Cameroon

Acute food insecurity overview 2021

2.63M people were in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) in March–May 2021

2.36M people in Crisis (CH Phase 3)

0.26M people in Emergency (CH Phase 4)

10% of the population analysed was in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above)

25.9M population analysed

67% Urban

23% Rural

5.85M people were in Stressed (CH Phase 2)

The analysis covers 100% of the country’s total population of 25.9 million people.

Source: INS Cameroun, 2021.

National population

42% Rural

58% Urban


Acute food insecurity trends

Numbers remain at similar levels since 2020. In March–May 2021, the number of people in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) was almost as high as in October–December 2020 – 2.7 million people, the largest number recorded by the CH in Cameroon. The number of people in Emergency (CH Phase 4) was almost three times higher in early 2021 than in the last quarter of 2020 (CH, March 2021).

After decreasing to 1.9 million by June–August 2021, the number of people in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) increased to 2.4 million people in October–December 2021 (CH, March 2021). Acute food insecurity levels are primarily driven by conflict and insecurity in the Far-North region – stemming from Boko Haram incursions in the Lake Chad Basin – and in the Northwest and Southwest regions, where a secessionist insurgency escalated in late 2017. In addition, if considering the seven regions consistently analysed by CH since June–August 2018, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic also appear to have triggered a significant increase in acute food insecurity levels from 2020 onwards.

MAP 3.12

CH acute food insecurity situation, March–May 2021

Between March–May 2021, out of the 58 divisions or departments at the national level, 32 were classified in Stressed (CH Phase 2) and 15 were in Crisis (CH Phase 3). Most of the southern regions – which face the lean season during this period – and the Far North were classified in Stressed (CH Phase 2), while almost all divisions of Northwest and Southwest regions were in Crisis (CH Phase 3).

MAP 3.12

CH acute food insecurity situation, March–May 2021

Between March–May 2021, out of the 58 divisions or departments at the national level, 32 were classified in Stressed (CH Phase 2) and 15 were in Crisis (CH Phase 3). Most of the southern regions – which face the lean season during this period – and the Far North were classified in Stressed (CH Phase 2), while almost all divisions of Northwest and Southwest regions were in Crisis (CH Phase 3).

FIG 3.8

Numbers of people in CH Phase 2 or above, 2020–2022

While the 2020-2022 CH analyses provide data for the entire country, the CH analyses of 2018-2019 only cover four to seven regions. Datasets from all analysis rounds between 2018 and 2022 are provided (see Appendix 1, table A4, page 246).

Source: CH.