

MID-YEAR UPDATE

September 2024

This report is an update of the GRFC 2024, and draws on data available as of end of August 2024 to reveal changes in high levels of acute food insecurity and acute malnutrition since the 2023 peak.

KEY MESSAGES

In the Sudan, Famine (IPC Phase 5) is ongoing in the Zamzam Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) site near El Fasher, North Darfur, and is expected to persist through October 2024. Many other areas throughout the country are at risk of Famine but insufficient data inhibited analysis for many hard-to-reach areas. In total, 25.6 million people in the Sudan are estimated to face high levels of acute food insecurity during the June–September lean season – a 26 percent increase since the same period in 2023. The conflict has also had severe implications for regional food and nutrition security, with more than 2 million people forced to flee to neighbouring countries, mainly to major food-crisis countries including **Chad and South Sudan.**

The Gaza Strip (Palestine) remains the most severe food crisis in the history of the Global Report on Food Crises (GRFC), with all 2.2 million residents still in urgent need of food and livelihood assistance between March and April 2024. The severity of the crisis has intensified, with half of the population in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) during this period, up from a quarter in December 2023–February 2024. Although this was projected to decrease to 22 percent in June–September 2024 and available evidence did not indicate Famine (IPC Phase 5), the risk of Famine persists.

Better harvests and stabilizing economies drove improvements in food security in 16 countries. **Afghanistan, Kenya, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guatemala and Lebanon** all had at least 1 million fewer people facing high levels of acute food insecurity since the 2023 peak, but they remain major food crises.

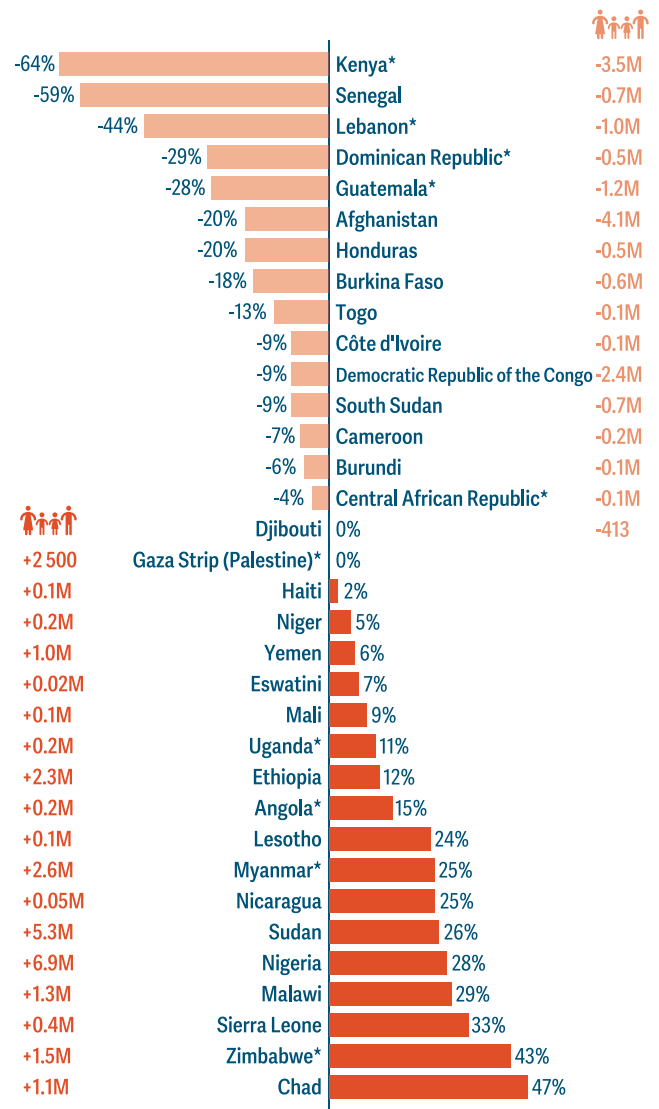
Shocks, such as intensifying conflict, El Niño-induced drought and high domestic food prices drove worsening food crises in 18 countries by mid-2024. **Nigeria, the Sudan, Myanmar, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Chad and Yemen** all had at least 1 million more people facing high levels of acute food insecurity than during the 2023 peak.

Forced displacement of people in food-crisis countries/territories continues to increase, with alarming numbers of people in the **Gaza Strip** and the **Sudan** exposed to very high levels of acute food insecurity and malnutrition.

Acute malnutrition among children and women in food-crisis countries/territories is persistently high, especially in conflict-affected areas. The lack of affordability of a healthy diet is becoming an increasingly important driver.

Of the 14 countries without 2024 data, the **Syrian Arab Republic** was flagged by the latest **FAO-WFP Hunger Hotspots report** as being of very high concern between June and October of 2024.

FIGURE 1 Percentage and absolute change in the number of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity between 2023 peak and 29 August, 2024



Of the 73 countries/territories identified as having food crises in the GRFC 2024, 45 have acute food security analyses valid for 2024.

This chart only includes changes in countries with two comparable analyses, therefore the following countries are not reported: Bangladesh, Benin, Guinea, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Somalia, United Republic of Tanzania. For Pakistan and Zambia, the peak analyses straddle 2023 and 2024.

Year-on-year comparisons are made between the peak number in 2023 and the highest available number for 2024. If different periods are covered in both years the comparison is marked with *.

Refer to **GRFC 2024** for complete glossary, endorsed methodologies and comparability rules.

Source: FSIN, 2024

[See Annexe 1 for complete acute food insecurity dataset](#)

Populations in Catastrophe reach highest in GRFC reporting and Famine (IPC/CH Phase 5) is ongoing for the first time since 2020



The number of people facing, or projected to face, Catastrophe (IPC/CH Phase 5) more than doubled from 705 000 in five countries/territories in 2023 to 1.9 million in four countries/territories in 2024. This is the highest in GRFC reporting, driven by conflict in the Gaza Strip and the Sudan.

In Catastrophe (IPC/CH Phase 5), household members experience an extreme lack of food and exhaustion of coping capacities, with a significantly increased risk of acute malnutrition and death.

Famine (IPC/CH Phase 5), the result of a collective failure to protect lives and livelihoods, is rare, and only four have been identified since 2010–Somalia (2011), South Sudan (2017 and 2020) and now the Sudan. As well as causing widespread acute malnutrition and death in the short term, it has major human, social and economic impacts in the long term.

In the **Sudan**, about 755 300 people were projected to face Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) by September 2024, up from none in 2023. Famine (IPC Phase 5) is ongoing in Zamzam IDP camp, and other areas are at risk of Famine as long as conflict and limited humanitarian access prevail (FRC, July 2024).

In March–April 2024, over 1.1 million people in the **Gaza Strip** were projected to be in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) and 495 300 people are projected to be so between June–September 2024. Risk of Famine persists throughout the territory with hostilities hindering delivery of lifesaving assistance.

Conflict/insecurity drove Catastrophic (IPC/CH Phase 5) levels of acute food insecurity in **South Sudan** (79 000 people in Jonglei and Unity states and

TABLE 1 Countries/territories with populations facing Catastrophe (IPC/CH Phase 5) as of August 2024 versus 2023

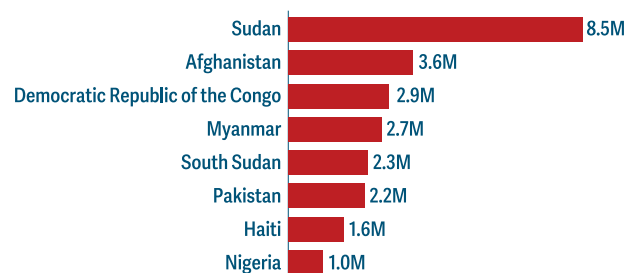
	Number of people in IPC/CH Phase 5	Period
Sudan	755 300	Jun–Sept 2024
	0	July–Sept 2023
Gaza Strip	495 300	Jun–Sep 2024
	1 106 900	Mar–Apr 2024
	576 600	Dec 2023–Feb 2024
South Sudan	79 000	Apr–July 2024
	43 000	Apr–July 2023
Mali	2 600	Jun–Aug 2024
	2 500	Jun–Aug 2023
Burkina Faso	0	Jun–Aug 2024
	42 700	Jun–Aug 2023
Somalia	0	Jan–Mar 2024
	40 350	Apr–Jun 2023
Haiti	0	Mar–Jun 2024
	19 200	Sep 2022–Feb 2023

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

among returnees from neighbouring Sudan) and in the Ménaka region of **Mali** (2 600 people). The severity eased in Burkina Faso, Haiti and Somalia where no populations were projected in this phase as of August 2024.

Populations in Emergency (IPC/CH Phase 4) need urgent action to save lives and livelihoods

FIGURE 2 Countries/territories with over 1 million people in Emergency (IPC/CH Phase 4) as of August 2024



Source: IPC TWGs, 2024. CH, 2024.



Of the 28 countries/territories with disaggregated data on severity, eight saw increases in the number of people in Emergency (IPC/CH Phase 4).

The population in this phase more than doubled in **Burundi** and **Eswatini**, and increased in **Lesotho** and **Malawi** mostly due to the impacts of El Niño-induced drought. Conflict and insecurity drove increases in **Chad**, **Mali**, **Myanmar** and the **Sudan**.

The number of people in IPC/CH Phase 4 decreased in 19 countries, with the largest reduction observed in **Afghanistan**, followed by **Kenya** and **Democratic Republic of the Congo**. All of them remain major food crises.

DISPLACEMENT |



The number of forcibly displaced people, who are highly vulnerable to food and nutrition insecurity, continues to rise in food-crisis countries/territories

FIGURE 3 Number of forcibly displaced people in 59 food-crisis countries/territories



Source: GRFC Displacement TWG, 2024.

In the 59 countries/territories with acute food security data in the GRFC 2024, the number of people in forced displacement reached an estimated 99.1 million by July 2024, up from 91.7 million at the end of 2023. The increase is mainly driven by an additional 1.6 million IDPs in the **Sudan** – which remains the world's largest internal displacement crisis in terms of absolute numbers – and additional data availability in **Pakistan**, **Somalia** and **Yemen**. In **Myanmar**, an additional 1.6 million people have been displaced since the

escalation of fighting in October 2023 (UNHCR, July 2024). In **Haiti**, gang violence and political instability continue to drive people from their homes.

The **Gaza Strip** has the largest share of its population displaced, with nine out of ten people internally displaced, some experiencing displacement up to ten times (UNRWA, July 2024). Significant declines in the number of IDPs were registered in **Malawi**, as people returned home after being displaced by Cyclone Freddy in 2023 (GRID, 2024).

The most significant increases in the numbers of refugees and asylum seekers were in **Chad**, **Ethiopia** and **South Sudan**, largely due to the conflict in the Sudan. In Latin America, large populations of migrants remain displaced in **Colombia**, **Ecuador** and **Peru** as a result of lingering economic hardship.

See Annexe 2 for complete displacement dataset

*The figure updates the GRFC 2024 displacement figure, following the release of new figures (UNHCR Global trends, GRID 2024)

NUTRITION |

Worsening or persistently high acute food insecurity, inadequate services, poor nutrition practices and lack of affordability of a healthy diet are driving critical levels of acute malnutrition among children and women in some food crises

Data available in 2024 for 21 food crises revealed that the number of acutely malnourished children has increased in **Cameroon, Chad, Djibouti, Haiti, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Uganda and Yemen** and has decreased in **Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, northern Nigeria and Somalia**. In **Burkina Faso, Pakistan and South Sudan**, it remained unchanged compared with 2023. Monitoring of the nutrition situation in **Myanmar** indicates a progressive deterioration in recent years.

Critical and Extremely Critical IPC acute malnutrition classifications (IPC AMN Phases 4 and 5) were found in areas of Chad, Haiti, Kenya and Yemen. In Ethiopia, significant increases in the prevalence of acutely malnourished children were observed in drought-affected areas (SMART, 2024), despite the burden decline at the national level.


In the Sudan, already high levels of acute malnutrition continued to rise, particularly among children, due to mass displacement, limited humanitarian access, disrupted nutrition and health services and the onset of the lean season (The Sudan Nutrition Vulnerability Analysis, May 2024). In July, the Famine Review Committee concluded that the prevalence of


acute malnutrition is likely above the 30 percent Extremely Critical (IPC AMN Phase 5) threshold in IDP camps around El Fasher, North Darfur, and that the situation is likely similar in other states with high concentration of IDPs. Latest data from West Darfur and Red Sea states continue to indicate high GAM prevalence, exceeding the 15 percent Critical (IPC AMN Phase 4) threshold (SMART, 2024).

From March 2024, less severe levels of acute malnutrition were seen in the **Gaza Strip**, but the volatility of the conflict risks rapid deterioration (GNC, June 2024). Diets of the most vulnerable – young children and pregnant and breastfeeding women – continue to be extremely poor, and access to health services and safe water severely limited. Almost 90 percent of children are affected by at least one disease, increasing their vulnerability to malnutrition and death. Most children aged 6–23 months rely on breastmilk as their main food and lack access to the necessary complementary foods, increasing their risk of chronic malnutrition.

[See Annexe 3 for complete Nutrition dataset](#)

DRIVERS | The drivers of food crises are interlinked and overlay structural weaknesses

 Conflict is the major driver of acute food insecurity and malnutrition, notably in the **Gaza Strip** and the **Sudan**, where the conflicts also have regional ramifications. Increasing and sustained hostilities limit humanitarian access, preventing provision of livelihood and food assistance.

 Weather extremes worsened. Temperatures in the first six months of 2024 were the highest ever recorded, amounting to 12 consecutive months of record heat levels (EU, June 2024). The effects of the recently ended El Niño are still being felt, with widespread drought and implications for food production, particularly in Southern Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean, including the Dry Corridor and the Plurinational State of **Bolivia**. There is an increasing probability of a La Niña onset in the second half of 2024, which could bring below-average rainfall to the eastern Horn of Africa,

increase the likelihood of an above-average Atlantic hurricane season and flooding in parts of Latin America and the Caribbean, and wetter-than-usual conditions in Southern Africa and Southeast Asia (FAO, July 2024; FEWS NET, August 2024, ICPAC, 2024, SADC, 2024).

 Global food markets managed to remain adequately supplied but were still vulnerable to disruptions from extreme weather events and geopolitical tensions (FAO, June 2024). Domestic food inflation has slowed in some countries but remains high in others, including **Haiti, Myanmar, Malawi, South Sudan and Zimbabwe** (World Bank, June 2024). Many poor countries continue to struggle with unsustainable public debt, with 54 percent of low-income countries in, or at high risk of, debt distress (IMF, July 2024).

REGIONS |

East Africa

Devastating conflict in the **Sudan** is having profound domestic and regional impacts on food security. In localized areas of **Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda**, intercommunal violence, resource-based conflict and cattle raiding continued to disrupt livelihoods, markets, trade flows and humanitarian assistance (ICPAC, April 2024).

The March to May rains increased crop and livestock productivity, boosting food availability and livelihood opportunities and improving food security, particularly in Kenya. They also led to flash floods and landslides that caused localized damage in **Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia**. Forecast above-normal June–September rainfall could drive improvements in food security in **Djibouti** and parts of Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan, the Sudan and Uganda, but may also bring flooding. From October–December 2024, La Niña is expected to bring below-average rainfall in the eastern Horn of Africa.

High food prices continue to erode household purchasing power. Prices were highest in the Sudan and South Sudan, followed by Ethiopia and Uganda (WFP, August 2024).

Central and Southern Africa

The 2023–2024 El Niño-induced drought has led to widespread harvest failure and livestock deaths in large parts of **Angola, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe**. The lean season from November 2024–March 2025 is anticipated to start earlier and be more severe than usual. High food prices, amid lower maize production and limited agricultural wage-earning opportunities, will severely dent the purchasing power of poorer households across the region. The biggest year-on-year deteriorations in acute food insecurity are expected in Zambia, Namibia, Zimbabwe and Malawi, all of which declared a State of Drought disaster (SADC, August 2024).

The number of people internally displaced by intensifying conflict remains high in **Democratic Republic of the Congo** and Mozambique (GRID, 2024).

There are no 2024 acute food insecurity data available for resident and refugee populations in Congo.

For more information please see the [GRFC 2024 Regional Focus on the IGAD Member States](#) (August 2024)

West Africa and the Sahel

Regionally, levels of acute food insecurity are estimated to be higher than in 2023 (CH, March 2024). **Nigeria** had the largest increase in the number of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity, driven by record inflation and conflicts in the north, followed by **Chad**, due to lower agricultural production and poor pastoral conditions, and **Sierra Leone**, where high levels of inflation persisted. The **Niger** saw a slight increase due to increased food prices and heightened costs of humanitarian assistance associated with border closures.

Mali had an increase of over 60 percent in the number of people in Emergency (CH Phase 4) as well as the persisting pocket of 2 600 people in the Ménaka region in Catastrophe (CH Phase 5) mainly due to prolonged conflict and insecurity.

Important declines in the number of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity were reported in **Senegal** driven by lower food prices following an above-average 2023 harvest, and in **Burkina Faso**, with 30 percent fewer people in CH Phase 4 and no populations in Catastrophe (CH Phase 5) due to higher levels of cereal and cash crop production and increased humanitarian access. **Cameroon, Togo** and **Côte d'Ivoire** also experienced improvements. There are new acute food insecurity data for refugees in Chad but no new data for **Liberia**.

For more information please see the [Regional Report on Food Security and Nutrition in West Africa and the Sahel 2024](#) (June 2024)

Asia

Acute food insecurity deteriorated in **Myanmar** in tandem with the increased intensity of armed conflict and rising numbers of IDPs (FAO/WFP, June 2024; OCHA, June 2024). In **Bangladesh**, persistent high food prices have limited household purchasing power, while the prolonged monsoon floods since May, civil unrest and curfew severely impacted households' income-earning capacity in many parts of the country (WFP, August 2024).

The number of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity decreased in **Afghanistan** due to better 2023 harvests and humanitarian and livelihood support. Nevertheless, economic stagnation, localized flooding, fewer remittances and an influx of returnees continue to hinder access to food (IPC, May 2024). The Balochistan, Sindh, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa regions of **Pakistan** are expected to see seasonal improvements in acute food insecurity but levels remain notably high (IPC, May 2024). There are no new acute food insecurity data for **Sri Lanka**, a major food crisis in 2023.

Europe

The war in **Ukraine** continues to disrupt the country's agrifood sector and drive high levels of acute food insecurity, particularly in conflict areas. Damage and destruction of critical infrastructure, and land mine contamination of farmland, have constrained agricultural activity and transportation of crops to both local markets and export destinations. High

production and logistical costs have eroded livelihoods, reducing farmers' incomes and the wages of millions of rural Ukrainians (IFPRI, April 2024). While the global supply pressures on grains and oilseeds created by the war in Ukraine since 2022 have eased, they remain vulnerable to shocks due to the volume of Ukraine's exports. In 2024, wheat exports are expected to decline while those of oil crops are forecast to increase (FAO, July 2024).

There are no new acute food insecurity data for Ukraine, which was a major food crisis in 2023.

Latin America and the Caribbean

A general easing of headline inflation across the region by mid-2024, except in **Haiti**, has improved food access, with most countries seeing their rates reduce from the double digit inflation seen in 2023 to single digits (Trading Economics, 2024). This supported important declines in acute food insecurity in the **Dominican Republic** and **Honduras** (IPC, December 2023; IPC, May 2024). **Guatemala** also experienced declines. This is primarily due to the absence of extreme climatic or socioeconomic shocks leading to greater availability of food from the last harvest combined with increased purchasing power (IPC, August 2024).

Nicaragua faces a 25 percent increase in acute food insecurity amid possible declines in staple cereal production (FEWS NET, 2024). In Haiti, gang violence, political instability and high inflation rates continue but no new analysis is available yet for 2024 (IPC, March 2024). There are no new acute food insecurity data for **El Salvador** or for resident and migrant populations in **Colombia**, a major food crisis in 2023, **Ecuador** and **Peru**.

Middle East and North Africa

Conflict remains the primary driver of acute food insecurity. Intensified military operations across **Palestine (the Gaza Strip and the West Bank)**, retaliatory strikes and cross-border attacks throughout the region, and increasing hostilities in the key shipping passage of the Red Sea, pose a critical risk to food security in the region and global shipping (UN, July 2024).

In **Lebanon**, the number of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity decreased but remains high, and the security situation, particularly along the Blue Line, remains volatile with increased displacement from southern Lebanon since the onset of conflict in the Gaza Strip (UN, June 2024).

In **Yemen**, a decline in humanitarian food assistance since December 2023, especially in areas controlled by Sana'a-based authorities, has resulted in an increase in the severity of the crisis (FEWS NET, June 2024).

The onset of winter may exacerbate food insecurity and malnutrition in the region, particularly for displaced populations living in inadequate shelters.

There are no new acute food insecurity data for refugee populations in **Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and Türkiye**, populations in Palestine (West Bank) and the **Syrian Arab Republic**, which was one of the ten worst food crises in 2023.

[See Bibliography](#)

