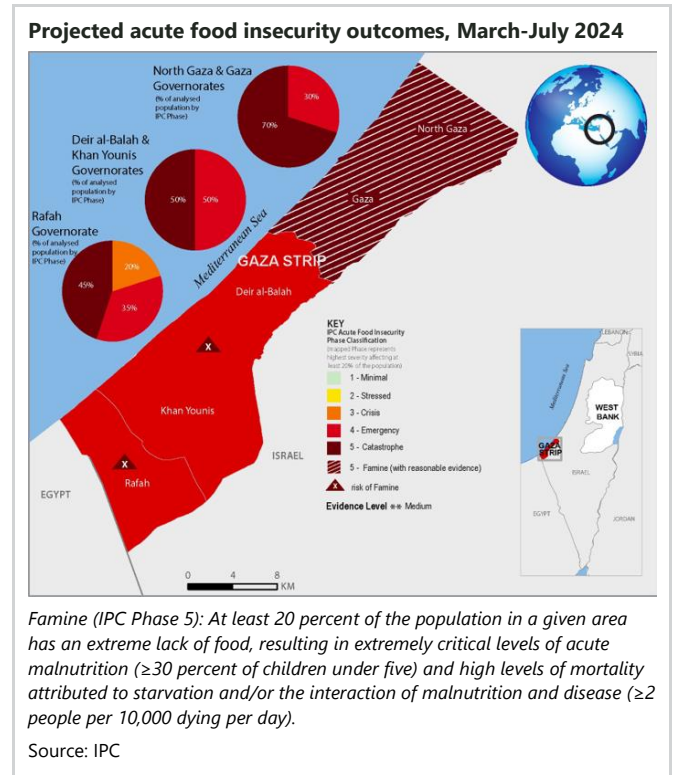


Analysis in Brief: Famine (IPC Phase 5) is imminent in northern Gaza, likely by May

Top-line messages

- **Famine (IPC Phase 5) is imminent in northern Gaza and likely to occur by May 2024¹.** The expected emergence of hunger-related deaths in line with internationally recognized thresholds for Famine is a further deterioration from the already widespread Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes marked by high levels of acute malnutrition and hunger-related mortality.
- In southern Gaza, levels of acute food insecurity exceed the severity needed to merit urgent intervention. Food assistance is likely mitigating the severity of food consumption gaps in Deir al Balah, Rafah, and non-confined areas of Khan Younis, but the size of the population in need and depth of deficits mean most populations will still be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) or Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) through July. **In a less likely scenario, Famine (IPC Phase 5) could also occur in Khan Younis.**
- **An immediate cessation of hostilities alongside a large-scale, multi-sectoral response with uninhibited access to populations in need is required to prevent widespread loss of life.** The humanitarian community must not await confirmation of Famine before scaling up efforts to save lives. This delay would sacrifice the remaining opportunity to prevent further increases in acute malnutrition and loss of life.



The strong case for Famine in northern Gaza

Many people in northern Gaza are facing prolonged exposure to food consumption gaps exceeding 50 percent of their minimum survival kilocalorie needs. These gaps are corroborated by household-level surveys of food consumption; livelihoods-based analysis of key sources of food and cash income; and an abundance of supporting evidence, all in the context of conflict that is driving severe and persistent restrictions on commercial and humanitarian supplies of food, widespread destruction of essential infrastructure, and civil disorder. Over the past five months, there has been an over 35-fold increase in acute malnutrition in the north. Hunger, the spread of disease due to lack of clean water and poor sanitation, and the two in combination are now leading to mortality. During the first five months of conflict, the severity of rising acute malnutrition was likely moderated by a pre-conflict context in which levels of wasting were low, the prevalence of overweight children was elevated, and routine vaccination was high. As these protections have now been eroded, acute malnutrition prevalence is expected to rapidly worsen. Hunger-related mortality is rising, and further death due to dehydration from acute watery diarrhea, acute respiratory diseases, neonatal and maternal health complications, and the accelerating and exponential relationship between acute malnutrition and disease will likely drive mortality beyond the thresholds used to define Famine (IPC Phase 5).

FEWS NET’s analysis, the IPC Process, and the Famine Review Committee

FEWS NET is a USAID-funded activity that produces independent early warning analysis of acute food insecurity with the objective of preventing famine and mitigating acute food insecurity. FEWS NET also engages in the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)’s consensus-based analyses. FEWS NET participated in the March 2024 IPC analysis for Gaza and agrees with the conclusions. The Famine Review Committee (FRC) is a six-member team of independent international food security and nutrition experts. A review by the FRC is required for a classification of Famine. The FRC’s validation of this classification is detailed in [report here](#).

Evidence available for this analysis:

Three rounds of World Food Programme (WFP) Computer Assisted Telephone Survey (CATI) household survey data (two rounds in December and one in February); Global Nutrition Cluster facility-based and community Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) survey data on Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM); [London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine \(LSHTM\) mortality projections](#); damage analysis of Copernicus Sentinel-1 satellite data by Corey Scher (CUNY) and Jamon Van Den Hoek (OSU); United Nations Satellite Centre (UNOSAT) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) satellite imagery analysis of agricultural land and asset destruction; United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) manifest data for all commercial and humanitarian truck entries; Food Security Cluster partner aid distribution and ration composition data; daily United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and partner reports; WFP and Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) price data as well as market monitoring; Health Cluster epidemiological case tracking and health facility reporting; FEWS NET humanitarian aid assistance and health facility damage analyses, and Household Economy Analysis (HEA) Outcome Analysis (OA); World Bank and International Labor Organization (ILO) labor market assessments; and OCHA and UNRWA population movement data.

¹ FEWS NET acknowledges the Famine Review Committee identified factors driving a risk of Famine (IPC Phase 5) across the south. Please see footnote in the [full report](#) on page 23.