

Regional Focus on the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Member States

2019 Global Report on Food Crises



Key Messages

More than 113 million people across 53 countries experienced acute hunger requiring urgent food, nutrition and livelihoods assistance in 2018 (*Global Report on Food Crises 2019*). Around 27 million people – or 24 percent – lived in seven of the eight countries in Eastern Africa’s regional economic community known as IGAD.

Updated projections of the peak 2019 food insecure populations, by country, indicate that food insecurity levels will likely be higher this year in South Sudan and the Sudan, remain stable in Ethiopia and Uganda, and be lower in Kenya and Somalia, in comparison to peak figures from 2018.

The worst-affected countries in the IGAD region

The worst food crises in the region in 2018 in terms of numbers of acutely food-insecure people were Ethiopia (8.1 million), the Sudan (6.2 million) and South Sudan (6.1 million). In terms of prevalence some 59 percent of South Sudan’s population required urgent assistance to protect livelihoods, reduce food consumption gaps and malnutrition. More than one in five Somalis were acutely food insecure (22 percent).

Aggregate number of acutely food insecure has increased each year

The number of people in need of urgent action across the seven countries has increased each year since the GRFC launched in 2017. Following the 2016–17 drought the number increased sharply from almost 24 million in 2016 to almost 27 million in 2017. Although the situation

improved slightly between 2017 and 2018 in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Uganda, thanks to more favourable weather and partial recovery for pastoralists and agro-pastoralists, extremely high numbers of acutely food-insecure people persisted in South Sudan, while the Sudan faced a significantly deteriorating economic crisis. As a result the aggregate number for the IGAD region failed to decrease.

Primary drivers of acute hunger in IGAD member states

Climate shocks, conflict and economic turbulence were the main drivers of food insecurity in the IGAD region in 2018. Adverse climate was the primary driver in Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and Djibouti where in total 11.9 million people were acutely food insecure. Prolonged dry conditions, and flash floods negatively affected pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihoods by damaging crop production, pasture, browse, as well as limiting water sources for both domestic and livestock usage.

Although also affected by climate shocks, conflict/insecurity was considered the primary driver in South Sudan and Somalia where in total nearly 8.8 million people could not meet daily food needs without assistance during the peak hunger period. Persistent insecurity disrupted livelihood activities, affected market functionality and limited physical access to markets.

Meanwhile the Sudan’s economic crisis, which led to escalating food prices, sharp currency depreciation and fuel shortages, pushed 6.2 million people into acute food insecurity in 2018.

INTEGRATED FOOD SECURITY PHASE CLASSIFICATION (IPC)

Phase 1 Minimal	Phase 2 Stressed	Phase 3 Crisis	Phase 4 Emergency	Phase 5 Catastrophe/Famine
Households are able to meet essential food and non-food needs without engaging in atypical, unsustainable strategies to access food and income	Households have minimally adequate food consumption but are unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures without engaging in detrimental coping strategies	Households have food consumption gaps with high or above usual acute malnutrition OR accelerated depletion of livelihood assets that will lead to food consumption gaps	Households have large food consumption gaps resulting in very high acute malnutrition and excess mortality OR face extreme loss of livelihood assets that will lead to food consumption gaps	Households have an extreme lack of food and other basic needs. Starvation, death and destitution are evident

Action for disaster risk reduction and livelihoods protection

Urgent action required

Population on the 'cusp' of acute food insecurity

Approximately 20 million people were found to be in *Stressed* (IPC Phase 2) conditions in the Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia and Djibouti.¹ These populations were marginally food-insecure and likely to decline into *Crisis* (IPC Phase 3) or worse if confronted with any shocks, or if humanitarian support is withdrawn.

Climate adversity was the key driver of food insecurity in the IGAD area in 2018



Updated outlook for 2019

As in 2018, below-average rains, conflict and economic crises will continue to drive food security outcomes across the IGAD region in 2019. Ethiopia, the Sudan and South Sudan are expected to remain among the world's most severe food crises in terms of number of people affected.

The 2019 March-May long *Gu* rains were delayed, with analyses showing that rainfall levels through mid-April were among the driest on record in some areas. Resources are expected to decline rapidly during the dry season and below-average agricultural production is expected to push up food prices, causing food insecurity levels to peak in July-September.

Local insecurity and intercommunal violence will continue to cause displacement and undermine food availability and access in Ethiopia, Kenya's Arid and Semi-Arid Lands, Somalia, the Sudan and South Sudan.

With the exception of South Sudan and the Sudan, the food insecure populations in 2019 are projected to be stable or in decline compared to peak 2018 levels,

¹ Data on population in *Stressed* (IPC Phase 2) were not available for Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda.

which were heavily influenced by the residual effects of the severe 2016 and 2017 droughts on household livelihoods. Unlike in 2018, where peak needs occurred very early in the year, 2019 food insecurity is projected to peak across the Horn of Africa between June and August.

The way forward

Ending conflicts, empowering women, nourishing and educating children, improving rural infrastructure and reinforcing social safety nets are essential building blocks of resilience and stability.

Information and technology can capture changes in food security - especially in fragile countries and contexts - on a near real-time basis. Collecting and analysing data on vulnerable populations is vital to ensure a targeted and integrated response for multiple partners working in development and humanitarian spheres. Though this report shows that overall quality of data has improved, there are countries for which there are data gaps.

Humanitarian assistance to the IGAD region has amounted to USD 4.5-5 billion each year between 2016 and 2018, representing 18-23 percent of global humanitarian assistance. Most of it - between 42 and 46 percent - was allocated to the food security and nutrition sectors.² Though this humanitarian assistance was vital for saving lives, additional investments in resilience building activities are required to provide households with a buffer against future shocks and stop the cycle of recurring food crises. Investments in conflict prevention and sustaining peace will save lives and livelihoods, reduce structural vulnerabilities and address the root causes of hunger. The findings of this report clearly demonstrate the need for simultaneous action across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.

² Calculations elaborated on the basis of data extracted from OCHA Financial Tracking Service [consulted on 28 April 2019].

CONTACTS

- ✉ FSIN Secretariat: fsin-secretariat@wfp.org
- 🌐 www.fsinplatform.org
- 🐦 @FSIN_News
- ✉ IFRAH Coordinator: abdi.jama@igad.int

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