



# 2021 GLOBAL REPORT ON FOOD CRISES

JOINT ANALYSIS FOR BETTER DECISIONS

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# Foreword

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The findings of the fifth edition of the *Global Report on Food Crises* make grim reading. The number of people facing acute food insecurity and requiring urgent food, nutrition and livelihoods assistance is on the rise. Conflict is the main reason, combined with climate disruption and economic shocks, aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Conflict and hunger are mutually reinforcing. We need to tackle hunger and conflict together to solve either. They cannot be resolved separately. Hunger and poverty combine with inequality, climate shocks and tensions over land and resources to spark and drive conflict. Likewise, conflict forces people to leave their homes, land and jobs. It disrupts agriculture and trade, reduces access to vital resources like water and electricity, and so drives hunger and famine.

We must do everything we can to end this vicious cycle. Addressing hunger is a foundation for stability and peace. Our blueprint is the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and particularly SDG 2 on zero hunger. Accordingly, we need to transform our food systems to make them more inclusive, resilient and sustainable. Mobilizing ambitious action in that regard is the goal of the Food Systems Summit that I will convene later this year.

There is no place for famine and starvation in the 21st century. Together, we can end hunger.

**António Guterres**

Secretary-General of the United Nations



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# GRFC 2021 in brief

The magnitude and severity of food crises worsened in 2020 as protracted conflict, the economic fallout of COVID-19 and weather extremes exacerbated pre-existing fragilities. Forecasts point to a grim outlook for 2021, with the threat of Famine persisting in some of the world's worst food crises.

## In 2020



**155M** people

in 55 countries/territories were in **Crisis or worse** (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) or equivalent – an increase of around 20 million people from 2019.



**133 000** people

in Burkina Faso, South Sudan and Yemen were in **Catastrophe** (IPC/CH Phase 5) and needed urgent action to prevent widespread death and total collapse of livelihoods.



**28M** people

in 38 of the 43 countries/territories with IPC/CH analyses were in **Emergency** (IPC/CH Phase 4) and needed urgent action to save lives and livelihoods.

**66%**

of the 155 million people in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) or equivalent were in 10 countries/territories – Democratic Republic of the Congo (21.8M), Yemen (13.5M), Afghanistan (13.2M), Syrian Arab Republic (12.4M), Sudan (9.6M), northern Nigeria (9.2M), Ethiopia (8.6M), South Sudan (6.5M), Zimbabwe (4.3M) and Haiti (4.1M).

In three countries, more than half of the population analysed was in **Crisis or worse** (IPC Phase 3 or above) or equivalent.



SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC



SOUTH SUDAN



CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC



**15.8M** children under 5 years in the 55 food-crisis countries/territories were wasted.



**75.2M** children under 5 years in the 55 food-crisis countries/territories were stunted.

Children living in food-crisis countries/territories are especially vulnerable to malnutrition.

The primary **drivers** of acute food insecurity in 2020 were **conflict/insecurity, economic shocks** – including those resulting from COVID-19 – and **weather extremes**. Drivers often co-exist and reinforce one another.



**CONFLICT/INSECURITY**  
**99.1M** people  
in **23** countries/  
territories



**ECONOMIC SHOCKS**  
**40.5M** people  
in **17** countries



**WEATHER EXTREMES**  
**15.7M** people  
in **15** countries

## Forecast 2021



While conflict will remain the major driver of food crises in 2021, the economic repercussions of COVID-19 will exacerbate acute food insecurity in fragile economies.



**142M** people

are projected to be in **Crisis or worse** (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) or equivalent in **40** countries/territories for which forecasts are available.



**155 000** people

will likely face **Catastrophe** (IPC/CH Phase 5) in two of these countries through mid-2021, with **108 000** in South Sudan and **47 000** in Yemen.

In **South Sudan**, four payams of Pibor county will continue to face Famine Likely (IPC Phase 5).

In northern **Nigeria**, although no population/area is projected to be in Catastrophe/Famine (CH Phase 5), some indicators suggest that a proportion of the population (<10%) may face such conditions.



**65%** of the world's **46** million internally displaced people in 2020 were in Democratic Republic of the Congo, Yemen, Afghanistan, Syrian Arab Republic, Sudan, northern Nigeria, Ethiopia and South Sudan.



**38%** of the world's **30.5** million refugees and asylum seekers originate from three food-crisis countries – Syrian Arab Republic, Afghanistan and South Sudan.

# Informing the work of the Global Network Against Food Crises

Founded by the European Union, FAO and WFP at the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit, the Global Network Against Food Crises is an alliance of humanitarian and development actors working together to prevent, prepare for, and respond to food crises and support the Sustainable Development Goal to End Hunger (SDG 2). It seeks to reduce vulnerabilities associated with acute hunger; achieve food security and improved nutrition; and promote sustainable agriculture and food systems, using a '3x3 approach.' This involves working at the global, regional and national levels to support partnerships within existing structures and to improve advocacy, decision-making, policy and programming along the following three dimensions:

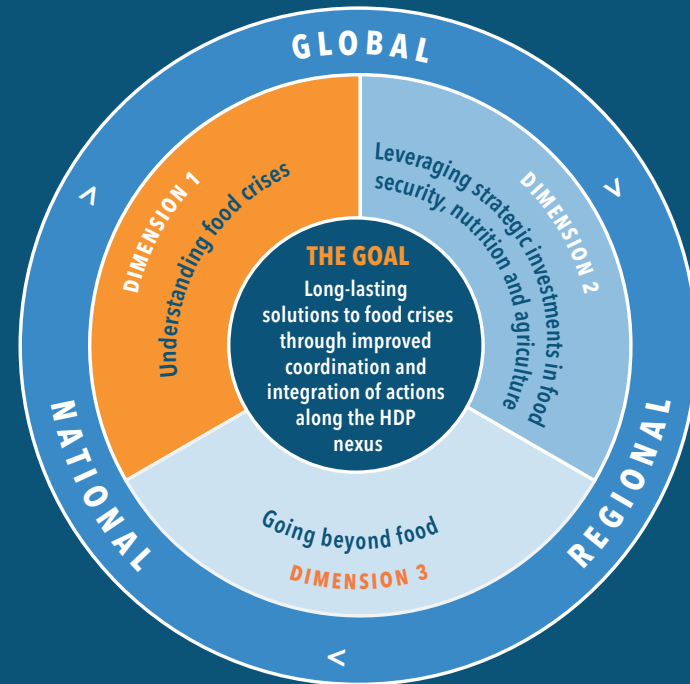
## Dimension 1 | Understanding food crises

The work within this dimension aims to build greater consensus and promote evidence-based food security and nutrition analyses and reporting in order to strengthen the collection, quality and coverage of the food security and nutrition data and analysis, and inform decision-making and action. This will be achieved through the contribution to the Global Report on Food Crises, a unique 'global public good' under the coordination and leadership of the Food Security Information Network (FSIN), as well as the coordination, synthesis, and publication of technical analyses, including forward-looking analyses of food crises.

## Dimension 2 | Leveraging strategic investments in food security, nutrition and agriculture

The work within this dimension aims to advocate for 'fit for purpose' financing that draws on the full range of resource flows (public and private, international and domestic) to better prepare for, prevent and respond to food crises. It seeks to improve coherence between humanitarian, development and peace actions (the HDP 'nexus') to build resilience to shocks and promote longer-term self-reliance. Activities include a strong focus on supporting capacity strengthening of country-level actors and institutions, as well as strengthening coordination at the regional level to ensure that investments are focused on the right place, at the right time.

## The 3x3 approach to addressing food crises



## Dimension 3 | Going beyond food

The work within this dimension aims to foster political uptake and coordination across clusters/sectors to address the underlying multi-dimensional drivers of food crises including environmental, political, economic, societal and security risk factors. It seeks to improve understanding and promote linkages between the different dimensions of fragility through knowledge sharing, advocacy and integrated policy responses.

# Acknowledgements

This fifth annual Global Report on Food Crises (GRFC 2021) results from months of collaboration among numerous members of the international humanitarian and development community.

The Food Security Information Network (FSIN) coordinates this process, facilitating multiple partners at global, regional and national levels to share food security and nutrition data, analysis and valuable insights. Without the commitment, contributions and expertise of 16 agencies and many individuals this valuable work would not have been possible.

We would like to thank the senior committee members for their vital guidance and feedback, the FSIN-coordinated food security and nutrition technical working groups for providing analysis, editing, proofreading and disseminating the report and the contributors to the sessions of the technical consultations held from November 2020 to March 2021.

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We would like to extend a special thanks to food security and nutrition analysts who continued to produce analyses at the country and regional levels, despite experiencing exceptionally challenging circumstances in 2020.

We would like to thank the representatives of the donor community for sharing their information needs and providing thoughtful views and feedback, and the European Union and USAID for providing valuable funding for the GRFC 2021.



# How to use this report

Refer to **Chapter 1** for the **2020 global overview of food crises and 2021 forecast**. **Page 9**

It provides the key findings of the GRFC 2021, examining the varying aspects of food crises, their severity and magnitude and identifies the world's 10 worst food crises in 2020. An easy-to-navigate table summarises the acute food insecurity estimates for 2019 to 2021.

Refer to **Chapter 2** for **regional overviews of food crises in 2020 and a forecast for 2021**. **Page 33**

Text, infographics and maps illustrate the evolution of food crises in the following five regions: Central and Southern Africa; East Africa; West Africa and the Sahel; Central America and Haiti; Eurasia (including the Middle East and South Asia).

Refer to **Chapter 3** for **country-level overviews of 34 major food crises in 2020 and forecasts for 2021**. **Page 88**

The food crises are presented in alphabetical order from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe. Each overview provides detailed local-level acute food insecurity, malnutrition and displacement data, and information on drivers presented through infographics, maps and text.

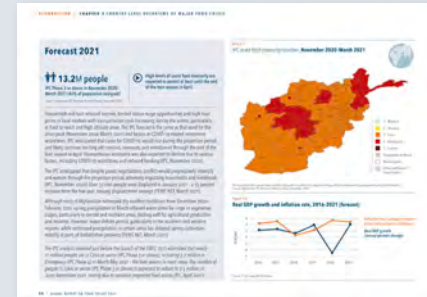
**Technical notes**. **Page 268**

Refer to this section for explanations of processes for producing the GRFC 2021; key terminology; key indicators and classification tables for acute food insecurity and malnutrition indicators.

A bibliography is provided at the end of the report.



Country	2019	2020	2021
Afghanistan	13.2M	13.2M	13.2M
Democratic Republic of Congo	13.2M	13.2M	13.2M
Madagascar	13.2M	13.2M	13.2M
Mozambique	13.2M	13.2M	13.2M
Myanmar	13.2M	13.2M	13.2M
Nigeria	13.2M	13.2M	13.2M
North Macedonia	13.2M	13.2M	13.2M
South Sudan	13.2M	13.2M	13.2M
Somalia	13.2M	13.2M	13.2M
Zimbabwe	13.2M	13.2M	13.2M



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Country	2019	2020	2021
Afghanistan	13.2M	13.2M	13.2M
Democratic Republic of Congo	13.2M	13.2M	13.2M
Madagascar	13.2M	13.2M	13.2M
Mozambique	13.2M	13.2M	13.2M
Myanmar	13.2M	13.2M	13.2M
Nigeria	13.2M	13.2M	13.2M
North Macedonia	13.2M	13.2M	13.2M
South Sudan	13.2M	13.2M	13.2M
Somalia	13.2M	13.2M	13.2M
Zimbabwe	13.2M	13.2M	13.2M

## Acronyms

<b>3RP</b>	Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan	<b>FAO-GIEWS</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations – Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture
<b>ACAPS</b>	Assessment Capacities Project	<b>FAW</b>	Fall army worm
<b>ACF</b>	Action Contre le Faim	<b>FCS</b>	Food Consumption Score
<b>ACLED</b>	Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project	<b>FCT</b>	Federal Capital Territory
<b>AfDB</b>	African Development Bank	<b>FEWS NET</b>	Famine Early Warning Systems Network
<b>ALPS</b>	Alert for Price Spikes indicator	<b>FSC</b>	Food Security Cluster
<b>ALG</b>	Liptako–Gourma Authority (Autorité de Développement Intégré de la Région du Liptako Gourma)	<b>FSIN</b>	Food Security Information Network
<b>AMN</b>	Acute malnutrition	<b>FSNAU</b>	Food Security and Nutrition Assessment Unit
<b>AML</b>	African migratory locusts	<b>FSNMS</b>	Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring System
<b>ASAL</b>	Arid and semi-arid lands	<b>FSNWG</b>	Food Security and Nutrition Working Group
<b>BAY</b>	Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states	<b>FSTS</b>	Food Security Technical Secretariat (Yemen)
<b>CADC</b>	Central America Dry Corridor	<b>GAM</b>	Global Acute Malnutrition
<b>CAFOD</b>	Catholic Agency for Overseas Development	<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product
<b>CARI</b>	Consolidated Approach to Reporting Indicators of Food Security	<b>gFSC</b>	Global Food Security Cluster
<b>CFSAM</b>	Crop and Food Supply Assessment	<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product
<b>CFSAM</b>	Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission	<b>GHO</b>	Global Humanitarian Overview
<b>CFSVA</b>	Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis	<b>GHRP</b>	Global Humanitarian Response Plan
<b>CH</b>	Cadre Harmonisé	<b>GIFMM</b>	Interagency Group on Mixed Migration Flows – Colombia (Grupo Interagencial de Flujos Migratorios Mixtos)
<b>Cholera/AWD</b>	Cholera and Acute Watery Diarrhoea	<b>GNAFC</b>	Global Network Against Food Crises
<b>CILSS</b>	Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control	<b>GNC</b>	Global Nutrition Cluster
<b>CONASUR</b>	Conseil National de Secours d'Urgence et de Réhabilitation, Ministère de l'Action Sociale et de la Solidarité National	<b>GRFC</b>	Global Report on Food Crises
<b>COVID-19</b>	Corona virus disease 2019	<b>HDP</b>	Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus
<b>CPI</b>	Consumer Price Index	<b>HDI</b>	Humanitarian Development Index
<b>DEVCO</b>	International Cooperation and Development of the European Commission	<b>HIV/AIDS</b>	Human Immunodeficiency Virus Infection and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
<b>DHS</b>	Demographic and Health Survey	<b>HNO</b>	Humanitarian Needs Overview

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