



People in acute food insecurity

Numbers explained

Acute food insecurity remains at persistently high levels in 2025, due to the compounding effects of conflict, climate shocks and economic downturns.

The following document, produced by the WFP Analysis, Planning and Performance Division, aims to clarify the different figures and data used in WFP advocacy initiatives.

How many people are expected to be acutely food insecure in 2025?

Across 68 countries where WFP operates and data is available, it is estimated that 318 million people will be acutely food insecure in 2025. ([WFP 2025 Global Outlook](#), November 2025).

The decrease from 343 million people facing acute food insecurity in 74 countries as shared in the November 2024 release of the Global Outlook is for a large share due to lack of updated data in 6 countries (Cuba, Iran (refugees), Liberia, Peri, Philippines and Republic of Congo) and does not reflect an actual reduction in hunger levels.

Taking into account the 68 countries included in the November 2025 edition, 318 million people were

acutely food insecure in November 2024.

How many people are facing critical or catastrophic levels of acute food insecurity?

In 2025, 41.1 million people across 51 countries are expected to be in Emergency or worse levels of acute food insecurity (IPC/CH Phase 4 or above, including severely food insecure based on CARI). This includes 38.7 million people in Emergency or worse levels of acute food insecurity (IPC/CH Phase 4+) based on IPC/CH data in 40 countries, and 2.4 million severely food insecure people (based on CARI) in 11 countries. These populations require immediate emergency assistance to save lives and livelihoods.

Catastrophic conditions were present in 6 countries in 2025: **Palestine/ Gaza** (641,000 people), **Sudan** (375,000 people), **South Sudan** (83,000 people), **Yemen** (41,000 people), **Haiti** (8,400 people, until June 2025), **Mali** (2,600).

This estimate is based on expected peak numbers for 2025 available by early November 2025, or - where not available, latest peak. This number is regularly updated.

How many people were acutely food insecure in 2024?

In November 2024, up to 343 million people were acutely food insecure across 74 countries where WFP operates and with data available ([WFP 2025 Global Outlook](#), November 2024). Compared to early 2020, there has been a global increase in acute food insecurity of more than 196 million people. Based on the 2025 Global Report on Food Crisis, 295.3 million people were estimated to be in food crisis or worse in 2024 in 53 countries ([Global Report on Food Crises 2025](#), May 2025).

Why do numbers from different sources differ?

The numbers of people facing acute food insecurity reported in the Global Report on Food Crises (GRFC) and the WFP Global Outlook, and formerly in the WFP Global Operational Response Plan, are not directly comparable due to **differences in each report's purpose, time references, country inclusion, and coverage of refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)**.

While the GRFC provides a consensus-based number of people in acute food insecurity based on IPC/CH and equivalent data sources (as agreed by all partners), the number shared in the WFP Global Outlook aims to provide relevant information for all of WFP operations – also including remote data sources (rCARI). Therefore, when IPC/CH data is not available, the number shared in the WFP Global Outlook relies on WFP assessments, where CARI/rCARI is used to classify households according to their level of food insecurity. This results in **different country coverage** and thus different figures: in this June 2025 edition of the WFP Global Outlook, the number shared covers information for 68 countries, while the 2025 GRFC reports data for 53 countries.

The difference in global numbers is also due to **differences in time references** - while the WFP Global Outlook has a forward-looking perspective and provides an estimate for the current year, the GRFC reports on the past year's numbers, or – in the mid-year update – numbers available in the first half of the current year. This is because of the differences in each report's **purpose** – while the GRFC aims at providing yearly comparable and consensus-based figures of global acute food insecurity, the number reported in the WFP Global Outlook is intended for WFP's operational planning, decision-making and advocacy.

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. As a result, the 2025 GRFC included food insecure refugee and IDP populations in 20 countries, while the analysis conducted for the WFP Global Outlook **accounts for refugees and IDPs** that are not covered by IPC/CH or equivalent analyses.

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Photo 1: WFP/Vincent Tremea.

Main sources and other additional resources for tracking acute food insecurity



WFP's **Global Outlook** forms part of WFP's continuous commitment to strengthen awareness and resource mobilization efforts to meet the needs of the most vulnerable and food insecure people. The report is published twice a year (November and subsequent mid-year, first edition Nov 2024). The report includes an update on the estimated number of people in acute food insecurity across the countries where WFP operates and where data is available – 68 countries in November 2025. Before November 2024, the number of acutely food insecure people was published in the discontinued Global Operational Response Plan. Data sources for acute food insecurity numbers are IPC/CH data, needs assessment data (based on WFP CARI and rCARI methodologies), and HNRP data. The numbers cover displaced populations. Please also see the [methodological note](#).

The **Global Report on Food Crisis** is a joint and consensus-based analysis of acute food insecurity situations worldwide by 16 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 latest [2025 GRFC report](#), reporting food insecurity data for 2024, while updates for the first half of 2025 will be presented in September 2025 in the Mid-Year Update of the 2025 GRFC.

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 twice a year. 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 latest Hunger Hotspot ([November 2025 to May 2026](#)) was published early November 2025. The next update is planned for June 2026.

The **HungerMapLIVE** is WFP's global hunger monitoring system that provides near real-time estimates of key food security indicators in over 30 countries. The main metric is the prevalence of insufficient food consumption. The information is based on actual data from WFP's remote, near real-time food security monitoring systems.

TABLE 1: OVERVIEW OF FOOD SECURITY NUMBERS BASED ON IPC/CH AND OTHER SOURCES

	295 MILLION PEOPLE IN FOOD CRISIS OR WORSE (2024)	343 MILLION PEOPLE IN ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY (2024)	318 MILLION PEOPLE IN ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY (2025)
Source	Global Report on Food Crises 2025	WFP 2025 Global Outlook November 2024	WFP 2026 Global Outlook November 2025
Purpose	Consensus-based joint analysis of acute food insecurity situations in countries requiring external food assistance by 16 partner organizations.	Estimate the number of people in acute food insecurity across countries with WFP operations and where data is available.	Estimate the number of people in acute food insecurity across countries with WFP operations and where data is available.
Time reference	Peak figures for 2024 (highest estimate recorded during the calendar year) – backward looking.	Expected peak figures for 2024, if not available, latest peak – forward looking.	Expected peak figures for 2025, if not available, latest peak – forward looking.
Number of countries	53 countries (12 of the considered 65 countries had data gaps or did not meet GRFC partners’ requirements to produce estimates for the report).	74 countries with WFP operations and data available – ensuring global coverage of needs.	68 countries with WFP operations and data available – ensuring global coverage of needs.
When to use	As a context baseline and to compare populations in food crisis over time.	For WFP global operational planning, advocacy for countries in food crisis, and strategic decision-making.	For WFP global operational planning, advocacy for countries in food crisis, and strategic decision-making.
Data source/ methodology	IPC/CH Phase 3+ or equivalent for 2024 (highest 2024 estimate during the calendar year), endorsed by 16 partners.	IPC/CH Phase 3+ and equivalent (as per GRFC) for 2024 for 51 countries, CARI/rCARI for 19 countries, HNO/HRP for 4 countries.	IPC/CH Phase 3+ and equivalent (as per GRFC) for 2025 for 44 countries, CARI/rCARI for 15 countries, HNRP for 6 countries, FEWS NET for 3 countries.
Population groups covered	Refugee and IDP data included for 20 countries (where already covered by IPC/CH or equivalent analysis).	Refugee and IDP data included from additional data sources (UNHCR, IDMC) where not covered by IPC/CH or equivalent analysis.	Refugee and IDP data included from additional data sources (UNHCR, IDMC) where not covered by IPC/CH or equivalent analysis.
Population in IPC4+ (or equivalent)	35.1 million people in 36 countries.	44.4 million people in 49 countries with populations in IPC/CH 4+ (includes severely food insecure based on WFP CARI data). This includes 40.3 million people based on IPC/CH data in 40 countries, and 4.1 million based on CARI in 9 countries.	41.1 million people in 51 countries with populations in IPC/CH 4+ (includes severely food insecure based on WFP CARI data). This includes 38.7 million people based on IPC/CH data in 40 countries, and 2.4 million based on CARI in 11 countries.
Frequency of update	Yearly publication in April/May. Mid-Year Update in September.	Twice a year (November and subsequent mid-year)	Twice a year (November and subsequent mid-year)
Publications/ references	Global Report on Food Crisis 2025	WFP 2025 Global Outlook, November 2024	WFP 2026 Global Outlook, November 2025