

# 2022 GLOBAL REPORT ON FOOD CRISES

JOINT ANALYSIS FOR BETTER DECISIONS

MID-YEAR UPDATE | IN BRIEF

By mid-2022, the magnitude and severity of acute food insecurity in countries/territories with available data reached alarming levels, but better analysis is needed in more places to ensure a full understanding of global needs.

In 2021, the population in the three highest phases of acute food insecurity was the largest in the six-year history of the GRFC. By September 2022, these numbers increased again to between 201.4 and 205.1 million people, making 2022 the fourth consecutive year of rising levels of acute food insecurity.

The number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) or equivalent is actually higher than this estimate, but data gaps continue to limit reporting of timely, comparable and consensual data.<sup>1</sup>

Data were missing for 2022 in eight countries/territories, including Bangladesh (Cox's Bazar), Palestine and the Syrian Arab Republic. Were the 2021 figures for these eight countries/territories included, 17.3 million people would be added to the 2022 total number provided in this Mid-Year Update.

## Famine projected in Somalia

Devastating drought, decades of conflict, economic shocks and mass population displacement, coupled with the assumption that humanitarian assistance will not be scaled up, have led to the projection of **Famine (IPC Phase 5)** – a rare and extreme event leading to intense human suffering with lasting consequences – in two districts of south-central Somalia in October–December 2022.

The projection of these conditions in Somalia is an alarm bell that we are not doing enough. Even in the absence of a Famine, significant excess deaths can be expected to occur.

FIGURE 1

Over 481 500 people are forecast to be in IPC Phase 5 in 2022



Although no disaggregated phase data are available for Ethiopia in 2022, according to FEWS NET, evidence from Tigray region suggests widespread IPC Phase 4 outcomes, with some households in IPC Phase 5. Around 401 000 people faced IPC Phase 5 in Ethiopia as per the latest IPC, available in July–September 2021.

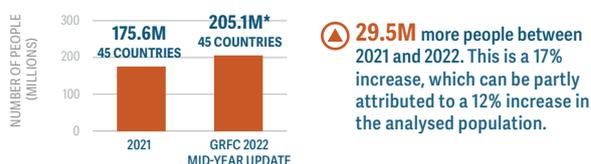
In 2021 and 2022, there were no populations in CH Phase 5 in CH countries/territories. Source: FSIN, using IPC data.

Highest numbers of people in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) or equivalent in GRFC history

up to **205.1M\*** people in 45 countries/territories, based on projections made in 2021 and new data available in 2022.

FIGURE 2

Increase in the number of people in IPC/CH Phase 3 or above or equivalent in 45 countries/territories with data in 2021 and 2022



\*Between 201.4M and 205.1M people were forecast to be in these phases as FEWS NET supplied range estimates for four countries. The upper range has been used for the infographics in this report. Of the 53 countries/territories in the GRFC 2022, eight were data gaps in 2022.

Source: FSIN, using IPC, CH, FEWS NET, WFP and HNO data.

## Converging shocks

The alarming acute food insecurity situation in mid-2022 is the product of global, regional, national and household-level shocks:

- Intensifying or protracted **conflict** in at least 18<sup>2</sup> of the 45 countries/territories with acute food insecurity data in mid-2022. All countries with populations facing Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) – Afghanistan, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen – have protracted conflicts.
- Pre-existing **economic shocks** and the lingering impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on global supply chains, food prices, incomes, inflation and purchasing power. Also, the effects of the war in Ukraine on global food, energy and fertilizer prices and supplies – which were not fully captured in many of the analyses on which this GRFC 2022 Mid-Year Update is based – continue to impact economies.
- Devastating **weather extremes** including drought and prolonged dry spells in many countries, notably in the Horn of Africa and Madagascar's Grand Sud, and extreme flooding in others, including Ethiopia, South Sudan, the Sudan and Pakistan (although current flooding was not included in the Pakistan analysis).

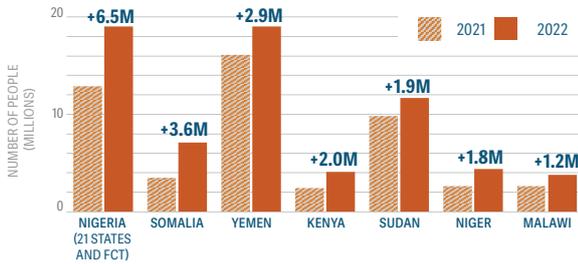
Many households experience a continuous and relentless succession of these shocks, which heighten the severity and magnitude of their acute food insecurity over time.

<sup>1</sup> Of the 77 countries identified as potential food crises in 2021, only 53 had data for inclusion in the GRFC 2022. Of those, only 45 had data by mid-2022 for inclusion in this Mid-Year Update.

<sup>2</sup> Of the 24 countries/territories where conflict was the primary driver of acute food insecurity in 2021, 18 had estimates for 2022.

FIGURE 3

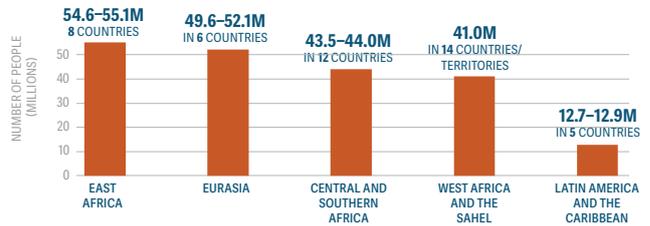
**Seven countries/territories saw an increase of over 1 million people in IPC/CH Phase 3 or above between 2021 and 2022**



This calculation looks at countries/territories where the 2021 and 2022 estimates were based on the same source and methodology and are therefore comparable. However, the country population data used by the IPC analyses for Malawi and Sudan increased (see Technical Notes). Source: FSIN, using IPC and CH; GRFC 2022 Mid-Year Update.

FIGURE 4

**Number of people in the 45 countries/territories in IPC/CH Phase 3 or above, or equivalent, by region, 2022**



See regional overviews in the full report for countries/territories included in each region. Source: FSIN, using IPC and FEWS NET (for Nicaragua) data.

Over half (52 percent) of the population in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) or equivalent in this Mid-Year Update were in five countries/territories – the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Nigeria (21 states and the FCT) and Yemen.

Between 2021 and 2022, 19 IPC/CH countries/territories have experienced double-digit percentage growth in the populations facing the three highest phases of acute food insecurity, mainly in East Africa, and West Africa and the Sahel.

In 2022, the number of people in **Emergency (IPC/CH Phase 4)** remains high, with 38.6 million people in this phase in 34 countries. This number does not include Ethiopia and Zimbabwe due to lack of disaggregated phase data.

The 236.5 million people in **Stressed (IPC/CH Phase 2)** in 39 countries/territories has exceeded 2021 levels despite covering fewer countries, when 236.2 million people in 41 countries/territories were in this phase. Approximately half of these people were in only four countries – the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria (21 States and the FCT), the Sudan and Afghanistan.

**Regional trends**

In the **Horn of Africa**, a multi-seasonal drought has devastated pastoral and agricultural livelihoods. Some 31.8 million people need urgent humanitarian assistance in 2022 in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia due to drought, conflict/insecurity, economic shocks and other weather extremes. At least 18.8 million of them are in drought-affected areas and an estimated 6.1 million children under 5 years are projected to suffer from wasting at some point in 2022, including 1.8 million with severe wasting (FSN WG, July 2022).

In 14 countries/territories in **West Africa and the Sahel**, nearly 41 million people are expected to face Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) in 2022 – a 41 percent increase since 2021, representing the highest number for the region in the GRFC’s history.

In **Central and Southern Africa**, double-digit increases in populations facing the three highest phases of acute food insecurity are expected for Madagascar, Malawi and the United Republic of Tanzania. Needs in Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Central African Republic, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe are expected to remain high.

In **Eurasia**, data available for Ukraine and Yemen projected a higher magnitude of acute food insecurity relative to 2021, while in Afghanistan and Pakistan, levels remain as high as 2021.

In **Latin America and the Caribbean**, worsening economic conditions during the lean season in Guatemala make it the largest food crisis in the region based on available 2022 data. The numbers of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in Haiti remain high due to converging drivers.

The countries included in this GRFC 2022 Mid-Year Update require greater humanitarian assistance in 2022 than 2021, as well as medium and long-term resilience building, livelihood protection and disaster risk reduction support.

Never has there been a greater need to act together to tackle the increasingly interconnected global causes of food crises.

While all partners are in broad agreement with the data and information presented, FEWS NET’s analyses suggest that the population requiring emergency food assistance in 2022 was lower than the IPC/CH estimates for Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guatemala, Haiti, Niger, Nigeria (21 states and the FCT), Sudan and Yemen, and lower than the HRP estimate for Ethiopia.

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