Eswatini

Acute food insecurity overview 2021

0.35M people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in January–March 2021

0.29M people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3)

0.06M people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4)

30% of the population analysed was in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above)

The analysis covers 98% of the country’s total population of 1.2 million people.

Source: IPC, February 2021.

National population, 2020

76% Rural

24% Urban


Acute food insecurity trends

Numbers remain at similar levels since 2020. The number of people facing Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) did not change significantly between the 2020 peak in October–December (366 000 people) and January–March 2021 (347 000 people).1

In urban Hhohho and Manzini, the number of people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) rose from 31 000 in October–December 2020 to 44 000 in January–March 2021, while 4 000 people were in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) in Hhohho urban (IPC, February 2021).

Eswatini’s acute food insecurity situation had already deteriorated sharply in 2020 relative to 2019 due to the impact of irregular rains, dry spells, and COVID-19-related income losses (IPC, July 2019 and August 2020).

From July–September 2021, the number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) decreased to 262 000 as households replenished their stocks following the harvest, and then was forecast to increase to 316 000 from October 2021 as households faced the start of the lean period (IPC, September 2021).

1 The 2021 analysis did not include urban populations in Lubombo and Shiselweni regions.