Chapter 3 | Major food crises in 2022 | Namibia

Acute food insecurity overview 2021

0.75M people
were in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in December 2021–March 2022

0.63M people
in Crisis
(IPC Phase 3)

0.12M people
in Emergency
(IPC Phase 4)

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

0.84M people
were in Stressed (IPC Phase 2)

The analysis covers 100% of the country’s total population of 2.6 million people.

Source: IPC, December 2021.

National population, 2020

48% Rural
52% Urban


Acute food insecurity trends

Numbers have risen since 2020. In 2021, Namibia qualified as a major food crisis in the GRFC for the first time, as the number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) rose from 441 000 (20 percent of the population analysed) during the October 2020–March 2021 lean season to around 750 000 (30 percent of the population analysed) by the following lean season during December 2021–March 2022 (IPC, September 2020 and December 2021).

Relatively few (14 300) people were in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) from October 2020–March 2021, all in Kunene and Omaheke regions. However, by December 2021, ten out of the 14 regions had populations in Emergency (IPC Phase 4), totalling nearly 119 000 people, or 5 percent of the population. The numbers of people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) were highest in Khomas, but the highest shares of the population in this phase were in Kavango East and Ohangwena (50 percent) (IPC, December 2021).

The number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in late 2021 exceeded the period October 2019–March 2020, when 430 000 people were in Crisis due to drought (IPC, January 2020).

FIG 3.34

Numbers of people in IPC Phase 2 or above, 2019–2022

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


Source: Namibia IPC Technical Working Group.