



World Food
Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Global Operational Response Plan 2021

Update #2

June 2021

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Introduction

The world is no longer moving towards Zero Hunger.

Progress has stalled, reversed, and today, up to **270.5 million people are estimated to be acutely food insecure or at high risk in 2021**, driven by conflict, economic shocks, natural disasters, and the socio-economic fallout from COVID-19. Urgent action and immediate support are needed to address and prevent **famine for millions of people**, and avert catastrophic outcomes, including for **refugees**.

The World Food Programme (WFP) is taking a leadership role, working with partners globally and nationally to meet people's emergency food and nutrition needs and reduce the structural vulnerabilities that underpin them – by strengthening the capacity of individuals, communities, and governments, improving livelihoods, building resilience and reinforcing national social protection systems.

The driving focus of the WFP's **Global Operational Response Plan** is to provide government partners, policymakers, humanitarian counterparts, and concerned citizens with an update on evolving needs and WFP's response priorities. The June update provides the latest information, figures, and a snapshot of how WFP is implementing the Global Operational Response Plan, by:

- Warning of the **drivers and multiplying risks** that have resulted in surging food insecurity and deepening hunger, with **41 million people** at risk of falling into famine in 43 countries, and 584,000 people likely to face famine-like conditions in **Ethiopia, Madagascar, South Sudan and Yemen** in 2021.
- Setting out how WFP is responding through **humanitarian action, development assistance and technical support to national governments** – working to scale up lifesaving food and nutrition assistance, invest in human capital and prevention and strengthen global and national partnerships.
- Identifying WFP's **Operations of Highest Concern**, where the scale and severity of food and nutrition insecurity, the scale of WFP's operational requirements, and the urgency of funding gaps intersect, along with providing a detailed country-by-country overview across WFP's operations.

In 2021, **WFP is undertaking the biggest operation in its history, targeting 139 million people worldwide**. Already in the first quarter of the year, **WFP has reached 67 million people**, 3 million more than the same period last year.

WFP continues to **scale up cash-based transfers**, having transferred US\$ 710 million across 62 country offices, and is supporting 40 governments worldwide in designing, delivering, and assuring their cash-based transfer programmes. WFP continues to collaborate with national governments to **advance social protection programmes in dozens of countries globally**, finalizing a new strategy to increase access to national social protection systems that safeguard and foster people's ability to meet food security, nutrition and associated essential needs. And WFP keeps investing to mitigate the impact of shocks on affected populations, **triggering anticipatory action** at a community level before humanitarian crises materialize.

While donor contributions are projected to reach unprecedented levels in 2021, WFP's funding needs remain substantial and the price for inaction will be measured in lost lives, increased food insecurity and setbacks in progress towards long-term development goals. Despite mounting operational requirements, **the 2021 global contribution forecast covers just 55 percent of WFP's current operational requirements of US\$ 15.3 billion**. For the next six months alone, **WFP still requires US\$ 4.5 billion** to cover needs from June to November 2021.

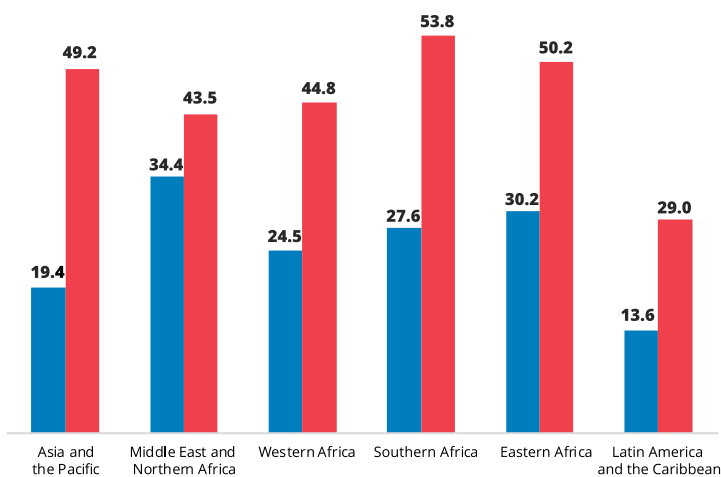


Section I: High Hunger, Multiplying Risks

High food insecurity estimates remain confirmed for 2021

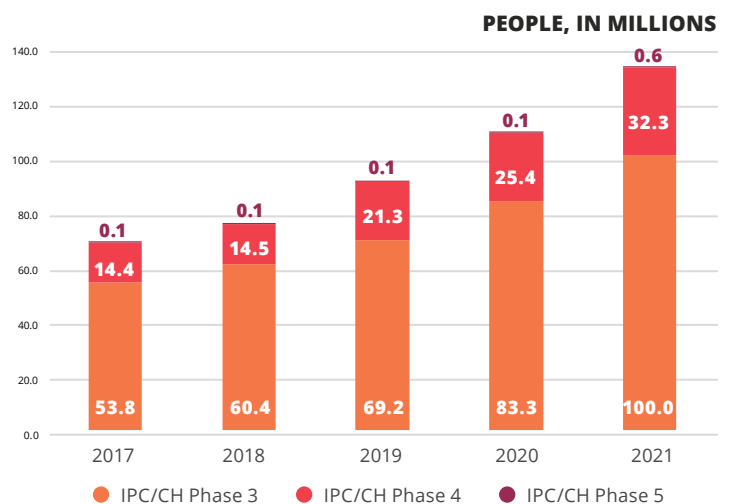
Up to 270.5 million people are estimated to be acutely food insecure or at high risk in 2021 across 80 countries with WFP operational presence and where data is available. Up to 120.7 million additional people are facing food insecurity today compared to before the pandemic, an unprecedented and alarming increase of 81 percent. Forcibly displaced people, such as refugees, returnees, asylum-seekers, and internally displaced persons are particularly vulnerable.

- Early 2020 pre-COVID-19 (people, in millions)¹
- June 2021 (people, in millions)²



Trends in the ten countries with the highest numbers of people in acute food insecurity in 2021 illustrate how food insecurity has been increasing over the past five years. In these countries—**Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Haiti, Nigeria, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Venezuela, and Yemen**—133 million people are facing acute hunger in 2021 according to Integrated Phase Classification (IPC)/ Cadre Harmonisé (CH) projections (or equivalent), up from 68 million in 2017. For example, in **Afghanistan**, the number of food insecure people increased from 7.6 million in 2017 to 16.9 million at the start of 2021; in **Nigeria**, from 8.9 million in 2017 to 12.8 million in 2021; and in **Syria**, from 6.5 million in 2017 to 12.3 million in 2021.

Growing number of food insecure people in ten most affected countries³



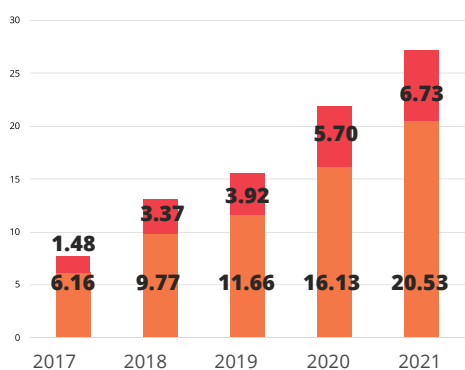
- The baseline has been slightly adjusted in comparison to previous WFP estimates to add Venezuela as a new country with WFP operational presence and ensure coherence with additional available evidence from Myanmar.
- The new June 2021 estimate is the third update to WFP's original estimate of COVID-19's impact on acute food security conducted in June 2020 (see [methods paper](#)). For this update, the original estimations from June 2020 were replaced with the most recent assessment data and projections for 2021 from Integrated Phase Classification (IPC), Cadre Harmonisé (CH), or comparable analyses for 52 countries. Only IPC/CH exercises with population coverage of above 50 percent were considered. The numbers are supposed to give a comprehensive estimate of people in need of food assistance in countries where WFP operates. The analysis covers rural and urban populations and also refugees.
- Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Phases are described as follows: IPC Phase 1 (Minimal); IPC Phase 2 (Stressed); IPC Phase 3 (Crisis); IPC Phase 4 (Emergency); and IPC Phase 5 (Catastrophe/Famine). Reported is IPC/CH or equivalent. For Syria and Venezuela, severe food insecurity is reported as IPC 4. Peak numbers reported. Where IPC 3+ peak and IPC 5 peak differ, IPC 5 peak is reported for IPC 5, IPC 3 is adjusted downwards to ensure IPC 3+ peak remains consistent (Ethiopia 2021, South Sudan 2020)

TRENDS IN KEY FOOD CRISIS AFFECTED COUNTRIES

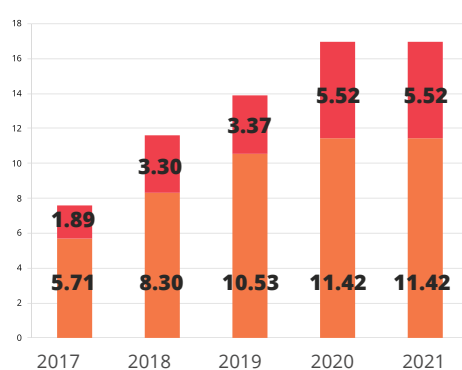
● IPC/CH Phase 3 or equivalent ● IPC/CH Phase 4 or equivalent ● IPC/CH Phase 5 or equivalent

PEOPLE, IN MILLIONS*

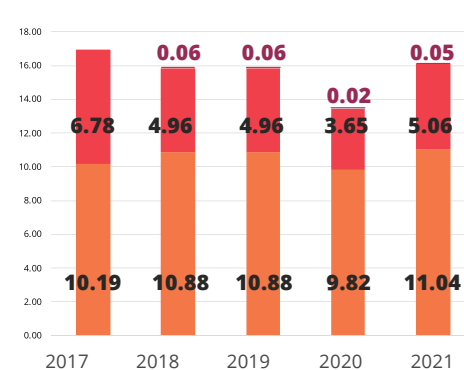
Democratic Republic of the Congo**



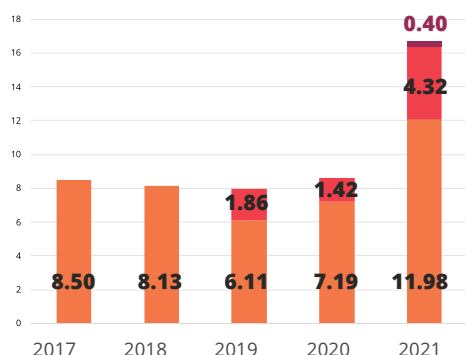
Afghanistan



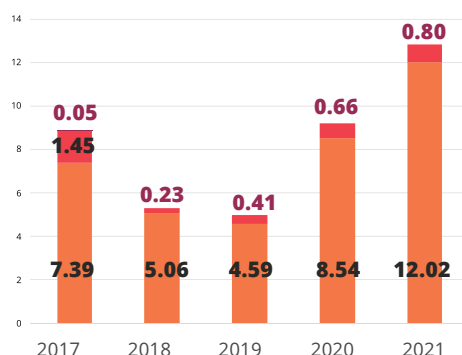
Yemen



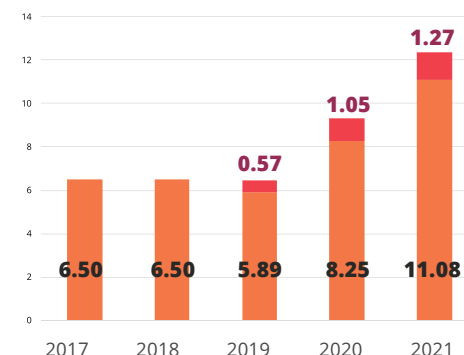
Ethiopia



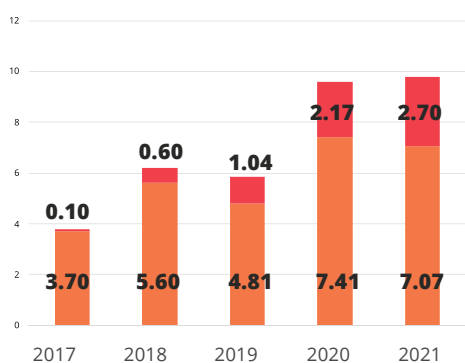
Nigeria



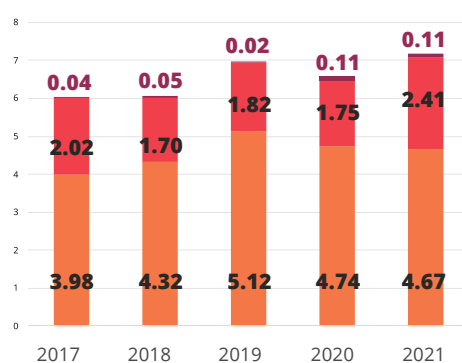
Syria**



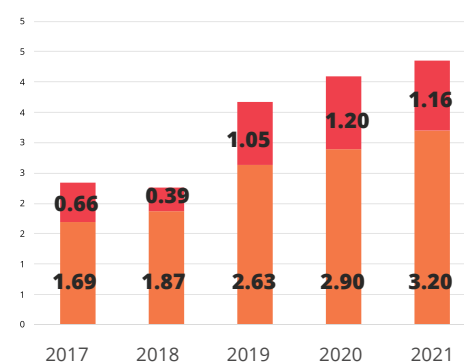
Sudan



South Sudan



Haiti



* Reported is latest peak available. Where IPC 3+ peak and IPC 5 peak differ, IPC 5 peak is reported for IPC 5, IPC 3 is adjusted downwards to ensure IPC 3+ peak remains consistent (Ethiopia 2021, South Sudan 2020).

** DRC: coverage changes from year to year (>90% for 2021 and 2017, between 65% to 70% in the remaining years). For Syria, severe food insecurity is reported as IPC 4, 2020 is non-peak from June.

More people at risk of facing famine-like conditions

Worryingly, the number of people at risk of facing famine-like conditions without urgent immediate life-saving action has been increasing. The [Global Report on Food Crisis 2021](#) reported 28 million people in IPC Phase 4 Emergency across the 38 countries covered in 2020.⁴ It is now estimated that **41 million people could face such conditions in 2021 across 43 countries**, based on most recently published IPC/CH or equivalent analyses.

In northern **Ethiopia**, 353,000 people are already suffering from catastrophic levels of hunger in IPC Phase 5 Catastrophe, a number expected to increase to 401,000 people through September 2021. This is the highest number of people classified in IPC Phase 5 in a single country in the last decade, since the 2011 famine in Somalia. A further 183,000 people are projected to face starvation and death in IPC Phase 5 in **Yemen, South Sudan, and Madagascar**. While in **Ethiopia, Yemen and South Sudan** conflict is hindering humanitarian access, people in **Madagascar** are threatened by the effects of several consecutive years of droughts.

People in food crisis or worse: Numbers explained

Several numbers on acute food insecurity have been published, with different purposes and coverage:

270.5 million across 80 countries with WFP operational presence in 2021

This number is intended to give a complete overview of food security needs in the countries where WFP operates for operational planning purposes. This report provides the third update of WFP's original estimate of 270 million established in June 2020. In this update, Venezuela has been added as a country with new operational presence. The updates intend to reduce uncertainty of the original estimate by replacing country estimates with new assessment data where available, currently covering 52 countries. Updates are not intended for trend analysis purposes, but to validate original estimations.

155 million across 55 countries in 2020

The Global Report on Food Crises estimates that in 2020, 155 million people in 55 countries were facing acute food insecurity. The Global Report on Food Crises is a joint and consensus-based analysis by 16 partner organizations and focuses on countries where IPC/CH or equivalent data is available.

Further explanations and sources for numbers on food security can be found [here](#).



Surging malnutrition in several countries

WFP is taking action to overcome barriers to address malnutrition, but nutrition outcomes vary substantially across countries, made all the more significant in the face of the pandemic. As noted in WFP's February 2021 Global Operational Response Plan, the pandemic has had massive consequences for nutrition, contributing to a 14.3 percent increase in acute malnutrition among children under five. Additionally, the high price of nutritious diets continues to result in low consumption of nutrient dense foods, hampering food security and nutrition outcomes.

Countries in East Africa have the highest burden of malnutrition with 10 million acutely malnourished children expected in 2021 in four countries alone, namely **Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan**. In South Asia, more than two thirds of the acutely malnourished children live in **Afghanistan** (3.1 million). This is not the only region of concern, as deepening of hunger is being experienced equally in other regions. **Yemen** remains one of the world's worst humanitarian crises, where 2.3 million children under the age of five are suffering from acute malnutrition in 2021.

As the lean season approaches across most countries in West Africa, seasonal food insecurity is increasing, and malnutrition will likely peak from July to August. The estimated figure of 9.8 million acutely malnourished children in the region will likely increase due to a deteriorating food insecurity and expanding conflict. Around 80 percent of the households living in conflict-affected areas cannot afford nutritious foods. New crises are also foreseen due to political instability such as in **Chad**, where 1.8 million children are suffering from acute malnutrition.

In southern **Madagascar**, the impact of an extraordinarily severe drought has affected livelihoods across the region. The global acute malnutrition rate in the ten affected districts exceeds the 10 percent emergency threshold at 16.1 percent. WFP plans to assist 168,000 pregnant and lactating women and children with malnutrition prevention and treatment activities until the end of the year.

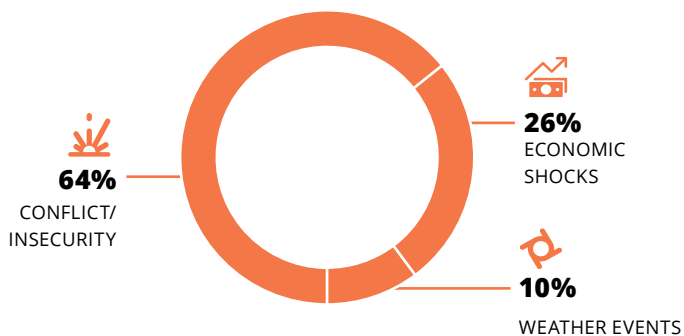
Drivers of food insecurity and risks ahead

Conflict, economic shocks, and extreme weather events are the main drivers of acute food insecurity. While conflict continues to be the primary driver for the largest share of people facing acute hunger, economic shocks have grown strongly in their importance over the past two years, especially in 2020 because of COVID-19.

⁴ Additionally, there are 2.6 million in severe food insecurity in Syria and Palestine.

The [Global Report on Food Crises 2021](#), which covered 55 countries, showed that in 2020 conflict was the key driver in 23 countries accounting for 64 percent of acute food insecure people; economic shocks, including COVID-19's effects, were the key driver in 17 countries accounting for 26 percent of acute food insecure people; while weather-related shocks were the key driver in 15 countries accounting for 10 percent of acute food insecure people. More and more countries are facing multiple shocks at the same time, which drastically limits their capacities to respond.

Share of people in acute food insecurity by primary driver in 2020



Source: [Global Report on Food Crises 2021](#)



Conflict risks

Conflict is likely to intensify in parts of **Afghanistan**, in the **Democratic Republic of Congo**, northern **Mozambique**, northeast **Nigeria**, **Myanmar**, **Ethiopia**, and **Somalia** and continues to have a major impact in **Central Sahel** and **South Sudan**. Spill-over effects of the Tigray conflict and June elections are likely to drive intercommunal violence and attacks by armed groups across all regions in **Ethiopia**. In **Somalia**, clan-based violence and conflict are likely around elections scheduled for the coming weeks. In **Sudan**, further spikes in intercommunal violence in West and South Darfur are likely, in addition to likely

In the **DRC**, protracted insecurity continues to cause mass displacement and drive food insecurity, with the risk of further deterioration in eastern provinces amidst increasing militarization and the impact of the Mount Nyiragongo eruption in late-May. In **Mozambique**, the evolving insurgency in Cabo Delgado province has the potential to expand further.

In **Myanmar**, armed conflict between the military and increasingly coordinated and growing anti-coup forces is likely to further intensify. In **Afghanistan**, armed conflict between the Taliban and Afghan forces is likely to further intensify across most provinces, with provincial and district capitals coming under increasing pressure.



Economic risks

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Food Price Index, a measure of price changes in international markets for a basket of food commodities, increased for the twelfth consecutive month in May 2021. It was the largest month-on-month rise in more than a decade, which took it to levels not seen since September 2011. Among the basic staples, maize prices surged more than any other over the course of the past year, recording a nearly 90 percent jump year-on-year. Global grain markets are in a vulnerable position—the production outlook favourable, but global inventories tight and the speed of economic recovery uncertain—leaving food-import dependent countries in peril.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated pre-existing macroeconomic fragilities in many countries, increasing the likelihood of macroeconomic crises (including rapid currency depreciation, depletion of foreign exchange reserves) and leading to income losses and rapid inflation. At the same time, it has led countries to accumulate substantial debt, and debt obligations imply more limited fiscal space to finance already more expensive imports. More than half of all low-income countries are currently in debt distress or at high risk thereof. Averting a debt trap is critical to avoid a lost decade in some African and Asian countries.

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https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_1390

