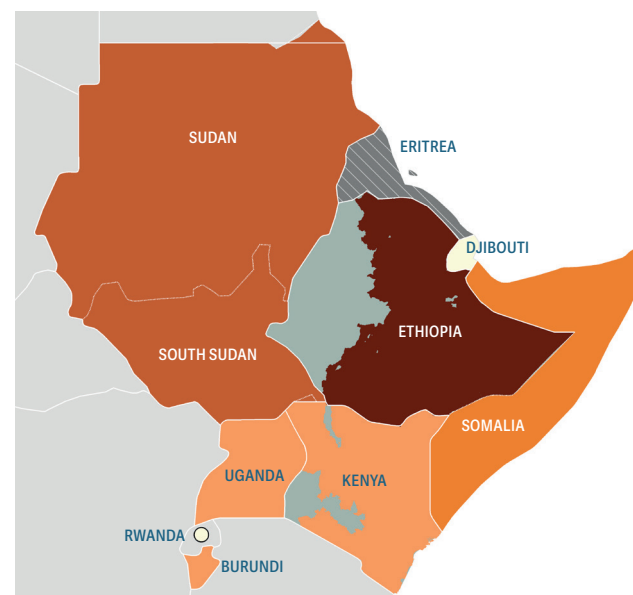
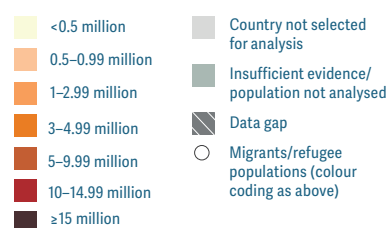


Acute food insecurity overview 2021

MAP 2.3
Acute food insecurity estimates in East Africa, in 2021



Numbers of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) or equivalent (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: FSIN, GRFC 2022.

Acute food insecurity trends

An additional 10.7 million people faced Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) or equivalent in East Africa in 2021 compared to 2020 – when the number had already reached the highest point in the GRFC’s five-year existence.

This sharp increase, which constitutes the largest increase year-on-year in the six editions of the GRFC, reflects worsening food security outcomes in almost all food-crisis countries in the region. In Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan and the Sudan, 2021 brought the highest numbers of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in the history of the GRFC, as recorded by the IPC. Burundi and Kenya also saw year-on-year increases.

The biggest deterioration in 2021 was in Ethiopia, which became the region’s largest food crisis, with an additional 8 million people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above). This was largely due to the effects of the conflict in Tigray, severe drought and an increase in the areas analysed relative to analyses conducted before October 2020.³ The number of people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) increased from around 1.4 million in late 2020 to 4.3 million by May–June 2021. The number of people in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) rose from zero in October–December 2020 to 353 000 in May–June and 401 000 in July–September 2021. No IPC data were available beyond this date, while a Risk of Famine was confirmed by the IPC FRC, with a medium to high risk of Famine in three out of four scenarios.

In Kenya’s ASALs, the number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) increased by 26 percent to 2.37 million between the last three months of 2020 and November 2021–January 2022 largely due to three poor rainy seasons. In Somalia, 22 percent of the analysed population was in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) by October–December 2021, up from 17 percent in late 2020, largely attributable to the effects of drought, poor and erratic rainfall, flooding, conflict and elevated food prices. On top of conflict, insecurity and macroeconomic crises magnified by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, South Sudan and the Sudan

³ The expanded analysis increased the population covered from 36 percent of the country’s population to 49 percent.

faced severe flooding and dry spells in 2021. In South Sudan, the number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) rose from 6.5 million in May–July 2020 to 7.2 million by April–July 2021 (IPC, December 2020). In the Sudan, acute food insecurity persisted at similar high levels in 2021 as 2020.

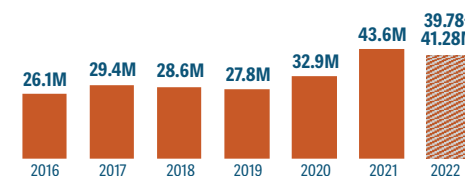
Six year trends, 2016–2021

Since the first edition of the GRFC, which covered 2016–2017, the East Africa region has experienced consistently high levels of acute food insecurity, driven by widespread conflict/insecurity and related displacement, weather-related shocks and economic crises. Before 2020, the highest numbers had been in 2017 when the Horn of Africa experienced a devastating drought. Each year, there have been populations in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) in South Sudan. In 2018, there were populations in this phase in Somalia and in 2021, over 400 000 were in this phase in Ethiopia.

Acute food insecurity also increased significantly between 2019 and 2020 due to COVID-19 containment measures aggravating macroeconomic crises, as well as the impact of protracted conflict, severe and widespread flooding, and desert locusts. Several of the 2020 IPC analyses revealed a concerning rise in the number of acutely food-insecure urban populations, a trend that was already emerging pre-COVID-19 due to large-scale rural-urban migration, unemployment and under-employment, a high reliance on informal work, poor living conditions and food inflation.

FIG 2.8

Numbers of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) or equivalent in East Africa, 2016–2022



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

Source: GRFC 2017–2022.