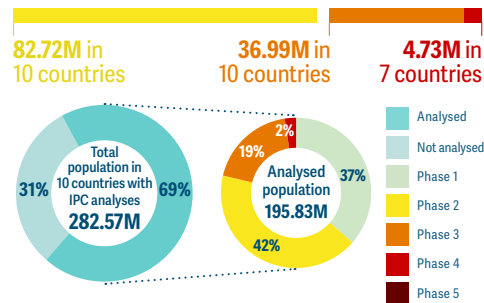# Central and Southern Africa

Angola | Central African Republic | Democratic Republic of the Congo | Eswatini | Lesotho | Madagascar | Malawi | Mozambique | Namibia | United Republic of Tanzania | Zambia | Zimbabwe

Regional improvements in food security driven by better food availability and access in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia

Up to **46.72M** people or **19%** of the analysed population in IPC Phase 3 or above in 2023 in 12 countries

41.72M of them are in **10 countries with IPC analyses**

82.72M in 10 countries

36.99M in 10 countries

4.73M in 7 countries

Total population in 10 countries with IPC analyses **282.57M**
- 69%
- 31%

Analysed population **195.83M**
- 37%
- 42%
- 19%
- 2%

Legend:
- Analysed
- Not analysed
- Phase 1
- Phase 2
- Phase 3
- Phase 4
- Phase 5

Source: IPC TWGs, 2022 and 2023.

4.0–5.0M of them are in **two** countries with FEWS NET analyses

Zimbabwe (3.0–3.5M) and **Angola (1.0–1.5M)**

Source: FEWS NET, 2023.

Twelve countries with data by early August 2023

Out of 13 countries that were selected for inclusion in the GRFC 2023, all have data for 2023 except the Republic of Congo (residents and refugees).

Acute food insecurity overview

Up to 46.7 million people or 19 percent of the analysed population were estimated to face high levels of acute food insecurity in 2023 according to data available as of early August 2023 for 12 countries.

Since the release of the GRFC 2023 in May, new data for 2023 became available for Angola, where the source changed from IPC to FEWS NET, the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
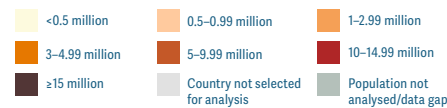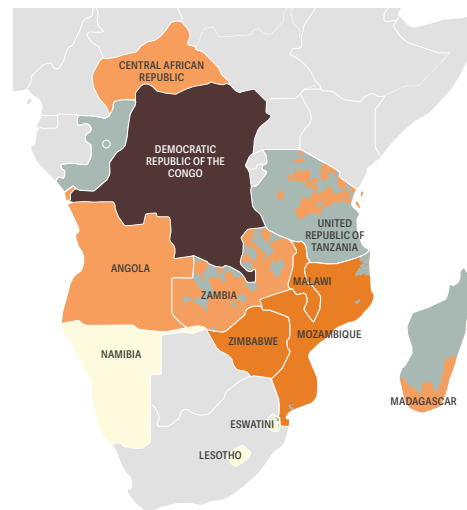
Out of the ten countries with IPC data, six – the Central African Republic, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia – had peak estimates that straddle 2022 and 2023, therefore the estimates, 14.9 million people, are the same as the 2022 peak included in the GRFC 2023. In the remaining four countries – the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Namibia, Eswatini and Lesotho – the number of people in IPC Phase 3 or above declined by 1 million from 27.9 million in 2022 to 26.8 million in 2023, reflecting decreases in all four countries.

In Zimbabwe, FEWS NET analyses for 2023 indicated that the number of people in IPC Phase 3 or above was 3.0–3.5 million people between January and March 2023, close to or just higher than the 2022 peak of 3.0 million between October and December, reflecting the persisting effects of economic and weather shocks on household food access and availability (FEWS NET, February 2023).

Ten of the 12 countries met the criteria for being considered major food crises – Angola, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eswatini, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe – with at least 1 million people or 20 percent of their population in IPC Phase 3 or above.

MAP 2.1

Number of people in IPC Phase 3 or above, 2023

Legend:
- <0.5 million
- 0.5–0.99 million
- 1–2.99 million
- 3–4.99 million
- 5–9.99 million
- 10–14.99 million
- ≥15 million
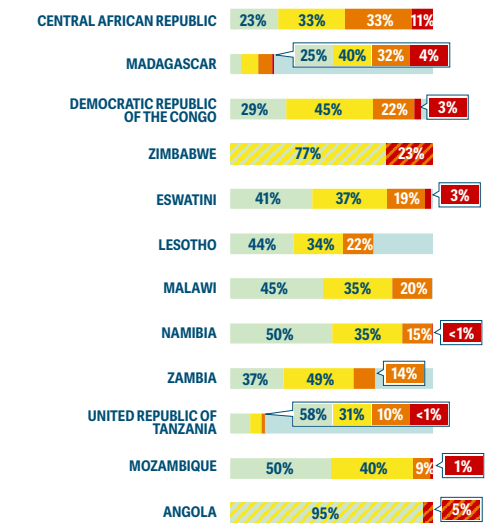- Country not selected for analysis
- Population not analysed/data gap

○ Migrants/refugee populations (colour coding as above)

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on these maps do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
Source: IPC TWGs 2022 and 2023; FEWS NET (Angola and Zimbabwe).

FIGURE 2.1

Share of analysed population by phase of acute food insecurity, 2023

Country				
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	23%	33%	33%	11%
MADAGASCAR		25%	40%	32%	4%
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO	29%	45%	22%	3%
ZIMBABWE	77%		23%	
ESWATINI	41%	37%	19%	3%
LESOTHO	44%	34%	22%	
MALAWI	45%	35%	20%	
NAMIBIA	50%	35%	15%	<1%
ZAMBIA	37%	49%	14%	
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA	58%	31%	10%	<1%
MOZAMBIQUE	50%	40%	9%	1%
ANGOLA	95%		5%	

IPC
- Phase 1 - None
- Phase 2 - Stressed
- Phase 3 - Crisis
- Phase 4 - Emergency
- Phase 5 - Catastrophe

FEWS NET
- 1+2 - None + Stressed
- 3+ - Crisis or worse

- Not analysed

This chart ranks countries from highest prevalence of analysed population in IPC Phase 3 or above to lowest.
Source: IPC TWGs 2022 and 2023; FEWS NET (Angola and Zimbabwe).

Three countries with new 2023 analyses (since March 2023)

Angola

In Angola, the most recent FEWS NET acute food insecurity analysis estimated that by June 2023, 500 000–750 000 people would be facing high levels of acute food insecurity, rising to 1–1.5 million people by December 2023. The foreseen deterioration is linked to the effects of rising food prices resulting from steep currency depreciation in May 2023, the removal of fuel subsidies in June 2023 and difficulties importing agricultural inputs due to decreasing foreign reserves, as well as the impact of consecutive seasons of drought in southern areas (FEWS NET, June 2023).

Central African Republic

The May 2023 IPC analysis shows an improved food security situation with 2.4 million people in IPC Phase 3 or above during April–August 2023, and 2.1 million from September 2023–March 2024. The projection of 2.7 million people in September 2022–March 2023 (included in the GRFC 2023) remains the peak for 2023 as per GRFC protocols (IPC, November 2022). Conflict and high commodity prices continue to drive high levels of acute food insecurity, affecting 39 percent of the population from April–August 2023 (IPC, May 2023).[1]

The Democratic Republic of the Congo

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which accounts for more than half of the region's population in IPC Phase 3 or above, a projection update of the IPC analysis for the January to June 2023 period estimates nearly 600 000 fewer people in IPC Phase 3 or above than the 2022 peak estimate of 26.4 million in July–December 2022. This reflects improved household food access and availability following the harvest of staple crops (IPC, October 2022; IPC, May 2023). However, in the eastern provinces of North Kivu and Ituri, escalating armed conflict is leading to more population displacements and a 5 percent increase in the number of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity. In the seven areas covered by the IPC update (Rutshuru, Nyiragongo, Masisi, Beni and Goma in North Kivu, and Djugu and Mambasa

[1] This IPC analysis was still pending government approval at the time of publication of this Mid-Year Update.

in Ituri), 1.3 million people have moved from IPC Phases 1 and 2 to IPC Phases 3 and 4. The area classification for Djugu and Ruthshuru has deteriorated from IPC Phase 3 to IPC Phase 4 (IPC, May 2023). The update does not factor in the effects of floods and landslides during the first half of 2023 in South Kivu, Tanganyika, Haut-Lomami and Kasai.

Drivers

Conflict/insecurity remains the key driver of acute food insecurity in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and northern Mozambique. Conflict continues to disrupt markets and agricultural production and to drive population displacements in northern and western Central African Republic, eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the Cabo Delgado region of northern Mozambique, constraining agricultural production and threatening food security (FAO-GIEWS, July 2023).

The presence of about 1 million IDPs in the seven analysed areas in North Kivu and Ituri provinces in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including the city of Goma, continues to put pressure on local livelihoods and resources. Despite a 19 percent reduction in IDPs from the November 2022 peak in northern Mozambique, the Cabo Delgado conflict continues to drive high levels of displacement with 834 300 IDPs overall as of March 2023 (IOM, March 2023).

Around 452 000 people were internally displaced in northern and western Central African Republic as of June 2023 (IOM DTM, June 2023). In addition, the eruption of conflict in the Sudan from mid-April led to an estimated 15 300 refugees arriving in the country from the Sudan as of early July, including 10 600 Sudanese refugees and 4 700 Central African returnees, the majority (95 percent) of them women and children (UNHCR, July 2023).

Economic shocks are considered the main driver of acute food insecurity in Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe, while being significant drivers in conflict-affected countries due to disruptions to markets and agricultural livelihoods. In Zimbabwe, following some declines in preceding months, food inflation reached 256 percent in June 2023, up from 117 percent and

102 percent in the previous two months, largely reflecting its weakening currency (FAO-GIEWS, July 2023).

Prices of cereals and cereal products in import-dependent Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia were higher year-on-year in the second quarter of 2023, reflecting increased production costs in South Africa, coupled with high prices on the international market (FAO-GIEWS, July 2023). Currency depreciation in these three countries has supported inflationary pressure on food prices.

In conflict-affected countries, ongoing insecurity and displacement continue to affect agricultural activities by disrupting the availability and increasing prices of agricultural inputs, such as fertilizers and improved seeds, which could result in low application rates and consequent impacts on yields and/or areas planted (FAO-GIEWS, July 2023).

Weather extremes are the main drivers of acute food insecurity in Angola, Madagascar and the United Republic of Tanzania, and major contributors in Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia. Between February and March 2023, cyclone Freddy caused widespread flooding and extensive crop damage

FIGURE 2.2

Annual food inflation, June 2023

ZIMBABWE	256%
MALAWI	37.2%
ESWATINI	15.7%
MADAGASCAR	14.8%
NAMIBIA	11.7%
ZAMBIA	11.2%
LESOTHO	9.6%
ANGOLA	8.4%
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA	7.8%
MOZAMBIQUE	6.8%

Data for Madagascar refer to April 2023; data for Angola, Eswatini and Lesotho refer to May 2023; all other data refer to June 2023. No recent data are available for Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
Source: WFP Economic Explorer, 2023.

and losses in southern districts of Malawi, as well as in Madagascar and Mozambique where it led to localized flooding and crop damage (FAO-GIEWS, July 2023).

In Mozambique, according to data as of mid-April from the National Institute for Disaster Management, around 1.19 million people were affected by Freddy's first and second landfall across eight provinces with that of Zambezia the most damaged by its second landfall (IOM DTM, April 2023).

Madagascar and Mozambique were further affected by rainfall deficits in northern areas that reduced cereal yields, while weather conditions were more favourable for crop production in the main central cereal-producing regions (FAO-GIEWS, July 2023).

Abnormal dryness in the United Republic of Tanzania during the growing season for staple crops continues to impact agricultural production (FEWS NET, April 2023). Dry conditions in localized areas of southern Angola and northern Namibia are constraining food availability and reducing income-earning opportunities from crop sales (FAO-GIEWS, July 2023; FEWS NET, June 2023).
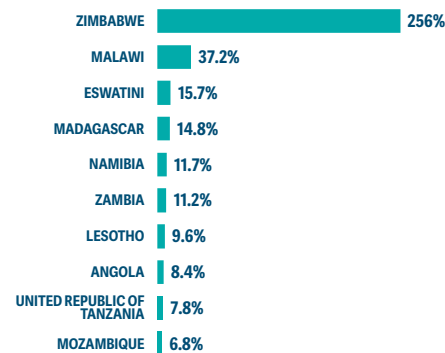
In Zambia, the 2022 cereal harvest was below average due to unfavourable weather conditions, including heavy rainfall and consequent flooding, and rainfall deficits in areas bordering Zimbabwe, Malawi and Mozambique (IPC, August 2022; FAO-GIEWS, December 2022).

Nutrition overview

Malnutrition data for 2023 are only available for three countries, all of which report high levels of child wasting and maternal acute malnutrition: the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which accounts for nearly 80 percent of the total number of children under 5 years with wasting in the region, the Central African Republic and Madagascar. In these three countries, about 3.56 million children under 5 years old are estimated to be suffering from wasting in 2023, of whom 1.06 million are severely wasted. According to data available for the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Central African Republic, an estimated 2.35 million pregnant and breastfeeding women are acutely malnourished.