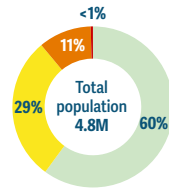
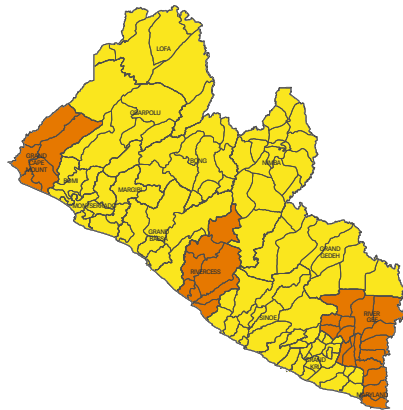


## ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY | Economic access constraints drove up acute food insecurity.

### PEAK 2023 (JUNE–AUGUST)

**0.5M** people or **11%** of the analysed population faced high levels of acute food insecurity.

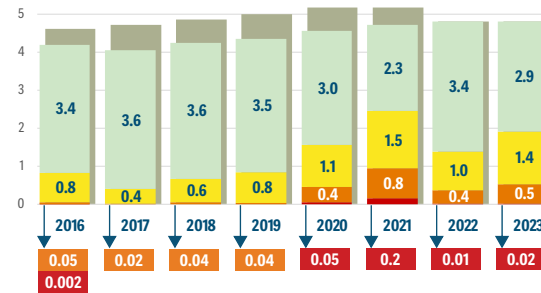
This marks an increase of around 160 000 people since the 2022 peak, largely reflecting the impact of high food prices and low household purchasing power. About 21 400 people were estimated to be in Emergency (CH Phase 4). No CH projection data were available for 2024.



Source: CH Liberia.



### Peak numbers of people (in millions) by phase of acute food insecurity, 2016–2023



Source: CH Liberia.

**A protracted food crisis** A low-income country, Liberia has been included as a food crisis in all GRFC editions, but never as a major food crisis. The year 2021 marked the highest level of acute food insecurity for Liberia in CH history, when 20 percent of the analysed population faced Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above), reflecting the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. From 2016 to 2019, the country experienced relatively low acute food insecurity with around 50 000 people in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above).

### DRIVERS OF THE CRISIS 2023–2024

**Economic shocks** In Liberia, economic access constraints were the primary driver of acute food insecurity in 2023. Despite favourable weather conditions leading to average national crop production, poor road infrastructure and high costs of imported cereals and petroleum limited food availability and access, especially in rural communities (Liberia CH, November 2022).

The international market conditions, worsened by the war in Ukraine, contributed to increasing food insecurity as the country is highly reliant on the import of basic commodities.

Annual food inflation, which had negative values at the end of 2022 and early 2023, spiked from

April, reaching 27 percent in August (WFP Economic Explorer, 2023). The increasing prices were associated with a depreciation of the local currency against the US dollar in the first half of 2023, increasing the costs of imported foods, notably rice, the most consumed cereal in the country. In 2022, the country imported more than half of its rice consumption needs (FAO-GIEWS, November 2022).

### DISPLACEMENT

**1 900** refugees and asylum-seekers by 2023

Source: UNHCR Nowcasted estimate, December 2023.

### ACUTE MALNUTRITION

**0.07M** children under 5 years old with acute malnutrition in 2023

0.04M MAM 0.03M SAM

Source: WCARO Database, December 2023.