanged in 2020. In the absence of investment, there is growing pressure placed on coping mechanisms, thereby deepening the vulnerability of the population. In the West Bank, policies and practices affecting Area C, East Jerusalem and the Israeli-controlled part of Hebron city are expected to continue, leading to erosion of livelihoods. Economic development will remain hampered by the limitations on Palestinian access to land and natural resources, and by a multi-layered system of administrative, bureaucratic and physical constraints, including the Barrier (OCHA, December 2019).

The Syrian Arab Republic

In early 2020 the humanitarian situation in north-west Syria was deteriorating at an alarming rate, as military operations and clashes intensified across the Idlib area, including in parts of northern Hama and western Aleppo (OCHA, February 2020). Between early December 2019 and late February 2020, more than 900 000 people were estimated to have fled their homes or shelters in Idlib for northern Idlib and Aleppo governorates, seeking refuge in increasingly crowded areas (UNHCR, February 2020). Hostilities are having a devastating impact on key civilian infrastructure, particularly health facilities across Idlib and western Aleppo governorates (OCHA, February 2020).

Newly displaced people, overburdened communities, spontaneous returnees and IDPs living in sites of last resort, collective centres or in open areas are expected to remain particularly vulnerable in 2020. Food access was expected to worsen as food prices are rising (the reference food basket was 57 percent higher in February 2020 than in October 2019) and traders are unwilling to grant credit. The informal exchange rate is depreciating both in the Syrian Arab Republic and in Lebanon, further complicating the inflow of goods into the country (WFP, March 2020). Households headed by women and children, and people with disabilities will be highly vulnerable. Humanitarian access – including to conduct needs assessments – is likely to vary across the country. It continues to be severely challenged by several factors, including hostilities, administrative regulations and restrictions on staff movements (OCHA, December 2019).

▲ Yemen

The beginning of 2020 was marked by the prospects for peace in Yemen, with the UN-backed Stockholm Agreement leading to a significant drop in violence in Hodeidah. However, conflict remains intense in several areas of the country and violence will likely continue (ACLED, January 2020). The combined effects of conflict, macroeconomic crisis, climate-related shocks and crop pests, including fall armyworm and desert locusts, are likely to lead to persisting levels of acute food insecurity in 2020 and may further increase acute malnutrition across the country. These conditions will likely ensure that Yemen remains the world's worst global food insecurity and malnutrition crisis in 2020. Should peace process efforts bring about a substantial lowering of the intensity of the conflict, this could provide some respite, but the process is likely to be protracted.

The number of food-insecure people is expected to exceed 17 million, based on FEWS NET and the risk of Famine (IPC Phase 5) persists, particularly if conflict significantly disrupts port operations (FEWS NET, February 2020).

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Socio-political crises, lack of employment and high food prices are likely to lead to deteriorating food insecurity in some countries

Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

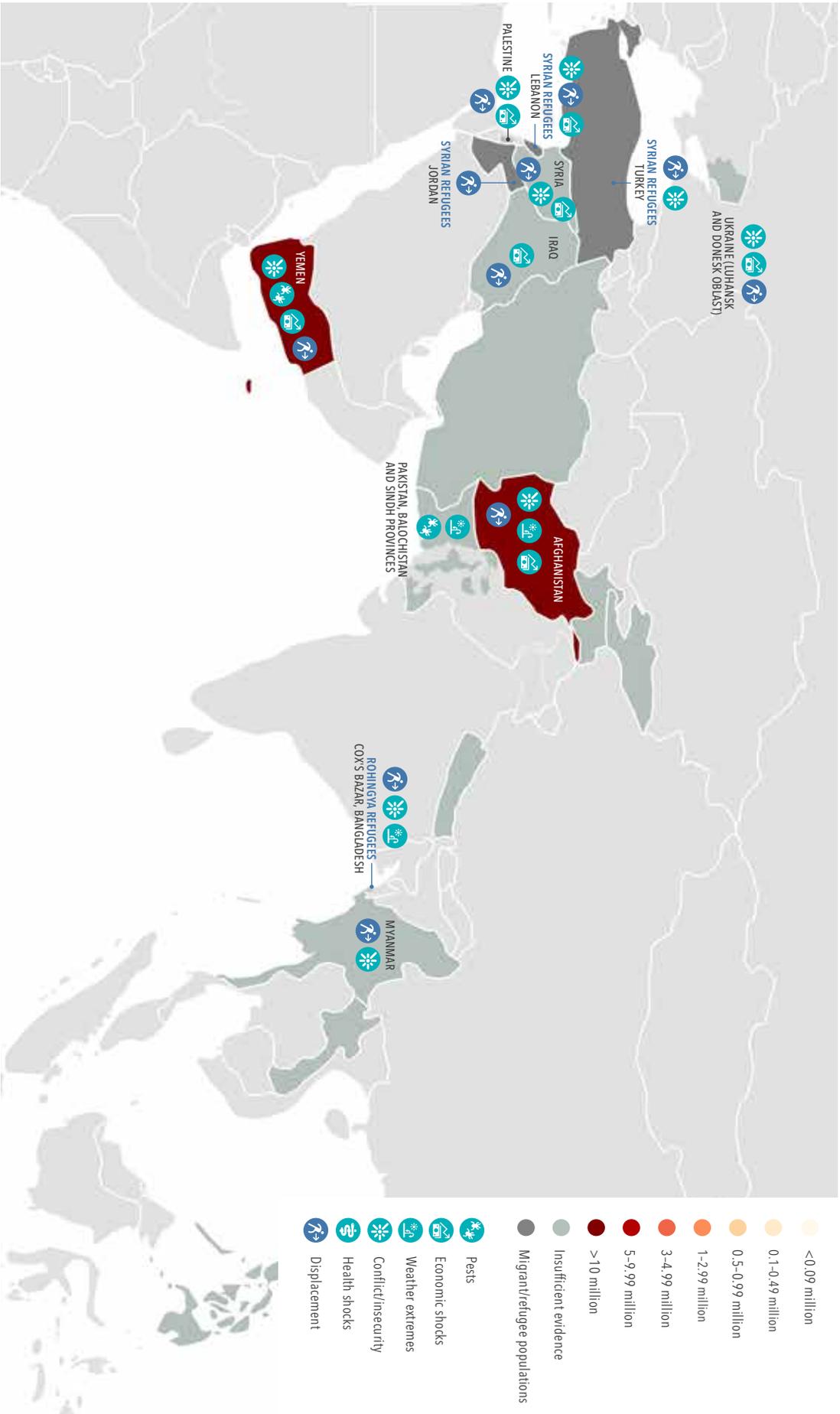
In 2020 Venezuelans will face continued loss of livelihoods and negative coping strategies could become the norm for the most vulnerable (OCHA, December 2019). International sanctions could deepen the economic crisis and internal political tensions may escalate domestic unrest (International Rescue Committee, January 2020).

The outflow of Venezuelans is expected to continue throughout 2020, making it one of the world's largest migration crises (R4V, January 2020). Various host countries have imposed stricter entry requirements to ease the burden on near-exhausted response capacities and to defuse growing social tensions (OCHA, December 2019).

A substantial increase in those undertaking circular migration to meet basic needs is also expected, primarily between the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Colombia. Other vulnerable people will include those returning from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to their countries of origin, people in transit and host communities. Refugees and migrants living in shelters, on the streets and recent arrivals in a host/transit country are among the most vulnerable. Overstretched national capacities, as well as the economic and political difficulties in some host countries may adversely affect the refugees and migrants (R4V, January 2020).

Map 70

Number of people in IPC/CH Phase 3 or above, drivers and risks in the Middle East and South Asia in 2020



Colombia

Conditions within the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela will likely maintain the continuous flow of people to Colombia, with an increase in their needs upon their arrival in the country. The restrictions imposed by other countries – as well as the degree of access that the Government of Colombia has offered to Venezuelans – will have an impact on the number of those in transit and with intent to stay in Colombia (R4V, January 2020).

▲ Haiti

The socio-political unrest that paralyzed the economy and drove up food prices in 2019 (WFP, January 2020) had stabilized by early 2020, allowing for transportation and commercial activities to resume. However, the current dysfunction of Parliament creates uncertainty, and mass protests and episodes of violence may resurface in coming months (FAO, January 2020) and further weaken the country's economy. This in turn will diminish the ability of the poorest Haitians to meet their basic needs, as well as the capacity of the State to provide essential services (OCHA, December 2019). Household food security therefore remains fragile, hampered by high food prices, the lack of employment opportunities and the residual effects of the socio-political crisis (FEWS NET, January 2020). According to the October 2019 IPC analysis, if no actions were taken to restore the food security and livelihoods of vulnerable populations, the number of people facing Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) would increase from 3.7 million in October 2019–February 2020 to 4.1 million during the March–June 2020 lean season (IPC, October 2019).

THE CENTRAL AMERICAN DRY CORRIDOR

The 2019 drought and depressed household incomes, particularly for coffee growers, will drive food insecurity in the Dry Corridor

From February, the lack of basic grain reserves resulting from the prolonged 2019 drought and the fall in demand for casual agricultural labour – the main source of income for poor households – were expected to limit food access and signify the premature start of the lean season. The decline in international coffee prices continues to depress the incomes of coffee growers and consequently of those reliant on daily wages as coffee cutters. Households in the dry corridor will have limited chance to save money to buy food, pay credits and save for subsequent months (FEWS NET, January 2020).

In Honduras the number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) is expected to increase from about 1 million in November 2019–February 2020 to 1.22 million in March–June 2020. In April–July 2020, 1.3 million people in rural Guatemala, representing 19 percent of the rural population, are expected to

be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) (IPC, December 2019). In addition, around or less than 0.1 million people will likely face Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) conditions in both Nicaragua and El Salvador from May–August 2020.

In 2020, migration from Central America to northern countries is expected to continue, spurred by irregular climate patterns affecting food production and criminality and insecurity in the Dry Corridor. Current migrants face uncertainties amidst the implementation of deals with the northern countries of Central America that would see asylum seekers returned from their destination country to their country of transit (OCHA, December 2019).

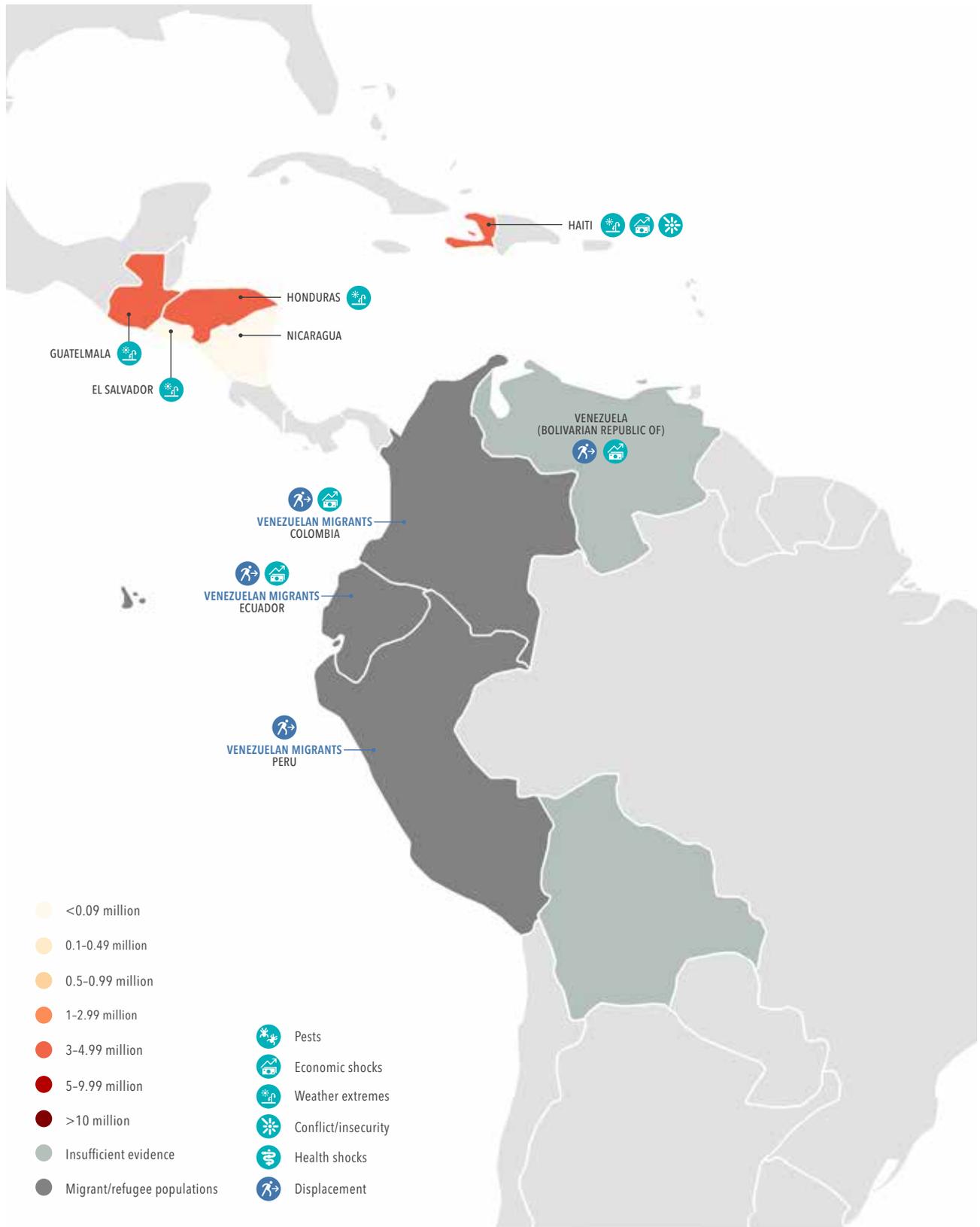
EUROPE

Ukraine

The end of 2019 marked an important turning point and potentially new forward momentum in establishing a permanent ceasefire in the Ukraine. For the first time in three years, in December 2019, the Presidents of France, the Russian Federation and Ukraine as well as the Federal Chancellor of Germany met to reinvigorate the stalled conflict settlement process. Other promising actions included the disengagement of forces in several areas and the exchange of prisoners. However, humanitarian needs in conflict-affected areas of Eastern Ukraine (Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts) are expected to remain severe in 2020 because of the effects of the six-year crisis on the lives, livelihoods and resilience of people. Around 1 million people are expected to face food insecurity with the most vulnerable being urban populations closest to the 'contact line'. Food insecurity levels are high among the elderly and people with specific needs (OCHA, January 2020).

Map 71

Number of people in IPC/CH Phase 3 or above, drivers and risks in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2020



Map 72

IPC Acute malnutrition - 2020 projections in 9 countries in Africa

MALNUTRITION FORECAST EARLY 2020

In a number of countries affected by food crises in 2019, a deterioration of the malnutrition situation is expected if disease outbreaks are not well managed and continue to spread, affecting children's nutritional status. In contexts of conflict where violence, insecurity and displacements are likely to increase, the nutrition situation is also expected to deteriorate due to the spread of diseases, limited access to food and basic services as well as limited access to humanitarian aid such as in conflict areas in northern Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Mali and Yemen.

A persistent, deteriorated situation is forecast for countries with political and economic crises that are not likely to improve in the coming year including Eswatini, Haiti and Zimbabwe. In countries with positive food security forecasting, such as Malawi, the nutrition situation is not likely to deteriorate.

Nine countries (Chad, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, the Niger, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda) affected by

food crises in 2019 have conducted an IPC Acute Malnutrition analysis and produced a forecast for early 2020. The situation is expected to deteriorate in all provinces of Chad and Niger due to the seasonal increase in malaria, diarrhoea and respiratory infections, which peak between May and September and constitute the main driving factors of acute malnutrition in these countries.

The deteriorating situations expected in Nigeria are the result of poor child-feeding practices coupled with the seasonal food shortages and increased morbidity in the areas surveyed.

In Madagascar, the acute malnutrition situation was expected to deteriorate in more than 90 percent of the 12 areas analysed as the forecasted period coincides with the increased incidence of diseases also associated with poor sanitation and hygiene practices.

The nutritional status in a third of the 31 districts analysed in Mozambique are expected to deteriorate in the lean season when heavy rains contribute to an increase in the number of cases of malaria and diarrhoea. Deterioration is possible in the districts (Cabo Delgado and Sofala) affected by cyclones Idai and Kenneth.

Coronavirus Covid-19 pandemic

At the time of publication the coronavirus (COVID-19) was continuing to spread. Since its start in China in December, the outbreak had spread to at least 114 countries.

In mid-March it was still unclear how COVID-19 might affect countries with high levels of food insecurity. Generally less prepared for an epidemic outbreak, they would likely see higher rates of mortality and malnutrition resulting from the disease. However, there are also factors that could mitigate the damage of a COVID-19 outbreak in, for example, Sub-Saharan Africa. Since the disease appears to be transmitted through respiratory droplets, warm, humid weather may make it more difficult to transmit. Secondly, developing countries tend to have a lower share of the highest-risk older people than the currently affected regions. Thirdly, the disease may not spread so rapidly in less dense and predominantly rural areas with more limited travel networks (WFP, March 2020).

The greater impact on food-crisis countries may come from any damage to the global economy. By early March many cities and regions in Asia and Europe had been largely shut down to contain the pandemic, thereby stalling much economic activity. If containment measures prove to be effective in containing the spread of the virus over the coming months, a quite likely scenario would be a major, but short-lived disruption of economic activity in a large number of countries, according to IFPRI. But if the virus continued to spread or further containment measures

became more generalized across many countries and larger numbers of workers were prevented from doing their jobs, a global recession could become a risk.

A global economic slowdown or a downturn may push down international commodity prices (for instance of oil), translating into heavy losses in export earnings for poor countries. This in turn would likely trigger currency depreciation, and push up the price of imports, including for basic foodstuffs, leading to higher food prices for consumers. Depending on the level of integration of local markets, food price rises might not fully trickle down to remote rural markets, where other factors play a more significant role (harvest, seasonality, infrastructure, security). But sluggish economic activity would increase unemployment and push down wages/income, curtailing households' purchasing power, likely forcing them to switch to cheaper, less nutritious foods (WFP, March 2020).

Furthermore, if financial markets become spooked, poor countries will be put in danger of capital flight – losing their ability to borrow and spend when they most need it. A severe outbreak in food-crisis countries could also have implications for staple food production if containment measures limiting person-to-person contact are crucial. As witnessed during the West African Ebola epidemic, these can pose a threat to the normal functioning of food supply chains, putting production as well as distribution at risk and leading to dysfunctional markets (WFP, March 2020).

Table 8

Acute food insecurity forecast for 2020

| COUNTRIES OR TERRITORIES | 2019 PEAK NUMBER | | ESTIMATES FOR 2020 PEAK NUMBER | | | |
|---|-------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| | PERIOD | POPULATION IN IPC/CH PHASE 3 OR ABOVE (MILLIONS) | ANTICIPATED PEAK PERIOD | POPULATION IN IPC/CH PHASE 3 OR ABOVE (MILLIONS) | HIGHEST EXPECTED AREA CLASSIFICATION | TREND IN 2020 PEAK NUMBER COMPARED TO 2019 PEAK NUMBER |
| Afghanistan | Nov 2019–Mar 2020 | 11.3 | Jan–Apr 2020 | 11.3 | Phase 4 Emergency | ► Stable |
| Angola (24 communes in 3 provinces) | Oct 2019–Feb 2020 | 0.6 | Jan–Feb 2020 | 0.6 | Phase 4 Emergency | ► Stable |
| Bangladesh (Cox's Bazar and host populations) | Nov–Dec 2019 | 1.3 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Burkina Faso | Oct–Dec 2019 | 1.2 | Jun–Aug 2020 | 1.8 | Phase 3 Crisis | ▲ Increase |
| Burundi | Mar–Apr 2019 | 0.2 | April–May 2020 | 0.15–0.35 | Phase 1 Minimal | ► Stable |
| Cabo Verde | Oct–Dec 2019 | 0.01 | Jun–Aug 2020 | 0.01 | Phase 2 Stressed | ► Stable |
| Cameroon (7 regions) | Oct–Dec 2019 | 1.4 | Jun–Aug 2020 | 1.1 | Phase 3 Crisis | ▼ Decrease |
| Central African Republic (excluding Lobaye)* | May–Aug 2019 | 1.8 | May–Aug 2020 | 2.1 | Phase 4 Emergency | ▲ Increase |
| Chad | Jun–Aug 2019 | 0.6 | Jun–Aug 2020 | 1.1 | Phase 3 Crisis | ▲ Increase |
| Colombia (Venezuelan migrants) | Sep–Dec 2019 | 0.9 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Côte d'Ivoire* | Jun–Aug 2019 | 0.06 | Jun–Aug 2020 | 0.004 | Phase 1 Minimal | ▼ Decrease |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo (109 territories)* | Jul–Dec 2019 | 15.6 | Varies in each area/region | 13.6 | Phase 4 Emergency | ▼ Decrease |
| Djibouti | N/A | N/A | January 2020 | 0.2 | N/A | N/A |
| Ecuador (Venezuelan migrants) | Jan–Mar 2019 | 0.3 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| El Salvador** | Apr–Jul 2019 | 0.3 | May–Aug 2020 | <0.1 | Phase 2 Stressed | N/A |
| Eswatini (rural population) | Oct 2019–Mar 2020 | 0.2 | Jan–Mar 2020 | 0.2 | Phase 3 Crisis | ► Stable |
| Ethiopia (selected areas in 6 regions) | Jul–Sep 2019 | 8.0 | Feb–Jun 2020 | 8.5 | Phase 3 Crisis | ▲ Increase |
| Gambia | Oct–Dec 2019 | 0.2 | Jun–Aug 2020 | 0.3 | Phase 2 Stressed | ▲ Increase |
| Guatemala* | Mar–Jun 2019 | 3.1 | May–Aug 2020 | 1.3 | Phase 3 Crisis | N/A |
| Guinea | Jun–Aug 2019 | 0.3 | Jun–Aug 2020 | 0.1 | Phase 2 Stressed | ▼ Decrease |
| Guinea-Bissau | Oct–Dec 2019 | 0.1 | Jun–Aug 2020 | 0.1 | Phase 3 Crisis | ► Stable |
| Haiti | Oct 2019–Feb 2020 | 3.7 | Mar–Jun 2020 | 4.1 | Phase 4 Emergency | ▲ Increase |
| Honduras (13 departments) | Nov 2019–Feb 2020 | 1.0 | Mar–Jun 2020 | 1.2 | Phase 3 Crisis | ▲ Increase |
| Iraq | Jan–Dec 2019 | 1.8 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Kenya** | Aug–Oct 2019 | 3.1 | January 2020 | 2.0–2.9 | Phase 3 Crisis | N/A |
| Lebanon (Syrian refugees) | Apr–May 2019 | 0.3 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Lesotho (rural population) | Oct 2019–Mar 2020 | 0.4 | Jan–Mar 2020 | 0.4 | Phase 3 Crisis | ► Stable |
| Liberia | Jun–Aug 2019 | 0.04 | Oct–Dec 2020 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Libya | Jan–Dec 2019 | 0.3 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Madagascar* | Nov 2018–Mar 2019 | 1.3 | Jan–Mar 2020 | 0.7 | Phase 3 Crisis | ▼ Decrease |
| Malawi | Oct 2018–Mar 2019 | 3.3 | Jan–Mar 2020 | 1.9 | Phase 3 Crisis | ▼ Decrease |
| Mali | Oct–Dec 2019 | 0.6 | Jun–Aug 2020 | 1.1 | Phase 3 Crisis | ▲ Increase |
| Mauritania | Jun–Aug 2019 | 0.6 | Jun–Aug 2020 | 0.6 | Phase 3 Crisis | ► Stable |
| Mozambique (39 districts) | Oct 2019–Feb 2020 | 1.7 | Jan–Mar 2020 | 1.7 | Phase 3 Crisis | ► Stable |
| Myanmar | Jan–Dec 2019 | 0.7 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Namibia | Oct 2019–Mar 2020 | 0.4 | Jan–Mar 2020 | 0.4 | Phase 3 Crisis | ► Stable |
| Nicaragua | Jul–Sep 2019 | 0.08 | May–Aug 2020 | 0.07–0.11 | Phase 2 Stressed | ► Stable |
| Niger | Oct–Dec 2019 | 1.4 | Jun–Aug 2020 | 1.9 | Phase 3 Crisis | ▲ Increase |
| Nigeria (16 states and Federal Capital Territory) | Jun–Aug 2019 | 5.0 | Jun–Aug 2020 | 5.9 | Phase 4 Emergency | ▲ Increase |
| Pakistan (Balochistan and Sindh drought-affected areas) | Oct 2018–Jul 2019 | 3.1 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Occupied Palestinian Territory | Jan–Dec 2019 | 1.7 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Rwanda | Apr–May 2019 | 0.1 | Apr–May 2020 | 0.085–0.125 | Phase 1 Minimal | ► Stable |
| Senegal | Oct–Dec 2019 | 0.4 | Jun–Aug 2020 | 0.7 | Phase 3 Crisis | ▲ Increase |
| Sierra Leone | Oct–Dec 2019 | 0.3 | Jun–Aug 2020 | 0.5 | Phase 2 Stressed | ▲ Increase |
| Somalia | Oct–Dec 2019 | 2.1 | Apr–Jun 2020 | 1.3 | N/A | ▼ Decrease |
| South Sudan | May–Jul 2019 | 7.0 | May–Jul 2020 | 6.5 | Phase 4 Emergency | ▼ Decrease |
| Sudan (excluding West Darfur)** | Jun–Aug 2019 | 5.9 | Jun–Sep 2020 | 5.0–6.0 | Phase 4 Emergency | ► Stable |
| Syrian Arab Republic | Jan–May 2019 | 6.6 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Turkey (Syrian refugees) | Apr–Sep 2019 | 0.5 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Uganda | Apr–Jul 2019 | 1.5 | May–Jun 2020 | 1.2–1.6 million | Phase 3 Crisis | N/A |
| Ukraine (Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts, and IDP) | Jan–Dec 2019 | 0.5 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| United Republic of Tanzania (16 districts) | Nov 2019–Apr 2020 | 1.0 | Jan–Feb 2020 | 1.0 | Phase 3 Crisis | ► Stable |
| Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) | Jul–Sep 2019 | 9.3 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Yemen** | Dec 2018–Jan 2019 | 15.9 | Jul–Sep 2020 | 17+ | Phase 4 Emergency | ▲ Increase |
| Zambia (86 districts) | Oct 2019–Mar 2020 | 2.3 | Jan–Mar 2020 | 2.3 | Phase 4 Emergency | ► Stable |
| Zimbabwe (rural population)** | Oct–Dec 2019 | 3.6 | Oct–Dec 2020 | 5.5–6.5 | Phase 3 Crisis | ▲ Increase |

*Due to different population/geographical coverage, the 2019 peak and 2020 anticipated peak are not directly comparable

**Due to different data sources, the 2019 peak and 2020 anticipated peak numbers are not directly comparable

Table 8 continued

Acute food insecurity forecast for 2020 continued

| COUNTRIES OR TERRITORIES | MAIN DRIVERS |
|--|---|
| Afghanistan (cont...) | Conflict/insecurity, related displacement; weather extremes – floods, dry spells, related production shortfalls; economic shocks – reduced purchasing power |
| Angola (cont...) | Weather extremes – dry spells, and related production shortfalls; economic shocks – reduced purchasing power |
| Bangladesh (cont...) | Conflict/insecurity, and related displacement; weather extremes – floods |
| Burkina Faso (cont...) | Conflict/insecurity, and related displacement; weather extremes – dry spells; pests |
| Burundi (cont...) | Weather extremes – floods, and related displacement |
| Cabo Verde (cont...) | Weather extremes – dry spells; pests and related production shortfalls |
| Cameroon (cont...) | Conflict/insecurity, and related displacement; economic shocks – reduced purchasing power |
| Central African Republic (cont...) | Conflict/insecurity, and related displacement; weather extremes – floods, and related production shortfalls; economic shocks – reduced purchasing power |
| Chad (cont...) | Conflict/insecurity, and related displacement; weather extremes – dry spells, floods |
| Colombia (cont...) | Economic shocks – downturn, and related reduced purchasing power and displacement |
| Côte d'Ivoire (cont...) | Economic vulnerability; localized production shortfalls |
| Dem. Rep. of the Congo (cont...) | Conflict/insecurity, and related displacement; economic shocks – reduced purchasing power; Health shocks – EVD outbreak |
| Djibouti (cont...) | Pests – desert locust |
| Ecuador (cont...) | Economic shocks – downturn, and related reduced purchasing power and displacement |
| El Salvador (cont...) | Weather extremes – dry spells, and related production shortfalls |
| Eswatini (cont...) | Weather extremes – dry spells, and related production shortfalls |
| Ethiopia (cont...) | Weather extremes – dry spells, and related production shortfalls; conflict/insecurity, and related displacements; pests – desert locust; economic shocks – reduced purchasing power |
| Gambia (cont...) | Weather extremes – dry spells, and related production shortfalls; economic shocks – reduced purchasing power |
| Guatemala (cont...) | Weather extremes – dry spells, and related production shortfalls |
| Guinea (cont...) | Economic shocks – reduced purchasing power; pests |
| Guinea-Bissau (cont...) | Economic shocks – reduced purchasing power |
| Haiti (cont...) | Economic shocks – related reduced purchasing power; weather extremes – dry spells, and related production shortfalls; insecurity/political crisis |
| Honduras (cont...) | Weather extremes – dry spells, and related production shortfalls |
| Iraq (cont...) | Conflict/insecurity, and related displacement; insecurity/political crisis; economic shocks – reduced purchasing power |
| Kenya (cont...) | Weather extremes – floods and dry spells, and related production shortfalls; pests – desert locust; economic shocks – reduced purchasing power; conflict/insecurity, and related displacement |
| Lebanon (cont...) | Conflict/insecurity, and related displacement; economic shocks – reduced purchasing power |
| Lesotho (cont...) | Weather extremes – dry spells, and related production shortfalls |
| Liberia (cont...) | Economic shocks – reduced purchasing power |
| Libya (cont...) | Conflict/insecurity, and related displacement; economic shocks – reduced purchasing power |
| Madagascar (cont...) | Weather extremes – dry spells and floods, and related production shortfalls; economic shocks – reduced purchasing power; pests – fall armyworm |
| Malawi (cont...) | Economic shocks – reduced purchasing power; weather extremes – dry spells and floods, and related production shortfalls; pests – fall armyworm |
| Mali (cont...) | Conflict/insecurity, and related displacement; weather extremes – dry spells |
| Mauritania (cont...) | Weather extremes – dry spells, and related production shortfalls |
| Mozambique (cont...) | Weather extremes – dry spells and floods, and related production shortfalls; economic shocks – reduced purchasing power; conflict/insecurity |
| Myanmar (cont...) | Conflict/insecurity, and related displacement |
| Namibia (cont...) | Weather extremes – dry spells, and related production shortfalls |
| Nicaragua (cont...) | |
| Niger (cont...) | Conflict/insecurity, and related displacement; weather extremes – dry spells/floods, and related production shortfalls |
| Nigeria (cont...) | Conflict/insecurity, and related displacement; weather extremes – floods, and related production shortfalls; economic shocks – reduced purchasing power; health shocks – disease outbreaks |
| Pakistan (cont...) | Weather extremes – cold wave and snow spell; pests – desert locust |
| Occupied Palestinian Territory (cont...) | Conflict/insecurity and related displacement; economic shocks – reduced purchasing power |
| Rwanda (cont...) | Economic shocks – reduced purchasing power; weather extremes – floods, and related production shortfalls |
| Senegal (cont...) | Weather extremes – dry spells, and related production shortfalls |
| Sierra Leone (cont...) | Weather extremes – floods, and related displacement/production shortfalls; economic shocks – reduced purchasing power |
| Somalia (cont...) | Weather extremes – floods and dry spells, and related production shortfalls; Conflict/insecurity and related displacement; pests – desert locust |
| South Sudan (cont...) | Conflict/insecurity, and related displacement; weather extremes; floods, and related production shortfalls; economic shocks – downturn; pests – desert locust |
| Sudan (cont...) | Weather extremes – dry spells and floods; economic shocks; conflict/insecurity; pests – desert locust |
| Syrian Arab Republic (cont...) | Conflict/insecurity, and related displacement; economic shocks – reduced purchasing power |
| Turkey (cont...) | Conflict/insecurity, and related displacement |
| Uganda (cont...) | Refugee influx from conflict-affected countries; weather extremes – dry spells or floods and related production shortfalls |
| Ukraine (cont...) | Conflict/insecurity, and related displacement; economic shocks – reduced purchasing power |
| United Rep. of Tanzania (cont...) | Weather extremes – dry spells, and related production shortfalls; economic shocks – reduced purchasing power; pests – desert locust and fall armyworm |
| Venezuela (Bolivarian Rep. of) (cont...) | Economic shocks – downturn, and related reduced purchasing power, production shortfalls and displacement |
| Yemen (cont...) | Conflict/insecurity and related displacement and related production shortfalls; economic shocks – downturn and reduced purchasing power; pests – desert locust |
| Zambia (cont...) | Weather extremes – dry spells and floods, and related production shortfalls |
| Zimbabwe (cont...) | Economic shocks – downturn and reduced purchasing power; weather extremes – dry spells, and related production shortfalls |

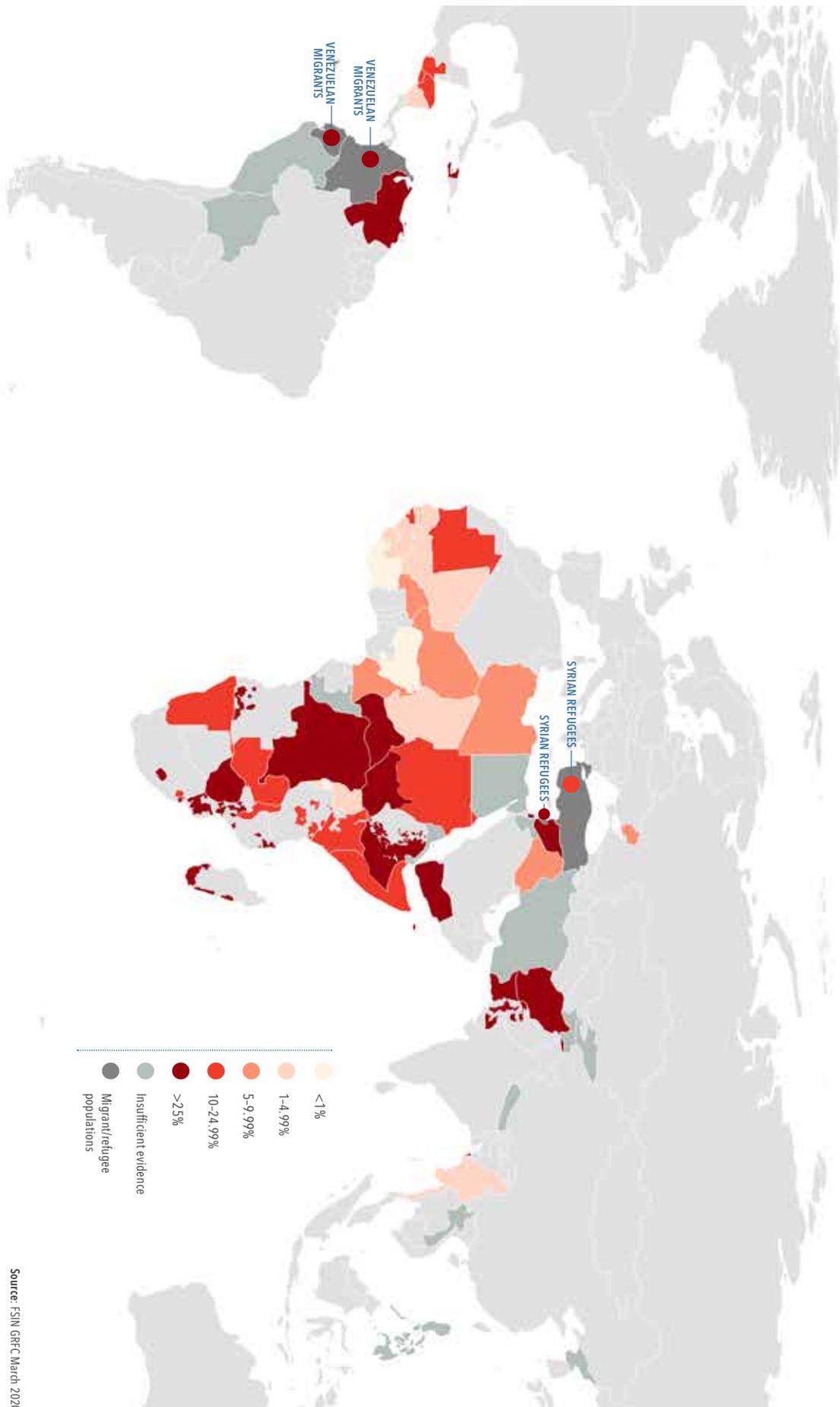
The forecast 2020 estimates provided in this table for Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras and Sierra Leone reflects only the further forecast available for 2020 – not the anticipated peak period, for which no estimates are available. The estimated peak numbers for Afghanistan, Angola, Eswatini, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia remained unchanged between 2019 and 2020 as the same analysis was used to assess peak numbers of both years.

ANNEX 1 TABLE 9 - IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY REFERENCE TABLE

| Phase name and description | Phase 1 None/Minimal | Phase 2 Stressed | Phase 3 Crisis | Phase 4 Emergency | Phase 5 Catastrophe/Famine |
|--|---|---|---|--|---|
| | Households are able to meet essential food and non-food needs without engaging in atypical and unsustainable strategies to access food and income. | Households have minimally adequate food consumption but are unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures without engaging in stress-coping strategies. | Households either have food consumption gaps that are reflected by high or above-usual acute malnutrition; or are marginally able to meet minimum food needs but only by depleting essential livelihood assets or through crisis-coping strategies. | Households either have large food consumption gaps which are reflected in very high acute malnutrition and excess mortality; or are able to mitigate large food consumption gaps but only by employing emergency livelihood strategies and asset liquidation. | Households have an extreme lack of food and/or other basic needs even after full employment of coping strategies. Starvation, death, destitution and extremely critical acute malnutrition levels are evident. (For Famine Classification, area needs to have extreme critical levels of acute malnutrition and mortality.) |
| Priority response objective | Action required to build resilience and for disaster risk reduction. | Action required for disaster risk reduction and to protect livelihoods. | URGENT ACTION required to protect livelihoods and reduce food consumption gaps. | URGENT ACTION required to save lives and livelihoods. | URGENT ACTION required to revert/prevent widespread death and total collapse of livelihoods |
| FOOD SECURITY FIRST-LEVEL OUTCOMES First-level outcomes refer to characteristics of food consumption and livelihood change. Thresholds that correspond as closely as possible to the Phase descriptions are included for each indicator. Although cut-offs are based on applied research and presented as global reference, correlation between indicators is often somewhat limited and findings need to be contextualized. The area is classified in the most severe Phase that affects at least 20% of the population. | | | | | |
| Food consumption (focus on energy intake) | Quantity: Adequate energy intake Dietary energy intake: Adequate (avg. 2 350 kcal pp/day) and stable Household Dietary Diversity Score: 5-12 food groups and stable Food Consumption Score: Acceptable and stable Household Hunger Scale: 0 (none) Reduced Coping Strategies Index: 0-3 Household Economy Analysis: No livelihood protection deficit | Quantity: Minimally Adequate Dietary energy intake: Minimally adequate (avg. 2 100 kcal pp/day) Household Dietary Diversity Score: 5 FG but deterioration ≥1 FG from typical Food Consumption Score: Acceptable but deterioration from typical Household Hunger Scale: 1 (slight) Reduced Coping Strategies Index: 4-18 Household Economy Analysis: Small or moderate livelihood protection deficit <80% | Quantity: Moderately Inadequate - Moderate deficits Dietary energy intake: Food gap (below avg. 2 100 kcal pp/day) Household Dietary Diversity Score: 3-4 FG Food Consumption Score: Borderline Household Hunger Scale: 2-3 (moderate) Reduced Coping Strategies Index: ≥19 (non-defining characteristics (NDC) to differentiate P3, 4 and 5) Household Economy Analysis: Livelihood protection deficit ≥80%; or survival deficit <20% | Quantity: Very Inadequate - Large deficits Dietary energy intake: Large food gap; much below 2 100 kcal pp/day Household Dietary Diversity Score: 0-2 FG (NDC to differentiate P4 and 5) Food Consumption Score: Poor (NDC to differentiate P4 and 5) Household Hunger Scale: 4 (severe) Reduced Coping Strategies Index: ≥19 (NDC to differentiate P3, 4 and 5) Household Economy Analysis: Survival deficit ≥20% but <50% | Quantity: Extremely Inadequate - Very large deficits Dietary energy intake: Extreme food gap Household Dietary Diversity Score: 0-2 FG Food Consumption Score: Poor (NDC to differentiate P4 and 5) Household Hunger Scale: 5-6 (severe) Reduced Coping Strategies Index: ≥19 (NDC to differentiate P3, 4 and 5) Household Economy Analysis: Survival deficit ≥50% |
| Livelihood change (assets and strategies) | Livelihood change: Sustainable livelihood strategies and assets Livelihood coping strategies: No stress, crisis or emergency coping observed | Livelihood change: Stressed strategies and/or assets; reduced ability to invest in livelihoods Livelihood coping strategies: Stress strategies are the most severe strategies used by the household in the past 30 days | Livelihood change: Accelerated depletion/erosion of strategies and/or assets Livelihood coping strategies: Crisis strategies are the most severe strategies used by the household in the past 30 days | Livelihood change: Extreme depletion/liquidation of strategies and assets Livelihood coping strategies: Emergency strategies are the most severe strategies used by the household in the past 30 days | Livelihood change: Near complete collapse of strategies and assets Livelihood coping strategies: Near exhaustion of coping capacity |
| FOOD SECURITY SECOND-LEVEL OUTCOMES Second-level outcomes refer to area-level estimations of nutritional status and mortality that are especially useful for identification of more severe phases when food gaps are expected to impact malnutrition and mortality. For both nutrition and mortality area outcomes, household food consumption deficits should be an explanatory factor in order for that evidence to be used in support of the classification. | | | | | |
| Nutritional status* | | | | | |
| Global Acute Malnutrition based on Weight-for-Height Z-score | Acceptable <5% | Alert 5-9.9% | Serious 10-14.9% or > than usual | Critical 15-29.9% or > much greater than average | Extremely Critical ≥30% |
| Global Acute Malnutrition based on Mid-Upper Arm Circumference | | 5% | 5-9.9% | 10-14.9% | ≥15% |
| Body Mass Index <18.5 | <5% | 5-9.9% | 10-19.9%, 1.5 x greater than baseline | 20-39.9% | ≥40% |
| Mortality* | Crude Death Rate <0.5/10,000/day Under-five Death Rate <1/10,000/day | Crude Death Rate <0.5/10,000/day Under-five Death Rate <1/10,000/day | Crude Death Rate 0.5-0.99/10,000/day Under-five Death Rate 1-2/10 000/day | Crude Death Rate 1-1.99/10,000/day or <2x reference Under-five Death Rate 2-3.99/10,000/day | Crude Death Rate ≥2/10,000/day Under-five Death Rate ≥4/10,000/day |
| FOOD SECURITY CONTRIBUTING FACTORS For contributing factors, specific indicators and thresholds for different phases need to be determined and analysed according to the livelihood context; nevertheless, general descriptions for contributing factors are provided below. | | | | | |
| Food availability, access, utilization, and stability | Adequate to meet short-term food consumption requirements Safe water ≥15 litres pp/day | Borderline adequate to meet food consumption requirements Safe water marginally ≥15 litres pp/day | Inadequate to meet food consumption requirements Safe water >7.5 to 15 litres pp/day | Very inadequate to meet food consumption requirements Safe water >3 to <7.5 litres pp/day | Extremely inadequate to meet food consumption requirements Safe water ≤3 litres pp/day |
| Hazards and vulnerability | None or minimal effects of hazards and vulnerability on livelihoods and food consumption | Effects of hazards and vulnerability stress livelihoods and food consumption | Effects of hazards and vulnerability result in loss of assets and/or significant food consumption deficits | Effects of hazards and vulnerability result in large loss of livelihood assets and/or extreme food consumption deficits | Effects of hazards and vulnerability result in near complete collapse of livelihood assets and/or near complete food consumption deficits |

Map 73

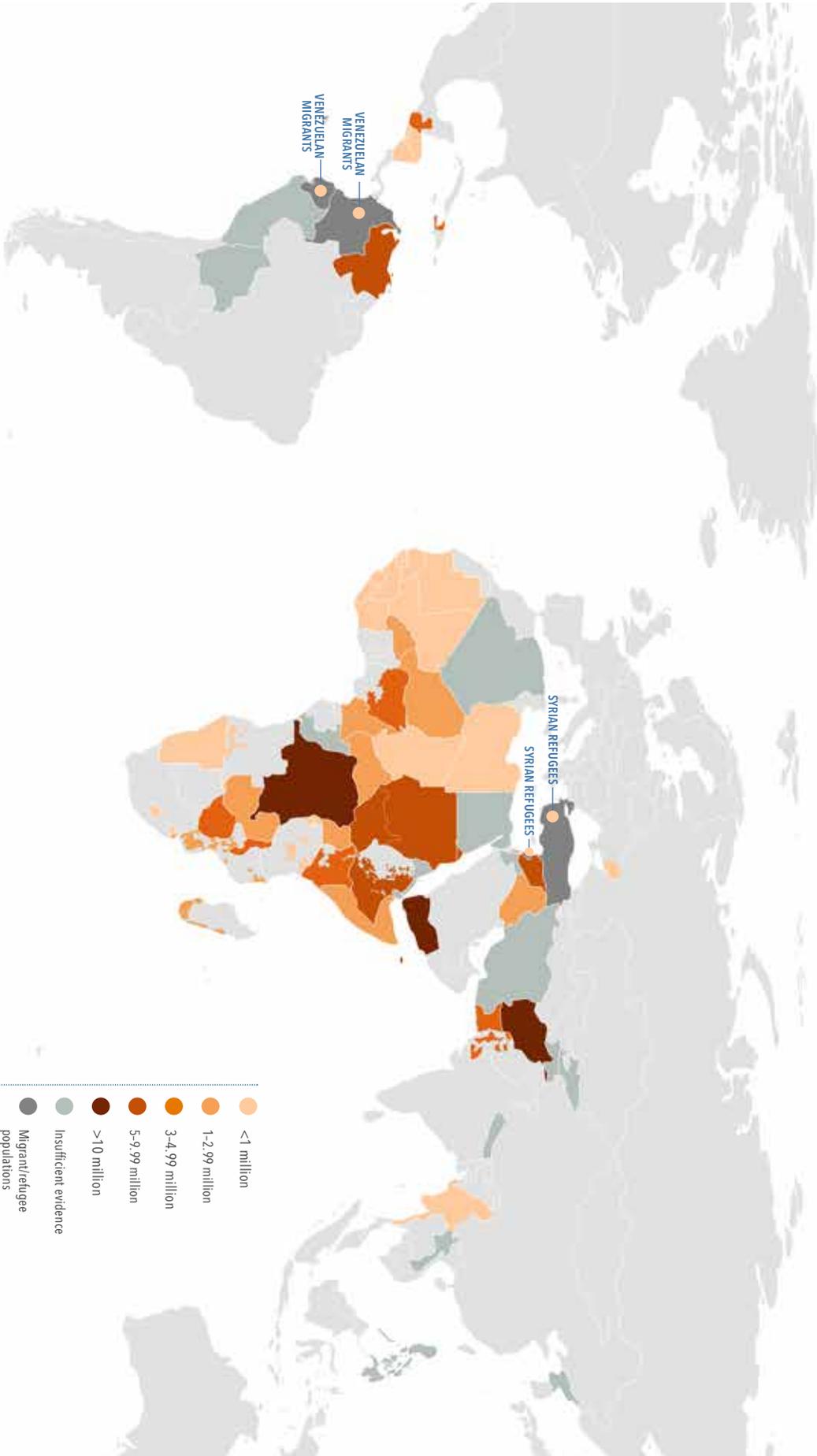
Share of food-insecure people (percent) in need of urgent action in 2019



Source: FSIN GRFC March 2020

Map 74

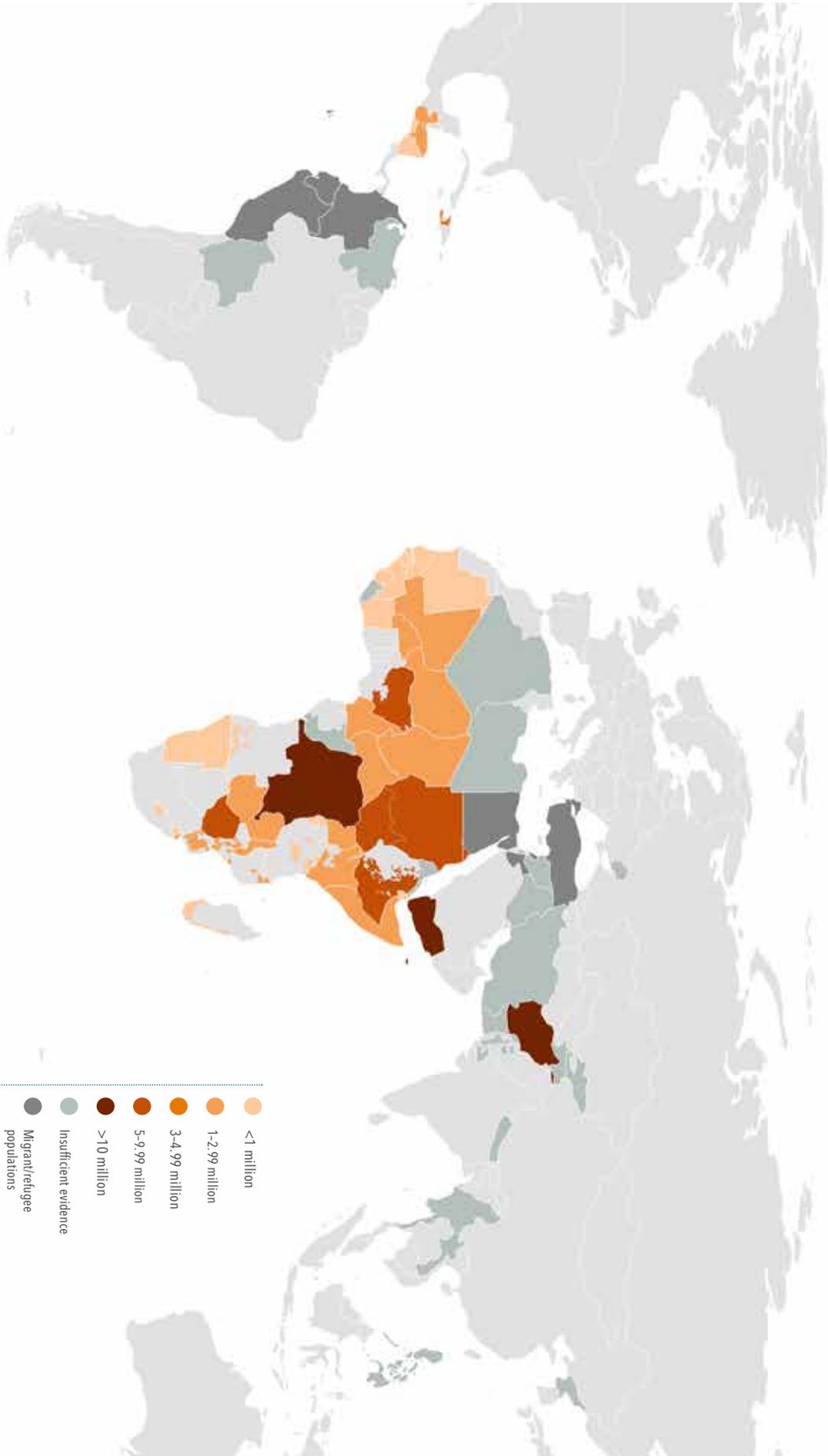
Numbers of food-insecure people in need of urgent assistance in 2019 (in millions)



Source: FSNi GRFC March 2020

Map 75

Estimates of food-insecure people in need of urgent assistance in 2020 (in millions)



Source: FSN GRFC March 2020

Table 10

Estimates of food-insecure people in 2019–2020

| COUNTRIES OR TERRITORIES | TOTAL POPULATION OF REFERENCE (MILLIONS) | HIGHEST NUMBER OF FOOD-INSECURE PEOPLE IN 2019 | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|---|---|---|---|
| | | SOURCES* | PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION ANALYSED OUT OF TOTAL POPULATION OF REFERENCE | POPULATION IN STRESSED (IPC/CH PHASE 2) | | POPULATION IN CRISIS OR WORSE (IPC/CH PHASE 3 OR ABOVE) | |
| | | | | POPULATION (MILLIONS) | PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL POPULATION ANALYSED | POPULATION (MILLIONS) | PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL POPULATION ANALYSED |
| Afghanistan | 32.2 | IPC analysis Sep 2019, covering Nov 2019–Mar 2020 | 95% | 9.5 | 31% | 11.3 | 37% |
| Angola (24 communes in 3 provinces) | 31.8 | IPC analysis Aug 2019, covering Oct 2019–Feb 2020 | 3% | 0.2 | 21% | 0.6 | 62% |
| Bangladesh (Cox's Bazar and host populations) | 3.5 | WFP REVA, covering Nov–Dec 2019 | 100% | n/a | n/a | 1.3 | 37% |
| Burkina Faso | 21.4 | CH analysis Nov 2019, covering Oct–Dec 2019 | 100% | 3.6 | 17% | 1.2 | 6% |
| Burundi | 11.5 | FEWS NET 2019, covering Mar–Apr 2019 | 100% | n/a | n/a | 0.2 | 2% |
| Cabo Verde | 0.6 | CH analysis Nov 2019, covering Oct–Dec 2019 | 86% | 0.1 | 13% | 0.01 | 2% |
| Cameroon (7 regions) | 25.0 | CH analysis Nov 2019, covering Oct–Dec 2019 | 64% | 3.8 | 24% | 1.4 | 8% |
| Central African Republic (excluding Lobaye)* | 4.8 | IPC analysis May 2019, covering May–Aug 2019 | 91% | 1.8 | 41% | 1.8 | 41% |
| Chad | 15.8 | CH analysis Mar 2019, covering Jun–Aug 2019 | 91% | 2.7 | 19% | 0.6 | 4% |
| Colombia (Venezuelan migrants) | 1.6 | WFP EFSA, covering Sep–Dec 2019 | 100% | 0.7 | 41% | 0.9 | 55% |
| Côte d'Ivoire | 25.5 | CH analysis Mar 2019, covering Jun–Aug 2019 | 77% | 2.6 | 13% | 0.06 | 0% |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo (109 territories)* | 86.8 | IPC analysis Jun 2019, covering Jul–Dec 2019 | 69% | 27.0 | 45% | 15.6 | 26% |
| Djibouti | 1.1 | No data available | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Ecuador (Venezuelan migrants) | 0.4 | WFP EFSA, covering Jan–Mar 2019 | 100% | 0.1 | 24% | 0.3 | 76% |
| El Salvador** | 6.4 | IPC analysis Nov 2018, covering Apr–Jul 2019 | 22% | 0.5 | 34% | 0.3 | 22% |
| Eswatini (rural population) | 1.4 | IPC analysis Sep 2019, covering Oct 2019–Mar 2020 | 67% | 0.4 | 39% | 0.2 | 25% |
| Ethiopia (selected areas in 6 regions) | 112.1 | IPC analysis 2019, covering Jul–Sep 2019 | 26% | 10.0 | 34% | 8.0 | 27% |
| Gambia | 2.2 | CH analysis Nov 2019, covering Oct–Dec 2019 | 24% | 0.4 | 23% | 0.2 | 10% |
| Guatemala* | 17.6 | IPC analysis Mar 2019, covering Mar–Jun 2019 | 95% | 4.8 | 29% | 3.1 | 18% |
| Guinea | 13.4 | CH analysis Mar 2019, covering Jun–Aug 2019 | 75% | 1.4 | 14% | 0.3 | 3% |
| Guinea-Bissau | 2.0 | CH analysis Nov 2019, covering Oct–Dec 2019 | 63% | 0.3 | 26% | 0.1 | 10% |
| Haiti | 11.3 | IPC analysis Oct 2018, covering Oct 2019–Feb 2020 | 93% | 3.2 | 31% | 3.7 | 35% |
| Honduras (13 departments) | 9.7 | IPC analysis Nov 2019, covering Nov 2019–Feb 2020 | 53% | 1.8 | 35% | 1.0 | 18% |
| Iraq | 39.3 | OCHA Iraq Humanitarian Needs Overview 2020, Nov 2019 | 100% | n/a | n/a | 1.8 | 5% |
| Kenya** | 52.6 | IPC analysis Jul 2019, covering Aug–Oct 2019 | 26% | 6.0 | 43% | 3.1 | 22% |
| Lebanon (Syrian refugees) | 0.9 | WFP EFSA, covering Apr–May 2019 | 100% | 0.6 | 63% | 0.3 | 29% |
| Lesotho (rural population) | 2.3 | IPC analysis Jun 2019, covering Oct 2019–Mar 2020 | 63% | 0.6 | 38% | 0.4 | 30% |
| Liberia | 5.0 | CH analysis Mar 2019, covering Jun–Aug 2019 | 87% | 0.8 | 19% | 0.04 | 1% |
| Libya | 6.7 | OCHA Libya Humanitarian Needs Overview 2020, Jan 2020 | 100% | n/a | n/a | 0.3 | 5% |
| Madagascar (southern, south-eastern and eastern areas) | 24.3 | IPC analysis Oct 2018, covering Nov 2018–Mar 2019 | 19% | 1.3 | 29% | 1.3 | 28% |
| Malawi | 18.1 | IPC analysis Aug 2018, covering Oct 2018–Mar 2019 | 84% | 5.0 | 33% | 3.3 | 22% |
| Mali | 20.5 | CH analysis Nov 2019, covering Oct–Dec 2019 | 100% | 2.9 | 14% | 0.6 | 3% |
| Mauritania | 4.7 | CH analysis Mar 2019, covering Jun–Aug 2019 | 87% | 1.2 | 28% | 0.6 | 15% |
| Mozambique (39 districts) | 27.9 | IPC analysis Jun 2019, covering Oct 2019–Feb 2020 | 18% | 1.6 | 32% | 1.7 | 34% |
| Myanmar | 54.0 | OCHA Myanmar Humanitarian Needs Overview 2020, Dec 2019 | 100% | 0.02 | 0% | 0.7 | 1% |
| Namibia | 2.5 | IPC analysis Oct 2019, covering Oct 2019–Mar 2020 | 97% | 0.8 | 35% | 0.4 | 18% |
| Nicaragua | 6.0 | FEWS NET internal unpublished figures, as of 14 Feb 2020 | 100% | n/a | n/a | 0.08 | 1% |
| Niger | 21.8 | CH analysis Nov 2019, covering Oct–Dec 2019 | 100% | 4.5 | 20% | 1.4 | 7% |
| Nigeria (16 states and Federal Capital Territory) | 201.0 | CH analysis Mar 2019, covering Jun–Aug 2019 | 51% | 18.8 | 18% | 5.0 | 5% |
| Pakistan (Balochistan and Sindh drought-affected areas) | 216.6 | IPC analysis Apr 2019, covering Oct 2018–Jul 2019 | 3% | 1.4 | 23% | 3.1 | 51% |
| Palestine | 5.0 | OCHA Palestine Humanitarian Needs Overview 2020, Jan 2020 | 100% | 0.8 | 17% | 1.7 | 33% |
| Rwanda | 12.6 | FEWS NET internal unpublished figures as of 14 Feb 2020 covering Apr–May 2019 | 100% | n/a | n/a | 0.1 | 1% |
| Senegal | 16.2 | CH analysis Nov 2019, covering Oct–Dec 2019 | 81% | 1.8 | 14% | 0.4 | 3% |
| Sierra Leone | 8.1 | CH analysis Nov 2019, covering Oct–Dec 2019 | 100% | 2.6 | 33% | 0.3 | 4% |
| Somalia | 15.4 | IPC analysis 2019, covering Oct–Dec 2019 | 80% | 4.2 | 34% | 2.1 | 17% |
| South Sudan | 11.4 | IPC analysis May 2019, covering May–Jul 2019 | 100% | 3.2 | 28% | 7.0 | 61% |
| Sudan (excluding West Darfur)** | 43.9 | IPC analysis Jul 2019, covering Jun–Aug 2019 | 96% | 11.8 | 28% | 5.9 | 14% |
| Syrian Arab Republic | 18.3 | OCHA Syria Humanitarian Response Plan Monitoring Report, covering Jan–May 2019 | 100% | 2.6 | 14% | 6.6 | 36% |
| Turkey (Syrian refugees) | 3.6 | WFP EFSA, covering Apr–Sep 2019 | 75% | 1.6 | 58% | 0.5 | 17% |
| Uganda | 40.0 | FEWS NET internal unpublished figures as of 14 Feb 2020 covering Apr–Jul 2019 | 100% | n/a | n/a | 1.5 | 4% |
| Ukraine (Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts, and IDP) | 42.0 | OCHA Ukraine Humanitarian Needs Overview 2020, Jan 2020 | 15% | n/a | n/a | 0.5 | 9% |
| United Republic of Tanzania (16 districts) | 58.0 | IPC analysis Nov 2019, covering Nov 2019–Apr 2020 | 8% | 1.7 | 34% | 1.0 | 20% |
| Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) | 28.5 | WFP EFSA, covering Jul–Sep 2019 | 100% | 8.9 | 60% | 9.3 | 32% |
| Yemen** | 29.9 | IPC analysis Dec 2018, covering Dec 2018–Jan 2019 | 100% | 8.9 | 30% | 15.9 | 53% |
| Zambia (86 districts) | 17.9 | IPC analysis Nov 2019, covering Oc 2019–Mar 2020 | 53% | 3.1 | 33% | 2.3 | 24% |
| Zimbabwe (rural population)** | 14.6 | IPC analysis Jun 2019, covering Oct–Dec 2019 | 64% | 2.7 | 28% | 3.6 | 38% |

The month for IPC/CH source is the month of the analysis, followed by the analysis period. For HNO, date refers to report release date

Table 10 continued

Estimates of food-insecure people in 2019–2020 continued

| COUNTRIES OR TERRITORIES | SOURCES | LATEST UPDATE IN 2019 | | | | ESTIMATES FOR 2020 PEAK NEEDS | | SOURCE |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|-------------------------------|--|----------|
| | | POPULATION IN STRESSED (IPC/CH PHASE 2) | | POPULATION IN CRISIS OR WORSE (IPC/CH PHASE 3 OR ABOVE) | | ANTICIPATED PEAK PERIOD | POPULATION IN CRISIS OR WORSE (IPC/CH PHASE 3 OR ABOVE) (MILLIONS) | |
| | | (MILLIONS) | PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL POPULATION ANALYSED | (MILLIONS) | PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL POPULATION ANALYSED | | | |
| Afghanistan (cont...) | No further update | | | | | Jan–Apr 2020 | 11.3 | IPC |
| Angola (cont...) | No further update | | | | | Jan–Feb 2020 | 0.6 | IPC |
| Bangladesh (cont...) | No further update | | | | | No forecast | | |
| Burkina Faso (cont...) | No further update | | | | | Jun–Aug 2020 | 1.8 | CH |
| Burundi (cont...) | No further update | | | | | Apr–May 2020 | 0.15–0.35 | FEWS NET |
| Cabo Verde (cont...) | No further update | | | | | Jun–Aug 2020 | 0.01 | CH |
| Cameroon (cont...) | No further update | | | | | Jun–Aug 2020 | 1.1 | CH |
| Central Af. Republic (cont...)* | IPC analysis Sep 2019, covering Sep 2019–Apr 2020 | 1.7 | 38% | 1.6 | 35% | May–Aug 2020 | 2.1 | IPC |
| Chad (cont...) | CH analysis Nov 2019, covering Oct–Dec 2019 | 2.2 | 15% | 0.6 | 4% | Jun–Aug 2020 | 1.1 | CH |
| Colombia (cont...) | No further update | | | | | No forecast | | |
| Côte d'Ivoire (cont...) | CH analysis Nov 2019, covering Oct–Dec 2019 | 0.2 | 10% | 0.01 | 0% | Jun–Aug 2020 | 0.004 | CH |
| Dem. Rep. of the Congo (cont...)* | No further update | | | | | Varies by area/region | 13.6 | IPC |
| Djibouti (cont...) | No further update | | | | | January 2020 | 0.2 | WFP |
| Ecuador (cont...) | No further update | | | | | No forecast | | |
| El Salvador (cont...)** | No further update | | | | | May–Aug 2020 | <0.1 | FEWS NET |
| Eswatini (cont...) | No further update | | | | | Jan–Mar 2020 | 0.2 | IPC |
| Ethiopia (cont...) | IPC analysis Sep 2019, covering Oct 2019–Jan 2020 | 10.5 | 36% | 6.7 | 24% | Feb–Jun 2020 | 8.5 | IPC |
| Gambia (cont...) | No further update | | | | | Jun–Aug 2020 | 0.3 | CH |
| Guatemala (cont...)* | IPC analysis Dec 2019, covering Dec 2019–Mar 2020 | 2.3 | 34% | 1.0 | 15% | May–Aug 2020 | 1.3 | IPC |
| Guinea (cont...) | CH analysis Nov 2019, covering Oct–Dec 2019 | 0.9 | 9% | 0.1 | 1% | Jun–Aug 2020 | 0.1 | CH |
| Guinea-Bissau (cont...) | No further update | | | | | Jun–Aug 2020 | 0.08 | CH |
| Haiti (cont...) | No further update | | | | | Mar–Jun 2020 | 4.1 | IPC |
| Honduras (cont...) | No further update | | | | | Mar–Jun 2020 | 1.2 | IPC |
| Iraq (cont...) | No further update | | | | | No forecast | | |
| Kenya (cont...)** | No further update | | | | | Jan 2020 | 2.0–2.9 | FEWS NET |
| Lebanon (cont...) | No further update | | | | | No forecast | | |
| Lesotho (cont...) | No further update | | | | | Jan–Mar 2020 | 0.4 | IPC |
| Liberia (cont...) | No further update | | | | | Oct–Dec 2020 | N/A | CH |
| Libya (cont...) | No further update | | | | | No forecast | | |
| Madagascar (cont...) | IPC analysis Oct 2019, covering Nov 2019–Mar 2020 | 1.3 | 38% | 0.7 | 20% | Jan–Mar 2020 | 0.7 | IPC |
| Malawi (cont...) | IPC analysis Nov 2019, covering Nov 2019–Mar 2020 | 4.3 | 29% | 1.9 | 13% | Jan–Mar 2020 | 1.9 | IPC |
| Mali (cont...) | No further update | | | | | Jun–Aug 2020 | 1.1 | CH |
| Mauritania (cont...) | CH analysis Nov 2019, covering Oct–Dec 2019 | 0.7 | 16% | 0.3 | 7% | Jun–Aug 2020 | 0.6 | CH |
| Mozambique (cont...) | No further update | | | | | Jan–Mar 2020 | 1.7 | IPC |
| Myanmar (cont...) | No further update | | | | | No forecast | | |
| Namibia (cont...) | No further update | | | | | Jan–Mar 2020 | 0.4 | IPC |
| Nicaragua (cont...) | FEWS NET internal unpublished figures as of 14 Feb 2020 covering Oct–Dec 2019 | n/a | n/a | <0.1 | | May–Aug 2020 | 0.07–0.11 | FEWS NET |
| Niger (cont...) | No further update | | | | | Jun–Aug 2020 | 1.9 | CH |
| Nigeria (cont...) | CH analysis Nov 2019, covering Oct–Dec 2019 | 14.7 | 14% | 4.0 | 4% | Jun–Aug 2020 | 5.9 | CH |
| Pakistan (cont...) | IPC analysis Apr 2019, covering Jul–Nov 2019 | 1.4 | 24% | 3.0 | 51% | No forecast | | |
| Palestine (cont...) | No further update | | | | | No forecast | | |
| Rwanda (cont...) | FEWS NET internal unpublished figures as of 14 Feb 2020 covering Oct–Dec 2019 | n/a | n/a | 0.1–0.12 | | Apr–May 2020 | 0.085–0.125 | FEWS NET |
| Senegal (cont...) | No further update | | | | | Jun–Aug 2020 | 0.7 | CH |
| Sierra Leone (cont...) | No further update | | | | | Jun–Aug 2020 | 0.5 | CH |
| Somalia (cont...) | No further update | | | | | Apr–Jun 2020 | 1.3 | IPC |
| South Sudan (cont...) | IPC analysis Aug 2019, covering Sep–Dec 2019 | 4.7 | 40% | 4.5 | 39% | May–Jul 2020 | 6.5 | IPC |
| Sudan (cont...)** | No further update | | | | | Jun–Sep 2020 | 5.0–6.0 | FEWS NET |
| Syrian Arab Republic (cont...) | No further update | | | | | No forecast | | |
| Turkey (cont...) | No further update | | | | | No forecast | | |
| Uganda (cont...) | FEWS NET internal unpublished figures as of 14 Feb 2020 covering Oct–Dec 2019 | n/a | n/a | 0.5–0.99 | | May–Jun 2020 | 1.2–1.6 | FEWS NET |
| Ukraine (cont...) | No further update | | | | | No forecast | | |
| Tanzania (cont...) | No further update | | | | | Jan–Feb 2020 | 1.0 | IPC |
| Venezuela (cont...) | No further update | | | | | No forecast | | |
| Yemen (cont...)** | IPC analysis Jul 2019, covering Jul–Sep 2019, hotspots only | 0.8 | 32% | 1.2 | 52% | Jul–Sep 2020 | 17+ | FEWS NET |
| Zambia (cont...) | No further update | | | | | Jan–Mar 2020 | 2.3 | IPC |
| Zimbabwe (cont...)** | No further update | | | | | Oct–Dec 2020 | 5.5–6.5 | FEWS NET |

* Due to different population/geographical coverage, the 2019 peak and 2020 anticipated peak are not directly comparable.

** Due to different data sources, the 2019 peak and 2020 anticipated peak numbers are not directly comparable.

The forecast 2020 estimates provided in this table for Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras and Sierra Leone reflects only the furthest forecast available for 2020 – not the anticipated peak period, for which no estimates are available. The estimated peak numbers for Afghanistan, Angola, Eswatini, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia remained unchanged between 2019 and 2020 as the same analysis was used to assess peak numbers of both years.

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The FSIN, founded by FAO, IFPRI and WFP, is a technical global platform for the exchange of expertise, knowledge and best practice among a network of food security and nutrition practitioners.

FSIN provides the core coordination and technical support to the Global Network Against Food Crises analytical pillar 1 which focuses on evidence to better understand food crises. Its purpose is to promote timely, independent and consensus-based information while also highlighting and addressing critical data and information gaps.

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