

GLOBAL REPORT ON FOOD CRISES 2018



Key messages

Acute food insecurity global estimates in 2017

- Around 124 million people in 51 countries face Crisis food insecurity or worse (equivalent of IPC/CH Phase 3 or above). They require urgent humanitarian action to save lives, protect livelihoods, and reduce hunger and malnutrition.
- The worst food crises in 2017 were in north-eastern Nigeria, Somalia, Yemen and South Sudan, where nearly 32 million people were food-insecure and in need of urgent assistance. Famine (IPC/CH Phase 5) was declared in two counties of South Sudan in February 2017. Although humanitarian assistance has thus far contributed towards preventing large-scale famines, humanitarian needs remain exceptionally high across the four countries.
- Last year's Global Report on Food Crises identified 108 million people in Crisis food security or worse across 48 countries.
- A comparison of the 45 countries included in both editions of the Global Report on Food Crises reveals an increase of 11 million people – an 11 percent rise – in the number of food-insecure people needing urgent humanitarian action across the world.
- This rise can largely be attributed to new or intensified and protracted conflict or insecurity in countries such as Yemen, northern Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan and Myanmar. Persistent drought has also played a major role, causing consecutive poor harvests in countries already facing high levels of food insecurity in eastern and southern Africa.

- Levels of acute malnutrition in crisis-affected areas remain of concern; there continues to be a double burden of high acute and chronic malnutrition in protracted crises.
- The number of children and women in need of nutritional support increased between 2016 and 2017, mainly in areas affected by conflict or insecurity such as Somalia, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Yemen and northern Nigeria. Some of these countries have also experienced severe outbreaks of cholera, exacerbating levels of acute malnutrition..

Food insecurity and malnutrition: primary drivers in 2017

- Conflict and insecurity continued to be the primary drivers of food insecurity in 18 countries, where almost 74 million food-insecure people remain in need of urgent assistance. Half of these people were in countries affected by conflict or insecurity in Africa, and more than a third were in the Middle East.
- Food-insecure people in need of urgent action in countries affected by conflict or insecurity accounted for 60 percent of the total population facing Crisis food insecurity or worse across the world.
- Climate disasters – mainly drought – were also major triggers of food crises in 23 countries, with over 39 million food-insecure people in need of urgent assistance. Two-thirds of these countries were in Africa, where almost 32 million people faced acute food insecurity caused by climate shocks.

Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) and *Cadre Harmonisé* (CH)

IPC is a set of tools and procedures to classify the severity and causes of acute food and nutrition crises as well as chronic/persistent food insecurity based on international standards to inform response. The *Cadre Harmonisé* tool, used in the Sahel and West Africa, is a harmonized framework for the analysis and identification of areas at risk and vulnerable groups. It uses similar standards to the IPC.

The *Global Report on Food Crises* looks at the most severe IPC Phases – *Crisis* (IPC Phase 3), *Emergency* (IPC Phase 4) and *Catastrophe/Famine* (IPC Phase 5) – as these phases indicate the number and the location of populations in need of urgent action to save lives, protect livelihoods, and reduce food consumption gaps and acute malnutrition.

- The main drivers of food insecurity - conflict, displacement and climate shocks - along with outbreaks of diseases and limited access to basic health, drinking water and sanitation services have created a bleak malnutrition situation in many countries.

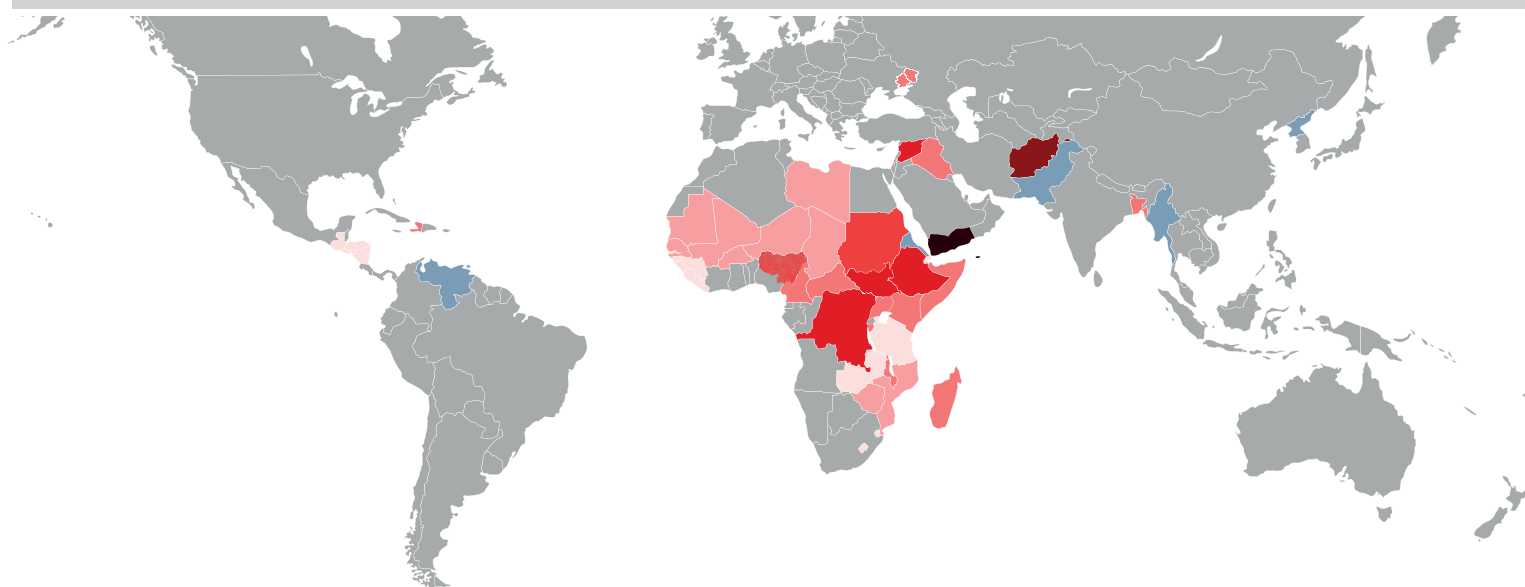
Food insecurity: short-term outlook for 2018

- Conflict and insecurity will likely remain major drivers of food security crises in 2018, affecting Afghanistan, Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, north-east Nigeria and the Lake Chad region, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen as well as Libya and the central Sahel (Mali and Niger).
- Yemen will continue to be the largest food crisis by far. The situation is expected to deteriorate, particularly because of restricted access, economic collapse and outbreaks of disease.
- The impact of severe dry weather on crop and

livestock production is likely to heighten food insecurity in pastoral areas of Somalia, south-eastern Ethiopia and eastern Kenya, and in the Sahel in Senegal, Chad, Niger, Mali, Mauritania and Burkina Faso.

- In southern Africa, the situation is forecast to be better than in 2016/17 thanks to bumper cereal production in 2017 and falling food prices. But vulnerable people need support to build their resilience to future climate shocks so they can recover more quickly.
- The report identified the critical need for agencies to work together to improve the reliability of data, which need to be readily available to all parties.
- No significant improvement in food security can be expected globally until peace is achieved and livelihoods restored. Food security, nutrition and livelihoods-based interventions will be vital to save lives, build resilience and contribute to sustaining peace.

Number of food-insecure people in need of urgent assistance in 2018 (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above)



Colour code	Estimates of food insecure population in need of urgent assistance in 2018	Countries
	Above 10 million people	Yemen
	Between 7 and 9.99 million people	Afghanistan
	Between 5 and 6.99 million people	Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Syrian Arab Republic
	Between 3 and 4.99 million people	North Nigeria, Sudan
	Between 1 and 2.99 million people	Somalia, Kenya, Uganda, Burundi, Madagascar, Haiti, Central African Republic, Malawi, Iraq, Palestine, Cameroon, Ukraine (Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts), Bangladesh
	Between 0.5 and 0.99 million people	Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Chad, Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Senegal, Libya
	Below 0.5 million people	Lesotho, Swaziland, Guatemala, United Republic of Tanzania, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Liberia, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Djibouti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Zambia, El Salvador
	Countries of concern for which no forecast estimates were produced	Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Myanmar, Pakistan, Eritrea, Venezuela

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