





September 2020 UPDATE In times of COVID-19

2020 GLOBAL REPORT ON FOOD CRISES

JOINT ANALYSIS FOR BETTER DECISIONS

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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information. We would also like to extend a special thanks to all those working in the global, regional and country teams who contributed to these efforts.

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We would also like to extend our appreciation to the representatives of the international donor community, whose need to better understand the severity and scale of food crises has largely provided the impetus for this endeavour.

This update is one of a series of analytical, consensus-based products on food security, which are made possible thanks to the sustained financial contributions of the European Union and USAID. We are grateful for their commitment and support.





































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ACRONYMS ICONOGRAPHY

ACLED	Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project	MUAC	Mid-Upper Arm Circumference
AfDB	African Development Bank	OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination
AMN	Acute malnutrition	0.505	of Humanitarian Affairs
CH	Cadre Harmonisé	OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
CILSS		PAHO/WHO	Pan American Health Organization
		RPCA	Réseau de Prévention des Crises Alimentaires (Food Crisis Prevention Network)
	Coronavirus disease	RVF	·
ECLAC	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean		Southern African Development Community
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States	SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	SICA	Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana (Central American Integration System)
FAO-GIEWS	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations – Global Information and Early Warning System	SIDS	Small Island Developing states
		SMART	Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions
FCT	Federal Capital Territory	SMEB	Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket
FEWS NET	Famine Early Warning Systems Network	SNNP region	Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Region
FSIN	Food Security information Network	•	The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the
FSNAU	Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit	World	
GAM	Global Acute Malnutrition	UN Habitat	United Nations Human Settlement Programme
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
gFSC	Global Food Security Cluster	ΙΙΝCΤΔD	United Nations Conference on Trade and
GHRP	(United Nations Global Humanitarian Response Plan		Development
GNAFC	Global Network Against Food Crises	UN/DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
GRFC	Global Report on Food Crises	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus Infection and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
HNO	Humanitarian Needs Overview	UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
IDP	Internally displaced people	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute	USD	United States Dollar
IFRC	International Federation of the Red Cross	WAHO	West African Health Organization
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development (in Eastern Africa)	WB	
ILO	International Labour Organization		United Nations World Food Programme
IMF	International Monetary Fund	WFP mVAM	United Nations World Food Programme mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping
IOM	International Organization for Migration	WH0	World Health Organization
IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification	WHZ	Weight-for-length/height z-score

Drivers of acute food insecurity



Conflict/insecurity/ political crises



Economic shocks



Weather extremes prolonged dry spells, flooding and cyclones



Hazards – explosion Hazards -



Health shocks



Locusts and other pests

COVID-19-related



Border restrictions



COVID-19



Containment measures



Physical distancing



Remote learning





Partnership

Food security data analytics



Global publications



National/regional data analysis



Tools and methods

Displacement



Asylum seekers, IDPs, refugees, returnees, stateless people

Nutrition



Acute malnutrition (wasting)

Notes on maps

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on all the maps in this document do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties.

Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.

Final status of the Abyei area is not yet determined.

A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

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Introduction and methods



Introduction and methods Introduction and methods

Why this update?

For the last four years, the Global Report on Food Crises (GRFC) has provided an annual, consensus-based overview of the severity, magnitude and drivers of the world's food crises.

The GRFC 2020 reported the highest global number of acutely food-insecure people on record. It revealed that in 2019, some 135 million in 55 countries and territories were in need of urgent food, livelihood and nutrition assistance as a result of conflict, weather extremes, economic shocks, or a combination of all three drivers. This figure reflected not only worsening levels of acute food insecurity in many countries, but also the wider availability of food security data, including in previously inaccessible areas or in contexts that had previously yielded poor-quality data.

In these 55 food crisis countries and territories, an estimated 75 million children were stunted and 17 million were suffering from acute wasting. Food insecurity and limited access to well functioning health, WASH and social protection systems increase the risk of malnutrition for the most vulnerable.

This GRFC 2020 September update in times of COVID-19 provides acute food insecurity data for 26 countries identified in the GRFC 2020 and also includes Togo in the report for the first time. The cut-off date for the information and data used to prepare this report was 30 September 2020.

Data sources

In keeping with GRFC methodology established for earlier reports, the main sources for acute food insecurity data for this September update are the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) and the Cadre Harmonisé (CH). Populations in Crisis (IPC/CH Phase 3), Emergency (IPC/CH Phase 4) and Catastrophe (IPC/CH Phase 5) are those in need of urgent food, nutrition and livelihood assistance. Please see annex 1 for the IPC acute food insecurity reference table. For countries where IPC/CH analyses were not conducted, estimates of the number of people in need of food, nutrition and livelihood assistance were primarily derived from IPC-compatible analyses carried out by FEWS NET.

The IPC acute malnutrition analyses and the 2020 Global Nutrition Cluster Mid-Year Report are the main data sources for nutrition. Please see annex 2 for the IPC acute malnutrition reference table.

In addition to providing an update on the current and often mutually reinforcing drivers of acute food insecurity - conflict and insecurity, weather extremes, pest outbreaks and other natural hazards, and economic shocks, or a combination of all these main drivers - this report relies on a wide variety of sources to examine the pathways between COVID-19 and acute food insecurity. For more information on the way the GRFC analyses drivers, please refer to the 2020 GRFC.

Data challenges and limitations

In response to the declaration of the pandemic by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in March 2020, the food security and nutrition data community suspended in-person interaction, thereby halting traditional household data collection. Data that is usually obtained face to face was collected remotely and progressively scaled up to track the impact of COVID-19 on households' food security, livelihoods, access to health care and markets and inform analyses.

IPC and CH rapidly shifted from in-person to virtual multistakeholder training and online analysis. A complete virtual IPC/CH process was designed and rolled out at country level to continue producing IPC/CH analyses that are fully compliant with established protocols.

In addition to these adjustments, the need to meet the minimum evidence requirements in terms of coverage, data quality and robustness, led to the rescheduling of analyses for several food-crisis countries.

Out of the 70 countries and territories pre-identified and reviewed as potential food crises for the GRFC 2020, this update includes 27 that had an updated publically released analysis by 30 September 2020. The reader should be aware that many other countries/territories beyond these 27 are facing high levels of acute food insecurity in times of COVID-19. Table 1a, commencing on page 18, provides acute food insecurity data for 57 food crisis countries at their worse point in 2019. A more comprehensive picture of the magnitude of food crises in times of COVID-19 will be provided in the GRFC 2021, to be released early next year.

Around a third of the 27 countries updated experienced comparability challenges due to differences in geographical coverage, percentage of the population analysed, exclusion or inclusion of rural and urban populations or change of source/ methodology between 2019 and 2020 estimates.

Consensus

All partners are in agreement with the general magnitude and severity of acute food insecurity indicated for the countries included in this report, except Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia and Haiti. For these countries, FEWS NET analyses of available evidence suggest the population requiring emergency food assistance was lower than IPC estimates because of different interpretation of data related to factors contributing to acute food insecurity.

COVID-19 prevention measures introduce a new barrier to data collection



Data collection in person is suspended





inaccessible



Data is not disaggregated by age, gender or **IPC/CH phases**



Data is scattered across various sources







areas



Data is incomplete

Adaptation of data analytics in times of COVID-19

APRIL Release of IPC manual 3.0.

2019

OCTOBER Release of

CH manual 2.0.



11 MARCH

WHO officially declares the novel coronavirus. now known as COVID-19. a pandemic



2020

MARCH-MAY

The data community suspends in-person data collection, scales up remote systems and introduces virtual analysis.



APRIL

CILSS issues the first monthly note on monitoring food security and nutrition in West Africa and the Sahel during COVID-19. IPC updates acute food insecurity projection for Madagascar.



IPC releases results for Afghanistan, the first acute food insecurity analysis using IPC virtual modality, Burundi and updates lean season pro iection for the Central African Republic.



IPC updates acute food insecurity projection for Tri-national border of Rio Lempa. and South Sudan.



JUNE

JULY CILSS updates CH analyses for **Burkina** Faso, Nigeria (4 states) and Togo. FEWS NET releases a food assistance outlook brief for Nicaragua, Rwanda



JULY

IPC releases results for the Sudan, Yemen (Southern) and Mozambique (Maputo and Matola Cabo Delgado and Tete), and undates acute food insecurity projection for



AUGUST IPC releases results for Eswatini and Lesotho.



IPC releases results for

Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Haiti, Malawi and Namibia

SEPTEMBER



6 OCTOBER An update to the 2020 GRFC in times of

COVID-19 is released.

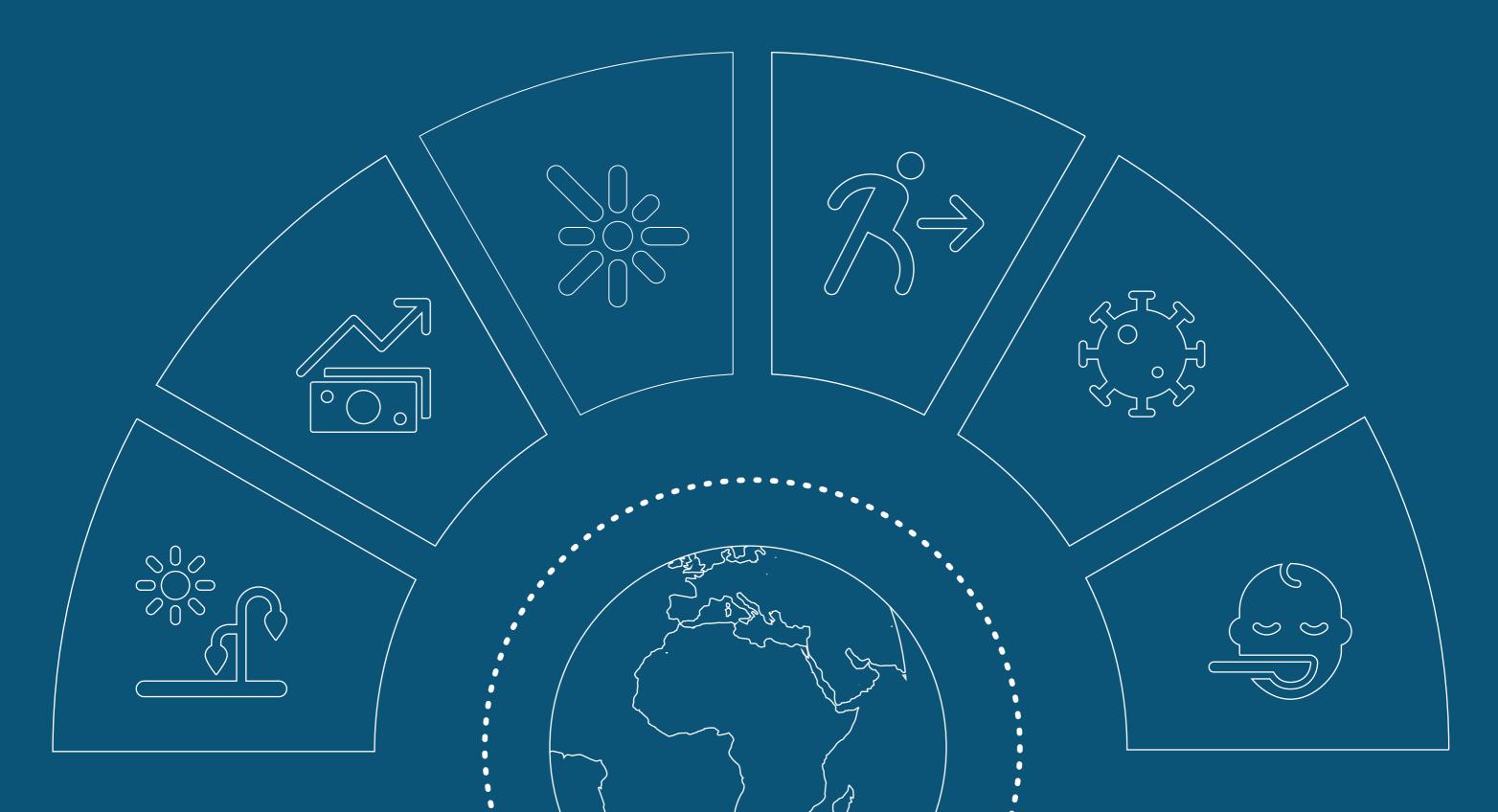


2020

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The global impact of **COVID-19** on food security and nutrition



COVID-19 – an additional driver of multi-faceted food crises

The COVID-19 pandemic came at a time when acute food insecurity levels were already at record highs. By the end of September 2020, there were nearly 34 million cases and over 1 million deaths as a result of this unparalleled health crisis (WHO, September 2020).

The *GRFC 2020* identified that in 2019, almost 135 million people in 55 countries and territories were acutely food insecure and in need of urgent food, livelihood and nutrition assistance largely as a result of conflict and insecurity, weather extremes, pest outbreaks, economic shocks or a combination of them (FSIN & GNAFC, April 2020).

The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020 reported that almost 690 million people, or 8.9 percent of the global population, were chronically undernourished in 2019 – already an increase of 60 million people since 2014. In addition, 21.3 percent (144 million) of children under 5 years of age were stunted and 6.9 percent (47 million) wasted (FAO et al., July 2020). It also suggests that an additional 83–132 million people may be undernourished in 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

There can be little doubt that the acute food insecurity and nutrition situations are worsening in the 55 food-crisis countries and territories. In addition, some populations that until early 2020 had adequate food availability and access, have been pushed into acute food insecurity and are now in need of urgent, life-saving food and livelihoods assistance.

In June, the UN warned that without large-scale coordinated action, COVID-19 combined with the emerging global recession could create a global food emergency and disrupt the functioning of food systems, with consequences for health

Six months since WHO's declaration of COVID-19 as a pandemic, the indirect socio-economic consequences of the battle to contain the spread of COVID-19 are aggravating the tenuous and fragile food security and nutrition situation for millions worldwide. The direct health impacts of COVID-19 are also negatively affecting poor households' food security because sick or quarantining people have limited ability to engage in productive activities and infected households may face increased expenditure on health, resulting in fewer resources to purchase food (FEWS NET, June 2020).

The pandemic containment measures could trigger unrest and undermine international crisis management systems (International Crisis Group, 2020). Areas with high levels of unemployment and socioeconomic grievances may provide fertile breeding grounds for non-state armed groups to recruit vulnerable people. The demands of the pandemic containment may divert international attention and resources away from conflict prevention and mediation, and travel restrictions may hinder face-to-face diplomatic efforts and peacekeeping operations (FAO & WFP, July 2020).

The pandemic containment measures also exacerbate pre-existing vulnerabilities and risks of violence and discrimination faced by migrants, asylum seekers and IDPs, which intersect with other factors, such as gender, age, disability, mental health and psychosocial needs, or pertaining to a minority. With more people falling below the poverty line, tensions between displaced people and host communities are likely to increase, especially in communities depending on humanitarian assistance (OCHA, May 2020).

While we still lack systematic information from direct

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https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_3073



Figure 3

The COVID-19 crisis timeline, 2019-2020

