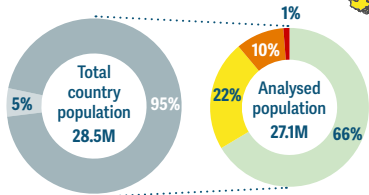
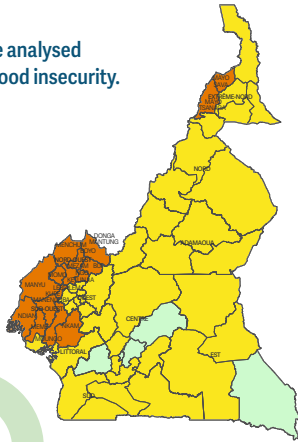


## ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY | Despite improvements, conflicts and high food prices continued to lead to high numbers of acutely food-insecure people.

### PEAK 2023 (MARCH–MAY)

**3.0M** people or **11%** of the analysed population faced high levels of acute food insecurity.

This represents a decrease of about 0.6 million people facing high levels of acute food insecurity compared with the October–December 2022 peak. The 17 areas classified in Crisis (CH Phase 3) were mainly located in the Sud, Sud-Ouest, Nord-Ouest and Extrême-Nord regions.

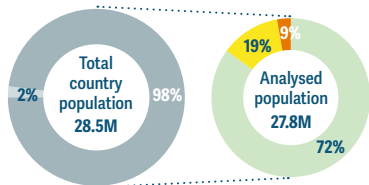
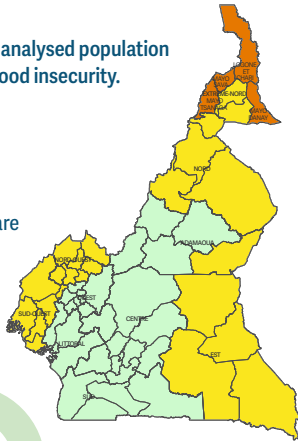


Source: CH Cameroon, March 2023.

### PROJECTION 2024 (JUNE–AUGUST)

**2.5M** people or **9%** of the analysed population projected to face high levels of acute food insecurity.

A further significant improvement associated with increased crop production is projected, with only 4 out of 58 areas in CH Phase 3 in the Extrême-Nord region. No populations are projected in Emergency (CH Phase 4). However, high prices and conflict-related livelihood disruptions continue to drive acute food insecurity.



Note: the projection for 2024 does not refer to the expected peak period.  
Source: CH Cameroon, November 2023.

### DRIVERS OF THE CRISIS 2023–2024

**Conflict/insecurity** Persisting conflicts in the Sud-Ouest and Nord-Ouest regions caused displacement and contributed to seven consecutive below-average harvests, reducing food stocks and purchasing power amid rising staple food prices.

In the Extrême-Nord, ongoing insurgency negatively impacted livelihoods, hindering crop production and livestock sales. Civil insecurity, including hostage-taking along the Nigerian border in the Nord and Adamawa regions, affected household livelihoods (CILSS, November 2023; FEWS NET, November 2023).

**Economic shocks** In 2023, high prices of key food items and agricultural inputs constrained food access and availability. Despite a decrease in food inflation from 14 percent in January, prices of staple foods remained well above their previous-year levels by the end of 2023 (FAO FPMA Tool, December 2023).

The 2022–2023 agricultural campaign was adversely affected by elevated costs of agricultural inputs, particularly fertilizers and pesticides, further straining the country's economic conditions (CH, March 2023; FAO, November 2023).

**Weather extremes** Floods damaged crops in several localities, while some areas experienced drought and crop pest attacks, leading to localized production losses. By late October, about 47 000 hectares of croplands were flooded with a localized impact on agriculture (FAO, November 2023). At the national level, however, crop production in 2023 is expected to be well above the poor 2022 levels.

### DISPLACEMENT

**1.6M** forcibly displaced people by 2023

**1.1M** IDPs

**0.5M** refugees and asylum-seekers

Source: IOM and OCHA, December 2023.

Source: UNHCR Nowcasted estimate, December 2023.

### ACUTE MALNUTRITION

**0.3M** children under 5 years old with acute malnutrition in 2021 in Extrême-Nord, Nord, Adamawa and Est regions

0.2M MAM 0.1M SAM

Source: UNICEF, 2023.

The prevalence of acute malnutrition among children was highest in the Extrême-Nord (5.9 percent) which is affected by the Lake Chad Basin conflict (HNO 2023, March 2023).

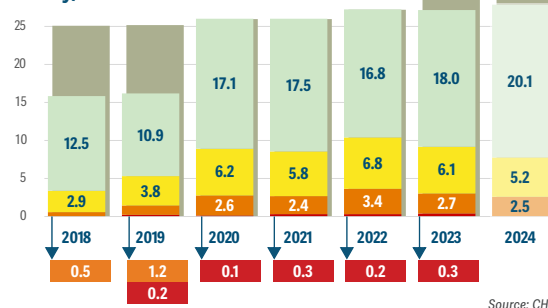
### DRIVERS OF ACUTE MALNUTRITION

**Inadequate practices** Among the host population of the Adamawa, Est, Extrême-Nord and Nord regions, 30–45 percent of children aged 6–23 months received a Minimum Acceptable Diet, which is considered Serious/Alert (SMART 2021). In Nord-Ouest, only 43 percent of infants under 6 months old were exclusively breastfed. In Sud-Ouest, it was slightly higher at 58 percent (SMART 2021).

**Lack of food** Nearly one-third (32 percent) of households in Cameroon had a poorly diversified diet, more so in the Extrême-Nord (39 percent) and Nord-Ouest (37 percent) regions (HNO 2023, March 2023).

**Inadequate services** Conflict in Extrême-Nord, Sud-Ouest and Nord-Ouest has had a major impact on access to essential healthcare. Poor WASH services – exacerbated by heavy rains and floods – contributed to high levels of disease. In 2023, there were 21 300 cases of cholera, up from 15 100 in 2022 (ECDC, January 2024). According to the SMART/SENS survey of 2021, few children had been vaccinated against measles. Measles outbreaks occur almost every year affecting several health districts. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a relative decrease in attendance at healthcare facilities for routine vaccination activities (WHO, December 2023).

### Peak numbers of people (in millions) by phase of acute food insecurity, 2018–2024



Source: CH Cameroon.

**A protracted major food crisis** A lower-middle-income country, Cameroon has been consistently included as a food crisis in all GRFC editions. Initially part of the Lake Chad Basin regional crisis as its Extrême-Nord region suffered spillover effects of the Boko Haram insurgency, it has been recognized as a major crisis independently since 2019, with full population coverage from 2020. The number of people in CH Phase 3 or above has been rising steadily since 2018, reaching a record high in 2022, exacerbated by poor harvests. Conflicts leading to high levels of displacement have been the main driver, with people facing CH Phase 4 peaking in 2023.