



## Acute food insecurity forecast, 2022

 **0.34M people**

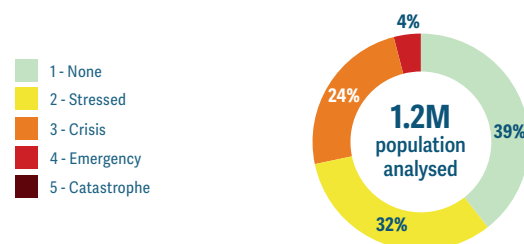
were forecast to be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in December 2021–March 2022

 **0.29M people**  
in Crisis  
(IPC Phase 3)


 **0.05M people**  
in Emergency  
(IPC Phase 4)

 The population in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) is expected to persist at similar levels between the 2021 and 2022 lean seasons.

**29%** of the population analysed was forecast to be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above)



 **0.38M people** were forecast to be in Stressed (IPC Phase 2)

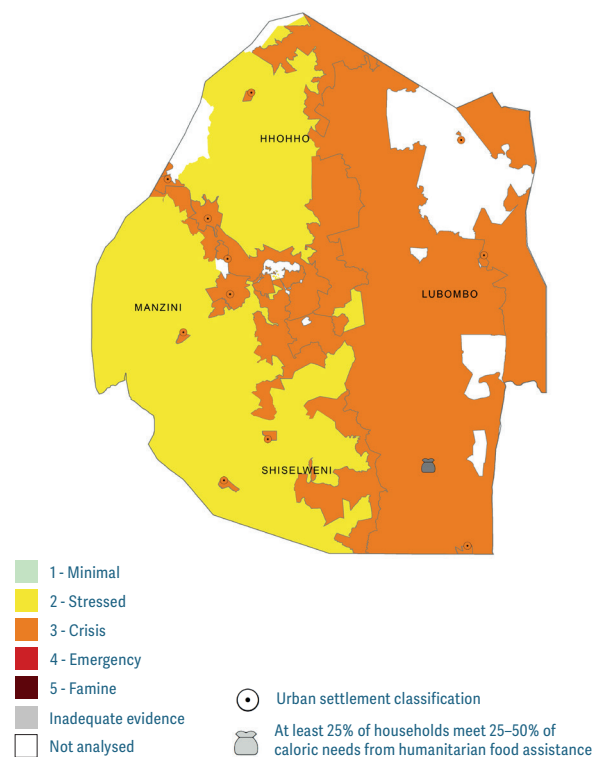
 The analysis covers **100%** of the country's total population of **1.2 million** people.

Source: IPC, January 2022.

MAP 3.24

### IPC acute food insecurity situation, December 2021–March 2022

Out of 11 areas analysed, eight, including Hhohho, Lubombo, Manzini and Shiselweni urban, are expected to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), and the remaining three – Highveld cattle and maize, Moist middleveld and Timber highlands – in Stressed (IPC Phase 2).



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

Source: Eswatini IPC Technical Working Group, January 2022.

The fourth wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, which continues to strain economic activities, limit livelihood activities and contribute to an increase in commodity prices, is curtailing food access, especially for peri-urban and urban populations.

#### Economic shocks, including COVID-19

By late 2021, levels of unemployment had reached 33.5 percent, up from 23.5 percent in 2020 largely as a result of the protracted impacts of COVID-19.

The fourth wave of COVID-19 prevented some households from being able to resume agricultural activities at the start of the rainfall season, negatively impacting food production and incomes.

Since Eswatini is a net importer, a slowdown in business operations in South Africa due to COVID-19 reduced the supply of goods. Lower supplies, in tandem with lower crop production and increased fuel prices, are pushing up market prices of basic foods (IPC, January 2022).

#### Insecurity

Country-level protests may result in the destruction of businesses and loss of capital for both small and large business entrepreneurs. The supply chain disruption of farm inputs, due to South African social unrest combined with COVID-19 regulations, significantly delayed ploughing and planting, affecting production and food prices (IPC, January 2022).

#### Weather extremes

Despite a somewhat slow start to the 2021/22 rainy season, increased precipitation from mid-November 2021 created favourable cropping conditions, with remote sensing data in early January 2022 depicting generally satisfactory vegetation conditions.