

REGIONAL REPORT ON FOOD CRISES

IN THE SAHEL AND WEST AFRICA, MID-2023

2023 GLOBAL REPORT ON FOOD CRISES
JOINT ANALYSIS FOR BETTER DECISIONS



Benin | Burkina Faso | Cabo Verde | Chad | Gambia | Ghana | Guinea | Guinea-Bissau | Liberia | Mali | Mauritania | Niger | Nigeria (26 States and FCT) | Senegal | Sierra Leone | Togo

Acute food insecurity overview, 2023

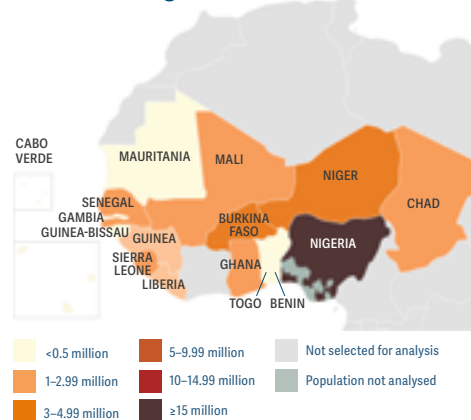
41.47M people or 11% of the analysed population in 16 countries are projected to be in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) during the June–August 2023 lean season.



104.01M people or 27% of the analysed population in 16 countries are projected to be in Stressed (CH Phase 2) in June–August 2023

Source: Cadre Harmonisé, November 2022 and March 2023.

Number of people projected in CH Phase 3 or above, June–August 2023



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on these maps do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Source: Cadre Harmonisé, November 2022 and March 2023.

An estimated 28.6 million people in 13 countries with available data faced high levels of acute food insecurity (CH Phase 3 or above) from March–May 2023. During the lean season from June–August 2023, this figure is expected to reach 41.47 million people in 16 countries with available data, the highest levels since the Cadre Harmonisé began in 2013.

Of these 41.47 million people in CH Phase 3 or above, approximately 45 200 were expected to be in Catastrophe (CH Phase 5), consisting of 42 700 people in the Boucle du Mouhoun and Sahel regions of Burkina Faso, and around 2 500 people in the Ménaka region of Mali

The increase in this aggregate number of people facing the highest levels of acute food insecurity in the Sahel and West Africa between March–May and June–August 2023 is attributable to an increase in the population analysed as well as the seasonality of acute food and nutritional insecurity in the region. The main drivers of food crises are associated with the cumulative effects of shocks, particularly:

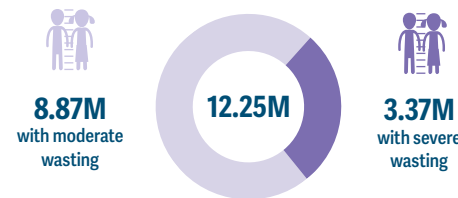
Persisting conflicts and worsening civil insecurity in the Lake Chad Basin, north-west and north-central Nigeria and the tri-border area in the Central Sahel, including an expansion of insecurity towards the northern coastal countries, which is posing a new threat;

Economic shocks related to high inflation rates, soaring food prices, residual effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and macroeconomic challenges, exacerbated by the war in Ukraine;

Increased impact of extreme weather events. In 2022, floods, which affected an estimated 7.05 million people in 14 countries, disrupted markets and livelihoods and caused localized crop losses.

Nutrition

Number of children under 5 years old with wasting in eight countries, 2023



1.18M acutely malnourished pregnant or lactating women, 2022

Source: IPC; HNO; SMART 2022 and 2023.

Nearly 90 percent of the 12.25 million children under 5 years suffering from wasting in eight countries in the region in 2023 are in just four countries: northern Nigeria, the Niger, Chad and Mali. Around 1.18 million pregnant or breastfeeding women were suffering from acute malnutrition in 2022 in the region.

The nutritional status of children and women is determined by multiple factors, with the main ones being: inadequate maternal and child-feeding practices; high levels of acute food insecurity; low coverage of health services; lack of access to acceptable water, hygiene and sanitation services, and the high prevalence of infectious diseases.

Data availability on child nutrition in the region is a major challenge. The lack of humanitarian access to certain areas due to insecurity prevents organisations from carrying out regular nutrition surveys, while the reduction in humanitarian funding has prompted countries to reduce the coverage and/or frequency of nutrition surveys.

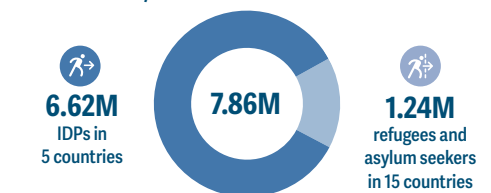
Displacement

The region faces a growing displacement crisis, with 6.62 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the five conflict-affected countries – Burkina Faso, Mali, the Niger, northern Nigeria and western Chad – where the number of insecurity and conflict events increased by 27 percent in 2022 compared to the previous year (ACLED, May 2023). Nigeria and Burkina Faso alone account for 83 percent of IDPs in the region, with the number of displaced people growing rapidly.

Displacement has severely disrupted agricultural livelihoods, pastoral transhumance, markets and trade. In the worst-affected areas, the delivery of humanitarian assistance has been majorly constrained. Displacement has exacerbated the pressure on limited natural resources, leading to excessive exploitation, jeopardizing social cohesion and fuelling community conflicts (OCHA, December 2022).

Almost half of the refugees and asylum seekers in the region were hosted in Chad, and were mainly from the Sudan. Since the resurgence of armed conflict in the Sudan from mid-April 2023, the number of refugees in Chad has increased from 592 000 in December 2022 to 680 000 in May 2023 (UNHCR, May 2023).

Number of forcibly displaced people in 15 countries, end of 2022



Source: UNHCR; IOM December 2022.