

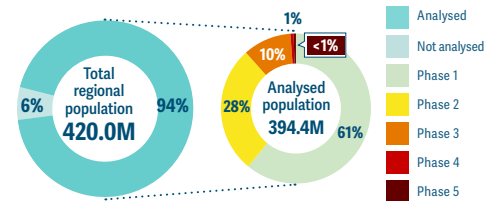
West Africa and the Sahel

Burkina Faso | Cabo Verde | Cameroon | Chad | Gambia | Ghana | Guinea | Liberia | Mali | Mauritania | Niger | Nigeria (26 states and FCT) | Senegal | Sierra Leone | Togo

Amid expanded analysis coverage, the region faces the highest numbers of people in CH Phase 3 or above in GRFC history

44.09M people or **11%** of the analysed population in CH Phase 3 or above, in 2023 in 15 countries

108.6M in 15 countries | 41.4M in 15 countries | 2.7M in 15 countries | 45 200 in 2 countries



All countries had 95–100 percent of their populations analysed except Cabo Verde (82%), Guinea (85%), Nigeria (26 states and the FCT) (91%) and Togo (73%).

Source: Cadre Harmonisé, November 2022 and March 2023.

Populations in Catastrophe (CH Phase 5)

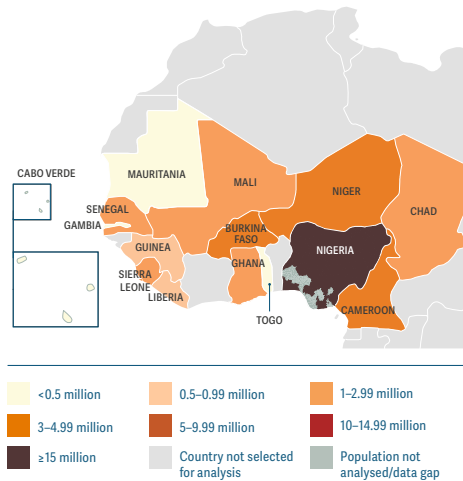
About **45 200** people were projected to be in Catastrophe (CH Phase 5) in the region.

In June–August 2023, around **42 700** of them were in the Sahel and Boucle du Mouhoun region in **Burkina Faso**, where conflicts and insecurity severely impede the proper functioning of markets and prevent populations from adequately accessing food products. This number of people in CH Phase 5, representing the highest on record for the CH in Burkina Faso, has almost doubled since March–May 2023 (22 500) and far exceeds the 1 800 in this phase in October–December 2022.

The remaining **2 500** people projected to be in Catastrophe (CH Phase 5) are in the Ménaka region in **Mali**, with conflict and high displacement levels at the root of these conditions. This represents the first time in the history of the CH that people have faced this most severe form of acute food insecurity in Mali.

MAP 2.3

Numbers of people in CH Phase 3 or above, 2023

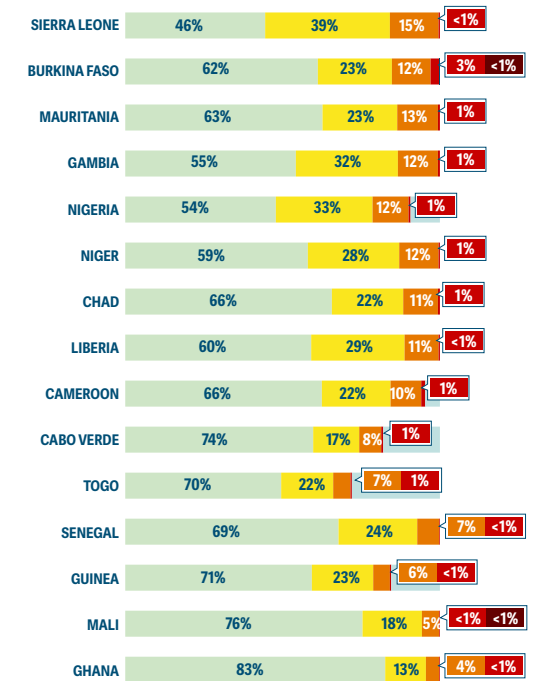


The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on these maps do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Source: Cadre Harmonisé, November 2022 and March 2023.

FIGURE 2.7

Share of analysed population by phase of acute food insecurity, 2023



CH

Phase 1 - None | Phase 2 - Stressed | Phase 3 - Crisis | Phase 4 - Emergency | Phase 5 - Catastrophe | Not analysed

This chart ranks countries from highest prevalence of analysed population in CH Phase 3 or above to lowest.

Source: Cadre Harmonisé, November 2022 and March 2023.

Fifteen countries with data by early August 2023

Of the 15 countries in this region that were selected for inclusion in the GRFC 2023, all have data available for 2023.

Benin, Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea-Bissau are not included in this Mid-Year Update as they were not selected for inclusion in the GRFC 2023.

Acute food insecurity overview

The number of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity in 2023 has increased for a fifth consecutive year, reaching about 44.1 million in 15 countries by mid-2023. This data is based on the March 2023 CH cycle for 12 countries (CILSS, March 2023) and the CH cycle of November 2022 for three countries – the Gambia, Liberia and Togo (CILSS, November 2022).

The number of people in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) increased by 6.4 percent between

2022 (41.5 million) and 2023. At the same time, the analysed population increased by 16 percent. In Nigeria, the geographical coverage of the CH analysis expanded from 21 states and the FCT to 26 states and the FCT or from 72 percent to 91 percent of the population, while in Ghana the analysed population more than doubled from 44 percent to 100 percent. In terms of the prevalence of acute food and nutrition insecurity in these 15 countries, there was a modest decline, with 11.2 percent of the analysed population in CH Phase 3 or above in 2023, slightly down from 12.2 percent in 2022.

Of the 44.1 million people in CH Phase 3 or above, most (41.4 million) are in Crisis (CH Phase 3), 2.7 million are in Emergency (CH Phase 4) and 45 200 in Catastrophe (CH Phase 5), indicating a concerning situation rooted in lingering conflicts and worsening insecurity, soaring food prices and macroeconomic challenges through 2022 and 2023. Analyses at the country level are available in the *GRFC 2023 Rapport Régional pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest et le Sahel* (CILSS, FSIN & GNAFC, June 2023).

In five countries – Ghana, the Gambia, Nigeria, Liberia and Senegal – the number of people in CH Phase 3 or above increased between 2022 and 2023. In Ghana, the percentage of the population analysed increased from 44 percent to 100 percent and from 72 percent to 86 percent in Nigeria, driving most of the increase.

In ten countries – Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Chad, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger, Sierra Leone and Togo – the number and percentage of people in CH Phase 3 or above decreased as a result of higher-than-average agricultural production that mitigated the effects of persisting high inflation, especially in coastal countries, and insecurity in Sahelian countries (CILSS, November 2022; CILSS, March 2023).

The largest declines in the prevalence of acute food insecurity occurred in Guinea and the Niger, while the largest decreases in the number of people in CH Phase 3 or above were registered in Guinea, Mali and the Niger.

Following a coup d'état in the Niger on 26 July 2023, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) decided on sanctions for commercial and financial transactions. A number of countries suspended cooperation and some organisations halted operations. Humanitarian assistance has continued in some areas but has become increasingly challenging. The coup could worsen insecurity across the country and aggravate already high acute food insecurity conditions.

Nine countries met the criteria to be considered major food crises in 2023: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Ghana, Mali, the Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Sierra Leone.

Drivers



Conflict/insecurity was a main driver of acute food insecurity, mainly in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Mali, the Niger and Nigeria (26 states and the FCT). The spread of the Central Sahel insecurity crisis to northern areas of coastal countries, including Togo, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire and Benin (the latter two are not included in the Mid-Year Update), is concerning and represents a threat to food security in those areas.

In the first half of 2023, the number of violent events in the six countries most affected by conflict and insecurity was 9 percent higher than during the first half of 2022 (ACLEDA, July 2023). This is mainly due to the persistence of security crises in border areas, including the Lake Chad Basin and the Central Sahel, as well as conflict in northwest and southwest regions of Cameroon.

The insecurity continues to trigger large-scale internal and cross-border population displacements, and severely disrupt agricultural livelihoods, pastoral transhumance, markets and trade. By June 2023, 9.68 million people were displaced, of whom 7.8 million were internally displaced and 1.9 million were refugees and asylum seekers. This represents a 4 percent increase compared to 9.4 million people displaced by the end of 2022 (UNHCR, January 2023; UNHCR June 2023).

Poor security in the most severely conflict-affected areas continues to constrain humanitarian access in 2023, curtailing the delivery of assistance.

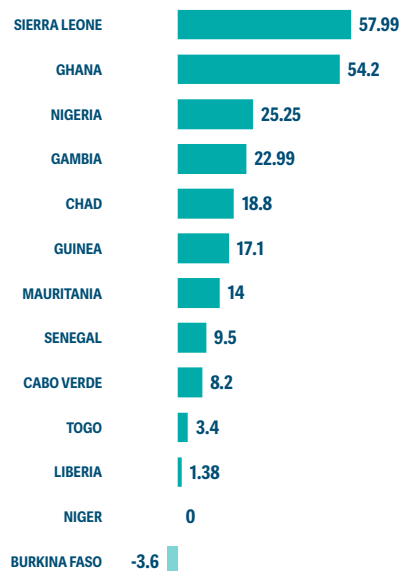


Economic shocks continue to be a main driver of acute food insecurity, mostly in the coastal countries of the Gulf of Guinea, as well as in conflict-affected countries. Unsustainable debt levels and slow growth, in part due to the persistent effects of COVID-19 amid increasing uncertainty in global markets, have had a negative impact on national economies and have reduced the budgetary capacity for implementing social protection measures.

Inflation was persistently high in several countries in the region, notably in Sierra Leone, Ghana and Nigeria, underpinned by significant depreciation of national currencies against the US dollar, high prices of fertilizers

FIGURE 2.8

Annual food inflation, June 2023



Data for Chad and Liberia refer to April 2023; all other data refer to June 2023. No recent data are available for Cameroon and Mali.

Source: WFP Economic Explorer, 2023.

and hydrocarbons on the world market, and the resulting higher transportation costs, as well as market disruptions in conflict-affected areas. The unification of the exchange rates and the removal of fuel subsidies in Nigeria in mid-June further drove inflation, which has been increasing steadily through 2023. As of June, the annual headline inflation rate was estimated at 22.8 percent while food inflation reached 25.25 percent (WFP, 2023).

Furthermore, the inflationary effects of these two measures in Nigeria are expected to drive price increases in neighbouring countries as the country is a key supplier of essential commodities in the region, including fuel and food.

Amid the general increase in the cost of food baskets, prices of staple cereals – mostly sorghum, millet and maize – followed mixed trends in the first six months

of 2023. Prices remained stable or declined in Burkina Faso, Liberia, the Niger and Togo, mostly underpinned by the improved supply in markets following good cereal harvests in late 2022 and early 2023. However, 20–60 percent year-on-year increases in cereal prices were registered in the Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria and Sierra Leone (FAO-FPMA, June 2023; FAO, June 2023; FEWS NET Global Price Watch, July 2023).



Weather extremes are a potential additional factor driving acute food insecurity in 2023.

Regional weather forecasts indicate an overall favourable distribution of rains across the Sudanian and Sahelian zones for the 2023 rainy season with pockets of below-average rainfall in Sierra Leone, Liberia and southern Nigeria and a risk of flooding in riverine areas of northern Nigeria, Senegal, Northern Togo, the Niger and Burkina Faso (CILSS, June 2023).

This risk raises concerns following the flooding events during the 2022 rainy season, which disrupted transport, marketing activities and livelihoods and caused localized crop losses, limiting local food availability and access. By December 2022, floods had affected approximately 7.1 million people in 14 countries, particularly in Nigeria (26 states and the FCT), Chad, the Niger and Cameroon (OCHA, February 2023).

Nutrition overview

High levels of child wasting and maternal acute malnutrition are reported in nine countries with data for 2023: Burkina Faso, Chad, the Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger, Nigeria and Sierra Leone. About 12.29 children under 5 years are estimated to be suffering from wasting in 2023, of whom 3.37 million are severely wasted.

An estimated 1.03 million pregnant and breastfeeding women have acute malnutrition in five of these countries where data are available: Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, the Niger and Nigeria.