Let's break down the key points from the document:

### Acute food insecurity forecast, 2022

**1.58M people**

were forecast to be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in October 2021–March 2022

**13%** of the analysed population was forecast to be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above)

- **12.2M people** in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) was relatively stable than the same period in 2021, as a substantial cereal harvest improved households’ food access.

- The number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) was relatively stable than the same period in 2021, as a substantial cereal harvest improved households’ food access.

- **5.18M people** were forecast to be in Stressed (IPC Phase 2)

**13%** of the analysed population was forecast to be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above)

**1.58M people** were forecast to be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in October 2021–March 2022

**13%** of the analysed population was forecast to be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above)

**Note:** No populations were expected to be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) during this period.

### Economic shocks, including COVID-19

A gradual recovery is expected in 2022, with GDP growth forecast to average 2.8 percent over 2021–2023. Higher copper prices, the commissioning of a new hydropower station, and expectations of another near-normal rainfall season are expected to support growth in agriculture and electricity production. However, the impact of COVID-19 will continue to dampen economic activity, especially in tourism and retail, and wholesale trade (WB, September 2021).

Labour opportunities and wage rates for poorer households in urban areas will likely be significantly lower compared to normal years due to the impact of COVID-19 restrictions. Rural households in contrast will likely have increased casual labour opportunities due to the above-normal forecast for the 2021/2022 rainfall season, but wage rates will likely be below normal (IPC, August 2021).

### Weather extremes

According to the Zambia Meteorological Department of the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the 2021/2022 rainfall season was forecast to be normal to above-normal in North-western, Western, Southern, Copperbelt, Lusaka, Eastern and Luapula provinces from November 2021 to January 2022. Although rainfall has been around near-average levels in Western and most Central provinces, an erratic temporal distribution of rainfall in the east during the last quarter of 2021 is likely to have delayed plantings and hindered crop emergence, raising early concerns for yield prospects (FAO-GIEWS, January 2022).