

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION SNAPSHOT

February 2024

Key messages

- In February 2024, an estimated 74 million people in the region were highly food insecure and in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. This includes 58.2 million people, according to an IPC analysis of 10 of the 13 countries covered by the FSNWG, in addition to 15.8 million people in Ethiopia, based on the 2024 Ethiopia Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). Of these, 46.4 million were in seven of the eight IGAD member states.
- Sudan's food crisis is expected to continue deepening, driven by constrained food availability, interruptions in trade routes and markets, high commodity prices, livelihood disruptions, constrained humanitarian access, and widespread displacement.
- The nutrition situation across the region remained a major source of concern, with 13.1 million children under the age of five estimated to be acutely malnourished, 3.2 million of them severely so.
- The number of forcibly displaced persons in the region continued to rise, with an estimated 18.59 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 5.24 million refugees and asylum seekers. Sudan is experiencing the world's largest displacement crisis, with more than 11.4 million people displaced both within and beyond its borders, 8.4 million of whom have been displaced since the outbreak of the ongoing conflict.
- Wetter-than-normal conditions are forecast over most parts of the region, specifically over southern Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda and north-western Tanzania during the 2024 March-May (MAM) rainfall season.

Food security

Food insecure populations, as of February 2024

Country	Crisis (IPC Phase 3)	Emergency (IPC Phase 4)	Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5)	Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3+)
Djibouti	185,312	100,102		285,414
Kenya	1,258,750	265,600		1,524,350
Somalia	3,206,080	802,030		4,008,110
South Sudan	4,040,000	1,713,000	25,000	5,778,000
Sudan	12,828,395	4,898,486		17,726,881
Uganda	1,150,470	153,765		1,304,235
IGAD Total	22,669,007	7,932,983	25,000	30,626,990
Burundi	1,129,656	104,982		1,234,638
CAR	1,669,168	350,690		2,019,858
DRC	20,465,066	2,945,282		23,410,348
Tanzania	900,001	0		900,001
Total	46,832,898	11,333,937	25,000	58,191,835



Source: IPC GSU for East and Central Africa

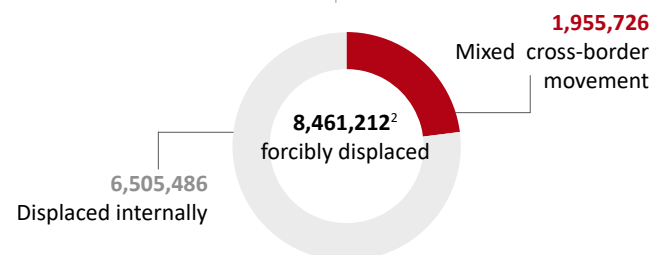
Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) - Population targeted for food assistance

Ethiopia	15,800,000
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Source: 2024 Ethiopia HRP

Situation in Sudan

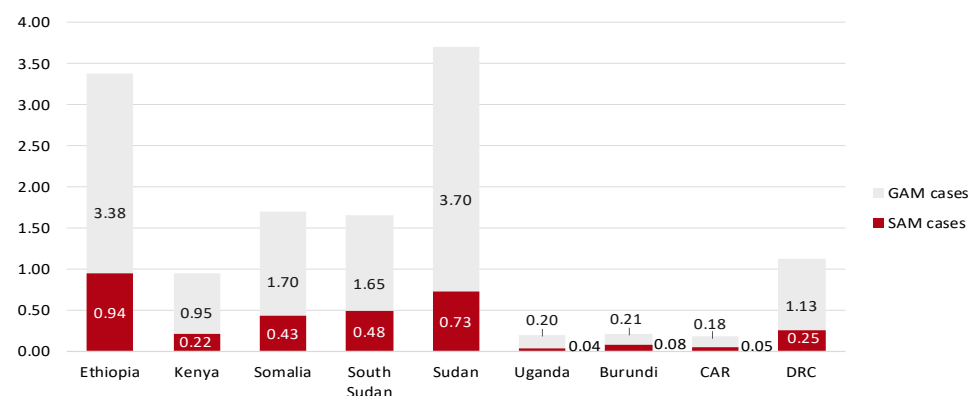
 Highly food insecure populations (IPC Phase 3+)	17.7 million (valid upto 29 February 2024, with new IPC analysis planned for April 2024)
 Cereal production in 2023, including wheat crops to be harvested in March 2024	4.1 million tonnes - 46% below the previous year's output and 40% below the recent five-year average ¹



Sudan's food crisis is expected to continue worsening, driven by constrained food availability (with an unusually early onset of the lean season in March 2024³), interruptions in trade routes and markets, high prices, livelihood disruptions, limited humanitarian access, and unprecedented displacement. In neighbouring countries like CAR, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia and South Sudan, the conflict in Sudan is having severe humanitarian implications, marked by a surge in refugee arrivals amid limited humanitarian funding. Even before the conflict, these countries were already grappling with other crises, including large numbers of displaced populations, conflict, political upheavals, hunger, and economic challenges.

Nutrition

Under-five children suffering from acute malnutrition (in millions)



Source: IPC, 2024 Ethiopia HRP, UNICEF

The malnutrition crisis in Sudan remained alarming as a rapid assessment conducted by Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) in January 2024 at Zamzam IDP camp in North Darfur revealed a proxy prevalence of 23% for global acute malnutrition (GAM) and of 7% for severe acute malnutrition (SAM). In addition, both crude and under-five mortality rates surpassed the Emergency thresholds of 1 in 10,000 people per day and 2 in 10,000 under-five children per day, respectively⁴.

1. FAO, Special Report - 2023 FAO Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (CFSAM) to the Republic of Sudan, March 2024

2. IOM, DTM Sudan Weekly Displacement Snapshot 24, March 2024

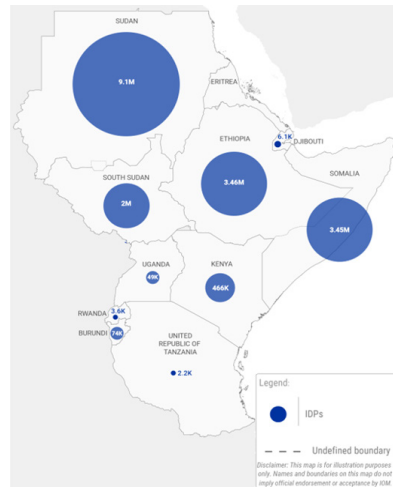
3. FEWS NET, Sudan's Worsening Food Security Emergency Leads to a Risk of Famine in Some Areas, March 2024

4. UNICEF, Sudan Humanitarian Situation Report No. 15, February 2024

Displacement

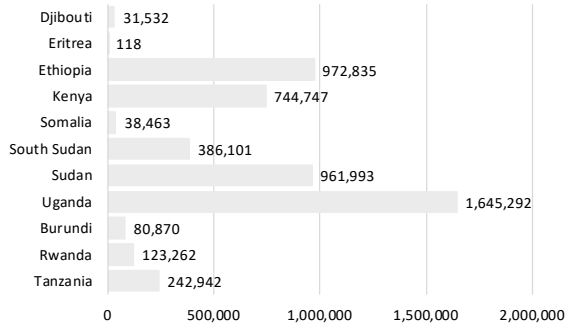
The number of forcibly displaced people in the region remained high at 23.8 million. This includes 18.59 million IDPs, the majority in Sudan (49%), Somalia (19%), Ethiopia (19%) and South Sudan (11%), and 5.24 million refugees and asylum seekers.

IDPs in the region, as of February 2024



Source: IOM

Refugees and asylum seekers in the region, as of February 2024

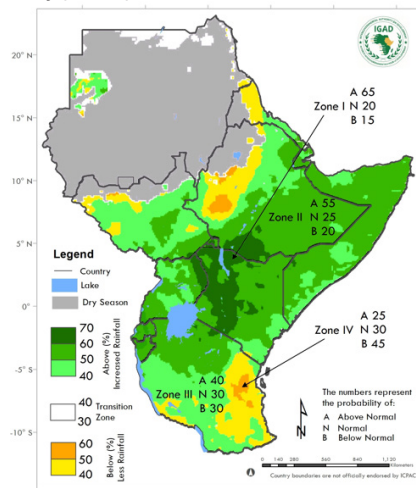


Source: UNHCR

Sudan faces the largest displacement crisis globally, with more than 11.4 million people displaced within and beyond its borders⁵. Of these, 8.4 million have been displaced since conflict broke out in mid-April 2023⁶.

Climate

Rainfall probabilistic forecast for March-May (MAM) 2024



Source: ICPAC

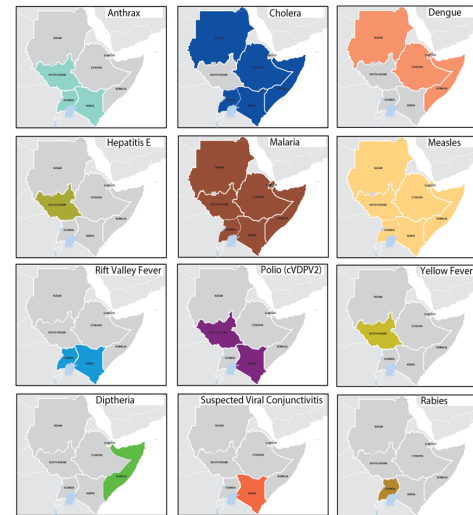
Wetter-than-normal conditions are forecast over most parts of the region, specifically over southern Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda and north-western Tanzania. Highest probabilities of wetter-than-usual conditions are indicated in central to western Kenya and in cross-border areas of Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda.

Forecast wetter-than-normal conditions present positive prospects for livestock and crop production. However, they also pose the risk of landslides, and flooding in flood-prone areas like the Juba-Shabelle basin in Ethiopia and Somalia, which could trigger food insecurity in localised areas.

Drier than normal conditions are forecast over parts of Eritrea, western Ethiopia, localised areas in northern and western South Sudan, and parts of eastern Tanzania.

Health

Disease outbreaks, as of 29 February 2024



Source: WHO

Following flooding in parts of the region, during the 2023 October-December (OND) season, an increased number of cholera, malaria, dengue, and diarrheal cases have been reported. Rift valley fever, associated with El Niño events, has been recorded in Kenya (no deaths) and in Uganda with a case fatality rate (CFR) of 7%. The flooding also exacerbated the cholera situation in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia, with Ethiopia seeing an increasing trend since January 2024. All the seven WHO-GHA countries⁷ are grappling with measles, with the highest numbers reported in Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan. In addition, Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan are responding to dengue fever, with Somalia also responding to diphtheria.

Forecast wetter-than-normal conditions during the 2024 MAM season raise concerns for increased risk of water- and vector-borne disease outbreaks, especially in the flood-prone areas.

Humanitarian response

HRP funding (million USD) by country, as of 22 March 2024

Country	Required	Funded	Funded (%)
Ethiopia	3,235.8	133.7	4.1%
Somalia	1,585.3	154.6	9.8%
South Sudan	1,788.8	311.9	17.4%
Sudan	2,695.7	135.5	5%

Source: OCHA

Countries also received funding outside the HRPs - Ethiopia (USD. 36 million), Somalia (USD. 9.4 million), South Sudan (USD. 63 million) and Sudan (USD. 14.4 million).

Nonetheless, funding for humanitarian response generally continues to fall short of the rising levels of need in the region, underscoring the need for sustained advocacy and increased resource-mobilisation efforts.

Recommendations

- Urgent, coordinated and multi-sectoral life-saving assistance in areas with populations in Crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3+).
- Close monitoring of the food security situation in areas where the situation is dire and at risk of further deterioration, including in parts of Sudan where the risk of Famine is probable⁸, in addition to the drought-affected regions of Ethiopia.
- Continuous monitoring of the drivers of food insecurity, including climatic risks, and strengthening of anticipatory actions for disaster risk reduction.
- Rapid scale-up of nutrition interventions to treat malnutrition cases and prevent a deterioration in the overall nutrition situation. Additionally, mass screening exercises should be prioritised, and nutrition services expanded to areas with low coverage.
- Strengthening of disease surveillance, especially at cross-border and point of entry areas, monitoring and early warning, coupled with treatment and prevention interventions.
- Supporting and strengthening initiatives that seek to address and mitigate conflict in the region.

5. IOM. Regional Sudan Crisis Response - Situation Update, March 2024

6. See disaggregation on page 1

7. Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda

8. FEWS NET. Sudan's Worsening Food Security Emergency Leads to a Risk of Famine in Some Areas. March 2024