Uganda

Acute food insecurity overview 2021

2.2M people were in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in June–September 2021

5% of the analysed population was in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above)

The FEWS NET analysis covers 100% of the country’s total population of 45.7 million people.

Source: FEWS NET.

National population

75% Rural 25% Urban


Acute food insecurity trends

Numbers are not fully comparable to the 2020 peak estimate from IPC, given differences in the geographic coverage. However, at 2.2 million, the number of people facing Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) from June–September 2021 is one of the highest estimated in Uganda by FEWS NET over the past six years.

Since 2016, food insecurity in Uganda has progressively increased. The high number of refugees residing in the country, who have fled conflict in South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, account for a significant portion of national acute food insecurity figures since 2016 (IPC, January 2017 and October 2020; FEWS NET, 2018, 2019 and 2021; UNHCR, January 2022a and January 2022b).

Weather extremes have also contributed to acute food insecurity, such as in 2017, when La Niña phenomenon led to below-average crop production and poor livestock body conditions (FSIN, April 2018).

Food insecurity rose again in 2019 as 400 000 additional people in April–July were highly food insecure compared to 2018 levels. This was due to a particularly severe February–July 2019 lean season in Karamoja, an exceptionally dry first half of the March–June rainy season (one of the worst recorded since 1982) in bimodal rainfall areas, and continued arrival of refugees from neighbouring countries (FSIN, May 2020).