
Web Annex 3:**Emergency and resilience for food crisis action in Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Phases 3 or above countries**

1. Over the last five years, the number of people experiencing high acute food insecurity (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification [IPC] Phases 3 and above), and therefore requiring urgent humanitarian assistance, has been persistently above 100 million. In 2020, the figure rose sharply to 155 million, and the Global Network Against Food Crises and Food Security Information Network estimated that at least 161 million people were experiencing high acute food insecurity between January and September 2021.
2. While the steady accumulation of people in crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity clearly merits urgent action, of particular concern is the deepening scale and intensity of the most acute forms of food insecurity. In 2021, some 41 million people in 43 countries are experiencing IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) levels of acute food insecurity, which already implies excess mortality and irreversible loss of livelihoods. In 2016, around 14.4 million people were facing such conditions across 24 countries.
3. Significant increases in Emergency levels of acute hunger are predominantly being recorded in countries experiencing multiple drivers of acute food insecurity and recurrent shocks. For example, in East Africa, West Africa and the Sahel, where conflict and climate extremes are steadily eroding livelihoods and people's ability to cope. Some of these populations have been experiencing emergency conditions recurrently for several years, as is the case in parts of Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan and Yemen, among others.
4. In 2020 and 2021, famine once again emerged as a real and present threat, with 584 000 people in four countries (Ethiopia, Madagascar, South Sudan and Yemen) experiencing famine-like or famine-likely conditions (IPC Phase 5). In addition, communities in Northern Nigeria are facing an extremely high risk of catastrophic food insecurity in the final months of 2021.
5. In March 2021, the United Nations Secretary-General established the High-Level Task Force on Preventing Famine, whose members are the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, the Director-General of FAO and the Executive Director of the World Food Programme. The High-Level Task Force is focused on three key activities: i) advocating for famine-prevention resources; ii) advocating for improved access to people in need; and iii) joining up efforts to share data and real-time information. All of this work draws on the collective efforts of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) members in each of these areas. The Task Force is building on existing structures and working approaches rather than creating new ones.
6. More than 80 percent of people currently facing high acute food insecurity are farmers, herders, fishers and foresters in rural areas and who are reliant on agriculture for survival. Therefore, an integrated response that fails to take into account their specific needs and challenges will be unlikely to substantially and sustainably reduce the number of people in need. Famine prevention must begin in rural areas, and focus on producing food and keeping sustenance-giving animals alive. Food assistance provided after the worst-case scenario materializes saves lives and is critical, but is most effective when provided in tandem with emergency livelihoods assistance. Unless equal priority is given to investments aimed at restarting and safeguarding local agricultural production and making agri-food systems in vulnerable countries more resilient, the situation will continue to deteriorate.
7. FAO has itself stepped up its humanitarian response efforts in the six countries identified by the Task Force as being most at risk of famine conditions (Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Nigeria, South Sudan and Yemen), reaching over 5.5 million people in those six countries with emergency livelihoods assistance so far in 2021.

8. Equally, FAO has significantly ramped up its humanitarian and resilience programming in other countries experiencing concerning levels of acute food insecurity. In Afghanistan, FAO was among the agencies that stayed and delivered despite the turmoil. Through the extraordinary efforts of FAO staff across the country, FAO assisted 200 000 people in August and a further 140 000 people in September, helping to protect the critical agricultural livelihoods on which 70 percent of the population rely, and securing the winter wheat planting for vulnerable families. FAO has already provided livelihood and cash assistance to almost 2 million people in Afghanistan in 2021 and is aiming to support a further 3.5 million in the coming months.

9. The Democratic Republic of the Congo continues to face the world's largest food crisis in absolute numbers, with approximately 26.2 million people (27 percent of the 96 million people analysed) expected to be in IPC Phases 3 and 4 between August and December 2021. Given the affected population's high reliance on agriculture, resources for the sector are critically low, with FAO reaching just 540 000 people in 2020. Yemen remains the worst humanitarian crisis in the world, with more than half of the population in IPC Phase 3 and above. FAO has provided urgently needed assistance to ensure that more than 1.1 million Yemenis can meet their food needs so far in 2021; however, this is just a small proportion of those in need. In South Sudan, where 60 percent of the population was projected to be facing IPC Phases 3 and above, including 108 000 people in IPC Phase 5, between April and July 2021, FAO has continued to implement a substantial humanitarian response providing essential livelihood packages in advance of the main planting season and thus ensuring a steady supply of nutritious food for almost 3.3 million people. Such efforts are reinforced by significant resilience building programmes that strengthen communities' capacities to face multiple risks in both countries.

10. In the Syrian Arab Republic, 2021 has seen a worsening of the food security prospects, with drought-like conditions and lack of inputs (fertilizer and fuel for irrigation) contributing to poor harvests and affecting food availability. Seed availability for planting in the coming 2021-22 season is likely to remain a significant problem for many indebted farmers, as will energy and fuel shortages, which are further eroding livelihoods. Data suggest reduced or erratic rainfall and high temperatures are consistent with climate change models, giving added impetus to the need for adaptation plans in agriculture.

11. The climate crisis is also the main driver of the staggering acute food insecurity that is affecting southern Madagascar as communities witness an almost total disappearance of food sources. This is creating a full-blown nutrition emergency where 28 000 people currently face catastrophe (IPC Phase 5). Urgent humanitarian action must be scaled up, including critical agricultural assistance. To date, FAO has secured sufficient funding to support just one-third of those in need ahead of the critical planting season.

12. In Haiti, too, continued below-average rainfall is likely to reduce yields for the main rice season. Through February 2022, around 4.3 million people (44 percent of the population analysed) will experience high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) and require urgent assistance. The country was identified as being of particular concern in the FAO-WFP Hunger Hotspots Report (August 2021). However, funds remain extremely scarce despite a deeply concerning food security situation and livelihoods under enormous pressure from the impacts of COVID-19, instability, insecurity, the earthquake, livestock diseases and economic turbulence. Without adequate and timely assistance to affected households, their food security, resilience and livelihoods will continue to significantly deteriorate.

13. There is a stark imbalance of funding within the food security component of humanitarian assistance, with FAO receiving just one-quarter of the funds requested for emergency livelihoods assistance in 2021. An analysis by the Global Network Against Food Crises indicates that over the past five years, the agriculture sector has been receiving less than 10 percent of humanitarian assistance to food sectors. Neglecting livelihoods assistance in humanitarian funding allocations is myopic, and is contributing to a steady rise in the number of people facing acute food insecurity. Food assistance must

be the last resort, not the first response, when there are no means left to protect livelihoods and secure food production. In Burkina Faso and Northern Nigeria, for example, while FAO was able to provide seeds, cash and other time-bound inputs to more than 700 000 people, at least 1.4 million people missed the critical main season planting this year, because the funds allocated for this were simply not sufficient. In Ethiopia, severely limited resources and access constraints mean the next season in early 2022 is at significant risk.

14. The protracted nature of most food crises shows that long-term environmental, social and economic trends compounded by increasing conflict and insecurity are eroding the resilience of agri-food systems. If current trends are not reversed, food crises will continue to increase in frequency and severity. The Global Network Against Food Crises, co-led by FAO, is bringing like-minded partners together to effect real change by promoting sustainable solutions to food crises through shared analysis, strengthened coordination and collective efforts across the humanitarian-development nexus and linkages to peace actors. The Global Network is also offering a coordination platform to partners involved in the United Nations Food Systems Summit, thereby contributing to the promotion of resilient and inclusive food systems in fragile/conflict-affected contexts.

15. The COVID 19 pandemic has revealed the fragility of the global food system and the need for more equitable, sustainable and resilient systems to nutritiously and consistently feed 8.5 billion people by 2030. A radical transformation of our food systems is needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, recognizing the intensifying pressure on agriculture-based livelihoods from climate change, environmental degradation, conflict, population displacement and demographic changes. This is at the core of FAO's new Strategic Framework, which focuses on the transformation of more inclusive, efficient and resilient agri-food systems for better production, better nutrition, a better environment and ultimately a better life for all.

16. This means investing in anticipatory action systems that link forward-looking risk analysis with rapid financing and action to ensure "early warnings" trigger preventative action. Powerful preventative action can include the distribution of specific agricultural inputs to prevent and mitigate foreseen climate shock impacts on food production; cash transfers to ensure that vulnerable populations can protect themselves ahead of shocks; and livestock protection activities, in particular ahead of drought. An increased focus on prevention is essential. This demands political will as well as urgent, scaled up and coherent action among humanitarian, development, peace and climate actors, with associated investment in long-term, inclusive solutions. In addition, strengthened social protection systems are vital, especially in fragile states.

17. High-level political commitment is needed to end violence, negotiate and maintain peace and promote adherence to United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolution 2417, which reaffirms the prohibition on the deliberate starvation of civilians in times of war, destruction of infrastructure necessary for their survival and unimpeded access to humanitarian assistance. This is vital to secure humanitarian access to those in need.

18. Concerted advocacy and political commitment, backed by sufficient resources, are needed to rectify the overwhelming burden of climate change on the most vulnerable. The impacts of climate change are spread unequally at a global and local level, with people living in already fragile settings at greatest risk.

19. The High-Level Task Force has provided an opportunity to raise our advocacy and join together to avert famine. However, the outlook for 2022 remains grim. Without immediate and sustained humanitarian action, many more lives will be lost, and millions will continue to face catastrophe next year, the effects of which will be felt for decades to come. This must be backed up by efforts to sustainably avert famine, food insecurity and life-threatening malnutrition.