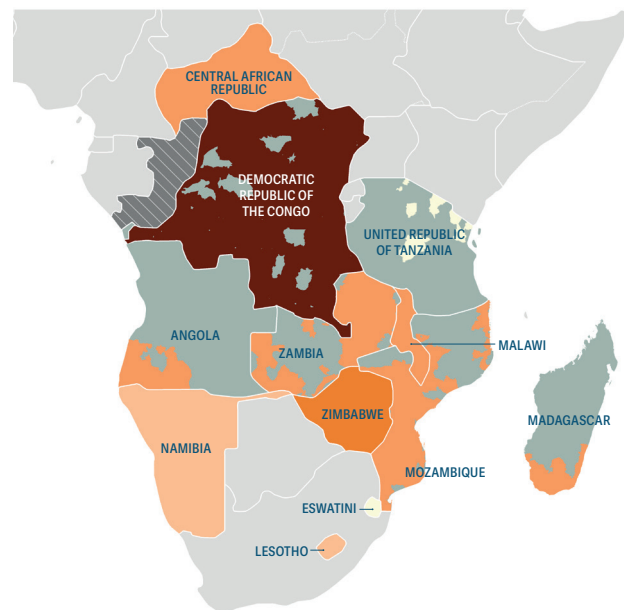


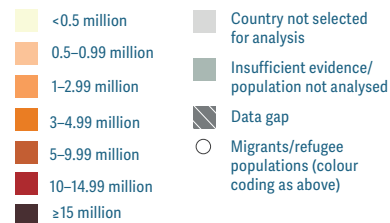
Acute food insecurity overview 2021

MAP 2.1

Acute food insecurity estimates in Central and Southern Africa, in 2021



Numbers of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) (ranges)



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Source: GRFC 2022.

Acute food insecurity trends

The number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) across 12 countries increased from 40.2 million in 2020 to 45.6 million in 2021, representing the highest number for the region in the GRFC’s six-year history.

This increase can be attributed in part to expanded geographical coverage of analyses for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Angola. It is also due to worsening weather and economic-related food crises, particularly in Angola, Lesotho, Madagascar, Namibia and Mozambique, while conflict also affected the latter country.

In 2021, several countries in the region had their highest numbers of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in the GRFC’s six-year history. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the number reached its highest level, though the prevalence decreased slightly compared to 2020 levels due to increased geographical coverage. In November–December 2021, 1.6 million people in 14 districts of southern and eastern Madagascar were in these phases, a year-on-year increase of 60 percent, due to the devastating drought. For seven comparable southern districts, this was the highest number since the first edition of the GRFC. Lesotho had its highest magnitude of acute food insecurity in the history of this report, reflecting the impacts of COVID-19 and consecutive below-average harvests. During January–March 2021, Mozambique had its highest number since the 2016 drought, due to conflict, drought and economic shocks (IPC, February 2017).

Some countries experienced an improvement since 2020 due to favourable weather conditions, which resulted in increased agricultural output. In Zimbabwe, the number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) decreased from over 4.3 million in February–June 2020 to 3.4 million in January–March 2021.

Analyses in the capitals of the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo found levels of urban acute food insecurity were still high in 2021, as COVID-19 continued to restrict informal sector work, but lower than in 2020, when the economic impacts of restrictions were at their worst.

Six-year trends, 2016–2021

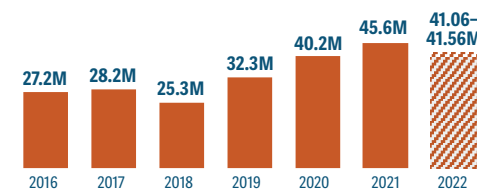
Looking at the six-year trends for the region, the number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) has almost doubled since 2018, with increases each year. The large increase of 7 million additional people between 2018 and 2019 can partly be explained by the inclusion of Angola, Namibia and the United Republic of Tanzania, which accounted for an additional 2 million people in 2019, but mainly by the worsening situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Zimbabwe and Zambia (FSIN, April 2020).

Between 2019 and 2020, the number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in the region rose by almost 8 million, partly due to increases in the population analysed in Mozambique and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, but also attributable to the latter country’s persistent conflict, large-scale displacement, and the effects of flooding and and COVID-19 containment measures.

Angola, the Central African Republic, Eswatini, Madagascar, Lesotho and Zimbabwe also experienced substantial increases in the numbers of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) between 2019 and 2020. For the Central African Republic, this increase was largely attributed to conflict, while the remaining countries faced a combination of economic shocks, notably the effect of containment measure on livelihoods, and weather shocks (FSIN, May 2021).

FIGURE 2.2

Numbers of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above), in Central and Southern Africa, 2016–2022



The 2022 forecast includes a FEWS NET projection figure for Zimbabwe, which is provided as a range estimate.

Source: GRFC 2017–2022.