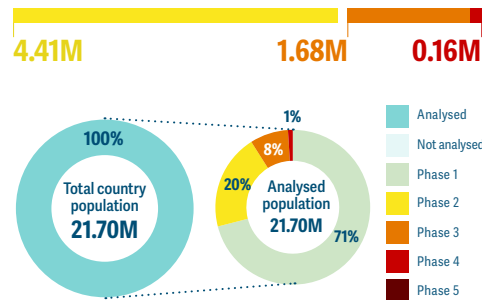


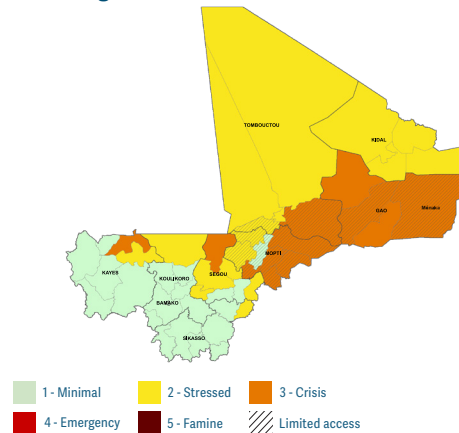
# Mali

## ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY PEAK 2022

**1.84M** people or **8%** of the analysed population in CH Phase 3 or above, June–August 2022



CH acute food insecurity situation, June–August 2022



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, March 2022.

## Food crisis overview

The number of people in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) during the June–August 2022 lean season in Mali reached 1.84 million, the highest number in the history of the GRFC, over 0.5 million more people than during the same period in 2021. The number in Emergency (CH Phase 4) was between two and three times higher.

The sharp increase mainly reflects worsening security conditions in central and northern parts of the country, high food prices and reduced cereal production in 2021 due to weather shocks (CH, March 2022).

### Improvement projected for 2023, but with worsening crisis in Ménaka region

During the June–August 2023 lean season, the number of people in CH Phase 3 or above is projected to decrease significantly – by 32 percent – thanks to a projected year-on-year increase in cereal production on account

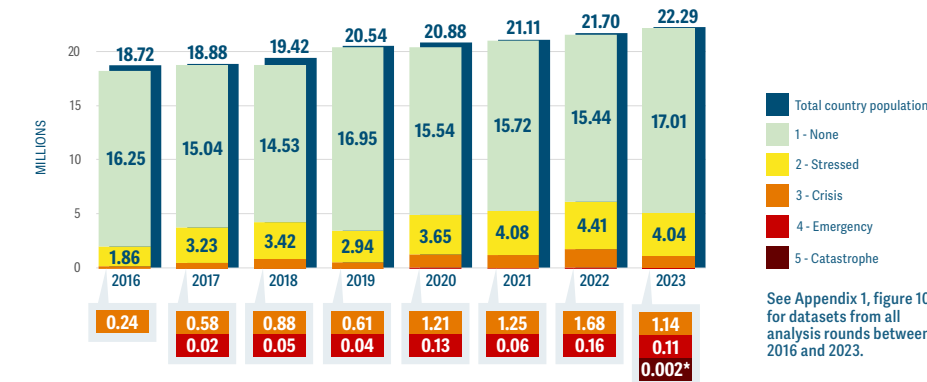
of conducive rains. However, 1 671 people are projected to face Catastrophe (CH Phase 5) in areas cut off from humanitarian assistance in the conflict-affected region of Ménaka to the east of the Gao region.

The areas projected to be in CH Phase 4 (Ménaka) and CH Phase 3 (Douentza, Gourma Rharous, Gao and Ansongo) are all experiencing insecurity, intercommunal conflict, displacement, disruption of socioeconomic activities and livelihood degradation (CH, November 2022).

### Acute food insecurity since 2016

Mali has been included as a food crisis in all seven editions of the GRFC but only as a ‘major’ food crisis since 2019 when it was selected only as part of the Central Sahel regional crisis. For each of the last three years, it has had more than 1 million people in CH Phase 3 or above during the peak period. The year-by-year high levels of acute food insecurity were mainly

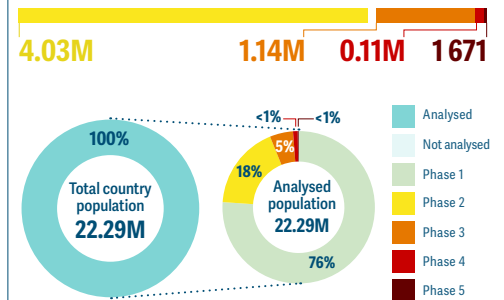
## Numbers of people by phase of acute food insecurity, 2016–2023



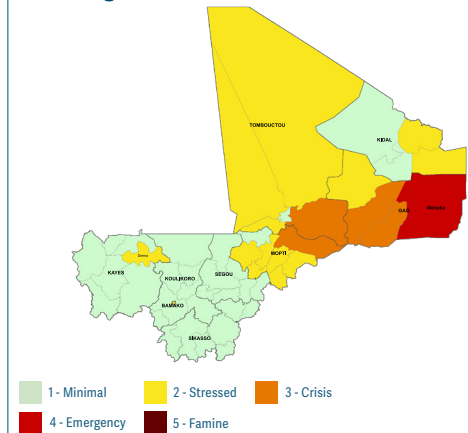
\* 1 671 people projected to be in CH Phase 5 from June–August 2023.  
Source: Cadre Harmonisé.

## ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY PROJECTION 2023

**1.25M** people or **6%** of the analysed population in CH Phase 3 or above, June–August 2023



Projected CH acute food insecurity situation, June–August 2023



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Source: Cadre Harmonisé, November 2022.

driven by the worsening of security conditions across the Central Sahel, particularly in the Liptako-Gourma region, increased displacement, recurrent weather extremes and the socioeconomic shocks related first to COVID-19 and latterly to the effects of the war in Ukraine.

### Drivers of the crisis, 2022–23

**Conflict/insecurity** Worsening conflicts in 2022, mostly in the Liptako-Gourma authority area (Gao, Kidal, Ménaka and Mopti, Tombouctou and Taoudénit regions) hampered agricultural and pastoral activities, caused population displacements and restricted farmers' access to fields, limiting the area planted with cereal crops (FAO-GIEWS, October 2022). It disrupted income-earning activities, the supply of markets, the delivery of humanitarian food assistance and the ability of households to meet their food and non-food needs (FEWS NET, December 2022).

In Ménaka and Gao, transhumant herders experienced cattle theft and access constraints to certain grazing areas due to insecurity, negatively affecting animal production and purchasing power of pastoral households (FEWS NET, December 2022).

In the north, insecurity often temporarily suspended humanitarian activities, delaying assistance for populations in need (ACAPS, December 2022).

The abnormal high price levels of coarse grains mainly reflected a below-average market supply situation, underpinned by conflict-related market disruptions and reduced cereal outputs in 2021 (FAO, December 2022).

**Economic shocks** Prices of coarse grains increased steadily until October 2022 when they were more than double their year-earlier levels, with sharp increases registered in markets in conflict-affected central areas and in areas bordering Senegal and Burkina Faso (FAO, December 2022).

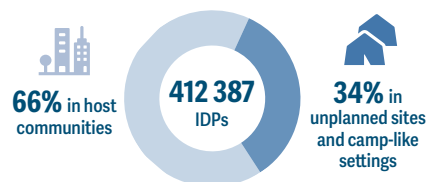
Disrupted trade flows and increasing prices of energy and food associated with the war in Ukraine also contributed to price rises as Mali relies heavily on imports to meet its consumption needs (FAO-GIEWS, October 2022). It also imports 90 percent of the fertilizer it uses and has experienced supply difficulties since the beginning of the year (FAO, November 2022).

By late 2022, markets were well supplied with cereals thanks to the ongoing harvests, which stabilized prices, though they remained higher than the five-year average and were expected to remain above average in the 2022–23 consumption year. Security incidents in central and northern areas still disrupted trade flows, preventing normal functioning of food and livestock markets (CH, November 2022).

**Weather extremes** Abundant rains through September mitigated some earlier rainfall deficits in parts of southern, central and western regions and supported crop development across most of the country, but also resulted in localized flooding that caused crop losses, disruption of agricultural livelihoods and destruction of productive assets (FAO-GIEWS, October 2022). By early November, heavy rains and flooding had affected over 79 000 people, mostly in Tombouctou, Mopti, Koulikoro and Ségou regions (OCHA, November 2022). Aggregate cereal production in 2022 was expected to be 17 percent above that of 2021 and 5 percent above the recent five-year average. While production of coarse grains – maize, millet and sorghum – were 7 percent above average levels, rice production was slightly below (-1.2 percent) (PREGEC, November 2022).

### DISPLACEMENT

#### IDPs mainly live in displacement sites, 2022



Source: IOM, December 2022.

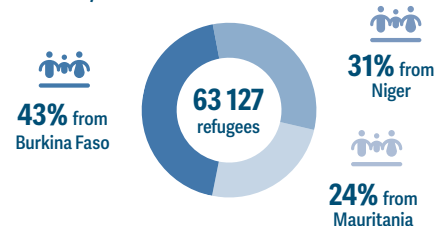
**IDPs** In 2022, the number of IDPs in Mali reached a peak of 440 436 in September 2022 before decreasing to 412 387 by December 2022. This is an increase of more than 62 000 people on December 2021 (IOM, December 2022).

Two out of three displaced people reported armed conflict as the main reason for displacement, while for one in three, displacement was linked to inter-community tensions. In 2022, drought conditions, intense rainfall, flooding and rivers bursting their banks during the rainy season forced 23 957 people to abandon their homes, but most of them returned by the end of the year (IOM, December 2022).

Levels of acute food insecurity are very high among IDPs in Mali. From June–August 2022, around 140 400 were projected to be in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above), representing 36 percent of the IDP population. Around 16 300 of them were in Emergency (CH Phase 4) (CH, November 2021).

In an analysis covering June–August 2022 across 13 communes in the regions of Ségou, Mopti and Gao, 98 percent of the displaced households surveyed were engaged in an income-generating activity – mainly agriculture (64 percent), livestock (21 percent), trade (7 percent) and fishing (1 percent). Among the farming households, 54 percent produced crops for own consumption, and 46 percent for consumption and sale (IOM DTM, August 2022). Crop production was a necessity for many because there were no markets nearby (68 percent), or markets were poorly supplied (19 percent), or insecurity made travelling to the market too dangerous (5 percent) (IOM DTM, August 2022).

#### Refugees from three neighbouring countries, 2022



Source: UNHCR, December 2022.

At the national level, the prevalence of wasting among internally displaced children under 5 years was 'very high' according to the WHO severity classification, up from 10 percent in 2021 to 15 percent in 2022. Of them, 2.4 percent were severely wasted, up from 1.8 percent in 2021. In IDP sites in the Mopti region, the wasting prevalence reached 23.1 percent, well beyond the Emergency 15 percent threshold.

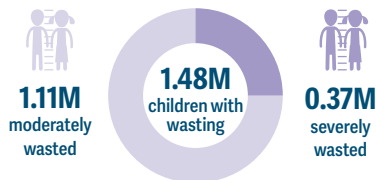
There has also been a deterioration in stunting levels since 2021. At the national level, 26.8 percent of IDP children were stunted, which is considered 'high', up from 22.7 percent in 2021. In the Ségou region, well over half of IDP children (57.4 percent) were stunted, including nearly 30 percent with the severe form (SMART 2022).

**Refugees** By the end of 2022, the country was hosting 63 127 refugees, an increase of almost 10 000 people since 2021, largely due to those fleeing conflict in Burkina Faso. Around half (54 percent) of refugees in Mali are children (UNHCR, January 2023). Refugees in Mali largely reside in Kayes (24 percent), Ménaka (23 percent), Gao (21 percent) and Mopti (17 percent), while a small percentage live in Bamako, Tombouctou and Sikasso regions (UNHCR, January 2023).

Although specific acute food security data covering refugee populations was unavailable, refugees are generally more likely than non-displaced households to be acutely food insecure due to the highly fragile nature of their livelihoods (HNO, February 2022).

**NUTRITION**

**Number of children under 5 years old with wasting, November 2022–May 2023**



**11 900 pregnant and lactating women acutely malnourished, November 2022–May 2023**

Source: IPC, November 2022.

The number of wasted children under 5 years is expected to increase from 1.2 million in 2022 (IPC, March 2022) to almost 1.5 million in 2023 (IPC, November 2022). Of these, around 367 000 children are expected to be severely wasted, an increase of 16 percent since 2021–22 (IPC, March 2022 and IPC, November 2022).

From June–October 2022, five areas in Ménaka and Ségou regions and IDPs in Bamako and Mopti were classified in Critical (IPC AMN Phase 4), while 28 areas were in Serious (IPC AMN Phase 3). These included all areas in the regions of Kayes, Mopti, Gao, Tombouctou and Taoudénit, two areas in Ménaka and three in Ségou. Between November 2022 and May 2023, the areas classified in IPC AMN Phase 4 were likely to improve to IPC AMN Phase 3, except for Tidermène, which could remain in IPC AMN Phase 4.

In 2022, the national wasting prevalence was ‘high’ (10.8 percent), up from 10 percent in 2021, and higher among boys (12.3 percent) than girls (9.4 percent). The prevalence was ‘very high’ (16.1 percent) in the region of Gao, and above the national average in Kayes (14.2 percent), Ménaka (14 percent), Tombouctou (14 percent), Mopti (11.5 percent) and Taoudénit (11.3 percent) (SMART 2022).

At the national level, 2.1 percent of children were suffering from severe wasting, and again the prevalence was higher for boys (2.6 percent) than girls (1.6 percent). The Ménaka region was the most affected (3.6 percent) followed by Gao (3.3 percent) (SMART 2022).

Almost 10 percent of pregnant or lactating women were suffering from acute malnutrition (MUAC < 23cm), with the highest prevalence in Ménaka (20.7 percent), Gao (16.2 percent), Ségou (11.8 percent) and Kayes (11.6 percent) (SMART 2022).

Child stunting was also considered ‘high’ at 21.9 percent at the national level and again higher among boys (25.1 percent) than girls (18.8 percent).

The highest stunting levels were in Gao, Kayes, Kidal, Koulikoro, Mopti, Sikasso and Ségou, with 21–27 percent of under-5s stunted. Between 2021 and 2022, the stunting prevalence worsened significantly in Kayes and Ségou, but improved slightly in Ménaka and Gao (SMART 2022).

**Drivers of undernutrition**

**Food insecurity and lack of access to healthy diets** Acute food insecurity – and all the factors that underpin it – is a major contributor to acute malnutrition, especially in the conflict-affected regions of Gao, Tombouctou, and in Andéramboukane (Ménaka), Bandiagara, Djenné, Douentza and Koro (Mopti) (IPC, March 2022).

**Inadequate maternal and child-feeding practices** Inadequate quality and quantity of diet are major contributors to child wasting in Mali with child-feeding practices deteriorating markedly between 2021 and 2022.

Just 19 percent of children aged 6–23 months received the recommended number of meals a day compared with 37 percent in 2021; 21 percent received the Minimum Dietary Diversity, down from 23 percent in 2021, and 32 percent were introduced to solid, semi-solid or soft food at the right time, compared with 38 percent in 2021.

Overall, just 4.2 percent of children received a Minimum Acceptable Diet (MAD) compared with 10.5 percent in 2021. This 2022 MAD prevalence is considered ‘Extremely Critical’ (SMART 2022).

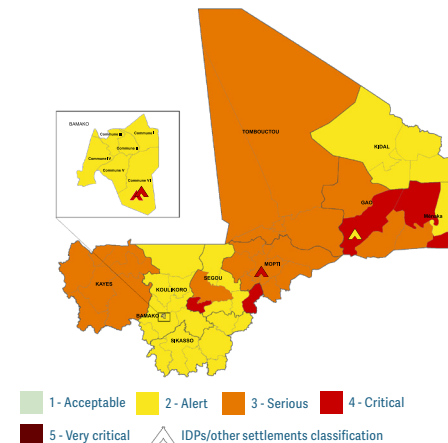
Anaemia data from 2019 indicate a ‘severe’ public health problem, with 79 percent of children aged 6–59 months and 59 percent of women of reproductive age anaemic (WHO, 2019). There has been a slight increase in exclusive breastfeeding rates from 48 percent in 2021 to 50 percent in 2022, but regional variations are stark, ranging from just 5 percent in Bamako to 86 percent in Tombouctou. The comparison between SMART 2021 and 2022 shows a regression in early initiation of breastfeeding (from 83.5 percent in 2021 to 75 percent in 2022) (SMART 2022).

**High prevalence of infectious diseases** Childhood diseases, such as diarrhoea, acute respiratory infections and malaria, are also behind the high prevalence of child wasting (IPC, March 2022). The Kidal region had the highest prevalence of diarrhoea (30.5 percent) and of fever (29.8 percent). Fever prevalence was also elevated in Ménaka and Sikasso regions. By mid-December 2022, there had been 1 256 suspected cases of measles in Mali (WHO, December 2022).

**Poor household environment** Poor hygiene conditions and low coverage of access to drinking water are also major contributing factors to disease and undernutrition in some regions. The proportion of households using an improved water source varies from region to region, with the highest proportion in Bamako (98.2 percent) and the lowest proportion in Kidal (23.2 percent) (SMART 2022).

**Limited access to health and nutrition services** Coverage of the Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses programme was low in all areas in IPC AMN Phase 3 or above, except in Taoudénit (IPC, March 2022).

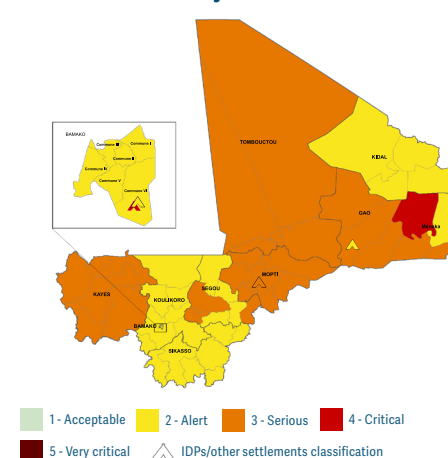
**IPC acute malnutrition situation, June–October 2022**



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Source: Mali IPC TWG, March 2022.

**Projected IPC acute malnutrition situation, November 2022–May 2023**



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Source: Mali IPC TWG, November 2022.