The IGAD region accounted for nearly 22 percent of the global number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in 2021. Food crises are forecast to escalate dramatically across the region in 2022, particularly in Kenya, Somalia and South Sudan.

An unprecedented acute food insecurity crisis is evolving in 2022

Primary drivers in 2021

In 2021, conflict/insecurity was considered the primary driver of acute food insecurity in Ethiopia and South Sudan as well as in Uganda. Extreme weather conditions primarily drove acute food insecurity in Somalia, the Sudan and Kenya. Economic shocks aggravated acute food insecurity across the IGAD region.

Impact of the war in Ukraine

While several countries in the region continue to face macroeconomic challenges, including high inflation, currency depreciation and the long-running economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the escalating war in Ukraine is exacerbating already severe acute food insecurity across IGAD countries that are net importers of wheat, vegetable oil and petroleum products. Food prices have risen steeply since the war began.