

# 2023 GLOBAL REPORT ON FOOD CRISES

JOINT ANALYSIS FOR BETTER DECISIONS

MID-YEAR UPDATE | IN BRIEF

## High levels of acute food insecurity persist in 2023 due to protracted food crises and new shocks – but there are improvements in some countries.

This Mid-Year Update only includes **48 of the 73 GRFC 2023 food-crisis countries/territories** with analyses covering 2023 and that were available by early August.

At **21 percent**, the share of the total analysed population in need of urgent food assistance in these countries is **largely unchanged** (from 22 percent in 2022) with deteriorations in some countries and improvements in others.

In 48 countries, **238 million people** are facing high levels of acute food insecurity – **an additional 21.6 million people** since 2022 (a 10 percent rise). This is due both to a 16 percent **increase in the analysis coverage** among already vulnerable populations in a few countries including Bangladesh, Angola, Ghana, Pakistan and Nigeria and persistent or intensifying conflict/insecurity, weather extremes and economic shocks in others.

**Nine countries are experiencing deteriorations since 2022**, some of them major, such as **the Sudan** with an additional 8.6 million people, and **Somalia** and **Burundi** each with around 1 million more.

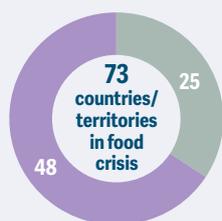
The **15 with improvements** include Sri Lanka, with 2.4 million fewer people, the Niger and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, but recent developments in the Niger may reverse this.

The overall **number of people** facing high levels of acute food insecurity in 2023 **will likely increase as new data become available** for GRFC countries/territories that do not yet have 2023 data, and **if drivers intensify**.

**Data gaps remain a concern.** No data are available for 25 countries/territories, **ten of which had data in 2022 accounting for 41 million people facing high levels of acute food insecurity.** They include some of the largest food crises, such as Myanmar, the Syrian Arab Republic and Ukraine.

Almost 70 percent of people in need of urgent food assistance are in the ten largest food crises. *See figure 4 overleaf.*

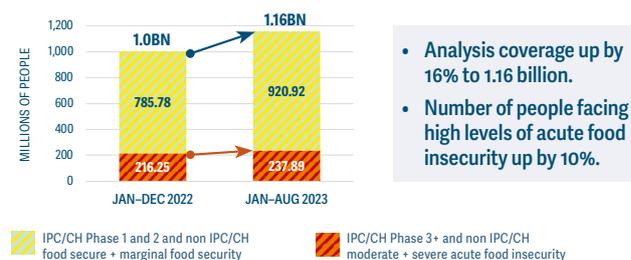
### The GRFC 2023 identified 73 food-crisis countries/territories



- GRFC 2023 countries with 2023 data by early August 2023.
- GRFC 2023 countries/territories without 2023 data to date.

FIGURE 1

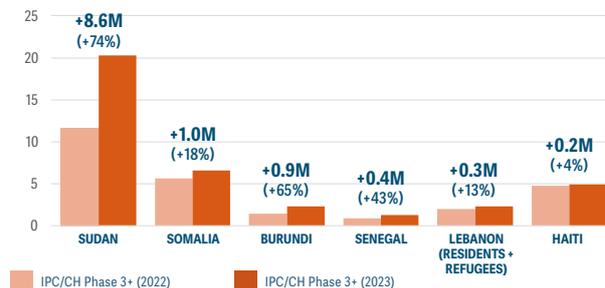
### Overall changes in 48 food-crisis countries between 2022 and 2023



Source: IPC TWGs, CH, FEWS NET, WFP CARI, 2022 and 2023.

FIGURE 2

### Six countries with the largest increases in the number of people in IPC/CH Phase 3 or above between 2022 and 2023

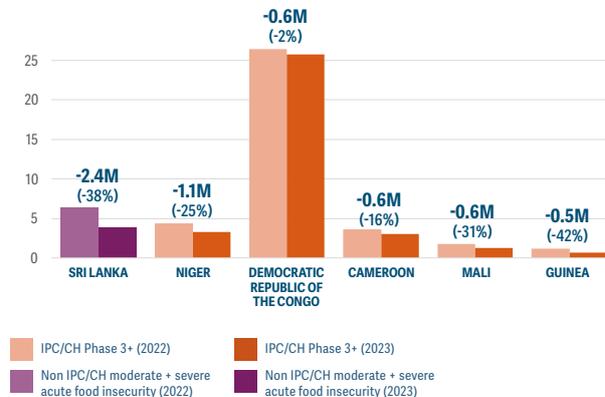


In Djibouti, Gambia and Liberia the number has increased by fewer than 0.2 million people.

Source: IPC/CH TWGs 2022 and 2023.

FIGURE 3

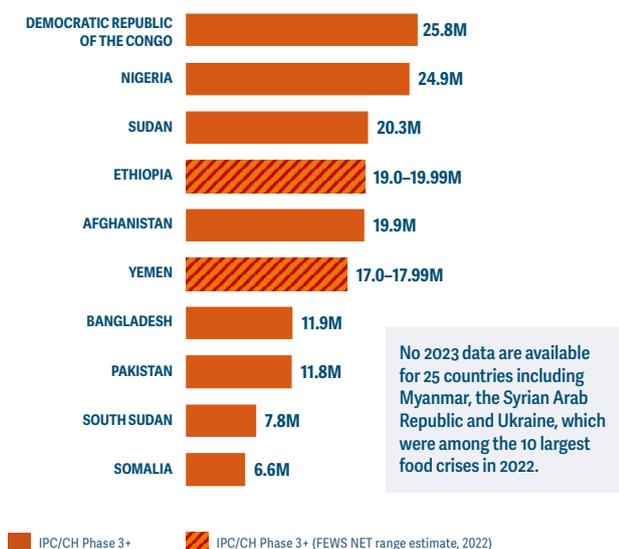
### Six countries with the largest decreases in the number of people in IPC/CH Phase 3 or above or equivalent between 2022 and 2023



Source: IPC/CH TWGs and WFP CARI, 2022 and 2023.

FIGURE 4

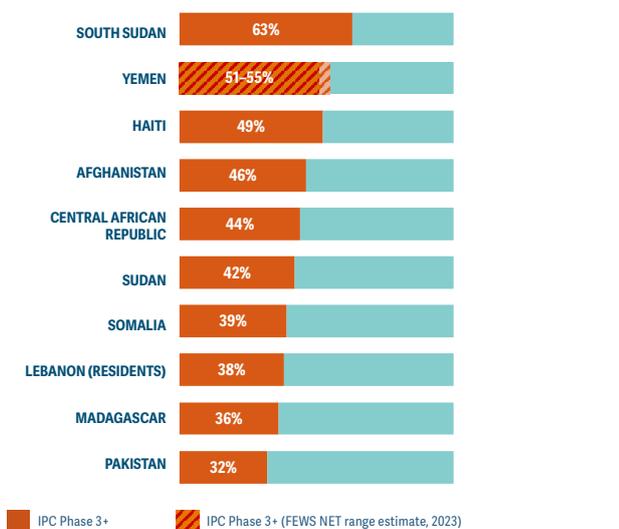
### The 10 food crises with largest populations facing high acute food insecurity by early August 2023



Source: IPC TWGs, CH, FEWS NET, HRP, HNO, REACH, 2022 and 2023.

FIGURE 5

### The 10 food crises with highest prevalence of the analysed population facing high acute food insecurity by early August 2023

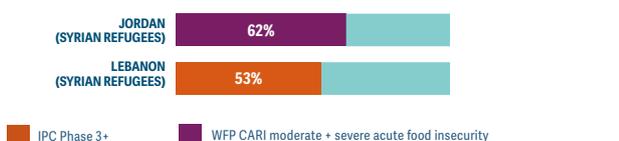


Only 16–32 percent of the country population was analysed in Pakistan, Madagascar, Bangladesh, and Kenya.

Source: IPC TWGs, 2022 and 2023; FEWS NET, 2023.

FIGURE 6

### Countries with more than 50 percent of the refugee population facing high acute food insecurity by early August 2023



Source: IPC TWG, 2022; WFP CARI, 2023.

Ten countries have at least 32 percent of their analysed populations in IPC/CH Phase 3 or above in 2023. See figure 5. More than half of Syrian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon face high levels of acute food insecurity, underscoring the vulnerability experienced by displaced populations even after years of displacement. See figure 6.

### Four countries have a total of 128 600 people in Catastrophe (IPC/CH Phase 5)

The number of people facing Catastrophe (IPC/CH Phase 5) has decreased from 376 000 in seven countries in 2022 to 128 600 in four countries in 2023: South Sudan, Burkina Faso, Somalia and Mali. In Burkina Faso, the number has increased twentyfold compared to 2022, and in Mali – for the first time in the history of the CH – people have been assessed to face CH Phase 5. In Somalia, the number of people in this phase has decreased by almost 80 percent and Risk of Famine is no longer a concern, while in South Sudan, the population in this phase has halved since 2022. See figure 7.

In Haiti, 19 200 people were projected to be in IPC Phase 5 in early 2023. However, a projection update for the period March–June 2023 capturing the peak number of people in IPC Phase 3 or above did not include any population in IPC Phase 5.

FIGURE 7

### Countries with populations in IPC/CH Phase 5 in 2023 vs 2022



\* These are based on projected analyses.

Source: IPC TWGs, 2022 and 2023; CH, 2022 and 2023.

### Around 33.6 million people are in Emergency (IPC/CH Phase 4) in 36 countries

The largest populations in IPC/CH Phase 4 are in the Sudan and Afghanistan, which both have more than 6 million people in this phase, followed by eight other countries with more than 1 million people each. See figure 8 overleaf. South Sudan and Haiti have the highest proportion of their populations in this phase, at 23 percent and 18 percent respectively.

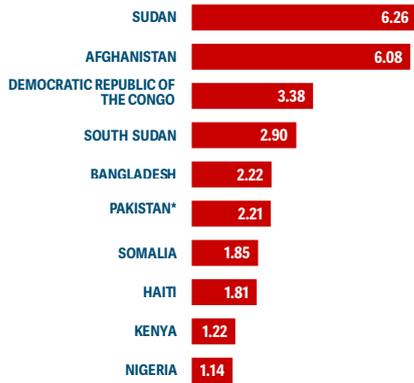
The number of people in IPC/CH Phase 4 is lower than in 2022 but this total does not include Angola, El Salvador and Yemen, which do not have disaggregated data for 2023. There are notable increases in the Sudan and Somalia and significant declines in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Niger. New data for 2023 shows that Bangladesh has 2.2 million people in IPC Phase 4.

### Nearly 285 million people in Stressed (IPC/CH Phase 2) in 39 countries with IPC/CH analyses

This number is higher than in 2022 (around 253 million people in 41 countries), although further analysis would be necessary to determine the dynamics across the different IPC/CH phases. While

FIGURE 8

**The ten countries with more than 1 million people in IPC/CH Phase 4, by early August 2023**

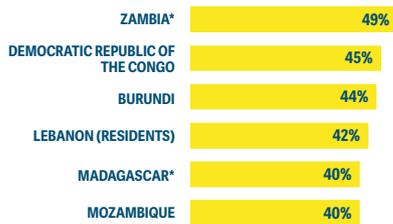


\*This IPC analysis was still pending government approval at the time of publication of this Mid-Year Update.

Source: IPC TWGs, 2022 and 2023; CH, 2023.

FIGURE 9

**Countries with more than 40 percent of the analysed population in IPC Phase 2, by early August 2023**



\* In Madagascar, 21% of the total population was analysed. In Zambia, 71% was analysed.

Source: IPC TWGs, 2022 and 2023.

not in need of urgent food assistance, these populations are highly vulnerable to shocks and require social protection, resilience and disaster risk reduction programming. Six countries have at least 40 percent of their analysed populations in this phase. See figure 9.

**Regional overviews** (see figure 10 and 11)

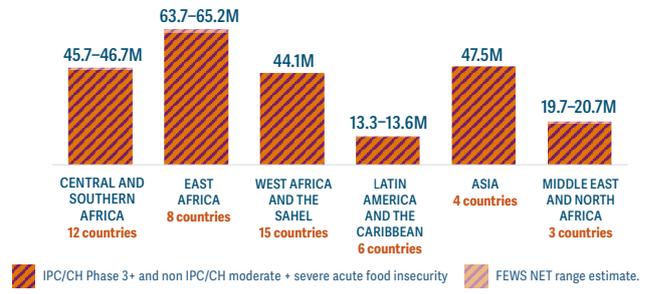
**In Central and Southern Africa, four countries experience lower numbers due to favourable harvests**

The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia saw declines in the magnitude and prevalence of acute food insecurity largely reflecting improved household food access and availability following harvests.

Conflict continues to be the main driver in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and northern Mozambique, while economic shocks are the main drivers in Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Weather extremes drive acute food insecurity in Angola, Madagascar and the United Republic of Tanzania.

FIGURE 10

**Number of people in 48 countries facing high levels of acute food insecurity, by region, by early August 2023**

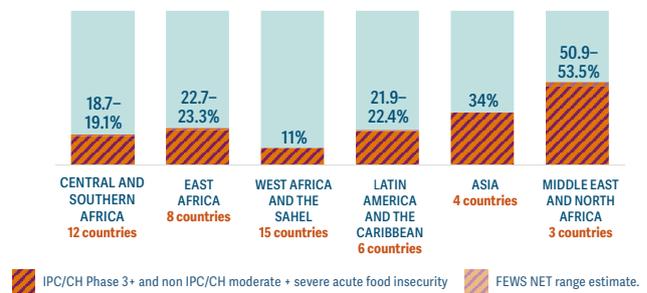


Legend: IPC/CH Phase 3+ and non IPC/CH moderate + severe acute food insecurity FEWS NET range estimate.

Source: IPC TWGs, CH, FEWS NET, WFP CARI, 2022 and 2023.

FIGURE 11

**Share of analysed population in 48 countries facing high levels of acute food insecurity, by region, by early August 2023**



Legend: IPC/CH Phase 3+ and non IPC/CH moderate + severe acute food insecurity FEWS NET range estimate.

Source: IPC TWGs, CH, FEWS NET, WFP CARI, 2022 and 2023.

**In East Africa, the number of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity is the highest in eight years of GRFC reporting**

East Africa's escalating numbers are primarily driven by the conflict in the Sudan, where nearly 3.5 million people have been displaced since April.

A reduction in the number of people in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) in Somalia and South Sudan is partly linked to provision of humanitarian assistance and, in Somalia, also to improved access to income-generating activities following a better late-2022 rainy season.

Weather extremes are the main drivers in Kenya, Somalia and Uganda. Conflict/insecurity is the main driver in the Sudan, and is an important factor in Somalia and South Sudan. In Ethiopia, conflict/insecurity is the main driver in the north, and weather extremes are the main drivers in other areas.

**Sustained conflict/insecurity, economic and weather shocks in West Africa and the Sahel**

Among countries with comparable analyses, the number of people in CH Phase 3 or above has increased in Gambia, Liberia and Senegal, while in eight countries it has decreased. The analysed population increased in Ghana and Nigeria to cover vulnerable populations.

Two countries have populations in Catastrophe (CH Phase 5) – Burkina Faso, with a very large increase since 2022, and Mali, with populations in this phase for the first time.

Conflict/insecurity is the main driver in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Mali and Nigeria. Instability following the coup in the Niger could affect livelihoods and food security. High inflation and reduced household income are economic drivers across the region.

**In Asia, the number of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity has reduced significantly in Sri Lanka**

Economic shocks are the primary driver of acute food insecurity in all four countries in Asia with 2023 data – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Conflict in parts of Afghanistan and the lingering effects of weather extremes in Bangladesh and Pakistan also contribute to acute food insecurity. No data are available for Myanmar, while analysis coverage has expanded in Bangladesh and Pakistan.

**In Latin America and the Caribbean, there is a slight decline in numbers, although in Haiti they remain persistently high**

Numbers of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity are increasing in Haiti, and decreasing in Guatemala and Honduras.

Conflict/insecurity is the main driver in Haiti. Economic shocks is the main driver in the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Hot and dry conditions affected cereal production in many countries.

**In the Middle East and North Africa, acute food insecurity remains high among refugee populations**

Only three out of 11 countries/territories selected for inclusion in the GRFC 2023 have data: Jordan (refugees), Lebanon (residents and Syrian refugees) and Yemen. In these countries, an estimated 20.7 million people or 54 percent of the analysed population face high levels of acute food insecurity. No 2023 data are available yet for eight food crises in the region, including the Syrian Arab Republic and Palestine.

Conflict/insecurity remains the primary driver in Yemen and for refugee populations in Jordan, while economic shocks are the main driver for resident and refugee populations in Lebanon.

**Interconnected shocks on top of underlying vulnerabilities drive food crises**

**Conflict/insecurity** is the main driver of acute food insecurity globally. The war in Ukraine continues to create uncertainty in global food markets, and war in the Sudan is devastating the country, driving mass displacement and disrupting regional markets. The coup d'état in the Niger is a cause for concern there and in the wider region. Protracted crises in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, the Lake Chad Basin, the Central Sahel, Somalia,

South Sudan and Yemen, for example, continue to disrupt livelihoods and food security.



**Economic shocks** Lower global food prices have not transferred to many domestic markets for a host of reasons, including a strong US dollar and continued high prices of fuel and agricultural inputs. Rising levels of public debt in many countries limit their capacity to import foods and mitigate the effect of high prices and inflation.



**Weather extremes** Recovery from the lingering effects of major drought and flooding events have continued in 2023. There is a high probability of a moderately strong El Niño event, setting the stage for increased global temperatures and more intense weather extremes, peaking in January/February 2024. Droughts and heatwaves are the principal risks to agricultural production and food security during El Niño events.

**High levels of child wasting and maternal acute malnutrition persist in food crises**

Persisting high levels of acute food insecurity, coupled with other underlying factors, such as inadequate child and maternal feeding practices, limited access to healthcare, and high prevalence of infectious diseases, continue to drive high levels of child wasting and maternal acute malnutrition across food-crisis countries. See figure 12.

Screenings of displaced populations indicate a severe deterioration in the nutrition situation in the Sudan and neighbouring countries. Data gaps are notable in Asia, the Middle East and Northern Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean regions.

FIGURE 12

**Number of children under 5 years with wasting in 21 food-crisis countries with nutrition data, 2023**



**6.3M acutely malnourished pregnant and breastfeeding women in 15 food-crisis countries, 2023**

Source: GRFC Nutrition TWG, 2023.

FSIN's work is made possible thanks to the generous support of the European Union.

