

# 2025 GLOBAL REPORT ON FOOD CRISES

JOINT ANALYSIS FOR BETTER DECISIONS

IN BRIEF May 2025

In 2024, 295.3 million people – 22.6 percent of the analysed population – faced high levels of acute food insecurity in 53 of the 65 countries/territories selected for the *Global Report on Food Crises*.

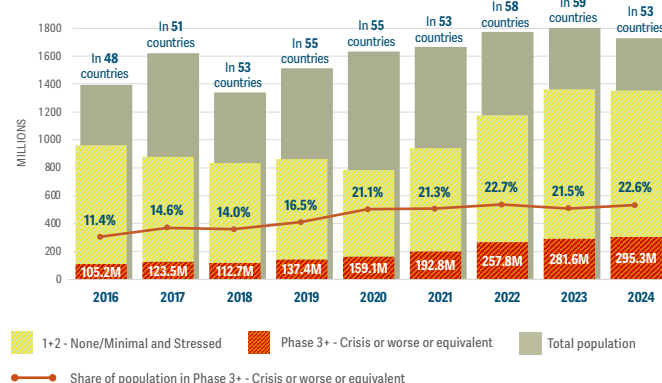
This is the sixth consecutive annual increase. An additional 13.7 million people faced high levels of acute food insecurity compared with 2023, corresponding to a marginal shift in prevalence from 21.5 percent in 2023 to 22.6 percent in 2024. The prevalence has remained at over 20 percent since 2020. See figure 1.

Fewer countries were selected for the GRFC 2025, but expanded analysis coverage identified areas of high levels of acute food insecurity. Twelve countries did not have data meeting GRFC technical requirements.

Deteriorating acute food insecurity in 19 countries, driven mainly by conflict/insecurity in **Nigeria**, the **Sudan** and **Myanmar**, outweighed improvements in 15 others, including **Afghanistan**, **Kenya** and **Ukraine**. These improvements were due to better economic and weather conditions as well as humanitarian assistance.

The IPC Famine Review Committee (FRC) confirmed Famine (IPC Phase 5)<sup>1</sup> in the **Sudan** in July 2024 in Zamzam camp, North Darfur – the first time since 2020 globally. Famine was identified in four more areas of the country in October–November, and projected in another five in December 2024–May 2025. The FRC also identified a risk of Famine in 17 additional areas during this period. In March 2024, the FRC projected that Famine was imminent in **Palestine** (Gaza Strip). Following increased

FIG. 1 Numbers of people and share of analysed population in GRFC countries/territories facing high levels of acute food insecurity



The 2020 figure has been updated to reflect Flowminder updates to the Afghanistan IPC analysis.  
Source: FSIN, using IPC, CH, FEWS NET, WFP, SADC and OCHA data from 2016–2024.

supplies and humanitarian assistance, available evidence in June did not indicate it was occurring. However, the risk of Famine persisted for the entire year in the Gaza Strip.



## Global volatility and intensifying drivers are creating a bleak situation for 2025

**Intensifying conflict/insecurity, increasing geopolitical tensions, global economic uncertainty and profound funding cuts are already deepening acute food insecurity in some countries.**

In early 2025, conflict/insecurity in **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, **Haiti** and the **Sudan** have intensified. Following the closure of all crossings into the **Gaza Strip** in early March, and the collapse of the two-month ceasefire, food access has been severely restricted. In **Myanmar**, attacks continue despite a ceasefire to allow for earthquake relief efforts. Mounting political insecurity and clashes in **South Sudan** have led to waves of population displacement.

Economic shocks are likely to resurge as a major driver of acute food insecurity as the global economy – already encumbered by sluggish growth – faces high uncertainty. Tariff escalation and a weaker US dollar will likely drive up global food prices, disrupt supply chains and potentially impact food accessibility and availability. Currency volatility due to increasing uncertainty could further strain the growing debt-service burden, especially in low-income countries, and reduce access to food in import-dependent countries.

The earth's warming trend is likely to continue, intensifying weather extremes that can trigger or worsen resource-based conflicts. Forecast below-average rainfall in May–July is expected to worsen drought conditions in parts of **Ethiopia**, **Kenya** and **Somalia**, as well as parts of Asia, including **Afghanistan** and **Pakistan**. As of May, El Niño–Southern Oscillation conditions have returned to neutral and are expected to persist to the end of October 2025.

The abrupt termination of funding in 2025 has disrupted operations, including in **Afghanistan**, **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, **Ethiopia**, **Haiti**, **South Sudan**, the **Sudan** and **Yemen**, amid reductions by major donors. Nutrition services to at least 14 million children are at risk, leaving them vulnerable to severe acute malnutrition and death. Funding to humanitarian food sectors is projected to drop by up to 45 percent, risking a deepening of acute food insecurity.

Reductions in overseas development assistance will impact government fiscal capacities to support vulnerable populations, particularly in low-income countries. Data collection on the food security and nutrition status of vulnerable populations will be affected.

<sup>1</sup> The Government of Sudan did not endorse this analysis.



## The severity of acute food insecurity deepened in 2024<sup>2</sup>

Out of the 295.3 million people reported as facing high levels of acute food insecurity in 2024, 227.1 million were in 40 countries/territories with analyses carried out using IPC/CH methodology or equivalent, and hence had data disaggregated by phase.

The number of people facing Catastrophe (IPC/CH Phase 5) more than doubled between 2023 and 2024, primarily driven by conflict. Over 95 percent of them were in **Palestine** (Gaza Strip) and the **Sudan**, while **South Sudan**, **Haiti** and **Mali** also had populations in this phase. The number of people in this phase had already reached the highest in GRFC reporting in 2023, at almost double that of 2022. In this phase of acute food insecurity, people face extreme lack of food and exhaustion of coping capacities leading to starvation, acute malnutrition and death.

Over 35 million people in 36 countries/territories faced Emergency (IPC/CH Phase 4), with nine countries having more than 1 million people in this phase in 2024. The **Sudan** had the highest number at over 8 million, over 2 million more people than in 2023. In **Chad**, the population in CH Phase 4 more than doubled. **Kenya** had the most significant improvement. Populations in this phase need large-scale and urgent action to reduce food consumption gaps and prevent livelihood collapse, starvation and further acute malnutrition and death.

Around 190 million people in 40 countries/territories faced Crisis (IPC/CH Phase 3) in 2024, corresponding to 19 percent of the analysed population. This is a marginal increase from the 18 percent prevalence in 2023. Populations in this phase require urgent action to protect livelihoods and reduce food consumption gaps.



## The countries/territories with the largest food crises in 2024

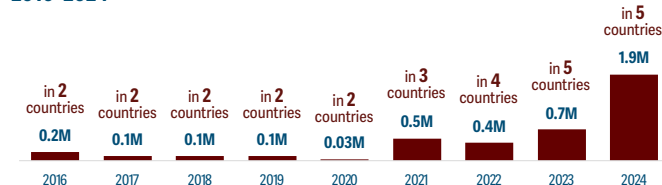
**Nigeria**, the **Sudan**, **Democratic Republic of the Congo** and **Bangladesh** had the largest populations facing high levels of acute food insecurity in 2024, each with at least 23 million. The four of them accounted for over a third of the aggregate number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above). They were followed by **Ethiopia**, **Yemen**, **Afghanistan**, **Myanmar**, **Pakistan** and **Syrian Arab Republic**, each with between 9 million and 22 million people affected.

**Palestine** (Gaza Strip) had the highest share of its population facing high levels of acute food insecurity in 2024, at 100 percent, as in 2023. Around half of the population faced high levels of acute food insecurity in **Haiti**, **South Sudan**, the **Sudan** and **Yemen**. In **Afghanistan**, **Central African Republic**, **Namibia**, **Syrian Arab Republic** and **Zambia**, the proportion was at least 33 percent.

As figure 4 shows, **Afghanistan**, the **Sudan**, **Syrian Arab Republic** and **Yemen** were among the ten countries with both the highest number and highest share of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity.

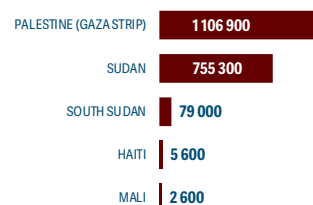
Some of the most marked year-on-year changes were in countries with the largest food crises. **Nigeria** had an additional 6.9 million people facing high levels of acute food insecurity, bringing the total to 31.8 million, due to expanding conflict, inflation and increased analysis coverage. The **Sudan** had an additional 5.3 million, bringing the total to 25.6 million, mainly due to the impacts of the devastating conflict. The number of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity in **Myanmar** increased by 3.7 million, to reach 14.4 million, due to intensifying conflict, severe flooding and landslides. **Ethiopia** faced a worsening food crisis,

FIG. 2 Number of people in Catastrophe (IPC/CH Phase 5), 2016–2024



Source: FSIN, using IPC and CH data.

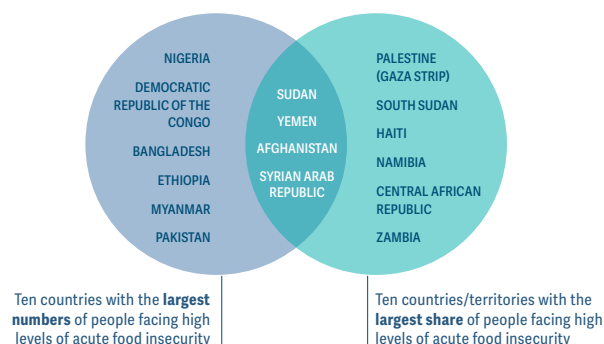
FIG. 3 Countries/territories with populations projected to be in Catastrophe (IPC/CH Phase 5), 2024



Source: IPC TWGs, 2023 and 2024; IPC Global Initiative, 2024; CH, 2024.

Nearly 345 million people in 39 countries were in Stressed (IPC/CH Phase 2) in 2024. This corresponds to 35 percent of the analysed population, up from 32 percent in 2023. Populations in this phase are vulnerable to shocks and require support to reduce risks related to disasters and to protect their livelihoods.

FIG. 4 Countries/territories with the largest number and share of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity



Sources: IPC TWGs, 2024; IPC Global Initiative, 2024; CH, 2024; FEWS NET (Ethiopia), 2024; IPC TWG, FSC (Yemen), 2024; WFP (CARL methodology), 2024. Myanmar pre-analysis conducted under the HNRP.

with 2.3 million more people facing high levels of acute food insecurity during the 2024 lean season in Belg and Meher cropping areas, driven by dry spells, flooding, economic shocks and conflict/insecurity.

Although the number decreased by 4.1 million in **Afghanistan**, attributable to the provision of humanitarian food and agriculture assistance, good harvests and reduced inflation, 15.8 million people still faced high levels of acute food insecurity.

Twelve of the countries/territories in figure 4 (all except Myanmar, Namibia, Pakistan and Palestine) have protracted food crises as they have been included in all nine editions of the GRFC. The 35 countries in the GRFC with protracted food crises account for 80–94 percent of the population facing high levels of acute food insecurity each year.

<sup>2</sup> No phase disaggregation was possible in the areas without IPC/CH analyses where 68.2 million people faced high levels of acute food insecurity.



## Poor health, inadequate diets and limited access to care fuelled nutrition crises

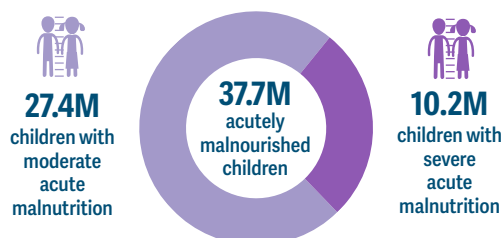
In 2024, nutrition crises were detected in 26 of the 53 countries/territories with data in the GRFC. Nearly all had areas classified in Critical (IPC AMN Phase 4), where at least 15 percent of children aged 6–59 months suffered from acute malnutrition. The **Sudan, Yemen, Mali** and **Palestine** (Gaza Strip) experienced the most severe crises. Famine (IPC Phase 5) was confirmed in the **Sudan**, while **Yemen** and **Mali** had areas classified in Extremely Critical (IPC AMN Phase 5). **Palestine** (Gaza Strip) had one-third of its areas in Critical (IPC AMN Phase 4) with the entire territory facing a risk of Famine.

An estimated 37.7 million children aged 6–59 months suffered from acute malnutrition in these 26 countries/territories, with over 10 million suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM), the most life-threatening form of acute malnutrition. **Nigeria** (Northeast and Northwest) had the highest number (over 5.4 million), followed by **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, the **Sudan, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Yemen** and **Pakistan**. These seven countries were also among the ten with the largest number of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity.

Four countries were of nutrition concern – **Lebanon, Myanmar, Syrian Arab Republic** and **Algeria** (Sahrawi refugees) – as despite limited data on acute malnutrition outcomes, contextual factors indicated high nutritional vulnerability and risk of deterioration.

Contributing factors to malnutrition are complex, ranging from long-standing structural issues to sudden shocks. Conflict and insecurity were major contributors in most nutrition crises, limiting access to essential services. Widespread flooding compounded health risks, particularly in overcrowded displacement camps in the **Sudan, South Sudan** and **Chad**. Cholera and diarrhoea were key risk factors in 19 countries, with a global vaccine shortage hampering control efforts. Over 800 000 cholera cases were reported globally, mostly in **Afghanistan, Pakistan**, the **Sudan** and **Yemen**. Outbreaks of measles

**FIG. 5 Number of children aged 6–59 months with acute malnutrition in 26 countries/territories with nutrition crises, 2024**



MAM and SAM burden estimates were available for all nutrition crises except Bangladesh (Cox's Bazar), which only had SAM estimates.

Sources: IPC TWG, HNO 2024 (Ethiopia and Yemen), WFP-UNICEF food security and nutrition hotspot analysis 2024 (Mauritania and Senegal), UNICEF HAC (Cox's Bazar), Sudan Nutrition Cluster.



## 10.9M pregnant and breastfeeding women with acute malnutrition in 21 countries with nutrition crises and available data, 2024.

Data on pregnant and breastfeeding women were unavailable in five countries and among displaced populations in Chad, highlighting the need to strengthen the monitoring of maternal malnutrition in fragile contexts.

Sources: IPC TWG, OCHA-HNO (Ethiopia and Yemen).

– a disease to which malnourished children, especially those with low vitamin A levels, are highly vulnerable – were reported in 15 countries due to low vaccination coverage.

In 19 countries, a low proportion of children aged 6–23 months consumed a minimum acceptable diet, putting them at risk of acute malnutrition. Children in severe food poverty – those who consume no more than two food groups a day – are 50 percent more at risk of acute malnutrition than those who eat five or more food groups a day.



## Displacement continued to rise in 2024, driven by conflict and intensifying weather extremes

The number of forcibly displaced people in the 53 countries/territories reached 95.8 million in 2024, a 4 percent increase since 2023, continuing the trend of rising numbers since 2013, largely due to conflicts and violence, and intensifying weather extremes.

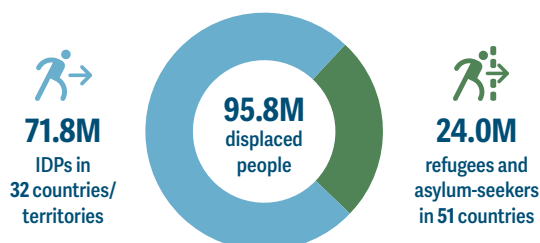
Globally, 95 percent of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 70 percent of refugees and asylum-seekers, live in countries/territories with food crises. Half of all IDPs in countries/territories with food crises were in **Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo**, the **Sudan** and **Syrian Arab Republic**. The **Sudan** had the largest increase since 2023 (+27 percent) followed by **Myanmar** and **Syrian Arab Republic**.

Population displacement has profound effects on food security as it impacts food availability, access, utilisation and stability.

Nonetheless, in 2024, data on the acute food insecurity status of displaced populations and residents were only available for 15 out of the 53 countries/territories with data meeting GRFC technical requirements.

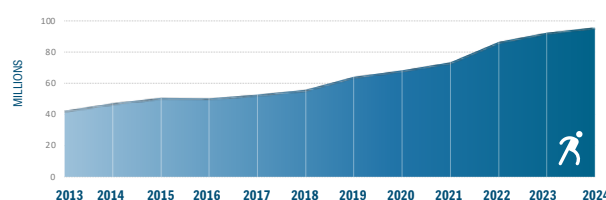
The data reveal a clear and consistent tendency: the prevalence of high levels of acute food insecurity is greater among displaced populations and returnees than residents. Displaced populations were also among those facing Catastrophe (IPC/CH Phase 5) in all countries/territories that had populations in this phase in 2024.

**FIG. 6 Number of forcibly displaced people in countries/territories with food crises and data meeting GRFC technical requirements, 2024**



Source: Government of Colombia 2024, HNRP 2024, IDMC 2024, IOM 2024, OCHA 2024, UNHCR Nowcasted estimates 2024, UNWRA 2024.

**FIG. 7 Number of displaced people in countries/territories with food crises and data meeting GRFC technical requirements, 2013–2024**



Sources: 2013–2023: UNHCR, IDMC, UNWRA; 2024: UNHCR nowcasted estimates December 2024, IOM, UNWRA.



## Interlinked drivers are superimposed on countries' structural vulnerabilities



**Conflict/insecurity** was the primary driver in 20 countries/territories where nearly 140 million people faced high levels of acute food insecurity in 2024. **Haiti, Lebanon, Myanmar, Nigeria, Palestine** (Gaza Strip) and the **Sudan** all experienced escalating conflict/insecurity, also leading to population displacement.



**Weather extremes** were the primary driver in 18 countries where over 96 million people faced high levels of acute food insecurity in 2024. Global average air temperatures reached historic highs, boosted

by an El Niño event that fuelled heatwaves and drought, particularly in Southern Africa. Heavy rainfall, flooding and landslides drove widespread displacement in **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, the Horn of Africa, Myanmar, Pakistan, the Sahel, Nigeria** and the **Sudan**.



**Economic shocks** were the primary driver in 15 countries where over 59 million people faced high levels of acute food insecurity in 2024, in particular **Yemen, Afghanistan, Syrian Arab Republic** and **South Sudan**. This is twice as many countries as in 2019.



## Recurrent and intensifying shocks are driving acute food insecurity in 2025

### Africa, Central and Southern

Escalating conflict in eastern **Democratic Republic of the Congo** is projected to result in a marked deterioration in acute food insecurity, amid fighting, severe economic shocks and high levels of displacement.

Available projections point to worsening acute food insecurity in **Zimbabwe**, driven by high food prices and below-average income until the April harvest. However, in key cereal-producing areas of Southern Africa, rainfall in early 2025 is expected to boost crop production and improve seasonal agricultural labour opportunities through April 2025, which will help recovery from the intense 2024 drought.

### Africa, East

In the **Sudan**, a dire humanitarian emergency persists. Projection estimates for early 2025 show severe acute food insecurity, despite the mitigating effects of the harvest season. Ten areas face Famine, and 17 a risk of Famine, even before the June–September lean season.

Projections point to worsening acute food insecurity in **Kenya, Somalia** and **South Sudan**. In **South Sudan**, severe macroeconomic challenges constrain food access amid mounting armed clashes and continued influx of refugees from the **Sudan**. Worsening drought conditions in areas still recovering from the 2020–2023 drought, particularly in parts of **Somalia**, and areas of **Kenya** and **Ethiopia**, are resulting in low cereal production, poor pasture conditions and high food prices.

### Africa, West and the Sahel

Projections available for 11 countries for June–August 2025 show deteriorations of acute food insecurity compared with the 2024 peak in five countries and improvements in six. The lingering effects of floods in 2024 and ongoing conflict, mostly in the Central Sahel, are expected to pose challenges to food access and availability, particularly in **Chad, Mali** and **Nigeria**. Persistent high inflation, especially in **Nigeria** and **Sierra Leone**, will keep food prices elevated. The favourable 2024/25 agricultural season will enhance food availability in 2025 in most countries, except **Senegal**, slightly easing food crises in some.

### Asia

Weather extremes are likely to remain a key driver of high levels of acute food insecurity. Their potential adverse impact on agricultural production will compound the increasingly fragile economic situation in the region. Drier and warmer-than-normal conditions in spring 2025 stressed rainfed crops in **Afghanistan** and there are emerging drought concerns for rainfed crop areas of Punjab, Balochistan and Sindh provinces in **Pakistan**. In **Myanmar**, where the conflict continues

to deepen, the projection of worsening acute food insecurity was made before the March 2025 earthquake, which destroyed infrastructure and cut off access to essential services. The emergency response was limited by lack of funding and humanitarian access, amid increasing concerns for affected vulnerable populations.

### Europe

**Ukraine** continues to experience attacks in eastern, southern and northeastern regions, severely hampering the delivery of assistance. The catastrophic destruction of infrastructure, including power grids, water supplies and transport systems, will continue to limit basic services, especially for people remaining in frontline regions and near the Russian Federation. The devastation of the agricultural and industrial hubs in the east have disrupted urban economies, deepening poverty.

### Latin America and the Caribbean

Worsening insecurity and economic decline in **Haiti** and conflict in **Colombia** are anticipated to remain key drivers in 2025. Rainfall deficits and hotter, drier conditions threaten Central America and northeastern South America, posing risks to crop production, food availability and livelihoods across the region.

In the three countries with projections for 2025, **Haiti** faces further deteriorating acute food insecurity, including more people in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5). An above-average agricultural season should improve the situation in **Guatemala**, although pockets of high levels of acute food insecurity persist. In **El Salvador**, persistent high levels of acute food insecurity are projected, highlighting the low resilience of households during the lean season.

### Middle East and North Africa

The early 2025 ceasefire in **Palestine** (Gaza Strip) reduced hostilities and increased humanitarian assistance. However, since early March, all crossings into the Gaza Strip have been closed, with no aid, food, fuel or medical supplies allowed in. Military operations resumed from mid-March, leading to further displacement and worsening acute food insecurity. Escalating violence in **Palestine** (West Bank) is likely to persist, further disrupting livelihoods.

The situation in **Lebanon** remains tenuous, particularly in the south and southern Beirut, preventing IDP returns and livelihood recovery amid extensive infrastructure destruction. In **Syrian Arab Republic**, insecurity persists during the ongoing political transition. In **Yemen**, limited food assistance, economic collapse and risk of fuel and food shortages drive a dire food crisis, while new hostilities are affecting northern areas.