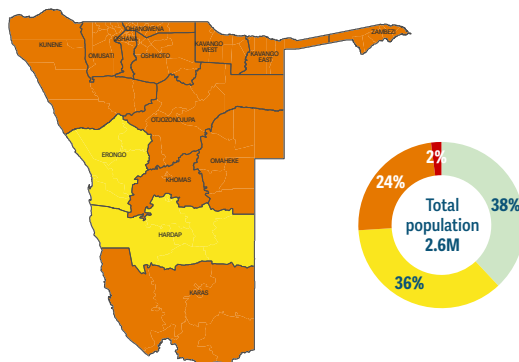


## ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY | Localized production shortfalls and high inflation worsened this food crisis.

### PEAK 2023/24 (OCTOBER 2023–MARCH 2024)

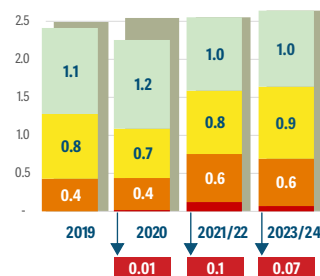
**0.7M** people or **26%** of the total population faced high levels of acute food insecurity. This included 0.07M people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4).

This represents a deterioration since the 2022/23 lean season when 15 percent of the population faced high levels of acute food insecurity and is only slightly lower than the record high of December 2021–March 2022 (30 percent of the population). The most affected regions were Kavango East and Kavango West with 10 percent of their populations facing Emergency (IPC Phase 4). From April 2024, the situation was projected to improve, mainly due to the arrival of a new harvest season, with 0.5 million people or 19 percent of the population in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above).



Source: Namibia IPC TWG, September 2023.

### Peak numbers of people (in millions) by phase of acute food insecurity, 2019–2024



Note: While the size of the bars reflects rounding to two decimal points, the labelling is rounded to one decimal point.

Source: Namibia IPC TWG.

**History of the food crisis** An upper-middle-income country, Namibia is the second most unequal country in the world in terms of per capita consumption with access to jobs and land being severely constrained and uneven (WB, March 2022). Both the severity and magnitude of acute food insecurity have risen steadily since 2019. The country was classified as a major food crisis in the GRFC 2022 due to 30 percent of its population facing high levels of acute food insecurity in December 2021–March 2022. Namibia's deteriorating food security is driven by dry spells and erratic rainfall, price shocks, economic decline and unemployment.

### DRIVERS OF THE CRISIS 2023–2024



#### Weather extremes

Below-average rainfall in northern crop-growing regions during the 2022/23 agricultural season, and localized flooding in January 2023 in the northeast, resulted in low crop production. Poor grazing, disease and pests deteriorated livestock condition and production, especially in Kavango West and East, resulting in low livestock prices in some regions (IPC, September 2023).

Households faced an early start to the 2023/24 lean season due to lower food stocks. Prolonged dry spells and erratic rainfall, exacerbated by El Niño, in the 2023/24 rainfall season will have a negative impact on crop and livestock production in 2024 (IPC, September 2023).



#### Economic shocks

Food and non-food prices increased in March 2022 with the war in Ukraine and continued to rise into 2023, driven partly by the high import costs of fuel, food and fertilizer; this further diminished the purchasing power of poor households. Food inflation reached 14.6 percent in March 2023 – the peak of the lean season when reliance on markets for food is highest. Since peaking, and in part reflecting price trends in South Africa, the country's main trading partner, the food inflation rate gradually declined and reached 7.4 percent in December 2023 (Namibian Statistics Agency, December 2023).

1 - None/Minimal   2 - Stressed   3 - Crisis   4 - Emergency   5 - Catastrophe/Famine   Total population