

ACUTE MALNUTRITION

1.0M children under 5 years old with acute malnutrition in March–May 2023

0.73M MAM 0.24M SAM

Source: Kenya IPC TWG, February 2023.

0.1M pregnant and breastfeeding women with acute malnutrition in 2023

Source: Kenya IPC TWG, September 2023.

In early 2023, acute malnutrition in Kenya's drought-stricken ASALs was Extremely Critical or Critical in many counties and even worse than in 2022. A September 2023 IPC AMN analysis showed an improving but still critical situation.

DRIVERS OF ACUTE MALNUTRITION 2023

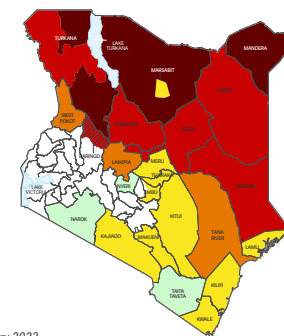
Lack of food Poor milk consumption was a major driver due to continued very low milk production in pastoral drought-affected areas where it is a key component of children's diets. There is a greater severity of acute malnutrition than acute food insecurity, demonstrating the important contribution of non-dietary factors to the very high levels of acute malnutrition.

Inadequate practices Poor health-seeking behaviour and inadequate child-feeding practices contribute to high levels of acute malnutrition.

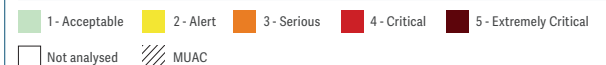
Inadequate services Low vaccination coverage, low vitamin A supplementation, lack of access to and poorly supplied essential health services, and limited access to safe disposal of human waste contribute to a high disease burden. The drought worsened water availability, compromising hygiene and sanitation practices, leading to high incidences of diarrhoea, while the dusty environment aggravated acute respiratory infections. Measles outbreaks were reported in Turkana West, Garissa and Mandera.

Inadequate services Low vaccination coverage, low vitamin A supplementation, lack of access to and poorly supplied

PEAK 2023 (MARCH–MAY)



Source: Kenya IPC TWG, February 2023.

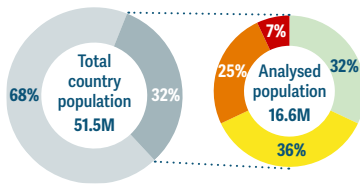
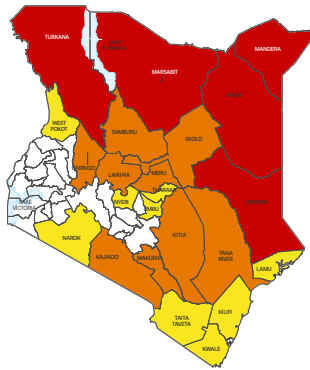


ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY | Severity in the ASALs peaked in the first half of 2023 after the multiyear drought, but improved with good rainfall.

PEAK 2023 (MARCH–JUNE)

5.4M people in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) or 32% of the analysed population faced high levels of acute food insecurity. This included 1.2M people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4).

The situation has slightly deteriorated compared with the same time period in 2022. Northern and eastern pastoral areas were the worst affected due to the lingering impacts of the 2020–2023 drought.

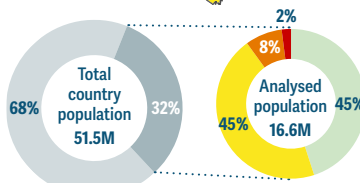
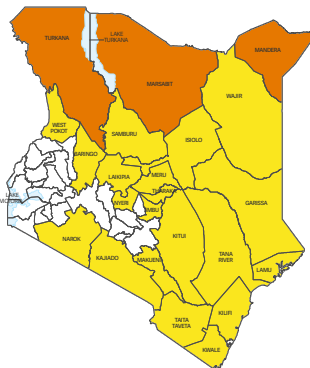


Source: Kenya IPC TWG, February 2023.

PROJECTION 2024 (OCTOBER 2023–JANUARY 2024)

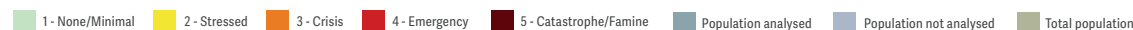
1.5M people in the ASALs or 9% of the analysed population are projected to face high levels of acute food insecurity.

Garissa, Mandera, Marsabit, Turkana and Wajir counties will see marked improvements in the severity of acute food insecurity following abundant rainfall.



Note: the projection for 2024 does not refer to the expected peak period.

Source: Kenya IPC TWG, September 2023.



DRIVERS OF THE CRISIS 2023–2024

Weather extremes The unprecedented 2020–2023 drought led to widespread livestock deaths and crop failures affecting both pastoral and agricultural areas (IPC, February 2023). Despite abundant rains in March–May, household income still had not recovered from low agricultural and livestock production in previous years (FEWS NET, April 2023). The October–December rainy

season was characterized by very high rainfall due to the strong El Niño, reinforcing the drought recovery, but also leading to heavy storms and flooding in the northern counties, with livestock losses and damaged agricultural land in some areas (ACAPS, November 2023).

Economic shocks Local currency depreciation and high fertilizer and fuel prices raised food production and marketing costs (IPC, September 2023). Years of low food production, rising fuel prices, and reduced food imports from neighbouring countries contributed to high staple food prices in the first half of the year (WFP, April 2023).

Household purchasing power improved in the latter half due to better crop yields and market availability (WFP, October 2023).

DISPLACEMENT

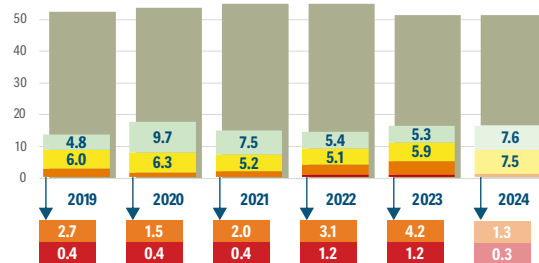
0.7M forcibly displaced people by 2023

0.03M IDPs **0.7M** refugees and asylum-seekers

Source: IOM, December 2023.

Source: UNHCR Nowcasted estimate, December 2023.

Peak numbers of people (in millions) by phase of acute food insecurity, 2019–2024



Source: Kenya IPC TWG.

A protracted food crisis A lower-middle-income country, Kenya has been included in all eight editions of the GRFC, and as a major food crisis in seven of them. Food security deteriorated from 2021 due to the cumulative effects of the multiyear drought.