

Middle East and North Africa

Jordan (Syrian refugees) | Lebanon (Lebanese residents and Syrian refugees) | Yemen


High proportions of analysed populations facing high levels of acute food insecurity, particularly among displaced populations

 Up to **20.71M** people or **54%** of the analysed population facing high levels of acute food insecurity in 2023 in three countries

2.26M of them are in one country* with an IPC analysis



* Lebanese residents and Syrian refugees.
Source: IPC TWG (Lebanon), 2022.

 **0.45M** of them are in Jordan with a WFP CARI analysis

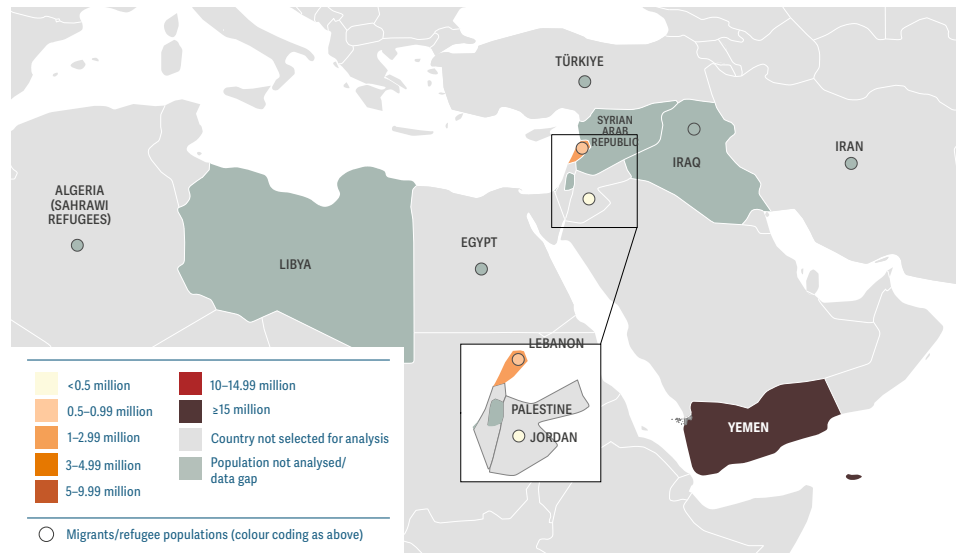
Source: FAO/WFP, 2023.

 **17.0–17.99M** of them are in Yemen with a FEWS NET analysis

Source: FEWS NET, 2023.

MAP 2.6

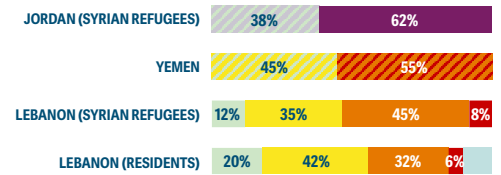
Numbers of people in IPC Phase 3 or above or equivalent, 2022



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on these maps do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
Source: IPC TWG, 2022; WFP CARI, 2023 (Jordan (Syrian refugees)); FEWS NET, 2023 (Yemen).

FIGURE 2.13

Share of analysed population by phase of acute food insecurity, 2023



IPC
 Phase 1 - None Phase 2 - Stressed Phase 3 - Crisis
 Phase 4 - Emergency Phase 5 - Catastrophe Not analysed

WFP CARI
 Food secure + marginally food secure Moderate + severe acute food insecurity

FEWS NET
 Phase 1+2- None + Stressed Phase 3+ - Crisis or worse

This chart ranks countries from highest prevalence of analysed population in IPC Phase 3 or above to lowest.

Source: IPC TWG, 2022; WFP CARI, 2023 (Jordan (Syrian refugees)); FEWS NET, 2023 (Yemen).

Three countries with data by early August 2023

Of the 11 countries/territories in the MENA region that were selected for inclusion in the GRFC 2023, only three have new data available for 2023: Jordan (refugees), Lebanon (residents and Syrian refugees) and Yemen. For Algeria (Sahrawi refugees), Egypt (refugees), Iran (refugees), Iraq (IDPs and returnees), Libya, Palestine, the Syrian Arab Republic and Türkiye (refugees), there were no new analyses or projections covering 2023.

Acute food insecurity overview

Up to 20.7 million people or 54 percent of the analysed population face high levels of acute food insecurity in three countries with available data by early August 2023.

Only two countries – Jordan (Syrian refugees) and Yemen – have new analyses since publication of the GRFC 2023. In Yemen the analysis is not comparable due to a change in data source.

In the GRFC 2023, it was projected that the number of Lebanese residents in IPC Phase 3 or above would increase from 1.3 million (33 percent of residents) in September–December 2022 to 1.5 million in January–April 2023 (38 percent of residents) as a result of the deteriorating economic situation. The number of Syrian refugees in IPC Phase 3 or above was projected to increase from 0.7 million (46 percent of refugees) to 0.8 million (53 percent of refugees) (IPC, December 2022).

The number of Syrian refugees in Lebanon facing high levels of acute food insecurity increased by 15 percent between 2022 and 2023.

Conversely, the number of Syrian refugees in Jordan facing high levels of acute food insecurity declined by 17 percent between the two years.

No new data were available for eight food crises in the region including two GRFC 2023 major food crises –

Palestine and the Syrian Arab Republic – where 1.5 million and 12.1 million people respectively faced high levels of acute food insecurity in 2022.

Two countries with new 2023 analyses (since March 2023)

Jordan

A WFP CARI analysis of Syrian refugees in Jordan found that 453 900 faced high acute food insecurity, representing 62 percent of the analysed population over the January to March period in 2023. Although food security overall improved compared to the previous year, in 2023 certain groups, such as female-headed households, unemployed people, and the disabled have become more vulnerable. Debt levels have risen as refugees borrow to cover their basic food expenses. Refugees in camps remain dependent on assistance and work opportunities remain limited, with 55 percent of refugees in host communities and 70 percent in camps unemployed (WFP, June 2023).

Yemen

A FEWS NET analysis projected 17 to 17.99 million people to be in IPC Phase 3 or above in December 2023, corresponding to 50–55 percent of the population. This is the same as FEWS NET estimated for July 2023, but higher than the five-year average (FEWS NET, July 2023). While seasonal variations in food and income in the lead-up to the main harvest between October and December 2023 are expected, limited income-generating opportunities and elevated food prices will continue to result in outcomes associated with widespread Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes. The Ma'rib City district is likely to be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) due to its large displaced population (FEWS NET, June 2023).

Drivers

Conflict/insecurity remained the primary driver of acute food insecurity in Yemen and for forcibly displaced populations in Jordan.

Conflict has been the primary driver of acute food insecurity across Yemen since 2015, but the April 2022 UN-brokered truce – despite not being renewed in October 2022 – has reduced its impact in most areas

except along the frontlines (IPC, June 2023). Where IDPs are able to return to their place of origin there has been an intensification of disputes over natural resources, such as land and water (ACAPS, June 2023).

Protracted conflict and insecurity are expected to continue to drive food insecurity and displacement in the Syrian Arab Republic and Palestine. In the latter territory an escalation of hostilities in May resulted in casualties, displacement and restrictions in the movement of people and goods.

Economic shocks In countries experiencing difficult socioeconomic circumstances due to conflicts and/or economic crises, including Lebanon and Yemen, farmers' access to inputs remains constrained by the lack of liquidity and high prices of imported inputs, factors that are curtailing productive capacities and yield potentials (FAO-GIEWS, July 2023). The region as a whole continues to be affected by high costs of food and inputs.

In Lebanon, where economic shocks are the main driver of acute food insecurity, inflation remained high at 254 percent as of June 2023. Food inflation has reached even higher rates of 280 percent as of June 2023 (WFP Economic Explorer).

Populations in Yemen have continued to face extremely challenging economic conditions, with continued challenges to purchasing power, limited access to basic services and increased selling of productive assets and household indebtedness (ACAPS, May 2023).

Refugee populations in Jordan face severe food-access constraints due to high levels of indebtedness and unemployment.

FIGURE 2.14

Annual food inflation, June 2023



No recent food inflation data is available for Yemen.
Source: WFP Economic Explorer, 2023.



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Despite the April 2022 truce, humanitarian needs are worsening across Yemen, especially for the 2.3 million IDPs – mainly women and children – due to a weakened economy, rains and flooding, drought and fuel shortages.

Weather extremes were not considered a primary driver of acute food insecurity in the region where agricultural production is often limited by harsh agroecological conditions, but they were a contributor in all countries/territories. In Yemen, heavy rains resulted in flooding in some parts of the country in May, but contributed to favourable conditions for planting and vegetation in other areas, particularly in the highlands (FAO, May 2023).

Natural disasters The February 2023 earthquakes in Türkiye and the Syrian Arab Republic are expected to affect food security in those countries through 2023.

Nutrition overview

Malnutrition data for 2023 in the region are only available for Yemen where a partial analysis covering areas under the control of the government in the southwest, centre and east of the country indicate a deterioration (IPC AMN, June 2023). In these areas, about 456 000 children under 5 years are estimated to be suffering from wasting in 2023, of whom nearly 98 000 are estimated to be severely wasted.

An estimated 260 000 pregnant and breastfeeding women are acutely malnourished in 2023 in Yemen.