



Acute Food Insecurity in 2025

A Global Overview

KEY MESSAGES



In 2025, an estimated 318 million people across 68 countries are experiencing acute food insecurity, with 41.1 million in Emergency or worse (IPC/CH Phase 4+).¹



The apparent decrease from 343 million in 2024 to 318 million in 2025 at the global level is primarily due to reduced country coverage and data availability. It does not reflect an actual improvement in food security.



The number of people facing catastrophic hunger (IPC Phase 5) remains alarmingly high in 2025, exceeding 1 million.



In 2025, Phase 5 populations were located in Palestine (Gaza Strip), Sudan, South Sudan, Yemen, Haiti, and Mali - underscoring the persistence and severity of food crises in fragile or conflict-affected contexts. Populations in Phase 5 are expected in Nigeria during the 2026 lean season.

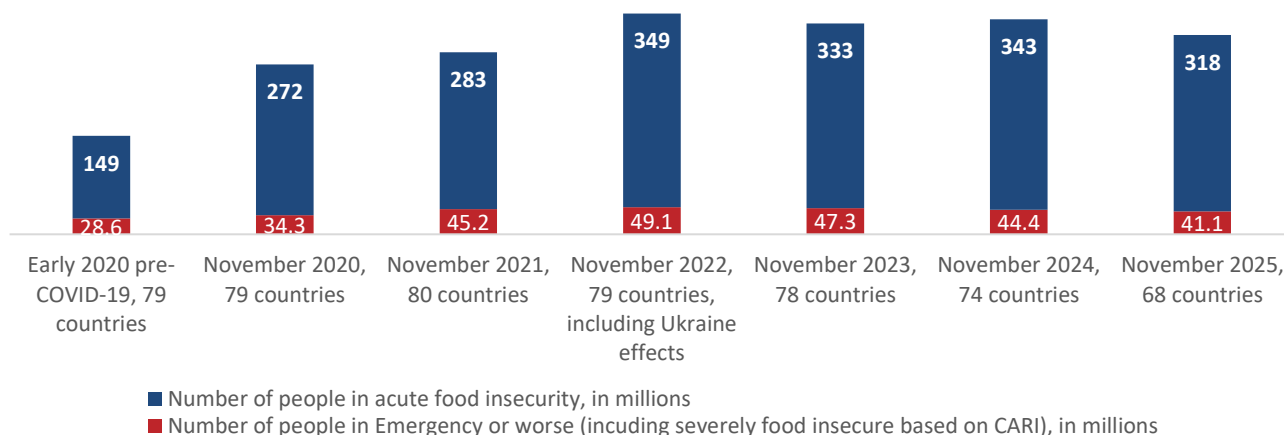


In 2025, Famine was confirmed in parts of Palestine (Gaza Strip) and Sudan, while some areas of South Sudan continue to face a risk of Famine.



The continued prevalence of Emergency (IPC/CH Phase 4) and Famine/Catastrophe (IPC/CH Phase 5) conditions over time underscores the critical need for sustained humanitarian interventions. Additionally, improving data coverage remains essential for understanding and responding to these crises effectively.

Figure 1: Acute Food Insecurity over time: 2020-2025



Source: November 2025 Global Outlook. Data refers to the globally-aggregated peak data per year.

¹ IPC/CH Phase 4+, including severely food insecure based on CARI.

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY IN 2025

Figure 2: Countries with highest number of acutely food insecure people (IPC/CH Phase 3, 4, 5), in millions

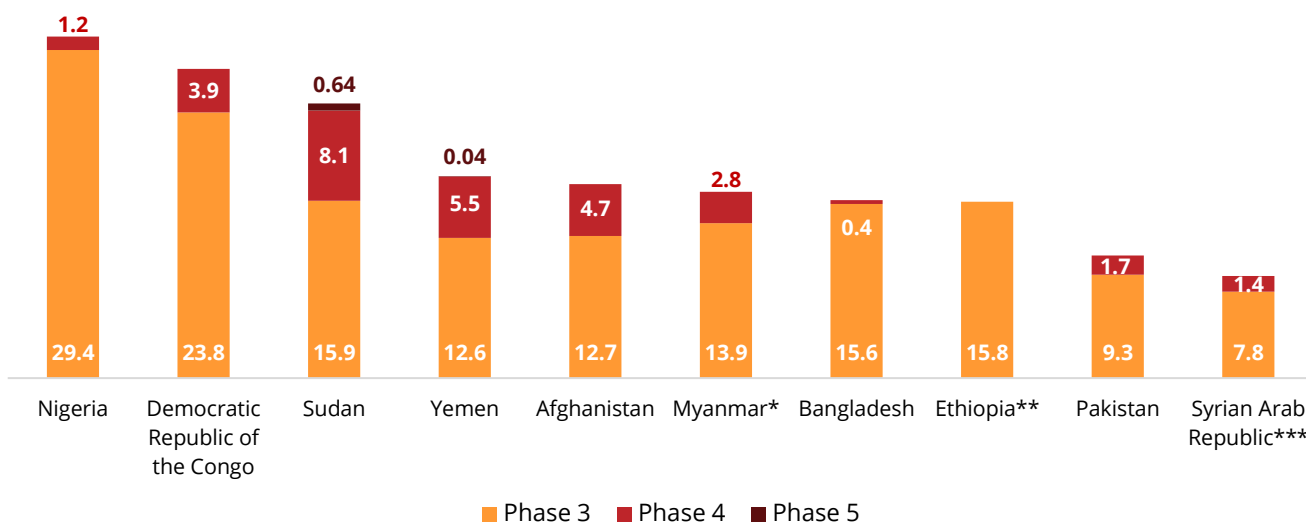
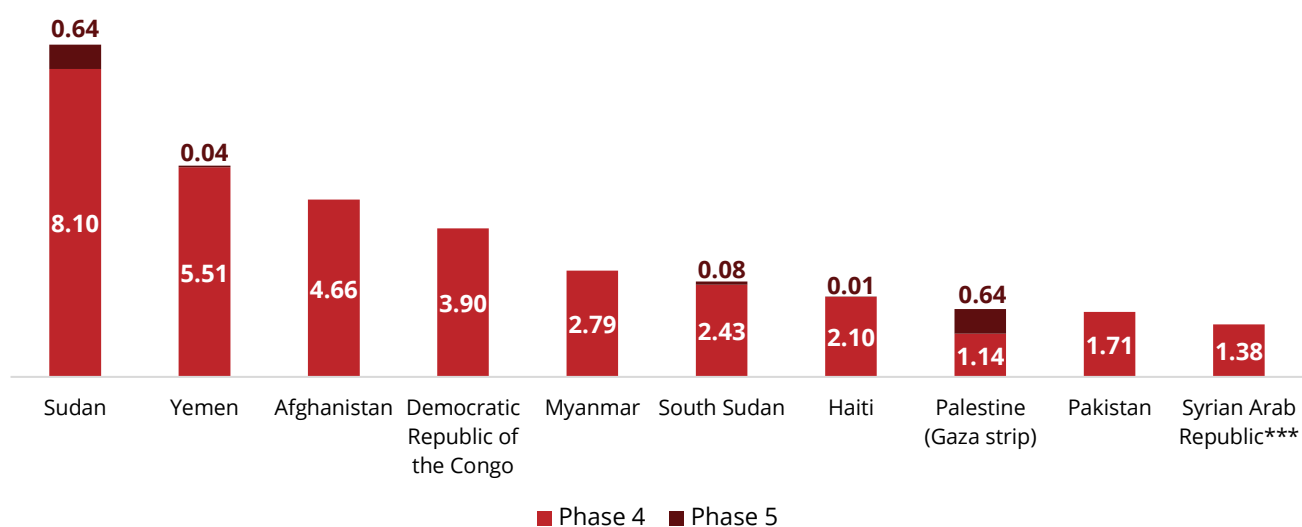


Figure 3: Countries with highest number of populations in Emergency or worse (IPC/CH Phase 4 and 5), in millions



Source: IPC/CH and equivalent data sources. Data refers to 2025 peak data. *Myanmar: update of the previous analysis conducted under the HNRP to reflect the impact of the earthquake and significant reductions in humanitarian funding. ***Ethiopia: data based on HNRP, no disaggregation available into severity Phases. ***Syrian Arab Republic: data based on WFP's CARL. Data is from 2024, no peak data is yet available for 2025.



DRIVERS OF ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY IN 2025



Conflict remains a key driver of food insecurity. 70 percent of acutely food insecure people live in fragile or conflict-affected situations, with armed conflict nearly doubling since 2019. For 44% of the acutely food insecure populations, conflict or insecurity is the main driver.



Economic headwinds and persistent uncertainty continue to undermine global food security. Weak economic growth, and high local food prices – combined with mounting debt – are amplifying vulnerabilities and restricting access to food in many countries.



Extreme weather in MENA, Afghanistan, and Yemen has cut crop production. La Niña is expected to worsen drought conditions in the Horn of Africa and Middle East; floods and conflict threaten crops elsewhere, such as in South Sudan.

Share of acutely food insecure people living in countries with the following main driver



Conflict/Insecurity: 44%



Economic shocks: 27%



Weather extremes: 29%

Source: November 2025 Global Outlook food security data. Data refers to 2025 peak data. Information on main drivers come from 2025 GRFC (with updates).

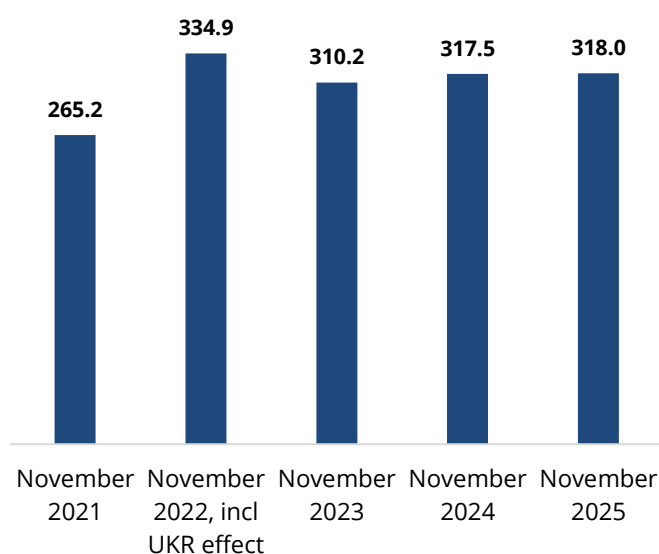
ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY OVER TIME

Acute food insecurity remains at persistently high levels globally. The apparent decrease from 343 million in 2024 to 318 million in 2025 at the global level is primarily due to **reduced country coverage and data availability**. It does not reflect an actual improvement in food security [see Figure 4].

When compared to 2024 data, the **largest deteriorations** in Phase 4+ occurred in **DRC, Mozambique, Yemen, and Myanmar**, with each country seeing an increase of more than 0.5 million people affected [see Figure 5].

The number of people living in **IPC 5 conditions** (Catastrophe or Famine) remains high in 2025. **Famine** was confirmed in parts of Palestine (Gaza Strip) and Sudan, with a **risk of Famine** existing in some areas of South Sudan [see Figure 6].

Figure 4: Comparable trends: Acute Food Insecurity in the 68 countries included in all editions, in millions

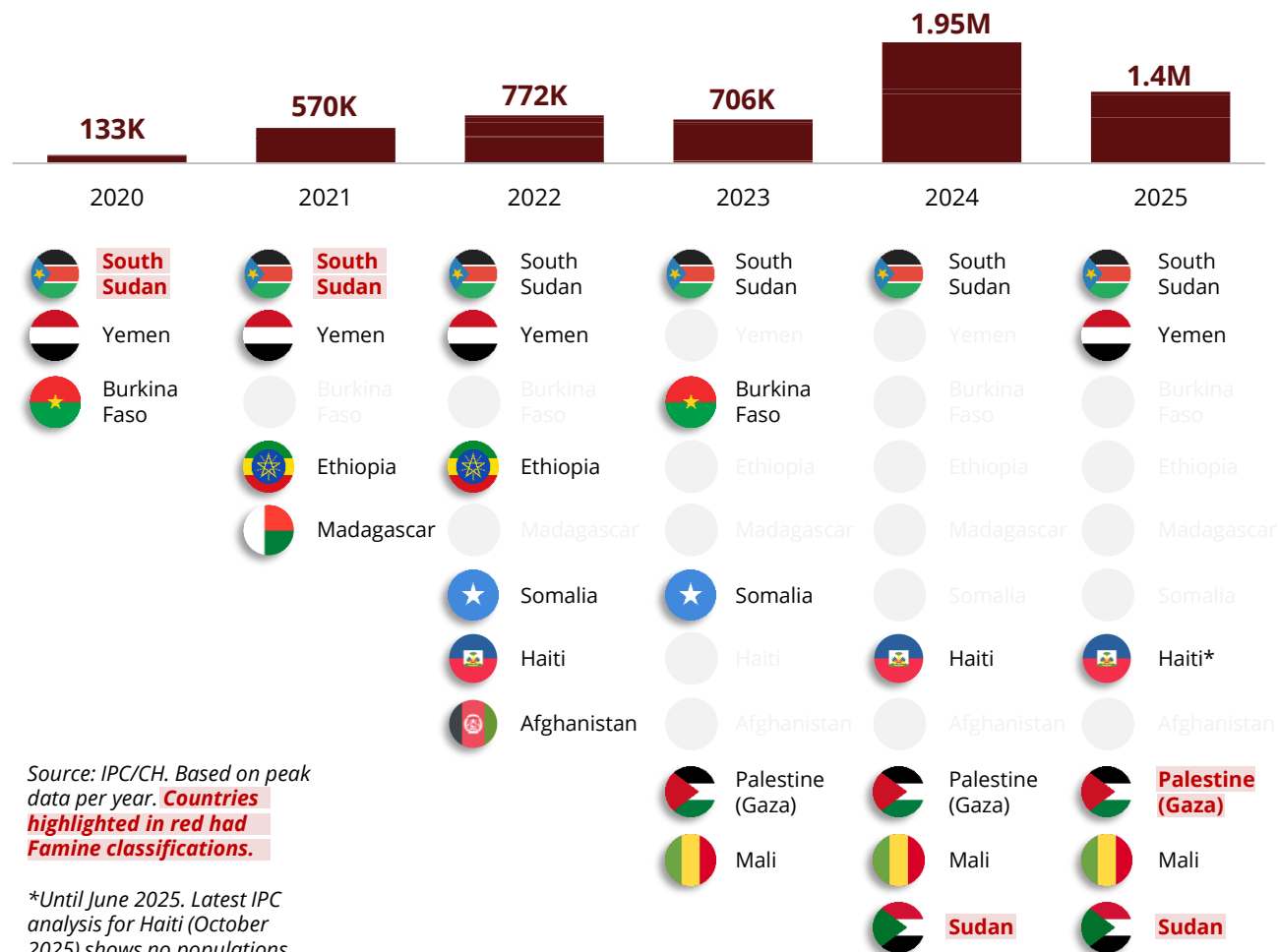


Source: November 2025 Global Outlook. Data refers to the globally-aggregated peak data per year. It compares the 68 countries included in the November 2025 Global Outlook, for all years.



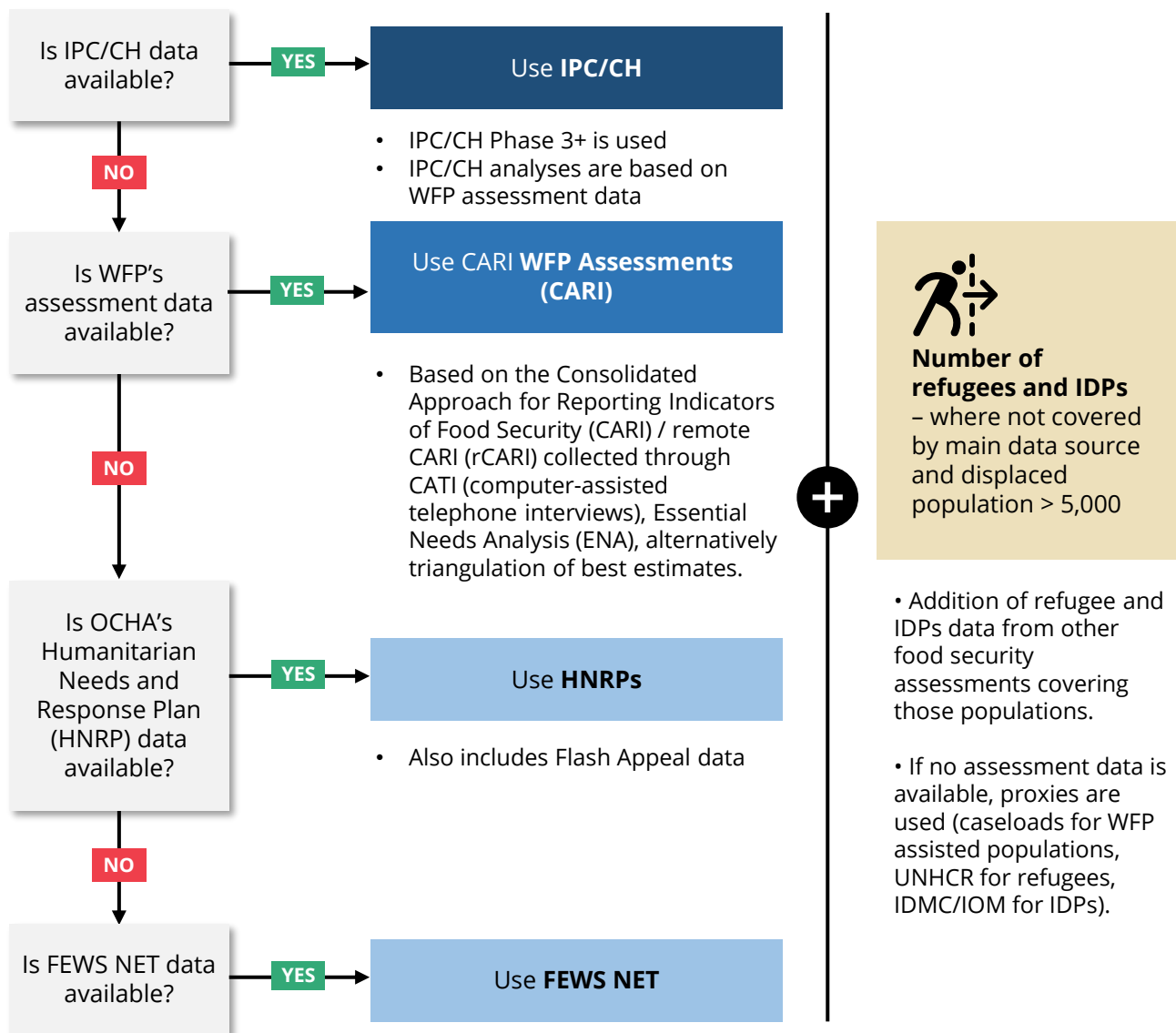
WFP/Farah Hasib Hazinayr

Figure 6: Catastrophic hunger (IPC/CH Phase 5) over time: 2020-2025



METHODOLOGY

Data sources:



Peak data:

As in the Global Report on Food Crises, the WFP number of acutely food insecure people is based on the **peak methodology**. WFP uses peak numbers for the current year, where available.

Cut-off date for this analysis was 16 December 2025. Updates for 2025 for some countries are expected after this date.

EXPLORE VAM DATA AND METHODOLOGY

- ✓ Explore the data in [DataViz](#)
- ✓ Check out the [methodology](#) and the [explanation of different acute food insecurity numbers](#)
- ✓ Have a look at the [available data pipelines](#) and download options (internal)
- ✓ You can find additional analysis on the [APP-FA Acute Food Insecurity Dashboard](#) (internal)

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