

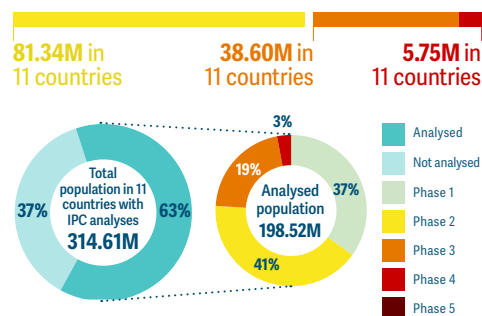
Central and Southern Africa

Angola | Central African Republic | Congo (refugees) | Democratic Republic of the Congo | Eswatini | Lesotho | Madagascar | Malawi | Mozambique | Namibia | United Republic of Tanzania | Zambia | Zimbabwe

Conflict in three countries, widespread weather extremes and soaring food prices drove high levels of acute food insecurity

47.4M people or **22%** of the analysed population in IPC Phase 3 or above or equivalent, in 2022 in 13 countries

44.35M of them are in 11 countries with IPC analyses



Source: IPC TWGs, 2022.

In Zimbabwe, 3.0M people faced high levels of acute food insecurity (FEWS NET, 2022).

In Congo, 38 700 refugees were moderately or severely food insecure (WFP CARI, 2022).

13 countries in this region were selected for inclusion, all with data available

Eleven of these countries included in the GRFC 2023 are classified as major food crises: Angola, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eswatini, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe

The number of people facing Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) or equivalent remained at very high levels in 2022, at an estimated 47.4 million or 22 percent of the analysed population in 13 countries, up from the 45.6 million people estimated in 2021 in 12 of these countries.

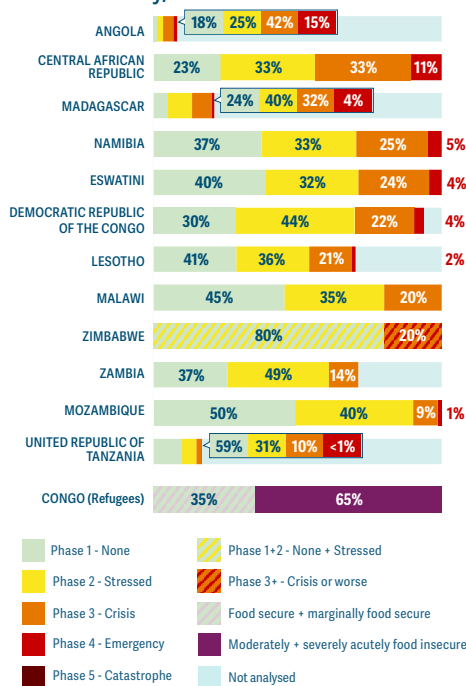
Despite increased analysis coverage, the number of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity decreased in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho and Zimbabwe (although in the latter the data sources changed between the years), while there were increases in the Central African Republic, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. In Angola and Namibia, the peaks straddled 2021 and 2022, not allowing for year-on-year comparison, while the Congo was not included last year.

Regarding analysis coverage, the population analysed more than tripled in the United Republic of Tanzania, almost doubled in Zambia and Mozambique, and increased by 25–60 percent in Malawi, the Central African Republic, Madagascar and Zimbabwe (also due to a change in methodology). It increased by less than 10 percent in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho and Malawi.

Eleven of the 13 countries in the region were classified as major food crises – nine of them because they had over 1 million people in IPC Phase 3 or above and two of them, Eswatini and Namibia, because they had over 20 percent of the national population in IPC Phase 3 or above.

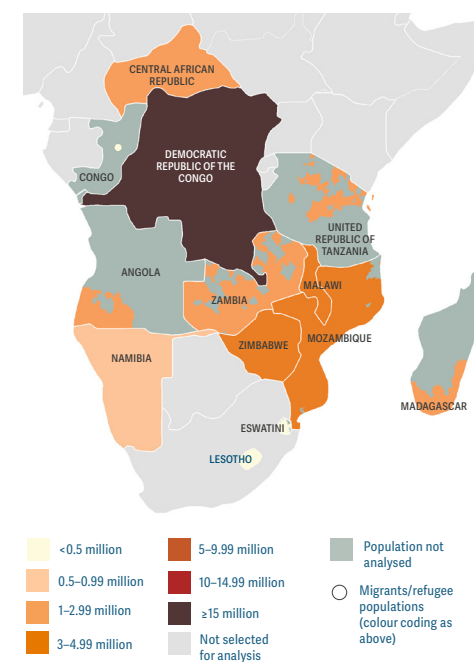
The Democratic Republic of the Congo had the highest numbers of people in IPC Phase 3 or above, at about 26.43 million, accounting for over 55 percent of the region's total number of people in these phases, followed by Malawi (3.82 million), Mozambique (3.15 million),

Share of analysed population by phase of acute food insecurity, 2022



Source: IPC TWGs 2021 and 2022; FEWS NET (Zimbabwe); WFP (Congo).

Numbers of people in IPC Phase 3 or above, 2022



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Source: IPC TWGs 2021 and 2022; FEWS NET (Zimbabwe); WFP (Congo).

highest share of its national population in IPC Phase 3 or above (44 percent), followed by Namibia (30 percent). Severity was also high in localized areas of Angola (58 percent) and Madagascar (36 percent). See chart above right.

In terms of severity, the Central African Republic had the

Drivers of the crisis, 2022

Conflict/insecurity was the main driver of acute food insecurity in four countries with 32.27 million people facing high levels of acute food insecurity: the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Mozambique, and for refugee populations in the Congo. Although compounded with the effect of other drivers, protracted conflict and insecurity disrupted agricultural activities and markets, damaged rural livelihoods and infrastructure, and disrupted services, causing large population displacements in western and northwestern parts of the Central African Republic, eastern provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the northeastern province of Cabo Delgado in Mozambique. Poor security conditions in the most severely affected areas hampered the delivery of humanitarian assistance throughout the year.

Weather extremes were the main driver of acute food insecurity in five countries – Angola, Madagascar, Malawi, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia – with 10.70 million people estimated to be in IPC Phase 3 or above in 2022. Severe drought events in southern parts of Angola and Madagascar, and in northern Namibia, resulted in

Annual food price inflation rates, December 2022

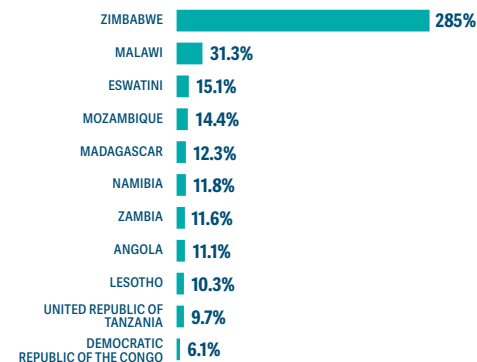
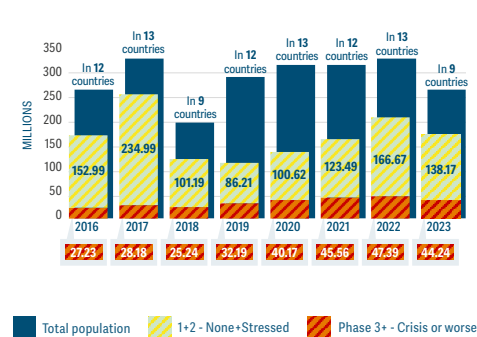


Figure for Namibia as of November 2022.
Source: WFP Economic Explorer, accessed 14 March 2023.

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



Source: IPC TWG, FEWS NET and WFP.

localized poor crop and livestock production and a further deterioration of rural livelihoods for households severely affected by consecutive poor seasons. Tropical storms and hurricanes in the first two months of 2022 had a devastating impact on rural populations in the Grand Sud-Est of Madagascar. Erratic rainfall in Malawi, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe led to significant shortfalls in staple crop production in 2022 (FAO-GIEWS, December 2022).

Tropical storms and cyclones were also a significant contributory factor to acute food insecurity in Mozambique, particularly cyclone Gombe in March 2022, which affected about 775 000 people, causing internal displacements in central provinces, and cyclone Freddy in February 2023.

Economic shocks were the main driver of acute food insecurity in four countries: Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia and Zimbabwe.

In these countries, the severe deterioration in household purchasing power amid increasing macroeconomic difficulties, compounded by the effects of the war in Ukraine, was the main driver of high levels of acute food insecurity for about 4.42 million people.

Economic challenges included high levels of public debt, fiscal constraints and slow economic growth. A rise in interest rates in several countries to tackle headline and

food inflation resulted in increased borrowing costs for governments, with potentially negative implications for public and private spending, further undermining income-earning opportunities.

As of December 2022, annual food inflation in Zimbabwe was estimated at 285 percent, while in the other three countries it ranged between 10 and 15 percent.

Reliance on food imports to satisfy domestic requirements as well as currency depreciations, notably in Zimbabwe and Malawi, amplified inflationary pressure on food prices.

Acute food insecurity since 2016

The estimated number of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity in Central and Southern Africa increased by 67 percent between 2016 and 2021 from about 27.23 million to 45.6 million, reflecting multiple interconnected shocks, including disastrous weather events, protracted conflicts and worsening insecurity in three countries, and sharp increases in food prices.

The increase during this period was largely due to the expansion of the acute food insecurity analyses in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which since 2018 has accounted for at least half of the number of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity in the region and has consistently been among the crises with the highest numbers of people in IPC/CH Phase 3 or above or equivalent globally. Between 2016 and 2021, the estimated number of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity in the country increased sharply from 5.90 million to 27.26 million, and then declined slightly to 26.43 million people in 2022. During this period, analysis coverage increased from an average of 65 percent of the population between 2018 and 2022 to over 90 percent in 2021 and 2022.

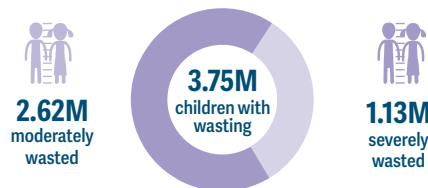
Other countries that experienced significant increases in magnitude during the 2016–2022 period were Angola, the Central African Republic and Namibia. Most countries saw increases in the number of analysed people, particularly in Madagascar and Namibia.

Nine countries have been consistently included for all seven editions of the GRFC: the Central African Republic, the Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi,

Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Another three countries – Angola, Namibia and the United Republic of Tanzania – have been included in the GRFC six times. The Congo has been included for a second time in 2023.

NUTRITION

Number of children under 5 years old with wasting, in four* major food crises, 2022



* Democratic Republic of the Congo followed by the Central African Republic, Angola and Mozambique.
Source: IPC and SMART.

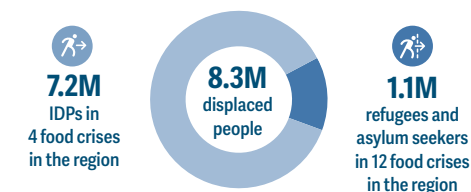
Data on the number of children suffering from wasting were only available in 5 out of the 13 food crises in the region. Of the 3.75 million reported children with wasting in five countries, 75 percent of them were in the Democratic Republic of the Congo followed by Madagascar, the Central African Republic, Angola and Mozambique. All countries, except Madagascar, had Critical (IPC AMN Phase 4) levels of acute malnutrition in some areas.

DISPLACEMENT

More than 8.3 million people were forcibly displaced in the region, largely as a result of conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Mozambique, and political violence in the Central African Republic, resulting in internal displacement and regional refugee movements.

Of the 7.2 million IDPs in four food crises in the region, 5.7 million or 70 percent were in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where the displacement situation in 2023 is expected to worsen both in terms of numbers of displaced people and deterioration of their food security (UNHCR, February 2023). Around 1.03 million IDPs in Mozambique were displaced by conflict in Cabo Delgado and by tropical cyclones Idai in March 2019 and Gombe in

Number of forcibly displaced people, 2022



Source: UNHCR; IOM, December 2022.

2022 (OCHA, March 2022). There were around 0.5 million IDPs in the Central African Republic, largely due to the increase in military operations in central, eastern and northeastern parts of the country. In Malawi, following tropical storm Ana in January 2022, an estimated 945 700 people were displaced to 217 camps. From April 2022, most camps were decommissioned except some in Chikwawa and Nsanje where about 1 200 households stayed until July 2022 (IFRC, December 2022).

Over 1.1 million refugees were hosted in twelve countries in the region – 46 percent in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (from the Central African Republic and Rwanda), 22 percent in the United Republic of Tanzania (mainly from Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo) and 9 percent in Malawi (mainly from the Democratic Republic of the Congo) (UNHCR, March 2023). The difficulties faced by forcibly displaced populations across the region are aggravated by food ration reductions and cuts to other essential services in camps and settlements due to funding shortages.

Projection for 2023

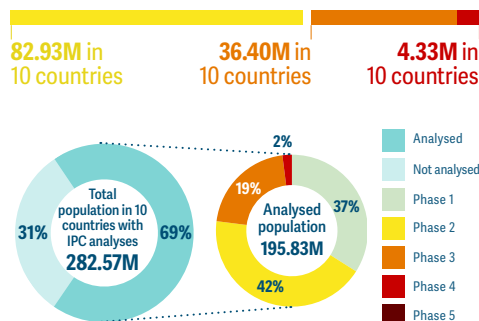
In Central and Southern Africa, up to 44.24 million people or 21 percent of the analysed population in 11 countries are projected to face high levels of acute food insecurity in 2023. This represents a decrease of around 1.5–2 million people estimated for the same ten countries in 2022.

In the Central African Republic, the population in IPC Phase 3 or above was projected to rise by 0.34 million people to 2.99 million, mostly driven by persisting insecurity and armed violence disrupting agricultural production, livelihoods and food markets through

Projection for 2023: a small improvement in four countries

44.24M people or 21% of the analysed population were projected to be in IPC Phase 3 or above in 2023 in 11 countries

40.73M of them were projected in 10 countries with IPC analyses



Source: IPC TWGs, 2022.

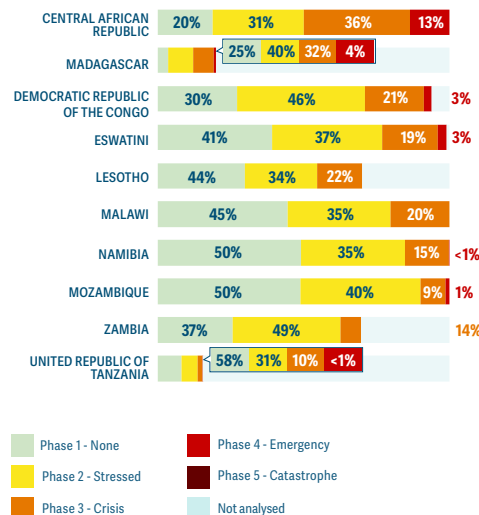
In Zimbabwe, 3.0–3.5M people were projected to be in IPC Phase 3 or above (FEWS NET, 2022).

No projections were available for Angola or refugees in Congo.

August 2023 (IPC, February 2022). In Zimbabwe, the number of people in IPC Phase 3 or above is projected at 3.0–3.5 million people, either similar to or 0.5 million above the 2022 peak, reflecting the persisting effects of economic and weather shocks on household food access and availability (FEWS NET, February 2023).

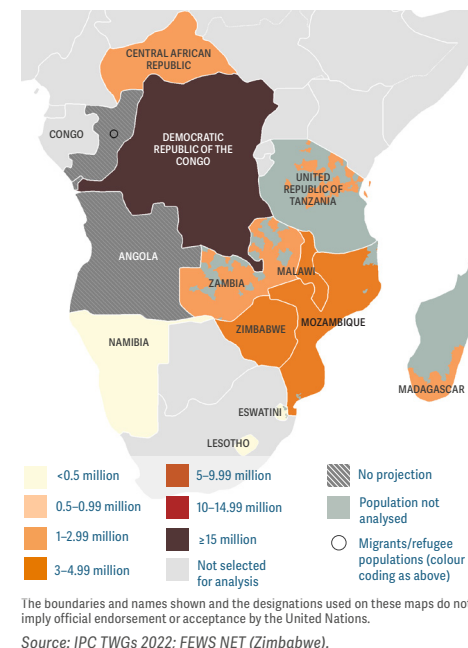
Of the four countries with projected improvements in food security, the largest projected decrease in the number of people in IPC Phase 3 or above is in the Democratic Republic of the Congo – down by more than 2 million people to 24.52 million in January–June 2023. Improved supply from the harvest and a positive macroeconomic forecast that is expected to help stabilize the local currency and market prices should improve food access and availability (IPC, October 2022).

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



Source: IPC TWGs 2022 and 2023.

Numbers of people in IPC Phase 3 or above, 2023



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prices of staple foods are likely to remain at high levels, despite the good 2022 harvests, supported by persisting market disruptions, and high international prices of food, fuel and agricultural inputs, eroding household purchasing power.

The impact of weather extremes, including the February 2023 tropical cyclone Freddy in Mozambique, Madagascar and Malawi, will worsen acute food insecurity through 2023. In Madagascar, the damage and subsequent flooding from the cyclone affected all aspects of food security: it halted income activities for households reliant on casual labour, and destroyed food stocks and livestock, leading to a lack of assets to rely on in the future, and the reduced prospect of a normal harvest (FAO, February 2022).