

Key messages Global Report on Food Crises 2023

Focus IGAD

Global data

- The number of people suffering from acute food insecurity continued to rise in 2022. The findings of the Global Report on Food Crises in 2023 suggest that achieving the goal of ending hunger by 2030 is becoming increasingly difficult, as the population facing the highest levels of acute food insecurity has increased for the fifth consecutive year in 2022, reaching the highest number in the seven-year history of the report.
- The GRFC 2023 estimates that around 258 million people experienced acute food insecurity and needed urgent food assistance in 58 countries in 2022. This level represents an increase of 34 percent compared to the levels in the 2021 report.
- While this increase partly reflects a 31 percent increase of the population analyzed between 2021 and 2022, the estimates indicate an increase in the severity of food crises, as the share of the population facing the highest levels of acute food insecurity increased from 21.3 percent to 22.5 percent.

Drivers of food insecurity at the global level

- The food crises described in the GRFC 2023 are the result of interconnected, mutually reinforcing drivers such as conflict and insecurity, economic shocks and extreme weather events.
- In 2022, these key drivers were exacerbated by the lingering socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19, the effects of the war in Ukraine, and repeated droughts and other extreme weather events.

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- Out of the 258 million people facing the highest levels of acute food insecurity in 2022, **56.85M** people or **22%** of the analysed population were in eight food-crisis countries in East Africa, well above 43.6 million in 9 countries in 2021.
- An unprecedented drought in the Horn of Africa (including parts of Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia) and unfavorable weather conditions in parts of Burundi and Uganda, remained the main driver of acute food insecurity in the region.
- In 3 countries, Djibouti, South Sudan and Sudan, soaring food prices amid slow economic growth were a major factor constraining access to food in 2022.
- Conflicts also affected acute food insecurity conditions across the region, curbing food availability, disrupting markets and causing further internal and cross-border displacement, notably in South Sudan, Sudan and Ethiopia.
- There were about 16.3 million forcibly displaced people in the region of whom nearly 12 million were internally displaced: 3.8 million in the Sudan, 3 million in Somalia, 2.7 in Ethiopia, 2.23 million in South Sudan and about 20 000 in Uganda.
- Acute malnutrition worsened significantly since 2021 in the region, particularly in the Horn of Africa, with very high levels of wasting. About 11.7 million children were suffering from wasting in 2022, including 2.8 million severely wasted.

Projections 2023

- There are six countries with projections for 2023 which indicate that up to 30.7 million people are expected to face high levels of acute food insecurity.
- Weather extremes including the severe, three-year drought across the Horn of Africa, economic challenges, and conflict and insecurity affecting livelihoods, markets and humanitarian access are expected to further drive dire levels of acute food insecurity across many countries in 2023.
- Particularly, Kenya and Somalia are expected to face sharp deteriorations due to the prolonged effects of consecutive droughts and persisting high food prices.
- In the Sudan, the onset of clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces and Rapid Support Forces in mid-April triggered a suspension of humanitarian assistance and will likely lead to a deterioration of livelihoods, internal displacement and acute food insecurity.