The regional perspective

In 2020, Africa remained the continent most affected by food crises, accounting for 63 percent of the global total number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) or equivalent, up from 54 percent in 2019. See map 1.2.

The number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) or equivalent in Central and Southern Africa was the highest on the continent at 40.2 million, up from 32.2 million in 2019. This increase is partly explained by the economic impact of COVID-19 and protracted conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo as well as increased analysis coverage. In East Africa, 32.9 million people were in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above), 75 percent of them in the Sudan, Ethiopia and South Sudan. In West Africa and the Sahel, 24.8 million people were in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) or equivalent – almost double the number of 2019 largely due to intensifying conflict, mass displacement and the economic impact of COVID-19.

Eurasia accounted for 29 percent of the global total number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) or equivalent. In the Middle East, 29.4 million people were in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) or equivalent in four conflict-affected countries/territories (Iraq, Palestine, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen) as well as refugee populations (mainly Syrian) in Egypt, Jordan, Iraq and Lebanon. In South Asia, (Afghanistan, Cox’s Bazar in Bangladesh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in Pakistan), 15.6 million people were in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) or equivalent.

In Central America (El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua) and Haiti, over 11.8 million people were in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above), a dramatic increase since 2019 due to increasing analysis coverage as well as deteriorating food crises linked to repeated weather extremes and the economic fallout from COVID-19 on fragile economies. See figure 1.6.