Chapter 3 | Major food crises in 2022 Ethiopia Back to Contents

Ethiopia

Acute food insecurity overview 2021



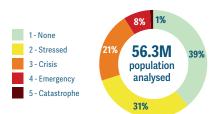
were in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in May-June 2021

in Crisis (IPC Phase 3)

12.07M people **4.33M** people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4)

0.35M people in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5)

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



The highest number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) was in May-June 2021, while the highest in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) was in July-September 2021 although the population analysed in the latter period was smaller than the former.

Source: FSIN, using IPC data.

FEWS NET's analyses suggest that the population requiring emergency food assistance was lower than the IPC estimate. See Technical Notes.



17.2M people were in Stressed (IPC Phase 2)

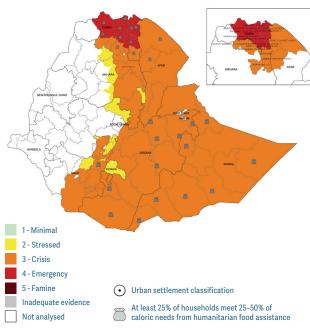
The analysis covers 49% of the country's total population of **115 million** people.

These consolidated estimates combine two IPC analyses – the October 2020 analysis of Belg and Meher-dependent areas (covering January–June 2021) and the May 2021 update of conflictaffected areas of Tigray, Afar and Amhara (covering May-June 2021). The Government of Ethiopia has not endorsed the May analysis.

Source: IPC, December 2020 and June 2021.

IPC acute food insecurity situation, May-June 2021

In Tigray, seven out of eight areas were classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). In five of these areas, 5-10 percent of the population was in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5).



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

Source: Ethiopia IPC Technical Working Group, December 2020 and June 2021.

National population, 2020



22% Urban

Source: WB 2020.

Acute food insecurity trends

Numbers have risen since 2020. At 16.8 million in May-June 2021, the population in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in Belg and Meher-dependent areas was the highest recorded by the IPC in Ethiopia. It was almost double the 2020 peak in October-December (8.6 million) due to conflict, macroeconomic challenges and increased geographical coverage.1

The number of people in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) in Tigray (353 000) was the highest estimated anywhere since the 2011 famine in Somalia (IPC, June 2021). Between October–December 2020 and May–June 2021, the share of the population analysed in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) increased from 16 percent to 30 percent. The former analysis was conducted before the conflict in Tigray (IPC, December 2020 and June 2021).

By July–September 2021 in the Meher-dependent areas, notably areas of Tigray, Amhara, Oromia and SNNPR, around 7.4 million people were estimated to be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above), an increase of 500 000 people since May-June 2021. Of them, over 401 000 people were in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) and around 2.4 million people were in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). The deterioration in the populations facing Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) was estimated despite an expected increase in humanitarian assistance (IPC, October 2020 and June 2021).

The volatile nature of this crisis rendered it difficult to establish a 'most-likely scenario' for the second half of 2021. However, the IPC Famine Review Committee projected a medium to high Risk of Famine in three out of four scenarios covering the second half of 2021 (FRC, July 2021).2

- 1 The expanded analysis increased the population covered from 36 percent of the country's
- 2 Risk of Famine is an IPC statement that highlights the potential deterioration of the situation compared to the most-likely scenario expected during the projection period. Although it is not an IPC classification, it indicates a worst-case scenario that has a reasonable probability of occurring,