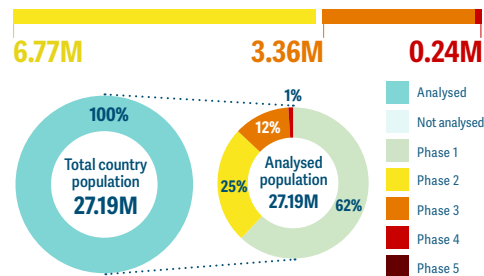


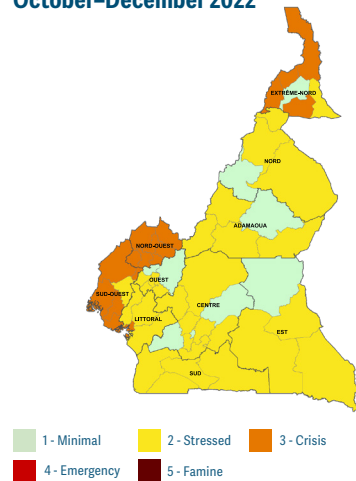
# Cameroon

## ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY PEAK 2022

**3.60M** people or **13%** of the analysed population in CH Phase 3 or above, **October–December 2022**



### CH acute food insecurity situation, October–December 2022



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on these maps do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.  
Source: Cadre Harmonisé, November 2022.

## Food crisis overview

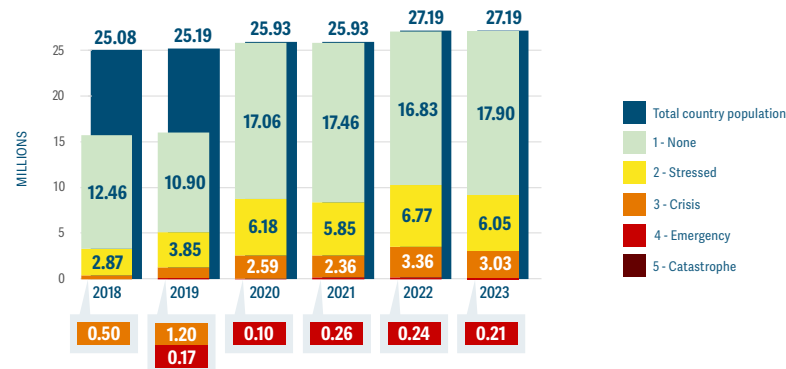
The number of people facing Crisis (CH Phase 3) increased sharply from 2.36 million during the 2021 peak in March–May to 3.36 million in October–December 2022.

The number of people in Emergency (CH Phase 4) remained almost the same (CH, November 2022) at 240 000 people.

The increase in populations in CH Phase 3 can be attributed to the further reduction in household purchasing power due to the combined impacts of conflict, insecurity and displacements in the Nord-Ouest, Sud-Ouest and Extrême-Nord regions, and high staple food prices.

In addition, elevated international fertilizer prices resulted in lower use and, coupled with extreme weather events such as floods, had a negative impact on yields. The increase might also be due to a rise in the total country population from 25.9 million people in March–May 2021 to 27.2 million in October–December 2022.

## Numbers of people by phase of acute food insecurity, 2018–2023



See Appendix 1, figure 4 for datasets from all analysis rounds between 2018 and 2023.  
Source: Cadre Harmonisé.

## Slight improvement projected for 2023

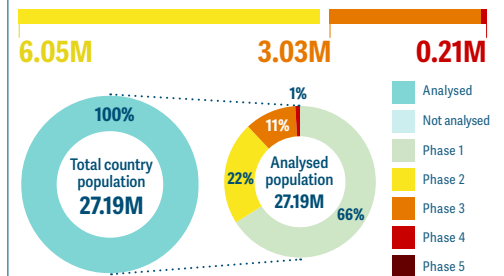
The number of people facing CH Phase 3 or above is expected to decline slightly during the projection period (June–August 2023), but the overall number will likely remain high as the combination of conflict, high staple food prices and below-average harvests will continue to limit food access, particularly in conflict-affected areas. Out of 58 zones analysed, 15 are likely to be in Crisis (CH Phase 3) (CH, November 2022).

## Acute food insecurity since 2016

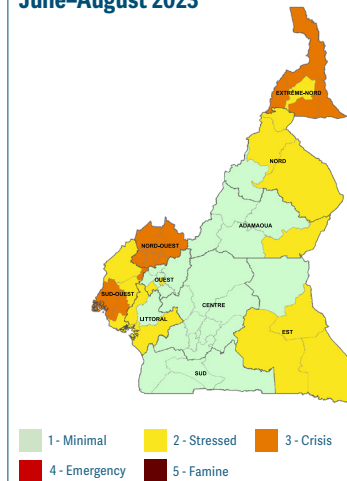
Cameroon has been included as a food crisis since the first edition of the GRFC in 2017. During the first three editions it was included within the Lake Chad Basin regional crisis as its Extrême-Nord region has suffered spill-over effects of the Boko Haram insurgency in northeast Nigeria. From 2019, it has been included as a major crisis independently from the regional crisis with a full population coverage since 2020. Between 2020 and 2021, when the analysis coverage was the same, the population facing Emergency (CH Phase 4) more than

## ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY PROJECTION 2023

**3.23M** people or **12%** of the analysed population in CH Phase 3 or above, **June–August 2023**



### Projected CH acute food insecurity situation, June–August 2023



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on these maps do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.  
Source: Cadre Harmonisé, November 2022.

doubled. Since 2020, no significant trend was observed in the number of people in Stressed (CH Phase 2).

### Drivers of the crisis, 2022–23

**Conflict/insecurity** Inter and intra-state conflicts in the anglophone regions, Lake Chad Basin and the Central African Republic continued to drive acute food insecurity in Cameroon (WFP, November 2022). The conflict between non-state armed groups and state security forces in the Nord-Ouest and Sud-Ouest regions constrained food availability and access, causing poor households to engage in negative coping strategies such as selling off assets, accumulating debt, reducing meal frequencies and portions, and relying on humanitarian food assistance (FEWS NET, August 2022). In the Extrême-Nord region, the ongoing insurgency affecting the Lake Chad Basin area, as well as intercommunal conflict, limited agricultural production, disrupted livelihoods and restricted market access (ACAPS, October 2022).

While the absolute number of violent clashes and fatalities in Cameroon declined in 2022, the number of civilian casualties rose (ACLED, January 2023), which led to continued displacements (FEWS NET, August 2022) and restricted access to humanitarian assistance (ACAPS, December 2022). Refugees from the Central African Republic, who are mainly hosted in the Est and Adamaoua regions, depend on humanitarian aid for their basic needs, and the increased demand for food generated by their presence triggers food price increases, as well as competition for natural resources and employment opportunities (ACAPS, February 2022; FEWS NET, October 2022).

**Economic shocks** Inflation doubled to 4.6 percent in 2022, linked to supply chain disruptions from the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine putting additional upward pressure on domestic prices of food and fertilizer (IMF, August 2022). The rising cost of staple foods further decreased already-low household purchasing power, especially for the urban poor and those in conflict-affected areas (FEWS NET, October 2022).

Nearly three out of every four crop producers said that they had experienced production difficulties due to lack

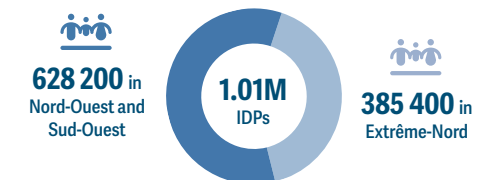
of access to fertilizers. This was attributable to the rise in the cost of production inputs due to the war in Ukraine, as Cameroon is a net importer of fertilizer, mainly from the Russian Federation (FAO, December 2022).

**Weather extremes** Heavy rains and floods in the Extrême-Nord region, particularly in the Logone-et-Chari, Mayo-Danay and Mayo-Tsanaga divisions between August and October 2022, destroyed or damaged critical infrastructure and crops across thousands of hectares, and resulted in the loss of thousands of livestock (WFP, November 2022).

The extreme weather also made it difficult for humanitarian assistance to reach affected populations in conflict-affected areas, exacerbating acute food insecurity outcomes due to the decrease in food availability (FEWS NET, November 2022).

### DISPLACEMENT

#### Numbers of IDPs, end 2022



There were an estimated 0.56 million IDP returnees during 2022. Source: IOM, December 2022; OCHA, February 2023.

**IDPs** The number of IDPs in Cameroon has increased year-on-year since 2015 and by a further 8 percent between 2021 and 2022. About 628 200 live in the Sud-Ouest and Nord-Ouest regions and other 385 400 in the Extrême-Nord region (OCHA, February 2023; IOM December 2022).

Internal displacement in the Extrême-Nord is mainly driven by non-state armed groups (responsible for 70 percent of displacements between March and August 2022) as well as intercommunal conflict and to a lesser extent floods, drought or heavy rains (3 percent) (IOM DTM, October 2022).

About 45 percent of IDPs live with host families (non-rent paying), 29 percent in spontaneous shelters, 13 percent with host families in exchange for domestic or agricultural work, and 13 percent in personal or collective housing (IOM DTM, August 2022).

The number of IDP returnees increased sharply from around 135 000 in 2021 to about 560 000 in 2022, linked to the deterioration of living conditions in displacement, and the lack of assistance, access to cultivable land or improved security in return locality. However, conditions are not conducive to return (UNHCR, January 2023; HNO 2022).

According to an October survey in the Extrême-Nord, food was the priority need for both displaced and host communities (46 percent). Most IDPs derived an income from agriculture and sale of food or cash crops, and sourced their food from agriculture or local markets, but 17 percent had to borrow money to purchase food.

Food stocks were low in all areas in October 2022, with IDP and host households having depleted more than 80 percent of their stocks. The department of Mayo-Danay had no stocks, due to flooding and elephant invasions. In Mayo-Danay, Mayo-Sava and Mayo-Tsanaga, over half of IDP children under 5 years old were wasted (IOM DTM, August 2022).

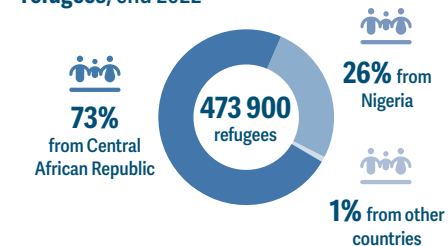
**Refugees** hosted in Cameroon fled political instability in the Central African Republic and Nigeria. Almost 9 000 refugees arrived in 2022.

Around 15 percent live in seven refugee camps along the eastern border with the Central African Republic and Chad, while 16 percent are in Minawao settlement in the Extrême-Nord region near the northeastern border of Nigeria.

Over 15 000 refugees and asylum-seekers live in urban Yaoundé without receiving food assistance (UNHCR, December 2022).

In the heavily populated Minawao camp, over half of refugees had poor food consumption and resorted to negative livelihood coping strategies to meet essential needs in the 30 days preceding the survey, including selling last female animals, begging and withdrawing children from school. Up to 70 percent of refugee households in the settlement were unable to meet

### Number and country of origin of refugees, end 2022



Cameroon also hosted 9 265 asylum-seekers. Source: UNHCR, December 2022.

their essential food needs on their own, compared with about 61 percent of refugee households in the host community. All refugee households – regardless of their location – spent about 64 percent of their monthly household expenditures on food on average, though the actual average per capita food expenditure of refugee households in the host community was double that of households in the settlement. About 72 percent of settlement households had poor or borderline food consumption compared with 48 percent in the host community (WFP & UNHCR, September 2022).

Child wasting prevalence was ‘acceptable’ as per WHO standards, among refugees from Nigeria, but ‘high’ (12.5–15 percent) in seven Central African Republic refugee camps, with severe wasting well above 2 percent (SMART-SENS 2021). Wasting among women ranged from 28 to 37 percent (MUAC <23cm). Refugees in Minawao received a food ration of 1 407 kilocalories (67 percent of the recommended minimum standards) whereas refugees from the Central African Republic in the east received 1 050 kilocalories, or 50 percent of the recommended minimum standard (UNHCR, December 2022).

Stunting prevalence ranged from 38–50 percent (‘very high’), with a large share of refugees severely stunted. The UNHCR breastfeeding target of 75 percent was only met in Minawao camp, while in other locations the rate was as low as 46 percent (SMART-SENS 2021).

## NUTRITION

## Number of children under 5 years old with wasting, 2022



Source: UNICEF CMR, 2022.

The number of children under 5 years old expected to suffer from wasting in the four northern regions of Cameroon (Extrême-Nord, Nord, Adamaoua and Est), and the Sud-Ouest and Nord-Ouest, is expected to increase from 204 500 in 2022 to 291 000 in 2023. The number of severely wasted children is projected to rise from around 64 400 to 111 800. The deterioration in 2022 partly reflects seasonality patterns as the survey in 2022 was conducted during the lean season whereas the one in 2021 was conducted during the harvest period. Another factor driving the deterioration is the significant increase of acute food insecurity in 2022.

According to the December 2022 SMART survey, the prevalence of wasting was 8 percent in the Extrême-Nord, but lower in Adamaoua (6.6 percent), Est (3.9 percent) and Nord (6 percent) (SMART, December 2022). The nutrition situation in the Sud-Ouest and Nord-Ouest regions was unclear due to the absence of a comprehensive nutrition anthropometric survey using SMART methodology.

According to the same survey, the prevalence of stunting among children under 5 years old is 'very high' (>30 percent) by WHO thresholds in all four northern regions (SMART, December 2022).

## Drivers of undernutrition

**Food insecurity and lack of access to healthy diets** Inadequate food consumption in terms of quantity and variety leading to nutrient intake deficits is a significant contributing factor to the poor nutrition situation.

**Inadequate maternal and child-feeding practices** Nearly one-third (32.4 percent) of households have a poorly diversified diet, more so in the Extrême-Nord (39.1 percent) and Nord-Ouest (36.7 percent) regions (HNO, 2022). In Nord-Ouest, only 42.5 percent of infants under 6 months old were exclusively breastfed. In Sud-Ouest, it was slightly higher at 58.3 percent.

The proportion of children aged 6–23 months who met the Minimum Dietary Diversity was reported to be low at 31.8 percent in Nord-Ouest and 20.7 percent in Sud-Ouest (HNO, April 2022).

Micronutrient deficiencies account for anaemia in approximately 59 percent of children aged 6–59 months and 41 percent of women of reproductive age, indicating a severe public health problem for both groups.

**High prevalence of infectious diseases** The weak disease surveillance system increases the risk of epidemics due to late detection and limited response capacity (HNO, April 2022). Heavy rains and floods enable the spread of cholera, and from August 2022 there were cholera and mpox outbreaks in the Extrême-Nord, Sud-Ouest, Nord-Ouest and Littoral regions. By December, 14 885 confirmed cholera cases and 298 deaths were recorded, according to the Ministry of Health (DG ECHO, December 2022). Across Extrême-Nord, 20–30 percent of children aged 6–59 months suffered fever, diarrhoea or cough.

**Limited access to health and nutrition services** Conflict in Extrême-Nord, Sud-Ouest and Nord-Ouest has had a major impact on access to essential healthcare. In Sud-Ouest, an estimated 35 percent of health facilities are non-functional or only partially functional (HNO, April 2022).

**Poor household environment** In Extrême-Nord, 16 percent of the surveyed host community reported accessing safe drinking water as their main priority need while 61 percent reported issues with water quality. In more than half (55 percent) of villages, the population practises open defecation, and in 71 percent of villages, pit latrines without a slab are most common and are reported to be unhygienic and insufficient. In 31 percent of villages, almost all households lacked handwashing facilities at home (HNO, April 2022).