ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY | Food security improved overall, except in the Karamoja region where it is deteriorating.

**PEAK 2023 (APRIL–JULY)**

1.8M or 4% of the total population faced high levels of acute food insecurity during the 2023 lean season.

This represents a 22% decrease from the previous year’s peak of 2.3M (5% of the analysed population) from June to August 2022. People in northern and eastern Uganda experienced the worst outcomes, especially those in Karamoja, after erratic rainfall affected crop production and food prices.

Source: FEWS NET, April 2023.

**PROJECTION 2024 (JUNE)**

Up to 2M or 5% of the total population are expected to face high levels of acute food insecurity, which is a slight increase over the 2023 peak.

Improved weather conditions should increase food accessibility in northern and eastern areas, but Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes will likely persist in Karamoja during the peak of the lean season and among refugees.


**DRIVERS OF THE CRISIS 2023–2024**

- **Weather extremes** Erratic and below-average March–June rains in bimodal areas throughout the country, except unimodal Karamoja region, led to a below-average first season harvest (FAO-GIEWS, July 2023). For many areas, this was the second year of below-average crop production, limiting households’ capacity to cope with their depleted food stocks (FEWS NET, June 2023).

- **Inadequate livelihoods** In Karamoja, several seasons of below-average rainfall affected livestock holdings and crop production. This resulted in high staple food prices during the March–July 2023 lean season, constraining household purchasing power at a time of higher market reliance due to depleted household food stocks (FEWS NET, June 2022).

- **Economic shocks** Low staple food supply after consecutive poor harvests in bimodal areas in tandem with sustained export demand exerted upward pressure on staple food prices during the first half of the year (FAO-GIEWS, July 2023).

- **Economic policies** Inadequate policies and economic trends in Karamoja were financed by high levels of borrowing and increased export demand, eroding household purchasing power and leading to increased food prices for staple and non-staple foods (FAO-GIEWS, July 2023).

Source: FEWS NET, June 2023.

**ACUTE MALNUTRITION (Karamoja, and refugee and host districts)**

- **0.2M children under 5 years old with acute malnutrition, 2023**

0.2M children under 5 years old with acute malnutrition, 2023

Source: Ugandas IPC TWG, June 2023 and September 2023.

Acute malnutrition levels increased in Karamoja, with Kaabong district in Critical (IPC AMN Phase 4). Two refugee settlements were classified in Serious (IPC AMN Phase 3) and six in Alert (IPC AMN Phase 2). Eleven out of 12 host districts were in Minimal (IPC AMN Phase 1).

**DRIVERS OF ACUTE MALNUTRITION 2023–2024**

- **Inadequate practices** Time poverty, alcoholism and economic stress among Karamojong women underlie poor child-rearing practices. Only 29 percent of children aged 6–23 months in Karamoja and 34 percent in refugee settlements and 18 percent in host communities received a Minimum Acceptable Diet (IPC AMN, June and September 2023).

- **Lack of food** High acute food insecurity contributed to poor diets for children and women, particularly for populations in refugee settlements, as food assistance was significantly reduced due to limited resources. Micronutrient deficiencies account for high levels of anaemia among women and of reproductive age in Karamoja and in the 13 refugee settlements analysed, indicating a public health problem.

- **Inadequate services** Only 21 percent of households in Karamoja and 34 percent in refugee settlements access enough water for use and 12 percent have access to improved sanitation services. Diarrhoea and malaria outbreaks remain high risk factors (IPC AMN, June and September 2023).

Source: UNHCR, December 2023.

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

- **2018**: 38.9
- **2019**: 38.5
- **2021**: 43.5
- **2022**: 41.9
- **2023**: 42.4
- **2024**: 42.2

Source: FEWS NET.