Chapter 3 | Major food crises in 2022

Kenya

Acute food insecurity overview 2021

2.37M people were in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in November 2021–January 2022

2.0M people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3)
0.37M people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4)

16% of the population analysed was in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above)

5.24M people were in Stressed (IPC Phase 2)

The analysis covers the 23 counties located in Kenya’s arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) that account for 80% of the country’s land mass and 28% of Kenya’s population of 55 million people.


National population

72% Rural
28% Urban


Acute food insecurity trends

Numbers have risen since 2020. At 2.37 million, the number of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) from November 2021–January 2022 was nearly three times higher than during the last three months of 2020 in the ASALs (IPC, November 2020 and September 2021).

The worsening situation is attributed primarily to the dismal performance of the last three rainy seasons (October–December 2020 short rains, March–May 2021 long rains, and October–December 2021 short rains). However, the acute food insecurity situation was not quite as bad as August–October 2019, when the ASALs were affected by very late and erratic long rains.

The numbers reported here do not cover urban areas. From October–December 2020, over 1 million people were in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) across informal urban settlements in Nairobi, Mombasa and Kisumu, largely due to the impact of COVID-19 on informal sector incomes (GRFC 2021, May 2021).

Pastoral counties experienced consecutive seasons of failed rains, with Garissa, Isiolo, Marsabit, Tana River and Wajir the most affected. These counties along with Kwale, Lamu county, Mandera and Turkana were classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). Eleven counties were classified in Stressed (IPC Phase 2).

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