ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY | Southwestern areas were the most affected by acute food insecurity.

PEAK 2023 (FEBRUARY–MAY)

1.3M people or 4% of the country’s total population faced high levels of acute food insecurity during the lean season.

The provinces of Cunene, Huila and Namibe were classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). The analysis is not comparable with the 2022 peak due to a change in data source.

PROJECTION 2024 (JUNE)

Up to 1.5M people or 5% of the population are projected to face high levels of acute food insecurity.

This increase since the 2023 peak period reflects the expectation of poor rainfall during the 2023/24 cropping season, low household food stocks, and persistent food and fuel inflation.

Note: the projection for 2024 does not refer to the expected peak period.


ACUTE MALNUTRITION

0.1M children under 5 years old with acute malnutrition in April 2021–February 2022

As of 2022, acute malnutrition was a serious public health problem in drought-hit southern provinces, driven by a range of factors including reduced agricultural production for subsistence farmers, poverty, poor sanitation and hygiene conditions, and low access to safe water sources.

Drivers of Acute Malnutrition

- Lack of food: Poor food availability and access due to drought led to inadequate and poor dietary intake, especially during the lean season. There was a strong correlation between acute food insecurity and malnutrition according to respective IPC analyses.
- Inadequate services: An estimated 1.2 million people faced water scarcity as a result of the drought, exposing them to compromised water, sanitation and hygiene conditions.
- Inadequate practices: Only 12 percent of children aged 6–23 months received a Minimum Acceptable Diet, which is considered Critical by the IFE Core Group. Just 37 percent of children under 6 months were exclusively breastfed, which is considered Serious by UNICEF thresholds (UNICEF, 2020).
- Economic shocks: Raised food prices throughout 2023 were partly attributed to local currency depreciation between May and July 2023 (FAO-GIEWS, November 2023) and the removal of fuel subsidies contributing to increasing production and distribution costs (FAO, November 2023). Annual food inflation in January 2023 was at 11.5 percent and marginally declined during the first months of the year to 9.3 percent in April. From May onwards, food prices steadily increased reaching almost 22 percent by December (WFP Economic Explorer, 2023).
- Weather extremes: The compounding effects of consecutive years of dry weather conditions, including during the 2022/23 season, significantly reduced agricultural production, which is the main source of food for rural households in the southwest (WFP, September 2023).
- Inadequate services: Inadequate services were further exacerbated by disruption of food availability in markets in the capital and in rural areas supplied from the capital (FEWS NET, December 2023).

Dry weather conditions are foreseen for the 2023/24 cropping season with poor rains likely to lead to low crop production and aggravate acute food insecurity levels in 2024 (FAO-GIEWS, November 2023).


DRIVERS OF THE CRISIS 2023–2024

Weather extremes

The compounding effects of consecutive years of dry weather conditions, including during the 2022/23 season, significantly reduced agricultural production, which is the main source of food for rural households in the southwest (WFP, September 2023).

Southeastern areas experienced rainfall deficits during the last months of 2023 linked to the El Niño event while cumulative rainfall was average to above average in the rest of the country. Abnormally heavy rains in Luanda in December disrupted food availability in markets in the capital and in rural areas supplied from the capital (FEWS NET, December 2023).

Dry weather conditions are foreseen for the 2023/24 cropping season with poor rains likely to lead to low crop production and aggravate acute food insecurity levels in 2024 (FAO-GIEWS, November 2023).

Economic shocks

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Planned further cuts to fuel subsidies are expected to inflate fuel prices (FEWS NET, December 2023).


ACUTE MALNUTRITION

0.05M refugees and asylum-seekers, 2023

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Inadequate practices: Only 12 percent of children aged 6–23 months received a Minimum Acceptable Diet, which is considered Critical by the IFE Core Group. Just 37 percent of children under 6 months were exclusively breastfed, which is considered Serious by UNICEF thresholds (UNICEF, 2020).

Low health-seeking behaviour for sick children was identified as the main driver of acute malnutrition in seven municipalities (IPC, September 2021). More than half of children were not vaccinated against measles (IPC, June 2021).

Source: UNHCR Nowcasted estimate, December 2023.

Displacement

0.05M refugees and asylum-seekers, 2023

Source: UNHCR Nowcasted estimate, December 2023.