Acute food insecurity overview 2021

2.91M people were in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in January–March 2021

2.65M people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3)

0.26M people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4)

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

8.41M people were in Stressed (IPC Phase 2)

The analysis covered 33 areas in 11 provinces and 12 cities, comprising 60% of the country’s total population of 30.1 million.

Source: IPC, January 2021.

National population

63% Rural

37% Urban


Acute food insecurity trends

Numbers have risen since 2020. During the 2021 lean season, in January–March, around 2.9 million people – or 16 percent of the population analysed – were in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above). Compared to the 2020 peak, around 240,000 additional people faced Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above). This is the highest number recorded for the country since it was significantly impacted by the 2016 drought, linked to the El-Niño phenomenon (IPC, February 2017).

During the April–September 2021 post-harvest period, the percentage of the population estimated to be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) decreased to around 9 percent, including a 14 percent decrease in the population facing Emergency (IPC Phase 4). Despite not being comparable in terms of areas and population analysed, during the November 2021–March 2022lean season, the percentage of the population in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in urban and rural areas of Mozambique was projected to rise to 13 percent. During this period, Cabo Delgado was expected to remain the most affected by acute food insecurity, with 932,000 people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above), representing 35 percent of the local population, despite the provision of humanitarian assistance.

In Cabo Delgado, acute food insecurity continued to deteriorate throughout the year due to the effects of conflict and insecurity, with the population in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) increasing from 580,000 people in October–December 2020 to 769,000 in April–September 2021, including a 60 percent increase in the population in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). From the October 2020–March 2021 period to the April–September 2021 period, the share of the population in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) increased from 25 percent to 34 percent. By September 2021, Cabo Delgado contained the entire population in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) identified at the national level (IPC, January 2021).