

# REGIONAL FOCUS

ON THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY ON DEVELOPMENT (IGAD) MEMBER STATES

## IN BRIEF

## 2024 GLOBAL REPORT ON FOOD CRISES

JOINT ANALYSIS FOR BETTER DECISIONS



### Regionally, acute food insecurity worsened for the fifth consecutive year largely driven by the conflict-driven humanitarian emergency in the Sudan

 **62.9M** people or **25%** of the analysed population face high levels of acute food insecurity in **seven** countries, in 2024

The population facing high levels of acute food insecurity rose from 61.9 million or 24 percent of the analysed population in 2023. These increasing numbers are driven by the escalation in conflict and concomitant humanitarian disaster in the Sudan, outpacing notable improvements in Kenya and Somalia.

Ethiopia and Uganda have more people with high levels of acute food insecurity in 2024 than 2023, while South Sudan has slightly fewer due to favourable 2023/24 harvests. However, the number of people in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) in South Sudan was projected to double.

The Sudan has the region's largest number of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity, followed by Ethiopia and South Sudan. South Sudan and the Sudan have the highest prevalence with well over half their total populations in need of urgent food and livelihood assistance.

 **More than 0.8 million people face Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) in 2024**

In 2024, the number of people projected to be in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) increased in the **Sudan** and **South Sudan** since the same periods in 2023. In the Sudan, 755 300 people are projected to be in this phase during the June–September lean season (compared with zero in 2023). In South Sudan, 79 000 people were projected to

### Famine in the Sudan



In June 2024, the IPC assessed a risk of Famine in 14 areas (five localities and nine clusters of IDPs and refugees in Greater Darfur, Greater Kordofan, Al Jazirah states and some hotspots in Khartoum). In July 2024, the IPC Famine Review Committee concluded that Famine (IPC Phase 5) is ongoing in Zamzam Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camp in North Darfur due to heightened hostilities and lack of humanitarian access. The Famine is projected to last until the end of October. While uncertainty remains, the likelihood of Famine beyond October remains high in Zamzam camp and in many other areas, as long as the conflict and limited humanitarian access persist.

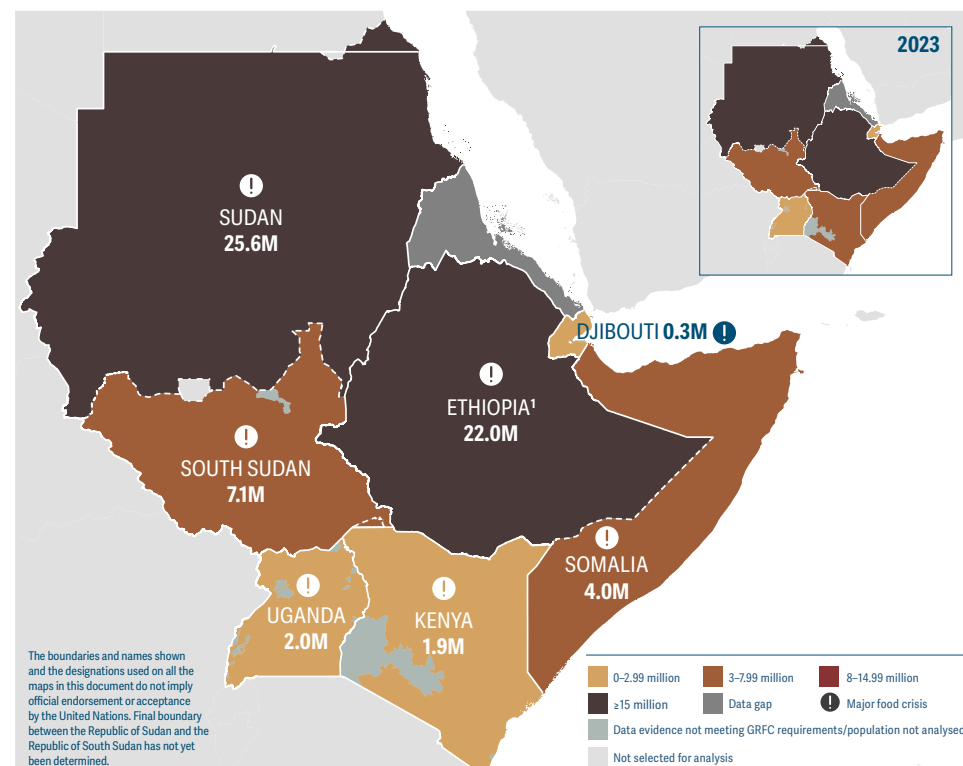
face Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) in April–July 2024 compared with 43 000 during the same period in 2023. On a positive note, Somalia has no population projected in this phase, down from 40 000 people across Bakool, Bay, Galgaduud, Middle Shabelle, Mudug and Togdheer states in 2023.

### Repeated shocks on top of structural vulnerabilities erode household resilience



**Conflict/insecurity** Conflict in the Sudan has devastated livelihoods, disrupted basic services, and triggered the world's largest internal displacement crisis. Inter-communal violence, resource-based

MAP 1 Numbers of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity, 2024



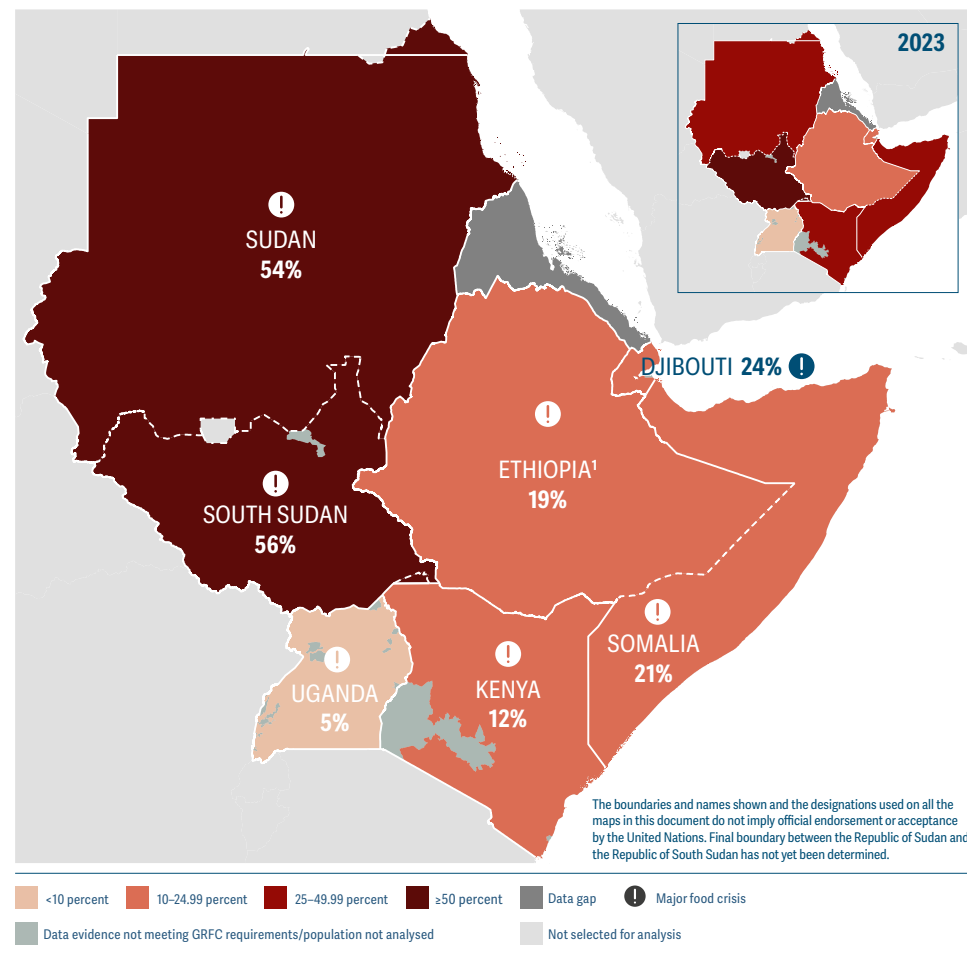
conflicts and/or cattle raiding are also affecting parts of Somalia, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Uganda and Kenya.



**Economic shocks** Adverse macroeconomic conditions, characterized by local currency depreciation, low foreign currency reserves, a high

public debt burden and volatile food prices have continued to restrict food access across nearly all countries in the region. In the Sudan, by May 2024, national average prices of key staples were more than double the levels of May 2023 (WFP Dataviz, 2024) as conflict severely impacted food production and supply systems. In South Sudan,

MAP 2 Share of analysed populations facing high levels of acute food insecurity, 2024



<sup>1</sup> The Ethiopia figure has not been endorsed by the Government of Ethiopia.

Source: IPC TWGs; FEWS NET (Ethiopia and Uganda).

food inflation reached 186 percent in March 2024 (Trading Economics, August 2024).



#### Weather extremes

Abundant October–December 2023 and March–May 2024 rains aided recovery from the devastating multi-season 2020–2023 drought in parts of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia. However, it also led to severe localized flooding, resulting in the loss of lives and livestock, the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people, and the destruction of farmlands and critical infrastructure.

#### Acute malnutrition has generally worsened across the region since 2023



**11.4M** acutely malnourished children under 5 years in seven countries with **2.8M** of them suffering the most severe form of wasting

Acute malnutrition among children and women remains extremely concerning across the region, as persistent underlying drivers—namely lack of food, inadequate services, and poor infant and young child feeding practices—have been exacerbated by escalating conflicts, economic shocks, and the effects of weather extremes, including the 2020–2023 drought.

High numbers of acutely malnourished children are found in Ethiopia (4.1 million) and the Sudan (3.7 million), followed by Somalia, South Sudan and Kenya.

#### The number of forcibly displaced people was the highest on record by mid-2024



**25M** forcibly displaced people by mid-2024, consisting of **20M** IDPs in six countries and **5M** refugees and asylum seekers

The region continues to have more forcibly displaced people than any other region in the *Global Report on Food Crises*. The conflict in the Sudan has driven an alarming increase in the regional number since the end of 2023—up from 20.5 million to 25 million by mid-2024.

High levels of acute food insecurity and malnutrition are particularly prevalent among displaced populations. This is linked to limited access to employment, land and livelihoods, unreliable access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and health services, and reliance on dwindling humanitarian assistance to meet basic needs.

More than half the region's 20 million internally displaced people are in the Sudan, followed by Somalia and Ethiopia. Since the start of the conflict in the Sudan in April 2023, 7.9 million people have been internally displaced making it the world's largest internal displacement crisis.

Displaced people have put additional strain on already meagre resources in areas within the country and at its borders. About 2.3 million people have fled to neighbouring countries, a third of them to South Sudan. The conflict in the Sudan is also prompting hundreds of thousands of refugees to return to South Sudan, where they face a critical food and nutrition crisis.



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