Malawi

Acute food insecurity overview 2021

2.64M people were in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in January–March 2021

2.51M people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3)

0.13M people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4)

15% of the population analysed was in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above)

6.27M people were in Stressed (IPC Phase 2)

The analysis covers 90% of the country’s total population of 19.7 million people.

Source: IPC, January 2021.

National population

83% Rural

17% Urban


Acute food insecurity trends

Numbers have remained relatively stable since 2020.

The total population in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) decreased from 2.6 million during the January–March 2021 lean season to 1.1 million from July–September 2021, before increasing to 1.4 million from November–December 2021.

In January–March 2021, over 610,400 people were in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in the four cities of Blantyre, Lilongwe, Mzuzu and Zomba, up from 517,300 in November–December 2020 (IPC, January 2021).

From 2018 onwards, the country on average registered approximately 1.5 million people (about 7 percent of the total rural population) in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above), as well as 4–5 million people in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) (about 30 percent of the rural population). Food insecurity in Malawi is more pronounced in the southern region, which is prone to climatic shocks every year that often drive high numbers of people to be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above).

Numbers of people in IPC Phase 2 or above, 2017–2022

![Graph showing numbers of people in IPC Phase 2 or above from 2017 to 2022.](image)

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

Source: Malawi IPC Technical Working Group.