Acute food insecurity forecast, 2022

2.5–3.0M people

were forecast to be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in **February–May 2022**

The 2021 IPC analysis and the 2022 FEWS NET forecast are not comparable, therefore a 2021–2022 trend analysis will not be provided.

16–20% of the population analysed was in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above)

The analysis covers the country's total population of **15.3 million** people.

Source: FEWS NET, 2021.

Economic shocks (both related to COVID-19 and macroeconomic challenges) and weather extremes will continue to be the key drivers of acute food insecurity in 2022. Both drivers are expected to continue resulting in high food prices and reduced incomes.

Economic shocks, including COVID-19

In 2022, continued macroeconomic turbulence is expected to adversely impact livelihoods and access to food. Currency shortages, currency exchange fluctuations and inflationary pressures persisted in early 2022, resulting in rising prices for basic food and non-food items (FEWS NET, February 2022). This contributed to a monthly inflation rate of 66.1 percent in February, according to ZIMSTAT. Between January and February, the minimum cost of food needs and total household needs rose by 8.2 percent, representing the highest monthly increases since November 2020 (ZIMSTAT, February 2022).

During the projection period, COVID-19 restrictions will continue, but lockdowns and restrictions with high economic costs will likely be avoided to facilitate economic and livelihood activities. Land borders are expected to be reopened, enabling improvements in cross-border trade, remittances, and other activities, though vaccination and testing requirements may constrain poor households' ability to travel (FEWS NET, February 2022)..

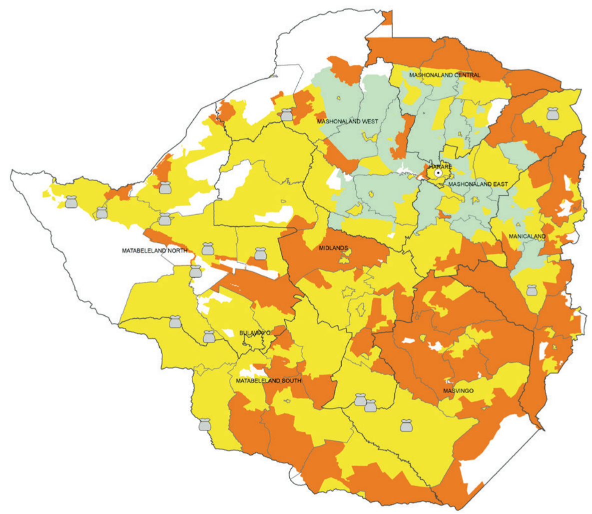
Weather extremes

The 2021/22 rainfall season started poorly and was characterised by erratic rainfall. Consequently, below-average harvests are expected in April or May, which will likely translate into short-lived improvements to food security. The majority of typical surplus-producing areas are therefore projected to be in Stressed (IPC Phase 2), while parts of Manicaland, Masvingo, Midlands and the Matebeleland provinces are expected to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) by July, indicating an early start to the next lean season (FEWS NET, February 2022).

MAP 3.73

IPC acute food insecurity situation, February–May 2022

Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are likely to persist in typical deficit-producing areas, with Stressed! (IPC Phase 2!) outcomes likely where humanitarian assistance is significant. Urban areas are likely to be in Stressed (IPC Phase 2).



- 1 - Minimal
- 2 - Stressed
- 3 - Crisis
- 4 - Emergency
- 5 - Famine
- Inadequate evidence
- Not analysed
- Urban settlement classification
- At least 25% of households meet 25–50% of caloric needs from humanitarian food assistance

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

Source: FEWS NET, 2022.