



World Food Programme

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# People in food crisis or worse

## Numbers explained

In 2023, the magnitude and severity of food needs are expected to grow to unprecedented levels, due to conflict, climate shocks, economic downturns and soaring food prices. This trend is further fuelled by the ripple effects of the Ukraine conflict. WFP's warnings of a sharp rise in acutely food insecure people are continuing to materialize in 2023, with millions at risk of sliding into famine.

The following document, produced by the Research, Assessment and Monitoring Division, aims to clarify the different figures and data used in WFP advocacy initiatives.

### How many people are expected to be food insecure in 2023?

Across 79 countries where WFP operates and data is available, it is estimated that 345.2 million people will be acutely food insecure in 2023. ([Global Operational Response Plan, February 2023](#))

Taking into account only countries which had new IPC/CH or equivalent data for 2023 available by February 2023, up to 282 million people are estimated to be in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) in 2023, in 66 countries or territories. ([Global Operational Response Plan, February 2023](#))

### How many people will be at risk of falling into famine or famine-like conditions if no action is taken?

In 2023, **43.3 million people across 51 countries** are in Emergency or worse levels of acute food insecurity (IPC/CH Phase 4 or above, incl severely food insecure based on CARI). This includes 35.2 million people in Emergency based on IPC/CH data in 41 countries, and 8.1 million severely food insecure people (based on CARI) in 10 countries. Without urgent life-saving action, these populations will be at **risk of falling into famine or famine-like conditions**. This estimate is based on expected peak numbers for 2023 available by February 2023, or - where not available, latest peak. This number is regularly updated.

### How many people were food insecure in 2022?

In November 2022, up to 349 million people were acutely food insecure or at high risk across 79 countries where WFP operates and with data available ([Global Operational Response Plan](#)).

Changes not only reflect an evolving food security situation on the ground but are also driven by refined accounting for the impact of the war in Ukraine as new information has become available. The overall trend remains worrying. Compared to February 2022, there has been a global increase in acutely food insecure figures of 25%.



## Why do numbers from different sources differ?

The numbers of people facing acute food insecurity reported in the GRFC and the WFP Global Operational Response Plan (GORP) are not directly comparable due to **differences in time references, countries and share of population covered**, refugees partially or fully covered. Also, the GORP takes a more forward looking perspective due to its operational nature.

The GRFC only covers areas with IPC/CH or equivalent analysis. Although population coverage of IPC/CH analyses has been improving over the last years, some analyses cover only part of the population, or exclude refugees. The GRFC included food insecure refugee populations in six countries. The analysis conducted for the WFP GORP has a broader geographical and populational coverage.

The WFP GORP uses the latest available data. When IPC/CH data are not available, the GORP relies on WFP assessments, where CARI/rCARI is used to classify households according to their level of food security. Estimations are used to fill data gaps when no assessments have been conducted.

For the number of people in Emergency (IPC/CH Phase 4), the GRFC does strictly take into account IPC/CH data only and is restricted to data of the respective year. The GORP uses "severe food insecurity" numbers based on WFP's CARI methodology and uses latest data available.

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Photo 1: WFP/Vincent Tremea | Photo 2: WFP/Niema Abdelmageed

## Main sources and other additional resources for tracking acute food insecurity



### WFP's Global Operation Response Plan

provides a regular update of the estimated number of acute food insecure people across the countries where it operates – 79 countries in February 2023. Its main purpose is to inform WFP operational planning. Sources are IPC/CH data, needs assessment data (based on WFP CARI and rCARI methodologies), and estimates when assessment data is not available. The numbers cover refugee populations. Please also see the [methodological note](#).

The **FAO-WFP Hunger Hotspots report** is a forward-looking, early warning analysis of countries and situations where acute food insecurity is likely to deteriorate over the coming months. It is published two times yearly. The hotspots are identified through a consensus-based analysis of key drivers of food insecurity, their likely combination and evolution across countries and regions.

The **Global Report on Food Crisis** is a joint and consensus-based analysis of acute food insecurity situations worldwide produced by the Food Security Information Network (FSIN) involving 17 partner organizations. It reports acute food insecurity based on IPC/CH data and equivalent data endorsed by all partners.

53 countries were covered by the 2022 GRFC report. For the 2022 Mid-Year update, 45 of the 53 countries were included, 8 countries were excluded, due to no consensus data.

The **HungerMap<sup>LIVE</sup>** is WFP's global hunger monitoring system that provides near real-time estimates of key food security indicators in over 90 countries. The main metric is the prevalence of insufficient food consumption. The information is comprised of actual data from WFP's remote, near real-time food security monitoring systems for more than 30 countries as well as predictions generated by a machine learning-based predictive model.