

Acute food insecurity forecast, 2022

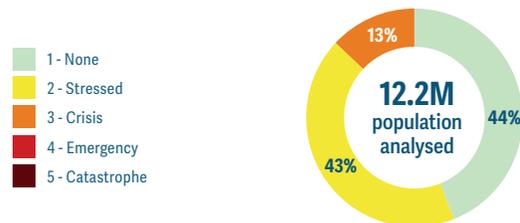
 **1.58M people**

were forecast to be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in October 2021–March 2022

 **1.58M people**
in Crisis
(IPC Phase 3)

 The number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) was relatively stable than the same period in 2021, as a substantial cereal harvest improved households' food access.

13% of the analysed population was forecast to be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above)



Note: No populations were expected to be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) during this period.

 **5.18M people** were forecast to be in Stressed (IPC Phase 2)

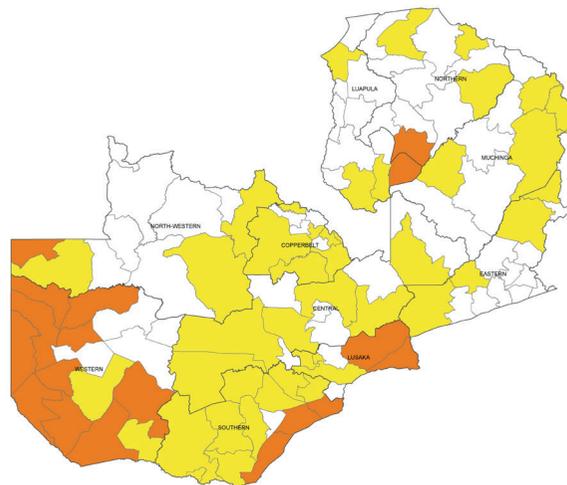
 The analysis covers 61 rural districts, **66%** of the country's total population of **18.4 million** people.

Source: IPC, August 2021.

MAP 3.71

IPC acute food insecurity situation, October 2021–March 2022

Of the 61 areas analysed, 18 were forecast to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) – ten of them in the Western province, three in the Southern, three in Luapula (Northern and North-Western provinces) and two in Lusaka. The remaining 43 were projected to be in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) during the lean season.



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Source: Zambia IPC Technical Working Group, August 2021.

Crop prospects for 2022 are good due to abundant rainfall, and an economic recovery is forecast, but COVID-19 restrictions are still expected to dampen informal work opportunities and suppress wage rates, while maize prices remain at high levels.

Economic shocks, including COVID-19

A gradual recovery is expected in 2022, with GDP growth forecast to average 2.8 percent over 2021–2023. Higher copper prices, the commissioning of a new hydropower station, and expectations of another near-normal rainfall season are expected to support growth in agriculture and electricity production. However, the impact of COVID-19 will continue to dampen economic activity, especially in tourism and retail, and wholesale trade (WB, September 2021).

Labour opportunities and wage rates for poorer households in urban areas will likely be significantly lower compared to normal years due to the impact of COVID-19 restrictions. Rural households in contrast will likely have increased casual labour opportunities due to the above-normal forecast for the 2021/2022 rainfall season, but wage rates will likely be below normal (IPC, August 2021).

Weather extremes

According to the Zambia Meteorological Department of the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the 2021/2022 rainfall season was forecast to be normal to above normal in North-western, Western, Southern, Copperbelt, Lusaka, Eastern and Luapula provinces from November 2021 to January 2022. Although rainfall has been around near-average levels in Western and most Central provinces, an erratic temporal distribution of rainfall in the east during the last quarter of 2021 is likely to have delayed plantings and hindered crop emergence, raising early concerns for yield prospects (FAO-GIEWS, January 2022).