



2021

GLOBAL REPORT ON FOOD CRISES

JOINT ANALYSIS FOR BETTER DECISIONS

SEPTEMBER 2021 UPDATE

Acknowledgements

This September update of the 2021 *Global Report on Food Crises* is the product of the expertise, dedication and valued contributions of many individuals and organizations across the international humanitarian and development community.

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We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to the representatives of the international donor community, whose need to better understand the severity and magnitude of food crises has made this endeavour possible.

This update is one of a series of analytical, consensus-based products on food security, which are made possible thanks to the generous financial contributions of the European Union and USAID. We are grateful for their commitment and support.



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Introduction

Why this update?

The annual *Global Report on Food Crises* (GRFC) provides a consensus-based overview of the world's food crises. It focuses on crises where the local capacities to respond are insufficient, prompting a request for the urgent mobilization of the international community, as well as countries/territories where there is ample evidence that the magnitude and severity of the food crisis exceed the local resources and capacities needed to respond effectively.

The 2021 edition reported the growing severity and magnitude of these crises with at least 155 million acutely food-insecure people in need of urgent assistance in 55 countries/territories in 2020 (Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) or equivalent). This figure represented the highest number in the GRFC's five-year existence, reflecting the compounding impacts of persistent conflict/insecurity, economic shocks, including those associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, and weather extremes. The growing numbers also reflect wider data availability.

This September update of the GRFC 2021 highlights the number of people estimated to be in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) and the prevalence of these numbers within the analysed population by 10 September 2021. By this date, estimates referring to the situation in 2021 were available for 42 of the 55 countries/territories that qualified as food crises in 2020.¹ This update includes the 2021 forecasts that were available by the time of publication of the GRFC 2021 on 5 May and an additional 18 food security analyses released before

10 September, of which 15 covered major crises.² When two or more assessments are available for a particular country/territory, the report highlights the period when the numbers were highest during 2021.³

According to the data available as of 10 September, there has been a considerable rise in the numbers of people in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) since 2020, reaching around 161 million people in 42 countries/territories in 2021. This figure surpasses the already high 2020 figure, despite the absence of 2021 estimates for 13 countries/territories included in the GRFC 2021, notably for the Syrian Arab Republic, which was classified as one of the world's largest food crises in 2020.^{4,5}

This worsening situation reflects deepening humanitarian emergencies in some of the 10 largest food crises, notably the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Nigeria (16 states and Federal Capital Territory), Yemen and the Sudan. New data

- 1 Data for the 42 countries came from IPC, Cadre Harmonisé, FEWS NET, and WFP.
- 2 Between 5 May and 10 September 2021, new acute food insecurity analyses were released for 18 countries: Afghanistan, Burundi, Central African Republic, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Haiti, Jordan (Syrian refugees in host communities), Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda, Zambia. Of the 18 analyses released during this period, six provided new country peak figures, including Pakistan and the Sudan, for which 2021 data was not available at the time of publication for the GRFC 2021. El Salvador, Jordan (Syrian refugees in host communities) and Nicaragua did not qualify as major crises in the GRFC 2021 and are not covered in the country update section of this report. By 10 September, acute malnutrition data was available for Burundi, Madagascar, Mozambique, Somalia, and Uganda and is briefly discussed in the country updates.
- 3 Although the estimates highlighted in this report are intended to communicate peak needs for 2021, the available analyses may not have covered the timing of peak needs for each country. In these cases, the highest available number was used.
- 4 Data reflecting recent political changes and the slowing of humanitarian aid provision in Afghanistan was not available at the time of publication.
- 5 The 13 countries/territories covered in the GRFC 2021 that did not have available estimates for 2021 are: Angola, Bangladesh (Cox's Bazar), Cabo Verde, Congo, Egypt (Syrian refugees), Iraq, Lebanon (Syrian refugees), Libya, Palestine, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey (Syrian refugees) Ukraine, and the United Republic of Tanzania. The GRFC 2021 and this September update also excluded countries of concern for which data was not readily available in 2020, such as Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Eritrea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The foundation of the GRFC – an evidence-based public good



A strong and expanding partnership



A highly consultative process



A compilation of multiple consensus-based food security and nutrition analyses



A technical document of reference on food crises

Humanitarian and development agencies, governments and other stakeholders require clear, timely and reliable data and analyses to inform programming and policy responses to food crises. The GRFC – an initiative of the Global Network Against Food Crises and coordinated by the Food Security Information Network (FSIN) – was conceived as a response to this need and draws on a rigorous methodology and consensus-based views from 16 global and regional partner organisations to provide policymakers with critical information for responding to food crises.

that became available since the release of the GRFC 2021 revealed a dire trend in growing numbers of people in Catastrophe (IPC/CH Phase 5), with a total of 584 000 people across four countries – Ethiopia, Madagascar, South Sudan and Yemen – facing starvation and death.

IPC and IPC-compatible analyses have also identified a Risk of Famine in a number of countries, including South Sudan, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Nigeria (16 states and Federal Capital Territory) and Yemen. Several other countries included in this update witnessed alarming levels of populations in Emergency (IPC/CH Phase 4) (see the Global Overview, pp. 5–8).

The table on pp. 10–12 provides three datasets: the highest numbers of acutely food-insecure people in both 2020 and 2021 for the 42 countries/territories with 2021 data; and the most recent numbers of acutely food-insecure people (where not the peak 2021 estimates).

Data sources

In keeping with the GRFC methodology developed for previous reports, the main sources for acute food insecurity data for this September update are the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) and the Cadre Harmonisé (CH). Populations in Crisis (IPC/CH Phase 3), Emergency (IPC/CH Phase 4) and Catastrophe (IPC/CH Phase 5) are those in need of urgent food, nutrition and livelihood assistance. For IPC/CH Phase descriptions, see the table above.⁶ For countries where IPC/CH analyses were not conducted, acute food insecurity estimates were primarily derived from IPC-compatible analyses carried out by FEWS NET and from WFP analyses based on the CARI methodology.⁷

⁶ See pages 30–32 for more information, or refer to the [Technical notes of the GRFC 2021](#).
⁷ Although the GRFC 2021 utilised acute food insecurity estimates from Humanitarian Needs Overviews, no updated analyses were available from this source for this mid-year update. Data on acute malnutrition outcomes was obtained from IPC and UNHCR.

IPC/CH acute food insecurity phase description and response objectives

Phase	Phase description and priority response objective
Phase 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. Action required to build resilience and for disaster risk reduction.
Phase 2 Stressed	Households have minimally adequate food consumption but are unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures without engaging in stress-coping strategies. Action required for disaster risk reduction and to protect livelihoods.
Phase 3 Crisis	Households either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. URGENT ACTION required to protect livelihoods and reduce food consumption gaps.
Phase 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; or • Are able to mitigate large food consumption gaps but only by employing emergency livelihood strategies and asset liquidation. URGENT ACTION required to save lives and livelihoods.
Phase 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.) Famine and Famine Likely classifications are equally severe, the only difference is the amount of reliable evidence available to support the statement. URGENT ACTION required to revert/prevent widespread death and total collapse of livelihoods.

Data challenges and limitations

All partners are in agreement with the general magnitude and severity of acute food insecurity for the countries included in this report, with the exception of countries where a disclaimer is present, namely, Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Haiti and the Sudan. For these countries, FEWS NET produced estimates that were lower than those provided by IPC Technical Working Groups, consequently FEWS NET obtains a different estimate of the trend in global needs between 2020 and 2021. These differences are the result of varying interpretations of the data exploring the factors that contribute to acute food insecurity.

Lack of data available for acute food insecurity in 2021

Data gaps remain a challenge and partners are concerned over countries/territories lacking consensus-based and comparable acute food insecurity analyses and estimates. Such gaps and lack of sufficient evidence highlight the imbalance in attention that different crises receive and the urgent need for donors and agencies to prioritize assessments and analysis.

By the cut-off date of 10 September 2021, data were not available for 13 of the 55 countries/territories in the GRFC 2021, including the Syrian Arab Republic, which contained the fourth largest acutely food-insecure population in need of urgent humanitarian assistance in 2020.

September 2021 Global Overview

This global overview provides updates on countries that qualified as food crises in 2020 according to the GRFC 2021. It reports on the magnitude and severity of acute food insecurity according to available data by 10 September, and highlights the highest number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) or equivalent in 2021. In many countries, the numbers were already higher than in 2020 as a result of the impacts of prolonged or intensifying conflict/insecurity, economic shocks – including the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic – weather extremes, natural disasters or a combination of these drivers.

According to estimates released by 10 September, around 161 million people¹ were in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) or equivalent in 42 countries/territories in 2021. This number already surpasses the 2020 global figure of 155 million people in these phases within the 55 countries/territories classified as food crises in the GRFC 2021. Crucially, due to data gaps in 2021, the September 2021 figure of 161 million people does not include data for 13 countries/territories that qualified as food crises in 2020, notably the Syrian Arab Republic, where 12.4 million acutely food-insecure people required urgent food assistance in 2020.

Rising acute food insecurity in 2021

When comparing the 42 countries/territories where data was available for 2021 with corresponding 2020 data, the number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) or equivalent rose from 135 million in 2020 to 161 million in 2021, representing a 19 percent increase.

This worrying rise highlights the effects of escalating or prolonged conflict and insecurity in many of the world's worst crises, as well as significant macro-economic shocks – aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic – and increasingly frequent and severe weather extremes.

A growing number of people in Catastrophe (IPC/CH Phase 5)

Another dire consequence of these shocks includes a rise in the number of people facing Catastrophe (IPC/CH Phase 5), where households are extremely food deprived and experience a collapse of livelihoods (IPC, 2021).² According to available estimates as of 10 September, a total of 584 000 people were projected to be in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) in 2021, requiring urgent action to prevent widespread starvation, death and total collapse of livelihoods in parts of four countries: Ethiopia (401 000 people in the Tigray



By September 2021, around 161 million people were in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) or equivalent in 42 out of 55 countries/territories included in the GRFC 2021 – already surpassing the figure of 155 million in 2020.

Source: FSIN, using IPC/CH, FEWS NET or WFP CARI.



By September 2021, around 584 000 people were in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) in four countries.

- 401 000** in Ethiopia's Tigray region in July–September 2021*
- 28 000** in southern Madagascar in October–December 2021*
- 108 000** in South Sudan in April–July 2021
- 47 000** in Yemen in January–June 2021

* In Ethiopia, the period May–June had the largest population in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above), while the period July–September had the highest number of people in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) in 2021. In Madagascar, the period October–December 2021 is expected to have the largest number of people in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5), though it is not projected to have the highest number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above).

Source: FSIN, using IPC data.

¹ The aggregate figure of 160.9 million people in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) or equivalent has been rounded up to 161 million. FEWS NET projected that 2.0–2.5 million people in Uganda would face Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above), and 0.25–0.5 million people in Nicaragua would experience these conditions. The aggregate figure utilises the lower range of these estimates.

² According to the IPC, 'Famine' exists in areas where at least one in five households suffers from an extreme deprivation of food. Starvation, Extremely Critical levels of acute malnutrition (at least 30 percent of children malnourished) and significant mortality, directly attributable to outright starvation or to the interaction of malnutrition and disease (at least one person for every 5 000 dies each day), are occurring. See IPC, Communications guidelines for more information.

region in July–September 2021);³ South Sudan (108 000 in April–July 2021); Yemen (47 000 in January–June 2021) and Madagascar (28 000 in the Grand Sud in October–December 2021).⁴

The number of people in this highest IPC/CH phase classification is already more than four times higher than the estimates for 2020, when 133 000 people were in Catastrophe (IPC/CH Phase 5) in three countries: South Sudan (105 000 in December 2020), Yemen (16 500 from October–December 2020) and Burkina Faso (11 400 from June–August 2020).

³ In Ethiopia, the period May–June had the largest population in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above), while the period July–September had the highest number of people in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) in 2021. Source: FSIN, using IPC data.
⁴ In Madagascar, the projection for the period October–December 2021 contains the largest number of people in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5), though it does not contain the highest number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above). Source: FSIN, using IPC data.

Increasing populations in Emergency (IPC/CH Phase 4)

By September 2021, nearly 35 million people were in Emergency or worse (IPC/CH Phase 4 or above) in 39 countries/territories with IPC/CH analyses.⁵ This represents a considerable rise since 2020, when 28.4 million people were in these phases in 38 countries/territories.⁶

The most significant increases were in Ethiopia, where an additional 3.3 million people were in Emergency or worse (IPC Phase 4 or above), as well as the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Yemen, which both had a rise of more than 1 million people in these phases. In Somalia, the number of people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) increased by a staggering 60 percent between October–December 2020 and the same period in 2021,

⁵ Three countries had no populations in Emergency (IPC/CH Phase 4).
⁶ Five countries had no populations in Emergency (IPC/CH Phase 4).

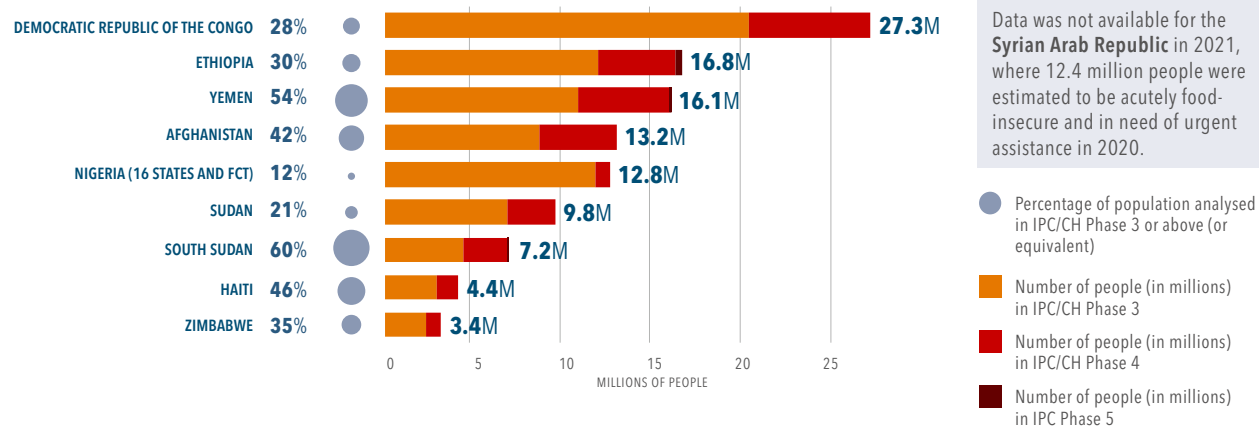
rising from 400 000 people to over 640 000. The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Yemen, Ethiopia and Afghanistan accounted for nearly 60 percent of the global number of people in Emergency or worse (IPC/CH Phase 4 or above).

In five countries – the Central African Republic, South Sudan, Afghanistan, Yemen and Haiti – over 10 percent of the population analysed was in Emergency or worse (IPC Phase 4 or above), reaching 21 percent in South Sudan.

Revisiting 2020's largest food crises

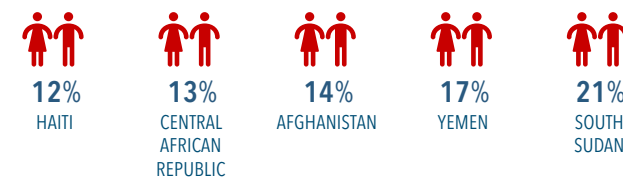
When looking at the 10 largest food crises in 2020 in terms of numbers of people in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above), around 111 million people were in these phases in nine of them by September 2021, up from 103 million people in the 10 in 2020. No data was available by September for the Syrian Arab Republic, which contained the fourth largest acutely food-

By September 2021, around 111 million people were in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) in nine out of the 10 largest food crises of 2020



The estimate for Haiti does not include the IPC analysis published in September 2021 that assessed the four departments affected by the earthquake in August. Source: FSIN, using IPC and CH data, and the GRFC 2021.

Five food crises had more than 10 percent of their analysed population in IPC Phase 4 or above in 2021



Source: FSIN, using IPC data.

227M

By September 2021, 227 million people were in Stressed (IPC/CH Phase 2) or equivalent in 40 out of 55 countries/territories included in the GRFC 2021.

insecure population in need of urgent humanitarian assistance in 2020. In seven of the 10 largest food crises in 2020, the number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) remained high or increased further during 2021, namely in the Democratic Republic of the Congo,⁷ Ethiopia, Yemen, Nigeria (16 states and the FCT), the Sudan, South Sudan and Haiti.⁸

These crises were primarily driven by severe conflict/insecurity in conjunction with economic shocks, including COVID-19 related effects, as well as weather extremes and natural disasters. Only in Zimbabwe has the number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) declined, from 4.3 million people in February–June 2020 to 3.4 million in January–March 2021.

The highest number in 2021 to date for Afghanistan occurred in early 2021. However, this projection was issued eight months before the Taliban took control of Afghanistan in August 2021, and humanitarian agencies anticipate rising acute food insecurity due to conflict and growing numbers of displaced populations, severe drought, and political and economic instability (UNICEF, September 2021, WFP, September 2021).

Populations in Stressed (IPC/CH Phase 2)

By September, around 227 million people were in Stressed (IPC/CH Phase 2) in 40⁹ countries/territories in 2021 and required action for disaster risk reduction and to protect livelihoods. This also marks an uptick since 2020 when 208 million people were in Stressed (IPC/CH Phase 2) in 43 countries/territories with IPC/CH analyses.

7 Although the number of people in IPC Phase 3 or above is unprecedented, partly due to new and urban areas analysed, the prevalence of people in these phases decreased slightly relative to the previous analysis.

8 The estimate for Haiti does not include the IPC analysis published in September 2021 that assessed the four departments affected by the earthquake in August. Source: FSIN, using IPC and CH data.

9 The aggregate figure for 2021 includes two FEWS NET estimates, which do not include data for populations in IPC/CH Phase 2.

Risk of Famine in 2021



Worsening humanitarian crises in 2021 have also led to a growing number of countries where a Risk of Famine exists. According to the IPC, Risk of Famine is a statement that reflects the potential worsening of the situation compared to the most likely scenario expected in the projection period. It is a statement that indicates a worst-case scenario that has a realistic chance of occurring, although it is not considered to be the most likely scenario, nor is it an IPC classification.

In **South Sudan**, the western payams of Pibor county (Gumuruk, Pibor, Lekuangle and Verteth) continued to face 'Famine Likely' (IPC Phase 5) during the first half of 2021, while IPC issued a Risk of Famine statement for Kizongora and Maruwa payams.¹

In **Ethiopia's** Tigray region, although the evolving conflict dynamics render it highly difficult to determine a most-likely scenario for the coming months, the IPC Famine Review Committee projected a medium-to-high Risk of Famine in three out of four scenarios, including a worst-case scenario that could occur during July–September.²

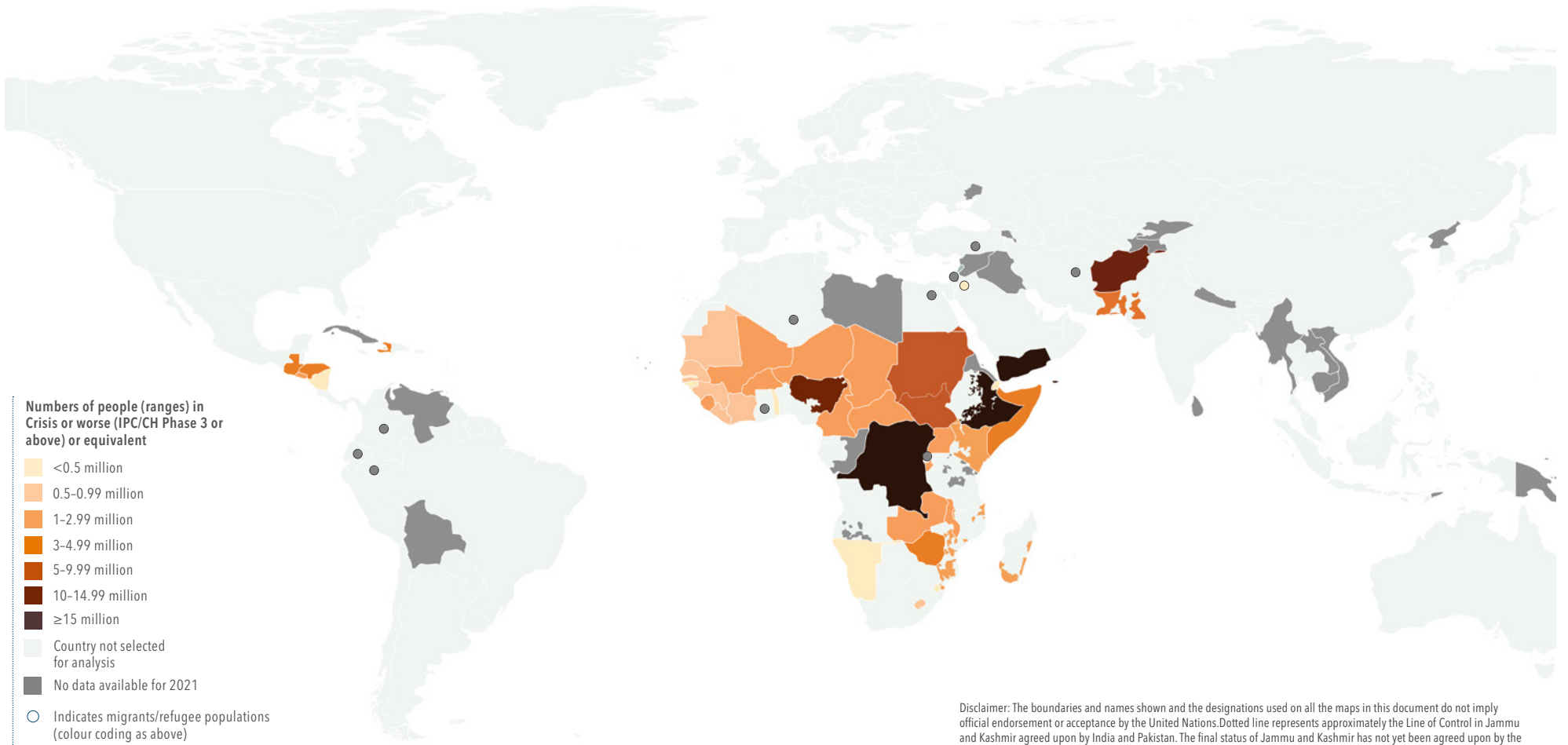
In **southern Madagascar**, a growing humanitarian crisis stemming from the effects of significant drought and COVID-19 containment measures led the IPC to warn that the district of Ambovombe-Androy will face a Risk of Famine from October 2021 in the worst-case scenario.³

In **northern Nigeria**, although no population/area is projected to be in Catastrophe/Famine (CH Phase 5) in 2021 in the CH analysis, FEWS NET anticipated that a Risk of Famine persists in north-east Nigeria where Famine could occur if populations are cut off from their typical food and income sources and humanitarian assistance for a prolonged period of time.⁴

Although not the most likely scenario, FEWS NET reported that Famine (IPC Phase 5) could also be possible in **Yemen** in the event of a significant shock to commercial food import levels or if food supplies are cut off from particular areas for a prolonged period.⁵

- 1 Following a breakdown in technical consensus among South Sudan IPC Technical Working Group members, which led to the activation of an external Quality Review and Famine Review, an IPC report was published at country level on 11 December 2020, which reflects different findings from the external reviews regarding the estimation of populations in IPC Phase 5 (Catastrophe) in five counties, namely Akobo, Aweil South, Tonj East, Tonj North and Tonj South. This country report did not classify any payam of Pibor in Famine Likely, nor did it refer to a Risk of Famine. For more information, see citations list for South Sudan: IPC and External Reviews, December 2020.
- 2 For more information, see citations list for Ethiopia: FRC, July 2021. Although FEWS NET has not projected that Ethiopia will face a Risk of Famine in 2021, the organisation notes that outcomes in Tigray may be worse than mapped. However, the available evidence is insufficient to confirm or deny.
- 3 For more information, see citations list for Madagascar: IPC, July 2021.
- 4 For more information, see citations list for Nigeria: FEWS NET, August 2021.
- 5 For more information, see citations list for Yemen: FEWS NET, August 2021.

Map 1.1
Around 161 million people in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) or equivalent in 42 countries/territories in 2021

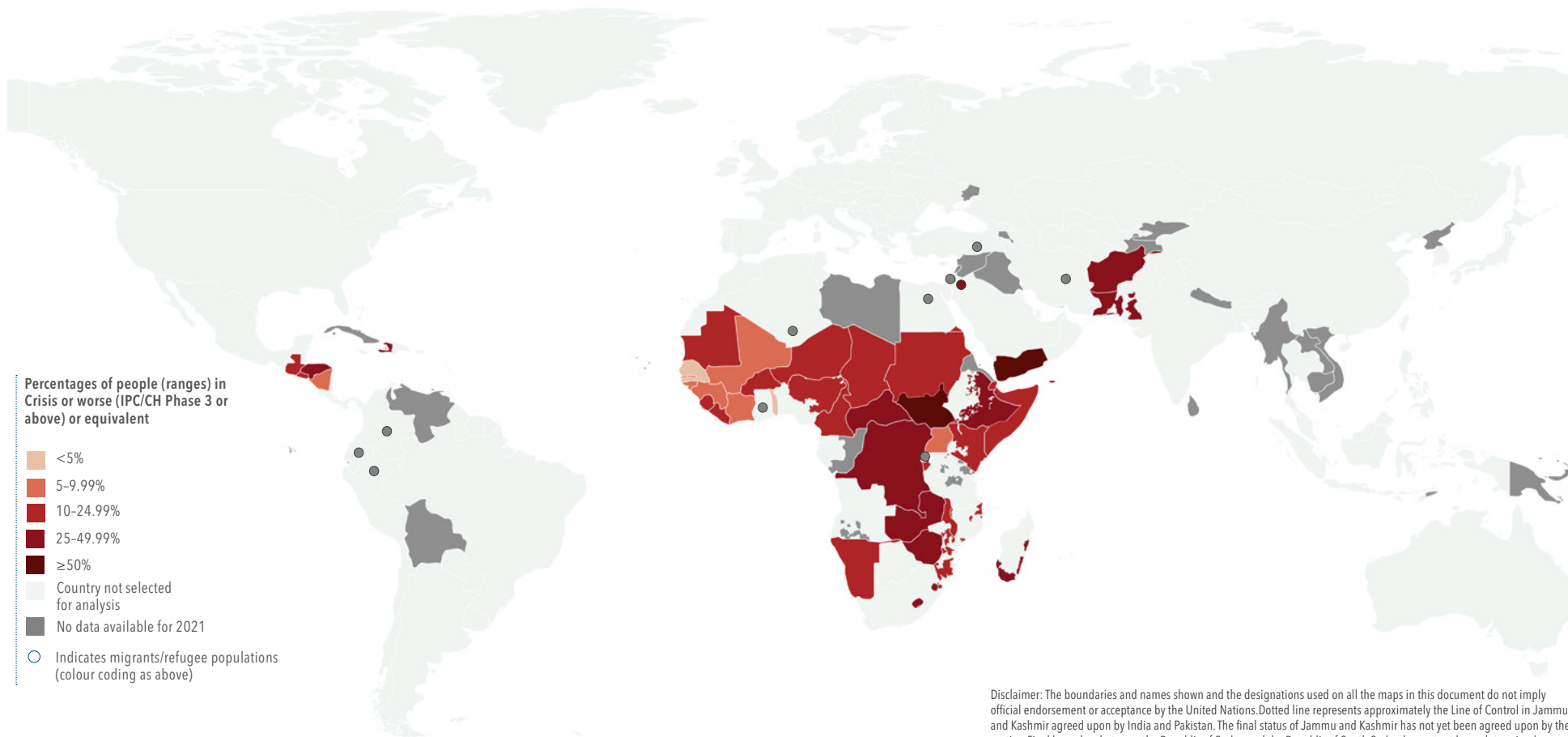


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Note: Migrant/refugee populations refers to: Venezuelan migrants in Colombia, Ecuador and Peru; Sahrawi population in Algeria; refugees, mostly Syrian, in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey; mostly Afghan in Iran (Islamic Republic of); mostly Ivorian in Ghana and mostly Congolese and Burundian in Rwanda. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
 Source: FSIN GRFC May 2021.

Map 1.2

Share of people in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) or equivalent in 42 countries/territories in 2021



Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on all the maps in this document do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. Final status of the Abyei area is not yet determined. A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

Note: Migrant/refugee populations refers to: Venezuelan migrants in Colombia, Ecuador and Peru; Sahrawi population in Algeria; refugees, mostly Syrian, in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey; mostly Afghan in Iran (Islamic Republic of); mostly Ivorian in Ghana and mostly Congolese and Burundian in Rwanda. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Source: FSIN, GRFC May 2021.

Table 1.1 (page 1 of 3)

Table of acute food insecurity estimates, 2020–2021

Highest numbers of acutely food-insecure people in 2020 and in 2021 as of September, and numbers of acutely food-insecure people in the latest analyses in 2021.[†] Of the 55 countries/territories that qualified as food crises in the GRFC 2021, this table includes the 42 countries/territories for which data was available in 2021 as of 10 September. For a complete list of the 55 countries/territories, please refer to the GRFC 2021.

Countries		2020 Highest numbers of acutely food-insecure people						2021 Highest numbers of acutely food-insecure people (updated as of September) [†]						2021 Numbers of acutely food-insecure people during the latest analysis period (where not the peak estimates) [†]					
Refugees/migrant populations are indicated in blue	USUAL PERIOD OF PEAK NEED	SOURCE	TIME PERIOD COVERED BY THE ANALYSIS	TOTAL POPULATION OF COUNTRY OR REGISTERED REFUGEES (MILLIONS) POPULATION ANALYSED (PERCENTAGE)	AREA/POPULATION ANALYSED	POPULATION IN IPC/CH PHASES (OR EQUIVALENT)		SOURCE	TIME PERIOD COVERED BY THE ANALYSIS	TOTAL POPULATION OF COUNTRY OR REGISTERED REFUGEES (MILLIONS) POPULATION ANALYSED (PERCENTAGE)	AREA/POPULATION ANALYSED	POPULATION IN IPC/CH PHASES (OR EQUIVALENT)		SOURCE	TIME PERIOD COVERED BY THE ANALYSIS	TOTAL POPULATION OF COUNTRY OR REGISTERED REFUGEES (MILLIONS) POPULATION ANALYSED (PERCENTAGE)	AREA/POPULATION ANALYSED	POPULATION IN IPC/CH PHASES (OR EQUIVALENT)	
						PHASE 2 (MILLIONS) (PERCENTAGE)	PHASE 3 OR ABOVE (MILLIONS) (PERCENTAGE)					PHASE 2 (MILLIONS) (PERCENTAGE)	PHASE 3 OR ABOVE (MILLIONS) (PERCENTAGE)					PHASE 2 (MILLIONS) (PERCENTAGE)	PHASE 3 OR ABOVE (MILLIONS) (PERCENTAGE)
Afghanistan***	Jan–Apr	IPC	Nov 2020–Mar 2021	32.9 95%	Entire country	10.6 34%	13.2* 42%	IPC	Nov 2020–Mar 2021	32.9 95%	Entire country	10.6 34%	13.2* 42%	IPC	Jun–Nov 2021	32.9 95%	Entire country	12.2 39%	9.5* 30%
Burkina Faso	Jun–Aug	CH	Jun–Aug 2020	21.4 100%	Entire country	5.2 24%	3.3** 15%	CH	Jun–Aug 2021	22.0 98%	Entire country	4.8 22%	2.9* 13%						
Burundi	Apr–May	IPC	May 2020	11.9 92%	Entire country	3.9 36%	1.4* 13%	IPC	Apr–May 2021	12.5 94%	Entire country	5.0 43%	1.6* 14%	IPC	Jun–Sep 2021	12.5 94%	Entire country	4.2 36%	1.0* 9%
Cameroon	Mar–May	CH	Oct–Dec 2020	25.9 100%	Entire country	6.2 24%	2.7* 10%	CH	Mar–May 2021	25.9 100%	Entire country	5.8 23%	2.6* 10%	CH	Jun–Aug 2021	25.9 100%	Entire country	4.5 17%	1.9* 7%
Central African Republic	May–Aug	IPC	May–Aug 2020	4.8 95%	Excluding Bambouti, Djéma, Yalinga, Ouadda, Ouanda-djallé, Mingala, Mbrès and Berbérati	1.6 35%	2.4* 51%	IPC	Apr–Aug 2021	4.8 100%	Entire country except Bambouti, Djéma, Ouadda and Yalinga	1.6 33%	2.3* 47%						
Chad	Jun–Aug	CH	Jun–Aug 2020	16.2 90%	Excluding N'Djamena	3.1 21%	1.0* 7%	CH	Jun–Aug 2021	16.7 92%	Excluding N'Djamena	3.3 22%	1.8* 12%						
Côte d'Ivoire	Mar–May	CH	Mar–May 2020	26.5 23%	12 regions	0.9 15%	0.2 4%	CH	Jun–Aug 2021	27.7 46%	19 regions	2.5 20%	0.6* 5%						
Democratic Republic of the Congo***	Varies by area/region	IPC	Jul–Dec 2020	103.2 65%	85 territories and 18 urban areas	29.0 44%	21.8* 33%	IPC	Feb–Jul 2021	105.0 91%	133 territories and 37 urban areas	40.8 42%	27.3* 28%	IPC	Aug–Dec 2021	105.0 91%	133 territories and 37 urban areas	42.2 44%	26.2* 27%
Djibouti	Jun–Sep	IPC	Oct–Dec 2020	1.1 100%	Entire country	0.3 26%	0.2* 14%	IPC	Jan–Aug 2021	1.1 100%	Entire country	0.4 35%	0.2* 17%						
El Salvador	Jun–Aug	IPC	Nov 2020–Feb 2021	6.8 99%	Entire country	2.2 33%	0.7* 10%	IPC	Jun–Aug 2021	6.8 99%	Entire country	2.5 37%	1.0* 16%	IPC	Sep–Dec 2021	6.3 100%	Entire country	3.0 47%	0.6* 10%
Eswatini	Jan–Mar	IPC	Oct–Dec 2020	1.1 98%	Entire country	0.4 34%	0.4* 32%	IPC	Jan–Mar 2021	1.2 97%	Entire country	0.4 38%	0.3* 30%	IPC	Apr–Sep 2021	1.2 97%	Entire country	0.5 42%	0.2* 18%
Ethiopia***	Feb–Jun	IPC	Oct–Dec 2020	115.0 46%	Belg and Meher areas	15.8 30%	8.6* 16%	IPC	May–Jun 2021	115.0 49%	Belg and Meher-dependent areas including selected areas of Tigray, Afar and Amhara regions	17.2 31%	16.8** 30%	IPC	Jul–Sep 2021	115.0 17%	Meher-dependent areas: selected areas of Amhara, Tigray, Oromia and SNNP regions	6.0 30%	7.4** 37%
Gambia	Jun–Aug	CH	Jun–Aug 2020	2.5 100%	Entire country	0.6 23%	0.1 6%	CH	Jun–Aug 2021	2.5 97%	Entire country	0.5 20%	0.1 5%						

[†] The cut-off date for inclusion in this mid-year update was 10 September, 2021. Food security analyses published after this date are not included in this report.

* The estimates for this country include populations classified in Emergency (IPC/CH Phase 4). ** The estimates for this country include populations classified in Emergency (IPC/CH Phase 4) and Catastrophe (IPC/CH Phase 5). *** FEWS NET's analyses suggest that the population requiring emergency food assistance was lower than the IPC estimate. Note: The IPC estimates for Ethiopia in May–Jun 2021 and July–September 2021 presented in this table reflect the merger of the October 2020 and May 2021 IPC analysis results. The Government of Ethiopia has not endorsed the May 2021 IPC analysis.

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Table of acute food insecurity estimates, 2020–2021

Highest numbers of acutely food-insecure people in 2020 and in 2021 as of September, and numbers of acutely food-insecure people in the latest analyses in 2021.[†] Of the 55 countries/territories that qualified as food crises in the GRFC 2021, this table includes the 42 countries/territories for which data was available in 2021 as of 10 September. For a complete list of the 55 countries/territories, please refer to the GRFC 2021.

Countries		2020 Highest numbers of acutely food-insecure people						2021 Highest numbers of acutely food-insecure people (updated as of September) [†]						2021 Numbers of acutely food-insecure people during the latest analysis period (where not the peak estimates) [†]					
USUAL PERIOD OF PEAK NEED	SOURCE	TIME PERIOD COVERED BY THE ANALYSIS	TOTAL POPULATION OF COUNTRY OR REGISTERED REFUGEES (MILLIONS) POPULATION ANALYSED (PERCENTAGE)	AREA/POPULATION ANALYSED	POPULATION IN IPC/CH PHASES (OR EQUIVALENT)		SOURCE	TIME PERIOD COVERED BY THE ANALYSIS	TOTAL POPULATION OF COUNTRY OR REGISTERED REFUGEES (MILLIONS) POPULATION ANALYSED (PERCENTAGE)	AREA/POPULATION ANALYSED	POPULATION IN IPC/CH PHASES (OR EQUIVALENT)		SOURCE	TIME PERIOD COVERED BY THE ANALYSIS	TOTAL POPULATION OF COUNTRY OR REGISTERED REFUGEES (MILLIONS) POPULATION ANALYSED (PERCENTAGE)	AREA/POPULATION ANALYSED	POPULATION IN IPC/CH PHASES (OR EQUIVALENT)		
					PHASE 2 (MILLIONS) (PERCENTAGE)	PHASE 3 OR ABOVE (MILLIONS) (PERCENTAGE)					PHASE 2 (MILLIONS) (PERCENTAGE)	PHASE 3 OR ABOVE (MILLIONS) (PERCENTAGE)					PHASE 2 (MILLIONS) (PERCENTAGE)	PHASE 3 OR ABOVE (MILLIONS) (PERCENTAGE)	
Refugees/migrant populations are indicated in blue																			
Guatemala	Jun-Aug	IPC	Nov 2020–Mar 2021	16.9 100%	Entire country (22 departments and Guatemala (metropolitana))	6.7 40%	3.7* 23%	IPC	Nov 2020–Mar 2021	16.9 100%	Entire country (22 departments and Guatemala (metropolitana))	6.7 40%	3.7* 23%	IPC	Sep-Dec 2021	17.1 100%	Entire country (22 departments and Guatemala (metropolitana))	8.0 47%	2.5* 14%
Guinea	Jun-Aug	CH	Oct-Dec 2020	13.3 83%	Excluding Conakry	2.1 19%	0.6 6%	CH	Jun-Aug 2021	13.3 83%	Excluding Conakry	2.2 20%	0.7 6%						
Guinea-Bissau	Jun-Aug	CH	Oct-Dec 2020	2.0 62%	Excluding Bissau	0.5 36%	0.2* 12%	CH	Jun-Aug 2021	2.1 64%	Excluding Bissau	0.3 22%	0.1 8%						
Haiti***	Mar-Jun	IPC	Mar-Jun 2020	11.3 93%	Rural and urban areas (excluding Villes de Gonaives)	2.8 27%	4.1* 40%	IPC	Mar-Jun 2021	10.9 87%	Rural and urban areas (excluding Villes de Gonaives)	2.8 29%	4.4* 46%	IPC	Sep-Dec 2021	12.9 17%	Grand Sud (4 departments affected by the Aug earthquake and tropical storm Grace)	0.6 26%	1.0* 45%
Honduras	Jun-Aug	IPC	Dec 2020–Mar 2021	9.3 100%	Entire country	3.5 37%	2.9* 31%	IPC	Jul-Sep 2021	9.3 100%	Entire country	3.5 38%	3.3* 35%						
Jordan**** (Syrian refugees)	Jan-Dec	WFP	Oct-Dec 2020	0.7 83%	Syrian refugees in host communities	0.4 65%	0.2 25%	WFP	Feb 2021	0.5 100%	Syrian refugees in host communities	0.4 73%	0.1 27%	WFP	Jun 2021	0.5 100%	Syrian refugees in host communities	0.3 60%	0.1 24%
Kenya	Mar-Apr	IPC	Oct-Dec 2020	53.8 33%	Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (rural) and 12 urban areas	6.3 35%	1.9* 10%	IPC	Mar-May 2021	55.0 28%	Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (rural)	5.6 36%	2.0* 13%						
Lesotho	Jan-Mar	IPC	Oct 2020–Mar 2021	2.0 73%	Rural population	0.5 33%	0.6* 40%	IPC	Oct 2020–Mar 2021	2.0 73%	Rural population	0.5 33%	0.6* 40%	IPC	Oct-Dec 2021	2.1 70%	Entire country	0.6 38%	0.3 21%
Liberia	Oct-Dec	CH	Oct-Dec 2020	5.2 88%	Entire country	1.1 24%	0.5* 10%	CH	Jun-Aug 2021	5.2 91%	Entire country	1.5 32%	0.9* 20%						
Madagascar	Jan-Mar	IPC	Oct-Dec 2020	25.7 15%	Southern and south-eastern areas	1.7 42%	1.1* 27%	IPC	Jan-Apr 2021	25.7 15%	Grand Sud and Sud-Est	1.6 42%	1.3* 35%	IPC	Oct-Dec 2021	25.7 10%	Grand Sud	0.9 34%	1.3** 49%
Malawi	Jan-Mar	IPC	Nov-Dec 2020	19.7 90%	Entire country	6.2 35%	2.5 14%	IPC	Jan-Mar 2021	19.7 90%	Entire country	6.3 35%	2.6* 15%	IPC	Oct-Dec 2021	18.9 100%	Entire country	4.5 24%	1.5 8%
Mali	Jun-Aug	CH	Jun-Aug 2020	20.9 98%	Entire country	3.7 18%	1.3* 7%	CH	Jun-Aug 2021	21.1 100%	Entire country	4.1 19%	1.3* 6%						
Mauritania	Jun-Aug	CH	Jun-Aug 2020	4.2 100%	Entire country	0.8 19%	0.6* 15%	CH	Jun-Aug 2021	4.3 100%	Entire country	0.9 21%	0.5* 11%						
Mozambique	Jan-Mar	IPC	Oct-Dec 2020	30.1 60%	Rural and urban areas (hotspots/most food-insecure areas)	8.8 48%	2.7* 15%	IPC	Jan-Mar 2021	30.1 60%	Rural and urban areas (hotspots/most food-insecure areas)	8.4 46%	2.9* 16%	IPC	Oct-Dec 2021	30.8 3%	Cabo Delgado	0.3 34%	0.4* 47%

[†] The cut-off date for inclusion in this mid-year update was 10 September, 2021. Food security analyses published after this date are not included in this report.

* The estimates for this country include populations classified in Emergency (IPC/CH Phase 4). ** The estimates for this country include populations classified in Emergency (IPC/CH Phase 4) and Catastrophe (IPC/CH Phase 5). *** FEWS NET's analyses suggest that the population requiring emergency food assistance was lower than the IPC estimate.

**** Population figures and percentages for the February 2021 estimate covering Syrian refugees in Jordanian host communities have been revised since the GRFC 2021 to reflect updated data.

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Table of acute food insecurity estimates, 2020–2021

Highest numbers of acutely food-insecure people in 2020 and in 2021 as of September, and numbers of acutely food-insecure people in the latest analyses in 2021.¹ Of the 55 countries/territories that qualified as food crises in the GRFC 2021, this table includes the 42 countries/territories for which data was available in 2021 as of 10 September. For a complete list of the 55 countries/territories, please refer to the GRFC 2021.

Countries	2020 Highest numbers of acutely food-insecure people							2021 Highest numbers of acutely food-insecure people (updated as of September) ¹					2021 Numbers of acutely food-insecure people during the latest analysis period (where not the peak estimates) ²						
	USUAL PERIOD OF PEAK NEED	SOURCE	TIME PERIOD COVERED BY THE ANALYSIS	TOTAL POPULATION OF COUNTRY OR REGISTERED REFUGEES (MILLIONS) POPULATION ANALYSED (PERCENTAGE)	AREA/POPULATION ANALYSED	POPULATION IN IPC/CH PHASES (OR EQUIVALENT)		SOURCE	TIME PERIOD COVERED BY THE ANALYSIS	TOTAL POPULATION OF COUNTRY OR REGISTERED REFUGEES (MILLIONS) POPULATION ANALYSED (PERCENTAGE)	AREA/POPULATION ANALYSED	POPULATION IN IPC/CH PHASES (OR EQUIVALENT)		SOURCE	TIME PERIOD COVERED BY THE ANALYSIS	TOTAL POPULATION OF COUNTRY OR REGISTERED REFUGEES (MILLIONS) POPULATION ANALYSED (PERCENTAGE)	AREA/POPULATION ANALYSED	POPULATION IN IPC/CH PHASES (OR EQUIVALENT)	
						PHASE 2 (MILLIONS) (PERCENTAGE)	PHASE 3 OR ABOVE (MILLIONS) (PERCENTAGE)					PHASE 2 (MILLIONS) (PERCENTAGE)	PHASE 3 OR ABOVE (MILLIONS) (PERCENTAGE)					PHASE 2 (MILLIONS) (PERCENTAGE)	PHASE 3 OR ABOVE (MILLIONS) (PERCENTAGE)
Refugees/migrant populations are indicated in blue																			
Namibia	Jan-Mar	IPC	Oct 2020-Mar 2021	2.5 89%	Excluding Erongo region	0.7 29%	0.4* 20%	IPC	Oct 2020-Mar 2021	2.5 89%	Excluding Erongo region	0.7 29%	0.4* 20%						
Nicaragua	Jul-Aug	FEWS NET	Sep-Oct 2020	6.2 100%	Entire country	N/A N/A	0.4 6%	FEWS NET	Jul-Aug 2021	6.2 100%	Entire country	N/A N/A	0.25-0.5M 6%	FEWS NET	Sep-Dec 2021	6.2 100%	Entire country	N/A N/A	0.25-0.5M 4-5%
Niger	Jun-Aug	CH	Jun-Aug 2020	23.0 96%	Entire country	5.0 23%	2.0* 9%	CH	Jun-Aug 2021	24.6 93%	Entire country	5.7 25%	2.3* 10%						
Nigeria	Jun-Aug	CH	Oct-Dec 2020	212.1 49%	15 states and Federal Capital Territory	23.9 23%	9.2* 9%	CH	Jun-Aug 2021	219.5 49%	16 states and Federal Capital Territory	30.7 29%	12.8* 12%						
Pakistan	Jun-Aug	IPC	Jun-Aug 2020	220.9 2%	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	1.5 29%	1.2* 25%	IPC	Mar-Jun 2021	220.9 7%	Balochistan and Sindh	5.3 36%	3.8* 26%	IPC	Jul-Sep 2021	220.9 7%	Balochistan and Sindh	5.6 38%	3.3* 23%
Senegal	Jun-Aug	CH	Jun-Aug 2020	16.7 100%	Entire country	3.5 21%	0.8* 5%	CH	Jun-Aug 2021	17.2 100%	Entire country	3.1 18%	0.5* 3%						
Sierra Leone	Jun-Aug	CH	Jun-Aug 2020	8.3 100%	Entire country	4.0 49%	1.3* 16%	CH	Jun-Aug 2021	8.5 96%	Entire country	2.8 35%	1.8* 22%						
Somalia	Feb-Apr	IPC	Oct-Dec 2020	12.3 100%	Entire country (rural and urban areas and IDP settlements)	3.0 24%	2.1* 17%	IPC	Oct-Dec 2021	15.7 100%	Entire country	3.7 24%	3.5* 22%						
South Sudan	May-Jul	IPC	May-Jul 2020	11.7 100%	Entire country	3.3 28%	6.5* 55%	IPC	Apr-Jul 2021	12.0 100%	Entire country	3.1 26%	7.2** 60%						
Sudan***	Aug-Sep	IPC	Jun-Sep 2020	45.3 100%	Entire country	15.9 35%	9.6* 21%	IPC	Jun-Sep 2021	46.8 100%	Entire country excluding Abyie and Al Tina	16.5 35%	9.8* 21%	IPC	Oct-Dec 2021	46.8 100%	Entire country excluding Abyie and Al Tina	15.0 32%	6.0* 13%
Togo	Jun-Aug	CH	Jun-Aug 2020	7.5 77%	Excluding 2 prefectures	1.3 22%	0.3* 5%	CH	Mar-May 2021	8.0 74%	Excluding 2 prefectures	1.0 17%	0.2* 4%	CH	Jun-Aug 2021	8.0 74%	Excluding 2 prefectures	1.0 16%	0.2* 3%
Uganda	May-Jul	IPC	Jun-Aug 2020	45.7 25%	Karamoja, urban areas, refugee settlements and host community districts	4.3 38%	2.6* 23%	FEWS NET	May-Jul 2021	45.2 100%	Entire country	N/A N/A	2.0-2.5 5%	IPC	Aug-Dec 2021	42.9 3%	Karamoja	0.5 39%	0.2* 16%
Yemen	Jul-Sep	IPC	Oct-Dec 2020	30.0 100%	Entire country	10.0 33%	13.5** 45%	IPC	Jan-Jun 2021	30.0 100%	Entire country	8.6 29%	16.1** 54%						
Zambia	Jan-Mar	IPC	Oct 2019-Mar 2020	17.9 53%	86 districts (rural)	3.1 33%	2.3* 24%	IPC	Feb-Mar 2021	18.0 38%	64 districts (rural)	2.5 36%	1.7* 25%	IPC	Oct-Dec 2021	18.4 66%	61 districts	5.2 43%	1.6 13%
Zimbabwe	Jan-Mar	IPC	Feb-Jun 2020	14.6 66%	Rural population	2.8 29%	4.3* 45%	IPC	Jan-Mar 2021	15.6 62%	Rural population	3.1 32%	3.4* 35%						

¹ The cut-off date for inclusion in this mid-year update was 10 September, 2021. Food security analyses published after this date are not included in this report.

² The estimates for this country include populations classified in Emergency (IPC/CH Phase 4). ** The estimates for this country include populations classified in Emergency (IPC/CH Phase 4) and Catastrophe (IPC/CH Phase 5). *** FEWS NET's analyses suggest that the population requiring emergency food assistance was lower than the IPC estimate.

Drivers of acute food insecurity in mid-2021, by region


Central and Southern Africa

-  Intensifying conflict in the north-west and central regions of the **Central African Republic**, eastern parts of the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** and north-east **Mozambique** (Cabo Delgado province) disrupted livelihoods and agriculture, displaced populations and restricted humanitarian access.
-  In response to high numbers of new COVID-19 infections and deaths, the governments in **Zimbabwe**, **Malawi** and **Mozambique** maintained restriction measures, such as reducing business hours and tightening cross-border movement, resulting in income losses for poor urban households (FEWS NET, August 2021). In Zimbabwe, macroeconomic conditions remained volatile and the cost of living continued to increase monthly, constraining household income (FEWS NET, July 2021). Rising food prices curbed food access in **Eswatini** and **Lesotho**.
-  Southern **Madagascar**'s four successive years of drought led to below-normal staple crop production, high food prices and low labour opportunities. Central and southern provinces of **Angola** experienced significant rainfall deficits and high temperatures that had an adverse impact on crop and pasture production. The northern provinces of **Mozambique** and the **United Republic of Tanzania** were similarly affected by poor rains (FAO, July 2021).



Three years of severe drought have wiped out harvests and hampered people's access to food in Madagascar's Grand Sud region. Of the 10 hardest-hit southern districts, Amboasary Atsimo had nearly 28 000 people forecast to be in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) from October–December 2021.

-  Since early 2021, the **Central African Republic**, the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, the **Republic of the Congo** and **Zambia** have been hit by floods, while the eruption of the Mount Nyiragongo volcano in the Democratic Republic of the Congo's North Kivu Province in May led to the temporary displacement of over 500 000 people.

-  Locust infestations and other pests contributed to constrained food production in several countries of the region, such as in Angola, Zambia and Madagascar (IPC, May 2021, July 2021, and August 2021).

East Africa

✳️ Conflict/insecurity was the principal driver of acute food insecurity in **Ethiopia** where fighting spilled over from Tigray into neighbouring Amhara and Afar regions, constraining humanitarian assistance (OCHA, September 2021), and in **South Sudan** where localized violence disrupted humanitarian operations in the Greater Pibor Administrative Area, Jonglei, Warrap and Eastern Equatoria (WFP, July 2021).

➡️ In **Somalia**, 389 000 people were forced to flee due to conflict/insecurity in the first seven months of 2021 (UNHCR, September 2021) while in the **Sudan**, inter communal violence in Central, North and West Darfur, South and West Kordofan and Red Sea states displaced around 226 000 people between January and July 2021 (OCHA, August 2021).

🏠 Prices of coarse grains increased unseasonably in July and August at many markets in the region, such as in **Uganda** and **Somalia** due to atypically low supply levels (FAO-GIEWS, September 2021). Prices were exceptionally high in **South Sudan** and in the **Sudan**, reinforced by insufficient supplies and macroeconomic difficulties, including currency weakness that increased the cost of imported food. Prices were also higher year-on-year in **Ethiopia**, mainly due to macroeconomic challenges (FAO, September 2021).

☀️ Many parts of central and southern East Africa faced moderate to severe drought conditions, in particular parts of **Ethiopia**, eastern **Kenya**, southern **Somalia** and **Uganda**. Above-average rainfall led to flooding across the **Sudan**, **Ethiopia** and **South Sudan**. In **Burundi**,



Since November 2020, tens of thousands of Ethiopians have sought refuge in camps in eastern Sudan, after fleeing violence in Tigray. Many brought very few belongings and after months of scorching heat, faced heavy rains and strong winds in May and June, which damaged tents, latrines and other facilities.

water scarcity and floods affected crop production between late 2020 and early 2021 (IPC, June 2021).

West Africa and the Sahel

✳️ Persistent civil insecurity and conflict continued to disrupt markets and trade across the Lake Chad Basin (Far North region of **Cameroon**, western **Chad**, south-eastern **Niger** and north-eastern **Nigeria**) and the Central Sahel area – in particular the Liptako-Gourma

region (border areas of **Burkina Faso**, **Mali** and the **Niger**) and where around 2 million were internally displaced by the end of August 2021, the majority of them in **Burkina Faso** (FAO GIEWS, July 2021, IOM, September 2021, UNHCR, September 2021). In the first half of 2021, 237 000 Burkinabé fled their homes to other parts of the country compared to 96 000 in the second half of 2020 (UNHCR, July 2021).



In most Sahelian and coastal countries, prices of domestically produced coarse grains increased in the

three months leading up to August 2021 and were generally higher than a year earlier due to below-average market availability stemming from strong household demand during the lean season, and underpinned by continued disruptions to agricultural activities and markets by protracted insecurity and flooding, hampering farming activities and causing localized crop losses. High inflation rates in **Ghana**, **Guinea**, **Liberia**, **Nigeria** and **Sierra Leone** due to national currency depreciations amplified prices. In **Nigeria** prices of coarse grains were about 50 percent higher year-on-year, reflecting the combined effects of the COVID-19 containment measures, difficult macroeconomic conditions, and protracted insecurity in the north-east (FAO-GIEWS, September, 2021).



While the rains in April–August brought mostly average to above-average rainfall, deficits affected northern parts of **Mauritania** as well as pockets of central and south-eastern **Nigeria**, south-western **Cameroon**, southern Lac **Chad**, south-western **Guinea**, north-eastern **Sierra Leone** and north-eastern **Mali** (WFP, September 2021). **Benin**, **Chad**, the **Gambia**, **Ghana**, the **Niger**, **Nigeria** and **Togo** experienced flooding. In the **Niger**, flooding affected all regions and cholera outbreaks were recorded (OCHA, August 2021).

Central America and Haiti



COVID-19 exacerbated the region's pre-existing economic fragilities, which are the result of a protracted period of stagnating growth. In the Central American countries of **Honduras**, **Guatemala**,



In the Central American republics of Honduras, El Salvador (pictured), Guatemala and Nicaragua, economic recovery is still insufficient to recuperate the jobs lost during the COVID-19 pandemic - informal occupations prevail and poor households' access to food is constrained by rising staple food prices.



Nicaragua, and **El Salvador**, access to food was limited by rising staple food prices and atypically low labour demand, resulting from the economic impacts of COVID-19 (FEWS NET, August 2021). In **Haiti**, currency depreciation and supply disruptions pushed up the cost of food, leading to a continuous decline in the population's purchasing power (IPC, September 2021).


In **Haiti**, the 7.2 magnitude earthquake followed by Tropical Storm Grace, which struck the Grand-Sud departments in mid-August, destroyed homes and markets and uprooted thousands of families,




increasing levels of acute food insecurity. Below-average rainfall between April and May 2021 in almost all of Haiti resulted in low agricultural production (IPC, September 2021).


Haiti's political situation remains complex and unpredictable. An upsurge in gang violence and political instability following the assassination of the Haitian president has displaced hundreds of families, complicated the delivery of humanitarian aid and increased transport costs (IPC, September 2021).

Middle East and South Asia

 Conflict continued to be the main driver of acute food insecurity in **Afghanistan**, the **Syrian Arab Republic** and **Yemen**. In Afghanistan, between January and September, conflict displaced over 570 000 people, compared to 134 000 people over the same period last year (OCHA, September 2021).


 In **Afghanistan**, the full impact of the Taliban's return to power will take more time to manifest, but aid organisations have already witnessed deepening humanitarian need. Political instability and demand for foreign currencies led to a significant rise in the exchange rate in August, and consequent rise in the price of basic foods, a large share of which are imported. Meanwhile, work opportunities drastically declined from early August, exacerbating the ongoing unemployment crisis (WFP, August 2021).

 Following a decade of conflict in the **Syrian Arab Republic**, the country's economic deterioration was compounded by the growing financial crisis in Lebanon. Food prices were nearly 50 percent higher in June 2021 than six months earlier and over 100 percent higher year-on-year. The security situation in the southern governorate of Dar'a and in north-western Syria continued to deteriorate (WFP, July 2021).

 In **Yemen**, economic conditions continued to worsen as conflict persisted. By the end of July, the Yemeni Riyal (YER) reached a record low and food and fuel prices simultaneously increased, mainly in areas controlled by the Internationally Recognized Government of Yemen (ACAPS, August 2021).




In the last week of August 2021, the prices of basic food items in Afghanistan climbed while work opportunities declined sharply. The financial situation in the country is set to deteriorate rapidly, with civilians bearing the brunt of increased poverty.

 **Afghanistan's** second drought in four years is affecting one third of the country (OCHA, September 2021) while drought and reduced availability of irrigation water resulted in high levels of crop loss in the **Syrian Arab Republic** (REACH, September, 2021).

 In **Yemen**, from late July 2021, torrential rains and widespread flooding hit the country for the second time this year, damaging infrastructure and destroying homes and shelters, with the greatest impact on displaced families in Hajjah, Ma'rib, Sana'a and Ta'iz

governorates (OCHA, August 2021). Access to refugee camps in **Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh** was restricted to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, hampering efforts to prepare the camps in advance for the monsoon season, during which soil erosion and landslides, flooding, wind and storms destroyed shelters.

 In **Pakistan**, locust outbreaks, flooding and drought contributed to increasing acute food insecurity among populations with low resilience capacities (IPC, May 2021).

Country updates

This section provides an update on countries that qualified as major food crises in 2020 and had new analyses issued after the publication of the GRFC 2021 in May.¹ Between May and 10 September 2021,² new data was released for 15 of these countries.

For each country, a brief overview is provided of the period with the highest number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in 2021, the evolution of the crisis since 2020 and the primary factors driving each crisis. The latest analysis is also provided when it differs from that covering the period with the highest number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above).

Data notes and comparability challenges

When possible, this update evaluates the trend between the highest number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) in 2020, as reported in the GRFC 2021, with the 2021 peak number of acute food insecurity available by September 2021. However, comparability challenges arise for certain analyses, as described below.

1 Countries/territories qualified as major food crises in 2020 if they met one or more of the following criteria: 1. At least 20% of the country population in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) or equivalent. 2. At least 1 million people in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) or equivalent. 3. Any area in Emergency (IPC/CH Phase 4) or above. 4. Included in the IASC humanitarian system-wide emergency response-level 3. For a complete list of countries that qualified as major food crises in 2020, please refer to the [GRFC 2021](#).

2 The cut-off date for including analyses in the GRFC 2021 mid-year update was 10 September, 2021.

The IPC estimates presented in this report for **Ethiopia** in May–June 2021 and July–September 2021 reflect the merger of the October 2020 and May 2021 IPC analysis results. This merger was conducted in order to take into account the dramatic deterioration of the food security situation in the Tigray region due to conflict. This includes the results for the areas/woredas for which analysis was conducted in October 2020 and then subsequently updated in May 2021. However, certain areas were analysed in May 2021 that were not subsequently covered in the projections for July–September 2021. The IPC analysis conducted in May is an IPC global product. It is based on the conclusions reached by the Ethiopia IPC analysis team. The Government of Ethiopia has not endorsed the May 2021 IPC analysis.

The Belg and Meher-dependent areas analysed in the analysis covering October–December 2020, which contained the highest number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in 2020, and the areas analysed in the merged May–June 2021 analysis period are comparable. However, the latest analysis available for Ethiopia, covering July–September 2021, only examined populations in selected Meher-dependent areas of Amhara, Tigray, Oromia and SNNP regions.

In **Haiti**, the highest numbers of acutely food-insecure people in 2020 and 2021 were estimated during analyses that covered nearly the entire country (excluding Villes de Gonaïves). More recently, and in order to capture the effects of tropical storm Grace and the 14 August earthquake, an analysis was conducted in the four departments of the Grand Sud, which constitutes the latest analysis period available.

In **Madagascar**, the areas analysed in the November 2020 IPC analysis and the latest IPC analysis issued in May 2021 are not the same, limiting comparisons to districts covered in both analyses. The November 2020 analysis, which provided a projection for January–April 2021, analysed the 13 districts of the southern and south-eastern regions of Androy, Anosy, Atsimo Atsinanana, and Vatovavy Fitovinany (Grand South and south-eastern Madagascar). In contrast, the May 2021 IPC analysis covered the Grand South and the south-western district of Toliara and excluded four entire districts and parts of Taolagnaro included in the November 2020 analysis.

For **Mozambique**, the latest IPC analysis issued in July covered IDP and host households in Cabo Delgado province (i.e. 3 percent of the population) while the analyses for the 2020 peak and that of the January–March 2021 lean season covered 60 percent of the population.

For **Pakistan**, the IPC analyses reported in this 2021 mid-year update cover the provinces of Balochistan and Sindh, while the GRFC 2021 included the IPC analysis for the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

For **Uganda**, the peak estimate for 2021 as of 10 September is a range provided by FEWS NET for the entire country, while the subsequent IPC analysis is only for the Karamoja region.

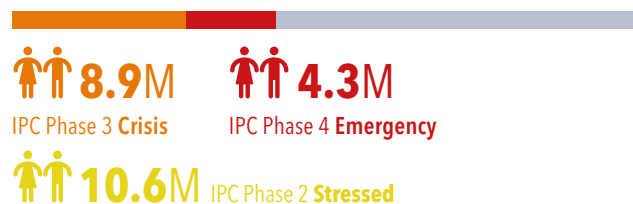
For **Zambia**, the geographical areas covered in the 2020 IPC analysis are not the same as those covered for the February–March 2021 period with the population coverage increasing from 38 percent to 66 percent of the country population.

Afghanistan

Highest numbers of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) as of September 2021

13.2M people IPC Phase 3 or above

in November 2020–March 2021 (42% of the population analysed)



Total population of the country: **32.9M**

Population analysed: **95%**

Source: Afghanistan IPC Technical Working Group, November 2020.

From November 2020–March 2021, corresponding to the lean season, 13.2 million people – 42 percent of the analysed population – were expected to be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above), including 4.3 million people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) (IPC, November 2020). In terms of numbers of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above), this marked an 18 percent increase since the post-harvest period of August–October 2020 (IPC, November 2020).

The worsening situation was driven by conflict-related displacements and disruptions to livelihoods, which converged with the impact of COVID-19, high food prices, rampant unemployment, reduced income and high levels of household debt.

The latest 2021 analysis

The IPC analysis issued in April 2021 estimated that from March–May 2021, 10.9 million people – 35 percent of the analysed population – were in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) of whom around 3.2 million people were in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). This number was expected to decrease to 9.5 million people in the harvest and post-harvest seasons from June–November 2021. This projection was based on the assumptions that while increased conflict would continue to displace people and below-average precipitation would curtail wheat production, the economy would grow modestly in 2021 and emergency food and livelihood assistance would continue (IPC, April 2021).

However, this projection was issued four months before Kabul was captured as the Taliban effectively took control of the majority of the country in August 2021. Between January and mid-August 2021, more than 550 000 Afghans were internally displaced as a result of conflict and insecurity, joining 2.9 million already internally displaced at the end of 2020. Some 80 percent of nearly 250 000 people forced to flee since the end of May were women and children (UNHCR, August 2021). The country is also facing a deadly resurgence of COVID-19 cases and one of its worst droughts in years (WFP, August 2021).

On 22 June, the President officially declared a drought, indicating that 30 percent of country was exposed to severe drought, 50 percent to serious drought, and another 20 percent to moderate drought. The government warned that Afghanistan's wheat crop would be reduced by nearly 2 million tonnes and more than 3 million livestock are at risk (IFRC, August 2021).

Amidst the rise of a new government headed by the Taliban, the humanitarian policy of the group is still uncertain, although Taliban officials in some areas have requested that

aid operations continue. In the past, the Taliban imposed administrative constraints and taxation on aid organisations and banned female aid workers. The number of humanitarian access incidents (1 200) from January–July 2021 was already more than double that of the same timeframe of 2020 (515 incidents) (ACAPS, August).

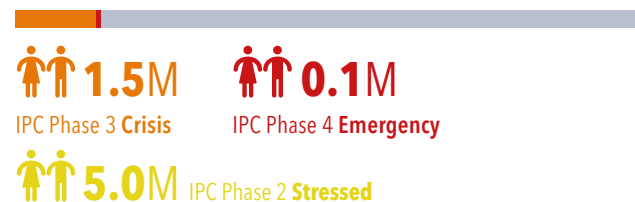
In a joint statement issued on 22 August, UNICEF and WHO called for the immediate establishment of a humanitarian airbridge for the sustained and unimpeded delivery of aid into Afghanistan, given that commercial aircraft were not permitted to land in Kabul with supplies (UNICEF & WHO, August 2021).

In the last week of August, the prices of basic food items – much of which is imported – climbed due to the political instability and exchange rate increases as demand for foreign currencies increased. At the same time, work opportunities declined sharply by nearly 20 percent across the country, exacerbating the ongoing unemployment crisis (WFP, August 2021). With the freezing of Afghanistan's international assets, the financial situation in the country is set to deteriorate rapidly, with civilians bearing the brunt of increased poverty (The Lancet, August 2021).

Burundi

Highest numbers of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) as of September 2021

1.6M people IPC Phase 3 or above
in April–May 2021 (14% of the population analysed)



Total population of the country: **12.5M**

Population analysed: **94%**

Source: Burundi IPC Technical Working Group, June 2021.

During the April–May 2021 lean season, over 1.6 million people faced Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in Burundi, representing 14 percent of the population analysed. This figure included over 1.5 million people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and over 106 000 people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4), with the populations in Emergency located in the northern depressions (dépressions du Nord) and Imbo regions (IPC, June 2021).

The population analysed for the April–May 2021 analysis was slightly larger than that of the previous year's peak in May 2020 (94 percent national coverage in 2021 versus 92 percent in 2020). However, the 2021 analysis reveals an uptick from 1.4 million people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in May 2020 (IPC, May 2020). Major drivers of acute food insecurity in 2021 include recurring climatic shocks, displacement, and the economic effects of the COVID-19

pandemic. Water shortages in the northern depressions contributed to failed cereal and vegetable crops in significant parts of the region. Flooding in the western areas around Lake Tanganyika also disrupted cross-border economic exchanges during a time when trade and migration had already slowed due to pandemic containment measures (IPC, June 2021).

By June–September 2021, the situation was projected to improve following the harvesting of Season B crops.

During this period, the number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) is expected to fall to around 1 million, representing a 35 percent decline in the number of people in these phases. This estimate includes over 56 000 people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) in Imbo (IPC, June 2021).

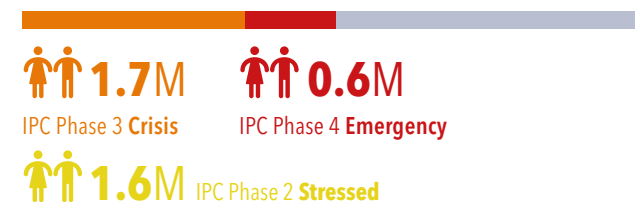
The latest acute malnutrition analysis in 2021

It is estimated that around 140 000 children aged 6–59 months and over 26 000 pregnant or lactating women are suffering from acute malnutrition during 2021, based on the results of the national SMART survey conducted in September 2020. The major drivers of malnutrition include inadequate food intake of children aged 6–23 months, low dietary diversity, poor access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation facilities and high levels of diarrhoea, malaria and acute respiratory infections (IPC, June 2021).

Central African Republic

Highest numbers of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) as of September 2021

2.3M people IPC Phase 3 or above
in April–August 2021 (47% of the population analysed)



Total population of the country: **4.8M**

Population analysed: **100%**

Source: Central African Republic IPC Technical Working Group, May 2021.

From April–August 2021, nearly 2.3 million people in the Central African Republic were expected to be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above), according to the March 2021 IPC analysis. This represents almost half (47 percent) of the population (IPC, May 2021).

This situation can be attributed in part to intensified violence around the December 2020 presidential and legislative elections, which maintained high levels of acute food insecurity from mid-2020. Armed clashes resulted in an 8.7 percent increase in the number of IDPs between December and February 2021 when the total number of IDPs reached 742 000, according to the Commission of Movement of Populations (CMP). The blocking of the Bouar-Garoua Boulai corridor by armed groups caused unprecedented disruption to the supply of goods and humanitarian

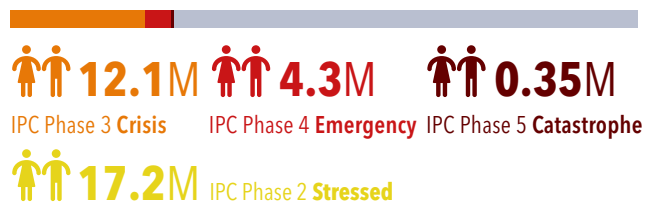
assistance. Deteriorating security disrupted 2020 harvests and limited access to seeds, tools and basic infrastructure, thereby restricting household production and food stocks. Additionally, the second wave of COVID-19 contributed to loss of jobs and incomes as well as high market prices of imported commodities, such as rice, white beans, wheat, and fish, which remained above the five-year average during June–August 2021.

However, the number indicates a relatively stable trend in acute food insecurity relative to the corresponding period (May–August) in 2020 when 2.4 million were in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above), including 754 000 in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) – partly explained by the impacts of COVID-19 (IPC, May 2020).

Ethiopia

Highest numbers of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) as of September 2021

 **16.8M people** IPC Phase 3 or above
in May–June 2021 (30% of the population analysed)



Total population of the country: **115.0M**

Population analysed: **49%**

Source: Ethiopia IPC Technical Working Group, October 2020 and May 2021.

In Ethiopia, the period May–June accounted for the highest number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) during 2021 and since the establishment of IPC in the country, with around 16.8 million people – or 30 percent of the analysed population – falling under these classifications across Meher and Belg-dependent areas. This figure includes 5.5 million people, or 61 percent of the population analysed, in Tigray and neighbouring areas of Afar and Amhara, of which 2.1 million people were in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) (IPC, October 2020 and May 2021).

In Tigray, 353 000 people were in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) – representing the highest number of people classified in Catastrophe since the 2011 famine in Somalia – despite the provision of humanitarian food assistance to 5 million people in previous months (IPC, May 2021).

These estimates represent a dire deterioration in the food security situation since last year’s peak in October–December 2020, when 8.6 million people were in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above).

This major crisis is accounted for in part by the ongoing humanitarian disaster in Tigray and neighbouring zones of Afar and Amhara, which is the result of intense conflict, large-scale population displacements, movement restrictions, loss of crops and livelihood assets, constrained access to humanitarian assistance, and poorly functioning or non-existent markets (IPC, May 2021).

Other major drivers of acute food insecurity outside of Tigray and neighbouring zones include reduced incomes and remittances due to COVID-19 containment measures, erratic and below-average rains, desert locusts, currency depreciation, and conflict and related displacements (IPC, December 2020 and May 2021).

The latest 2021 analysis

Between July and September 2021, an estimated 7.4 million people were projected to experience Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in Meher-dependent areas, namely selected areas of Tigray, neighbouring areas of Amhara, Oromia and SNNPR regions. Within this, 2.4 million people would face Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and over 401 000 people would face Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5).

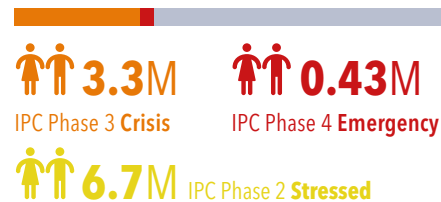
Relative to the May–June 2021 period, this represents an additional 500 000 people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in the Meher-dependent areas (IPC, October 2020 and May 2021). Crucially, this severe worsening in Catastrophe figures was estimated despite an expected expansion in humanitarian assistance to assist 60 percent of the population in Tigray and neighbouring areas of Amhara. Although the changing dynamics of this violent conflict render it highly

difficult to determine a 'most-likely scenario' for the coming months, the IPC Famine Review Committee projected a medium to high Risk of Famine in three out of four scenarios, including a worst-case scenario that could occur during July–September³ (FRC, July 2021).

Guatemala

Highest numbers of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) as of September 2021

3.7M people IPC Phase 3 or above
in November 2020–March 2021 (23% of the population analysed)



Total population of the country: **16.9M**

Population analysed: **100%**

Source: Guatemala IPC Technical Working Group, January 2021.

Over 3.7 million people were in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in Guatemala from November 2020–March 2021, accounting for 23 percent of the population analysed. This included around 3.3 million people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and 428 000 people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). The

departments with the highest number of people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) were Alta Verapaz, Huehuetenango, Guatemala, including Guatemala metropolitana, and Quiché, which jointly accounted for 58 percent of the total population in this phase.

Major factors driving acute food insecurity included weather extremes, notably the damages, asset and crop losses caused by hurricanes Eta and Iota in November 2020, as well as significant livelihood and income losses due to COVID-19 containment measures and insecurity (IPC, January 2021).

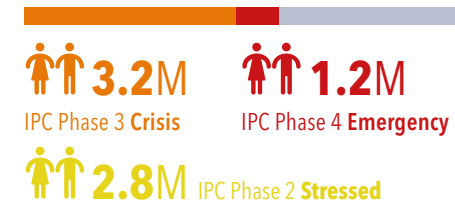
The latest 2021 analysis

Through the course of 2021, the number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) was projected to decline to around 3.5 million in May–August and subsequently to 2.5 million in September 2021–January 2022. During the latter period, nearly 58 000 people are expected to remain in Emergency (IPC Phase 4), of whom 47 percent will be in Alta Verapaz. This decline is projected based on the assumptions that there will not be a significant increase in COVID-19 cases, which would entail the implementation of stricter pandemic restrictions, and that weather prospects are expected to be beneficial for the harvest season. (IPC, June 2021).

Haiti

Highest numbers of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) as of September 2021

4.4M people IPC Phase 3 or above
in March–June 2021 (46% of the population analysed)



Total population of the country: **10.9M**

Population analysed: **87%**

Source: Haiti IPC Technical Working Group, September 2020.

In March–June 2021, around 4.4 million people in Haiti faced Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above), accounting for 46 percent of the population analysed. Within this, 3.2 million people were in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), while almost 1.2 million people faced Emergency (IPC Phase 4) (IPC, September 2020). In the departments of Nord-Ouest, Ouest and Sud-Est, three rural areas were in Emergency (IPC Phase 4), while another 10 areas had 15 percent of their population in the same phase (IPC, September 2020).

This represents a continued rise in the number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) from the March–June 2020 period, when 4.1 million people were in these phases. Rising numbers of acutely-food insecure populations are the cumulative outcome of drought, economic shocks, including the effects of COVID-19-related restrictions, insecurity and

³ According to the IPC, Risk of Famine is a statement that reflects the potential worsening of the situation compared to the most likely scenario expected in the projection period. Although it is not an IPC classification, it is a statement that indicates a worst case scenario that has a reasonable probability of occurring.

violent protests, and broader instability (IPC, October 2019 and September 2020).

The latest 2021 analysis

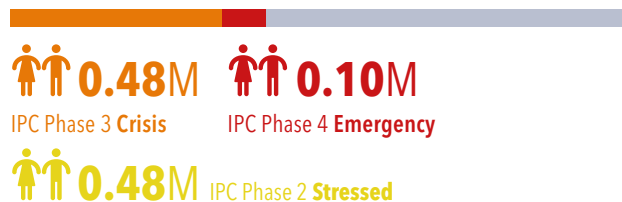
In August 2021, Tropical Storm Grace and a 7.2 magnitude earthquake hit Haiti's Grand-Sud, destroying homes and markets and displacing thousands of families. Although results for a national-level estimate were issued after the cut-off date for including analyses in this report, IPC conducted an analysis in early September in the four departments in the Grand-Sud affected by the earthquake and the tropical storm. The preliminary results concluded that nearly 980 000 people in the analysed areas were expected to face Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) between September 2021 and February 2022. This includes nearly 320 000 people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) – or 15 percent of the analysed population – as well as two departments in the same phase in the Nippes and Sud regions (IPC, September 2021).

By March–June 2022 in the four departments affected by the earthquake, nearly 991 000 people are projected to be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above), representing 45 percent of the analysed population. Although the number of people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) is expected to decline by about 10 percent to around 291 000 people, the population in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) will rise to over 700 000 – up from 660 000 from the September 2021–February 2022 period. Efforts to provide urgently needed humanitarian food assistance during this period could be slowed or obstructed by persistent gang-related insecurity and the potential for social and political unrest. This period also coincides with the lean season, further limiting household access to food (IPC, September 2021).

Lesotho

Highest numbers of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) as of September 2021

 **0.58M people** IPC Phase 3 or above
in October 2020–March 2021 (40% of the population analysed)



Total population of the country: **2.0M**

Population analysed: **73%**

Source: Lesotho IPC Technical Working Group, August 2020.

During the first three months of 2021, IPC estimated that over 582 000 people would be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above), representing 40 percent of the analysed population. This figure included over 100 000 people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4), or 7 percent of the analysed population. All 10 regions of the country were in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). This period also constituted the 2020 acute food insecurity peak (IPC, August 2020).

The high prevalence of the population in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) stemmed from factors such as the onset of the lean season for rural households, as well as the adverse effects of poor economic performance. Unemployment levels were already high prior to the pandemic, while COVID-19-related restrictions further constrained incomes and employment. Successive years of below-average harvests

also rendered rural households increasingly vulnerable to food insecurity, while diminishing food stocks and income-generating opportunities (IPC, August 2020).

The latest 2021 analysis

After three consecutive years of poor agricultural performance, the country enjoyed improved crop production in 2021 following beneficial seasonal rainfall, boosting household food access. However, poorer households in mountain livelihood zones and the Senqu River Valley were projected to face food consumption gaps before the onset of the lean season starting in October due to assumptions of limited non-agricultural labour opportunities, lower seasonal employment and COVID-19-related reductions in remittances. From October 2021–March 2022, the situation is expected to improve with around 312 000 people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), and no populations in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) (IPC, July 2021).

Madagascar

Highest numbers of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) as of September 2021

 **1.3M people** IPC Phase 3 or above
in January–April 2021 (35% of the population analysed)



Total population of the country: **25.7M**

Population analysed: **15%**

Source: Madagascar IPC Technical Working Group, December 2020.

In January–April 2021, 1.35 million people were in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in the 13 districts of the southern and south-eastern regions of Androy, Anosy, Atsimo Atsinanana, and Vatovavy Fitovinany, despite the distribution of food assistance. In the southern regions, roughly 282 000 people were projected to face Emergency (IPC Phase 4), mostly located in Androy and Anosy. Within Androy, Anosy and Atsimo Andrefana, two districts were classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4), six in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and the remainder in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) (IPC, December 2020).

Worsening acute food insecurity since 2020 can be attributed to the effects of rainfall deficits, pest infestations and limited access to quality inputs, which contributed to below-average rice and maize harvests and constrained local market food availability during the lean season (IPC, December 2020). These diminished

production outcomes follow several consecutive poor harvests, in addition to increased vulnerability to food security due to the adverse consequences of COVID-19 (FAO-GIEWS, February 2021).

The latest 2021 analysis

A subsequent IPC analysis issued in May 2021 revealed a worrying deterioration in the acute food insecurity situation in the Grand South and south-western district of Toliara. Although this analysis is not directly comparable to the January–April analysis due to differences in geographic coverage, a comparison of areas covered by both analyses revealed a rise in the number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) from around 1.1 million people in January–April 2021 to over 1.2 million in October–December. In total during the latter period, an estimated 1.31 million people – accounting for 49 percent of the analysed population – are projected to face Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above), including 28 000 people in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) in Amboasary Atsimo district (Anosy). Another 484 000 people are expected to be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) in Atsimo Andrefana, Anosy, and Androy (IPC, May 2021).

This crisis stems from significant rainfall deficits during the season, which caused almost total failure of the cassava, legume, maize and rice crops in the main and intermediate seasons in districts of Anosy and Androy. The significant shortfalls in cereal production are likely to exert upward pressure on food prices and limit seed availability for the planting season in November. These drivers occur against the backdrop of three years of consecutive severe drought, which have destroyed crops and severely constrained household access to food. In the worst-case scenario, the district of Ambovombe-Androy will face a Risk of Famine from October 2021 due to the adverse effects of the drought, a possible new wave of COVID-19 cases, and further movement restrictions that would constrain household access to casual employment opportunities (IPC, July 2021).

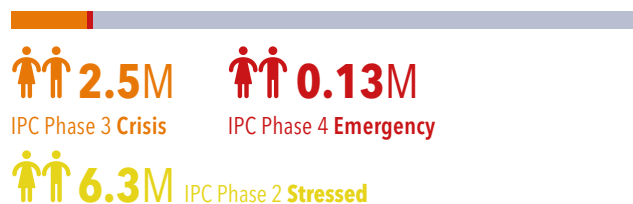
The latest acute malnutrition analysis in 2021

Between April and September 2021, over 500 000 children under the age of 5 years were expected to be acutely malnourished, of whom over 110 000 were likely severely malnourished, requiring urgent life-saving treatment. Food insecurity is a major contributing factor to the nutrition situation, followed by poor access to sanitation facilities and drinking water sources due to drought. The districts of Ambovombe and Bekily have Critical levels of acute malnutrition (IPC AMN Phase 4), requiring urgent treatment to save the lives of the affected children. Amboasary, Beloha, Betioky, Toliara and Tsihombe have Serious levels of acute malnutrition (IPC AMN Phase 3) and also require action for treatment and prevention. Between January and April 2022, the nutritional situation will deteriorate considerably in all districts (IPC, July 2021).

Malawi

Highest numbers of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) as of September 2021

 **2.6M people** IPC Phase 3 or above
in January–March 2021 (15% of the population analysed)



Total population of the country: **19.7M**

Population analysed: **90%**

Source: Malawi IPC Technical Working Group, January 2021.

In January–March 2021, over 2.6 million people were in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above), representing 15 percent of the analysed population. All four analysed cities (Blantyre, Lilongwe, Mzuzu and Zomba) as well as three rural districts (Balaka, Neno and Nsanje) were expected to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), while the remaining areas were in Stressed (IPC Phase 2). This figure represents a slight uptick from the 2020 peak in November–December, when around 2.55 million people faced Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) (IPC, January 2021).

Acute food insecurity was concentrated in parts of the southern, northern, and central districts, where a combination of flooding and erratic rains led to localised production shortfalls, against the backdrop of a slow recovery from previous poor production seasons and declining remittances

due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Poor urban and rural households in these areas were particularly vulnerable to Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) (IPC, January 2021).

The latest 2021 analysis

During October 2021–March 2022, IPC projected that around 1.5 million people will face Crisis (IPC Phase 3), representing 8 percent of the analysed population. Key assumptions for this projection include stable maize grain supplies and below-average maize prices, despite household vulnerability in areas that experienced localised crop production shortfalls and urban households that lost employment and income due to pandemic restrictions (IPC, August 2021).

Mozambique

Highest numbers of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) as of September 2021

 **2.9M people** IPC Phase 3 or above
in January–March 2021 (16% of the population analysed)



Total population of the country: **30.1M**

Population analysed: **60%**

Source: Mozambique IPC Technical Working Group, January 2021.

During the lean season (January–March 2021), 2.9 million people were expected to face Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above), up from 2.7 million in October–December 2020. More than half of the 265 000 people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) were in Cabo Delgado as conflict led to growing numbers of IDPs losing access to income-generating activities and diminished already scarce household resources. Three other provinces – Maputo, Sofala and Zambezia – were expected to face a worsening situation in terms of numbers of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above). From April–September 2021, food security was expected to improve in rural areas as households access food from their own production and food prices stabilize (IPC, January 2021).

The latest 2021 analysis

According to an IPC analysis for Cabo Delgado province issued in July 2021, about 363 000 IDPs and host household members – 47 percent of the analysed population – are projected to be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) during the October 2021–February 2022 lean season. The number consists of about 197 000 IDPs in resettlement/transit centres and with host households in five districts and 166 000 people in households hosting IDPs in seven districts. Unless food assistance is provided, 100 000 IDPs are expected to be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) (IPC, July 2021).

By 30 June 2021, over 756 000 people had been displaced by conflict and were living in southern Cabo Delgado as well as in Nampula and Niassa provinces (UNHCR, June 2021). Additionally, dry spells between October and December 2020 negatively affected sowing, seed germination and vegetative development (IPC, July 2021).

The latest acute malnutrition analysis in 2021

In the 16 areas analysed in the province of Cabo Delgado, an estimated 74 000 children under the age of 5 years required treatment for acute malnutrition, of which over 27 000 were likely severely malnourished and required urgent life-saving treatment. Between April and September 2021 in districts with limited or no humanitarian access, the situation was expected to be Critical (IPC AMN Phase 4) in one district, Serious (IPC AMN Phase 3) in three districts, and Alert (IPC AMN Phase 2) in four districts. Between October 2021 and January 2022, the situation is projected to deteriorate (IPC, July 2021).

Pakistan

Highest numbers of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) as of September 2021

 **3.8M people** IPC Phase 3 or above
in March–June 2021 (26% of the population analysed)

 **2.8M** IPC Phase 3 Crisis  **1.0M** IPC Phase 4 Emergency

 **5.3M** IPC Phase 2 Stressed

Total population of the country: **220.9M**

Population analysed: **7%**

Source: Pakistan IPC Technical Working Group, March 2021.

From March–June 2021, around 3.8 million people were in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in the provinces of Balochistan and Sindh, of which around 3.1 million people were in Sindh while roughly 756 000 were in Balochistan. Of this population, over 991 000 people, or 7 percent of the analysed population, were in Emergency (IPC Phase 4), with the highest numbers of people in this phase located in the Sindh districts of Tharparkar, Ghotki and Shaheed Benazirabad, respectively. Another 2.8 million people were in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), while all analysed areas (10 rural districts of Balochistan and 9 rural districts of Sindh) were also in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) (IPC, April 2021). This analysis is not comparable with the 2020 acute food insecurity peak identified in the GRFC 2021, which covered the area of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (IPC, May 2020).

Drivers of acute food insecurity include the lingering effects of multiple shocks in 2020, notably the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, locust outbreaks, high food prices and a combination of heavy rains, flooding, snowfall and drought. All of these factors adversely impacted food production, pastures and access to food and purchasing power (IPC, April 2021).

As of June 2021, around 1.4 million Afghan refugees were sheltering in the northwestern parts of Pakistan, along the border with Afghanistan. However, numbers may increase considerably following the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan on 15 August 2021, adding pressure on the already difficult food security conditions of local households.

The latest 2021 analysis

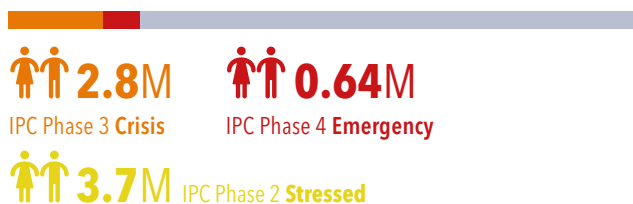
During July–September 2021, the number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) is expected to decline to around 3.3 million (23 percent of the analysed population), including over 800 000 in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). This decline corresponds to the post-harvest season, during which time IPC anticipates improvements in food stocks, livestock production and livelihood opportunities for farming households due to the planting and harvesting of crops.

Although the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on livelihoods and food security are expected to gradually diminish with increased availability of vaccines, the economic consequences of the pandemic coupled with high food prices may continue to dampen purchasing power among rural households through the projection period (IPC, April 2021).

Somalia

Highest numbers of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) as of September 2021

3.5M people IPC Phase 3 or above
in October–December 2021 (22% of the population analysed)



Total population of the country: **15.7M**

Population analysed: **100%**

Source: Somalia IPC Technical Working Group, September 2021.

Nearly 3.5 million people across Somalia, representing 22 percent of the population, are expected to face Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) from October–December 2021 – constituting the largest number for the country in the five-year history of the GRFC. These figures communicate the number of people who would need assistance if none were provided. Of them, nearly 641 000 are forecast to be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) (IPC, September 2021).

This represents a 67 percent increase in the number of people facing Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) since the same period in 2020, when around 2.1 million people across Somalia faced these conditions, representing 17 percent of the population (IPC, October 2020). It also represents a considerable worsening relative to July–September 2021, when around 2.2 million people were expected to be in Crisis

or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above). The deterioration in food security among poor rural, urban and displaced populations in the latter quarter of 2021 is mainly due to the impacts of anticipated below-average 2021 Deyr (October–December) season rainfall, continued insecurity, rising food prices and cost of living, declining availability of milk for both consumption and sale, and an anticipated reduction in agricultural employment opportunities during the Deyr season. In the event that poor rains materialise as forecast, this would constitute the third consecutive below-average rainy season for parts of Somalia (IPC, September 2021).

Of particular concern are Somalia's 2.9 million IDPs, most of whom have limited livelihood assets, few income-earning opportunities, low communal support and high reliance on external humanitarian assistance. Poor urban households are contending with a slowdown in economic activities, and the rising costs of food and other essential non-food items (IPC, September 2021).

The latest acute malnutrition analysis in 2021

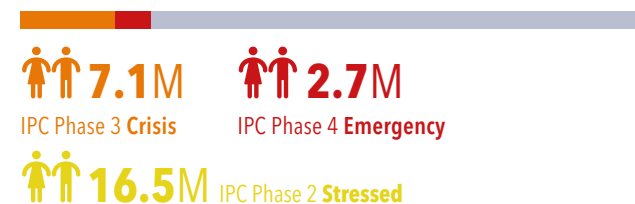
Approximately 1.2 million children under the age of 5 years will likely face acute malnutrition between August 2021 and July 2022, including 213 400 who are likely to be severely malnourished.

In June and July 2021, the overall median Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) remained Serious, while four districts were classified as Critical. The drivers of acute malnutrition include high morbidity, low immunization, low vitamin-A supplementation, reduced access to milk, and food insecurity (IPC, September 2021).

Sudan

Highest numbers of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) as of September 2021

9.8M people IPC Phase 3 or above
in June–September 2021 (21% of the population analysed)



Total population of the country: **46.8M**

Population analysed: **100%**

Source: Sudan IPC Technical Working Group, May 2021.

During the peak lean season in June–September 2021, around 9.8 million people – or 21 percent of the analysed population – were projected to be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in the Sudan, representing the highest figure recorded for the country by the IPC. Within this, roughly 2.7 million people were projected to be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and over 7 million people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). The largest populations in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) were forecast to be in the states of Khartoum (around 1.7 million people, or 18 percent of the population analysed), Aj Jazirah (over 903 000 people, or 16 percent of the population analysed) and South Darfur (over 874 000 people, or 22 percent of the population analysed). Meanwhile, the states of Khartoum, Aj Jazirah, and West Darfur accounted for the highest numbers of people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) (IPC, May 2021).

These figures surpassed the previous IPC record for the country during June–September 2020, when 9.6 million people were in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) (IPC, July 2020).

Between June–September 2020 and the same period in 2021, IPC estimated that 5 percent of the population analysed fell into a more severe IPC Phase classification, largely due to the effects of tribal conflicts, the lean season, a strained macroeconomic environment and reduced employment opportunities. The IPC projection for June–September 2021 assumed high inflation levels, rising prices for food, fuel and livestock and a continued risk of conflict and related displacements (IPC, May 2021).

In addition to the threat of intercommunal conflict, refugees from the Ethiopian region of Tigray were expected to continue arriving in Al Gedaref, Kassala and Blue Nile states, which could increase tensions over the Sudan–Ethiopia border (IPC, May 2021).

The latest 2021 analysis

Between October 2021–February 2022, the number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) is expected to decline to around 6 million, or 13 percent of the analysed population. This figure includes around 1.3 million people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4).

The projected improvement reflects expectations for declining seasonal food prices, better household access to food from own production and rising agricultural wages for labourers during the harvest season. However, the risk of conflict and displacement remains, while above-average rains could incur flooding that may adversely impact crop production (IPC, May 2021).

Uganda

Highest numbers of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) as of September 2021

 **2.0–2.5M people** IPC Phase 3 or above
in May–July 2021 (5% of the population analysed)

Total population of the country: **45.2M**

Population analysed: **100%**

Source: FEWS NET.

In Uganda, FEWS NET estimated that 2–2.5 million people were projected to be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) at the national level during May–June 2021 (FEWS NET, 2021). This estimate is not directly comparable with the 2020 acute food insecurity peak due to the use of different analysis sources. For the 2020 peak, IPC estimated that 2.6 million people, or 23 percent of the analysed population, were in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) (IPC, October 2020).⁴ Acute food insecurity in the first months of 2021 was driven by a combination of factors, notably the effects of below-average rainfall on agricultural livelihoods and household food stocks. The economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic were also a factor, particularly in Karamoja (GRFC, 2021).

During March–July, an IPC analysis conducted in Karamoja reported that around 361 000 people in the region would face Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above), with six districts out of nine classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). Karamoja has the highest acute food insecurity and malnutrition levels in the

country, and faces challenges related to widespread poverty, inadequate access to food and diverse diets and limited livelihood options, combined with recurrent climatic shocks (IPC, July 2021).

Across 14 Ugandan refugee camps in West Nile and the South West, 35.5 percent of refugees were acutely food insecure and in need of urgent assistance in January, driven by refugee food ration cuts, diminished work opportunities due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and a high disease burden, among other factors (MoH, December 2020).

The latest acute malnutrition analysis in 2021

In the nine districts of Karamoja, 56 600 children under 5 years are affected by acute malnutrition. More than 10 200 of them are severely malnourished. During the February–July 2021 lean season, one district had Critical levels of acute malnutrition (IPC AMN Phase 4), four districts Serious (IPC AMN Phase 3), and four districts Alert (IPC AMN Phase 2) (IPC, July 2021).

Over 24 800 children under 5 years in 14 refugee settlements are acutely malnourished, of whom 5 641 are experiencing severe acute malnutrition. Three settlements were expected to have Serious (IPC AMN Phase 3) levels of acute malnutrition, five Alert levels (IPC AMN Phase 2), and six Acceptable (IPC Phase 1), from May–September 2021. The major factors contributing to acute malnutrition in Karamoja and the refugee settlements are inadequate food consumption, both in terms of quality and quantity, followed by poor access to sanitation facilities and drinking water, and a high disease burden, especially malaria, diarrhea and acute respiratory infections (IPC, July 2021).

⁴ Analysis coverage was limited to Karamoja, urban areas, refugee settlements and host community districts and covered 25 percent of the total country population.

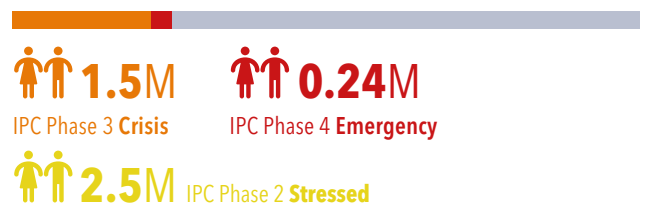
The latest 2021 analysis

IPC projected that from August 2021–January 2022, the number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) would decline to around 188 000, including around 28 000 in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). This decline in acute food insecurity reflects seasonal improvements, notably a higher expected harvest, pasture and milk availability. However, an anticipated delay in the rains and insecurity stemming from thefts and cattle raids could diminish production in the districts of Kaabong, Kotido and Moroto (IPC, July 2021). However, the latest IPC analysis was conducted before the reintroduction of the COVID-19-related restrictions, which adversely affected livelihood activities, including livestock and charcoal sales. As a result, there is concern that the current severity and prevalence of food insecurity may be higher.

Zambia

Highest numbers of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) as of September 2021

 **1.7M people** IPC Phase 3 or above
in February–March 2021 (25% of the population analysed)



Total population of the country: **18M**

Population analysed: **38%**

Source: Zambia IPC Technical Working Group, March 2021.

In February–March 2021, during the lean season, over 1.7 million people were estimated to be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above), representing 25 percent of the analysed population. Within this, nearly 239 000 people were projected to be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4).

Both the largest number and highest prevalence of people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) were in the Northern, Eastern and Western provinces (IPC, March 2021). The analysis for February–March 2021 covers different geographical areas relative to the 2020 peak and is therefore not directly comparable.

During this period, the majority of households were dependent on markets to meet their food consumption needs, with poor households reliant on casual labour for income.

COVID-19-related containment measures continued to limit in-country trade, access to agricultural markets and other revenue-generating opportunities.

The latest 2021 analysis

From October 2021–February 2022, nearly 1.6 million people, or 13 percent of the analysed population, are projected to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). Around 48 percent of the population in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) are expected to be in Lusaka and the Southern region (IPC, August 2021).

Technical notes

METHODOLOGY

This September update of the GRFC 2021 upholds the same rigorous, consensus-based methodology as previous editions of the GRFC 2021 (for more information on the GRFC methodology, as well as key terminology associated with the report, please refer to the [GRFC 2021](#)). It prioritises the reporting of analyses that correspond to the time period with the highest number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) or equivalent – otherwise known as the "peak period". It also seeks to provide readers with information on the latest analysis period available when this period does not contain the highest number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) or equivalent.

This analysis is mainly built on the forecast section of the GRFC 2021 – which provided acute food insecurity estimates for 40 countries/territories – as well as on new analyses released between May and 10 September for 18 countries. These latter analyses provided a revised peak figure for four countries (Burundi, Central African Republic, Ethiopia, and Somalia) as well as for the Sudan and Pakistan, for which no 2021 estimates were available in May.

KEY TERMINOLOGY

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 utilize (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 that is 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, 2019). Transitory food insecurity is a short-term or temporary inability to meet food consumption requirements related to sporadic crises, indicating a capacity to recover.

FOOD CRISIS

A food crisis occurs when rates of acute food insecurity and malnutrition rise sharply at local or national levels, raising the need for emergency food assistance. This definition distinguishes a food crisis from chronic food insecurity, although food crises are far more likely among populations already suffering from prolonged food insecurity and malnutrition. A food crisis is usually set off by a shock or combination of shocks that affect one or more of the pillars of food security: food availability, food access, food utilization or food stability.

MALNUTRITION

An umbrella term that covers undernutrition and overweight, obesity and diet-related noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and cancer. See <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/malnutrition>.

Undernutrition is a consequence of inadequate nutrient intake and/or absorption, and/or illness or disease. Acute malnutrition (wasting, thinness, and/or bilateral pitting oedema), stunting, underweight (a composite of stunting and wasting) and micronutrient deficiencies (e.g. deficiencies in vitamin A, iron) are all forms of undernutrition.

Malnutrition has immediate and long-reaching consequences, including stunting children's growth, increasing susceptibility to disease and infections, and contributing to 45 percent of deaths among children under 5 (WHO). The determinants of malnutrition also include inadequate access to healthcare, poor water and sanitation services, and inappropriate child feeding and care practices, as described in the UNICEF framework.

For information on the definition of wasting, stunting, and additional context on nutrition and health indicators, please refer to the [Technical Notes](#) of the GRFC 2021.

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY CLASSIFICATIONS

INTEGRATED FOOD SECURITY PHASE CLASSIFICATION (IPC)

The IPC results from a partnership of various organizations at the global, regional and country levels and is widely accepted by the international community as a global reference for the classification of food insecurity. There are around 30 countries currently implementing the IPC.

It provides the 'big picture' evidence base of food emergencies by assessing the following: how severe, how many, when, where, why, who, as well as the key characteristics. It provides the data for two time periods – the current situation and future projection. This information helps governments, humanitarian actors and other decision-makers quickly understand a crisis (or potential crisis) and take action.

The IPC makes the best use of the evidence available through a transparent, traceable and rigorous process. Evidence requirements to complete classification have been developed taking into consideration the range of circumstances in which evidence quality and quantity may be limited while ensuring adherence to minimum standards. To ensure the application of the IPC in settings where access for collecting evidence is limited or non-existent, specialized parameters have been developed. The IPC provides a structured process for making the best assessment of the situation based on what is known and shows the limitations of its classifications as part of the process.

IPC analysis teams consolidate and analyse complex evidence from different methods and sources (e.g., food prices, seasonal calendars, rainfall, rapid food-security assessments, etc.), but the IPC allows them to describe their conclusions using the same, consistent language and standards and in a simple and accessible form. This harmonized approach is particularly useful in comparing situations across countries and regions, and over time.

The IPC technical manual version 3.1 provides information to appreciate and critically utilize IPC products as well as the protocols, including tools and procedures, to conduct the classification itself. See http://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/manual/IPC_Technical_Manual_3_Final.pdf. IPC analyses are used for 24 countries in this GRFC September 2021 Update, including 16 countries that had new IPC analyses released between May and 10 September.

CADRE HARMONISÉ (CH)

The Cadre Harmonisé is the multi-dimensional analytical framework used by CILSS for the analysis and identification of areas and groups at risk of acute food insecurity in the Sahel, West Africa and Cameroon. It aims to inform national and regional food crisis prevention and management systems. It takes into account various indicators of food and nutrition security outcomes and contributing factors.

Like the IPC, it relies on existing food security and nutrition information systems that have been in place in most Sahelian countries since 1985, and more recently in other coastal countries of West Africa. There are 18 countries currently implementing the CH: Burkina Faso, Benin, Cameroon, Cabo Verde, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo. See: <http://www.cilss.int/index.php/2019/10/04/cadre-harmonise-manuel-version-2-0/>. CH analyses are used for 15 countries/territories in this GRFC September 2021 Update.

IPC/CH FIVE-PHASE CLASSIFICATION

As a result of technical developments of the CH tools and processes and harmonization efforts carried out over the last decade, the IPC and the CH acute food insecurity approaches are very close to each other and give comparable figures of acute food insecurity. The five-phase classification is the same though there are a few differences pertaining to the use of certain indicators, classification of famine and estimation of humanitarian assistance.

See IPC acute food insecurity reference table on page 28.

Classifying Famine

Famine is classified in the IPC according to an internationally accepted standard based on the following three criteria: at

least 1 in 5 households face an extreme lack of food; at least 30% of children suffer from wasting; two people for every 10 000 dying each day due to outright starvation or to the interaction of malnutrition and disease.

Given the severity and implications of this classification, all regular IPC protocols and special Famine protocols must be met before an area is classified in **Famine (IPC Phase 5)**. See IPC version 3.1.

Areas can be classified as **Famine Likely** if minimally adequate evidence available indicates that a Famine may be occurring or will occur. This classification can trigger prompt action by decision-makers to address the situation while calling for urgent efforts to collect more evidence. **Famine** and **Famine Likely** are equally severe, the only difference is the amount of reliable evidence available to support the statement.

The IPC supports famine prevention by highlighting the following:

- **IPC Phase 4 Emergency** is an extremely severe situation where urgent action is needed to save lives and livelihoods.
- Households can be in **Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5)** even if areas are not classified in **Famine (IPC Phase 5)**. This is the case when less than 20 percent of the population is experiencing famine conditions and/or when malnutrition and/or mortality levels have not (or not yet) reached famine thresholds. These households experience the same severity of conditions even if the area is not yet classified as Famine. This can occur due to the time lag between food insecurity, malnutrition and mortality, or in the case of a localized situation.
- Projection of Famines can be made even if the current situation is not yet classified as Famine, thus allowing early warning.

IPC 3.1 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 objectives		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	Save lives and livelihoods	Revert/prevent widespread death and total collapse of livelihoods
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 security first-level outcomes	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 Food Insecurity Experience Scale: (FIES 30 days recall): <-0.58	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% FIES: Between -0.58 and 0.36	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% FIES: > 0.36 (NDC to differentiate between Phases 3, 4 and 5)	Quantity: Very Inadequate – Large deficits Dietary energy intake: Large food gap; well 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% FIES: > 0.36 (NDC to differentiate between Phases 3, 4 and 5)	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% FIES: > 0.36 (NDC to differentiate between Phases 3, 4 and 5)
	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
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.						
Food security second-level outcomes	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
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 security contributing factors	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

* As of September 2021. The IPC Acute food insecurity reference table has been updated on October 1st, 2021 to reflect the inclusion of the FIES among the food security first-level outcomes. For more information on the FIES, see Boero, V., Cafiero, C., Gheri, F., Kepple, A.W., Rosero Moncayo J. & Viviani, S. 2021. Access to food in 2020. Results of twenty national surveys using the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES). FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb5623en>

- **Risk of Famine** refers to the reasonable probability of an area going into Famine in the projected period. While this may not necessarily be the most likely scenario, it is one that generally has a realistic chance of occurring. It complements the Famine and Famine Likely projections of the most likely scenario by providing insights of potential Famine, if prospects evolve in a manner worse than anticipated. It differs from Famine and Famine Likely projections because it focuses on a worst-case scenario with a reasonable and realistic chance of happening. It is a statement about the potential deterioration of the situation from what is expected. It is not a new classification, and it is not to be accompanied by population estimates. It is an additional assessment that focuses on assessing if the area could realistically go into Famine during the projected period. Not all areas need to undergo assessment for Risk of Famine (IPC, 2021).

FEWS NET

Funded and managed by USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) provides early warning and evidence-based analysis of acute food insecurity to inform humanitarian and development response. FEWS NET is monitoring 29 countries where it analyses the dynamics of food, nutrition and livelihood security so policymakers can design programmes that address the root causes of persistent or recurrent acute food insecurity, malnutrition and vulnerability.

FEWS NET classification is IPC-compatible, which means it follows key IPC protocols but is not built on multi-partner technical consensus, so it does not necessarily reflect the consensus of national food security partners. See <https://fews.net/fews-data/333>. FEWS NET analyses are used for two countries in this GRFC September 2021 Update: Nicaragua and Uganda.

WFP

The Consolidated Approach for Reporting Indicators of Food Security (CARI) is a WFP method used to analyse and report the level of food insecurity within a population. It addresses the multiple dimensions of food security. It uses up to five indicators – Food Consumption Score, food energy shortfall, poverty status, food expenditure share and livelihood coping strategies – that are consistent with internationally accepted food security concepts to assess a household's current food security status and its coping capacity.

These five indicators can be used within IPC/CH analysis, but there are many differences between the two methods. The CARI analyses primary data from a single household survey, while the IPC/CH uses a 'convergence-of-evidence' approach. While the CARI assesses the situation at a fixed point in time with no forecasting, the IPC/CH provides the current snapshot and a projection based on the most likely scenario for any time period in the future. See https://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/manual_guide_proced/wfp271451.pdf. CARI analysis is used for one country in this GRFC September 2021 Update and provided an updated estimate for this country between May and 10 September.

DRIVERS OF FOOD CRISES

The drivers of food crises are often interlinked and mutually reinforcing, making it difficult to pinpoint the specific trigger or driver of each food crisis. The GRFC 2021 takes a practical approach by reporting which are the most salient for each country/territory out of the broad categories explained below.

CONFLICT/INSECURITY

This includes interstate and intra-state conflicts, internal violence, banditry and criminality, civil unrest or political crises

often leading to population displacements and/or disruption of livelihoods and food systems.

It is a key driver of acute food insecurity because in conflict situations civilians are frequently deprived of their income sources. Food systems and markets are disrupted, pushing up food prices and sometimes leading to scarcities of water and fuel, or of food itself.

For more information on conflict/insecurity as a driver of food crises, please refer to the [Technical Notes](#) of the GRFC 2021.

WEATHER EXTREMES

These include droughts, floods, dry spells, storms, cyclones, hurricanes, typhoons and the untimely start of rainy seasons.

Weather extremes drive food insecurity by directly affecting crops and/or livestock, cutting off roads and preventing markets being stocked. Poor harvests push up food prices and diminish agricultural employment opportunities and pastoralists' terms-of-trade, lowering purchasing power and access to food, and triggering an early lean season when households are more market-reliant because of reduced food stocks.

For more information on weather extremes as a driver of food crises, please refer to the [Technical Notes](#) of the GRFC 2021.

ECONOMIC SHOCKS

Economic shocks can affect the food insecurity of households or individuals through various channels. Macroeconomic shocks, characterized by, for instance, a contraction in GDP leading to high unemployment rates and loss of income for those affected households, or a significant contraction in exports and/or a critical decrease in investments and other capital inflows, bringing a significant currency depreciation and high inflation, increasing production costs and food prices and worsening terms of trade, which tend to coincide with increases in acute food insecurity.

For more information on economic shocks as a driver of food crises, please refer to the [Technical Notes](#) of the GRFC 2021.

COVID-19-RELATED ECONOMIC IMPACTS

COVID-19 had an impact on the global economy and consequences at the national level in terms of acute food insecurity in countries affected by crises. The pandemic has triggered the deepest global recession since the second world war. The outbreak of COVID-19 and the related containment measures affected worldwide trade, and also brought a collapse in oil demand and low global oil prices, detrimental for revenues of countries depending on it (WB, June 2020).

The socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic, particularly in terms of income losses at the household level, are exacerbating and intensifying already fragile food security conditions. Across all food crisis countries, the pandemic is considered as a key factor that has worsened acute food insecurity and increased the need for humanitarian assistance (FAO, December 2020).

DISEASE OUTBREAKS, CROP PESTS AND ANIMAL DISEASES

For more information on the role of disease outbreaks, and crop pests and animal diseases, as drivers of food crises, please refer to the [Technical Notes](#) of the GRFC 2021.

EXPLANATORY NOTE ON DISCLAIMERS

Afghanistan FEWS NET's analysis of available evidence suggests the population requiring emergency food assistance in 2020 is lower than the Afghanistan IPC Technical Working Group estimate. FEWS NET and the IPC Technical Working Group took into account different considerations of key sources of food and income (such as labour income, livestock sales, harvests and remittances) and different interpretations of the impact of the COVID-19 restrictions on those sources. FEWS NET and the IPC Technical Working Group likewise differed in their interpretations of household food security outcome indicator data in the context of local livelihood patterns and corroborating information and factored in different amounts of humanitarian food assistance in the projection assumptions.

Democratic Republic of the Congo FEWS NET's analysis of available evidence suggests the population requiring emergency food assistance in 2020 is lower than the IPC estimate. FEWS NET's analysis covers mostly eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, whereas the IPC Technical Working Group covers most of the country, which accounts for some differences. When comparing similar areas, FEWS NET's estimates remain lower due in part to differences in contextualizing evidence and outcome indicators, including those related to livelihoods change.

Ethiopia FEWS NET's analysis of available evidence suggests the population requiring emergency food assistance in 2020 is lower than the IPC Technical Working Group estimate. FEWS NET and the IPC Technical Working Group took into account different considerations of food security outcomes indicators, particularly those related to livelihood coping, in the context of local livelihoods patterns and corroborating information. Although area level classifications are broadly consistent between the two analyses, the number of people

classified in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in those areas is lower in FEWS NET's analysis.

Haiti FEWS NET's analysis of available evidence suggests the population requiring emergency food assistance in 2020 is lower than the IPC Technical Working Group estimate. FEWS NET and the IPC Technical Working Group took into account different considerations of food security outcome indicator data following its convergence of evidence among the various indicators, as well as with existing nutrition data. This resulted in a lower estimate of the total number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above).

Sudan FEWS NET's analysis of available evidence suggests the population requiring emergency food assistance in 2020 is lower than the IPC estimate. FEWS NET and the IPC TWG arrived at differing estimates as logistical challenges associated with COVID-19 created difficulties for remotely held national-level analysis sessions to reconcile analyses conducted and led at the state level. Among the technical issues most difficult to resolve were those surrounding the impacts of COVID-19 restrictions on local livelihoods and the inclusion of populations who face chronically poor food consumption and limited livelihoods options.

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Founded by the European Union, FAO and WFP in 2016, the Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAFC) is an alliance of humanitarian and development actors committed to addressing the root causes of food crises and finding lasting solutions to them, through shared analysis and knowledge, strengthened coordination in evidence-based responses and collective efforts across the humanitarian, development and peace (HDP) nexus.

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Founded by FAO, IFPRI and WFP, the Food Security Information Network (FSIN) facilitates the exchange of technical expertise, knowledge and best practice among food security and nutrition practitioners. Its purpose is to promote timely, independent and consensus-based information about food crises, while also highlighting and addressing critical data gaps. As a key partner of the GNAFC, FSIN coordinates the publication of the *Global Report on Food Crises*.

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