

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

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

105 - 110 million

11% of the population

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

Similar to needs in Mar. 2023

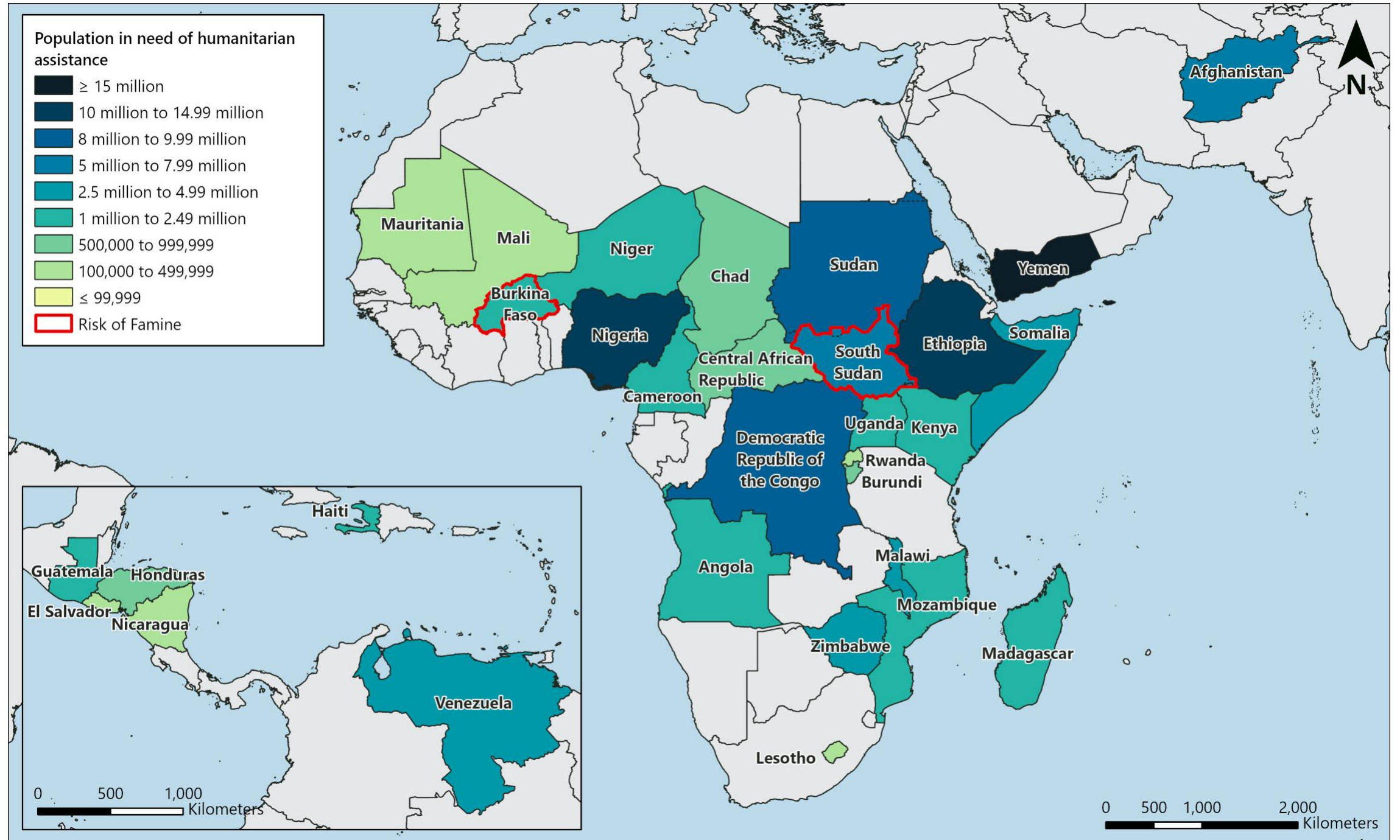
Higher than the five-year average

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.

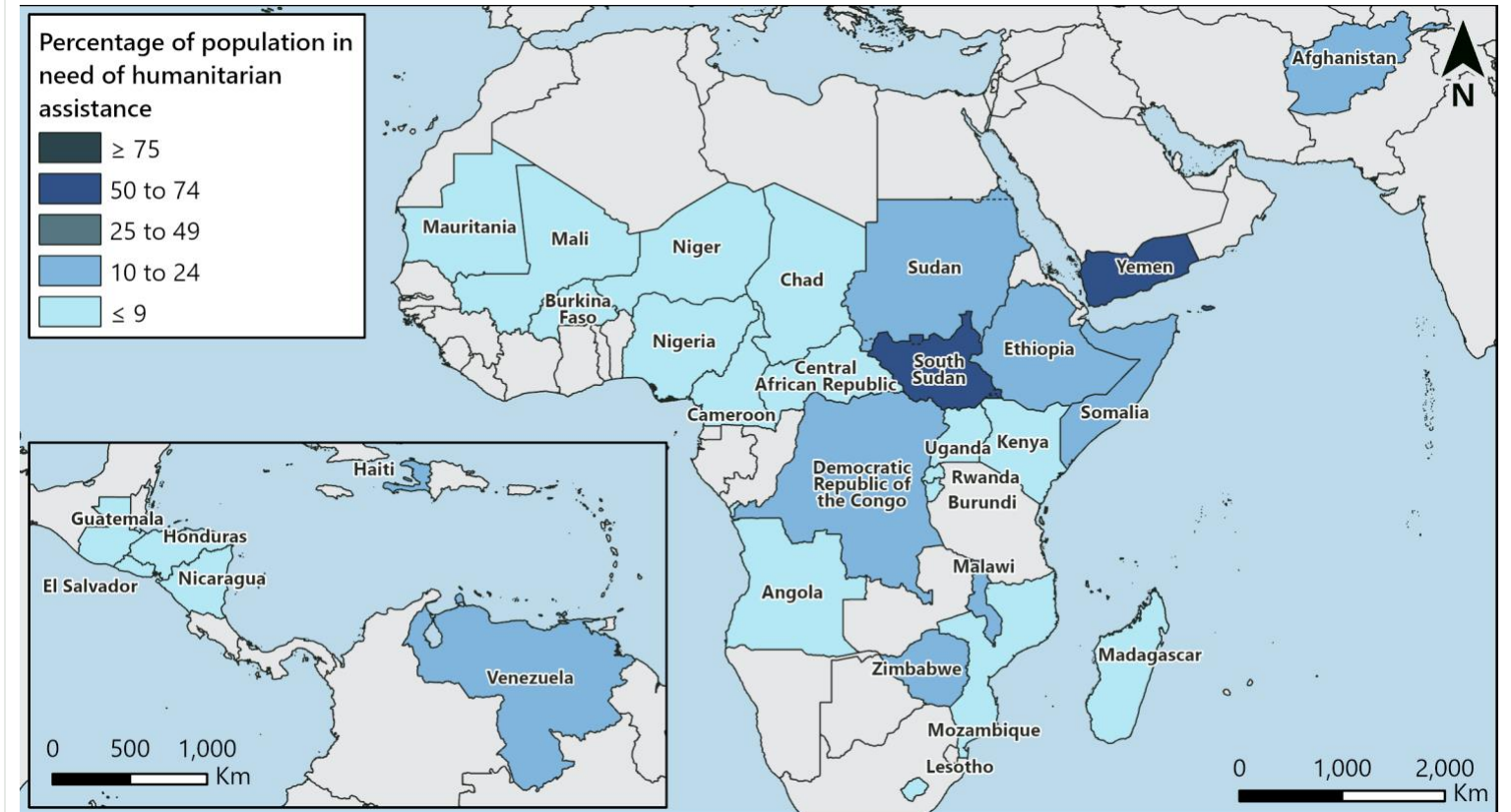


*For visual purposes, wider ranges are represented in the map above. For narrower ranges, refer to the table on page three.

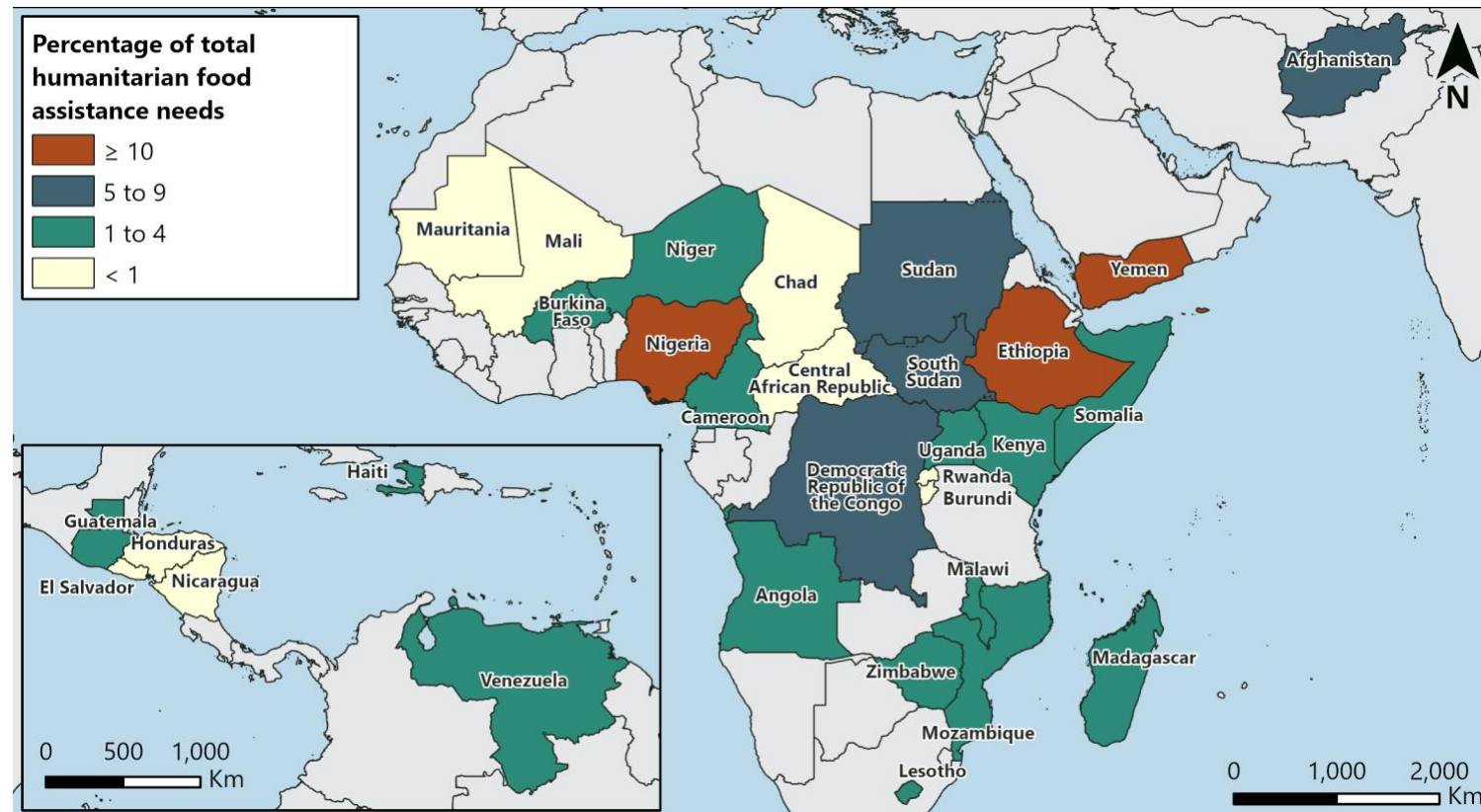
Key Messages

- In March 2024, FEWS NET expects the number of people in need of humanitarian food assistance to be highest in the countries of **Yemen, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo**.
- 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 105-110 million people in need across FEWS NET-monitored countries, **Yemen, Ethiopia, and Nigeria** are each expected to contribute **over 10 percent** of total food assistance needs. **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 March of last year, FEWS NET expects the number of people in need of food assistance to be **higher** in **Sudan, Malawi, Chad, and El Salvador**. In contrast, FEWS NET projects the number of people in need of food assistance will be **lower** in **Ethiopia, DRC, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Somalia, and Kenya**. In all other countries, food assistance needs are expected to be similar to last year.

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



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



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



Countries by projected PIN, descending	CURRENT PIN in September 2023	PROJECTED PIN in March 2024	Projected PIN in March 2024 as an approximate % of the pop.	Projected PIN in March 2024 compared to last year	Projected PIN in March 2024 compared to 5-yr avg.	Highest projected area-level IPC classification in March 2024 after accounting for HFA impact
Yemen	18.0-18.99 million	17.0-17.99 million	50-55%	Similar	Similar	Crisis! (IPC Phase 3!)
			In March, rural households in lowland areas will benefit from agricultural labor opportunities associated with the main fruit and vegetable cultivation season, while households in the highlands will have limited seasonal access to agricultural labor opportunities. In areas controlled by the internationally-recognized government, needs are expected to increase due to deteriorating economic conditions, worsening disruptions to public services and salary payments, and rising food prices. Although needs are expected to decline slightly elsewhere, widespread Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Crisis! (IPC Phase 3!) outcomes are anticipated due to overall limited livelihood options and above-average staple food prices, with assistance preventing worse outcomes.			
Ethiopia	16.0-16.99 million	12.0-12.99 million	10-15%	Lower	Higher	Emergency (IPC Phase 4)
			While the end of conflict in the north and drought in the pastoral south/southeast are likely to alleviate needs relative to last year, needs will remain atypically high. In March, slightly improved food access following the <i>meher</i> harvest and increased livestock production supported by the <i>deyr/hageya</i> rains are expected to mitigate levels of acute food insecurity. However, these food and income sources remain below normal, and food consumption gaps are expected to widen as household stocks decline. Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes are expected in parts of the north and the south/southeast. Amid an uncertain timeline for the end of the pause on food assistance, there is a risk of worse outcomes in Tigray and the pastoral south/southeast if seasonal increases in food and income do not materialize to the extent that is currently anticipated.			
Nigeria	14.0-14.99 million	12.0-12.99 million	5-10%	Similar	Higher	Emergency (IPC Phase 4)
			Emergency (IPC Phase 4) will likely persist in some inaccessible areas of NE Nigeria, while Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are expected in the north-center and northwest. The anticipated below-average 2023/2024 harvest is likely to exhaust early in the north, limiting food availability. This will be compounded by rising inflation – inclusive of atypically high staple food prices – and limited labor opportunities, deteriorating household purchasing power and reducing financial access to food amid the ongoing macroeconomic crisis.			
Sudan	11.0-11.99 million	8.0-8.99 million	15-20%	Higher	Higher	Emergency (IPC Phase 4)
			Food assistance needs are expected to rise atypically early in the post-harvest period due to the impacts of conflict on income and food sources, including the anticipated below-average harvest in 2023. Trade flows from surplus to deficit-producing areas and market functionality will likely remain seriously disrupted in March, driving unseasonably high staple prices. Widespread Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are anticipated, with Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes likely in parts of Greater Darfur and Greater Kordofan, and White Nile, as well as Abyei. West Darfur remains of highest concern, with some households likely facing Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) due to the scale of conflict, displacement, and destruction of infrastructure and assets.			
DRC	9.0-9.99 million	8.0-8.99 million	10-15%	Lower	Higher	Crisis (IPC Phase 3)
			Despite the increase in food access and availability from the season A harvest, the compounding impacts of conflict and displacement continue to drive Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes in Ituri, North Kivu, and South Kivu provinces. The worst-affected households face Emergency (IPC Phase 4) given minimal engagement in cultivation and poor access to alternative sources of income.			
Afghanistan	6.0-6.99 million	7.0-7.99 million	20-25%	Lower	Higher	Crisis (IPC Phase 3)
			In March, Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are expected in areas of the central and northeastern highlands and the drought-affected north, where households will have largely exhausted their own-produced food, and purchasing power will be too low for them to meet their minimum food needs via market purchases at the peak of the lean season.			
South Sudan	7.0-7.99 million	6.0-6.99 million	55-60%	Lower	Higher	Emergency (IPC Phase 4) & risk of Famine
			Crisis (IPC Phase 3) will remain widespread post-harvest, driven by poor production, scarcity of income-generating activities, and limited purchasing power. Emergency (IPC Phase 4) is expected in counties bordering Sudan, northern Jonglei, and southern Upper Nile, given limited recovery of livelihoods from consecutive years of conflict and floods and the impacts of the Sudan crisis. In the Jonglei-Upper Nile border region, there is a risk of Famine (IPC Phase 5) if a resurgence of conflict or flooding isolates households from already-scarce food sources for a prolonged time.			
Somalia	4.0-4.99 million	4.0-4.99 million	20-25%	Lower	Higher	Emergency (IPC Phase 4)
			In the near-term, forecasted heavy rainfall and severe flooding during the October to December 2023 <i>deyr</i> season will likely drive displacement, crop losses, and livestock disease incidence in affected riverine areas. Based on historical trends, however, riverine households are expected to return and benefit from flood recession harvests by February/March; above-average rains are also expected to be favorable for crop and livestock production in other rural areas. However, in March, Emergency (IPC Phase 4) will likely persist in IDP settlements.			
Venezuela (RM)	2.5-2.99 million	3.0-3.49 million	10-15%	Similar	Similar	Stressed (IPC Phase 2)
Zimbabwe	2.0-2.49 million	3.0-3.49 million	15-20%	Similar	Similar	Crisis (IPC Phase 3)
			In March, Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are expected in southern and western Zimbabwe at the start of the green harvest. The forecasted erratic rainfall and dry spells due to El Niño conditions are anticipated to negatively impact crop and livestock production during the 2023/24 rainy season, with atypical declines in agricultural labor income occurring during the lean season.			
Malawi	2.0-2.49 million	2.5-2.99 million	15-20%	Higher	Higher	Crisis (IPC Phase 3)
			In March, Crisis (IPC Phase 3) is anticipated in the south at the peak of the lean season and start of the green harvest. The forecasted erratic rainfall and dry spells due to El Niño conditions, particularly in the south, are expected to reduce 2023/24 crop production prospects, with atypical declines in agricultural labor income occurring during the lean season.			

			less than 5%	Lower	Lower	Stressed (IPC Phase 2)
Kenya	4.0-4.99 million	2.0-2.49 million				
In March, the post-harvest period and start of the March to May long rains will likely bring seasonal increases in food availability and access, particularly via agricultural labor income and livestock and milk production. Improvement to Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes is expected in both pastoral and marginal agricultural areas. However, households in worst-affected pastoral areas recovering from the 2020-2023 drought will likely continue to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) due to the protracted erosion of households' productive assets and the accrual of debts.						
Mozambique	1.5-1.99 million	1.5-1.99 million	5-10%	Similar	Similar	Crisis (IPC Phase 3)
In March, Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are expected in Cabo Delgado and southern and central Mozambique at the start of the green harvest. Forecasted erratic rainfall and dry spells due to El Niño conditions will likely reduce 2023/24 crop production prospects, particularly in the south, limiting household income from agricultural labor during the lean season.						
Burkina Faso	1.5-1.99 million	1.5-1.99 million	5-10%	Similar	Higher	Emergency (IPC Phase 4) & risk of Famine
As conflict expands across northern Burkina Faso, off-season farming activities will be increasingly constrained in March. Households will have minimal access to own-produced food, and high market prices will limit financial access to food amid high competition for few income-earning opportunities. Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes will likely persist in Soum, Oudalan, and Yagha, and 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 cultivation, humanitarian aid, and market supply.						
Uganda	1.5-1.99 million	1.5-1.99 million	less than 5%	Similar	Higher	Crisis (IPC Phase 3)
In Karamoja, poor households will have exhausted food stocks from the 2023 harvest, driving high purchase-dependence for food and sustaining Crisis (IPC Phase 3). Crisis (IPC Phase 3) is also expected in refugee settlements, where typical crop harvest totals are low, access to income is limited, and food assistance distributions have significantly declined compared to last year.						
Madagascar	1.0-1.49 million	1.5-1.99 million	5-10%	Similar	Higher	Crisis (IPC Phase 3)
Haiti	1.5-1.99 million	1.5-1.99 million	10-15%	Similar	Higher	Emergency (IPC Phase 4)
Insecurity in the capital continues disrupt livelihoods and market functionality, while limited access to inputs ahead of fall cultivation will negatively impact crop production, resulting in below-average food availability, high staple food prices, and low purchasing power. Emergency (IPC Phase 4) is projected in Cité Soleil and among households in Ouest, Nord-Ouest, and Grand'Anse.						
Niger	2.5-3.0 million	1.5-1.99 million	5-10%	Similar	Higher	Crisis (IPC Phase 3)
Crisis (IPC Phase 3) is expected during the post-harvest period in Tillabery, Tahoua, Maradi, and Diffa, where conflict is impacting crop and livestock production and other income sources. The economic sanctions following the July 2023 coup have also limited the provision of government food assistance, which was previously preventing worse outcomes in Maradi and Diffa.						
Cameroon	1.0-1.49 million	1.5-1.99 million	5-10%	Similar	Similar	Crisis (IPC Phase 3)
<i>Angola (RM)</i>	750,000-999,999	1.0-1.49 million	less than 5%	Similar	Higher	Crisis (IPC Phase 3)
Guatemala	1.5-1.99 million	1.0-1.49 million	5-10%	Similar	Similar	Crisis (IPC Phase 3)
Chad	750,000-999,999	750,000-999,999	less than 5%	Higher	Higher	Crisis (IPC Phase 3)
The influx of Sudanese refugees and Chadian returnees is expected to result in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes and elevated food assistance needs, particularly in the Ouaddai, Sila, and Wadi Fira provinces, where the influx is driving increased competition for minimal on and off-farm labor opportunities. Crisis (IPC Phase 3) is also expected in the conflict-affected Lac province.						
<i>Honduras (RM)</i>	500,000-749,999	500,000-749,999	5-10%	Similar	Similar	Crisis (IPC Phase 3)
Burundi	500,000-749,999	500,000-749,999	less than 5%	Similar	Similar	Stressed (IPC Phase 2)
<i>CAR (RM)</i>	500,000-749,999	500,000-749,999	5-10%	Similar	Similar	Crisis (IPC Phase 3)
Mali	1.0-1.49 million	250,000-499,999	less than 5%	Similar	Similar	Crisis (IPC Phase 3)
<i>Mauritania (RM)</i>	250,000-499,999	250,000-499,999	5-10%	Similar	Similar	Stressed (IPC Phase 2)
<i>Lesotho (RM)</i>	100,000-249,999	100,000-249,999	5-10%	Similar	Similar	Crisis (IPC Phase 3)
<i>El Salvador (RM)</i>	100,000-249,999	100,000-249,999	less than 5%	Higher	Similar	Stressed (IPC Phase 2)
<i>Nicaragua (RM)</i>	100,000-249,999	100,000-249,999	less than 5%	Similar	Similar	Stressed (IPC Phase 2)
<i>Rwanda (RM)</i>	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; - or - 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; - or - 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.)
<p>! Indicates area would likely be at least one phase worse without current or planned humanitarian food assistance.</p>			Urgent Action Required	