The FSIN is a neutral global technical platform co-sponsored by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) for exchanging expertise and facilitating capacity development on food and nutrition security measurement and analysis.
FSIN's work is made possible thanks to the generous support of the European Union and USAID.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

This first mid-year update of the Global Report on Food Crises would not have been possible without the hard work and timely collaboration of many organizations and individuals.

Special thanks to the senior technical advisers for their guidance and recommendations as well as to core members of the drafting team and the Food Security Information Network (FSIN) Secretariat in terms of researching and analysing data, and drafting, editing and designing the report.

This update is part of a series of publications released by the FSIN and its partners that provide consensus-based analyses of food crises to members of the Global Network Against Food Crises.

The Global Network Against Food Crises seeks to identify the underlying causes of food crises, share knowledge and strengthen collaborative efforts among humanitarian and development actors so they can design evidence-based responses. It was launched by the European Union, FAO and WFP during the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit.

**WHY THIS UPDATE?**

The Global Report on Food Crises (GRFC), released annually, provides a consensus-based view of the numbers of people in urgent need of assistance for food, nutrition and livelihood support at the worst point during the previous year. For the last three years the report has indicated that despite the efforts of national governments and humanitarian actors, the number has not fallen below 100 million people globally, with conflict and insecurity, climate-related issues and economic shocks being the primary drivers of food insecurity.

Humanitarian agencies, governments and other stakeholders need to be able to better understand and respond effectively and promptly to food crises with immediate life-saving assistance and livelihood support as well as preventive action, including resilience-building programmes and longer-term development policies. To do so they need the most recent consensual evidence-based analysis. They need to know the severity of the situation in terms of numbers of acutely food-insecure people and whether the situation is improving, deteriorating or stable, and why so.

The GRFC partners are responding to that need to support timely responses and preventive actions to food crises by issuing this analytical mid-year update of the GRFC 2019 with the use of relevant information made available by September 2019.

**Data gaps and comparability challenges**

This update is aimed at providing the latest estimates for as many crises as possible out of the 66 countries and territories initially selected for the GRFC 2019 based on the criteria listed below:

- They required external assistance for food as assessed by FAO Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS) in 2018
- And/or they experienced at least one food crisis in the past three years or at least three food crises in the past 10 years
- And/or they were affected by climate shocks/natural disasters; conflict, insecurity, localized violence or political instability; or economic shocks that had a major impact on food security or that the Government could not handle without external assistance
- And/or hosted large numbers of displaced populations whose food security was affected and required external assistance.

While the main table in the GRFC 2019 provided the peak number of food-insecure people in need of urgent action in 2018 for 53 countries and territories, this update provides estimates of the peak number for 36 of those countries with new food security information from the first eight months of 2019.

By September 2019, there were no updated estimates available for the 17 remaining countries and territories, which are therefore omitted from this update. These are countries hosting Syrian refugees (Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey); the Syrian Arab Republic; Iraq and Palestine in the Middle East; countries hosting Venezuelan migrants (Colombia, Ecuador, Peru) in Central America and the Caribbean; Afghanistan; Bangladesh (Cox’s Bazar) and Myanmar in Asia; Burundi; Djibouti; Ethiopia and Libya in Africa, and Ukraine in Eastern Europe.

These data gaps include five of the eight worst food crisis countries: Afghanistan, Ethiopia and the Syrian Arab Republic did not have updated information, while the information from Yemen and the Democratic Republic of the Congo are not comparable with 2018 data due to differences in geographical coverage. In 2018 the food-insecure populations of these five crises amounted to over 54 million people, or almost half of the total number of food-insecure people included in the annual report.

Eleven countries had data comparability challenges due to differences in geographical coverage and percentage of the population analysed. These were the Central African Republic; the Democratic Republic of the Congo, eSwatini, the Gambia, Guinea, Kenya, Mozambique, Pakistan, the Sudan, Yemen and Zambia. It was not feasible to provide an accurate update of the aggregate peak number of people in need of urgent food, nutrition and livelihoods assistance during the first eight months of 2019 because of these data gaps.

Thirty-six of the 66 countries selected for analysis in 2019 had updated estimates available for this report while analysis from 25 were comparable.

1 Analysis ongoing, results not released by the time of producing this publication.
2 Analysis ongoing, results not released by the time of producing this publication.
Sources for the peak number of food insecure people

This update gives the updated peak number of acutely food insecure people in the first eight months of 2019 when available and compares it with that of 2018 where possible.

In countries where the government and food security stakeholders have adopted the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) or the Cadre Harmonisé (CH) as the protocol for classifying the severity and magnitude of acute food insecurity, the number of people in IPC/CH Phase 3 or above is provided. Populations in Crisis (IPC/CH Phase 3), Emergency (IPC/CH Phase 4) and Catastrophe/Famine (IPC/CH Phase 5) are deemed to be those in need of urgent food, nutrition and livelihood assistance. Populations in Stressed (IPC/CH Phase 2) require a different set of actions—ideally disaster risk reduction and livelihoods protection interventions—and are also reported in this update. See Annex 1 for more explanation of IPC/CH and phase descriptions.

For countries and territories that lack an IPC/CH, estimates of the number of people in need of food, nutrition and livelihood assistance were primarily derived from IPC compatible analyses carried out by FEWS NET. Other sources include analysis carried out by Vulnerability Assessment Committees (VAC), Food Security Cluster (FSC) reports, Humanitarian Needs Overviews (HNO) or WFP Food Security Assessments using Consolidated Approach to Reporting Indicators of Food Security (CARI) methodology.

ACUTE VERSUS CHRONIC HUNGER: TWO GLOBAL REPORTS

FAO, UNICEF, WFP and their partners produce two global reports on hunger a year—the State of Food and Nutrition Security in the World (ex-SOFI) and the Global Report on Food Crises (GRFC).

The ex-SOFI report is produced annually by FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO and aims to monitor the achievements regarding the SDG 2 to end world hunger. Based on the prevalence of undernourishment (PoU) and severe food insecurity (FIES), which both measure chronic food insecurity, it estimated that more than 820 million people in the world were undernourished in 2018, and 704 million were severely food insecure.

The GRFC is produced annually by 15 partner agencies under the umbrella of FSIN to feed consensual and evidence-based information to the Global Network against Food Crises. It focuses on acute food insecurity at the worst (peak) moment in the year in countries and territories that face food crises. Mainly based on IPC/CH estimates for food-insecure populations facing Crisis conditions or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above), the GRFC 2019 estimated that over 113 million people across 53 countries and territories experienced acute hunger in 2018 and required urgent food, nutrition and livelihoods assistance.

Acute and chronic food insecurity are not mutually exclusive phenomena. Indeed, repeated shocks and persistent crises can provoke upicks in severe food insecurity, eventually forcing households into destitution and chronic poverty, and potentially leading to starvation. While acute food insecurity may require short-term interventions that address immediate causes, interventions tackling root causes may also be important to prevent repeated transitory acute food insecurity, which may lead to chronic food insecurity.
The highest number of food-insecure people in 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Countries</th>
<th>Total number of reference 2018 (millions)</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Time period covered</th>
<th>Percentage of population affected out of total population of reference (%)</th>
<th>Population in Stressed (IPC/CH Phase 2 or above)</th>
<th>Population in Crisis or Stressed-out (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above)</th>
<th>Highest area classified 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>13.6 CH</td>
<td>Sept-Oct 2018</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>22.7</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>Phase 4 Emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>104.7 CH</td>
<td>Jan-Aug 2018</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>207.8</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Phase 4 Emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senegal</td>
<td>19.2 CH</td>
<td>Jan-Aug 2018</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>16.2</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Phase 4 Emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sierra Leone</td>
<td>7.7 CH</td>
<td>Jun-Aug 2018</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Phase 4 Emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somalia</td>
<td>12.6 CH</td>
<td>Feb-Jun 2018</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>Phase 4 Emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Sudan</td>
<td>21.4 CH</td>
<td>Jun-Aug 2018</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>19.5</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Phase 4 Emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudan</td>
<td>13.8 CH</td>
<td>May-Jul 2018</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>15.4</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Phase 4 Emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>40.0 CH</td>
<td>Sep-Dec 2018</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>Phase 4 Emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yemen</td>
<td>29.6 CH</td>
<td>Jan-Aug 2018</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>17.6</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Phase 4 Emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td>17.6 CH</td>
<td>Oct-Mar 2019</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>13.9</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Phase 4 Emergency</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 The geographical coverage of estimates for Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, El Salvador, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Pakistan, Sudan, Yemen and Zambia vary widely between 2018 and 2019 – direct comparison cannot be made between the two years for these 11 countries.
2 FEWS NET analyses of available evidence suggest the population requiring emergency food assistance in 2019 was lower than Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) estimates for the Democratic Republic of Congo, because of different interpretation of data related to factors contributing to food security.
3 The average population size of food-insecure people in 2018 in food-insecure affected districts varied from 100 to 3,000 people.

The highest number of food-insecure people in 2019 (as of September)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Countries</th>
<th>Total number of reference 2019 (millions)</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Time period covered</th>
<th>Percentage of population affected out of total population of reference (%)</th>
<th>Population in Stressed (IPC/CH Phase 2 or above)</th>
<th>Population in Crisis or Stressed-out (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above)</th>
<th>Highest area classified 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Burkina Faso</td>
<td>20.8 CH</td>
<td>Jan-Aug 2019</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Phase 4 Emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabo Verde</td>
<td>0.6 CH</td>
<td>Jun-Aug 2018</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Phase 4 Emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>26.6 CH</td>
<td>Sep-Dec 2018</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>17.2</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Phase 4 Emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central African Republic</td>
<td>4.4 CH</td>
<td>Feb-Jun 2018</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Phase 4 Emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chad</td>
<td>11.4 CH</td>
<td>Jan-Aug 2018</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Phase 4 Emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Côte d’Ivoire</td>
<td>24.6 CH</td>
<td>Oct-Dec 2018</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>13.7</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Phase 4 Emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democratic Republic of Congo</td>
<td>48.9 IPC</td>
<td>Aug-Sep 2018</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>20.8</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Phase 4 Emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Salvador (Dry Corridor)</td>
<td>6.4 IPC</td>
<td>Nov-Dec 2018</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Phase 4 Emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eSwatini</td>
<td>1.4 IPC</td>
<td>Dec-Mar 2018</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Phase 4 Emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guinea</td>
<td>12.7 CH</td>
<td>Sep-Oct 2018</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Phase 4 Emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guinea-Bissau</td>
<td>1.9 CH</td>
<td>Oct-Dec 2018</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Phase 4 Emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haiti</td>
<td>11.1 IPC</td>
<td>Oct-Dec 2018</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Phase 4 Emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honduras</td>
<td>9.6 IPC</td>
<td>Oct-Dec 2018</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Phase 4 Emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>46.3 FENS NET</td>
<td>Jan-Mar 2018</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Phase 4 Emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesotho</td>
<td>2.3 IPC</td>
<td>Dec-Feb 2018</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Phase 4 Emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberia</td>
<td>4.9 CH</td>
<td>Jun-Aug 2018</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Phase 4 Emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madagascar (southeast and southwest)</td>
<td>24.3 IPC</td>
<td>Nov-Dec 2018</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Phase 4 Emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malawi</td>
<td>17.1 IPC</td>
<td>Oct-Dec 2018</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Phase 4 Emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maldives</td>
<td>4.5 CH</td>
<td>Oct-Dec 2018</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Phase 4 Emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mauritania</td>
<td>4.9 CH</td>
<td>Dec-Mar 2018</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Phase 4 Emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mozambique</td>
<td>30.5 FENS NET</td>
<td>Sep-Dec 2018</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Phase 4 Emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicaragua</td>
<td>6.9 FENS NET</td>
<td>Jul-Aug 2018</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Phase 4 Emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niger</td>
<td>22.1 CH</td>
<td>Jan-Aug 2018</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Phase 4 Emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigeria (15 states &amp; Federal Capital Territory)</td>
<td>195.5 CH</td>
<td>Jan-Aug 2018</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Phase 4 Emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan (Balochistan and Sindh drought-affected districts)</td>
<td>207.8 WFP</td>
<td>Oct-Nov 2018</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Phase 4 Emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senegal</td>
<td>16.2 CH</td>
<td>Jan-Aug 2018</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Phase 4 Emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sierra Leone</td>
<td>7.7 CH</td>
<td>Oct-Nov 2018</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Phase 4 Emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somalia</td>
<td>12.9 CH</td>
<td>Jul-Sep 2018</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Phase 4 Emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Sudan</td>
<td>21.4 CH</td>
<td>Jan-Aug 2018</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>13.9</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Phase 4 Emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudan</td>
<td>34.9 CH</td>
<td>May-Aug 2018</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Phase 4 Emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>80.0 FENS NET</td>
<td>Sep-Dec 2018</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>13.3</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Phase 4 Emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yemen</td>
<td>29.6 CH</td>
<td>Jun-Aug 2018</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Phase 4 Emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zambia</td>
<td>17.6 CH</td>
<td>Oct-Feb 2019</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>13.9</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Phase 4 Emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td>14.6 CH</td>
<td>Oct-Dec 2018</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>11.9</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Phase 4 Emergency</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 The geographical coverage of estimates for Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, El Salvador, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Pakistan, Sudan, Yemen and Zambia vary widely between 2018 and 2019 – direct comparison cannot be made between the two years for these 11 countries.
2 FEWS NET analyses of available evidence suggest the population requiring emergency food assistance in 2019 was lower than Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) estimates for the Democratic Republic of Congo, because of different interpretation of data related to factors contributing to food security.
3 The average population size of food-insecure people in 2019 in food-insecure affected districts varied from 100 to 3,000 people.
Yemen continues to be the world’s largest food insecurity crisis in 2019. More than half of the country’s population, 15.9 million people, were classified in need of food, nutrition and livelihood assistance in January 2019 (IPC Phase 3 or above), even when taking into account the mitigating effects of food assistance. About 64,000 of them in 45 districts were facing Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5). The recent IPC analysis covered the period July-September 2019 in 29 of the 45 worst-affected districts because access constraints made collecting food security data impossible in 16 of the districts. It indicates a slight improvement in those locations from over 1.5 million acutely food-insecure people to some 1.2 million people, largely due to the scale-up of multi-sector assistance to the most vulnerable populations in the worst-affected districts and improved food availability from seasonal production.7

The food insecurity situation remained alarming in areas with active fighting, where internally displaced people (IDPs) and host communities faced limited access to essential services and livelihood activities and for the 6.5 million people living in hard-to-reach areas. Mid-2019 torrential rains, winds and flooding damaged infrastructure, shelters, health clinics, food stocks and water and sanitation facilities, escalating the spread of cholera, with health actors recording more than 593,200 suspected cases between January 1 and August 24, well over the 2018 total.14

The food insecurity crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo continued its downward spiral with 26 percent of the population analysed in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) in the latter half of 2019 compared with 23 percent for the same period the previous year. Around 15.6 million people were estimated to be in need of urgent assistance from July to December 2019, with less than four million classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). The territories classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) were mainly located in the provinces of Ituri, the Kasai, South Kivu and Tanganyika.15 Full comparison to the 2018 figure of 13.1 million is not possible as the geographical coverage for food security data impossible in 16 of the districts. It indicates a slight improvement in those locations from over 1.5 million acutely food-insecure people to some 1.2 million people, largely due to the scale-up of multi-sector assistance to the most vulnerable populations in the worst-affected districts and improved food availability from seasonal production.7


Following the severe drought in 2018, food insecurity remains high in Afghanistan. Conflict, insecurity and lack of livelihood opportunities remain present in communities across the country. The number of people in need of food assistance is already on the rise and may increase further in the coming months, with over 60 percent of the population being newly displaced and others returning home.16

The Syrian Arab Republic conflict has continued more than eight years, pushing millions of Syrians into hunger and poverty. Despite recent improvements in security in most parts of the country, the humanitarian situation remains dire. While fighting has abated in most areas, most of those returning to their towns have no homes and they need to revive their livelihoods.

The most vulnerable governorates of the country remain those where localized military operations are still ongoing, such as Alepp, Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor. The governorate with the highest proportion of households with poor food consumption is Raqqa. Vulnerability to food insecurity in the Syrian Arab Republic remains at worrying levels across both urban and rural areas.16

Since the start of the conflict in 2013, the food insecurity situation has steadily deteriorated in South Sudan. In May-July 2019 the number of people estimated to face Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) levels of acute food insecurity was the highest on record, both in absolute numbers (6.96 million) and as a proportion of the population (61 percent).19 An estimated 21,000 people were estimated to be in need of assistance from July to December 2019, with less than four million classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). The territories classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) were mainly located in the provinces of Ituri, the Kasai, South Kivu and Tanganyika.15 Full comparison to the 2018 figure of 13.1 million is not possible as the geographical coverage for food security data impossible in 16 of the districts. It indicates a slight improvement in those locations from over 1.5 million acutely food-insecure people to some 1.2 million people, largely due to the scale-up of multi-sector assistance to the most vulnerable populations in the worst-affected districts and improved food availability from seasonal production.7

The most vulnerable governorates of the country remain those where localized military operations are still ongoing, such as Alepp, Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor. The governorate with the highest proportion of households with poor food consumption is Raqqa. Vulnerability to food insecurity in the Syrian Arab Republic remains at worrying levels across both urban and rural areas.16
As outlined above, in South Sudan the 2019 lean season was particularly difficult and prolonged since households depleted their assets and food stocks from the record low 2018 harvest early and the 2019 harvests were delayed by the late onset of seasonal rains. Only 52 percent of the 2019 national cereal needs were met by harvests, driving a further deterioration in food insecurity. This was compounded by a major economic crisis critically affecting income-earning opportunities for large segments of the population and pushing up food prices, as well as by pests and diseases, conflict-related destruction of livelihoods, and disruption of agricultural and marketing activities.

In the Sudan the economic crisis that started in late 2017 deepened in the first eight months of 2019. The persistent poor macroeconomic situation, political instability and unrest, fuel shortages and high prices of food and essential non-food items were forecast to result in worse food insecurity outcomes than are typical of the start of the June to September lean season, and somewhat worse than the same time last year, particularly in parts of Red Sea, Kassala, Al Gadarif, Blue Nile, West Kordofan, North Kordofan, South Kordofan and Greater Darfur, continuing through to January 2020.

In pastoral areas, the extreme dryness resulted in livestock emaciation, increased animal mortality rates, and declines in livestock productivity, severely affecting poor households’ income and access to milk.

Driven by unfavourable harvest prospects, prices of cereals sharply increased to very high levels in the first half of 2019. In Kenya, prices rose by 60-90 percent between March and July. In Somalia, prices of maize and sorghum increased by 50-100 percent in some key southern markets between May and July, when they were up to nearly twice their year-earlier levels. In Uganda, prices of maize increased by 50 percent between March and May, subsequently levelling off in June and July as better late season rains lifted crop prospects, but remained more than twice their year-earlier levels.

Conflict and insecurity continued to undermine food availability and access in parts of Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan and the Sudan, disrupting livelihoods and markets, and depriving households of their livelihood assets.
**Western Africa and the Sahel**

The total number of people in need of urgent assistance in 15 countries in West Africa and the Sahel has slightly decreased since 2018 when the Sahel region was gripped by the pastoralist crisis. However, conflict, mass displacement, delayed and erratic rainfall affecting local crop production have kept humanitarian assistance needs high and intensified them in some areas.

**ESCALATING CRISIS IN THE SAHEL**

While there was an overall reduction in the numbers of acutely food-insecure people in Mali and Burkina Faso between mid-2018 and 2019, deterioration of security and increasing safety concerns are affecting Burkina Faso, Mali and the Niger in Central Sahel. These three countries are witnessing massive population displacement. The continuous conflict is driving food insecurity due to hampered access to agricultural land and markets, particularly among the displaced people. The security situation is also affecting access to water and has led to suspension of health and education services.

Insecurity and conflict have been straining farmers and herders in the rural areas of these three countries, including during the critical agricultural period from June to September. Other livelihood activities have also been limited.

The need for food assistance is increasing among the displaced, while humanitarian access is becoming increasingly challenging.

Overall 10.7 million were facing Crisis conditions or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) in June-August 2019 compared with 11.2 million during the same period in 2018. Nigeria (16 states and Federal Capital Territory) accounted for almost half of these acutely food-insecure people (5 million). Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali and Senegal, which were affected by the 2018 pastoralist crisis have experienced slightly improved food security conditions while the situation deteriorated in the Niger mainly because of the security situation.

Conflict and insecurity rooted in longstanding tensions between pastoralist farmers and nomadic herdsmen over access to land and water points continued to negatively affect pastoralism in the Liptako-Gourma region, which overlaps Mali, the Niger and Burkina Faso. About 289,000 people were internally displaced in Burkina Faso as of September - a ten-fold increase compared to the same period in 2018. IDPs are in urgent need of food and shelter assistance while access to health services and education are constrained for both IDPs and host communities.

In 2019 the Lake Chad Basin regional conflict - which began in 2014 when violent attacks by the Boko Haram started to spill over Nigeria’s north-eastern frontier into Cameroon, Chad and the Niger - entered into its sixth year. In mid-2019 there were nearly 2 million IDPs mainly in north-eastern Nigeria, around 506,000 in the affected areas of Cameroon, Chad and the Niger in addition to over 243,000 Nigerian refugees hosted in those same three countries.

According to the March Cadre Harmonisé analysis, the number of people in need of urgent assistance in the region in June-August 2019 was on a par with that of the same period in 2018, 6.6 million people in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above), but there were significant increases at the local level, such as in the Niger’s Diffa region, Cameroon’s Far North, and Nigeria’s Borno and Yobe states due to heightening of the insurgency and restricted livelihood activities.

**Central America and the Caribbean**

Acute food insecurity levels deteriorated across the Central American Dry Corridor (Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador) between November 2018-March 2019 and February-July 2019 when almost 2 million people were in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) conditions. The situation was driven by irregular and below-average rainfall restricting crop production and income sources. Crop losses in subsistence farming areas in 2018 pushed the poorest households to deplete their food stocks earlier than usual in 2019 and increase their reliance on markets, while prices of white maize remained high across Central America and the Caribbean, particularly in Haiti.

Haiti was expected to experience an increase in the number of acutely food-insecure people from a 2018 peak of 2.3 million in IPC Phase 3 or above, to over 2.6 million in the same condition, representing 38 percent of the population analysed, in March-June 2019.

The poorest farming households reliant on scarce agricultural cash labour for income, particularly in areas of Guatemala and Haiti, are engaging in crisis strategies, including consuming less nutritious food, reducing frequency and quantity of meals and migrating to unusual areas to find sources of income.

In early September, Category 5 Hurricane Dorian hit the northern islands of the Bahamas. Damage was catastrophic, specifically in North and Central Abaco and Eastern Grand Bahama because of the prolonged and intense storm conditions, including heavy rainfall, high winds and storm surge. It is important to monitor hurricane risk until the end of the hurricane season in the Caribbean.

**Asia**

This update was not able to provide 2019 acute food insecurity data for several conflict-driven protracted crises including Afghanistan, Bangladesh (Cox’s Bazar), Iraq, Palestine and the Syrian Arab Republic.

As highlighted above, in the first half of 2019 Yemen was still the world’s worst humanitarian emergency.

In Pakistan, drought-like conditions have persisted for several years in Balochistan and Sindh provinces. The current episode of drought has adversely affected cereals and livestock production and the livelihoods of the rural population in 14 drought-affected districts of Balochistan, where around 1.8 million people (48 percent of the rural population) were estimated to be in Crisis conditions or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in January-July 2019, and in seven districts of Sindh, where around 1.3 million (57 percent of the rural population) faced similar conditions in October 2018 - July 2019. Out of the 3.1 million in need of urgent action to save lives, protect livelihoods and reduce food consumption gaps and malnutrition across the two provinces, around a million people were facing Emergency conditions (IPC Phase 4) across the 21 districts.

In the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, an FAO/WFP Rapid Food Security Assessment estimated that 10.1 million people (46 percent of the population) are food-insecure and in urgent need of food assistance using data collected in November 2018 and March-April 2019. This estimate of food insecurity is based on food consumption only. The country is experiencing food production shortfalls due to recurrent adverse weather conditions, including prolonged dry spells, abnormally high temperatures and floods. In addition, the economic downturn and the sanctions-related restrictions on the importation of certain items that are necessary for agricultural production, in particular fuel, machinery and spare parts for equipment, have a negative impact on agricultural production. Given the country’s dependence on local food production, a decrease in the output can lead to serious food insecurity levels, particularly during the lean season.
The area is classified in the most severe Phase that affects at least 20% of the population. Phase name and Phase 2 Phase 3 Phase 4 Phase 5

Priority response objectives

Action required to build resilience and reduce disaster risk vulnerabilities

DEEMED ACTION required to

protect livelihoods and reduce food consumption gaps, save lives and livelihoods; respond to shock and improve food security in the short term.

FOOD SECURITY FIRST-LEVEL OUTCOMES

Find food outcomes within the description of food consumption and livelihood change. Thresholds that comply as closely as possible to the Phase descriptors is included for each indicator.

Although derived from original research and presented as global reference, correlation between risk action to other commonly listed foods is not determined.

The area is classified in the most severe Phase that affects at least 20% of the population.

FOOD SECURITY SECOND-LEVEL OUTCOMES

Second-level outcomes refer to area-level estimations of nutritional status and mortality that are especially useful for identification of more severe phases when food gaps are expected to impact malnutrition and mortality. For the sake of simplicity, new acute food insecurity outcomes after a supplementary letter is used for the purposes of this classification.

BIBLIOGRAPHY


CLIS/Cadre Harmonia. 2019. internal database. (Consulted August/September 2019)


