



Key Messages | 2019 Global Report on Food Crises

Acute food insecurity global estimates in 2018

More than 113 million people across 53 countries experienced acute hunger requiring urgent food, nutrition and livelihoods assistance (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above).¹

The worst food crises in 2018 were, in order of severity, Yemen, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Sudan, South Sudan and northern Nigeria. These eight countries accounted for two thirds of the total number of people facing acute food insecurity – amounting to nearly 72 million people.

Countries in Africa remained disproportionately affected by acute food insecurity

The figure of 113 million people represents a slight improvement over the number for 2017 presented in last year's report, in which an estimated 124 million people in 51 countries faced acute hunger.

Despite the slight decrease, over the past three years, the report has consistently shown that, year on year, more than 100 million people (2016, 2017 and 2018) have faced periods of acute hunger.

The modest decrease between 2017 and 2018 is largely attributed to changes in climate shocks. A number of

¹ This report complements the evidence reported by SOFI 2018 - The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World, which identifies 821 million people undernourished. While the SOFI estimate provides the scale of chronic food insecurity worldwide, this Global Report on Food Crises focuses specifically on the most severe manifestations of acute food insecurity in the world's most pressing food crises.

highly exposed countries did not experience the intensity of climate-related shocks and stressors that they had experienced in 2017 when they variously faced severe drought, flooding, rains, and temperature rises brought on by the El Niño of 2015-16. This includes countries in southern and eastern Africa, the Horn of Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Asia-Pacific region.

An additional 143 million people in a subset of 42 countries were found to be living in *Stressed* conditions (IPC Phase 2). At the cusp of acute hunger, they risked slipping into *Crisis* or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) if faced with a shock or stressor.

High levels of acute and chronic malnutrition in children living in emergency conditions remained of grave concern. The immediate drivers of undernutrition include poor dietary intake and disease. Mothers and caregivers often face challenges in providing children with the key micronutrients they need at critical growth periods in food crises. This is reflected in the dismally low number of children consuming a minimum acceptable diet in most of the countries profiled in this report.

Primary drivers

Conflict and insecurity, climate shocks and economic turbulence – the main drivers of food insecurity – continued to erode livelihoods and destroy lives.

Conflict and insecurity remained the key driver in 2018. Some 74 million people – two-thirds – of those facing acute hunger were located in 21 countries and territories affected by conflict or insecurity. Around 33 million of these people were in 10 countries in Africa; over 27 million in seven countries in Western Asia/Middle East; 13 million in three countries in South/South-east Asia and 1.1 million in Eastern Europe.

INTEGRATED FOOD SECURITY PHASE CLASSIFICATION (IPC) & CADRE HARMONISÉ (CH)

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

Climate and natural disasters pushed another 29 million people into situations of acute food insecurity in 2018. As in previous years, most of these individuals were in Africa, where nearly 23 million people in 20 countries were acutely food insecure due to climate shocks.

Economic shocks were the primary driver of acute food insecurity for 10.2 million people, mainly in Burundi, the Sudan and Zimbabwe.

Food insecurity: Short-term outlook for 2019

Yemen, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Sudan, South Sudan and northern Nigeria are expected to remain among the world's most severe food crises. Large segments of populations in most of these countries risk falling into *Emergency* (IPC/CH Phase 4) levels of acute food insecurity.

Climate shocks and conflict will continue driving food insecurity and are expected once again to severely affect several regions. Dry weather in parts of Southern Africa and drought in Central America's Dry Corridor has dampened prospects for agricultural output. El Niño conditions are likely to have an impact on agricultural production and food prices in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The needs of refugees and migrants in host countries are expected to remain significant in Bangladesh and the Syria regional crisis. The number of people who are displaced, refugees and migrants are expected to increase if the political and economic crisis persists in Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

The way forward

Ending conflicts, empowering women, nourishing and educating children, improving rural infrastructure and reinforcing social safety-nets are essential for a resilient, stable and hunger-free world.

Investments in conflict prevention and sustaining peace will save lives and livelihoods, reduce structural vulnerabilities and address the root causes of hunger.

Main drivers of food insecurity in 2018

74M acutely food-insecure people in 21 conflict-affected countries or territories



29M acutely food-insecure people in 26 climate-affected countries

10M acutely food-insecure people affected by economic shocks

The findings of this report clearly demonstrate the need for simultaneous action across the humanitarian-development nexus to deliver a hunger-free world in the 21st century.

In the last 10 years, humanitarian assistance and spending needs have grown by around 127 percent - approximately 40 percent of that went to cover needs in the food and agriculture subsectors. The surge in humanitarian needs - as well as the potential for agricultural development and rural resilience-building to provide a buffer against crises - highlights the need for a new way of responding to the food security challenges of this new era.

Information and technology can capture changes in food security - especially in fragile countries and contexts - on a near real-time basis. Though this report demonstrates that overall quality of data has improved, there are countries for which there are data gaps. Collecting and analyzing data on vulnerable populations is vital in ensuring a situation analysis that identifies not only outcomes, but hunger's key drivers for a targeted and integrated response for multiple partners working in development and humanitarian spheres.

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