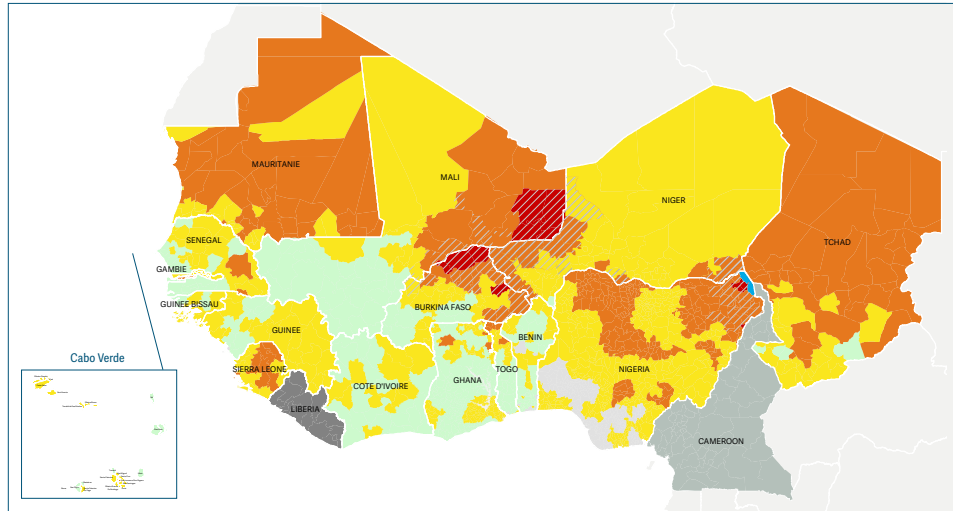


# Regional report on food and nutrition security for West Africa and the Sahel 2024 | In brief

Benin | Burkina Faso | Cabo Verde | Chad | Cote D'Ivoire | Gambia | Ghana | Guinea | Guinea-Bissau | Liberia | Mali | Mauritania | Niger | Nigeria | Senegal | Sierra Leone | Togo



## Projected acute food insecurity and nutrition situation, June–August 2024



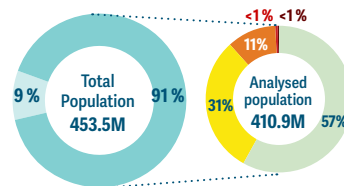
The result of a partnership between the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) and the Food Security Information Network (FSIN), this report on food security and nutrition in West Africa and the Sahel provides timely and reliable data needed to address growing food security and nutrition challenges in the region.

The food and nutritional situation is worrying for the 2024 lean season. Even though the number of people in the highest phases has significantly decreased in several countries since the 2023 peak, the aggregate number and percentage of people in CH Phase 3 or above are projected to be the highest ever recorded in CH history due to the interaction between conflict and civil insecurity, economic shocks, weather extremes, underlying poverty, and other vulnerability factors.

**49.5M** people or 12% of the analysed population projected to be in CH Phase 3 or above in 16 countries

**126.6M** people or 31% of the analysed population projected to be in CH Phase 2

*Liberia did not conduct a CH analysis for June–August 2024. For Cabo Verde and the Gambia, the projections from the November 2023 analysis were used. For the Niger, an update to the projection was made in March 2024.*



## Acute food insecurity

**The March 2024 Cadre Harmonisé shows an increase in populations facing high levels of acute food insecurity, even during the post-harvest period.**

Around 35.3 million people, or 9 percent of the analysed population in 13 countries, faced high levels of acute food insecurity in March–May 2024. In the absence of appropriate interventions, this figure could reach around 49.5 million people, or 12 percent of the analysed population in 16 countries during the June–August 2024 lean period. The increase is attributable to expansion in the population analysed and the seasonality of food and nutrition insecurity.

For the period June – August 2024, nearly 2 600 people were projected in Catastrophe (CH Phase 5) in the Ménaka region in Mali. In Burkina Faso, the number of people in this phase has reduced from 42 700 in 2023 to zero in 2024 thanks to improved security facilitating humanitarian access.

The number of people in Emergency (CH Phase 4) was projected to reduce from 2.7 million in 15 countries during the 2023 lean period to 2.3 million in nine countries in 2024. Around 126.6 million people, or 31 percent of the analysed population in these 16 countries, were projected to be in Stressed (CH Phase 2) during June–August 2024.

**Acute food insecurity is rarely caused by a single shock or vulnerability, but rather by their interaction. The main contributing factors are:**

**Conflict and insecurity** are particularly concentrated in the Lake Chad Basin, northwest and north-central Nigeria and the Liptako Gourma border area of the central Sahel, which spreads towards the north of the coastal countries.

These situations have caused massive internal and cross-border displacement, disrupted agricultural and pastoral practices, and the functioning of markets and trade, and hampered the distribution of humanitarian aid.

**Economic shocks** are characterized by market disruptions, high inflation and weakened economic activity resulting from border closures between certain countries, depreciation of national currencies and increasing costs of fuel and agricultural inputs. These shocks particularly affected the coastal countries of the Gulf of Guinea, but also the countries affected by conflicts. The economic inability of poor households to access food results from a decline in their purchasing power.

**Extreme weather phenomena** such as erratic rains, floods and rainfall deficits have affected certain areas, particularly in Chad, the Niger and Nigeria, with an impact on crops and pastoral resources.

## Food availability in early 2024



The 2023–2024 cereal production in West Africa and the Sahel recorded a slight decline compared with the previous year and an increase of 4 percent compared with the average of the last five years.

Lower production compared with 2022–2023 is mainly attributable to climatic challenges and floods, which mainly affected Chad, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, the Niger and Nigeria.

During the first quarter of 2024, the supply of agricultural products on markets was overall satisfactory (although food prices remained high) except in conflict-affected areas and in Chad, the Niger and Nigeria, which experienced production declines. A seasonal decline in the supply of local food products is expected during the coming months, while demand will remain high due to the lean season.

A generally favourable season is expected in the Sudanese and Sahelian areas of West Africa and the Sahel, according to regional meteorological forums, with good prospects for the 2024–2025 agro-silvo-pastoral season. However, above-average rainfall and river flows are forecast in major river basins in the Sahel, leading to significant risks of flooding and disease in affected areas.



Pastoralism plays a vital role in the economic and environmental stability of the region, as well as in the food security and nutritional status of its people. But the combination of seasonal variations in rainfall, civil insecurity and restrictive policies are threatening the livelihoods of pastoral households and disrupting transhumance. The low availability and difficult access to essential resources such as water and pasture is contributing to the deterioration of food and nutrition security in the region for pastoral households and threatening regional stability.

## Displacement

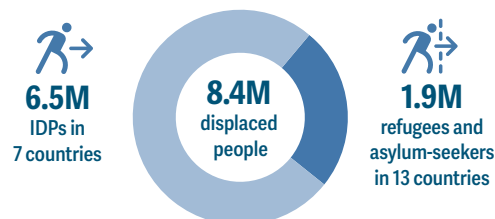


In the first quarter of 2024, approximately 8.4 million people were living in forced displacement, including 6.5 million internally displaced people in seven countries and 1.9 million refugees and asylum seekers in 13 countries.

The number of children displaced by violence in the Central Sahel, particularly in Burkina Faso, Mali and the Niger, has increased significantly over the past five years, from around 320 000 in 2019 to around 1.8 million in 2024, representing more than half of the 3.2 million forcibly displaced people in these three countries.

A year since the start of the conflict in the Sudan, Chad hosts the largest per capita population of refugees in Africa. Around 34 percent of the analysed refugee population are projected to face high levels of acute food insecurity in June–August 2024. The nutritional situation of children in Chad was estimated to be equally precarious in refugee camps and host communities.

### Number of forcibly displaced people, early 2024



Source: IOM, UNHCR, 2024.

## An extremely worrying child malnutrition crisis

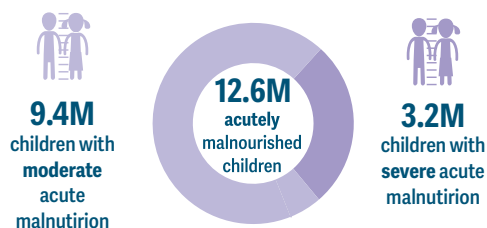


Around 12.6 million children under 5 years old were affected by acute malnutrition in 14 countries in 2023, 3.2 million by the most severe form. This represents a third of the total number of children suffering from acute malnutrition in the 32 food-crisis countries with nutrition data included in the GRFC 2024.

The nutritional situation is particularly precarious in conflict-affected zones of Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, the Niger and Nigeria where most of the areas analysed were classified in Critical (IPC AMN Phase 4) or Serious (IPC AMN Phase 3). Deteriorating food insecurity, due to conflict and households' economic difficulties, risks worsening child nutrition this year. According to an analysis by CILSS and WFP, at the start of 2024, a healthy diet cost up to six times more than an energy-based diet, up from three times more in 2023, constituting the main factor limiting access to nutritious food.

Other contributing factors to malnutrition were inadequate maternal and child-feeding practices, notably in Guinea, Mali, the Niger, the north-eastern states of Nigeria and Sierra Leone. Inadequate services, particularly health, water, hygiene and sanitation, result in a high prevalence of infectious diseases.

### Number of children under 5 years old with acute malnutrition in 14 countries, 2023



Sources: IPC AMN ; UNICEF/WFP.



1.5M pregnant and breastfeeding women with acute malnutrition in six countries, 2023

## Areas of intervention in 2024

In ten countries in the region, approximately 772.5 billion CFA francs are planned to assist more than 25 million vulnerable people in four areas of intervention identified following CH vulnerability analyses:

1. Food assistance aimed at improving access to food.
2. Assistance for malnourished children and women.
3. Interventions to support the livelihoods of people already affected by or at risk of food and nutritional insecurity.
4. Management and coordination of humanitarian actions.