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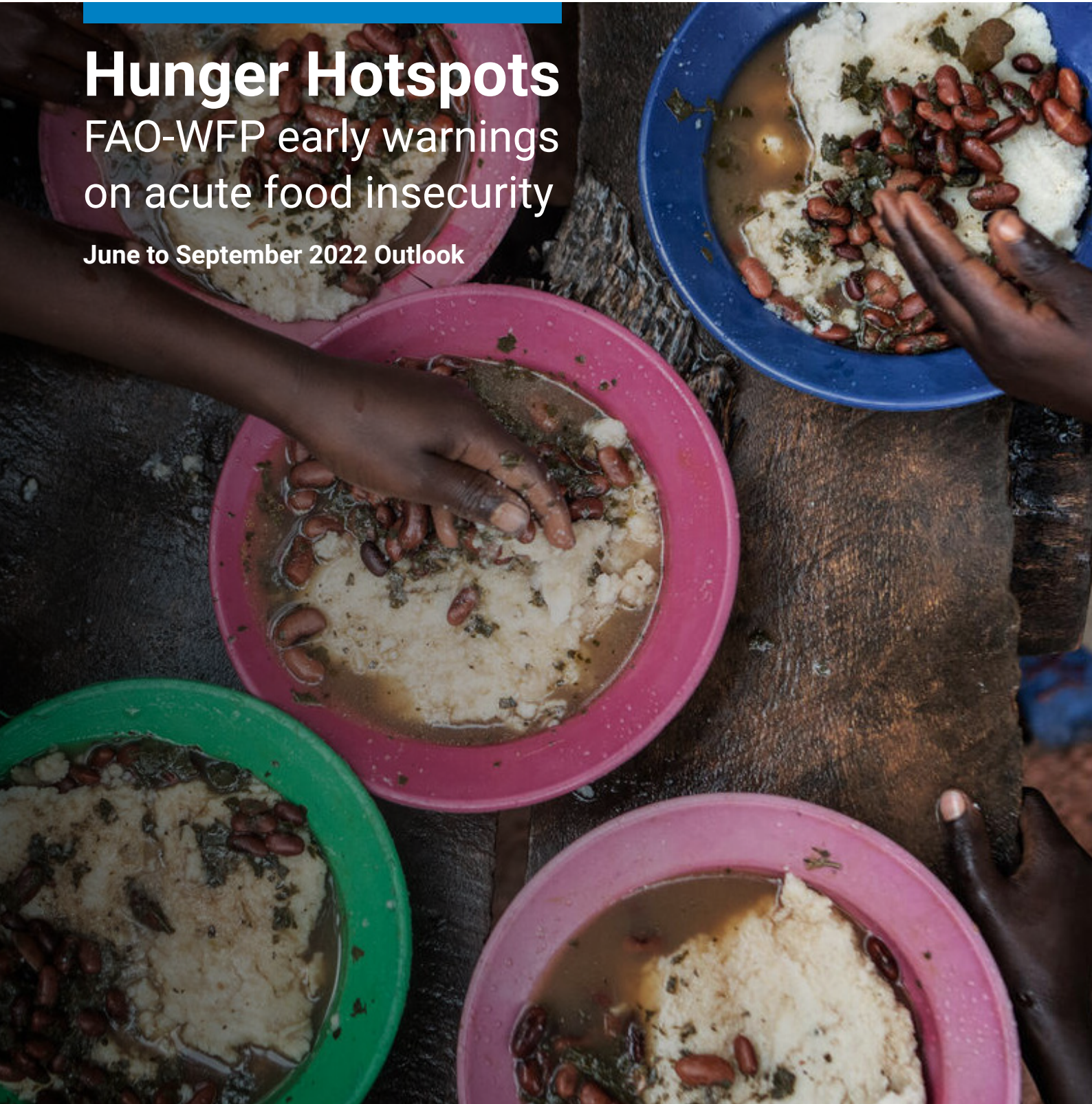


World Food  
Programme

# Hunger Hotspots

## FAO-WFP early warnings on acute food insecurity

June to September 2022 Outlook



Global Network  
Against Food Crises

Integrated  
actions for  
lasting solutions

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# Acronyms

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<b>ASAL</b>	Arid and semi-arid land
<b>CARI</b>	Consolidated Approach for Reporting Indicators of Food Security
<b>rCARI</b>	remote Consolidated Approach for Reporting Indicators of Food Security
<b>CH</b>	Cadre Harmonisé
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
<b>FEWS NET</b>	Famine Early Warning Systems Network
<b>FSL</b>	Food Security and Livelihoods
<b>GAM</b>	Global acute malnutrition
<b>HRP</b>	Humanitarian Response Plan
<b>IDP</b>	Internally displaced person
<b>IMF</b>	International Monetary Fund
<b>IPC</b>	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
<b>LBP</b>	Lebanese pound
<b>LCRP</b>	Lebanon Crisis Response Plan
<b>LGA</b>	Local government areas
<b>SNHCP</b>	Safety Net for Human Capital Programme
<b>SNNPR</b>	Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>WASH</b>	Water, sanitation and hygiene
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme

# Contents

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05	<b>Executive Summary</b>
06	<b>Introduction</b>
08	<b>Upcoming trends of acute food insecurity</b>
13	<b>Highest concern: Hotspots with catastrophic conditions</b>
15	<b>Very high concern: Hotspots with deteriorating critical conditions</b>
20	<b>Country narratives</b>
20	Asia and the Pacific
22	Latin America and the Caribbean
23	West Africa and the Sahel
26	East Africa
30	Southern Africa
35	Near East, North Africa and Europe



# Executive Summary

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) warn that acute food insecurity is likely to deteriorate further in 20 countries or situations (including two regional clusters) – called hunger hotspots – during the outlook period from June to September 2022.

Acute food insecurity globally continues to escalate. The recently published 2022 Global Report on Food Crises alerts that 193 million people were facing Crisis or worse (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification [IPC]/Cadre Harmonisé [CH] Phase 3 or above) across 53 countries or territories in 2021. This increase must be interpreted with care, given that it can be attributed to both a worsening acute food insecurity situation and a substantial (22 percent) expansion in the population analysed between 2020 and 2021. In addition, an all-time high of up to 49 million people in 46 countries could now be at risk of falling into famine or famine-like conditions, unless they receive immediate life and livelihoods-saving assistance. This includes 750 000 people already in Catastrophe (IPC/CH Phase 5).

Ethiopia, Nigeria, South Sudan and Yemen remain at the highest alert level as in the previous edition of this report. In the current report, Afghanistan and Somalia have been added to the list. These countries all have some populations identified or projected to experience starvation or death (Catastrophe, IPC Phase 5) or at risk of deterioration towards catastrophic conditions, and require the most urgent attention.

In Afghanistan, for the first time since the introduction of IPC in the country in 2011. Catastrophic conditions (IPC Phase 5) are present for 20 000 people in Ghor due to limited humanitarian access during the March to May period. In the outlook period, acute food insecurity is projected to increase by 60 percent year-on-year.

After projecting 401 000 people facing Catastrophic conditions (IPC Phase 5) in Tigray, Ethiopia, in 2021, only 10 percent of required assistance arrived in the region until March 2022, and local agricultural production – which was 40 percent of the average – was critical for food security and livelihoods. A recent “humanitarian truce” remains fragile but has allowed for some convoys to reach the region. The Famine Review Committee’s 2021 scenarios of a Risk of Famine for Tigray might remain relevant, unless humanitarian access stabilizes.

Although no populations were projected to be in Catastrophe (CH Phase 5) in Nigeria in the outlook period, the record-high levels of acute food insecurity are of serious concern. Importantly, the population in Emergency (CH Phase 4) is expected to reach close to 1.2 million people during the peak of the lean season from June to August 2022, including in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe where some local government areas continue to be inaccessible or hard to reach.

In Somalia, a Risk of Famine has been identified through June 2022, under a scenario where rains are significantly below average, food prices increase further, conflict and displacement increase and

humanitarian assistance remains insufficient – 81 000 people will face Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) between April and June.

In South Sudan, a Famine Likely situation, which was present in some areas in 2021, was averted by improved coordination of humanitarian assistance, and hence the projected number of people in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) was reduced slightly, to 87 000 between April and July. That said, the situation remains of highest concern.

In Yemen, the food security situation deteriorated significantly compared to last year, including a strong increase in the number of people in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5), which are projected to reach 161 000 over the outlook period. There is also a Risk of Famine projected for some areas.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, the Sahel region, the Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic remain countries of very high concern, as in the previous edition of this report. In this edition, Kenya is added to the list. This is due to the high number of people in critical food insecurity coupled with worsening drivers expected to further intensify life-threatening conditions. Sri Lanka, West African coastal countries (Benin, Cabo Verde and Guinea), Ukraine and Zimbabwe have been added in the list of hotspot countries compared to the January 2022 edition of this report. Angola, Lebanon, Madagascar and Mozambique remain hunger hotspots.

Organized violence and conflict remain the primary drivers for acute hunger, with key trends indicating that conflict levels and violence against civilians continued to increase in 2022. Moreover, weather extremes such as tropical storms, flooding and drought remain critical drivers in some regions.

Ripple effects of the war in Ukraine have been reverberating globally against the backdrop of a gradual and uneven economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, steadily increasing food and energy prices, and deteriorating macroeconomic conditions. Disruptions to the Ukrainian agricultural sector and constrained exports reduce global food supply, further increase global food prices, and finally push up already high levels of domestic food price inflation. Additionally, high fertilizer costs are likely to affect yields and therefore the future availability of food. Adding to the economic instability, civil unrest could emerge in some of the most affected countries in the upcoming months. Finally, humanitarian organizations are seeing sharp cost increases for their operations and reduced global attention risking to translate into increasing funding shortages.

Targeted humanitarian action is urgently needed to save lives and livelihoods in the 20 hunger hotspots. Moreover, in six of these hotspots – Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen – humanitarian actions are critical to preventing starvation and death. This report provides country-specific recommendations on priorities for emergency response as well as anticipatory action to address existing humanitarian needs and ensure short-term protective interventions before new needs materialize.

# Introduction

For the outlook period from June to September 2022, FAO and WFP are issuing an early warning for urgent humanitarian action in 20 hunger hotspots. These are countries or regional clusters where parts of the population are likely to face a significant deterioration of already high levels of acute food insecurity in the coming months that will put their lives and livelihoods high at risk.

Identified through forward-looking analysis, these hotspots have the potential for acute food insecurity to rise during the outlook period, under the effects of often multiple overlapping drivers, interlinked or mutually reinforcing. These fall under the categories of organized violence and conflict, economic shocks, weather extremes and climate variability, and animal and plants pests and diseases.

Organized violence and armed conflict remain the primary driver of acute food insecurity across regions and in the majority of the hunger hotspots. This reflects a global trend where conflict continues to affect the largest share of people facing acute food insecurity. In 2021, more than 70 percent of people in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) levels of acute food insecurity were living in conflict-affected countries,<sup>1</sup> and key trends indicate that conflict levels and violence against civilians have continued to increase in 2022.<sup>2</sup>

Economic concerns are additionally driving food insecurity, as the world economy – still recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic – has slowed down due to global supply chain disruptions, high levels of inflation and increasing public debt. The war in Ukraine has exerted an upward pressure on already elevated global food prices, with major effects on acute food insecurity.

Weather extremes such as heavy rains, tropical storms, hurricanes, flooding, drought and increased climate variability remain significant drivers in some countries and regions. Recurrent La Niña conditions since late 2020 are causing crop and livestock losses, particularly in East Africa, Central Asia and the Caribbean.

Acute food insecurity globally continues to escalate. The recently published 2022 Global Report on Food Crises found that 193 million people faced Crisis or worse levels (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) of acute food insecurity across 53 countries or territories in 2021.<sup>3</sup> This is an increase of almost 40 million people compared to the previous high reached in 2020 – the year when COVID-19 measures including lockdowns heavily affected food security. This increase must be interpreted with care, given that it can be attributed to both a worsening acute food insecurity situation and a substantial (22 percent) expansion in the population analysed between 2020 and 2021.

In addition, an all-time high of up to 49 million people in 46 countries across the globe could be at risk of falling into famine or famine-like conditions, unless they receive immediate life and livelihoods-saving assistance.<sup>4</sup> This includes 750 000 people<sup>5</sup> in Catastrophic conditions (IPC/CH Phase 5), 401 000 of them in Ethiopia,<sup>6</sup> the remaining in Afghanistan, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen.

Targeted humanitarian action is urgently needed to save lives and livelihoods in the 20 hunger hotspots. Moreover, in six of these – Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen – humanitarian action is critical to prevent starvation and death. To this end, the present report provides country-specific recommendations on priorities for:

- **anticipatory action** – short-term protective interventions to be implemented before new humanitarian needs materialize; and
- **emergency response** – actions to address existing humanitarian needs.

Given a strict set of methodological parameters, the hunger hotspot countries and situations were selected through a consensus-based process, which involved FAO and WFP Rome-based and field-based technical teams, as well as analysts specialized in conflict, economic risks and natural hazards. The parameters used in the forward-looking analysis include:

- Assessed projections of acute food insecurity for the outlook period based on analysis of:
  - a) primary and secondary drivers, namely economic shocks, adverse climate conditions and weather shocks, conflict and political violence, and outbreaks of plant pests and animal diseases; and
  - b) the socioeconomic parameters of each country based on assessments of macroeconomic stability (including, among others, debt stocks, foreign-exchange reserves and exposure to balance-of-payment crises), and the current rise of international and national food prices (especially for countries importing large shares of their food requirements).
- Absolute numbers of people projected to be in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) and the prevalence of these levels of acute food insecurity in the overall population analysed.
- Presence of natural hazards, conflict and economic risks, including the potential ripple effects of the war in Ukraine, that are likely to have a direct impact on food insecurity (such as unforeseen weather shocks) or an indirect one (for example, increased internal displacement) over the outlook period.
- Ongoing or planned agricultural activities for the June to September period, and existing or likely disruptions caused by different events or risks.
- Presence of significant operational and humanitarian access constraints.

The main sources of data on acute food insecurity (current and projections) are the IPC and CH. For countries where IPC/CH analyses were not conducted and where no recent analyses were available, estimates of the number of people in acute food insecurity were primarily derived from the IPC-compatible analysis of the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET),

WFP assessments using the Consolidated Approach for Reporting Indicators of Food Security (CARI), including its application to remotely collected data (rCARI) and Humanitarian Needs Overviews.

The report prioritizes the use of IPC and CH as data sources on Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) levels of acute food insecurity. When recent IPC/CH is not available, alternative sources have been considered such as FEWS NET or the WFP CARI or rCARI scale. Because overall comparability of CARI and rCARI to IPC is not established, in those cases its use has been acknowledged with a note.

Caution in reading numbers based on different methodologies should be observed.

WFP's open-access Hunger Map Live, and specifically near-real time data on insufficient food consumption (i.e. poor and borderline, according to Food Consumption Score), collected through phone surveys, was used to inform trend analysis and as a triangulation tool during the assessment phase.

The cut-off date for the analysis and information contained in this report was 10 May 2022.

This report is part of a series of analytical products produced under the Global Network Against Food Crises initiative, to enhance and coordinate the generation and sharing of evidence-based information and analysis for preventing and addressing food crises. In May 2022, the Global Network, in collaboration with the Food Security Information Network, released the 2022 Global Report on Food Crises, which highlights the number of people estimated to be in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) and the prevalence of these numbers within the population analysed in 2021. The report is available at [fightfoodcrises.net](https://fightfoodcrises.net) and [fsinplatform.org](https://fsinplatform.org).

## IPC/CH acute food insecurity phase description and response objectives

PHASE	TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION	PRIORITY RESPONSE OBJECTIVE
<b>1 None/Minimal</b>	Households are able to meet essential food and non-food needs without engaging in atypical and unsustainable strategies to access food and income.	Resilience building and disaster risk reduction.
<b>2 Stressed</b>	Households have minimally adequate food consumption but are unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures without engaging in stress-coping strategies.	Disaster risk reduction and protection of livelihoods.
<b>3 Crisis</b>	Households either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have food consumption gaps that are reflected by high or above-usual acute malnutrition; OR</li> <li>Are marginally able to meet minimum food needs but only by depleting essential livelihood assets or through crisis-coping strategies.</li> </ul>	<b>URGENT ACTION REQUIRED</b> to protect livelihoods and reduce food consumption gaps.
<b>4 Emergency</b>	Some households either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have large food consumption gaps which are reflected in very high acute malnutrition and excess mortality; OR</li> <li>Are able to mitigate large food consumption gaps but only by employing emergency livelihood strategies and asset liquidation.</li> </ul>	<b>URGENT ACTION REQUIRED</b> to save lives and livelihoods.
<b>5 Catastrophe/Famine*</b>	Households have an extreme lack of food and/or other basic needs even after full employment of coping strategies. Starvation, death, destitution and extremely critical acute malnutrition levels are evident. (For Famine classification, area needs to have extreme critical levels of acute malnutrition and mortality).	<b>URGENT ACTION REQUIRED</b> to revert/prevent widespread death and total collapse of livelihoods.

\* Some households can be in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) even if areas are not classified as Famine (IPC Phase 5). In order for an area to be classified Famine, at least 20 percent of households should be in IPC Phase 5.

The classification of areas in Famine Likely is permitted when all IPC protocols for Famine classification are met, except for the existence of reliable evidence for all three outcomes – food consumption or livelihood change, global acute malnutrition (GAM), and crude death rate. Areas can be classified as Famine Likely if minimally adequate evidence available indicates that a Famine may be occurring or will occur. Famine and Famine Likely are equally severe, the only difference is the amount of reliable evidence available to support the statement.

# Upcoming trends of acute food insecurity

To identify hunger hotspots, FAO and WFP have assessed how key drivers of acute food insecurity are likely to evolve and have combined effects across countries in the coming months, and the related risks of deteriorations. Below is an overview of key findings.

## Organized violence and conflict risks

Organized violence and armed conflict are key drivers of acute food insecurity in eastern **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, **Ethiopia**, northern **Nigeria**, northern **Mozambique**, central **Sahel**, **Somalia**, **South Sudan**, **Syrian Arab Republic**, **Ukraine** and **Yemen**.

Since the release of the last Hunger Hotspots report in January 2022, the number of conflict events spiked with 3 807 events in March compared to 2 537 in January based on ACLED data, indicating an increasing trend.<sup>7</sup> Violence has reduced people's access to food by destroying or disrupting their livelihoods, including agricultural activities, and commercial trade, services and markets through the imposition of movement restrictions and administrative impediments. In particular, conflict has led to new waves of displacement, forcing people to abandon their land and other livelihoods, reducing also the availability of food for their communities and markets. These trends are likely to continue or intensify in these countries in the outlook period, especially as several countries are facing sensitive political processes and as the ripple effects of the war in Ukraine are expected to maintain high food prices, putting additional strain on communities.

The war in **Ukraine** has already caused immense destruction of livelihoods, supply chains, infrastructure and contamination with explosive ordinances in the country, as well as large-scale displacement in the country and regionally. Ukraine being a major global food supplier, current supply disruptions are aggravating already high international prices, which complicates access to food and could result in localized shortages. With hostilities likely to persist in some regions and affect agricultural activities, together with supply chains disrupted, also food availability could become

In the eastern provinces of North Kivu and Ituri of the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, armed groups will likely expand into new territory and intensify their operations in the coming months, including attacks against civilians. In the **Sahel**, the security situation has further deteriorated, with **Burkina Faso** replacing **Mali** in 2021 as the epicentre of violence in the region, and the **Niger** experiencing a record year of conflict, while conflict conditions also worsening in Mali. Northern **Nigeria** continues to be affected by insurgency in the northeast, which disrupts agricultural livelihoods and causes new displacement. Insurgent attacks have also resurged over the past months in northern **Mozambique**. Episodes of intercommunal violence over land and other resources are also likely to continue in the **Sudan's** Darfur region amidst rising tensions. In **South Sudan**, subnational conflict between armed groups and armed youth as well as clashes between cattle keepers and farmers are likely to continue rising in the coming months. In **Somalia**, violence and displacement are likely to increase around highly contested presidential elections in the coming months, while al-Shabaab is likely to further capitalize on the security vacuum. In the **Syrian Arab Republic**, the northwest of the country is constantly at risk of new high-intensity hostilities between government and rebel forces, while the conditions of the refugees displaced in the area are deteriorating.

Conflict is not only one of the main drivers of acute food insecurity in these countries but contributes also to the highest levels of acute food insecurity, critical or catastrophic conditions. Several of these countries and regions are also situations of highest concern, such as Ethiopia, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen, highlighting not only the magnitude but the severity of the impact of this man-made shock on food insecurity.

## Natural hazard risks

Recurrent La Niña events since late 2020 have impacted agricultural activities, causing crop and livestock losses in many parts of the world including Afghanistan and Eastern Africa. The latest forecast indicates that La Niña conditions will continue through August–October 2022, with the probability of 58 percent and increasing slightly through the end of 2022.<sup>8</sup> This could drive above-average rainfall across the Sahel and increase hurricane intensity in the Caribbean, and could, along with a forecast negative Indian Ocean Dipole, negatively affect the next Deyr/short rainy

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