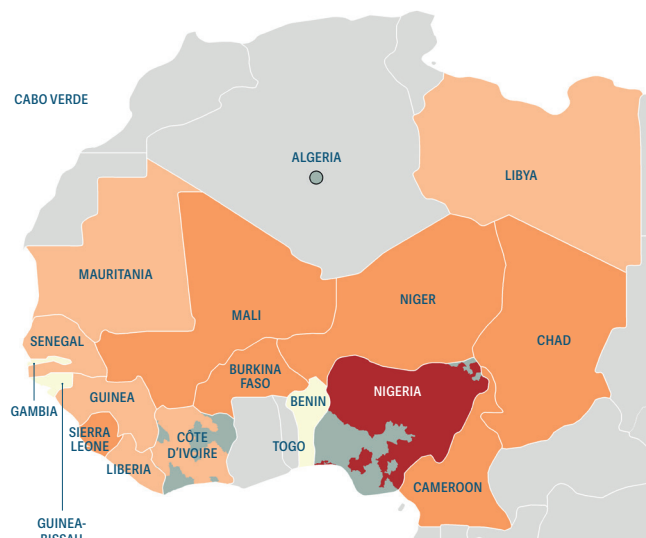
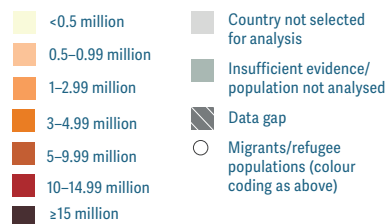


## Acute food insecurity overview 2021

### MAP 2.5 Acute food insecurity estimates in West Africa and the Sahel, in 2021



Numbers of people in Crisis or worse (CH 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

In 2021, the number of people facing Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) in West Africa and the Sahel reached the highest for the region in the GRFC's six-year existence, with an additional 5.6 million people in these phases compared with 2020.

The largest increases were reported in northern Nigeria, with an additional 3.7 million people by October–December 2021 compared with the same period in 2020. This considerable increase can mainly be attributed to persistent conflict in the northeast and growing insecurity in the northwestern and north-central states, as well as to increased analysis coverage. When considering the same 15 states and FCT covered by CH analyses, the number of people increased by 30 percent between the 2020 peak in October–December and the June–August 2021 lean season.

In the Niger, the number of people in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) increased by 566 000 people between June–August 2020 and October–December 2021. This deterioration can largely be attributed to a 40 percent decline in cereal production compared to the five-year average, which was caused by unfavourable weather conditions and worsening insecurity.

In Mali, the population facing Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) remained near the high levels of June–August 2020 at around 1.3 million people. In Cameroon, at 2.6 million in March–May 2021, the population in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) was almost as high as during the last three months of 2020 when 2.7 million people were in these phases, the largest number recorded by the CH in Cameroon.

Significant increases in the population in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) were also reported in Chad (by 760 000 people), and in coastal countries including Liberia (by 490 000 people) and Sierra Leone (by 458 000 people) largely due to price rises. In Côte d'Ivoire, the rise in the number of people in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) from around 229 550 during the 2020 peak to over 944 000 in October–December 2021 can be accounted for in part by an increase in the population analysed.

### Six-year trends, 2016–2021

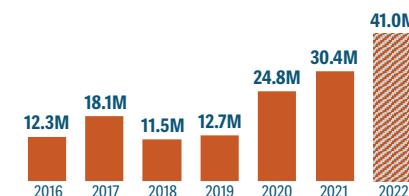
The population facing Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) in the region doubled between 2019 and 2020 – from around 12.7 million people to 24.8 million – due to intensified conflict and insecurity, the socioeconomic shocks resulting from COVID-19 restrictions, widespread floods and prolonged drought in some countries.

Looking at the evolution of acute food insecurity in the region since 2016, the number of people in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) increased 11-fold between 2016 and 2021 in the triangle border region of Mali, the Niger and Burkina Faso (Liptako-Gourma), which has experienced increasing conflict and violence, notably in Sahel and Est regions in Burkina Faso, Mopti and Gao regions in Mali, and Tillabéri and Tahoua regions in the Niger. In 2021, 4.6 million people were in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) in these regions compared to 0.4 million in 2016. The biggest deteriorations were between 2016 and 2017, and 2019 and 2020.

In the Lake Chad Basin area, where the protracted Boko Haram conflict in northeastern Nigeria has spilled over into border areas of Cameroon, Chad and the Niger, the number of people in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or worse) reached the highest point in 2017 (7 million). In 2021, it reached 5 million, but it is projected to increase to 5.4 million by June–August 2022.

FIG 2.14

### Numbers of people in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) in West Africa and the Sahel, 2016–2022



The aggregate figures for 2020 and 2021 include Libya.

Source: GRFC 2017–2022.