

GRFC 2021 in brief

The magnitude and severity of food crises worsened in 2020 as protracted conflict, the economic fallout of COVID-19 and weather extremes exacerbated pre-existing fragilities. Forecasts point to a grim outlook for 2021, with the threat of Famine persisting in some of the world's worst food crises.

In 2020



155M people

in 55 countries/territories were in **Crisis or worse** (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) or equivalent – an increase of around 20 million people from 2019.



133 000 people

in Burkina Faso, South Sudan and Yemen were in **Catastrophe** (IPC/CH Phase 5) and needed urgent action to prevent widespread death and total collapse of livelihoods.



28M people

in 38 of the 43 countries/territories with IPC/CH analyses were in **Emergency** (IPC/CH Phase 4) and needed urgent action to save lives and livelihoods.

66%

of the 155 million people in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) or equivalent were in 10 countries/territories – Democratic Republic of the Congo (21.8M), Yemen (13.5M), Afghanistan (13.2M), Syrian Arab Republic (12.4M), Sudan (9.6M), northern Nigeria (9.2M), Ethiopia (8.6M), South Sudan (6.5M), Zimbabwe (4.3M) and Haiti (4.1M).

In three countries, more than half of the population analysed was in **Crisis or worse** (IPC Phase 3 or above) or equivalent.



60%
SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC



55%
SOUTH SUDAN



51%
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC



15.8M children under 5 years in the 55 food-crisis countries/territories were wasted.



75.2M children under 5 years in the 55 food-crisis countries/territories were stunted.



65% of the world's 46 million internally displaced people in 2020 were in Democratic Republic of the Congo, Yemen, Afghanistan, Syrian Arab Republic, Sudan, northern Nigeria, Ethiopia and South Sudan.



38% of the world's 30.5 million refugees and asylum seekers originate from three food-crisis countries – Syrian Arab Republic, Afghanistan and South Sudan.

Children living in food-crisis countries/territories are especially vulnerable to malnutrition.

The primary **drivers** of acute food insecurity in 2020 were **conflict/insecurity, economic shocks** – including those resulting from COVID-19 – and **weather extremes**. Drivers often co-exist and reinforce one another.



CONFLICT/INSECURITY
99.1M people
in 23 countries/
territories



ECONOMIC SHOCKS
40.5M people
in 17 countries



WEATHER EXTREMES
15.7M people
in 15 countries

Forecast 2021



While conflict will remain the major driver of food crises in 2021, the economic repercussions of COVID-19 will exacerbate acute food insecurity in fragile economies.



142M people

are projected to be in **Crisis or worse** (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) or equivalent in 40 countries/territories for which forecasts are available.



155 000 people

will likely face **Catastrophe** (IPC/CH Phase 5) in two of these countries through mid-2021, with 108 000 in South Sudan and 47 000 in Yemen.

In **South Sudan**, four payams of Pibor county will continue to face Famine Likely (IPC Phase 5).

In northern **Nigeria**, although no population/area is projected to be in Catastrophe/Famine (CH Phase 5), some indicators suggest that a proportion of the population (<10%) may face such conditions.