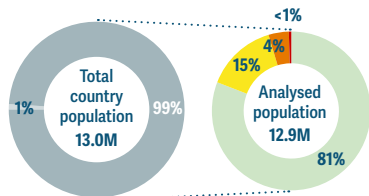
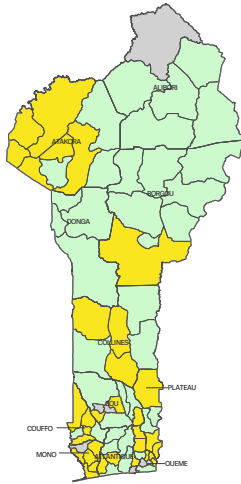


ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY | Improved harvests led to a significant reduction in acute food insecurity in 2023, with favourable projections for 2024.

PEAK 2023 (MARCH–MAY)

0.5M people or 4% of the analysed population faced high levels of acute food insecurity. Over 14 000 of them were in Emergency (CH Phase 4).

This is a significant improvement compared with 1.23 million facing high levels of acute food insecurity during the March–May 2022 peak, reflecting favourable crop production, increased food availability and subdued food inflation.

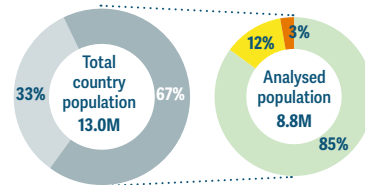
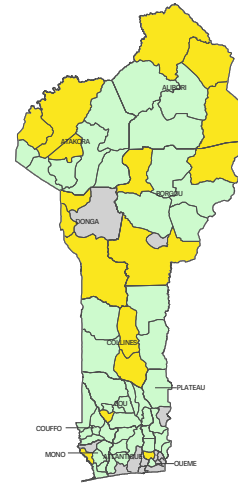


Source: CH Benin, March 2023.

PROJECTION 2024 (JUNE–AUGUST)

0.2M people or 3% of the analysed population projected to face high levels of acute food insecurity.

A further improvement is projected, mostly underpinned by above-average cereal harvests. However, high prices of cereal staples, mainly rice and maize, are expected to constrain access for vulnerable households.



Note: the projection for 2024 does not refer to the expected peak period.
Source: CH Benin, November 2023.

DRIVERS OF THE CRISIS 2023–2024

Economic shocks In 2023, Benin experienced a decline in food inflation, with negative rates registered between August and December. However, prices of maize, sorghum and rice remained notably higher than the previous year. This surge in prices was driven by high fuel and agricultural input costs, and increased transport expenses due to informal fuel imports from Nigeria and its removal of the fuel subsidy in May. Furthermore, reduced trade flows from the Niger linked to ECOWAS sanctions added pressure on prices (Benin PREGEC-CH, November 2023; FAO, December 2023).

Weather extremes Overall production in southern bimodal and northern unimodal rainfall areas was favourable, reflecting adequate cumulative rainfall amounts during the June–October rainy season. However, rainfall deficits between July and September affected parts of northern Benin, which likely resulted in localized shortfalls in production (FAO, November 2023). Furthermore, worsening security, due to the spillover of violence from the Central Sahel, also contributed to the decline in production in these areas (GRFC Food Security TWG, 2024).

Conflict/insecurity The spread of violence by non-state armed groups from the Central Sahel to northern areas of Benin, mainly the regions of Atacora and Alibori, remains a cause for serious concern for the security situation in these areas. Insecurity also poses a threat to economic activities as the northern regions are the primary producers of cotton, Benin's main cash crop (FAO, October 2023).

DISPLACEMENT

0.01M refugees and asylum-seekers by 2023

Source: UNHCR Nowcasted estimate, December 2023.

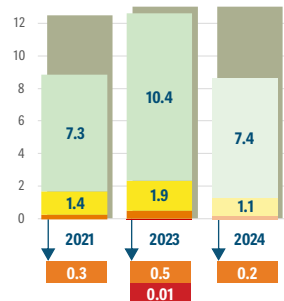
ACUTE MALNUTRITION

0.2M children under 5 years old with acute malnutrition in 2023

0.19M MAM 0.06M SAM

Source: WCARO Database, December 2023.

Peak numbers of people (in millions) by phase of acute food insecurity, 2021–2024



Source: CH Benin.

History of the food crisis A low-income country, Benin has been included in the GRFC twice, in the 2022 and 2024 editions, reflecting recent shocks to food security mostly associated with the lingering economic effects of COVID-19 and generalized food inflation. Benin was not selected as a food crisis last year for the GRFC 2023 as it did not request external assistance. However, CH data available for March–May 2022 estimated 1.2 million people faced high levels of acute food insecurity with 43 000 in CH Phase 4. A spillover of insecurity in northern areas bordering Burkina Faso and the Niger is of growing concern for the food security of local populations.