# FEWS NET
Famine Early Warning Systems Network

**Food Assistance Outlook Brief** — **August 2023**

## FEWS NET's projected population in need (PIN) of urgent food assistance in Feb. 2024*

Projected population in need in **February 2024** across FEWS NET monitored countries:

**100 -110 million**

10% of the population

Total humanitarian food assistance needs across FEWS NET-monitored countries in February 2024 are projected to be:

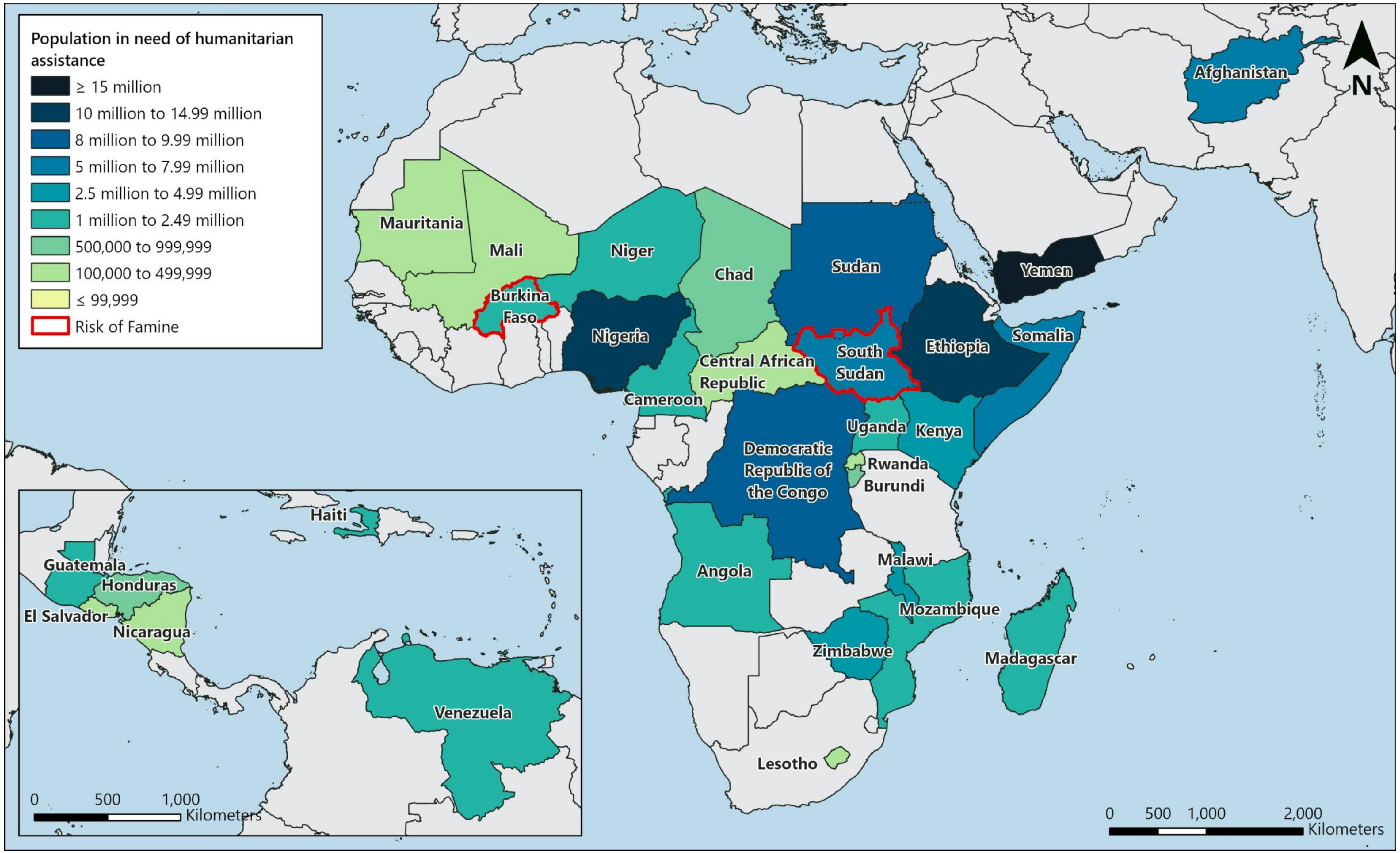
**Similar to needs in Feb. 2023**

**Higher** than the five-year average

This brief summarizes FEWS NET's projection of the population in need of urgent food assistance and the severity of anticipated acute food insecurity in FEWS NET-monitored countries seven months into the future**.** The projected size of each country's population experiencing acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 and higher) is compared to last year and the recent five-year average, categorized as **Higher**, *Similar*, or **Lower**. Additional information is provided for countries with large food insecure populations, an expectation of high severity, or where other key issues warrant further context. Analytical confidence is lower in FEWS NET's remotely monitored countries, indicated by "RM." Visit www.fews.net for detailed country reports.

Acute food insecurity needs typically vary throughout the year, reflecting changes in food availability and access due to the timing of the rains, harvest, livestock births, and other factors. As such, it is important to consider seasonality when viewing FEWS NET's needs estimates. View seasonal calendars for each country on their respective pages at www.fews.net to learn more about typical seasonal patterns in your country of interest.

FEWS NET defines the **PIN** as the number of people estimated to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity outcomes, regardless of whether they are receiving humanitarian assistance.




***For visual purposes, wider ranges are represented in the map above. For narrower ranges, refer to the table on page three.**

USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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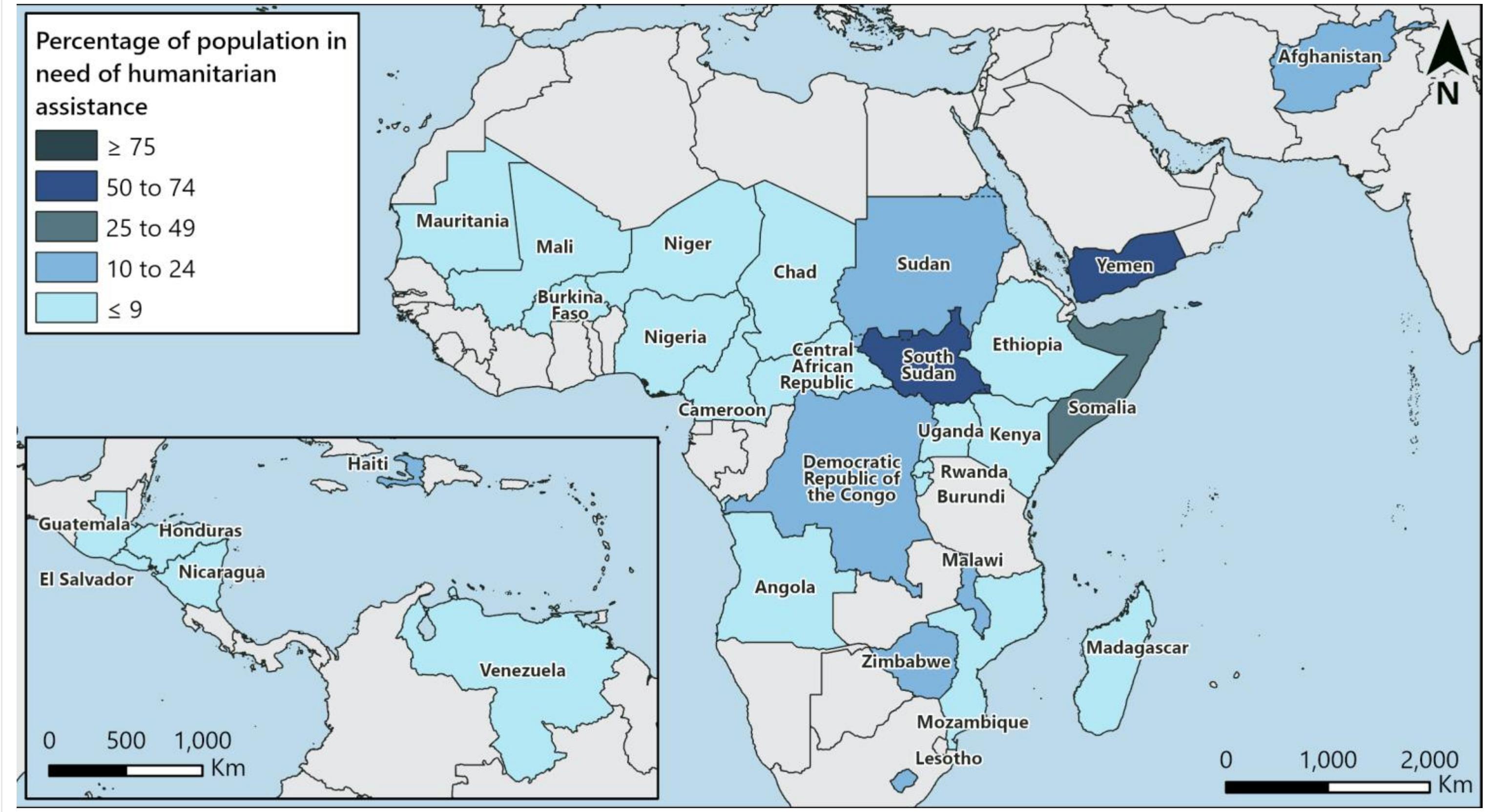
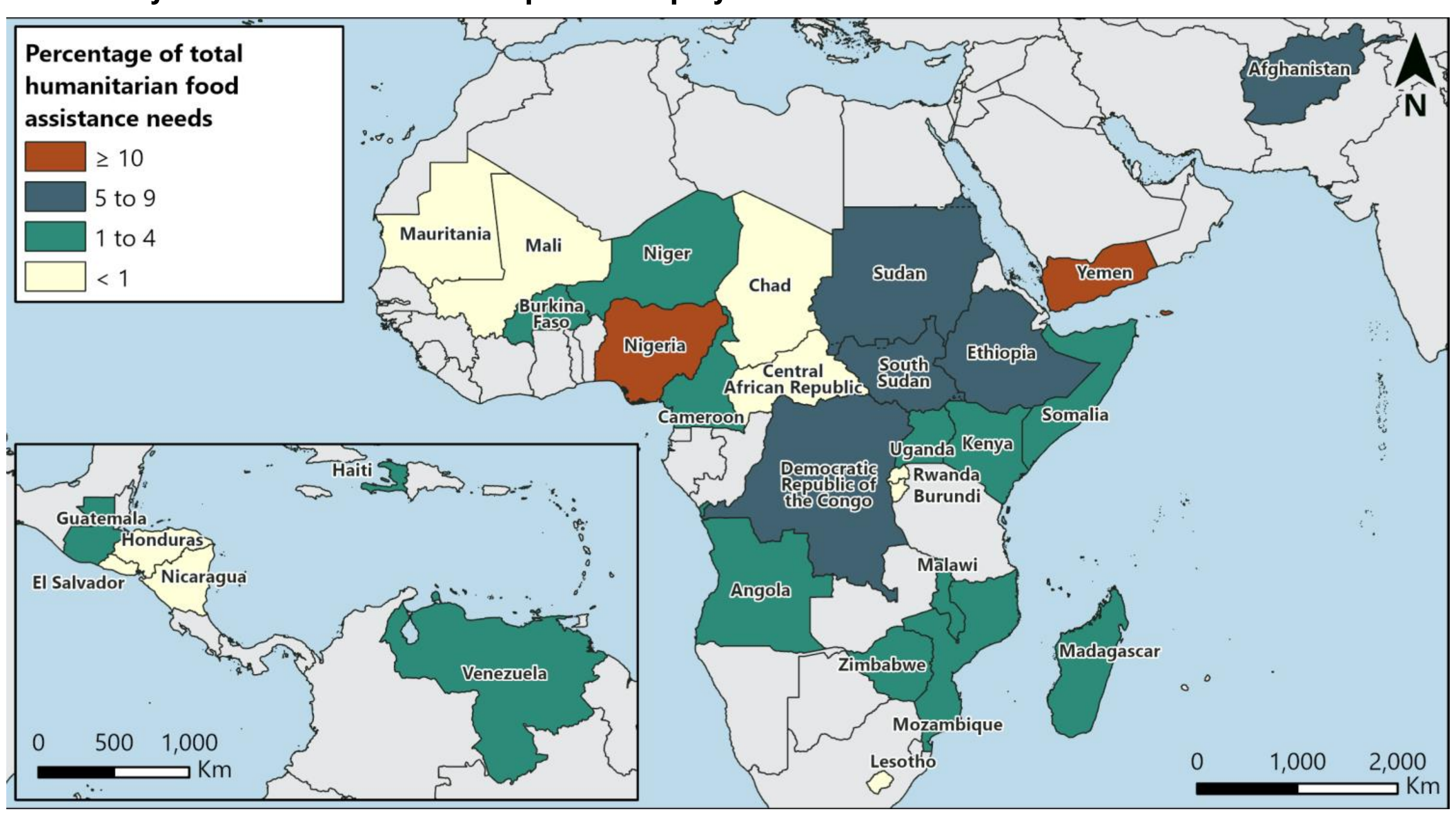
## Key Messages

- In February 2024, FEWS NET expects the number of people in need of humanitarian food assistance to be highest in the countries of **Yemen, Nigeria, Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo,** and **Sudan.**
- When food assistance needs are expressed as a percent of the total population of each respective FEWS NET-monitored country, FEWS NET expects the share of the population that needs humanitarian food assistance to be highest in **South Sudan** and **Yemen,** where **over 50 percent** of each country's population will most likely need food assistance, followed by **Somalia** and **Afghanistan**, where **over 20 percent** of each country's population will most likely need food assistance.
- Out of the projected total 100-110 million people in need across FEWS NET-monitored countries, **Yemen** and **Nigeria** are each expected to contribute **over 10 percent** of total food assistance needs. **Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, Afghanistan,** and **South Sudan** are each expected to contribute **5-9 percent** of total food assistance needs.
- In comparison to February of last year, FEWS NET expects the number of people in need of food assistance to be **higher** in **Sudan**, **Malawi**, and **El Salvador**. In contrast, FEWS NET projects the number of people in need of food assistance will be **lower** in **Ethiopia, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Somalia, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Venezuela, Madagascar,** and **Angola**. In all other countries, food assistance needs are expected to be similar to last year.

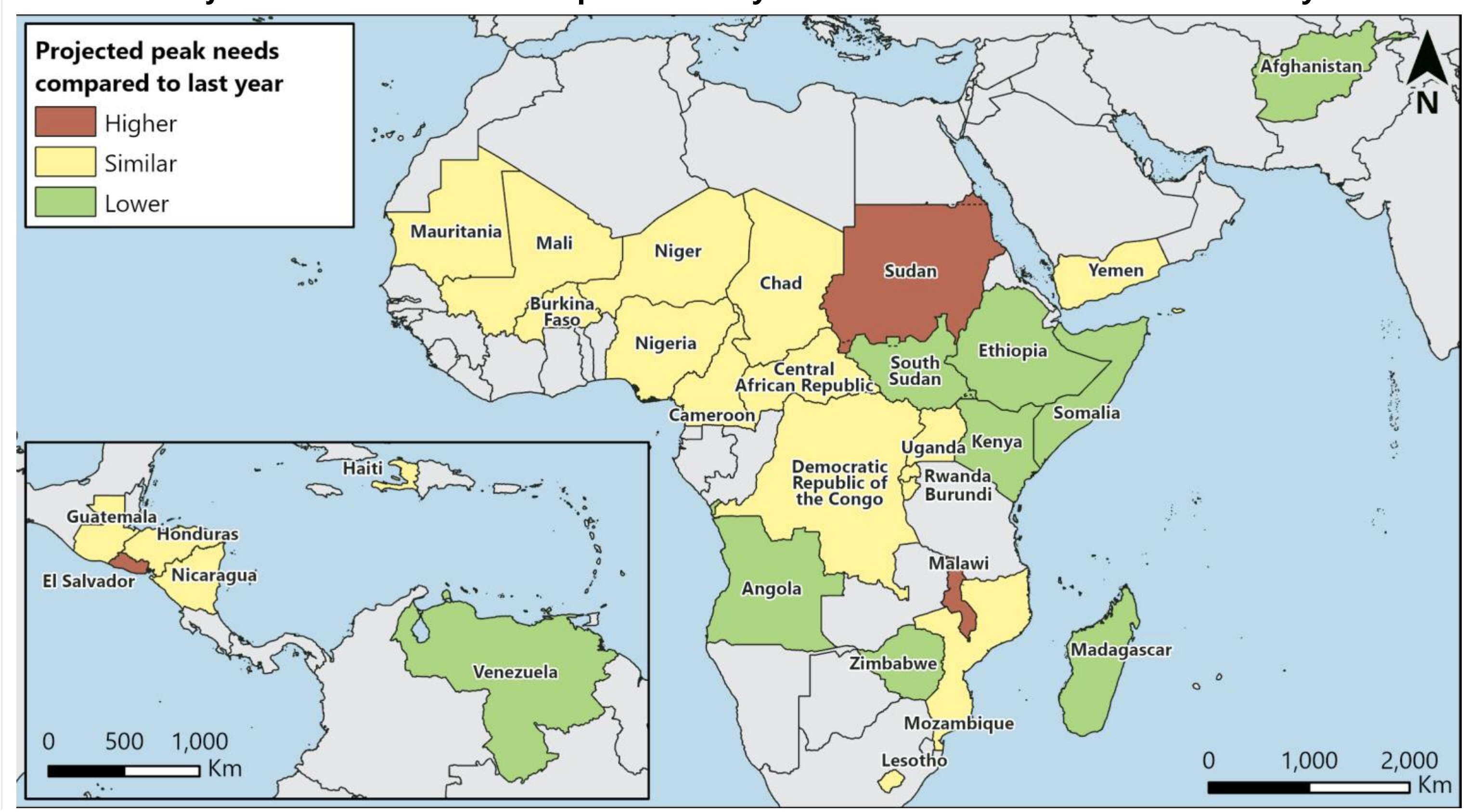
**Projected PIN in Feb. 2024 as a percent of the total population in each FEWS NET-monitored country**




**Projected PIN in Feb. 2024 as a percent of projected total humanitarian food assistance needs**




**Projected PIN in Feb. 2024 compared to last year in each FEWS NET-monitored country**



<table>
<tr><th>Countries by proj. PIN, descending</th><th>CURRENT PIN in August 2023</th><th>PROJECTED PIN in February 2024</th><th>Projected PIN in February 2024 as an approximate % of the pop.</th><th>Projected PIN in February 2024 compared to last year</th><th>Projected PIN in February 2024 compared to 5-yr avg.</th><th>Highest projected area-level IPC classification in February 2024 after accounting for HFA impact</th></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Yemen</td><td rowspan="2">18.0-18.99 million</td><td rowspan="2">17.0-17.99 million</td><td>50-55%</td><td>Similar</td><td>Similar</td><td>Crisis! (IPC Phase 3!)</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">In February, rural households in lowland areas will see a marginal increase in access to food and income from agricultural labor associated with the main fruit and vegetable cultivation season. Meanwhile, a slight improvement in income-earning opportunities is expected in areas controlled by the Sana'a-based authorities alongside improved economic conditions. However, households in areas controlled by the internationally-recognized government are expected to face deterioration in economic conditions and rising prices. Overall, widespread Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Crisis! (IPC Phase 3!) outcomes are anticipated to persist across the country due to overall limited livelihood options and above-average staple food prices, with assistance preventing worse outcomes.</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Nigeria</td><td rowspan="2">15.0-15.99 million</td><td rowspan="2">11.0-11.99 million</td><td>5-10%</td><td>Similar</td><td>Higher</td><td>Emergency (IPC Phase 4)</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">Conflict, anticipated flooding in August and September 2023, and economic factors are expected to result in below-average crop production in 2023. Households across the conflict-affected north are expected to be the first to deplete their food stocks, likely starting in February. Decreasing food availability will be compounded by low household purchasing power, high staple food prices, and high inflation amid the macroeconomic crisis. Emergency (IPC Phase 4) will likely persist in some inaccessible areas of NE Nigeria, while Crisis (IPC Phase 3) is expected in northcentral and NW Nigeria.</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Ethiopia</td><td rowspan="2">19.0-19.99 million</td><td rowspan="2">10.0-10.99 million</td><td>5-10%</td><td>Lower</td><td>Higher</td><td>Emergency (IPC Phase 4)</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">In February, food and income availability are expected to improve seasonally with the meher harvest, while the deyr/hageya rains will support some livestock production. However, improvements will be limited by the below-average June to September kiremt rains, affecting income from crop sales and agricultural labor. While the end of conflict in the north and drought in the pastoral south/southeast is likely to alleviate needs relative to last year, needs will remain atypically high, and Tigray and the south/southeast remain of exceptionally high concern. Amid an uncertain timeline for the end of the pause on food assistance, Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes likely persist, with a credible risk of worse outcomes in Tigray and the south/southeast if the pause on food assistance is sustained.</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">DRC</td><td rowspan="2">9.0-9.99 million</td><td rowspan="2">9.0-9.99 million</td><td>10-15%</td><td>Similar</td><td>Higher</td><td>Crisis (IPC Phase 3)</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">In February, food access and availability seasonally increase with the season A harvest. However, food assistance needs are expected to remain atypically high, concentrated among conflict-affected and displaced populations in Ituri, North Kivu, and South Kivu, where Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are expected. A subset of worst-affected households will likely be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4), as they engaged minimally in cultivation due to poor physical and financial access to agricultural inputs and have limited access to alternative income-earning opportunities.</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Sudan</td><td rowspan="2">11.0-11.99 million</td><td rowspan="2">8.0-8.99 million</td><td>15-20%</td><td>Higher</td><td>Higher</td><td>Emergency (IPC Phase 4)</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">Based on expectations for a significantly below-average 2023/24 harvest due to the ongoing conflict, food assistance needs are expected to be atypically high during the post-harvest period in February. Trade flows and market functionality will likely remain seriously disrupted, interfering with the flow of goods from surplus to deficit-producing areas and driving atypically high staple food prices. Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes will likely remain widespread, and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes will persist in parts of West Darfur, West Kordofan, White Nile, and Abyei. El Geneina locality, West Darfur, remains of highest concern, with some households likely in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) due to the scale of conflict and displacement and the widespread destruction of infrastructure.</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Afghanistan</td><td rowspan="2">6.0-6.99 million</td><td rowspan="2">7.0-7.99 million</td><td>20-25%</td><td>Lower</td><td>Higher</td><td>Crisis (IPC Phase 3)</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">As the lean season advances in February, Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are expected as most households have limited own-produced food remaining and thus are heavily reliant on purchasing their food. Areas of concern remain the central and northeastern highlands and northern drought-affected areas, where household purchasing power is expected to be below average.</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">South Sudan</td><td rowspan="2">8.0-8.99 million</td><td rowspan="2">6.0-6.99 million</td><td>55-60%</td><td>Lower</td><td>Higher</td><td>Emergency (IPC Phase 4) & risk of Famine</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">Needs in August are expected to temporarily surge in advance of the upcoming harvest due to the recent influx of returnees and refugees from Sudan. While overall needs will then decline in the harvest and post-harvest periods, Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes are anticipated to persist in counties bordering Sudan in the north as well as in northern Jonglei and southern Upper Nile due to the prolonged impact of conflict and flooding that led to the near collapse of local livelihoods, exacerbated by the Sudan crisis. Given the very high levels of acute food insecurity and malnutrition in the Jonglei-Upper Nile border region, a risk of Famine (IPC Phase 5) remains if a resurgence of severe conflict or flooding isolates households from sources of food for a prolonged period.</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Somalia</td><td rowspan="2">5.0-5.99 million</td><td rowspan="2">5.0-5.99 million</td><td>25-30%</td><td>Lower</td><td>Higher</td><td>Emergency (IPC Phase 4)</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">In February, food assistance needs will slightly decline with the deyr harvest in rainfed agropastoral areas and access to green crops from off-season production in riverine areas. While needs are expected to be lower than last February, millions will continue to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse outcomes given the long-term impacts of the 2020-2023 drought, including high levels of asset depletion and debt. Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes are expected in numerous IDP settlements across Somalia and some central and coastal pastoral areas.</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Zimbabwe</td><td rowspan="2">1.5-1.99 million</td><td rowspan="2">3.0-3.49 million</td><td>15-20%</td><td>Lower</td><td>Similar</td><td>Crisis (IPC Phase 3)</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">While needs are lower in February 2024 relative to last year due to an improved 2023 harvest, households in southern deficit-producing areas have limited capacity to cope with high food prices and a likely reduction in agricultural labor demand due to forecasted below-average rainfall during the 2023/24 cropping season. Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are expected.</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Malawi</td><td rowspan="2">2.0-2.49 million</td><td rowspan="2">2.5-2.99 million</td><td>15-20%</td><td>Higher</td><td>Higher</td><td>Crisis (IPC Phase 3)</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">In southern Malawi, Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are expected in February due to the severely damaged 2023 crop harvest following Tropical Cyclone Freddy, below-average income-earning opportunities, and rising food prices as households approach the peak of the 2023/24 lean season.</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Kenya</td><td rowspan="2">4.0-4.99 million</td><td rowspan="2">2.5-2.99 million</td><td>5-10%</td><td>Lower</td><td>Similar</td><td>Crisis (IPC Phase 3)</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">In February, following the forecasted above-average October to December short rains and harvest, the post-harvest period will likely bring seasonal increases in food availability and access, agricultural labor income, and livestock and milk production. However, due to the protracted erosion of households' productive assets and the accrual of debts during the 2020-2023 drought, many poor households continue to face food consumption gaps. Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes likely persist in the worst-affected pastoral areas, while Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes are expected in marginal agricultural areas.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Venezuela RM</td><td>2.5-2.99 million</td><td>2.0-2.49 million</td><td>5-10%</td><td>Lower</td><td>Lower</td><td>Stressed (IPC Phase 2)</td></tr>
</table>

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Mozambique** | 1.5-1.99 million | **1.5-1.99 million** | 5-10% | *Similar* | *Similar* | Crisis (IPC Phase 3) |
| | | | In February, Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are expected in conflict-affected areas of Cabo Delgado and areas of southern Mozambique. Forecasted erratic rainfall and dry spells during the 2023/24 rainy season are anticipated to negatively impact crop production, particularly in the south, and drive atypical declines in household income from agricultural labor during the lean season. | | | |
| **Uganda** | 1.5-1.99 million | **1.5-1.99 million** | less than 5% | *Similar* | **Higher** | Crisis (IPC Phase 3) |
| | | | In bimodal areas, food availability and access are expected to improve in February following the end of the second season harvest. However, needs will remain high in refugee settlements, where there is high competition for few income-earning activities amid reduced food assistance. In Karamoja, households face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes as stocks become depleted in advance of the lean season. | | | |
| **Burkina Faso** | 2.0-2.49 million | **1.5-1.99 million** | 5-10% | *Similar* | **Higher** | Emergency (IPC Phase 4) & risk of Famine |
| | | | Due to the anticipated below-average 2023 harvest and the lack of engagement in off-season farming in conflict-affected areas of northern Burkina Faso, households will have minimal access to own-produced food. Additionally, high staple food prices will limit financial access to food for purchase-dependent households amid high competition for few income-earning opportunities. Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes will likely persist in Soum, Oudalan, and Yagha. Furthermore, there remains a risk of Famine (IPC Phase 5) in Djibo commune in Soum if an increase in conflict further restricts the already low levels of crop cultivation, humanitarian aid, and market supply deliveries. | | | |
| **Haiti** | 1.5-1.99 million | **1.5-1.99 million** | 10-15% | *Similar* | **Higher** | Emergency (IPC Phase 4) |
| | | | Despite seasonal access to the fall and winter harvests in February, high food prices and the disruption of livelihoods and markets due to gang activity will continue to limit access to food and income for poor households. Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes will remain widespread; Emergency (IPC Phase 4) is expected in Cité Soleil and across pockets of poor households in Ouest and Nord-Ouest departments. | | | |
| **Cameroon** | 1.0-1.49 million | **1.0-1.49 million** | 5-10% | *Similar* | *Similar* | Crisis (IPC Phase 3) |
| **Madagascar** | 1.0-1.49 million | **1.0-1.49 million** | 5-10% | **Lower** | *Similar* | Crisis (IPC Phase 3) |
| **Niger** | 2.0-2.49 million | **1.0-1.49 million** | less than 5% | *Similar* | *Similar* | Crisis (IPC Phase 3) |
| | | | The initial instability following the coup is expected to stabilize, and existing sanctions are expected to have weakened by February. However, Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are expected to persist even after the October to December harvest due to the impacts of conflict on food and income sources, particularly in the worst-affected areas such as Tillaberi and Tahoua regions. | | | |
| **Guatemala** | 1.5-1.99 million | **1.0-1.49 million** | 5-10% | *Similar* | *Similar* | Crisis (IPC Phase 3) |
| *Angola RM* | 500,000-749,999 | **1.0-1.49 million** | less than 5% | **Lower** | **Higher** | Crisis (IPC Phase 3) |
| *Honduras RM* | 500,000-749,999 | **500,000-749,999** | 5-10% | *Similar* | *Similar* | Crisis (IPC Phase 3) |
| **Chad** | 500,000-749,999 | **500,000-749,999** | less than 5% | *Similar* | **Higher** | Crisis (IPC Phase 3) |
| **Burundi** | 500,000-749,999 | **500,000-749,999** | less than 5% | *Similar* | *Similar* | Stressed (IPC Phase 2) |
| *CAR RM* | 500,000-749,999 | **250,000-499,999** | 5-10% | *Similar* | *Similar* | Crisis (IPC Phase 3) |
| **Mali** | 1.5-1.99 million | **250,000-499,999** | less than 5% | *Similar* | *Similar* | Crisis (IPC Phase 3) |
| *Lesotho RM* | 100,000-249,999 | **250,000-499,999** | 10-15% | *Similar* | *Similar* | Crisis (IPC Phase 3) |
| *Mauritania RM* | 250,000-499,999 | **100,000-249,999** | 5-10% | *Similar* | *Similar* | Stressed (IPC Phase 2) |
| *El Salvador RM* | 100,000-249,999 | **100,000-249,999** | less than 5% | **Higher** | *Similar* | Stressed (IPC Phase 2) |
| *Nicaragua RM* | 100,000-249,999 | **100,000-249,999** | less than 5% | *Similar* | *Similar* | Stressed (IPC Phase 2) |
| *Rwanda RM* | 100,000-249,999 | **100,000-249,999** | less than 5% | *Similar* | *Similar* | Minimal (IPC Phase 1) |

**IPC (Version 3.1) Acute Food Insecurity Reference Table for Area Classification**

| Minimal (IPC Phase 1) | Stressed (IPC Phase 2) | Crisis (IPC Phase 3) | Emergency (IPC Phase 4) | Famine (IPC Phase 5) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Households are able to meet essential food and non-food needs without engaging in atypical and unsustainable strategies to access food and income. | Households have minimally adequate food consumption but are unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures without engaging in stress-coping strategies. | Households either: Have food consumption gaps which are reflected by high or above-usual acute malnutrition;<br>- or -<br>Are marginally able to meet minimum food needs but only by depleting essential livelihood assets or through crisis-coping strategies. | Households either: Have large food consumption gaps which are reflected in very high acute malnutrition and excess mortality;<br>- or -<br>Are able to mitigate large food consumption gaps but only by employing emergency livelihood strategies and asset liquidation. | Households have an extreme lack of food and/or other basic needs even after full employment of coping strategies. Starvation, death, destitution, and extremely critical acute malnutrition levels are evident. (For Famine Classification, area needs to have extreme critical levels of acute malnutrition and mortality.) |

**!** Indicates area would likely be at least one phase worse without current or planned humanitarian food assistance.

**Urgent Action Required**