Guinea

Food crisis overview

The number of people in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) almost doubled between the June–August 2021 and 2022 analyses, from 0.68 million to over 1.2 million, largely due to the international food, fuel and fertilizer price shocks linked to the war in Ukraine (CH, March 2022).

The year 2022 was the first time in the history of the GRFC that any populations in Guinea had faced Emergency (CH Phase 4) outcomes, with 20,830 people in this phase. More than a third of the analysed population were in Stressed (CH Phase 2), requiring support to build their resilience to shock (CH, March 2022).

Slight improvement projected for 2023

The situation is expected to improve slightly in the June–August 2023 period, when projections estimate almost 300,000 fewer people to be in Crisis (CH Phase 3) and a sharp decrease in the number of people in Emergency (CH Phase 4), to about 2,500. However, 3.4 million people (30 percent of the analysed population) will remain in Stressed (CH Phase 2), indicating their vulnerability to higher levels of acute food insecurity should they experience a shock (CH, November 2022).

Acute food insecurity since 2016

The population in CH Phase 3 or above has steadily increased in each of the seven editions of the GRFC, but it was first defined as a ‘major’ food crisis in 2022, when the number of people in CH Phase 3 or above exceeded 1 million. The number of people in CH Phase 3 or above has more than quadrupled since June–August 2019 (from 287,000 people to 1.2 million).

The vulnerability is due to underlying socioeconomic and political challenges, including an economy dependent largely on mining and agriculture, but with low productivity due to poor farming techniques and significant post-harvest losses. Poor road infrastructure hinders access to and development of markets. Guinea ranks 182 out of 190 countries in the 2022 Human Development Index (UNDP, September 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: Cadre Harmonisé, March 2022.

Source: Cadre Harmonisé, November 2022.
Drivers of the crisis, 2022–23

**Economic shocks**  
Food and fertilizer price increases linked to the war in Ukraine threatened the fragile post-pandemic recovery of the non-mining sector. As a result of the spike in international prices, domestic fertilizer prices increased by more than 300 percent (IMF, November 2022). Average inflation was expected to remain at 12 percent in 2022, broadly the same level as in 2021, due mostly to rising food and petrol prices. A decline in central bank net credit to the Guinean Government and the appreciation of the Guinean Franc in the first half of 2022 prevented a further increase in inflation in 2022 (IMF, November 2022).

The 2022–23 agricultural campaign was stable, with a slight increase in cereal production of 3 percent compared with 2021–22 and 2 percent compared with the previous five-year average (PREGEC), but Guinea will still require food imports. Strong mining production enabled overall growth to reach an expected 4.7 percent in 2022 (IMF, November 2022).

**Weather extremes**  
From late August 2022, heavy rains fell across Guinea, causing flooding in several prefectures of Kankan province, with over 48,000 people affected and 24,000 people needing humanitarian assistance as a result (IFRC, September 2022). Nearly 2,500 hectares of agricultural land was flooded, and 873 livestock died or were missing. Severe floods also hit the capital, Conakry, on 17 September, affecting 2,576 people (Floodlist, September 2022).

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### Drivers of undernutrition

**Inadequate maternal and child-feeding practices**  
Of children aged 6–59 months, 73.8 percent were anaemic, and 48 percent of women of reproductive age were anaemic, indicating a severe public health concern (UNICEF, 2019 and 2022). Only 4 percent of children aged 6–23 months received the Minimum Acceptable Diet, while 43.7 percent of infants under 6 months were exclusively breastfed (SMART 2022).

**Poor household environment**  
About 64 percent of households had access to basic drinking water, falling to 51 percent among the rural population, increasing the risk of disease outbreaks and vulnerability to malnutrition.

**Limited access to health and nutrition services**  
Coverage of nutrition interventions, specifically of curative, preventive and promotional interventions, remains low (UNICEF, 2022b). Most health services have a very low rate of use (16.4 percent), translating into high levels of maternal, infant and child mortality (SMART 2022).

**Food insecurity and lack of access to healthy diets**  
Increasing food insecurity in 2022 linked to high food prices and low agricultural output contributed to acute malnutrition by limiting the dietary intake (low dietary diversity and meal frequencies) of both children and women.

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### NUTRITION

**Number of children under 5 years old with wasting, 2023**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Severe wasting</th>
<th>Moderate wasting</th>
<th>Total wasting</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>251,350</td>
<td>425,700</td>
<td>677,050</td>
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The high number of children with wasting in Guinea is largely attributable to increasing acute food insecurity and the factors that underpin it, as well as poor dietary practices (UNICEF, 2022).

The number of children with wasting was projected to increase from around 413,300 in 2022 to 425,700 in 2023, with the number of children with severe wasting increasing from 251,350 to 258,890 (UNICEF, 2023). According to the SMART 2022 results, 6.7 percent of children under 5 years suffered from wasting (a ‘medium’ prevalence by WHO cut-off), which marks an improvement since SMART 2015 (8.1 percent). The prevalence was ‘high’ at 10.8 percent among children aged 6–23 months. The ‘severe’ wasting prevalence among children under 5 years was 1.3 percent. Around 7.5 percent of pregnant and lactating women were underweight (SMART 2022).

At 25.5 percent, the prevalence of stunting among children under 5 was ‘high’ by WHO thresholds (SMART 2022).