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Monitoring food security in countries with conflict situations

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Foreword

According to the consensus-based Global Report on Food Crises 2017,¹ 108 million people across 48 countries² are experiencing unacceptably high levels of acute food insecurity.³ This figure is 35 percent higher than in last year's report when 80 million people were in the same situation. Major food crises are the result of conflict, record-high food prices at local level and abnormal weather patterns caused by El Niño. Civil conflict is the driving factor in 10 of the 13 worst crises, underscoring the strong linkage between peace and food security.

Conflicts have left large numbers of people food insecure and in need of urgent assistance. Currently, areas of South Sudan are classified in Famine, while other areas of Somalia, Yemen and northeastern Nigeria face a risk of famine. In some cases, such as Yemen, food crises are widespread and severe, affecting entire populations. In other countries, such as Nigeria, they are more localized. Moreover, spillover effects from conflict have had a significant impact on neighbouring countries (e.g. the Syrian refugee crisis and Lake Chad Basin crisis). The demand for humanitarian life- and livelihood-saving activities as well as resilience assistance is therefore escalating.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development calls for more collaborative approaches to conflict prevention, mitigation,

resolution and recovery. The 2030 Agenda recognizes peace as a vital threshold condition for development, as well as a development outcome in its own right. Given that conflicts can inhibit sustainable development, Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 aims to significantly reduce all forms of violence and to work with Member States and communities to find lasting solutions to conflict and insecurity. Similarly, eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, achieving food security and making agriculture sustainable are recognized as critical elements for meeting the goal of ensuring peaceful and inclusive societies.

In most of the countries covered by this report, eight out of ten people affected live in rural areas. Investing in agriculture and rural development while providing life-saving food assistance is key to limiting the negative impact and addressing the root causes of conflicts.

Adequate investments in crisis prevention and recovery call for a robust understanding of the situation and for joint efforts to respond to the crisis. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) are at the forefront of these efforts. This report is an important part of them.

José Graziano da Silva
FAO Director-General

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Rationale and methodology

This report aims to provide an overview of the food security situation in conflict-affected countries and to provide regular monitoring of the food security situation in the countries currently being monitored by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). The analysis takes into consideration the complexity of conflict and illustrates its impact on the four pillars of food insecurity: availability, access, utilization and stability.

The negative impact of conflict on food security, nutrition and agriculture is uncontested and globally recognized. With this in mind, FAO and WFP will produce regular food security reports on countries of concern to the UNSC. In the context of increasing humanitarian crises, this collaboration is part of a global effort alongside Member States to provide decision-makers and the public with transparent and harmonized information to increase accountability by all. This is coherent with Core Responsibility 1 from the United Nations Secretary-General's report to the World Humanitarian Summit, in order to assist the UNSC in its efforts to embrace risk analysis earlier and bring its leverage to bear to defuse tensions, urge restraint and open up space for dialogue.

Produced by FAO and WFP, this report is based on existing data and analysis, including baseline and emergency food security assessments from WFP⁴ and FAO early warning reports.⁵ In countries where the government and food security stakeholders have adopted the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) or the *Cadre Harmonisé* (CH) as the national protocol for classifying the severity and magnitude of acute food insecurity, results from the latest IPC/CH analyses were used.⁶

The IPC is a set of tools aimed at providing a “common currency” for classifying food insecurity. This evidence-based approach uses international standards that allow for comparisons of situations across countries and over time. It is based on consensus-building processes to provide decision-makers with a rigorous analysis of food insecurity, along with objectives for response in both emergency and

development contexts. This report specifically looks at the more severe IPC Phases – Crisis (Phase 3), Emergency (Phase 4) and Famine (Phase 5) – to highlight the number of people requiring urgent assistance. In West African countries, the CH tool is used, which is a variation of the IPC tool, customized to the context of the region. For some countries, the latest Humanitarian Needs Overview is also used in order to provide an updated and reliable figure concerning the number of people in need.

The report covers country briefs for 15 countries in four regions:

- **Latin America:** Haiti
- **Africa:** Burundi, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan
- **Middle East:** Lebanon, Iraq, Syria and Yemen
- **Asia:** Afghanistan

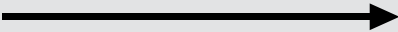
One brief on the regional Lake Chad Basin crisis affecting Nigeria, Niger, Chad and Cameroon is also included. Countries or territories under UNSC monitoring where no recent data were available have not been covered (e.g. Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Western Sahara, Libya, Ukraine, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Eritrea). For some countries, the lack of access to conduct food security assessments is a serious concern for humanitarian agencies. Despite widespread knowledge of the high prevalence of hunger, up-to-date data are not available to provide substantive support to operational planning.

Each brief provides an overview of the people suffering from acute food insecurity, a description of the impact of conflict on food security and a summary of the main drivers of food insecurity in the country. As a reference point, the number of people classified in IPC/CH Phase 3⁷ and above was considered. When IPC/CH analyses were not available, the WFP CARI SCALE was used.⁸ The reference to the IPC Phase is indicative of the severity of food insecurity.⁹

IPC acute food insecurity reference table for area classification

Purpose: To guide short-term strategic objectives linked to medium- and long-term objectives that address underlying causes and chronic food insecurity.

Usage: Classification is based on the convergence of evidence of current or projected most likely conditions, including effects of humanitarian assistance.

Phase Name and Description		Phase 1 Minimal	Phase 2 Stressed	Phase 3 Crisis	Phase 4 Emergency	Phase 5 Famine
		More than four in five households (HHs) are able to meet essential food and non-food needs without engaging in atypical, unsustainable strategies to access food and income, including any reliance on humanitarian assistance	Even with any humanitarian assistance at least one in five HHs in the area have the following or worse: minimally adequate food consumption but are unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures without engaging in irreversible coping strategies	Even with any humanitarian assistance at least one in five HHs in the area have the following or worse: food consumption gaps with high or above usual acute malnutrition OR are marginally able to meet minimum food needs only with accelerated depletion of livelihood assets that will lead to food consumption gaps	Even with any humanitarian assistance at least one in five HHs in the area have the following or worse: large food consumption gaps resulting in very high acute malnutrition and excess mortality OR extreme loss of livelihood assets that will lead to food consumption gaps in the short term	Even with any humanitarian assistance at least one in five HHs in the area have an extreme lack of food and other basic needs where starvation, death, and destitution are evident (evidence for all three criteria of food consumption, wasting, and CDR is required to classify Famine)
Priority Response Objectives	Action required to build resilience and for disaster risk reduction		Action required for disaster risk reduction and to protect livelihoods	Urgent Action Required to: 		
	Action required to build resilience and for disaster risk reduction		Action required for disaster risk reduction and to protect livelihoods	Protect livelihoods, reduce food consumption gaps and reduce acute malnutrition	Save lives and livelihoods	Prevent widespread mortality and total collapse of livelihoods
Area Outcomes (directly measured or inferred)	Food Consumption and Livelihood Change	More than 80% of households in the area are able to meet basic food needs without engaging in atypical strategies to access food and income, and livelihoods are sustainable	Based on the IPC Household Group Reference Table, at least 20% of the households in the area are in Phase 2 or worse	Based on the IPC Household Group Reference Table, at least 20% of the households in the area are in Phase 3 or worse	Based on the IPC Household Group Reference Table, at least 20% of the households in the area are in Phase 4 or worse	Based on the IPC Household Group Reference Table, at least 20% of the households in the area are in Phase 5
	Nutritional Status*	Acute Malnutrition: <5% BMI <18.5 Prevalence: <10%	Acute Malnutrition: 5–10%, BMI <18.5 Prevalence: 10–20%	Acute Malnutrition: 10–15% OR > usual and increasing BMI <18.5 Prevalence: 20–40%, 1.5 x greater than reference	Acute Malnutrition: 15–30%; OR > usual and increasing BMI <18.5 Prevalence: >40%	Acute Malnutrition: >30% BMI <18.5 Prevalence: far > 40%
	Mortality*	CDR: <0.5/10,000/day U5DR: ≤1/10,000/day	CDR: <0.5/10,000/day U5DR: ≤1/10,000/day	CDR: 0.5–1/10,000/day U5DR: 1–2/10,000/day	CDR: 1–2/10,000/day OR >2x reference U5DR: 2–4/10,000/day	CDR: >2/10,000/day U5DR: >4/10,000/day

*For both nutrition and mortality area outcomes, household food consumption deficits must be an explanatory factor in order for that evidence to be used in support of a Phase classification. For example, elevated malnutrition due to disease outbreak or lack of health access—if it is determined to not be related to food consumption deficits—should not be used as evidence for a Phase classification. Similarly, excess mortality rates due to murder or conflict—if they are not related to food consumption deficits—should not be used as evidence for a Phase classification. For Acute Malnutrition, the IPC thresholds are based on the percentage of children under five years that are below two standard deviations of weight for height or presence of oedema. BMI is an acronym for Body Mass Index. CDR is Crude Death Rate. U5DR is Under 5 Death Rate.

Table 1: Current and previous estimates of people in IPC/CH Phase 3 or above

Country	People in need of food, nutrition or livelihoods assistance (millions of people)	Percentage of total population	Previous estimates July 2016 (millions of people)***
Afghanistan	8.5	32%	2.5
Burundi	2.6	26%	2.3
Central African Republic	1.1	31%	1.8
Democratic Republic of the Congo	5.9	8%	4.5
Guinea-Bissau	0.022	2%	0.025
Haiti	2.3	31%	2.1
Iraq*	3.2	4%	2.4
Lake Chad Basin (northeastern Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad, Niger)	6.2	36%	4.6
Lebanon (Syrian refugees)**	1.1	89% ¹⁰	0.259
Liberia	0.014	0.33%	0.025
Mali	0.255	1%	0.423
Somalia	3.2	25%	0.9
South Sudan	4.9	42%	4.7
Sudan	3.5	12%	4.4
Syria*	7	38%	8.7
Yemen	17	60%	14

*Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO 2017)

**Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon, 2016

***Monitoring food security in countries with conflict situations. A joint FAO/WFP update for the United Nations Security Council, July 2016

Main findings

As illustrated by the analysis in Table 1, the situation differs from country to country; however, it is unsurprising that countries with ongoing conflicts have the highest numbers of food insecure people. For the current updates, the deteriorating food security situation is a concern in Yemen, South Sudan, Somalia and the Lake Chad Basin region.

Somalia

The current food security and nutrition situation in Somalia remains extremely precarious and famine remains a possibility in the second half of 2017. While humanitarian assistance has had a positive impact in recent weeks and months, the number of people facing Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phases 3 and 4) levels of acute food insecurity has increased from almost 1 million in May 2016 to 3.2 million between May and June 2017. In addition, it is important to note that the number of people on the brink of famine facing Emergency (IPC Phase 4) has increased from 400 000 to 700 000 between February and May 2017. The integrated nutrition, mortality and food security surveys conducted in April reported that in all surveyed areas the prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) was between 15 and 30 percent, which is considered critical by the World Health Organization (WHO) cut-offs, and indicative of Emergency conditions. Mortality rates in some

areas reflect famine conditions. Consecutive seasons of poor rainfall, near total crop failure and loss of livestock have undermined food security. The ongoing below-average rainy (*Gu*) season likely means below-average *Gu* production and persistent food insecurity until the end of 2017. In addition, population displacement, trade disruption due to insecurity and a scarcity of employment opportunities and income, combined with high food prices, have eroded purchasing power. In a worst-case scenario, in which the seasonal rains continue to perform poorly, purchasing power declines to levels seen in 2010/11 and humanitarian assistance does not reach populations in need, famine conditions would be expected.

South Sudan

The latest IPC analysis conducted in January 2017 classified 4.9 million people (about 42 percent of the population) in need of urgent humanitarian assistance (IPC Phase 3 Crisis and above). Of those, 100 000 people are facing Famine conditions (IPC Phase 5) or a high likelihood of famine at least until July 2017, if humanitarian assistance is not delivered. The affected population is concentrated in Greater Unity counties, namely Leer and Mayendit. Famine is likely ongoing in Koch county, while Panyijiar county will likely avoid famine if adequate humanitarian assistance

is provided from February to July. IPC projection analysis shows a further deterioration in food security at the height of the lean season in July 2017, with the number of food insecure people increasing to 5.5 million (47 percent of the population). Food insecurity has increased dramatically since the start of the civil conflict in December 2013, reaching record levels in 2016 and 2017. Conflict and insecurity have severely disrupted livelihoods, trade and agricultural production. Moreover, the sharp devaluation of the local currency has inflated food prices, and transport costs are high because of insecurity along trade routes. The nutrition situation is similarly alarming: in several counties, GAM levels are near or above 30 percent – twice the WHO critical threshold.

Lake Chad Basin

The complex emergency in the Lake Chad Basin is affecting some 17 million people in Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad and Niger, with food insecurity reaching worrying levels: 6.2 million people in conflict-affected areas of northeastern Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad and Niger are facing severe food insecurity (36 percent of the affected population in this area). The ongoing conflict in northeastern Nigeria has damaged agriculture, disrupted food production and food systems and caused the loss of assets, social services, incomes and natural resources. Staple food prices have increased substantially due to insecurity, higher transport costs and the depreciation of the local currency in Nigeria. Although the level of food insecurity has improved since the last CH analysis in Nigeria, food insecurity is still alarming in northern Nigeria, and humanitarian assistance needs to be escalated in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States to save lives, protect livelihoods and reduce the consumption deficit of the worst-affected populations. Some 4.7 million people are in Crisis (CH Phase 3) or higher in the States of Borno,

Adamawa and Yobe in northeastern Nigeria. In Borno alone, 3.2 million – 41 percent of the population – are in Phase 3 or higher, of which over 38 000 are facing Famine (Phase 5) conditions. The situation is expected to worsen, resulting in almost 5.2 million people in need of humanitarian assistance in northeastern Nigeria between June and August 2017, of which 50 000 will be in a famine situation if no adequate remedial measures are provided in time. In Cameroon, 300 000 people in 2016 were found to be facing food insecurity in the country's North, Far North, Adamawa and East regions, where the situation has deteriorated since 2015.

Yemen

The main driver of food insecurity in Yemen is the ongoing conflict, which has devastated the economy, agriculture, infrastructure, markets and livelihoods. Millions of people have been displaced, and access to food has been curtailed by dwindling employment, high inflation and exchange rate fluctuations. From March to July 2017, 17 million people are estimated to be facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels. This corresponds to 60 percent of the population and represents a 20 percent increase since the June 2016 IPC analysis. Food insecurity levels are alarming across the country, with internally displaced persons (IDPs) facing the worst outcomes. Of particular concern is the magnitude of food insecurity in Al Hodaidah and Taiz governorates, where almost 2.2 million people are classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and over 1.9 million people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). The nutrition situation, a major outcome of the severe food insecurity, has reached worrying levels, with four governorates (Abyan, Taiz, Al Hodaidah, and Hadramout) reporting GAM prevalence above the WHO critical threshold (≥ 15 percent).

¹ Global Report on Food Crises 2017, produced by FAO, WFP and the European Union, together with other partners including regional institutions, such as the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), SICA (extended). The report is available at <http://www.fsincop.net/resource-centre/detail/en/c/877403/>

² 108 million people out of a total population of 944 million

³ Using the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)/*Cadre Harmonisé* (CH) tools, countries classified as in Crisis or worse are in IPC/CH Phase 3 and above, and in need of urgent humanitarian assistance.

⁴ www.vam.wfp.org

⁵ www.fao.org/gjews/english/index.htm

⁶ www.ipcinfo.org

⁷ www.ipcinfo.org/ipcinfo-detail-forms/ipcinfo-resource-detail0/en/c/414478/

⁸ www.wfp.org/content/consolidated-approach-reporting-indicators-food-security-cari-guidelines

⁹ IPC phase descriptions can be found here: <http://www.ipcinfo.org/ipcinfo-detail-forms/ipcinfo-resource-detail0/en/c/424910/>. Some of the countries included in the table do not conduct IPC analyses. When IPC analyses are available, the numbers are used. When IPC analyses are not available, the numbers of people in each column of the table are derived from the available information, taking into account IPC phase descriptions and thresholds defined in the IPC reference table for food security indicators.

¹⁰ 89 percent of Syrian refugees in Lebanon



4.3
million people
16% of the population

in 22 vulnerable provinces in
IPC Phases 3 and 4
(from July to December 2016)
required urgent food, nutrition
and livelihoods assistance



The food security situation from July to December 2016 (post-harvest) improved compared with the period from April to June 2016.



Between July and December 2016, food, nutrition and livelihoods assistance was needed:

- 813 422 people (3 percent of the total population) were in Emergency (IPC Phase 4)
- 3.5 million people (13 percent of the total population) were in Crisis (IPC Phase 3)

Key drivers of acute food insecurity include the ongoing conflict resulting in population displacements, repatriation from Pakistan, natural disasters, lack of employment opportunities, high food prices and poor access to safe water and improved sanitation.

- IPC figures indicated 4.3 million people to be in Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phases 3 and 4) conditions during the post-harvest season (July – December 2016) in the 32 provinces analysed, with another 8.7 million people (33 percent of the population) classified as Stressed.
- During the pre-harvest season from April to June 2016, over 8.5 million people (nearly 32 percent of the population) were in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4). A further 4.7 million were classified as Stressed (IPC Phase 2). Of the 32 provinces analysed,

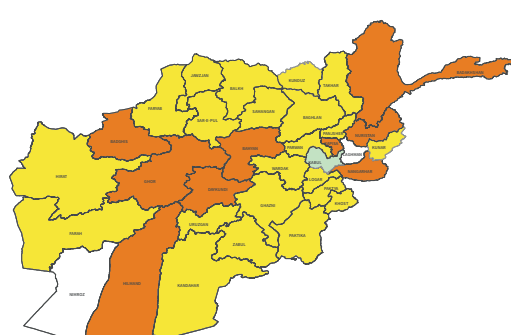
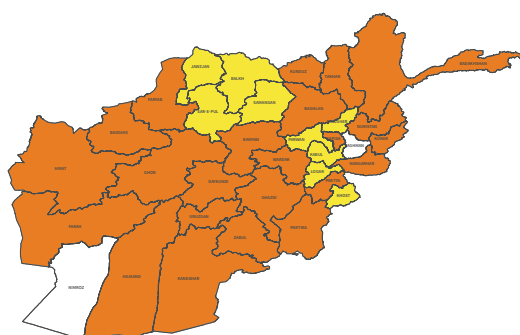
22 were classified in Crisis and the remaining 10 Stressed. The most food insecure populations were in the provinces of Badakhshan, Ghor, Daykundi and Bamyan, where between 12 and 15 percent of the population faced Emergency food insecurity. Badghis also had an extremely high proportion of people in Crisis or Emergency (IPC Phases 3 and 4).

- Countrywide, IDPs, host communities and households with vulnerable livelihoods were the most food insecure. Undocumented returnees were also affected, as they were not receiving any type of humanitarian assistance during departure, and support on arrival was often insufficient.
- A comparison between equivalent seasons reveals a slight deterioration in food security over the past three years.

Food insecurity situation

April – June 2016

July – December 2016



IPC Phase Classification

- Famine
- Emergency
- Crisis
- Stressed
- Minimal
- Not analysed
- Insufficient data

No area is classified under IPC Emergency as the percentage of people affected is less than 20 percent in all regions (refer to IPC reference table, page 4).

Source: Afghanistan IPC Technical Working Group: (<http://www.ipcinfo.org/ipcinfo-detail-forms/ipcinfo-map-detail/en/c/356932/>)

Context

A number of economic and livelihood factors affect food security outcomes in Afghanistan. The most significant ones are conflict, natural disasters, displacement, widespread poverty and lack of employment opportunities in both rural and urban areas. Seasonal employment and improved food security rely on weather conditions that influence the agricultural growing season. During the lean season from January to the end of April, regardless of the size of the harvest, many poor rural households, particularly in the remote northeast and central highland provinces suffering from harsh winters, exhaust their food stocks from the previous harvest and lack ways to make money. Income earning opportunities typically improve in May when people are hired to assist with harvesting activities. Moreover, impacts of natural disasters are often very significant.

Factors driving acute food insecurity

Internal displacement and deportees from Pakistan

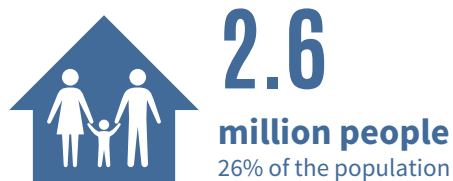
Insecurity affects a large majority of the population, triggering widespread displacement. The total number of individuals displaced by the conflict in 2016 is estimated at 636 503. Many of the displaced are in hard-to-access areas prone to food insecurity. IDPs have minimal access to food, sanitation and health facilities. They lack protection and shelter, and their livelihoods are severely disrupted. In addition, an increasing number of Afghan refugees from Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran are being forced to return. Both documented and undocumented Afghans have been returning for a variety of reasons, including the deteriorating protection space in Pakistan. Many of those returning have lived outside of Afghanistan for decades and need support from the Government and humanitarian actors, both on arrival and during reintegration into a country already struggling with widespread conflict and displacement. Since 1 January 2016, over 728 000 undocumented Afghans have returned. Until 31 December 2016, 372 392 documented refugees had returned from Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran. The lack of suitable refugee camps and livelihood activities has generated severe food insecurity, also for host communities. Many people will likely require some form of continuous humanitarian assistance, even after the end of the cold winter season. Declining purchasing power and disrupted livelihoods in many conflict-affected areas will mean a greater need for food assistance compared with recent years.

Agriculture and markets

Ongoing conflict has heavily damaged the agriculture sector as well as other livelihoods, entrenching food insecurity. Limited access to land and agricultural inputs translates into low household food production and an increased dependency on markets. Although wheat prices were almost stable in all major markets from August 2016 to January 2017, large regional price differences persist, due in part to inadequate infrastructure. Wheat grain can be almost 40 percent more expensive in Kandahar than in Herat. Sharp but short-lived spikes in staple food prices have been observed in some conflict-affected areas.

Seasonality of food insecurity

The current agricultural season across the country is progressing normally owing to the resumption of rains and high elevation snow in January 2017 after a dry autumn. This holds promise for a seasonal recovery of food security indicators. However, even in years with above-average wheat production, poor households suffer from seasonal food insecurity. Markets across the country, except in conflict-affected areas, are likely to function normally owing to the usual imports of wheat flour from Pakistan and Kazakhstan, near-average aggregate domestic grain harvests and abundant second season production of fruit, maize and rice. Poor households suffering from seasonal food insecurity during the lean period are expected to find employment opportunities in agriculture to resume normal diets, participate in agricultural activities and stock grain for the next winter.



in IPC Phases 3 and 4
(from April to May 2017)
required urgent food, nutrition
and livelihoods assistance



From April to May 2017, the number of people in need of assistance increased by more than a million since the period from July to September 2016.



Urgent food, nutrition and livelihoods assistance is needed:

- about 700 000 people (7 percent of the total population) in Emergency (IPC Phase 4)
- 1.8 million people (19 percent of the total population) in Crisis (IPC Phase 3)

Displacement and the macroeconomic downturn stemming from ongoing civil unrest have severely constrained food access and availability, undermining food security. Added to this are rising food prices and localized crop production shortfalls caused by insufficient rainfall in some areas in 2016 and early 2017.

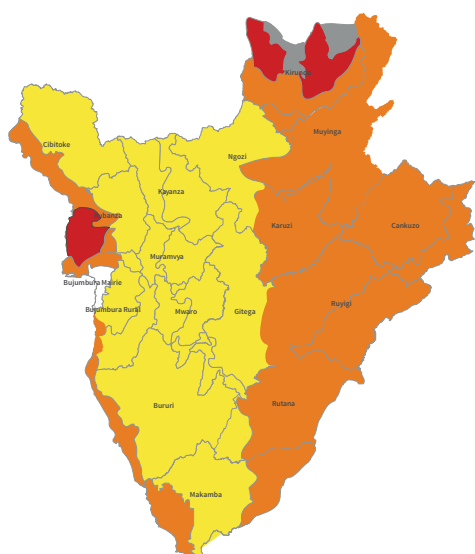
- From April to May 2017, the number of people in need of humanitarian support increased to 2.56 million, up from 1.5 million since from July to September 2016, mainly because of the poor rains that characterized season 2017A.
- This number was also slightly higher than the 2.3 million severely food insecure from May to

June 2016, when the season 2016A was affected by the El Niño phenomenon.

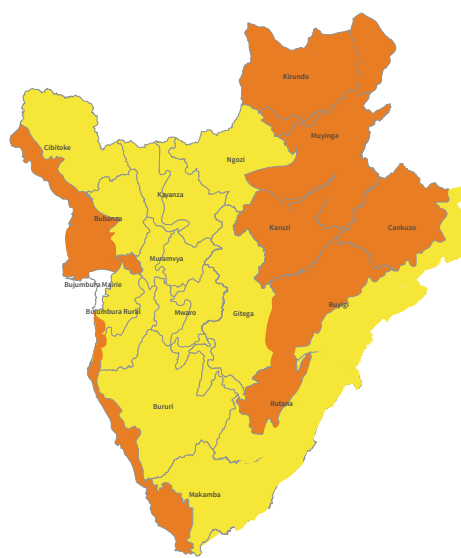
- A significant proportion of the severely food insecure in Crisis and Emergency levels (IPC Phases 3 and 4) are in areas of the Dépression de l'Est and Dépression du Nord, Plateaux Secs de l'Est and Plaine de l'Imbo.
- Thanks to good prospects for the season B harvest this year, food security projections estimate a decrease in the number of severely food insecure people, with the percentage of the population in Crisis and Emergency classifications (IPC Phases 3 and 4) falling from 26 percent to 16 percent between June and July.

Food insecurity situation

April – May 2017



June – July 2017



IPC Phase Classification

- Famine
- Emergency
- Crisis
- Stressed
- Minimal
- Not analysed
- Insufficient data

For the period June – July 2017, no area is classified under IPC Emergency as the percentage of people affected is less than 20 percent in all regions (refer to IPC reference table, page 4).

Source: Burundi IPC Technical Working Group, August 2014, April 2015, May 2016 (<http://www.ipcinfo.org/ipcinfo-countries/ipcinfo-eastern-middle-africa/Burundi>)

Context

The deteriorating economic conditions following the socio-political crisis that started in mid-2015 have exacerbated the fragile food security situation. The result is displacement of people, loss of job opportunities and restricted seasonal movement of goods and people not only inside the country but to and from neighbouring countries, including Rwanda and the United Republic of Tanzania. The crisis is set against an already fragile backdrop of high poverty and decreasing purchasing power caused by high population growth rates, environmental degradation and low resilience to human-made and natural shocks.

Factors driving acute food insecurity

Population displacements

In the two years since civil unrest broke out in April 2015, almost 400 500 people have fled to neighbouring Rwanda, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Meanwhile, the current socio-political situation and natural disasters have created 148 490 IDPs (UNCHR Report from March 2017 and IOM from February 2017). These IDP numbers have increased sharply since mid-2016. Families and communities in the provinces of Bujumbura Mairie, Bubanza, Makamba, Gitega, Rumoge and Bujumbura Rural are hosting most of the IDPs, putting additional strain on their resources.

Declining food availability

Consecutive seasons of below-average harvests owing to erratic rainfall and insecurity, coupled with reduced imports because of currency depreciation, dwindling foreign reserves and market disruptions, are seriously constraining food availability. Despite favourable weather conditions, the output of both the 2016A and 2016B seasons was well below average in conflict-affected areas of Rumonge, Bujumbura, Muyinga, Kirundo and Makamba provinces, where large-scale displacement and shortages of agricultural inputs significantly disrupted agricultural activities. The 2017A season harvest, normally finished in February, was delayed by about one month. Production is estimated to be below average, especially in Bujumbura Rural, Cankuzo and Kirundo provinces, where crops suffered because of late onset and poor rains. Across the country, maize and bean production in the 2017A season was down by 30 to 52 percent compared with the 2016A season. With the weather forecast to be favourable for a large part of the country from March to May, there should be an increase in production for the 2017B season. In addition, the Government and partner agencies have improved access to agricultural inputs, which should improve the food situation during the harvest and post-harvest period from June to July 2017.

Food access constraints

In January 2017, maize and bean prices were 55 to 65 percent higher than one year earlier and double their 2014 pre-crisis levels. The increases were essentially driven by a succession of below-average seasons in 2016, along with insecurity-related trade disruptions and reduced imports caused by dwindling foreign reserves and regional supplies. From April to May 2017, food prices were still high and between 30 and 50 percent above the same period in 2016. High food prices, coupled with declining purchasing power because of the degraded economic environment, are making it increasingly difficult for poor households to buy food from local markets.

Coping and food consumption

Rural communities are increasingly using negative coping strategies, including the reduced use of fertilizers and other agricultural inputs, internal and external displacement and distress sale of productive assets. According to WFP data, 50 percent of households surveyed had no choice but to adopt crisis and/or distress strategies. In addition, there has been a rise in the proportion of households with poor Food Consumption Scores over the last three years (2015, 2016 and 2017). This is particularly affecting households in the Dépression du Nord, the Plateaux Secs de l'Est and the Plateaux Humides. The lack of dietary diversity is affecting the nutritional status of a large number of people. According to the results of the mass screening carried out from June to September and from October to November 2016 and the MUAC of March 2017, the nutritional situation is highly precarious, especially in the provinces of Kirundo and Rutana. The GAM rate was 5 to 10 percent, considered 'poor' by WHO cut-offs. In the Dépression du Nord areas acute malnutrition rates were considered 'serious' (between 10 and 15 percent).



1.1
million people
31% of the population

in IPC Phases 3 and 4
(from February to May 2017)
required urgent food, nutrition
and livelihoods assistance



The number of severely food insecure people has decreased by more than 700 000 people from August to December 2016.



Urgent food, nutrition and livelihoods assistance needed:

- 315 870 people (9 percent of the population) in Emergency (IPC Phase 4)
- 794 150 people (22 percent of the population) in Crisis (IPC Phase 3)

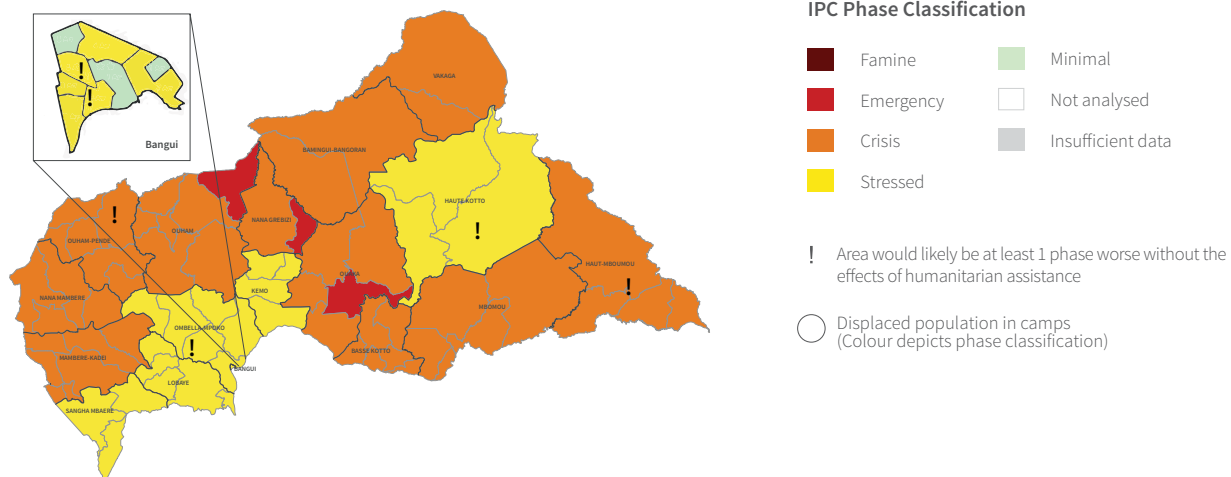
Conflict and insecurity are the main drivers of food insecurity. The population is facing severely curtailed and constantly deteriorating food access due to displacement and destroyed livelihoods, limited income activities, high food prices, reduced production and depleted assets, with recurring looting and theft.

- As of February 2017, 1.1 million people (30 percent of the population analysed), not including Nana-Gribizi and Bangui, were in Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phases 3 and 4).
- Of the 15 prefectures analysed, eight were classified as IPC Phase 3, including Ouham, Ouham-Pendé, Bamingui-Bangoran, Vakaga, Haut-Mbomou, Basse-Kotto, Haute-Kotto and Ouaka, and required urgent humanitarian action. Ouham-Pendé was in IPC Phases 3 and 4 for more than three consecutive years.

- The situation remains worrying in the northwestern, north central, south central and eastern zones due to deteriorating security conditions in those prefectures. The largest proportions of people in need of assistance were registered in the prefectures of Ouham-Pendé (58 percent), Ouaka (46 percent) and Vakaga (45 percent).
- The most vulnerable and food insecure people are those who have been displaced and whose access to livelihoods remains very limited. Compared with December 2015, there was a decrease in the number of IDPs in the prefectures of Ouham-Pendé, Haute-Kotto and Nana-Gribizi; however, almost 20 percent of the population remains displaced inside and outside the country.

Food insecurity situation

February – May 2017



Source: Central African Republic IPC Technical Working Group, December 2015 (<http://www.ipcinfo.org/ipcinfo-detail-forms/ipcinfo-map-detail/en/c/426225/>)

Context

The civil conflict, which began in December 2012 in the northeastern provinces, has been escalating since March 2013, with violence spreading to the capital Bangui and the rest of the country. Since then, the country has moved from a protracted crisis characterized by chronic underdevelopment and localized emergency situations to an acute and complex emergency affecting the entire population and territory. This has led to an unprecedented humanitarian crisis, resulting in heavy damage to livelihoods and infrastructure and the collapse of state, social cohesion and traditional conflict management structures. Almost 20 percent of the population is internally displaced or has sought refuge in neighbouring countries. As of February 2017, the IDP caseload was estimated at about 402 000, while 462 154 refugees were residing in Chad, Cameroon, the Republic of Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Widespread insecurity has also affected the delivery of humanitarian assistance. In the extreme north (Vakaga prefecture), which has been affected by the crisis since its inception, the food situation has become critical due to access constraints, making it extremely difficult to provide humanitarian assistance.

Factors driving acute food insecurity

Disruption of livelihoods and agricultural activities

The country's food security depends heavily on subsistence agriculture. Around 60 percent of the population lives in rural areas, and more than 75 percent depends on agriculture for their livelihood. The sector, including crop production, livestock rearing and fishing, has been severely affected by the conflict. According to the preliminary estimates of a joint FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM), conducted in January 2017, the 2016 aggregate production of food crops increased by 35 percent from the sharply reduced 2015 output, and is currently just 2 percent below the pre-conflict (2008-2012) average. The overall satisfactory outcome of the cropping season was the result of more favourable weather conditions compared with 2015; an improved security situation in some areas; the continuous support to farmers by the international community; and adaptation strategies by farmers who continued to increase cassava plantings, as roots are more difficult to damage and loot. For instance, this year's aggregate outcome is mainly driven by a 45 percent increase in cassava production, which is now 7 percent above average. By contrast, cereal output, despite a 13 percent increase from 2015, is still 27 percent below average. Notably, production of millet and sorghum, the main staples in the northern prefecture, declined by 6 percent from 2015 and is currently 49 percent below average.

Reduced food access

The acute and complex emergency affecting the country has resulted in widespread disruptions in agricultural and marketing activities and massive displacements, with a severe negative impact on both food availability and access. Despite improvements in supply and trade over the last year, substantial crop production constraints and marketing bottlenecks still exist. As a result, prices of most food commodities in Bangui in December 2016 were lower than one year earlier but still above their pre-crisis

levels of December 2012. The price declines were also due to a serious decrease in demand, with lower household purchasing power caused by disrupted livelihoods, reduced employment opportunities and the limited availability of cash. Maize prices, the most consumed cereal, declined by 25 percent between October and December 2016, reflecting increased supplies from the main harvest. December prices were 35 percent below the levels from a year earlier but still 50 percent above their pre-crisis levels of December 2012. Similarly, prices of wheat flour, mainly imported from Cameroon, were 22 percent lower in December than 12 months earlier but still 19 percent higher than their pre-crisis levels. Prices of various types of meat in December 2016 were lower than a year earlier but still above their December 2012 levels. Prices of bovine meat, bush meat and fish in December were 20 to 30 percent lower than 12 months earlier but still 40 to 70 percent higher than their pre-crisis levels. By contrast, December 2016 prices of locally produced cassava, the main staple, were 14 percent below their pre-crisis levels as a result of the sharp increase in production. In the rest of the country, price trends for main staples were different from the patterns observed in Bangui, as prices rose sharply in the last quarter of 2016 in areas affected by the resurgence of intercommunal fighting (Ouham-Pendé, Nana-Grebizi, Haute-Kotto and Ouaka prefectures).

Malnutrition

In addition to serious food access constraints, both the quantity and dietary diversity of food eaten have diminished, with people replacing more nutritious cereal and vegetable staples with cassava and sharply reducing their intake of animal proteins. This raises serious nutrition and health concerns, especially given the inadequate health care system and chronic malnutrition and food insecurity. There are also frequent reports of epidemics such as meningitis, measles and yellow fever, as well as waterborne diseases, including cholera.

Democratic Republic of the Congo



5.9
million people
8% of the population

in IPC Phases 3 and 4
(from June 2016 to January 2017)
required urgent food, nutrition
and livelihoods assistance



The severity of food insecurity has remained unchanged over the last two years, with dramatically high levels.

Urgent food, nutrition and livelihoods assistance is needed for:

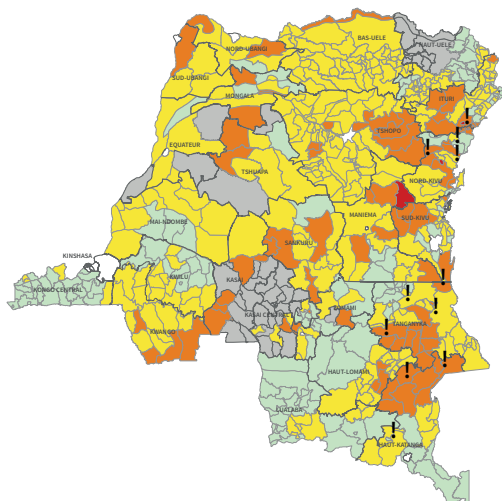
- About 173 000 people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4)
- Over 5.7 million people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3)

Persistent and widespread conflict in the eastern and southern regions is the main driver of acute food insecurity, causing large-scale and recurrent displacement, severely compromising household livelihood systems and disrupting agricultural and marketing activities.

- The latest IPC analysis covering the period from June 2016 to January 2017 estimated that about 5.9 million people (nearly 8 percent of the population) were in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and in need of urgent humanitarian assistance.
- Of the 134 territories analysed, four were classified in Emergency, 49 in Crisis and 63 in Stressed (IPC Phase 2). Most of the food insecure people classified in Emergency were located in the districts of Punia, Walikale, Beni and Irumu.
- The majority of areas in Crisis conditions were in the east and centre of the country. Here, the main driver of food insecurity is conflict, compounded by poor access to agricultural inputs, crop pests and diseases and erratic weather patterns.
- Although IPC analyses in the Democratic Republic of the Congo have covered different territories and therefore population estimates are incomparable, IPC classifications since 2013 show a certain continuity in the IPC Phase 4 areas in the conflict-affected provinces of Tanganyika, South and North Kivu, Maniema and Ituri. The analysis also shows pockets in IPC Phase 3 on the border with the Central African Republic, in the country's southeast and northeast.

Food insecurity situation

January 2017



IPC Phase Classification

 Famine	 Minimal
 Emergency	 Not analysed
 Crisis	 Insufficient data
 Stressed	

! Area would likely be at least 1 phase worse without the effects of humanitarian assistance

○ Displaced population in camps
(Colour depicts phase classification)

Source: Democratic Republic of the Congo IPC Technical Working Group <http://www.ipcinfo.org/ipcinfo-countries/ipcinfo-eastern-middle-africa/Democratic%20Republic%20of%20Congo>

Context

Insecurity in Manono territory, Tanganyika province, as well as in Rutshuru, Walikale and Beni territories in North Kivu, contributes to the narrowing of the humanitarian space and limits access to the most vulnerable, preventing humanitarian actors from effectively implementing their activities. Food access is also a major constraint for poor households, mainly linked to low income. The agriculture sector plays an important part in the country's economy, supporting the livelihoods of two-thirds of the population. However, agriculture is mainly at subsistence level and fails to meet the country's needs. Limited access to markets due to inefficient infrastructure prevents the development of a market-oriented agriculture sector, and this has a negative impact on incomes in rural communities and on food availability at national level.

Factors driving acute food insecurity

Attacks by armed groups and intercommunal violence

Persistent and widespread conflict, ranging from high intensity warfare to intercommunal violence, continues to have a severe impact on household food security, damaging local livelihood systems and causing massive population displacement, particularly in the eastern and southern provinces. As of late December 2016, the IDP caseload was estimated at 2.2 million, 300 000 people more than the previous estimate in September. The increase is mostly due to the surge in intercommunal violence in the Tanganyika province since mid-December 2016. About 40 percent of the displaced population is located in North Kivu and the rest mainly resides in South Kivu, Maniema, Tanganyika and Haut Katanga provinces.

Influx of refugees

Instability in neighbouring countries has triggered recurrent and large-scale movements of refugees in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, with the influx in areas already struggling with inadequate resources, placing strain on host communities. As of late January 2017, the country was hosting 102 700 refugees from the Central African Republic, 68 200 from South Sudan and 37 400 from Burundi.

Natural disasters and animal and plant diseases

Natural disasters and animal and plant diseases seriously reduce food availability, exacerbating food insecurity. El Niño-linked flooding and torrential rains in the last quarter of 2015 and the first quarter of 2016 affected over 770 000 people and displaced over 40 000. The areas worst hit were along the Congo River and in the former province of Katanga. Flooding in Ituri district and in the provinces of Tshopo, Maniema, Mongala and former Katanga destroyed more than 5 500 hectares of cropland and wiped out food stocks, particularly in Tanganyika. Subsequently, in the second half of 2016, while average to above-average rainfall was received in northern and western cropping areas, in

central and eastern parts of the country the cumulative rainfall from July to December was about 20 percent below average. The El Niño drought in 2015 in southern Africa, which had a heavy impact on agricultural production, had a negative effect on food availability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as exports of cereals, particularly maize, from Zambia, South Africa and Tanzania declined significantly.

The recurrence of animal and plant diseases has also negatively affected household food security. Since November, Equator province (northwest) and Katanga (southeast) have suffered from infestations of caterpillars attacking maize. This is a serious concern, as maize is a fundamental part of the food basket. In eastern provinces (Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu), an increased incidence of cassava brown streak disease and banana bacterial wilt has been reported. However, authorities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo struggle to control these diseases due to budget and access constraints.

High food prices and market disruptions

In eastern and southern areas food prices have increased in recent months because of market disruptions, additional demand from refugees and reduced imports. In Goma market in northeastern North Kivu, prices of cassava flour, the main staple in northern and eastern areas, increased by 10 percent between October and December 2016, which was 15 percent higher than 12 months earlier, partly due to additional demand from the increasing number of Burundian refugees. In Lubumbashi market in southern Haut Katanga, prices of maize, the main staple in southern areas, more than doubled in the second half of 2016, reaching record levels in December mainly because of reduced imports from Zambia and the devaluation of the local currency.



22 200

people
2% of the population



No one was classified in Emergency levels (CH Phase 4), but almost 20 percent of the population was Stressed (CH Phase 2) between March and May 2017. The food security situation is expected to deteriorate slightly from June to August 2017.

in CH Phase 3
(from March to May 2017)
required urgent food, nutrition
and livelihood assistance

Projected (June–August 2017) humanitarian assistance needed:

- 286 800 people (24 percent) in CH Phase 2
- 33 000 people (3 percent) in CH Phase 3

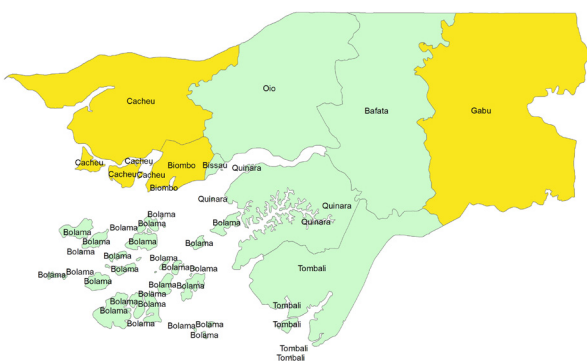
The food security situation remains difficult but not alarming in all regions of Guinea-Bissau. A large part of the poor population that suffers from a lack of food will be affected by a marked deterioration in living conditions at the onset of the lean period.

- According to the latest CH analysis for the period March–May 2017, the food and nutritional situation remained acceptable overall except in Biombo, Cacheu and Gabu, where food security was Stressed (CH Phase 2). Just 2 percent of people were categorized in Crisis (CH Phase 3).

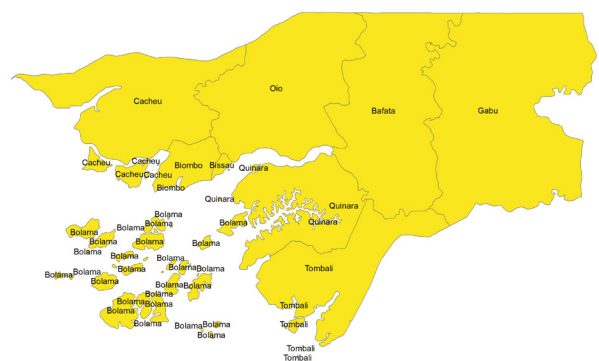
- No populations were classified in Emergency or Famine conditions and most households had an acceptable Food Consumption Score.
- Based on projections from June to August 2017, the lean season is expected to affect food security conditions, with about 24 percent of the population forecast to be food insecure, and almost 33 000 people classified in Crisis (CH Phase 3).

Food insecurity situation

March – May 2017



June – August 2017



Cadre Harmonisé Phase Classification

■ Famine	■ Crisis	■ Minimal	■ Insufficient data
■ Emergency	■ Stressed	 Not analysed	

There is convergence between the IPC and the CH tools and procedures, sharing the same Analytical Framework. The IPC is supporting the technical development and testing of CH tools and procedures in the region.

Context

There are no major threats to the country, and no danger of or vulnerability to conflict reported, even if the socio-political situation remains problematic. The combined effects of unstable production and producer prices, the 2011/12 Sahel food crisis and political instability have eroded vulnerable households' coping mechanisms and resulted in protracted food insecurity in large parts of the country. Although the 2015/16 agricultural campaign was good compared with the previous year (considered very bad) and in spite of well-supplied markets, the prices of certain food products remain slightly higher than last year, adversely affecting food access, particularly among the poor.

Factors driving acute food insecurity

Agricultural production

Cereal production has recovered significantly since the 2014 reduced harvest. The 2015 aggregate cereal production was estimated at about 28 percent above the previous year's output. Harvesting of rice, the major crop produced in Guinea-Bissau, was completed in January 2017. Above-average and well-distributed rainfall benefited crop development in the main producing zones of the country. Preliminary estimates put the 2016/17 aggregate cereal production at about 225 000 tonnes, 8 percent higher than the 2015 output and 3 percent above the average of the past five years. Production of rice (paddy), the most important staple, increased by 9 percent compared with the previous year's output. In the case of dry cereals, production increased by 6 percent for maize, 4 percent for sorghum and nearly 2 percent for millet. Overall, food markets are well stocked, but major food products show an upward price trend.

Pastoral conditions

Grass cover across the country is satisfactory for grazing. And, water points are well-filled in most regions except Bafata and Gabu, where livestock keepers are beginning to adopt the practice of transhumance, moving their animals seasonally towards the southern zone of the country. Cases of endemic diseases such as anthrax, bovine pasteurellosis, *peste des petits ruminants*, African swine fever and Newcastle disease in poultry have been observed.

Generating enough income to buy imported rice

Guinea-Bissau is highly dependent on rice imports – approximately 40 percent of the national cereal requirements are met through imports. Farmers are usually able to supplement their own supplies by buying imported rice with the proceeds from the sale of their cashew nuts. The 2016 cashew season could provide a lifeline for farming households: already cashew prospects for this year look good with a producer price of 500 francs/kg announced by the Government. This will allow rural producers to increase their incomes and improve their access to food during the lean season.

Nutrition situation

According to the survey on food security and nutrition carried out by WFP in collaboration with the Government in December 2016, 94.6 percent of children aged 6-59 months had acceptable nutritional status, 4.4 percent (7 442 children) were suffering from Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and 1.1 percent (1 860 children) from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM). Overall, the SAM rate was 5.4 percent, a prevalence that is considered acceptable by the WHO nutritional status classification. However, in the Oio region, the nutritional situation was critical, with a GAM rate of 16.1 percent, of which 12.5 percent had MAM and 3.7 percent SAM. Apart from the Oio region, the other regions had acceptable nutritional rates – i.e., below 5 percent.



2.3
million people
31% of the population

in IPC Phases 3 and 4
(from February to May 2017)
required urgent food, nutrition
and livelihoods assistance



Food insecurity has increased from 1.5 million people (April – June 2016) to 2.3 million. Category 4 Hurricane Matthew struck Haiti in late 2016, affecting more than 2 million people and leaving 1.4 million in need of food assistance.



Urgent humanitarian assistance needed for:

- 1.7 million people (around 22 percent) in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and 0.6 million in Emergency (IPC Phase 4)
- 3.4 million people (around 46 percent) classified as Stressed (IPC Phase 2)

The current levels of food insecurity are the result of severe drought in 2015 and Hurricane Matthew in 2016, both of which had devastating effects on agriculture and severely limited physical and economic access to food. Hurricane Matthew resulted in reduced agricultural production, currency devaluation and inflation of around 15 percent.

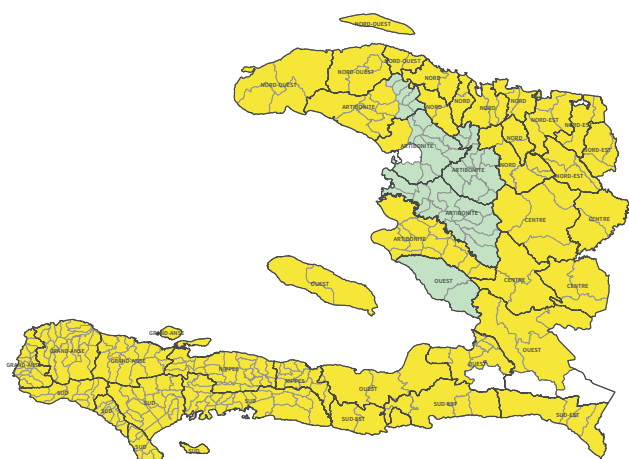
- The IPC analysis reported an estimated 1.7 million people were in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), 0.6 million in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and 3.4 million people in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) for the period from February to May 2017.

- The departments most affected by Hurricane Matthew (Grand-Anse, Sud and Nippes) were in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), despite the delivery of food assistance. Without food assistance, those departments would likely have faced Emergency levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 4).

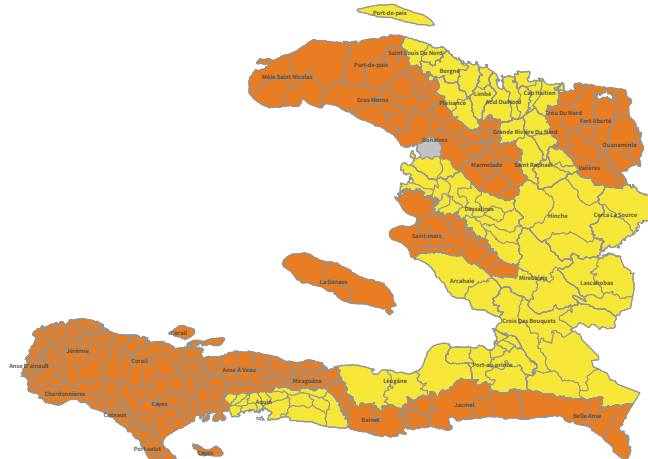
- Other departments (Sud-Est, Haut Artibonite and Nord-Est) affected less or not at all by Hurricane Matthew were also in IPC Phase 3 due to the effects of the drought.

Food insecurity situation

April – June 2016



February – May 2017



IPC Phase Classification

■ Famine	■ Crisis	■ Minimal	■ Insufficient data
■ Emergency	■ Stressed	 Not analysed	

No area is classified under IPC Emergency as the percentage of people affected is less than 20 percent in all regions (refer to IPC reference table, page 4).

Source: South Sudan IPC Technical Working Group, January 2017 (<http://www.ipcinfo.org/ipcinfo-detail-forms/ipcinfo-map-detail/en/c/471270/>)

Context

Haiti is highly exposed to natural hazards. Prolonged drought and Hurricane Matthew have exacerbated the underlying drivers of chronic food insecurity, such as poverty and limited purchasing power, high market dependency, low agricultural productivity and incomes, recurrent natural disasters, environmental degradation, poor infrastructure and limited market integration. Agricultural productivity is low because of a lack of adequate inputs, infrastructure and mechanization, as well as environmental degradation. Following Hurricane Matthew, the Haitian Government reported that 175 000 people had been evacuated to 224 temporary shelters (IOM, November 2016).

Factors driving acute food insecurity

Effects of Hurricane Matthew

Food security and nutrition have gradually worsened since 2013, following three years of drought exacerbated by El Niño, which reduced agricultural outputs to their lowest levels in ten years (CNSA, WFP and FAO, 2016). In October 2016, Hurricane Matthew devastated parts of Haiti and affected 2.1 million Haitians (more than 20 percent of the population), leaving 1.4 million people in need of food assistance, with 806 600 in need of urgent food assistance. Drought-affected departments were also among those worst hit by Hurricane Matthew, namely Nippes, Ouest and Nord-Ouest, as well as Sud-Est and Nord-Est. The hurricane caused severe widespread damage to housing and livelihood assets and destroyed over 75 percent of the standing crops of around three-quarters of the farming households in the five most affected districts. The highest concentration of damage was in Sud and Grand'Anse. The loss of food stocks and crops, combined with reduced income earning opportunities, will likely have a prolonged impact, limiting the ability of households to meet their food needs during the peak of the lean season.

Food prices and market functionality

In early 2016, prices rose for locally grown food crops as a result of El Niño-induced drought, which caused crop losses across the country and limited food availability. Poor crop production left local markets as the only source of food in practically all departments. Food share expenditure, a proxy indicator of poverty and purchasing power, was fairly high: 49 percent of households were spending more than 65 percent of their expenditure on food. The prices of staple foods such as maize and beans were above the five-year average in all markets. In October, prices rose by 15 to 25 percent because transport routes were destroyed, and prices were almost 50 percent higher than in 2015. Since November, prices have remained relatively stable on a month-to-month basis, mainly reflecting food assistance. Crucial seasonal products, such as bananas, beans and yams, were in critically low supply, especially in the markets

in Grand'Anse. A deteriorating macroeconomic environment, with food inflation as high as 15 percent and a currency depreciation upwards of 50 percent since 2015, continues to compound the effects of drought on food security as household purchasing power is weak. With the next harvest due in late June/early August, the low availability of local products is expected to increase seasonal prices.

Prospects for 2017 cereal production

The main 2017 cereal harvest was due to take place in June. Weather conditions have been relatively normal with rainfall levels about average in most cropping areas of the country, including the main cereal producing region of Artibonite. However, there is some uncertainty as to whether farmers can access inputs, such as seeds and fertilizer, particularly in the hurricane-damaged southwestern departments of Grand'Anse, Sud and Nippes. Moreover, the probability of an El Niño event during the June-August period, at the end of the vegetative growth period and the beginning of the harvest, rose above 60 percent in March. If an El Niño event does occur, it could have a serious impact on the southwestern departments as assets such as fruit trees and root crops, which had allowed households to mitigate the effects of drought on other crops, were lost in Hurricane Matthew.

Import-dependent markets

The reduced harvest that followed the drought and hurricane has made Haiti highly dependent on food imports, but import costs have spiked because of the local currency devaluation. Cereal import requirements for the 2016/17 marketing year (July/June), which include both commercial imports and food aid, have been revised upwards as a result of the impact of the hurricane to 680 000 tonnes. This is slightly above the 2010 record after Haiti's devastating earthquake. This estimated cereal import requirement reflects the level of total supplies needed to maintain the national historical consumption levels of cereals at 92 kg per person per year, which takes into account population growth.



3.2
million people

in IPC Phases 3 and 4
(from February to May 2017)
require urgent food, nutrition
and livelihoods assistance



The food security of Iraqi families and displaced people continues to deteriorate, with more than half at risk.



There are 3.1 million internally displaced persons and 1.7 million returnees. Almost a third of IDPs and returnees have poor or borderline food consumption.

Fighting and airstrikes continue, and civilians are unable to flee the conflict. The situation in Iraq is constantly evolving, and requires continuous review and adjustments in UN assistance plans to respond to increased operational and funding needs.

- More than half of Iraqi families are at risk of food insecurity and can no longer absorb any further shocks such as conflict or increases in basic food prices.
- Negative coping levels have risen in Mosul city. Families displaced from western Mosul are exhausted and hungry when they arrive at camps to the south or east of the city.
- Production levels and access to markets are severely restricted for the most conflict-affected areas. A large part of the cereal production belt is now directly under the control of rebel forces, limiting access to agricultural inputs, cereal harvest and post-harvesting activities.

Context

Iraq faces a complex and humanitarian crisis. According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs' (OCHA) humanitarian needs overview for 2017, over 11 million people need some form of humanitarian assistance. Access to the most vulnerable people remains a key challenge, limiting the provision of life-saving assistance. As displacement continues and people exhaust their income and assets, they are in growing need of assistance to access basic services. Meanwhile, the Government's social protection floor, including support for frontline health care, emergency shelter, education, and water and sanitation, is contracting. As a result, Iraqi families unable to find the support and security they need are running out of options to cope.

Security concerns, access to fields and disrupted procurement and distribution systems are expected to aggravate the situation further. Since June 2014, more than 3 million Iraqis have been displaced by conflict. As of 27 April 2017, there were 3 065 112 IDPs dispersed across 106 districts and 3 660 locations in Iraq. More than 1 million displaced people and refugees are in the Kurdistan region. At the same time, 1 737 138 returnees were identified.

Factors driving acute food insecurity

Conflict and socio-economic impacts

Three years of continuous conflict and economic stagnation have undermined nearly every aspect of Iraqi society. Poverty rates in the Kurdistan Region, where there are more than one million IDPs, have doubled and unemployment has trebled in many communities. The purchasing power of the population living in conflict areas remains 20 percent lower than in the rest of the country. Conflict-disrupted supply lines result in shortages of fresh fruits, meat, dairy and eggs. Iraq's Ministry of Trade, through the Public Distribution System (PDS), continues to subsidize basic staple commodities (rice, wheat flour, vegetable oil, sugar and baby milk formula). In the conflict areas, the PDS is very limited because of disruptions in the supply chains and Government cut-offs. Some households report receiving only partial rations. The PDS is also reported to be understocked, and cash shortages prevent the Government from replacing physical commodities with cash transfers.

The Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA) report released in April 2017 provides an in-depth picture of the food security situation and the vulnerability of households in Iraq. It found that approximately 2.1 percent of the national population was food insecure, while 5.6 percent of the IDP population was food insecure.

There is grave economic insecurity, with families spending a significant amount of their income on food, at the cost of other important household needs such as health care. Stunting occurred at low levels of severity, with rates at 16.6 percent in resident children and 19.2 percent in IDP children. Wasting was in the medium severity range, with 7.5 percent for residents and 5.5 percent for IDPs. Rates for underweight children were also low, below 10 percent in both samples (residents and IDPs). In pregnant and lactating women, malnutrition rates were highest for overweight women, at 17.4 percent in residents and 15.7 percent in IDPs. The CFSVA found that almost 75 percent of children under the age of 15 are working to help their families to put food on the table rather than going to school, despite the recent passing of a child labour law. Larger resident households with above-average numbers of dependants

and families headed by women were found to be more food insecure than those headed by men.

More than 53 percent of residents and 66 percent of IDPs are vulnerable to food insecurity. These findings indicate that more than half of Iraqi families are at risk of food insecurity.

The study was conducted prior to the recent offensive in Mosul and does not capture the food security situation among people fleeing these areas. In April, fighting continued in western Mosul and the number of people fleeing the area surged. Nearly 376 000 people have been displaced since military operations began to retake neighbourhoods in western Mosul in late February. On 23 April alone, 6 500 people were recorded as having arrived at the transit and screening point of Hamam al Alil, south of Mosul. Families displaced from western Mosul are exhausted and hungry when they arrive at camps to the south or east of the city. Negative coping levels have risen in the city and an estimated 400 000 civilians are still trapped inside it.

Conflict and agricultural production impact

Despite the conflict-related challenges, it is estimated that some 3 million tonnes of wheat were harvested in 2016, slightly down from 2015 and about the same as the past five-year average, owing to favourable precipitation and mild winter conditions. Barley production, at 750 000 tonnes, was similar to the previous year and the five-year average. About 2 million tonnes of wheat were sold to the Iraqi Grain Board in the areas under Government control at the purchasing price of double the import price to support local production. Precise information from outside the Government-held areas is not available.

In response to the difficult conditions in the cereal belt, wheat production has reportedly shifted to other provinces in the southeast of the country, with the largest production increases recorded in Wasit and Diyala provinces. Cereal import requirements in the 2016/17 marketing year (July to June) are forecast at 4.54 million tonnes, including 3 million tonnes of wheat and 1.3 million tonnes of rice.

Lake Chad Basin

northeastern Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad, Niger



6.2
million people
36% of the population

in conflict-affected areas in
CH Phases 3, 4 and 5
(from March to May 2017)
required urgent food, nutrition
and livelihoods assistance



The number of displaced people in the most affected areas has reached 2.6 million.



Urgent food, nutrition and livelihoods assistance is needed:

- in Nigeria's Yobe, Adamawa and Borno States, 4.7 million people (30 percent of the area's population) estimated to be in Crisis (CH Phase 3), Emergency (CH Phase 4) and Famine (CH Phase 5)
- in Niger, 830 000 people (almost 5 percent of the population) estimated to be in Crisis (CH Phase 3) and Emergency (CH Phase 4)
- in Chad, 380 500 people (3 percent of the population) estimated to be in Crisis (CH Phase 3) and Emergency (CH Phase 4)
- in Cameroon's North, Far North, Adamawa and East regions, 300 000 people severely food insecure in 2016 (WFP EFSA, September 2016)

The main causes of acute food insecurity in the region are the compounding effects of the escalated conflict and insecurity, resulting in massive displacements, reduced agricultural activity and harvests, market disruptions and dwindling employment opportunities and income. These factors, combined with the high exchange rate, depreciation and inflation, have affected the purchasing power of poor households, limiting their economic access to food.

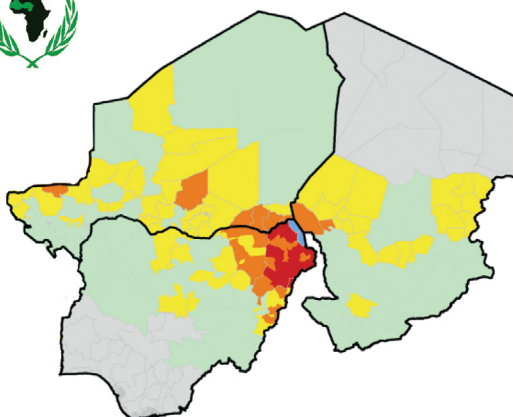
- Overall, in the conflict-affected areas of Niger, northeastern Nigeria and Chad, 6.2 million people were in Crisis (CH Phase 3), Emergency (CH Phase 4)

and Famine (CH Phase 5). In addition, according to WFP's Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) (September 2016), 300 000 people in Cameroon's Far North region were estimated to be severely food insecure, equivalent to Crisis (CH Phase 3) and above.

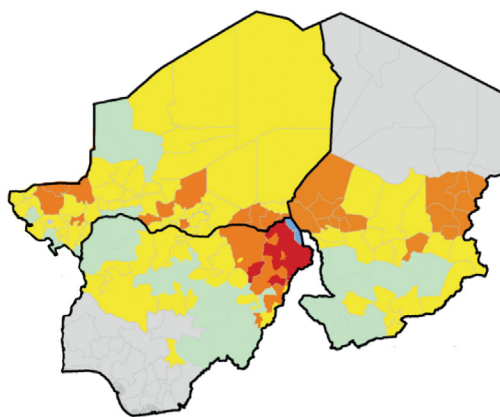
- The majority (70 percent) of the people who are in need of urgent assistance (CH Phase 3 and above) in the Lake Chad Basin are in Nigeria.
- Another 10.7 million people in the conflict-affected areas of Niger, northeastern Nigeria and Chad were classified as Stressed (CH Phase 2).

Food insecurity situation

March – May 2017



June – August 2017



**Cadre Harmonisé
Phase Classification**

- Famine
- Emergency
- Crisis
- Stressed
- Minimal
- Not analysed
- Insufficient data

Source: Cadre Harmonisé Technical Working Group, March-May 2017 and June-August 2017

Context

The complex emergency in the Lake Chad Basin is affecting around 17 million people in Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad and Niger. The ongoing conflict in northeastern Nigeria has disrupted agricultural production and food systems and caused the loss of assets, social services, incomes and natural resources. Staple food prices have increased substantially due to insecurity and higher transport costs, along with the depreciation of Nigeria's currency. The Nigerian Naira (NGN) depreciated by more than 50 percent last year, seriously affecting trade flows, food prices and household incomes in Nigeria and neighbouring countries. According to the OCHA report from 7 March 2017, there were 2.6 million (including 1.7 million in northern Nigeria) displaced people and refugees in the Lake Chad Basin (northeastern Nigeria, Niger's Diffa region and Chad's Lake, South and East regions) mainly due to the conflict in northern Nigeria.

Factors driving acute food insecurity

Nigeria: Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States

The level of food insecurity has improved since the last CH analysis in Nigeria in October 2016, showing a reduction in the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance (CH Phases 3, 4 and 5). This is thanks to an increase in agricultural production compared with the previous year's output and the five-year average, as well as improved access for humanitarian assistance. However, the livelihood situation in the three states remains at emergency levels. The effects of the ongoing conflict in northeastern Nigeria have disrupted livelihood activities and normal supplies to markets, significantly affecting both food availability and access. The influx of IDPs, rising food prices and localized conflict between pastoralists and farmers are also driving food insecurity in other states in northern Nigeria. The weak local currency continues to affect regional price trends and trade flows, and support an increase in regional import demand for Nigerian cereals. The increase in Nigerian cereal exports to regional markets has put significant pressure on domestic food supplies. The weak currency has also reduced Nigeria's imports from neighbouring countries, which is affecting household income and food security, notably in the Sahel countries that usually export livestock and cash crops to Nigeria.

Food insecurity is still alarming in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States, accounting for some 4.7 million people (30 percent of the area's population) facing Crisis (CH Phase 3), Emergency (CH Phase 4) and Famine (CH Phase 5) conditions. In Borno alone, 3.2 million – 41 percent of the population – were in Phase 3 or higher, of which over 38 000 were facing Famine (CH Phase 5) conditions from March to May 2017. Humanitarian assistance needs to increase in these three states to save lives and protect livelihoods as well as reduce consumption deficits among the worst-affected populations. The highest proportion of acutely food insecure populations includes

IDPs, host communities and households that rely on markets. Moreover, the food security situation is expected to deteriorate from July to August 2017 during the lean season. The number of people facing Crisis (CH Phase 3 and above) will increase in the three affected states to 5.2 million people, with about 50 000 people in Famine situation if no adequate remedial measures are provided in time.

Niger: Diffa region

In Niger, almost 830 000 food insecure people (about 5 percent of the total population) were in CH Phases 3 and 4 and in need of humanitarian assistance from March to May 2017. An additional 4.1 million people were classified as Stressed (CH Phase 2). Projections for the period from June to August indicate 1.3 million people will be in CH Phases 3 and 4, while 4.4 million people will be in CH Phase 2. In Diffa region, the total number of people in need of humanitarian assistance was around 130 000. Of this, some 111 700 were in Crisis (CH Phase 3) and almost 17 000 in Emergency (CH Phase 4).

Around 46 percent of displacements in the Diffa region in southeastern Niger are due to Boko Haram-related attacks and insecurity in northern Mali. The arrival of a large number of Nigerians in border areas, along with ongoing cross-border attacks, has put extreme pressure on already impoverished host communities historically prone to cyclical droughts, natural disasters, chronic food insecurity and malnutrition. As of February 2017, over 119 000 people were estimated to have left Nigeria for Niger's Diffa region, while an additional 61 000 Malian refugees were still living in Niger. The refugee crisis has exacerbated an already fragile food situation. There are more than 121 000 IDPs in Niger, which has struggled with successive severe food crises in recent years that have depleted household assets and caused high levels of indebtedness.

Chad: Lac region

The latest CH analysis from March to May 2017 estimated that over 380 500 people (1 percent of the population) were in Crisis (CH Phase 3) and in urgent need of humanitarian assistance in Chad. A further 1.9 million people were Stressed (CH Phase 2). Thanks to an above-average harvest and humanitarian assistance, food security has improved nationwide since the last lean season (June-August 2016) when more than 1 million people were in Crisis (CH Phase 3) and 2.7 million were Stressed (CH Phase 2). However, the situation is expected to worsen during the next lean season (June-August 2017). Around 36 000 people are likely to face Emergency conditions (CH Phase 4), requiring urgent humanitarian assistance. Some 862 000 are expected to be in Crisis (CH Phase 3) and a further 2.6 million in Stressed (CH Phase 2). The most food insecure populations will be in the Lac region and the Sahelian belt.

The country hosts a large number of refugees fleeing from the continuing civil conflict in neighbouring countries: the Central African Republic, Libya, Nigeria and Sudan. The ongoing civil insecurity caused by Boko Haram has led to large population displacements, compromising the food security of refugees, returnees and host communities in the

whole Lake Chad region. According to OCHA, as of March 2017, about 104 000 people have been internally displaced by insecurity in the Lake Chad Basin. In addition, over 394 000 refugees are estimated to be living in Chad, while about 117 000 Chadians have returned to the country.

Cameroon: Far North region

Around 200 000 people are internally displaced in Cameroon's Far North region and the majority – 72 percent – are living in host communities. In Cameroon's North, Far North, Adamawa and East regions, 2.5 million people were food insecure – 300 000 severely so – according to the Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) in September 2016. Nutrition has worsened in the north in recent years, linked to suicide attacks and insecurity that have severely limited access to basic services. Moreover, since the beginning of 2013, Boko Haram has multiplied its attacks in the Far North, forcing several thousand Cameroonian people to flee the border areas and triggering the closure of the border itself. The border closure has restricted the movement of food and goods, and Nigerian demand for goods from the Far North has plummeted. Under these conditions and given their low purchasing power, households are struggling to source food from the markets.



1.1

million people
89% of displaced Syrian refugees in Lebanon

required urgent food, nutrition and livelihoods assistance
(Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon 2016)



In 2016, over one-third of refugees were moderately to severely food insecure, an increase of 12 percentage points compared with 2015.



In 2016, the share of households with poor and borderline food consumption reached 32 percent of the refugee population.

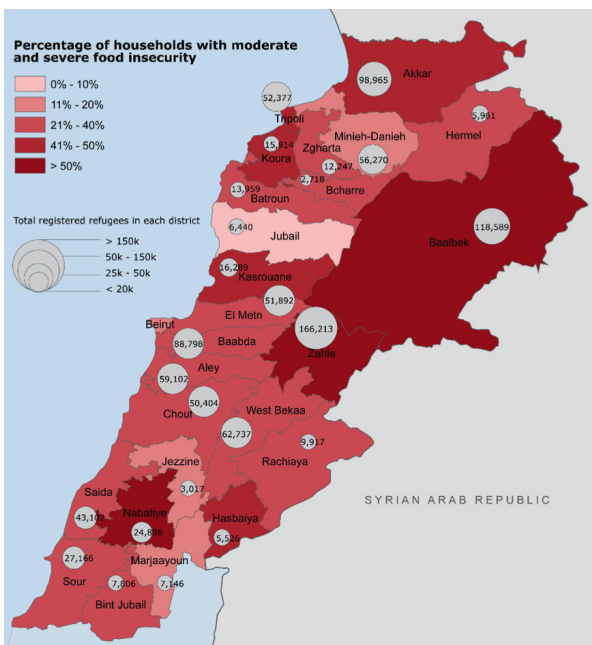
Syrian refugees in Lebanon face pervasive poverty and persistent vulnerability. With the Syrian conflict now in its seventh year, the refugees face severe restrictions on accessing the Lebanese labour market – their assets and savings are increasingly exhausted, their debts are mounting and they must fulfil specific requirements to legalize their stay in Lebanon.

- As of March, over 1 million Syrian refugees were registered in Lebanon by the UN Refugee Agency. This represents 20 percent of the total population of Lebanon. The massive influx of refugees has placed significant strain on existing resources and host communities.

- Families have exhausted their limited resources, and are having to rely on harmful coping mechanisms to get by.
- Districts with the worst food security were Baalbek, Zahle, Marjaayoun, Nabatieh, Hermel, Akkar and Tyre.
- With the exception of Hermel, in all of these districts the percentage of households with severe and moderate food insecurity significantly increased in 2016 compared with 2015.

Food insecurity situation

August 2016



Source: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon 2016

Context

Syrian refugees are still struggling to meet their most basic needs. While the security situation currently rules out a return to their homes in Syria, their dependence on assistance is growing in parallel with the reduction of available funds. Given the limited possibilities to move to other countries, refugees continue living in a stressful context with no way out. Lebanon and its host communities are in a very delicate state and the situation requires special and immediate measures.

Factors driving acute food insecurity

Pervasive poverty

The share of households living below the poverty line remains at an alarming 71 percent. More than half of refugee households have a total per capita expenditure that falls below the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB), a measure of items deemed essential for a household's survival. While this figure stabilized at a national level, not all districts fared equally, and the share of households in the SMEB category increased by more than 50 percent in certain districts.

Results of the 2016 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon show that 93 percent of the Syrian refugee population was estimated to have some degree of food insecurity, an increase of 4 percent over 2015. The share of refugee households that were moderately or severely food insecure jumped from 23 percent in 2015 to 36 percent in 2016. Almost three-quarters of households employed coping strategies such as reducing essential expenditures on education and health, selling productive assets, selling houses or land held in Syria, taking children out of school, and sending children to work. These severe strategies often have a harmful effect on households, further undermining their ability to cope and recover, and can be irreversible. Households are increasingly incurring debt in order to buy food, cover health expenses and pay for rent. The share of households borrowing money or receiving credit climbed to 90 percent. Forty-four percent of households reported holding debt of USD 600 or more, while the average household debt is USD 857.

Limited income sources remained one of the underlying causes of food insecurity. Thirty percent of working-age men reported a lack of employment in the month prior to the survey, and for those who did work, underemployment was widespread. Restrictions on employment coupled with low wages are additional obstacles to earning sufficient income to meet basic needs without external assistance. The analysis of food insecure households revealed that they were more likely to depend on less-sustainable income sources such as informal credits and debts, and food vouchers.

Both adults and children were eating fewer meals per day. Some 32 percent of refugees – more than double the 2015 percentage – were found to have unacceptable diets, meaning that they lacked the variety and/or quantity of nutritious food. While households slightly increased the consumption of foods rich in micronutrients such as vitamin A-rich fruit and vegetables, meat and fish, the frequency of consumption of these foods remained insufficient for a healthy diet, and overall dietary diversity declined, posing health risks for both adults and children.

Persistent vulnerability

Compared with 2015, the refugee situation has not deteriorated dramatically in terms of health, education, shelter, water and sanitation, thanks to the financial support of the international community and the careful programming of humanitarian operations. Unfortunately, refugees remain at a point where not all basic needs are met and households are susceptible to shocks. Forty-two percent of households have dwellings that do not meet minimum humanitarian standards. Sixteen percent of households reported not being able to access needed health care, with significant pockets of households without access in certain districts.

Children in particular remain vulnerable. Nearly half of primary-school-age children are out of school. A lack of dietary diversity puts children at risk of life-threatening illnesses including infections, measles and those causing diarrhoea. Feeding practices for infants and young children continue to be a special cause for concern. Common illnesses were widespread, with 41 percent of children sick in the two weeks preceding the survey.

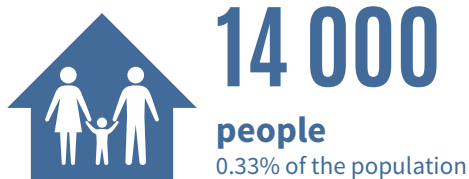
Seventeen percent of the Syrian refugee households sampled were headed by women. Female-headed households were more food insecure than male-headed households, had a worse diet, adopted severe coping strategies more often, and allocated a higher share of their expenses to buy food. Households headed by women were also poorer than households headed by men, but less indebted.

Food availability

Although agriculture contributes only about 5.5 percent to the Lebanese gross domestic product (GDP), about 60 percent of the population relies directly or indirectly on agricultural activities. While domestic cereal production is limited by landscape, agricultural production, particularly fruits and vegetables, is important. Out of a total agricultural area of 332 000 hectares, 230 000 are cultivated. Some 113 000 hectares are irrigated. The agriculture sector employs 6 percent of the total labour force but is a primary source of income and employment in rural areas, reaching up to 25 percent of the labour force and 80 percent of local GDP in rural districts.

In 2016, total cereal production was estimated at about 174 000 tonnes, similar to the previous year and the five-year average. Lebanese cereal imports rose by over 20 percent to meet growing demand by the increased population.

Lebanese exporters of horticultural products, fruits in particular, are experiencing difficulties due to the continuing conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic, which has disrupted land routes with the closure of the last border crossing between the Syrian Arab Republic and Jordan in March 2015. An alternative marine transportation is costlier but also unsuitable for a variety of highly perishable products. Some farmers near the border with Syria report that security concerns have prevented them from accessing their fields and orchards.



in CH Phase 3
(from March to May 2017)
required urgent food, nutrition
and livelihoods assistance



This is a decrease of more than 11 000 people since July 2016. All counties are facing Minimal levels of food insecurity (CH Phase 1).



Current humanitarian assistance needed:

- 5 percent of the population is in Stressed (CH Phase 2)
- less than 1 percent of the population is in Crisis (CH Phase 3)
- no percentage of the population is in Emergency (CH Phase 4)

The Ebola outbreak has now largely been controlled, and the food situation has improved significantly, resulting in an overall good food and nutrition security situation throughout the country.

- According to the CH analysis from March to May 2017, all counties were in the Minimal Phase (CH Phase 1). About 5 percent of the population was classified as Stressed (CH Phase 2) and 0.33 percent in Crisis (CH Phase 3). From June to August 2017, an estimated 9 percent will be in CH Phase 2 and about 0.4 percent in CH Phase 3 (almost 15 500 people).

- There was no percentage of the population classified in CH Phases 4 or 5 for either period. The population in CH Phase 3 for both periods was mainly due to a lack of essential nutrients because of not eating sufficient animal products, legumes, vegetables and fruits.
- Populations requiring immediate action to save their lives and protect their livelihoods were in Lofa, Grand Cape Mount, Gbarpolu and Bomi.

Food insecurity situation

February – April 2017



June – August 2017



**Cadre Harmonisé
Phase Classification**

- Famine
- Emergency
- Crisis
- Stressed
- Minimal
- Not analysed
- Insufficient data

There is convergence between the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) and CH tools and procedures, as they share the same analytical framework. The IPC supports the technical development and testing of CH tools and procedures in the region

Context

An overall good food security and nutrition situation is observed throughout the country. Therefore, Liberia currently does not have any emergency response programmes. International partners are generally supporting economic recovery and development efforts. Livelihood, food security, agriculture, infrastructure, health, water and sanitation programmes mainly target smallholders, agribusinesses, women, school children, Ebola survivors and orphans. According to the UN Refugee Agency, Liberia was hosting about 19 000 registered refugees as of the end of December 2016, most of them from Côte d'Ivoire. Repatriation resumed in December once the heavy rains let up, and continued in early January 2017. The current refugee population is expected to be reduced to about 7 000 to 12 000 people by June 2017.

Factors driving acute food insecurity

Economy recovers but below pre-crisis levels

The country's GDP declined from 2015 to 2016. Economic recovery remains slow as major export sectors, particularly rubber and iron ore, are still very weak despite some improvement in prices on international markets. The 2016 rice harvest was below average. Iron ore and rubber prices remain low on international markets, and reports from the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) indicate that proceeds from these commodity exports declined significantly in 2016 compared with 2015. Major imports, including petroleum and rice, also decreased in 2016 compared with 2015. The CBL notes that prices for most imported commodities have been rising due to a depreciation of the Liberian dollar against the US dollar. The official value of the Liberian dollar declined by almost 15 percent in January 2017 compared with January 2016.

Agricultural production

Harvesting of the 2016 paddy crop, virtually the only cereal grown in the country, was completed in December 2016. The overall rainfall situation was conducive for crop development; however, localized dryness during planting of upland rice and flooding in some lowland areas, combined with increased pest infestations, led to a decline in national rice output. Preliminary estimates put the 2016 aggregate paddy production at about 269 000 tonnes, 9 percent below the previous year's output and 5 percent below average. By contrast, cassava production rebounded strongly by 27 percent compared with the previous year's output.

The Ebola outbreak had a serious impact on the agriculture and food sectors in 2014, particularly on cereal production in Lofa and Margibi counties. The outbreak began when

crops were being planted and spread during the whole crop-growing season until the critical harvesting period; however, production recovered significantly in 2015.

Increase of cost in food imports

During the peak of the Ebola outbreak (June–August 2014), trade activities declined significantly. Border closures, quarantine measures and other restrictions seriously disrupted the marketing of goods, including agricultural commodities. Market activities have recovered significantly; however, the prices of imported commodities are reportedly rising, driven by the depreciation of the local currency. Liberia normally depends heavily on food imports. Cereal import requirements for 2016 are estimated at over 400 000 tonnes, about 13 percent above the previous year's level.

In addition, road conditions and high transportation costs in rural areas, especially in the southeastern and north-central regions, limit market access for imported commodities and local crops. These constraints are also inflating prices above normal seasonal levels, making it difficult for people to access food.

Malnutrition and food utilization

Chronic malnutrition (national: 32.1 percent) is a serious concern, especially in Bong, Grand Kru, Rivercess, Cape Mount and Grand Bassa counties. Most people in rural areas have limited access (55.5 percent) to clean drinking water. Hence, food utilization is mostly inadequate.



255 000

people
1.4% of the population

in CH Phase 3
(from March to May 2017)
required food, nutrition
and livelihoods assistance



Food insecurity has decreased slightly compared with July 2016 when 423 000 people were in Crisis (CH Phase 3).



Humanitarian assistance is still needed despite the improved civil and food security situation.

About 2.5 million people (14 percent of the population) are estimated to be Stressed (CH Phase 2), which calls for livelihood support and resilience building interventions.

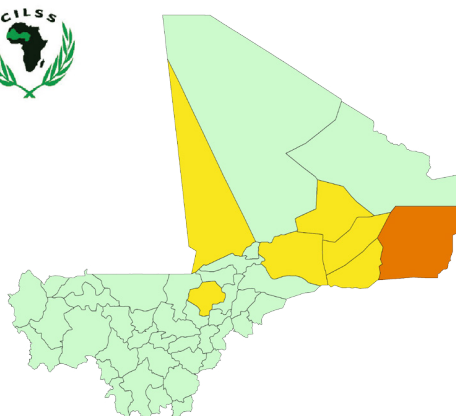
Floods, rainfall deficits and pests, coupled with insecurity in north and central Mali, have hit agropastoral production, with a mild to moderate impact on food security. The conflict has also hampered people's ability to generate an income, hindered the movement of people and animals and caused some people to flee their homes.

- About 255 000 people, mostly in the Timbuktu, Mopti and Gao regions, were estimated to be in Crisis (CH Phase 3), according to the latest CH analysis conducted in the country for the period from March to May 2017.
- About 2.5 million people (14 percent of the population) were estimated to be Stressed (CH Phase 2), while most of the country was estimated to be facing Minimal (CH Phase 1) acute food insecurity from March to May 2017.

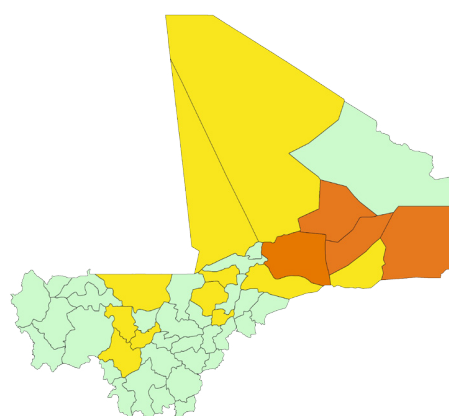
- The food security situation is expected to worsen between June and August 2017 during the pastoral and agropastoral lean season, with an estimated 22 000 people facing Emergency (CH Phase 4), 580 000 people facing Crisis (CH Phase 3) and over 3.2 million people facing Stressed (CH Phase 2) levels of food insecurity.
- The September 2016 Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART) survey estimated that 10.6 percent of children were suffering from acute malnutrition, which is considered serious by WHO's GAM threshold. Rates in Gao and Timbuktu regions were at 14.8 and 14.3 percent, respectively, which are almost critical by WHO cut-offs.

Food insecurity situation

March – May 2016



February – July 2017



**Cadre Harmonisé
Phase Classification**

- Famine
- Emergency
- Crisis
- Stressed
- Minimal
- Not analysed
- Insufficient data

IPC and CH are similar approaches, using the same Analytical Framework.

Context

Despite the signing of the Peace Agreement (June 2015), security remains volatile and violence has increased in north and central Mali. According to the UN Refugee Agency, as of December 2016, over 40 000 people have been internally displaced, while an additional 141 000 people were forced to flee to neighbouring countries. Livelihood disruption caused by the recent civil strife had an adverse, longer-term impact on household assets and savings, notably in the northern part of the country. Several segments of the population still need food and non-food assistance to restore their livelihoods and have better access to food.

Factors driving acute food insecurity

Residual insecurity and socio-economic effects

Residual insecurity in the central and northern parts of the country continues to adversely affect the socio-economic conditions of households. The agriculture sector has been seriously damaged by the civil strife. Labour shortages due to population displacements, lack of agricultural support services in the northern half, fragmentation of the markets and other difficulties related to civil security have had a serious negative impact on agricultural production and food markets. Despite a peace agreement signed in June 2015, insecurity, characterized by clashes between armed groups and terrorist activities, continues to affect people living in most of northern Mali.

Agricultural production benefits from abundant rainfall

Abundant rains contributed to a bumper 2016 harvest for the third consecutive year. Harvesting of maize, millet and sorghum was completed in November, while harvesting of rice concluded in January 2017. According to preliminary findings, a record cereal output was gathered following beneficial rains from July over the main producing areas of the country. The 2016 aggregate cereal production was estimated at nearly 9 million tonnes, about 10 percent higher than the 2015 bumper crop and 33 percent above the average from the previous five years. The production of millet, the most important staple, increased by 3 percent, while rice production increased by 21 percent to about 2.8 million tonnes. However, in places in the Kayes,

Koulikoro, Ségou, Mopti and Timbuktu regions, and in all regions of Gao and Menaka, poor agricultural production was due to the rainfall deficit or pest damage for rainfed crops, and flooding for rice.

Pastoral conditions were also satisfactory. Most water points were adequately filled, and animals remained in good condition. However, there were pockets of pasture deficits in the northern band of the region of Ségou and parts of Timbuktu and Gao. In addition, residual insecurity continues to limit access to certain pastures in the areas of Ségou, Mopti, Timbuktu and Gao.

Markets and food prices ease food access

Millet and sorghum prices have been generally stable and similar to their previous year's levels in recent months, reflecting good supplies from several consecutive years of above-average harvests. In Bamako, sorghum prices in January 2017 were close to their January 2016 levels. Prices are expected to remain low in the short term as a result of enhanced supplies from the new bumper harvest.

Livestock markets are well supplied and animals are in good condition. However, livestock demand has been hampered due to reduced imports from Algeria and Nigeria. The declining demand for livestock from Algerian buyers is due to the current outbreak of Rift Valley fever in Niger, whereas buyers in Nigeria have been negatively affected by the steep depreciation of their local currency.



3.2
million people
25% of the population

in IPC Phases 3 and 4
(May 2017)
required urgent food, nutrition
and livelihoods assistance



The number of food insecure people has more than tripled since August 2016.



Urgent food, nutrition and livelihoods assistance is needed:

- 700 000 people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) between May and June 2017
- 2.5 million people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) between May and June 2017

A dire food security crisis is developing in Somalia as consecutive poor rainy seasons have had a catastrophic impact on the livelihoods of pastoral and agropastoral households, and soaring food prices are constraining access for market-dependent households. The alarming food security situation is exacerbated by protracted civil insecurity causing recurrent displacement, disrupting agricultural and marketing activities and limiting humanitarian access to some areas.

- In May 2017, it was estimated that over 3 million people were facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) conditions between May and June 2017, accounting for 25 percent of the population.
- While humanitarian assistance has had a positive impact in recent weeks and months, the number of people in Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phases 3 and 4) levels of

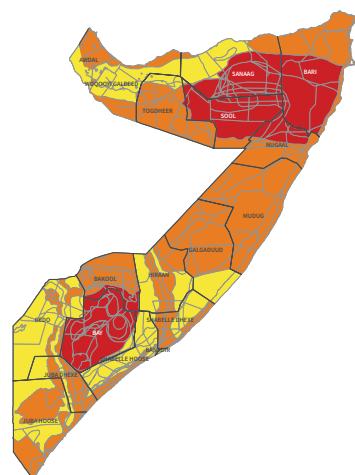
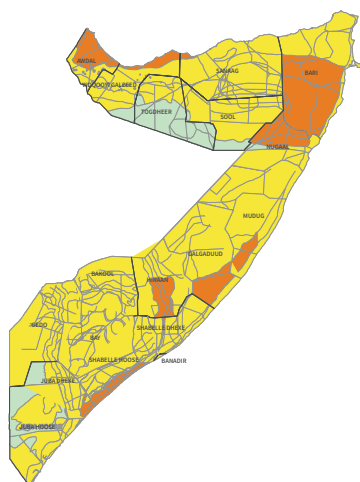
acute food insecurity has increased from 0.9 million in February 2016 to 3.2 million in May 2017. The number of people at risk of famine facing Emergency (IPC Phase 4) conditions rose from 400 000 in February to 700 000 in May 2017.

- The prevalence of GAM was between 15 and 30 percent, which is considered critical by WHO thresholds, and indicative of Emergency levels (IPC Phase 4). Mortality rates measured with Crude Death Rates are above 2 per 10 000 per day in some areas, indicating thresholds above famine levels.
- In a worst-case scenario, where the ongoing rainy season continues to perform poorly, purchasing power declines to levels seen in 2010/11 and humanitarian assistance does not reach populations in need, famine conditions would be expected.

Food insecurity situation

August – December 2016

February – July 2017



IPC Phase Classification

 Famine	 Minimal
 Emergency	 Not analysed
 Crisis	 Insufficient data
 Stressed	

Displaced population in camps
(Colour depicts phase classification)

Urban settlement
(Colour depicts phase classification)

Source: Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) – Somalia, 2016 – 2017 (<http://www.fsnau.org>), available at: (<http://fsnau.org/products/technical-series/archives>).

Context

The risk of food security degradation was already highlighted in early 2017 when partners warned that famine conditions could materialize in a worst-case scenario. Large-scale humanitarian interventions are ongoing and as of March, emergency assistance had reached over 60 percent of the population in Crisis and worse. This has greatly mitigated food consumption gaps among beneficiaries, but many areas remain in Emergency because of significant asset losses. However, humanitarian assistance (life-saving and livelihoods support) remains insufficient because of lack of resources and access problems.

Factors driving acute food insecurity

Climate conditions

The 2016 *Deyr* (October–December) rainy season largely failed in most parts of Somalia, severely curtailing the *Deyr* cereal harvest, gathered in January 2017. Earlier in 2016, insufficient rainfall during the previous *Gu* (April–June 2016) season affected yields of *Gu* crops. As a result, cereal production in 2016, estimated at 142 000 tonnes, was among the lowest on record and 45 percent lower than the average from the previous five years. In pastoral areas, three consecutive seasons of poor rainfall have led to very poor livestock body conditions and reproduction. This has resulted in sharply reduced production of livestock products and in the rapid depletion of livestock assets due to increased sales and mortality, with total loss of livestock (up to 75 percent among poor households), destitution and displacement reported in some areas. In early 2017, the *Jilaal* season (January–March) was drier and hotter than normal, which severely limited water and pasture resources. If the ongoing rainy (*Gu*) season is below average and crop production correspondingly low, severe food insecurity is likely to persist throughout 2017. Areas most affected by continuing drought conditions are agropastoral areas in Bay and Bakool, but also, increasingly, central areas in Galgadug and Mudug as well as Northern Inland Pastoral areas.

Displacement

The influx of newly displaced people from rural parts continued in the last quarter of 2016. As of December 2016, there were 1.1 million IDPs and about 95 000 returnees and refugees. The recent drought further deteriorated the already precarious food security situation of displaced people and created about 437 500 new displacements. Most of the newly displaced people moved to urban centres, including Mogadishu and Baidoa, which already host large numbers of IDPs. This has placed additional strain on camps and host communities, triggering conflicts over already meagre resources and increasing competition for labour opportunities.

High food prices

The cost of living has risen for most urban households following the sharp increase in prices of locally produced grains (maize and sorghum), which represent a significant proportion of the standard basic food basket. In central and southern regions, the tight supply situation is compounded by trade disruptions, which have constrained food availability. Maize and sorghum prices, already on the rise in recent months, surged by up to 40 percent in January 2017 and were about twice their levels from one year earlier. Livestock prices declined by up to 60 percent in recent months as animal body conditions dramatically deteriorated due to water and pasture shortages. As a result of declining livestock prices and increasing cereal prices, terms of trade for pastoralists sharply deteriorated over the last 12 months. Dwindling employment opportunities and incomes have eroded household purchasing power, further constraining food access. Food prices are likely to escalate in the coming months, as an earlier than usual stock depletion will be compounded by concerns over the performance of the 2017 *Gu* harvest.

Levels of malnutrition

Levels of acute malnutrition have increased since July 2016. The prevalence of GAM was at critical levels (15 to 30 percent), indicative of Emergency (IPC Phase 4) in all areas surveyed in the Bay and Bakool Agropastoral and the Northern Inland Pastoral livelihood zones, and among IDPs in Baidoa and Mogadishu. Between December and April, the Crude Death Rate increased in Bay and among IDPs in Baidoa. Reports of mortality rates in Bay were above two per 10 000 a day, indicating Famine conditions (IPC Phase 5). Poorly equipped health facilities and a lack of clean and safe water have recently led to outbreaks of diseases such as acute watery diarrhoea and cholera. A severe cholera outbreak is ongoing with 22 300 cases reported and 500 deaths since January 2017. Nearly half of all cases were reported in Bay, with the majority of these cases in Baidoa town (crowding of IDPs likely exacerbating the outbreak).

4.9
million people
42% of the population

in IPC Phases 3, 4 and 5
(from February to April 2017)
required urgent food, nutrition
and livelihoods assistance



This is an increase of 2.1 million people from February to May 2016 and over 3 million from pre-conflict levels.



Urgent food, nutrition and livelihoods assistance is needed:

- 3.7 million people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3)
- 1.1 million people facing Emergency (IPC Phase 4)
- 100 000 people in Famine (IPC Phase 5)

Food insecurity in South Sudan in 2017 is estimated to be at unprecedented levels. Nationwide, food insecurity has escalated during the last three years due to conflict, violence, macroeconomic collapse and exhaustion of household livelihoods and coping mechanisms.

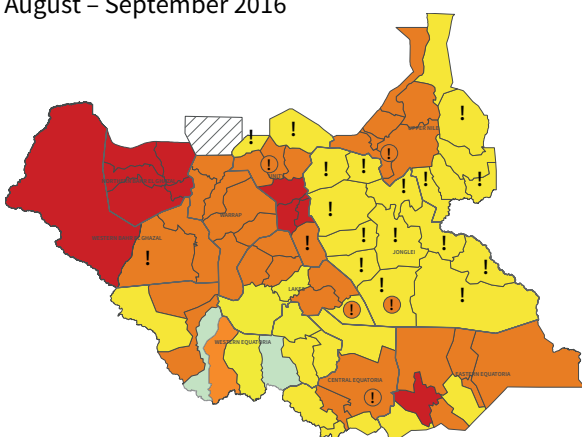
- Between February and April 2017, about 4.9 million people, approximately 42 percent of the population, were estimated to be food insecure (i.e. in IPC Phases 3, 4 and 5). This will likely increase to 5.5 million people at the height of the 2017 lean season in July.
- The population in Famine (IPC Phase 5) was essentially concentrated in Greater Unity. In February 2017, famine

conditions were declared by the Government of South Sudan, UN agencies and other humanitarian partners, with over 100 000 people facing starvation in Leer and Mayendit counties and an elevated risk of famine in Koch county. Panyijiar county has avoided famine so far thanks to adequate and timely humanitarian assistance.

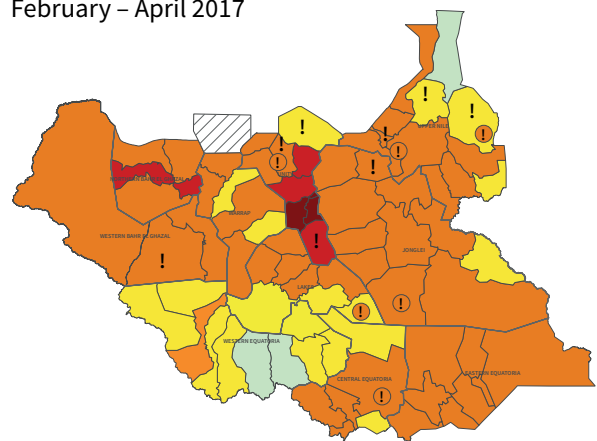
- Although most food insecure people are concentrated in the Greater Upper Nile region, food security has drastically deteriorated in Northern Bahr el Ghazal State and the Greater Equatoria region, mainly due to trade and market disruptions stemming from the recent spread of conflict, as well as the low purchasing power of poor households.

Food insecurity situation

August – September 2016



February – April 2017



IPC Phase Classification

Famine	Crisis	Minimal	Insufficient data
Emergency	Stressed	Not analysed	

! Area would likely be at least 1 phase worse without the effects of humanitarian assistance

○ Displaced population in camps (Colour depicts phase classification)

Source: South Sudan IPC Technical Working Group, January 2017 (<http://www.ipcinfo.org/ipcinfo-detail-forms/ipcinfo-map-detail/en/c/471270/>)

Context

Since July 2016 the conflict has spread throughout the country. New areas such as Central Equatoria and Greater Bahr el Ghazal have begun facing severe acute food insecurity. The situation has also significantly worsened in Greater Unity due to renewed and intensified conflict. As of March 2017, armed conflict has spread to all states in the country affecting all households and causing mass displacement, especially in the greenbelt Equatoria states, where many crop fields have been left bare or unattended. Since February/March 2017 there has been a massive response triggered by the announcement of famine, with Food Security Clusters able to reach some of the formerly inaccessible areas, thus moving from Famine to Emergency levels of food insecurity. However, attacks and looting of humanitarian assets across the country are on the rise.

Factors driving acute food insecurity

Conflict, lower crop production and food deficits

According to the latest FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM), cereal production declined significantly in 2016. Conflict and insecurity have disrupted livelihoods and agricultural activities, lowering crop production in 2016, and are expected to have a significant impact on the 2017 planting season, which starts in March/April. A poor start to the season, coupled with insecurity in the greenbelt Equatoria states zone, will greatly limit food availability in 2017. Already the general delay to the start of the rainy season has pushed back planting, which normally starts by mid-March. A deficit of about 500 000 tonnes is forecast for the 2017 marketing year, more than 30 percent higher than the previous year's deficit of about 380 000 tonnes. The situation is particularly worrying in the Greater Equatoria, where the region went from producing a moderate surplus in past years to an aggregate deficit of about 134 000 tonnes. Countrywide, the biggest food deficit is expected to be in Juba county where about 60 000 tonnes of cereals are needed to cover the food requirements of mainly urban households. In areas affected by famine or at risk of famine, where fishing in swamp areas is the main source of food, the general rainfall delays could worsen the situation.

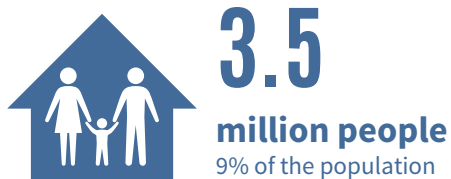
Current economic crisis

The South Sudan Pound (SSP) continues to lose ground against the US dollar, with the current exchange rate reaching highs of 170SSP/USD. At the end of March 2017, the inflation rate stood at 370 percent, and this will steadily increase in the coming months as the lean season peaks. Government employees have not received salaries for several months, and this is destabilizing the social structure of society with no options for remittances

or sharing. Hyperinflation and limited import capacity due to insecurity and the shortage of foreign currency have severely curtailed market functioning and the availability of food commodities. The Juba crisis in July 2016 restricted inflows of imported food through the main southern supply corridor, reducing supplies and driving up prices. Cereal prices increased by up to 10 times in 2016 following the sharp devaluation of the local currency and increasing transport costs. In Juba, sorghum and maize prices peaked in December 2016. They declined in January 2017 by about 10 percent due to the harvesting of the 2016 second season crops in the south, partial resumption of trade with Uganda and food aid distributions. However, cereal prices began to rise again in February, surging by about 30 percent and reaching record highs. Cassava and groundnut prices followed similar patterns, increasing by 15 to 30 percent. The steady price increase of staple foods and fuel continued in March across the country, induced by limited supply from traders finding it hard to import any goods.

Malnutrition

Insecurity, displacement, limited access to services, extremely poor diet (in terms of quality and quantity), low coverage of sanitation facilities and poor hygiene practices have resulted in high levels of acute malnutrition, which remains a major public health emergency in South Sudan. GAM rates are at or above 15 percent in many counties, and above 30 percent in Unity (Leer, Mayendit and Panyijiar). These prevalence rates are considered critical by WHO. A worsening nutrition situation – not typical in the post-harvest season – is observed in the Greater Equatoria region (particularly in Central Equatoria) and parts of Greater Bahr el Ghazal.



in IPC Phases 3 and 4
(from October to December 2016)
required urgent food, nutrition
and livelihoods assistance



The number of acutely food insecure people was down by nearly 1 million during the last three months in 2016, compared with the period from April to June 2016.



Urgent food, nutrition and livelihoods assistance was needed between October and December 2016:

- 293 713 people under Emergency (IPC Phase 4)
- 3.2 million people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3)

The main drivers of food insecurity in Sudan are the protracted conflict in Darfur and renewed insecurity in parts of South Kordofan and Blue Nile States. The situation has severely disrupted local livelihood systems and agricultural and trade activities, causing massive population displacement and eroding the resilience of a large number of households.

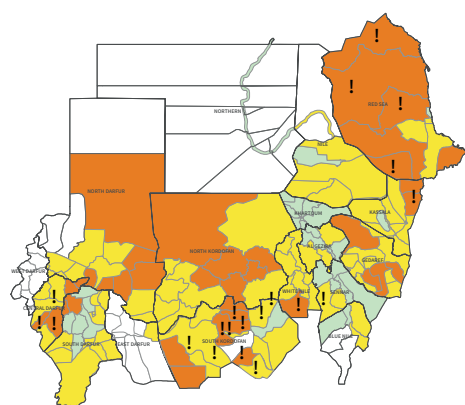
- From October to December 2016, 3.5 million people were estimated to be in IPC Phases 3 and 4. This was an improvement compared with the previous analysis covering the period from April to June 2016, which indicated that 4.4 million people (12 percent of the population) were facing Crisis and Emergency levels of food insecurity.
- Compared with the same period in 2015, food security across the country remains relatively stable. Even

so, the number of people facing Stressed, Crisis or Emergency levels of food insecurity (IPC Phases 2 or higher) is over 42 percent.

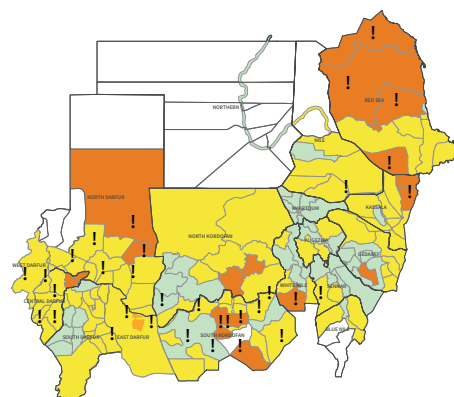
- About 33 percent of food insecure people are concentrated in the Darfur States where the situation remains challenging, particularly in East and West Darfur States, with 19 percent of the population in Crisis or Emergency.
- Food insecure states include North and South Kordofan, Kassala, Red Sea and Gedaref. The worst food security conditions are reportedly among IDPs, host communities, households with vulnerable livelihoods in South Kordofan and Central and East Darfur States and those living in conflict-affected areas.

Food insecurity situation

April – July 2016



October – December 2016



IPC Phase Classification

- Famine
- Emergency
- Crisis
- Stressed
- Minimal
- Not analysed
- Insufficient data

! Area would likely be at least 1 phase worse without the effects of humanitarian assistance

No area is classified under IPC Emergency as the percentage of people affected is less than 20 percent in all regions (refer to IPC reference table, page 4).

Source: Sudan IPC Technical Working Group, October 2016 (<http://www.ipcinfo.org/ipcinfo-detail-forms/ipcinfo-map-detail/en/c/453946/>)

Context

Protracted conflict in Darfur and renewed insecurity in other areas, including conflict related to competition between farmers and pastoralists over natural resources, are driving acute food insecurity in localized areas. In addition, major human development challenges remain in terms of high rural poverty and rising urban poverty due to rural-urban migration, recurrent and large-scale displacement in conflict-affected areas, and population growth.

Factors driving acute food insecurity

High food prices

Despite a good 2016 harvest, high prices were registered in most markets mainly because of macroeconomic factors, including very high inflation, the high cost of fuel and agricultural inputs and a significant reduction in South Sudan oil production, causing a sharp drop in government revenues and leading to dwindling national foreign currency reserves and local currency depreciation. El Niño weather patterns severely affected the 2015 crop output and heightened food insecurity. Stocks were quickly depleted and food prices rose sharply in the first half of 2016 in most markets, thereby reducing purchasing power and access to food. Price increases, combined with a lack of employment opportunities, hit poor households particularly hard, especially unskilled wage labourers. Subsequently, favourable (June–September) rains led to above-average crop production in 2016 and better pasture conditions across the country, with food prices declining in the second half of 2016 and food security improving. Increased water availability for livestock and improved grazing conditions generated favourable terms of trade for pastoralists and livestock owners. Despite these improvements in food availability, a notable portion of the population still suffers from inadequate food access, particularly in 22 localities facing Crisis conditions. In January 2017, local coarse grain prices, despite recent declines due to the improved

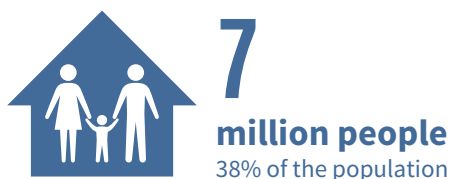
supply, were still around or higher than the very high levels from the previous year. This resulted from high inflation rates (in November the year-on-year rate of inflation was 29.5 percent) and the high cost of fuel and agricultural inputs. Furthermore, the dramatic decline in South Sudan oil production has caused a sharp drop in revenues from the use of the pipeline and port facilities in Port Sudan, with a big impact on Sudan's economy.

Insecurity-related displacement

There is an increasing number of IDPs in conflict-affected areas and refugees from South Sudan who have been uprooted by conflict and/or food insecurity. Beyond national borders, the crisis in South Sudan has had a significant impact on food security in Sudan. Refugees entering Sudan, estimated at about 300 000 in late December 2016, face severe food insecurity due to the lack of suitable refugee camps and the loss of livelihoods.

Natural disasters

Natural disasters and climate change are also critical drivers of food insecurity. In addition to drought, households are vulnerable to flooding and subsequent epidemics. In August 2016, floods affected 122 000 people across Sudan, causing loss of livelihoods and assets and triggering a major increase in malaria cases, particularly in Blue Nile State.



require urgent food, nutrition and livelihoods assistance (Humanitarian Needs Overview 2017)



Urgent food, nutrition and livelihoods assistance is needed:

- 7 million people – one in three Syrians – are food insecure
- 2 million people are at high risk of food insecurity
- More than 970 000 people live in besieged areas with worrying degrees of food insecurity

Food insecurity in Syria has sharply deteriorated since the beginning of the conflict. The main factors contributing to the severe situation are the compounding impacts of the escalated conflict and insecurity, which have resulted in decreased agricultural and food production and dwindling employment and income opportunities. This, combined with high inflation and exchange rate fluctuations, has adversely affected the purchasing power of poor households, limiting their financial access to food.

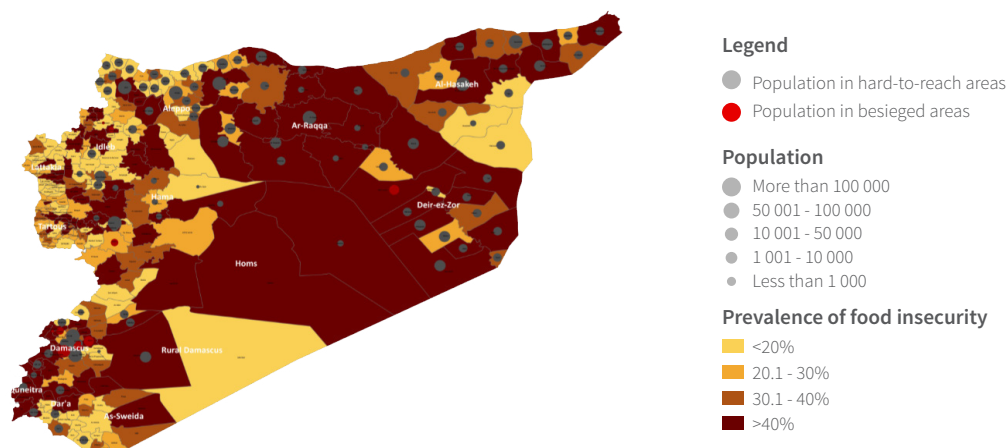
- Seven million people (38 percent) are food insecure. There are 4.9 million people in hard-to-reach areas, including more than 970 000 in besieged areas,

who do not have access to the life-saving aid they urgently need.

- Among the most food insecure groups are IDPs and returnees who account for some 6.3 million people.
- The critical areas are in Aleppo, rural Damascus, Al-Hassakeh, Hama and Dar'a governorates, where more than 40 percent of the population is food insecure. The entire Deir-ez-Zor city, under siege, is food insecure, and food assistance has become the main source of food for the majority of households.

Food insecurity situation

August 2016



Source: WFP, Food Security Cluster

Context

The security situation continues to underpin and aggravate various other factors contributing to food insecurity. Years of conflict have had a cumulative effect not just on the country's economy but on people's livelihoods and coping capacity. More than two-thirds of the population lives in extreme poverty, unable to cover basic needs. Agriculture remains a key part of the economy, accounting for an estimated 26 percent of GDP, and a critical safety net for 6.7 million people – including those internally displaced – who remain in rural areas. Damages and losses in the agriculture sector (2011–2016) currently amount to an estimated USD 16 billion. Urgent humanitarian assistance is needed for 13.5 million people. Some 6.3 million people are internally displaced and 5 million Syrians have escaped across borders, fleeing the war and seeking refuge in neighbouring countries, mainly (in order of refugee population) in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt. The influx of refugees is having a huge impact on host communities in those countries in terms of competition over jobs, housing and access to basic services.

Factors driving acute food insecurity

Conflict and socio-economic impacts

Soaring food and fuel prices, stagnant salaries, loss of livelihoods and reduced food production have led to widespread food insecurity across the country, with 7 million people unable to meet their food needs and a further 2 million people at risk of food insecurity. The most vulnerable people live in hard-to-reach and besieged areas. In the 13 besieged areas, all inhabitants are food insecure, and access to assistance is intermittent. Households headed by women tend to rely on more negative coping mechanisms than those headed by men, though due to the prolonged conflict many households have exhausted all assets.

Key findings from the Whole of Syria Food Security Sector Outcome Monitoring Initiative (April 2017) show that 80 percent of surveyed households reported using emergency and crisis survival strategies to meet their basic food needs. These strategies include engaging in high risk or exploitative work (17 percent) or child labour (11 percent), and marrying off young girls (9 percent). Such strategies do irreparable harm to children and households and undermine post-conflict societal stability. Almost 50 percent of surveyed households demonstrated inadequate diversity in their diets. This causes malnutrition, with long-term consequences for health, the ability to work and children's development and ability to succeed in school. Even with assistance, close to 40 percent of households surveyed demonstrated inadequate food consumption. The effects are long-lasting, increasing households' vulnerability long after an eventual resolution of the conflict, as well as their dependence on assistance.

The public sector, private businesses and industries have been severely disrupted. Since 2011, 3 million jobs have

been lost. In early 2015, unemployment stood at 57 percent – 10 percent higher than at the start of the conflict. The Syrian Pound (SYP) continued to depreciate in 2016, moving from SYP 395 to SYP 530 per US dollar between January and mid-August. Localized shortages and the weakened currency are likely to put additional upward pressure on inflation, resulting in a further deterioration of purchasing power and food security conditions among poor households.

Some 69 percent of the population lives in extreme poverty and is unable to cover basic needs, including food. Casual labour is the main income source for borderline food insecure households, but opportunities are increasingly scarce and IDPs and returnees have saturated labour markets. Displacement is also one of the major drivers of food insecurity as IDPs lose their livelihoods and productive assets.

Agriculture and markets

Agricultural productivity has been badly hit, producers face rising transaction costs and security risks, and large areas of cropland suffered drought in 2016.

The 2016 Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) found that the conflict continues to seriously hamper agricultural production. Insecurity is restricting access to fields, disrupting electricity supplies and destroying storage facilities, irrigation infrastructure and machinery. Better conditions were found in relatively accessible areas. Insecurity is also pushing up prices and impeding access to agricultural inputs such as fuel, seeds and fertilizers. The surface area planted with cereals in the 2015/16 cropping season was the smallest on record, and

wheat production was estimated to be 55 percent lower than the pre-conflict average. By contrast, barley production reached above-average levels thanks to its capacity to resist adverse weather and input conditions.

The livestock sector has also suffered increasingly since 2011. Pasture availability and access are much reduced and feed prices continue to rise. The production of poultry – the main and most affordable source of animal protein – has shrunk by 60 percent, mostly because feed has become so expensive.

Producers, transporters and traders face rising transaction costs and security risks. In turn, household food access is limited both physically – by fragmented market functionality and severe shortages caused by transportation bottlenecks – and financially, because of high inflation, exchange rate fluctuations and price increases that particularly affect the purchasing power of the poorest households.

Prices of agricultural and livestock products increased over the last 12 months; however, the upward pressure of tight supplies was partly offset by the low purchasing power, which depressed demand. Consequently, prices of final products increased at slower rates compared with prices of productive inputs, which soared due to the economic

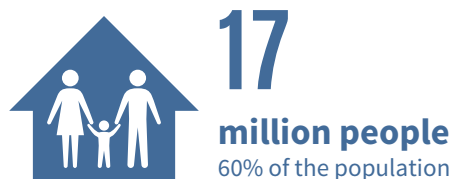
sanctions, market disruptions and declining value of the Syrian Pound. As a result, farmers have incurred heavy losses.

Latest data from WFP market price monitoring (Market Price Watch Bulletin, Issue 28, March 2017) indicate that year-on-year, the cost of wheat flour has increased by 30 percent and rice by 12 percent. The retail price of rice has gradually decreased on a monthly basis since November 2016. In March 2017, most of the markets in accessible areas were generally functioning, with relatively stable conditions.

The uncertain security situation in active conflict areas of Damascus, rural Damascus and Idleb severely disrupted the movement of commodities, leading to limited supply to these markets.

In besieged Madaya and Az-Zabadani, market functionality continued to be disrupted by active conflict; however, humanitarian access during March eased food accessibility for many households that rely on food assistance as their main source of food.

The CFSAM also found that large areas of arable land in the governorates of Aleppo, Idleb and Homs had been hit by drought, the effects of which were compounded by the already damaged irrigation infrastructure.



in IPC Phases 3 and 4
(from March to July 2017)
required urgent food, nutrition
and livelihoods assistance



The food security situation from March to June 2017 has been even more severe than the situation from June to September 2016, with an extra 3 million people needing urgent assistance.



Urgent food, nutrition and livelihoods assistance is needed:

- 6.8 million people (about 24 percent of the population) in Emergency (IPC Phase 4)
- 10.2 million people (about 36 percent of the population) in Crisis (IPC Phase 3)
- since March 2015, more than 2 million people displaced

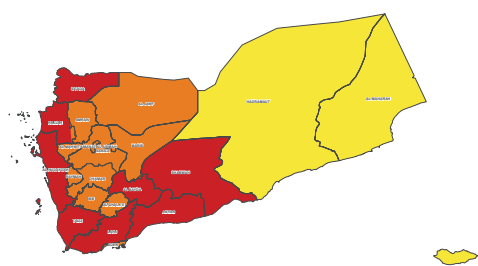
Security and the macroeconomic situation in Yemen are volatile. The ongoing conflict has had devastating effects in terms of population displacement, economic performance, agricultural losses – including for the fisheries and livestock sectors – and the widespread disruption of infrastructure, services, markets and livelihoods.

- From March to July 2017, 17 million people are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4). This corresponds to 60 percent of the population and represents a 20 percent increase compared with the IPC analysis from June 2016.
- Food insecurity levels are alarming across the country. Out of 22 governorates, seven governorates are in Emergency (IPC Phase 4), ten are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and three are in IPC Phase 3!, whereby “!” indicates that the area would have been in Emergency or worse without humanitarian assistance.

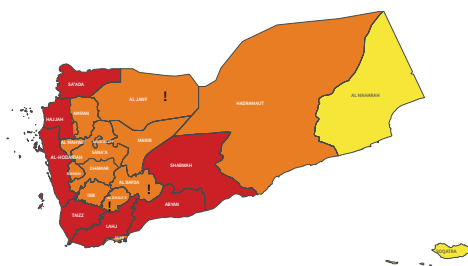
- Of particular concern is the magnitude of food insecurity in Al Hodaidah and Taiz governorates, where almost 2.2 million people are classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and over 1.9 million people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4).
- IDPs and host communities are expected to face some of the most severe outcomes. Some pockets are likely to experience more catastrophic conditions unless an adequate level of humanitarian food assistance and livelihood protection is availed.
- Malnutrition in Yemen is alarming. Out of 22 governorates, four governorates (Abyan, Taiz, Al Hodaidah and Hadramout) have GAM prevalence above the WHO critical threshold (≥ 15 percent). Seven governorates have GAM prevalence at serious levels (10-14.9 percent) and eight governorates have poor levels (5-9.9 percent).

Food insecurity situation

June – September 2016



March – July 2017



IPC Phase Classification



Source: Yemen IPC Technical Working Group, March 2017 (<http://www.ipcinfo.org/ipcinfo-detail-forms/ipcinfo-map-detail/en/c/522844/>)

Context

The conflict further escalated and intensified in the most food insecure and famine-risk governorates of Taiz and Al-Hodeidah. Airstrikes and localized fighting in different parts of the country have continued to devastate economic activities, public services and institutions. Access restrictions imposed by different factions are paralysing agriculture in active conflict areas of Taiz, obstructing fishing-based livelihoods along the Red Sea coast, preventing traders from transporting essential food commodities to local markets and restricting the work of humanitarians. In addition, the escalated conflict has brought about a new wave of displacement in western coastal areas of Taiz (Moka) and Al Hodeidah (southern districts).

Factors driving acute food insecurity

Deepening economic decline and collapse of social protection

The entire social protection system has collapsed, with the suspension of safety nets programmes for 1.5 million beneficiaries through the Social Welfare Fund and 1 million beneficiaries for the public works programme supported by the Social Fund for Development. Also, donors suspended most public investment programmes, affecting millions of people who were benefiting from public works and cash-for-work development programmes. The Central Bank of Yemen (CBY) was unable to finance the fiscal deficit, causing a severe liquidity problem leading to public budget expenditures and domestic debt service suspension in July 2016. GDP from the oil and gas sector declined by about 76 percent, contributing to a drop of over 30 percent in GDP in 2015. The economy contracted an additional 17 percent in 2016. The lack of foreign currency from exports and depreciation of the Yemen Riyal (YER) resulted in an average exchange rate in March 2017 of more than YER350/USD in parallel markets compared with the official rate of YER250/USD (40 percent increase). The liquidity crisis has directly affected more than 7 million people who depend on government salaries.

Market situation and commodity prices

High food prices continue to limit household access to food. In March 2017, the average prices of locally produced commodities (sorghum, millet and maize) were nearly 44 percent higher than before the crisis (February 2015). Large regional differences persist in market prices, reflecting availability of commodities in local markets. Due to the intensification of the conflict, blockages and restrictions imposed by warring parties in active conflict areas, the formal market systems are disconnected and commodity movements are disrupted, causing scarcity and escalation of prices of essential food and non-food commodities. Taiz, Al Hodaidah, Shabwah, Sa'ada and Hajjah (IPC Phase 4), Mareb (IPC Phase 3) and Al Jawf (IPC Phase 3!) are most

affected by high food prices. As of January 2017, following the crisis in the Central Bank, which led to a shutdown in trade finance and stopped wheat imports, the in-country commercial wheat grain stocks were estimated at some 940 000 tonnes (including flour), sufficient to satisfy the country's requirements for three months. Continued fighting around the port city of Al-Hodaidah, the main entry point for about 70 percent of the food imports in Yemen serving the northern governorates, has hindered imports and contributed to price increases of basic food and non-food commodities.

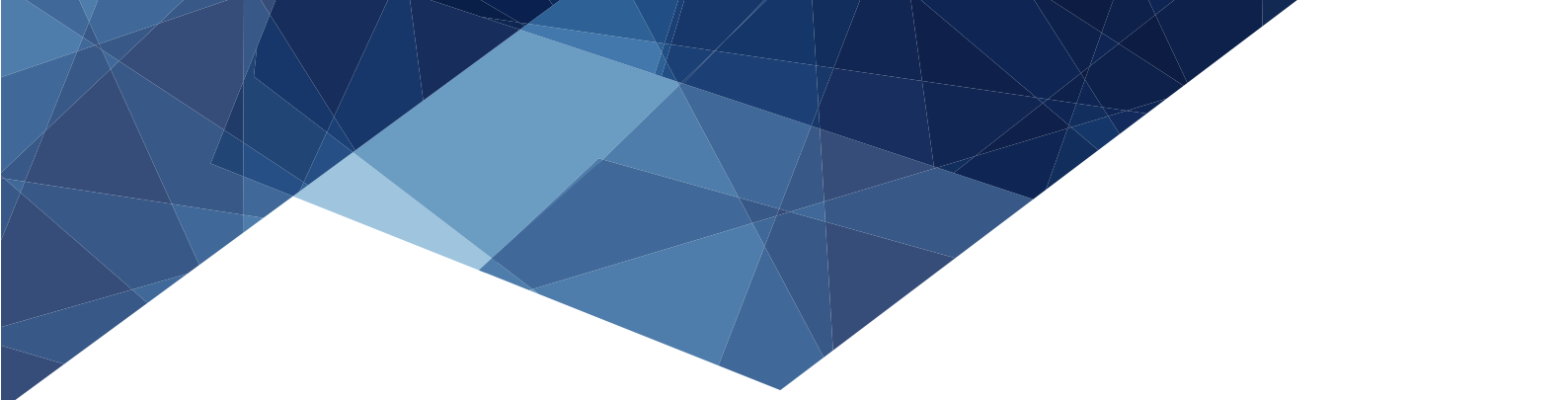
Agricultural production

Although in many key producing areas weather conditions remained favourable, persistent conflict caused a shortage of agricultural inputs as well as high input prices in almost all the governorates. Total cereal production in 2016 was about 11 percent below the previous year's harvest and 37 percent below the five-year average. In 2016 livestock production, in particular small ruminants, was 35 percent lower than before the crisis in 2016 compared with the pre-crisis period. Major constraints aggravated by the current conflict are limited access to animal feed (e.g. fodder, access to grazing, concentrate and mineral blocks, etc.) and the collapse of disease control services. In addition, livestock holders have been forced to sell their animals to cover basic family needs. Conflict has also severely constrained fishing activities, which constitute a key livelihood sector in Yemen, especially among the coastal communities in the Red and Arabian Seas. Most fishers have lost their assets, such as boats, nets and fishing gear, and essential fishing infrastructure has been damaged. In some areas of the western coast, such as Taiz and southern Hodaidah, fishing activities have stopped. This could expand along the western coast if fighting continues in that area. Moreover, the closure of land, air and marine ports for fish exports has resulted in lost or reduced employment and income for many traditional fishers.

Civil insecurity and displacement

According to the Task Force on Population Movement report (13 March 2017), around 2 million people are currently displaced due to the conflict across 21 governorates. Fifty-eight percent (1 157 664 people) of IDPs are hosted in five governorates, among which three are in IPC Phase 4 (Taiz, Hajjah and Sa'ada) and the other two in IPC Phase 3 (Sana'a and Sana'a City). Most IDPs have lost or sold their livelihood

assets and have limited opportunities for employment and income, severely compromising their economic access to food. The food security and nutrition status of IDPs is worse compared with non-IDPs, and continues to deteriorate because of the malfunctioning economic system, weak institutions and poor access to basic services, combined with a renewed wave of violence and instability and limited resources for emergency livelihood assistance and recovery programmes.



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