Acute food insecurity forecast, 2022

1.64M people were forecast to be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in January–April 2022

1.31M people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3)

0.33M people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4)

A slight decrease in the population in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) is expected due to provision of humanitarian assistance, while those in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) will likely increase compared to November–December 2021. The population in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) is also expected to decrease with the May harvest, until August.

37% of the population analysed was forecast to be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above)

1.91M people were forecast to be in Stressed (IPC Phase 2)

The analysis covers the Grand Sud and Grand Sud Est – 16% of the country’s total population of 27.9 million people.

Source: IPC, December 2021.

In early 2022, households were expected to face high food prices during the lean season, as well as high costs of seeds and other agricultural inputs. The damage wrought by tropical cyclone Ana also wrought considerable damage to livelihoods and crops in early 2022.

Weather extremes

Severe drought conditions persisted in December 2021, impairing agricultural activities and prospects for the 2022 harvest by delaying the preparation and planting at the beginning of the agricultural season (FEWS NET, December 2021). However, IPC projected that there was a limited risk of drought during January–April 2022 and forecast normal to above-average rainfall (IPC, December 2021). In January 2022, the arrival of tropical storm Ana brought flooding, landslides, loss of life and infrastructure damage, displacing 71 000 people across seven regions (OCHA, February 2022). An estimated 347 500 hectares were inundated, of which nearly 169 000 hectares were cropland, with the regions of Alaotra Mangoro, Analamanga, Itasy and Sofia being the most affected (FAO, March 2022).

The deterioration of roads during the rainy season could also impact the supply of markets and drive food price increases and delays in the distribution of aid (IPC, December 2021).

Economic shocks, including COVID-19

A seasonal increase in the prices of staple foods is expected during the lean period (IPC, December 2021).

While a slight increase in daily agricultural work opportunities is expected to ease food insecurity for poor and very poor households, middle and better-off households will be forced to incur expenses for the purchase of inputs and for agricultural wage labour (IPC, December 2022). Poor households in southern Madagascar continue to face difficulty accessing seeds and other necessary inputs due to high import costs. As a result, food production across the south is expected to remain in line with levels that are well below the long-term average (FEWS NET, December 2021).