Global Network Against Food Crises

INTEGRATED ACTIONS FOR LASTING SOLUTIONS

2023 FINANCING FLOWS AND FOOD CRISES REPORT

Analysis of humanitarian and development financing flows to food sectors in food crisis countries

Global Network Against Food Crises

INTEGRATED ACTIONS FOR LASTING SOLUTIONS

REQUIRED CITATION

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Acronyms

CH	Cadre Harmonisé
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 2019
CRS	Creditor Reporting System
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
FSIN	Food Security Information Network
FTS	Financial Tracking Service
IATI	International Aid Transparency Initiative
IDP	Internally displaced persons
IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

Executive Summary

The 2023 Financing Flows and Food Crises report reveals that food crisis countries and territories absorb a large proportion of overall external financing. Over the past seven years, these contexts absorbed three-quarters of global humanitarian allocations and almost a third of global development allocations.

The report highlights that the financing of food sectors in food crisis contexts is not successfully tackling acute food insecurity. The current trends in external financing fail to pave the way for sustainable improvements in food security. While 2022 saw a seven-year high in allocations to food sectors in food crisis countries and territories, acute food insecurity levels peaked in 2022, with an all-time high of 258 million people facing Crisis or worse conditions (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above or equivalent) in a total of 58 countries and territories.[1] Furthermore, it is expected that the 2022 record levels of humanitarian financing will not be sustained and a decrease is expected in 2023.

Humanitarian financing witnessed a significant increase of 52 percent from 2021, peaking at over USD 15 billion in 2022. Yet acute food insecurity continued to escalate due to consistently high numbers of people affected in some contexts, worsening situations in others, as well as increased analysis. Meanwhile, development assistance to food sectors remained stagnant at around USD 7 billion per year.

1 Food Security Information Network (FSIN) and Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAFC). 2023. Global Report on Food Crises 2023. Rome.

Allocations to food sectors in food crisis contexts for humanitarian and development assistance remains marginal when situated against global external financing. Global development financing tends to be more than six times higher than its humanitarian counterpart, and while a significant amount of it is directed to food crisis contexts, just 3 percent goes to food sectors in these countries and territories, compared to 32 percent of global humanitarian financing. This implies that the financing of food sectors in food crisis contexts remains part of a predominantly humanitarian portfolio, even if food crises are more and more protracted in nature, having lasted over seven years.

Humanitarian funding allocations continued to be highly concentrated in regions with the highest acute food insecurity needs. In 2022, the ten largest recipients of humanitarian allocations included some of the largest food crises in the world and absorbed almost 71 percent of all humanitarian allocations to food sectors in food crisis contexts. In terms of development financing, the ten largest recipients are all countries facing protracted food crises and absorbed 46 percent of all development financing. Moreover, the record high of humanitarian funding in 2022 was primarily driven by just seven countries, while development assistance saw a more balanced increase from 2021 to 2022.

Although there has been a significant increase in humanitarian financing in 2022, the proportion allocated to emergency agriculture interventions remained largely unchanged. Zooming in how these allocations to food sectors in food crisis contexts are disbursed, just 4 percent of this humanitarian financing is directed to emergency agriculture interventions. This is in spite of the sector being the main source of food and income for at least two-thirds of those experiencing high acute food insecurity. While development allocations to agriculture are better represented in these contexts, they still represent on average just 57 percent of the 3 percent of global development funding.

Long-term investments should create an enabling environment for sustainable development in food crisis contexts, so that humanitarian assistance can effectively respond to immediate needs without being overstretched in addressing protracted emergencies. This would allow for an appropriate layering and sequencing between humanitarian and development financing to address the root causes of acute food insecurity and reduce humanitarian needs.

Particularly in countries with protracted crises and recurrent famine-risk contexts, where humanitarian assistance prevails as the primary source of food sector funding and development financing remains marginal, greater coherence is essential to build stability and prevent severe food insecurity outcomes in the future.

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Introduction

The 2023 Global Report on Food Crises revealed that in 2022, nearly 258 million people in 58 countries and territories were in Crisis or worse acute food insecurity (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification [IPC]/ Cadre Harmonisé [CH] Phase 3 or above, or the equivalent) – up from 193 million in 53 countries and territories in 2021.[2] This represents the highest on record since the Global Report on Food Crises started reporting these data in 2016, even while considering an increase in the population analysed. These food crises are the result of interconnected, mutually reinforcing drivers – conflict and insecurity, economic shocks and weather extremes, as well as structural vulnerabilities – such as poverty, fragile agrifood systems and rural marginalization. In 2022, these key drivers were associated with lingering socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19, the knock-on effects of the war in Ukraine and repeated droughts and other weather extremes. According to the Mid-Year Update based on data available as of early August 2023 for 48 of the 73 countries and territories selected for analysis in the 2023 Global Report on Food Crises, around 238 million people faced high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above or equivalent).[3]

The Financing Flows and Food Crises report serves as a companion piece to the Global Report on Food Crises by providing an evidence-based snapshot of humanitarian and development financing trends to food sectors in food crisis contexts. A better understanding of external financing[4] trends is essential to inform decision-making and promote policy dialogues to ensure improved coherence and coordination among partners. While humanitarian assistance remains critical to providing rapid support to save lives and livelihoods, and alleviate human suffering, more coordinated efforts are needed to address the root causes of food crises that could ultimately reduce the need for humanitarian assistance.

2 FSIN and GNAFC. 2023. Global Report on Food Crises 2023. Rome.

3 FSIN and GNAFC. 2023. Global Report on Food Crises 2023 Mid-Year Update. Rome.

4 See Glossary of terms for the definition of external financing.

External financing to food sectors: what does it mean?

The analysis focuses on 'external financing' to the food sectors, referring both to data on development assistance and humanitarian assistance. However, it is important to note that it does not take into account other important resources such as domestic resources, foreign direct investment and private sector financing. It is also important to recognise that domestic financing is becoming increasingly important in many countries and that large investments are becoming more central as a development tool. The reason for excluding these flows lies in the challenge of obtaining consistent data to ensure comparable information between countries over time for all countries covered by the analysis.

While it is recognised that improving food security and strengthening food systems requires multi-dimensional efforts, the analysis focuses on a selection of sectoral domains as reported on the OECD Creditor Reporting System (CRS) and the OCHA Financial Tracking System (FTS), referred to as "food sectors" throughout the report.

For humanitarian assistance, the food sectors include food assistance (cash and in-kind), emergency agriculture and nutrition. Food assistance includes disbursements aimed at safeguarding or improving food security through the provision of in-kind food assistance or in the form of cash transfers. Emergency agriculture includes interventions aimed at safeguarding or improving food security through increased food production. Nutrition includes disbursements to assistance aimed at safeguarding or improving the nutritional and health status of beneficiaries. Other humanitarian sectors include health, education, camp coordination and management, water, sanitation and hygiene, shelter, protection, logistics and emergency telecommunications, among others.

For development assistance, food sectors include agriculture, basic nutrition, development food assistance,[5] fisheries, food safety and quality, food security policy and administrative management, forestry, household food security programmes, rural development and school feeding for development assistance. Other development sectors comprise government and civil society, infrastructure and services, energy, banking and financial services, industry, trade, industry, health, education, among others.

Finally, it should be noted that there are no standard protocols for reporting on resilience interventions. Therefore, as they are reported in both humanitarian and development datasets without a clear and rigorous label, it is not possible to provide a specific breakdown.

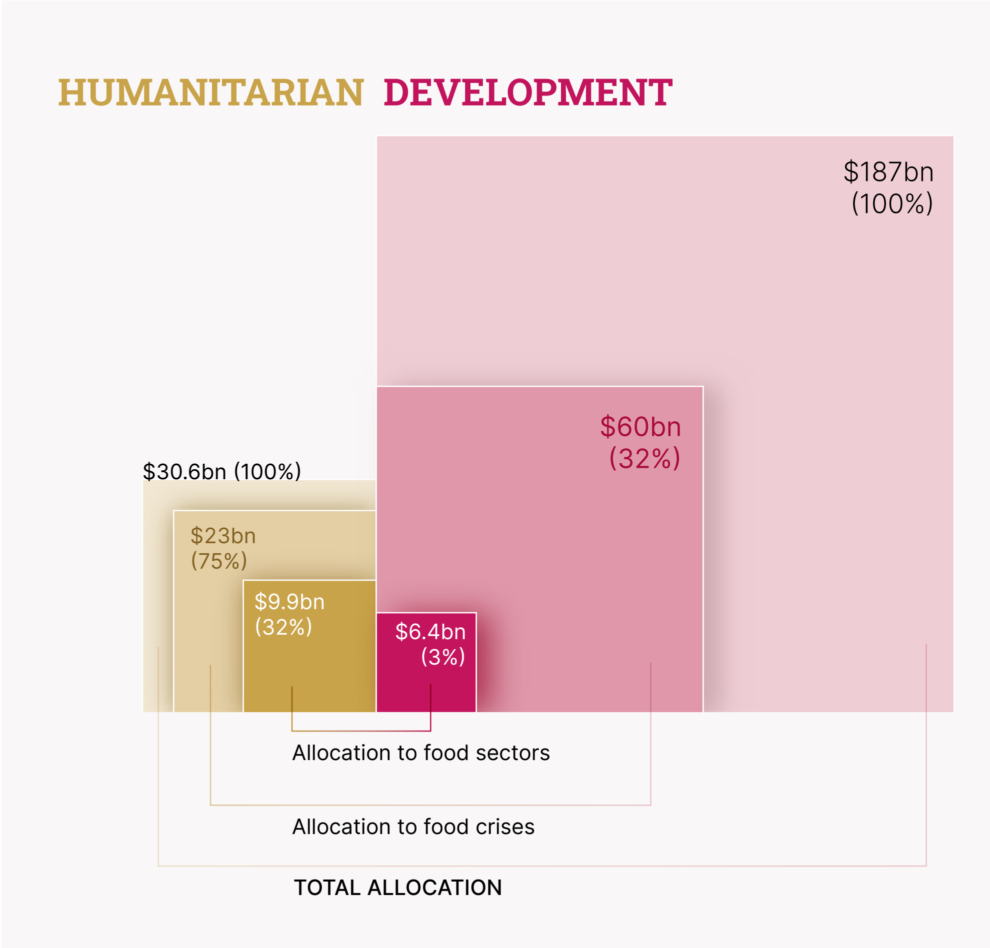
5 Development food assistance supports lasting physical assets or human capital that benefit poor, food-insecure households and their communities. It is intended for social protection programmes and long-term household food security. It refers to the CRS purpose code (52010). It does not include official development assistance reported as humanitarian aid, which is coded under a separate group of purpose codes. For more details, see Glossary: External financing – Development assistance.

Analysis of overall external financing landscape

While development allocations to countries facing food crises are significantly larger than humanitarian assistance, on average only 3 percent (USD 6.4 billion) of development funding in these contexts goes to food sectors, compared to 32 percent (USD 9.9 billion) of humanitarian assistance.

Financing of food sectors in food crisis contexts remains part of a predominantly humanitarian portfolio and development investments are less prominent in comparison, even when food crises are of a protracted nature.

Figure 1: Humanitarian (2016–2022) and development (2016–2021) assistance (average, USD billions): total allocation; allocations to food crisis countries/territories; allocations to food sectors in food crisis countries/territories.



The analysis presented in this report focuses on disbursements to food sectors in countries and territories with food crises covered by the Global Report on Food Crises. However, to provide a comprehensive overview of the financial landscape globally and in food crisis countries and territories, these numbers need to be situated against global humanitarian and development disbursements.[6]

From 2016 to 2021, global development allocations represented the bulk of external financing and were on average more than six times larger than the average global humanitarian allocations for the same years. Looking at the countries and territories included in the 2023 Global Report on Food Crises, and accounting for all sectors, on average 75 percent of all humanitarian assistance (an average of USD 23 billion per year between 2016 and 2022) and 32 percent of all development assistance (an average of USD 60.1 billion per year between 2016 and 2021) was allocated to food crisis countries[7] (Figure 1).

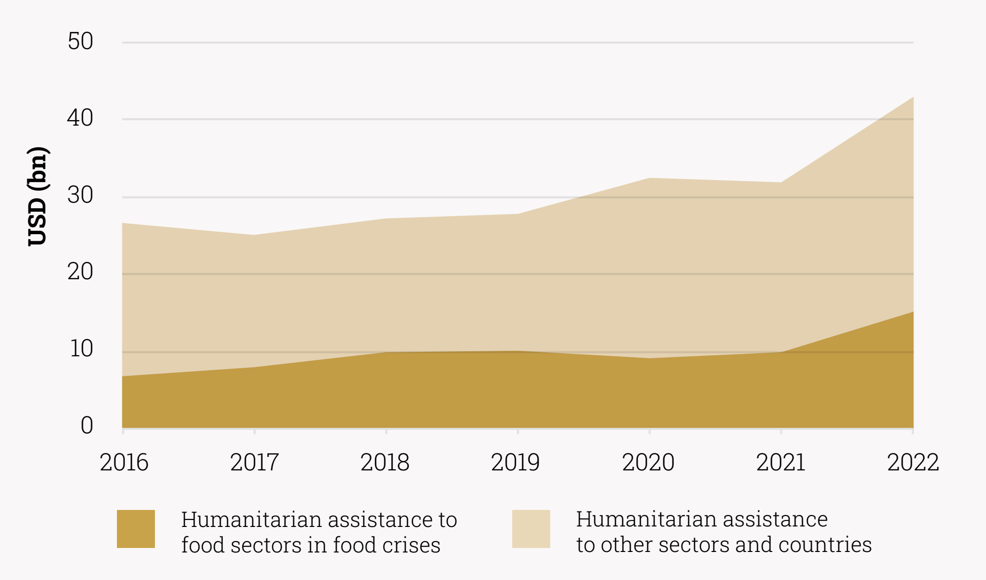
6 Humanitarian assistance is intended to save lives, alleviate suffering and maintain human dignity during and after natural disasters and human-made crises, as well as to prevent the worst outcomes and strengthen preparedness for such situations. The primary source of data on international humanitarian assistance is the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Financial Tracking Service (FTS), in particular commitments and paid contributions to food sectors. Development assistance is referred to as "flows to countries and territories on the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) list of official development assistance recipients [...] provided by official agencies and administered with the promotion of the economic development and welfare of developing countries as its main objective; and [that] are concessional in character". The main source for tracking official development assistance data is the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) DAC Creditor Reporting System (CRS), specifically the gross disbursement to food sectors. For more detailed definitions of humanitarian and development financing, see Glossary: External financing.

7 Annually, development assistance covers 45 to 49 food crises, while humanitarian assistance covers 48 to 58 food crises. This is because it cannot be assumed that development assistance in some very localised food crises (e.g. refugee populations) is directed to these specific population groups/areas. Greater data granularity is needed to reduce this caveat. More information can be found in the Glossary.

Thus, food crisis countries absorb proportionally larger shares of total humanitarian allocations compared to development assistance. However, development allocations to food crisis countries are significantly larger than humanitarian allocations (USD 60 billion and USD 23 billion on annual average since 2016, respectively). When considering the assistance specifically to food sectors in food crisis countries, these absorb about one-third (32 percent) of all humanitarian allocations and just 3 percent of all development allocations (Figure 1).

Figure 2 below shows the trend of global humanitarian assistance between 2016 and 2022. In 2022, the overall increase in humanitarian asssistance was largely driven by increased allocations to food sectors in food crisis countries.

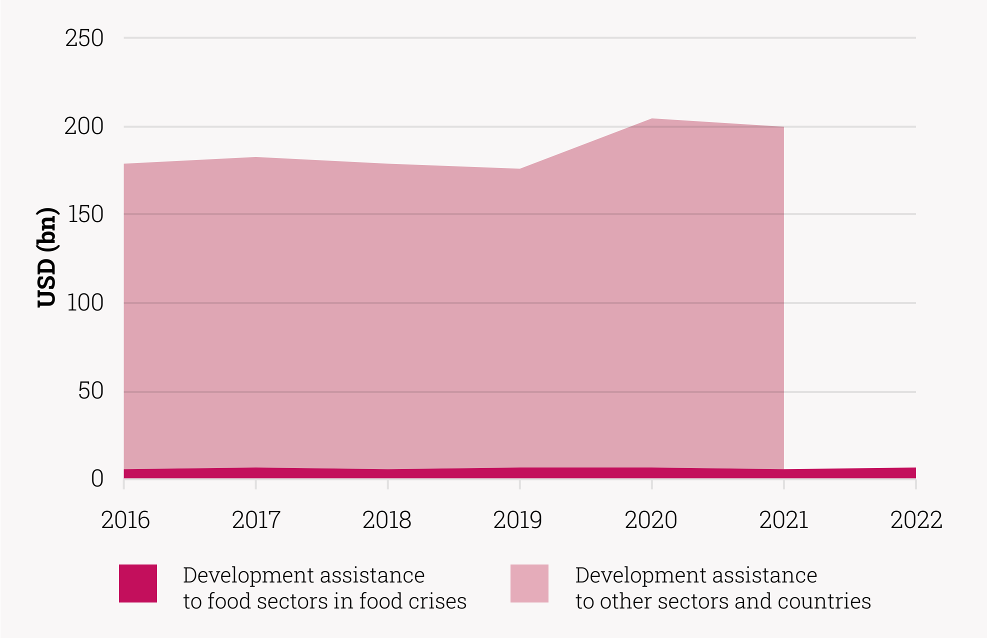
Figure 2: Humanitarian assistance to food sectors in food crisis countries/territories against other humanitarian assistance (2016–2022, USD billions).



The trend of development assistance for the same period shows that allocations to food sectors in food crisis countries remained marginal (Figure 3).

This implies that the financing of food sectors in food crisis contexts remains part of a predominantly humanitarian portfolio and development investments are less prominent in comparison, even when food crises are of a protracted nature and require structural, layered and sequenced financing within overall humanitarian–development synergies to be effectively addressed, as demonstrated in the following sections.

Figure 3: Development assistance to food sectors in food crisis countries/territories against other development assistance (2016–2021, 2022 preliminary data, USD billions).



Trends of financing to food sectors in food crisis contexts

In 2022, humanitarian financing to food crises reached a record of over USD 15 billion. However, the number of people in acute food insecurity has continued to worsen throughout 2022. Development assistance to food sectors in these contexts has remained largely unchanged – at around USD 6 billion to USD 7 billion per year.

In 2022, acute food insecurity levels reached a record high of 258 million people facing Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above or equivalent) conditions in 58 countries and territories due to persistently high numbers in some countries/territories, worsening situations in others, as well as increased analysis.[8] High levels of acute food insecurity are mainly driven by interconnected, mutually reinforcing drivers – conflict and insecurity, economic shocks and weather extremes, along with the remaining impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the global impact of the war in Ukraine. In response, humanitarian assistance to food sectors in 58 countries and territories with food crises peaked at USD 15.1 billion in 2022 (Figure 4). This represents the highest allocation of humanitarian food assistance recorded in the past seven years as resource partners worked to keep pace with rising needs.

After the decrease in funding witnessed in 2020, humanitarian assistance to food sectors in food crisis countries increased over the following two years: by almost 9 percent between 2020 and 2021; and by over half (52 percent) between 2021 and 2022. The spike in humanitarian assistance in 2022 is considerable as it represents a 68 percent increase compared to the average of the previous six years (2016–2021). However, preliminary data from January to August 2023 suggests that the funding records of 2022 will not be sustained in 2023, and a decrease can be expected.

Development assistance to food sectors in food crisis countries reached a peak in 2019 (USD 7.2 billion) and then started to follow a decreasing trend until 2021 (with a 16 percent decline). Between 2020 and 2021, the decline could be explained by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to a decrease in funding for needs that were not directly related to COVID-19, including food sectors in food crisis countries.

8 FSIN and GNAFC. 2023. Global Report on Food Crises 2023. Rome.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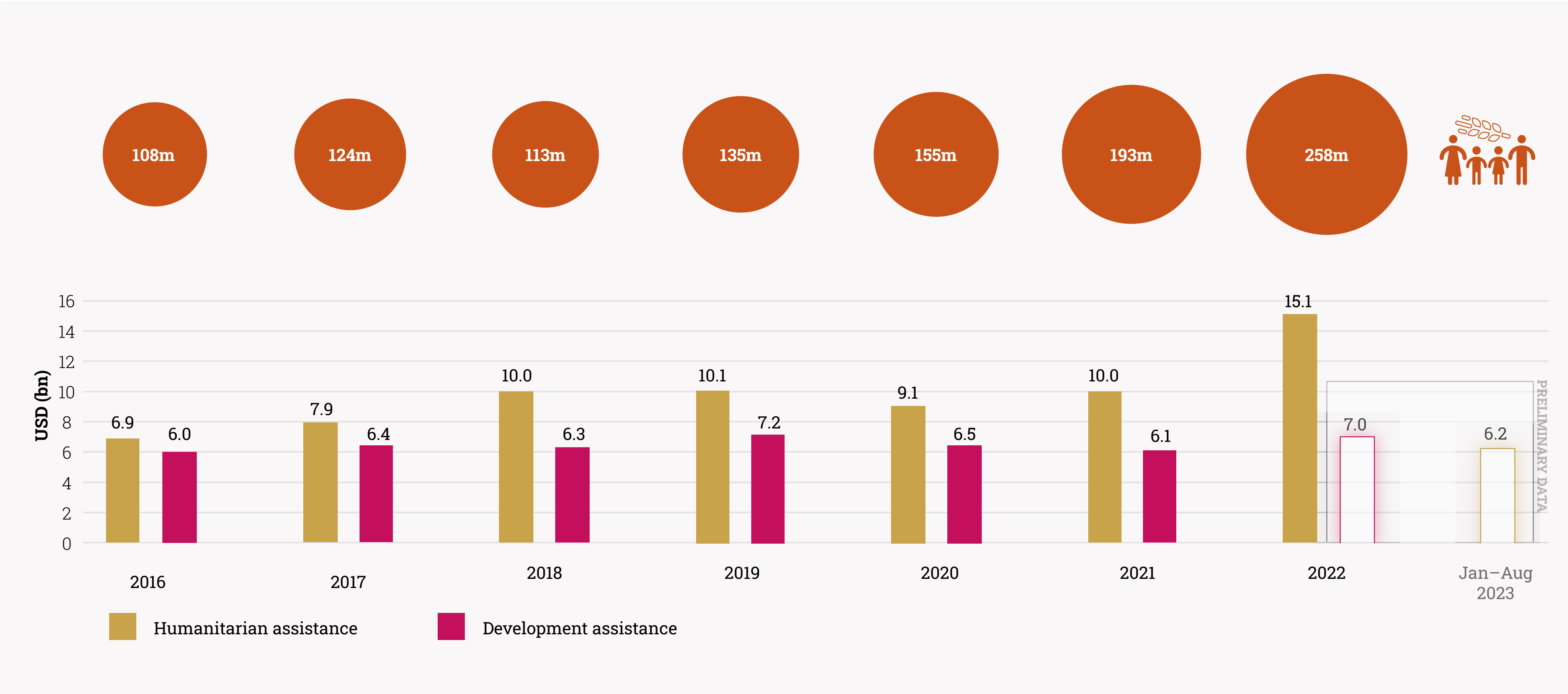
According to preliminary data for 2022, development assistance registered an increase of 16 percent from 2021 to 2022, reaching pre-COVID-19 levels (USD 7 billion). This can also be explained by the fact that more countries were categorized as food crises by the 2023 Global Report on Food Crises.[10] However, the overall trend of development assistance since 2016 has remained largely unchanged, situated at around USD 6 billion to USD 7 billion.

10 The following countries were newly categorized as food crises in 2022 and included for analysis of development assistance: Cabo Verde, Dominican Republic, Ghana, Lebanon (expansion from refugee population to whole country), Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Togo, Ukraine. From the 2021 list, Benin, Cote d'Ivoire and Guinea-Bissau were no longer categorized as food crises.

Figure 4: Number of people (millions) in IPC/CH Phase 3 or above,[9] humanitarian (2016–2022 and January–August 2023 preliminary data) and development assistance (2016–2021 and 2022 preliminary data) to food sectors in food crisis countries/territories (USD billions).



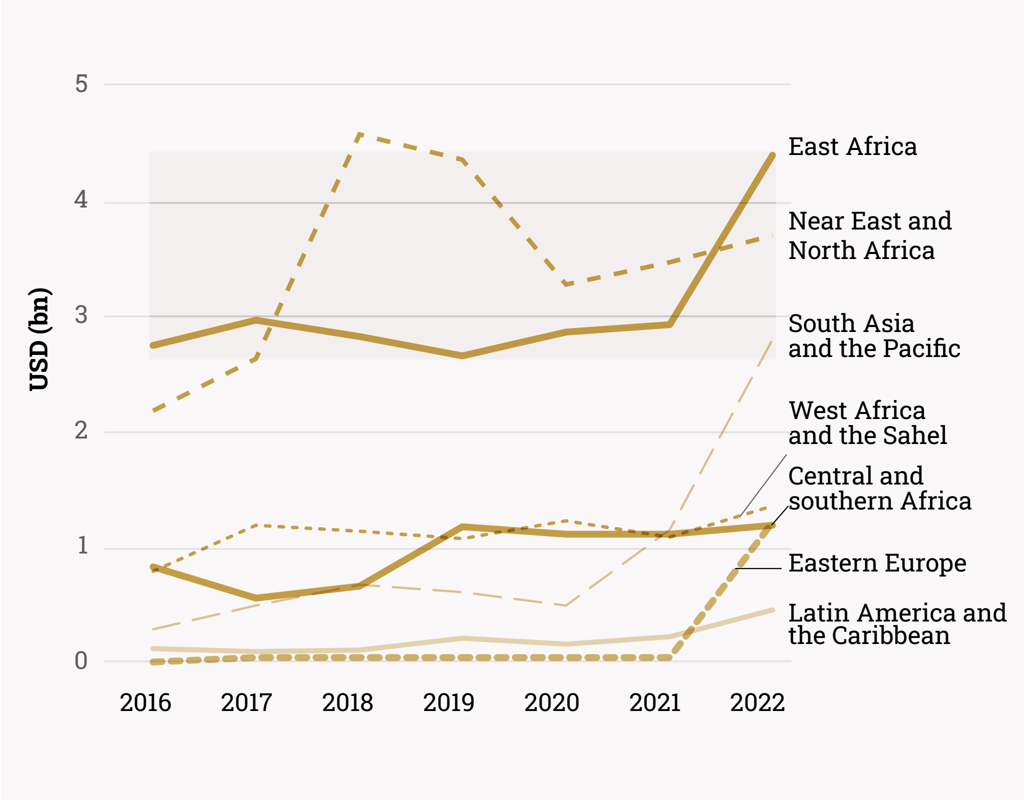
9 FSIN and GNAFC. 2017–2023. Global Report on Food Crises 2023. Rome.

Geographical breakdown of financing to food sectors in food crisis contexts

Humanitarian funding allocations continue to be concentrated in regions with the highest acute food insecurity needs: financing to seven countries drove the increase in humanitarian assistance in 2022. The increase in development assistance was more evenly balanced.

Although the seven-year high in humanitarian financing to food sectors in food crisis countries was felt across all regions to varying extents, the bulk of the increase (78 percent) was concentrated in just seven countries across the following regions: East Africa (Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and the Sudan), Eastern Europe (Ukraine), South Asia (Afghanistan) and the Near East and North Africa (the Syrian Arab Republic) (Figure 5).

Figure 5: Humanitarian assistance to food sectors in food crisis countries/territories per region (2016–2022, USD billions).



As for development assistance, preliminary data suggests that the overall increase of total allocations to food sectors in food crisis contexts from 2021 to 2022 was shared among all regions, with the exception of West Africa and the Sahel, which registered a minor decrease of USD 155 million (or 8 percent), and Latin America and the Caribbean, where allocations stagnated (Figure 6).

Figure 6: Development assistance to food sectors in food crisis countries/territories per region (2016-2021 and 2022 preliminary data, USD billions).

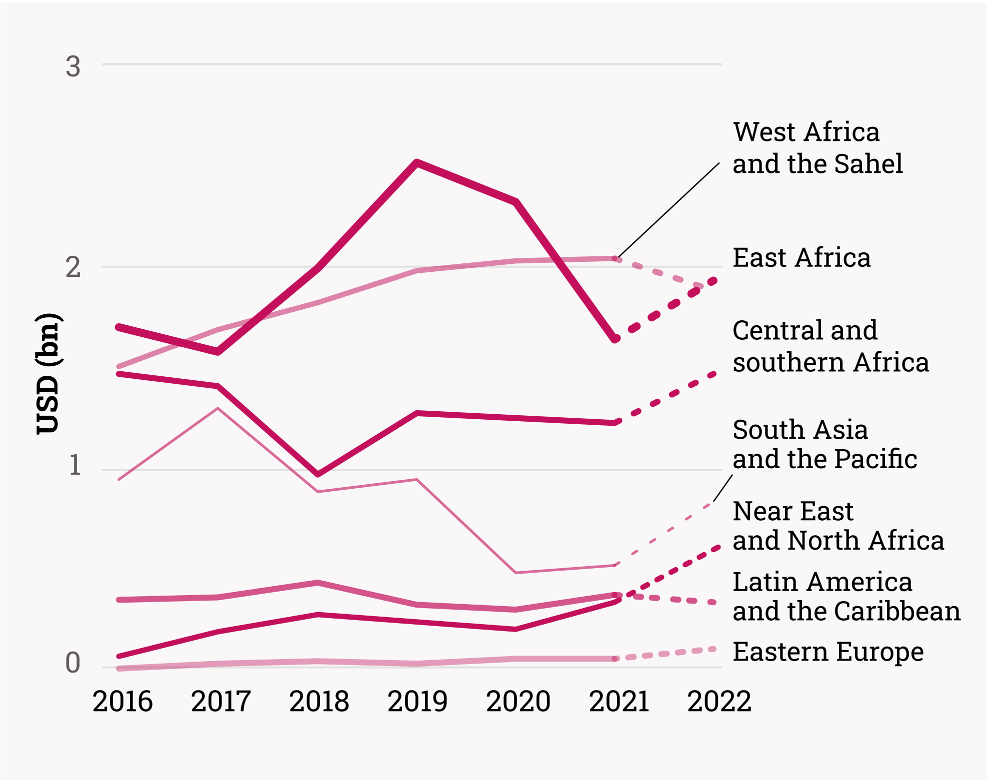
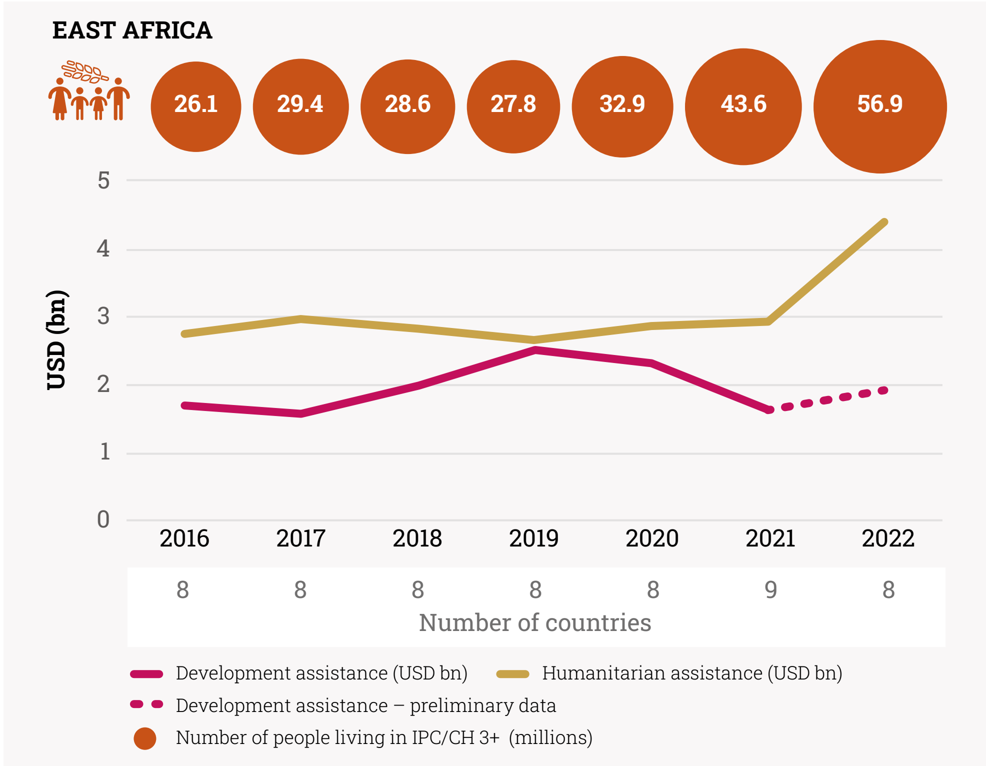


Figure 7: East Africa | Millions of people in IPC/CH Phase 3 or above, humanitarian and development assistance to food sectors in food crisis countries/territories.



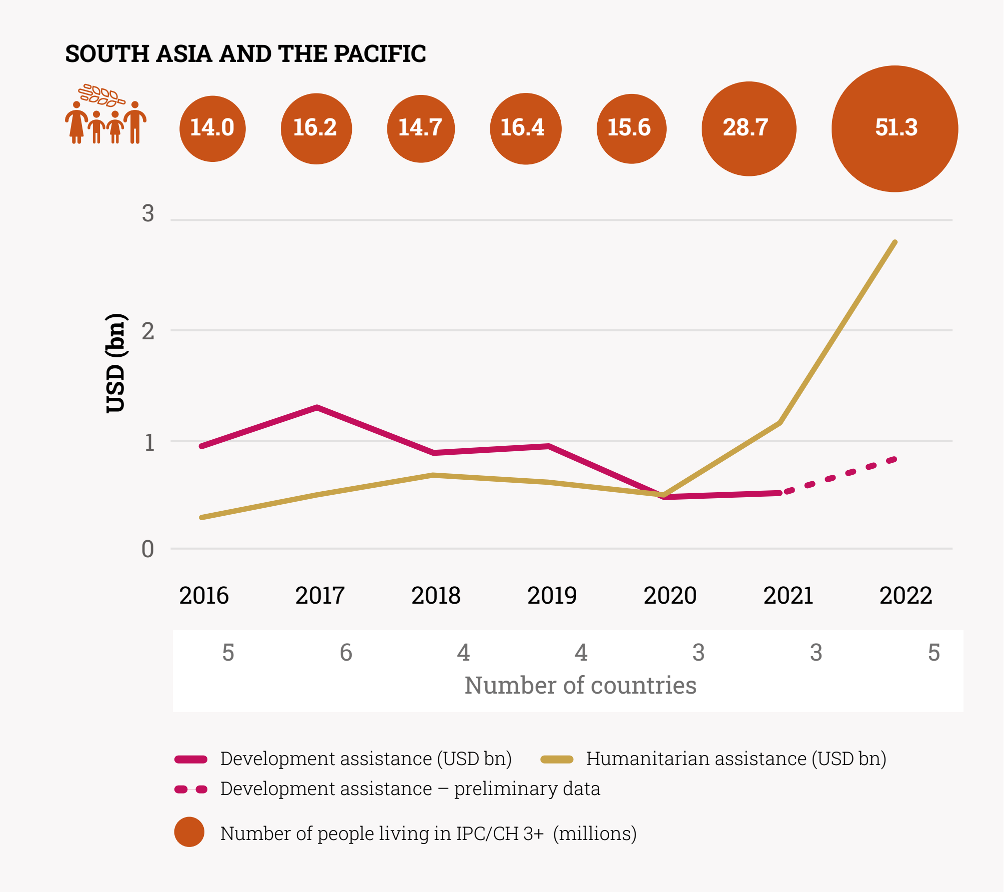
In 2022, East Africa was the region with the highest number of acutely food insecure people: 56.8 million people faced Crisis or worse food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 and above) in eight[11] food crisis countries. The number of people

11 Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, the Sudan and Uganda. FSIN and GNAFC. 2023. Global Report on Food Crises 2023. Rome.

facing high levels of acute food insecurity increased by 30 percent between 2021 and 2022 mostly due to the increase in analysed population, as well as the compounding effects of multiple shocks, including drought, macroeconomic challenges and conflict. The region also received the most humanitarian assistance to food sectors. At USD 4.4 billion, equalling 29 percent of total humanitarian assistance allocation that year, East Africa saw an increase of USD 1.5 billion from 2021. This was in line with an observed deterioration in acute food insecurity and in response to the unprecedented three-year drought in the Horn of Africa, which drove about 33 million people into acute food insecurity in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia.[12] This was a significant increase compared to previous years of stagnant allocations with an average of USD 2.8 billion from 2016 to 2021. According to preliminary data, East Africa received the most development assistance in 2022, amounting to USD 1.9 billion, representing 27 percent of global development allocations. This marked an increase of USD 286 million from 2021.

South Asia was the second most-affected region by acute food insecurity in 2022 with around 51.3 million people facing Crisis or worse levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 and above) in five countries and territories.[13] The increase from 2021 was largely due to the inclusion of Myanmar and Sri Lanka, as well as to the devastating floods in Pakistan. That year, humanitarian allocations amounted to USD 2.8 billion, or 18 percent of global allocations. This was a substantial increase of almost USD 1.7 billion from 2021 and compared with previous years, when the average allocations were around USD 0.6 billion, mainly in response to the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. In 2022, USD 817.5 million was allocated to this region in development assistance, about 12 percent of total development financing.

Figure 8: South Asia and The Pacific | Millions of people in IPC/CH Phase 3 or above, humanitarian and development assistance to food sectors in food crisis countries/territories.



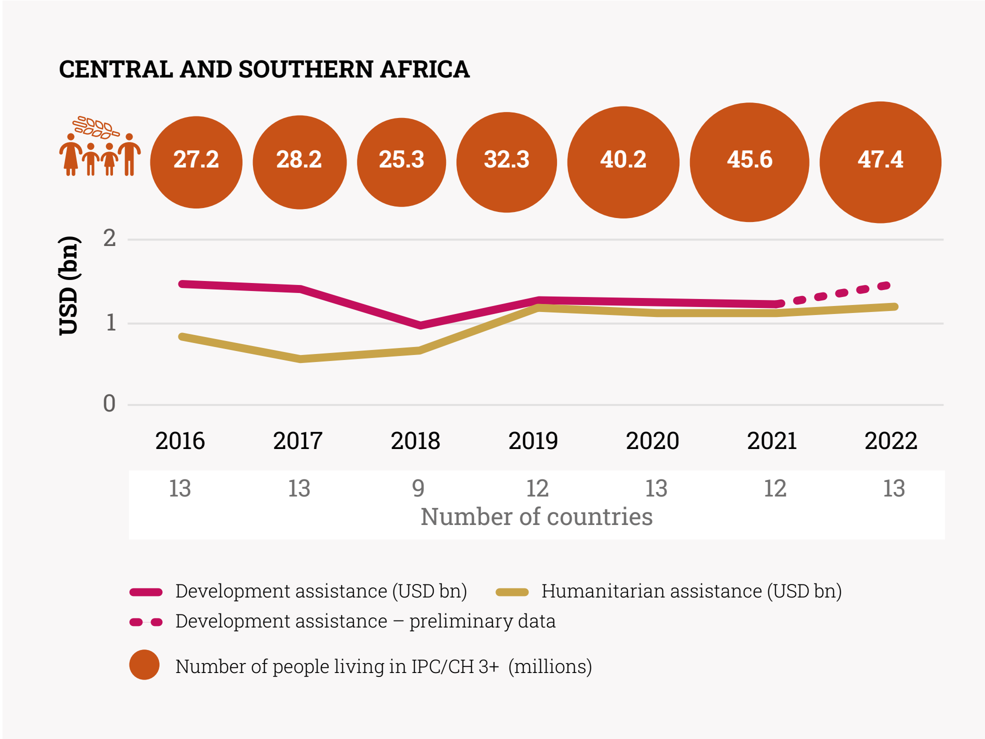
This represented an increase of USD 315 million from the total allocated in 2021 and reversed the downward trend observed since 2017.

12 FSIN and GNAFC. 2023. Global Report on Food Crises 2023. Rome.

13 Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. FSIN and GNAFC. 2023. Global Report on Food Crises 2023. Rome.

In Central and southern Africa, around 47.4 million people in 13 countries and territories[14] faced high levels of acute food insecurity in 2022, up from the 45.6 million people estimated in 2021 in 12 of these countries, mostly due to increases in the Central African Republic, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia, as well as increased analysis coverage. The region hosts some of the largest food crises, such as the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.[15] That year, these countries received USD 1.2 billion in humanitarian financing to food sectors, or 8 percent of the total, representing an increase of almost USD 100 million from 2021 and sustaining 2019–2021 levels. Development assistance in 2022 amounted to USD 1.5 billion, or 21 percent of all development allocations that year. This was an increase of USD 248 million from 2021 according to preliminary data.

Figure 9: Central and Southern Africa | Millions of people in IPC/CH Phase 3 or above, humanitarian and development assistance to food sectors in food crisis countries/territories.

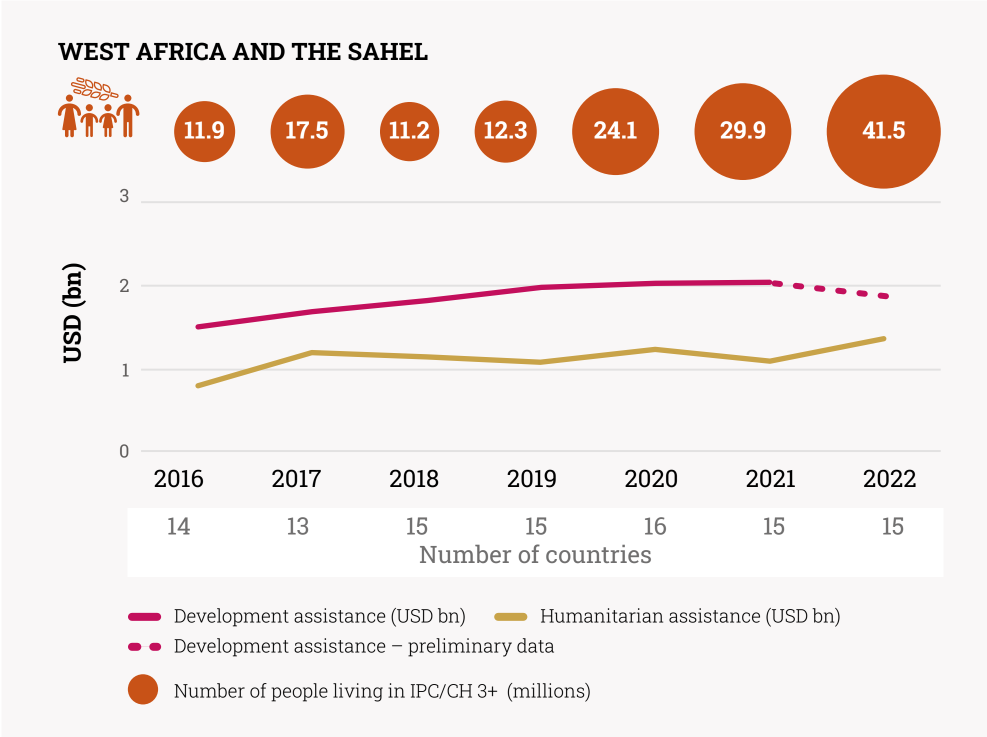


14 Angola, the Central African Republic, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. FSIN and GNAFC. 2023. Global Report on Food Crises 2023. Rome.

15 FSIN and GNAFC. 2023. Global Report on Food Crises 2023. Rome.

In West Africa and the Sahel, 41.5 million people were facing high levels of acute food insecurity in 15 countries and territories,[16] with the highest numbers reported by order of magnitude in Nigeria (21 states and the Federal Capital Territory), the Niger, Cameroon, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali – all of them facing an increase from 2021. Humanitarian financing to food sectors in food crisis countries amounted to USD 1.4 billion in 2022, representing 9 percent of that year's total. Compared to the previous year, this marked an increase of USD 274 million, which was in line with the observed increase over the past years correlated with the deterioration in food security. This region was the second largest recipient of development allocations in 2022, with USD 1.9 billion, or 27 percent of that year's total, according to preliminary data. Although the data suggests that West Africa and the Sahel witnessed a minor decrease from USD 2 billion in 2021 to USD 1.9 billion in 2022, it is important to note that the data is preliminary, and Benin and Cote d'Ivoire were no longer considered as food crises in the 2023 Global Report on Food Crises.

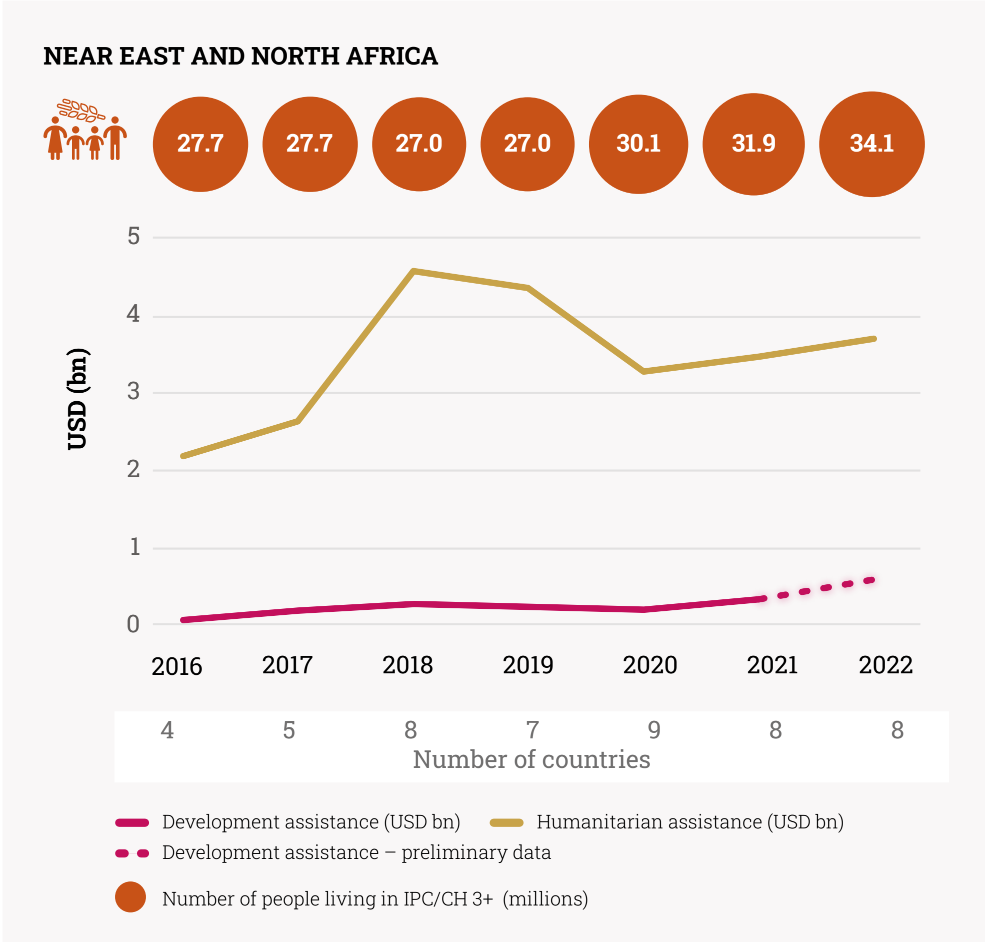
Figure 10: West Africa and the Sahel | Millions of people in IPC/CH Phase 3 or above, humanitarian and development assistance to food sectors in food crisis countries/territories.



16 Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Chad, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo. FSIN and GNAFC. 2023. Global Report on Food Crises 2023. Rome.

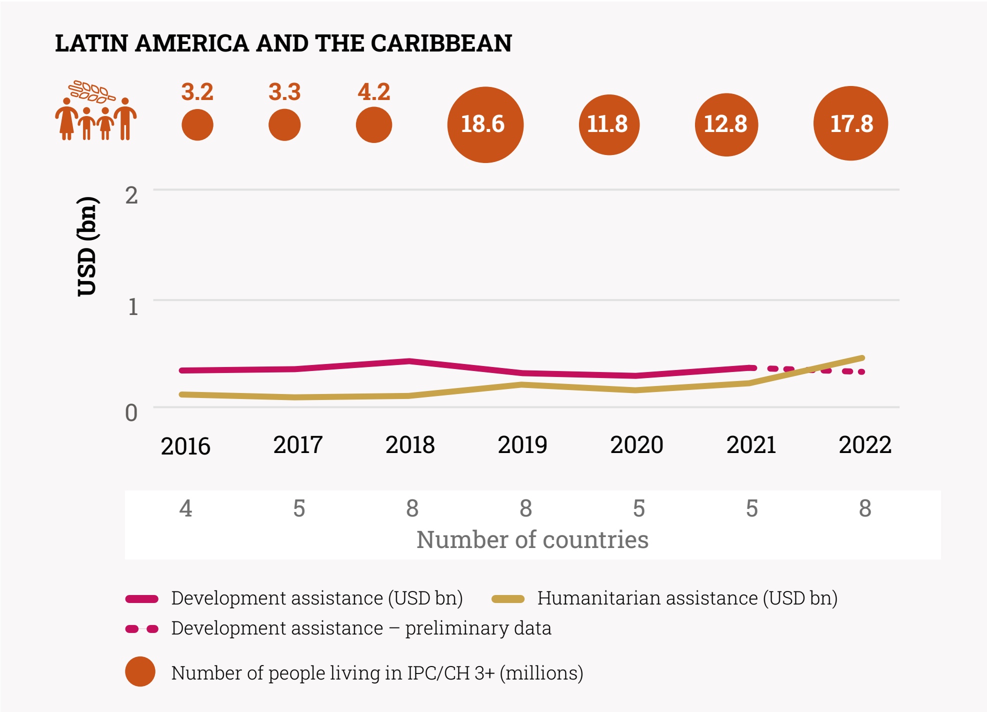
In the Near East and North Africa, the increase in humanitarian allocations is also notable. Hosting 34.1 million people in high acute food insecurity in eight countries and territories,[17] it was the second largest recipient of humanitarian allocations in 2022 with USD 3.7 billion allocated, representing one-quarter of total humanitarian allocations that year. The Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen hosted around 86 percent of the region's population facing high levels of acute food insecurity, with Yemen recording a notable deterioration in food security in 2022. Largely due to increased allocations to the Syrian Arab Republic, 2022 allocations marked an increase of around USD 300 million compared to 2021. As for development assistance to food sectors, these allocations were much smaller in comparison according to preliminary data. With USD 574 million allocated in 2022, or 8 percent of the total that year, this showed an increase of USD 253 million from 2021, which was in line with the overall trend of slight increases over the previous few years.

Figure 11: Near East and North Africa | Millions of people in IPC/CH Phase 3 or above, humanitarian and development assistance to food sectors in food crisis countries/territories.



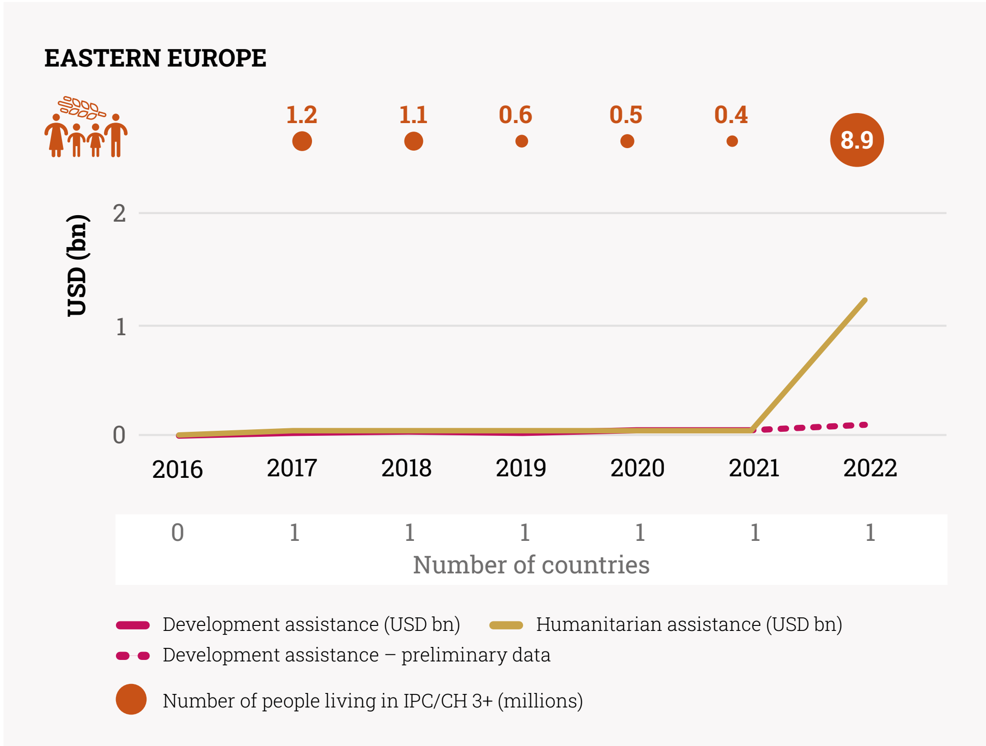
17 Algeria, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Palestine, Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen. FSIN and GNAFC. 2023. Global Report on Food Crises 2023. Rome.

Figure 12: Latin America and the Caribbean | Millions of people in IPC/CH Phase 3 or above, humanitarian and development assistance to food sectors in food crisis countries/territories.



In Latin America and the Caribbean, humanitarian and development allocations were of similar magnitude. Some 17.8 million people faced high levels of acute food insecurity in 2022 across eight countries,[18] with increases from 2021 in Guatemala and in Haiti, the latter being notably marked by high levels and increasing severity of acute food insecurity. That year, the region received USD 452 million in humanitarian allocations, representing an increase from previous years, and USD 319 million in development allocations. Preliminary data suggest development allocations have stagnated since 2019.

Figure 13: Eastern Europe | Millions of people in IPC/CH Phase 3 or above, humanitarian and development assistance to food sectors in food crisis countries/territories.



18 Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras and Nicaragua. FSIN and GNAFC. 2023. Global Report on Food Crises 2023. Rome.

As for Eastern Europe, humanitarian allocations to Ukraine, the only country covered under this region, reached USD 1.2 billion in 2022, representing 8 percent of all humanitarian assistance to food sectors in food crisis countries. This marked a significant increase in response to the war; before the war, the average allocation was USD 34 million between 2016 and 2021. With the escalation and expansion of the conflict to full-scale war, high levels of acute food insecurity increased from 6 percent of just the Donbas population in 2021 to 25 percent of the entire country's population in 2022.[19] As for development assistance,[20] USD 91 million were allocated to Ukraine in 2022, representing an increase of USD 60 million from the previous year according to preliminary data.

19 FSIN and GNAFC. 2023. Global Report on Food Crises 2023. Rome.

20 For 2017–2021, the food crisis in Ukraine was only limited to the Donbas region, which was the main recipient of most of the humanitarian assistance, while development assistance was disbursed at national level. Since the escalation of the conflict in 2022, both humanitarian and development assistance have similar territorial coverage.

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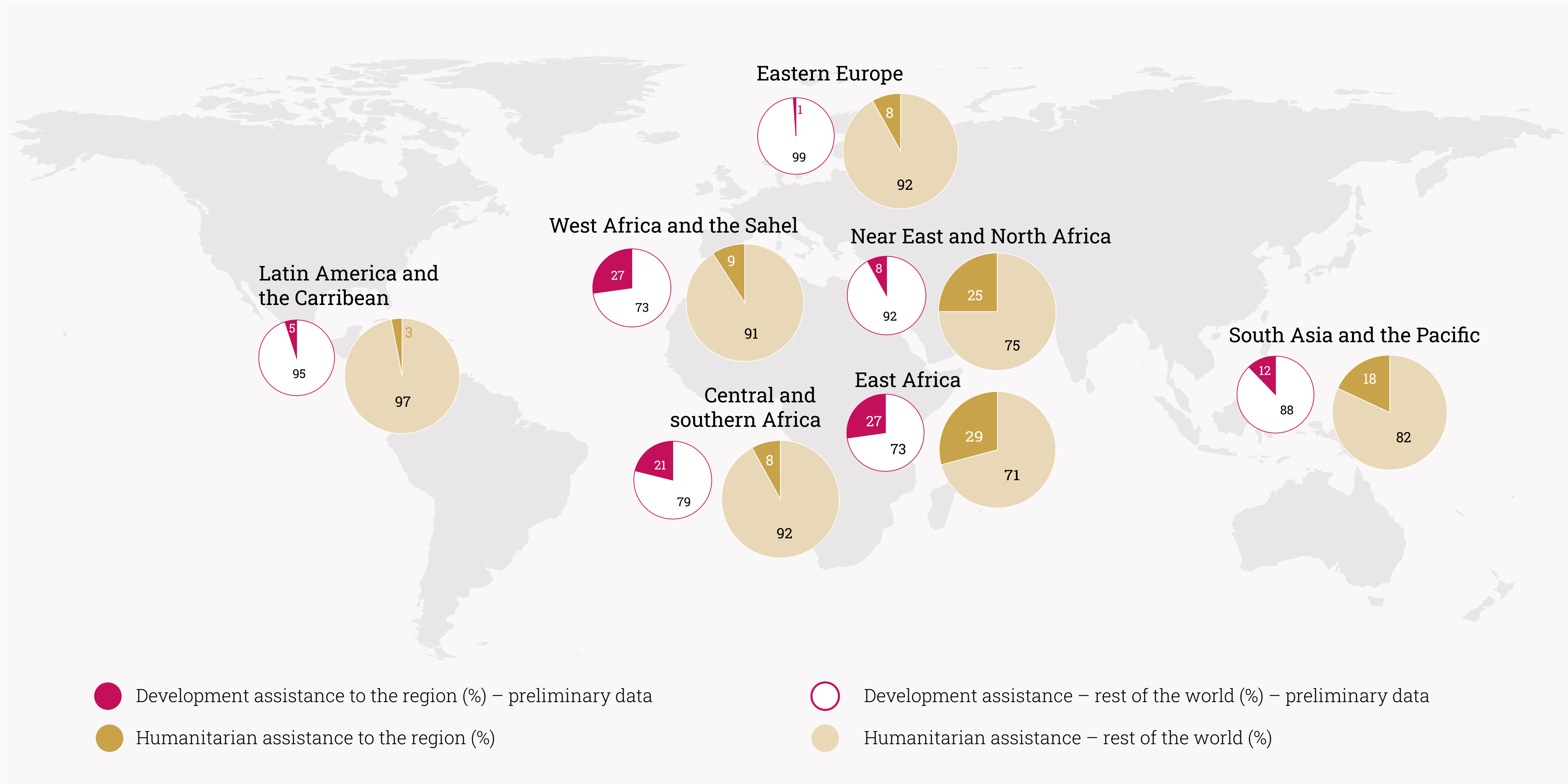
Figure 14: Global percentage of humanitarian and development assistance by region in 2022 (development data is preliminary).



Ten largest recipients of financing to food sectors

In 2022, the ten largest recipients of humanitarian allocations included some of the largest food crises in the world and absorbed almost 71 percent of all humanitarian allocations to food sectors in food crisis countries. In terms of development financing, the ten largest recipients are all countries facing protracted food crises and absorbed 46 percent of development financing.

The ten largest recipients of humanitarian assistance to food sectors absorbed almost 71 percent of all allocations to food sectors in food crisis countries in 2022 (Figure 15). Humanitarian financing was aligned with acute food insecurity needs; among these ten countries were seven[21] of the largest food crises of 2022, and the remaining three were among the countries with the highest prevalence of acute food insecurity.[22] Eight countries recorded increases in humanitarian assistance between 2021 and 2022, with Afghanistan, Somalia, the Sudan and Ukraine witnessing the largest increases and driving the overall trend of increased humanitarian assistance, while the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Yemen faced decreases.

In 2022, the ten largest recipients of development assistance to food sectors absorbed 46 percent of all development assistance to food sectors in food crisis contexts according to preliminary data (Figure 16).[23] All ten were countries facing protracted food crises according to the 2023 Global Report on Food Crises. The ten largest recipients of development assistance to food sectors have remained largely the same since 2021, with only the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Sudan and Yemen replacing Burkina Faso, Malawi and Pakistan among the ten largest recipients of development assistance to food sectors.

21 Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Ukraine and Yemen.

22 Lebanon, Somalia and South Sudan.

23 The largest recipients of development assistance in 2021 were Ethiopia (USD 556 million), the Niger (USD 340 million), Kenya (USD 340 million), Afghanistan (USD 308 million), Nigeria (USD 299 million), Burkina Faso (USD 267 million), Uganda (USD 252 million), Mozambique (USD 244 million), Malawi (USD 204 million) and Pakistan (USD 195 million).

Figure 15: Ten largest recipients of humanitarian assistance to food sectors in 2022 (USD millions), percentage variation of humanitarian allocations between 2021 and 2022 and millions of people in IPC/CH Phase 3 or above in 2022.

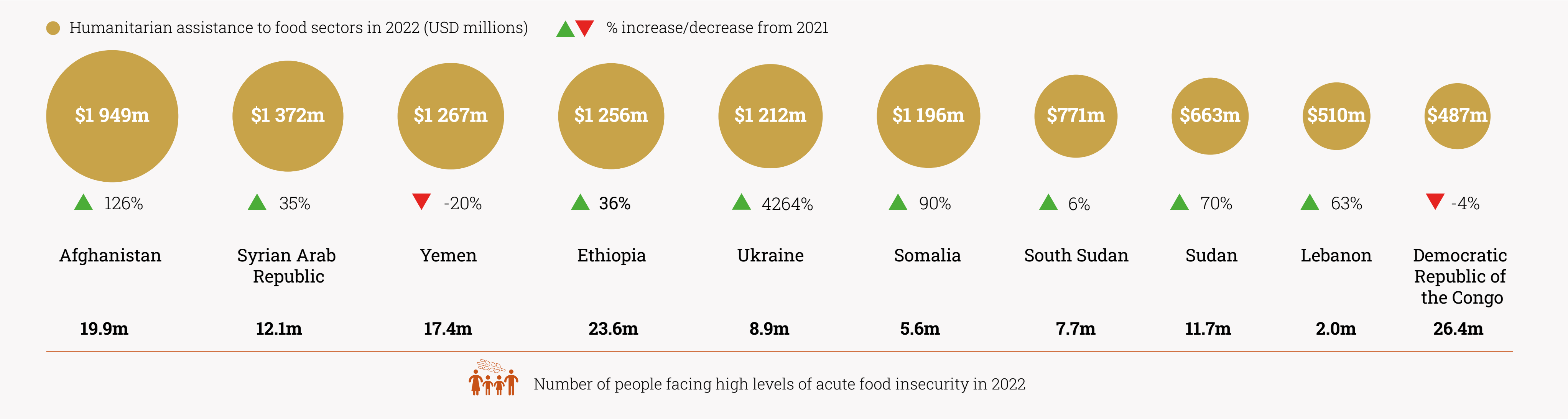
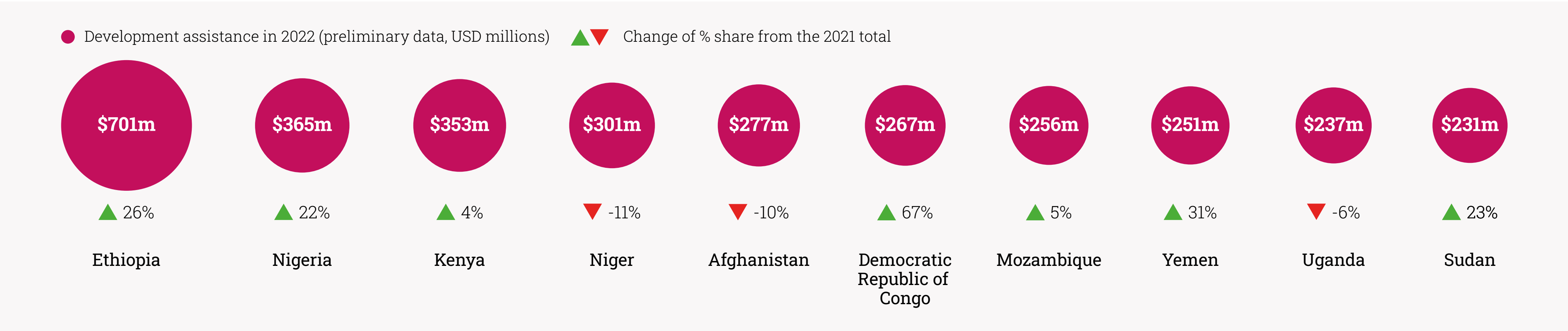


Figure 16: Ten largest recipients of development assistance to food sectors in 2022 (USD millions, preliminary data), percentage variation of development allocations between 2021 and 2022.



Sectoral breakdown of financing to food sectors in food crises countries

Although humanitarian financing to food sectors in food crises increased significantly in 2022, the share of funding for emergency agriculture interventions remained unchanged at just 4 percent. This is despite the fact that the agriculture sector is the main source of food and income for at least two-thirds of people facing Crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity. While development allocations to agriculture are better represented in these contexts, they still represent on average just 57 percent of the 3 percent of all development financing.

In 2022, cash and in-kind food assistance comprised 84 percent of all humanitarian assistance to food sectors (USD 12.6 billion), reaching its highest level of funding (Figure 17). Food assistance was consistently the most-funded food sector in all seven years of analysis. The peak reached in 2022 represented more than double the amount in 2016 and was 48 percent higher than in 2021. Countries and territories with food crises received nearly USD 1.9 billion for nutrition in 2022, or 12 percent of all humanitarian allocations to food sectors. This was the highest amount allocated to nutrition over the last seven years of analysis, a 136 percent increase from 2016 and almost double the amount in 2021. Nutrition has consistently been the second-highest funded sector in the period of 2016–2022. Humanitarian assistance to the emergency agriculture sector represented just 4 percent of all humanitarian assistance to food sectors in 2022, the lowest funded among the food sectors in 2022 and over the period of analysis (2016–2022). Emergency agriculture was funded on average 20 times less than food assistance, and three times less than nutrition.

In terms of development assistance and according to preliminary data, agriculture was the highest funded food sector, accounting for USD 3.5 billion in 2022, or 50 percent of total development assistance to food sectors in food crisis contexts (Figure 18). Basic nutrition was the second-most funded development food subsector in 2022, representing 18 percent of total development assistance to food crises (USD 1.3 billion). Other sectors to receive the most funding were development food assistance to social protection programmes with food security components (13 percent) and rural development (8 percent), at USD 0.9 billion and USD 0.6 billion, respectively. The preliminary data for 2022 also suggests that the share of agriculture within all development assistance decreased to 50 percent, the lowest in a seven-year trend. At the same time, basic nutrition increased to 18 percent of development assistance, the highest allocation to the subsector in seven years.

Figure 17: Humanitarian assistance to food crisis countries/territories by food sector (2016–2022, USD billions)

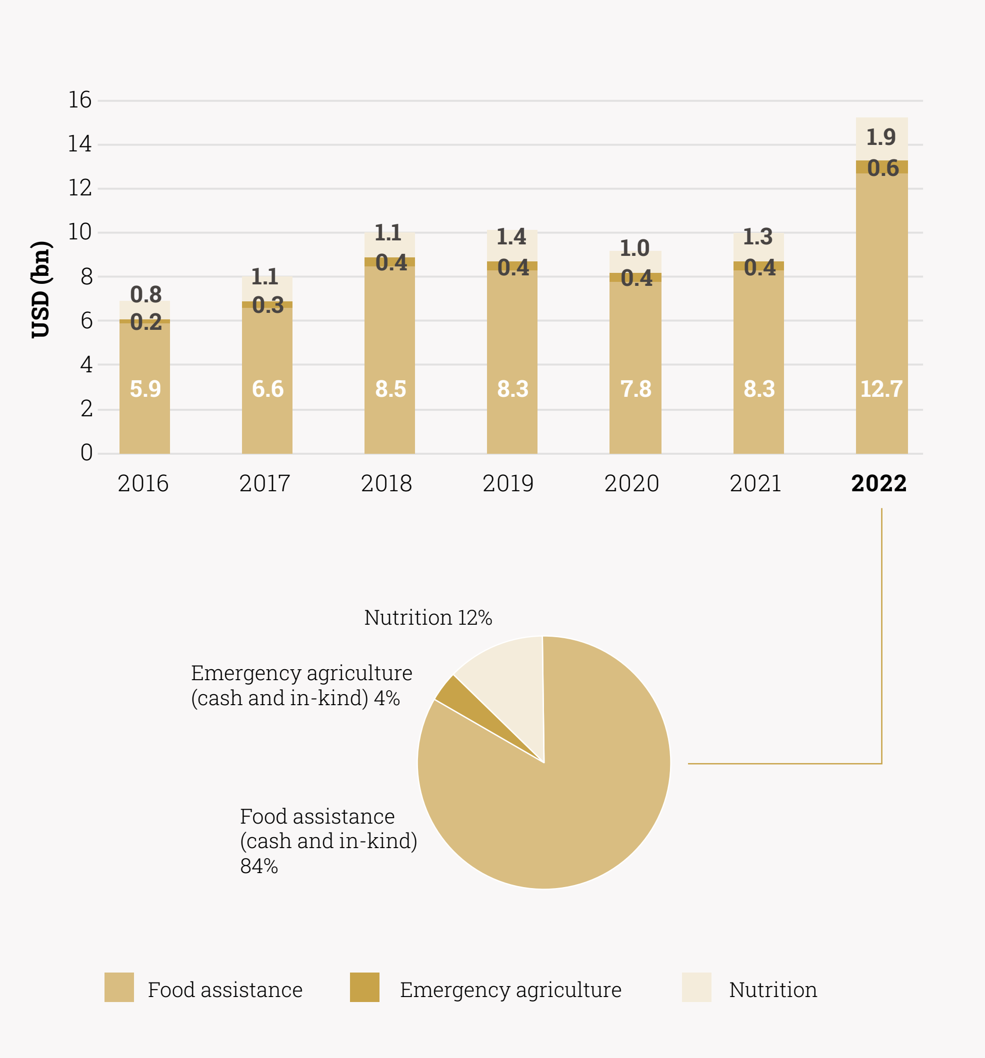
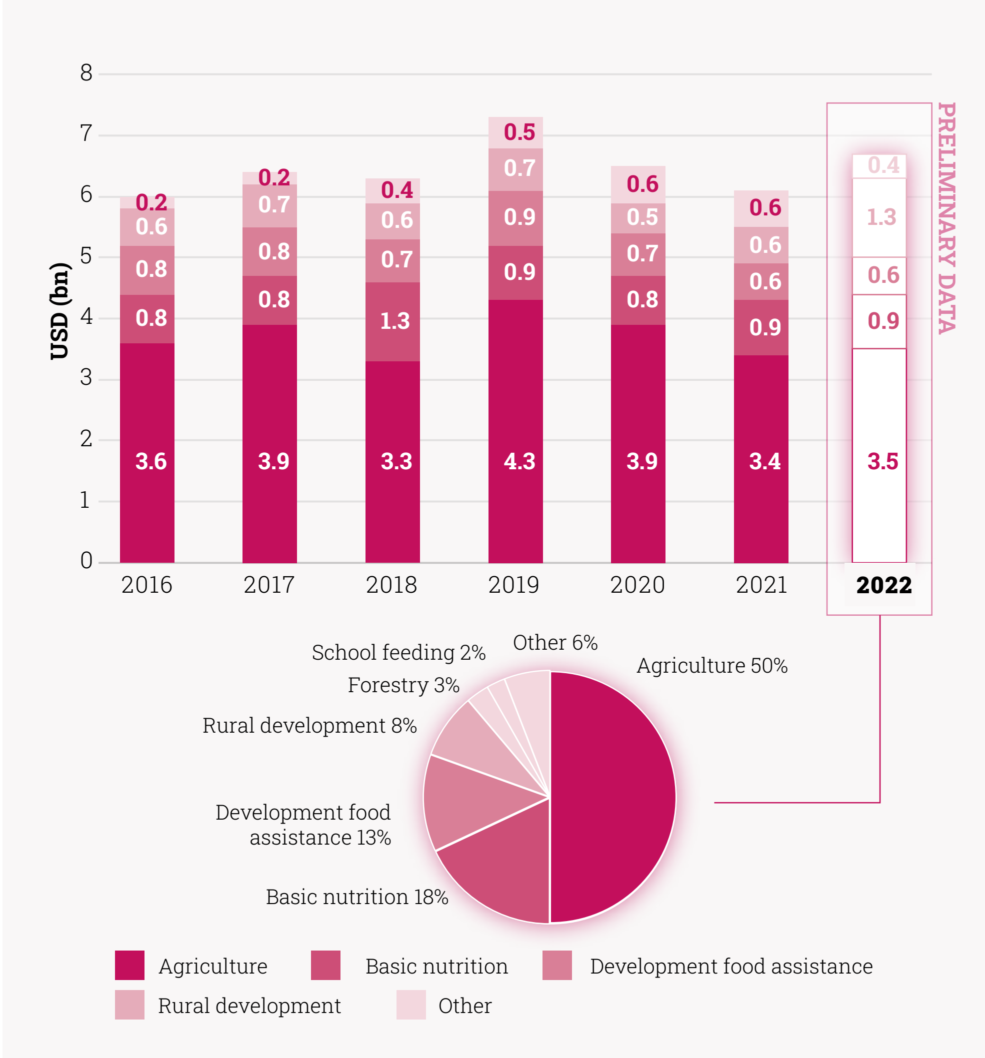


Figure 18: Development assistance to food crisis countries/territories by food sector (2016–2022 preliminary data, USD billions)



Financing to protracted food crises

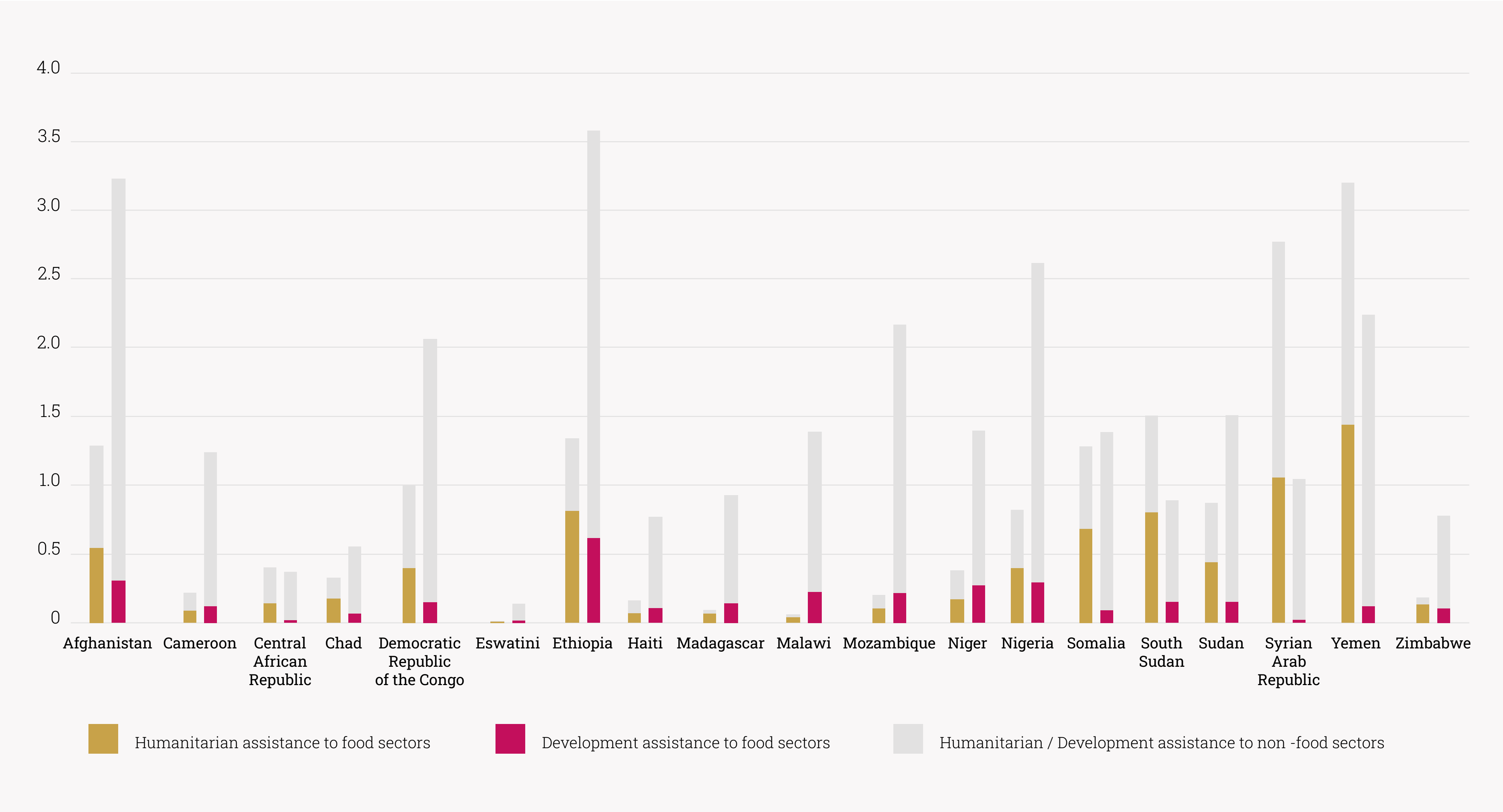
In protracted food crisis situations, humanitarian assistance is the main source of food sector financing, while development financing to food sectors remains marginal. In the 19 countries affected by major food crises over the past seven years, almost half of all humanitarian funding was directed to food sectors, while food sectors accounted for just 11 percent of total development spending.

The financing of food sectors in protracted food crisis situations, that is, the 19 countries[24] affected by major food crises over the past seven years, remains mostly part of humanitarian portfolios, while development assistance to these sectors remains limited, even though the food crises in these countries have been protracted over several years. These food crises are attracting significant amounts of humanitarian assistance, both to food- and non-food sectors. In 2022, the humanitarian food sectors of these 19 countries received USD 10.6 billion and other humanitarian sectors received USD 9.7 billion. Food sectors therefore represented 47 percent of all humanitarian assistance directed to these 19 countries.

However, there are significant differences in humanitarian allocations across the 19 major food crises. Intuitively, the largest humanitarian allocations were directed to countries with the highest number of people in acute food insecurity. Nine countries (Afghanistan, Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen) were among the ten largest recipients. With the exception of Somalia, all of these countries have been among the largest food crises in at least six of the past seven years. These countries received at least USD 400 million annually in humanitarian assistance to food sectors on average. In the ten remaining countries, annual humanitarian allocations have been significantly lower, even though some countries – Haiti, Malawi and Zimbabwe – faced some of the largest food crises in the world in at some point over the past seven years (Figure 19).

24 See p. 169 of the 2023 Global Report on Food Crises – 19 countries/territories identified as major food crises in the Global Report on Food Crises, 2017–2023: Afghanistan, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Haiti, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, the Niger, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

Figure 19: Average annual humanitarian (2016–2022) and development (2016–2021) assistance in protracted major food crises (USD billions).

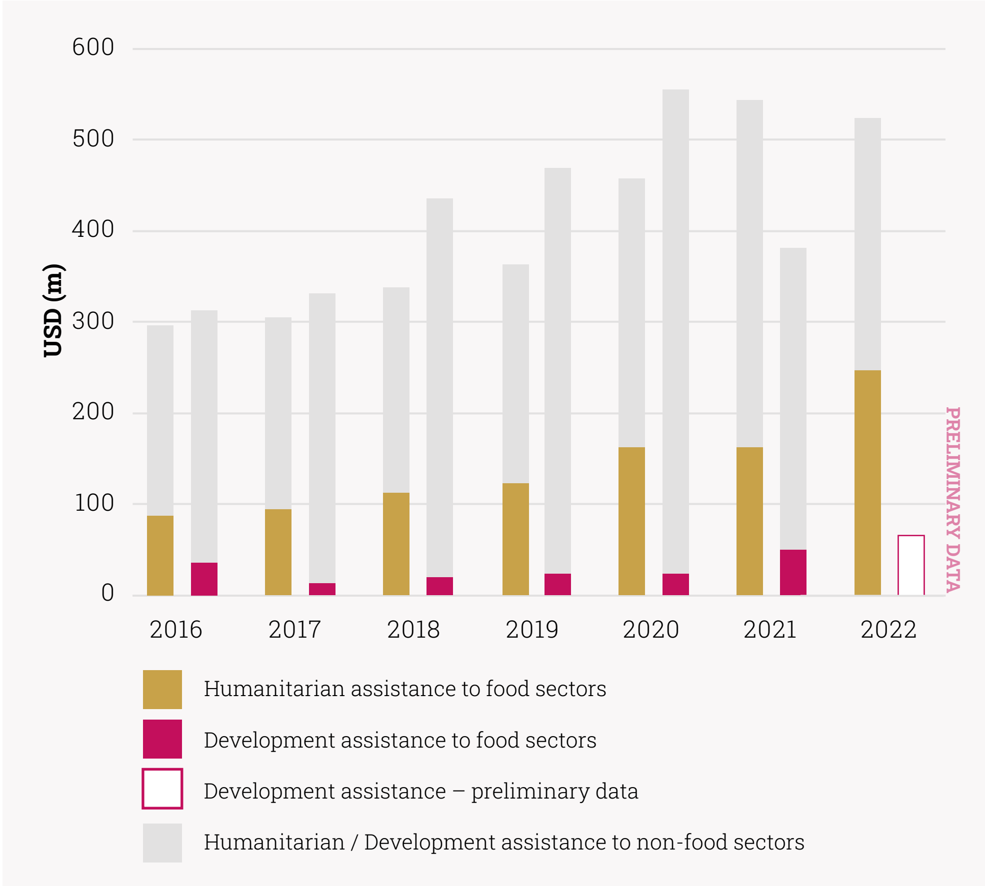


While protracted food crises received a large amount of development assistance – sometimes higher than humanitarian – food sectors only represented a small share. In 2021, food sectors in these 19 countries were allocated USD 3.4 billion, representing 11 percent of total development assistance to all sectors. On a yearly average, Ethiopia stands out with around USD 617 million received in development assistance to food sectors, as much as the sum of average disbursements to Afghanistan and Nigeria. All the other 16 countries received less than USD 300 million in development assistance on average yearly basis (Figure 19).

Zooming into examples of countries with major food crises between 2016 and 2022 illustrates the limited financing directed to food sectors by development, and in some cases humanitarian, actors.

For instance, in the Central African Republic, although overall development allocations (food and non-food sectors) often outpace humanitarian allocations, financing to food sectors is still predominantly part of a humanitarian portfolio (Figure 20). Humanitarian financing to food sectors is on average five times higher than development financing to food sectors. Over the past seven years, the Central African Republic has consistently been included as a major food crisis and was among the ten countries with the highest prevalence of its total population in Crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) each year. Except for 2017, at least 40 percent of its population has been in Crisis or worse food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) during the peak period of each year.[25] However, persisting insecurity and armed violence continue to limit humanitarian access and hinder development investments.

Figure 20: Humanitarian and development assistance to food sectors in the Central African Republic (2016–2022, USD millions).

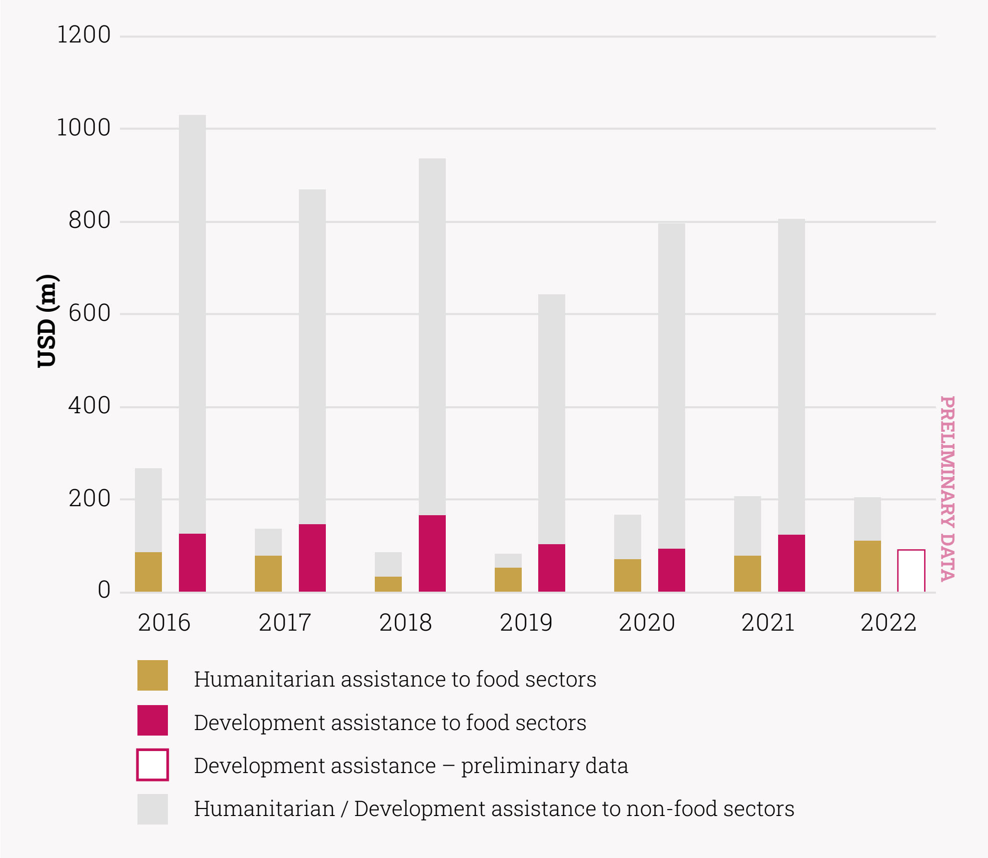


Haiti has faced a major food crisis since 2016, which escalated in 2018 and is driven by years of consecutive natural disasters and weather extremes, COVID-19-related income losses, increasing food prices, violence, insecurity and below-average crop production. In Haiti, development actors have a more predominant role in food sector financing.

25 FSIN and GNAFC. 2023. Global Report on Food Crises. Rome.

However, although there seems to be a more balanced level of financing from both humanitarian and development actors to food sectors, overall disbursements to food sectors in Haiti remain low compared to the rest of the funding. Humanitarian actors dedicate a larger proportion of their funds on average (46 percent) to food sectors, compared to development actors who allocate a marginal proportion of total allocations to food sectors (15 percent, average 2016–2021) (Figure 21).

Figure 21: Humanitarian and development assistance to food sectors in Haiti (2016–2022, USD millions).



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Financing in famine contexts

In countries with Famine Risk contexts,[26] humanitarian funding flows to food sectors are reactive and not sustained over time, increasing by an average of 30 percent year-on-year when a risk of Famine is identified. In these countries, development allocations tend to be smaller in volume, although recurrent famine conditions are also an outcome of long-term and structural causes of acute food insecurity.

Famine/Risk of Famine/IPC Phase 5 countries

From 2016 to 2022, Famine declaration and Famine Likely classification occurred only in South Sudan in 2017 and in 2020–2021. During this period, six countries (Ethiopia,[27] Madagascar,[28] Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen[29]) faced a Risk of Famine, including four of them in 2017 alone. In 2022, the number of countries in which the IPC/CH identified the presence of populations in Catastrophe (IPC/CH Phase 5) reached the highest in the history of the Global Report on Food Crises. There were 376 000 people in this phase across seven countries, namely Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Haiti, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen.[30]

26 A Famine classification (IPC Phase 5) is the highest phase of the IPC Acute Food Insecurity scale and is attributed when an area has at least 20 percent of households facing an extreme lack of food, at least 30 percent of children suffering from acute malnutrition, and two people for every 10 000 dying each day due to outright starvation or to the interaction of malnutrition and disease. Risk of Famine refers to the reasonable probability of an area going into Famine in the projected period. While this is not perceived necessarily as the most likely scenario, it is a scenario that generally has a realistic chance of occurring. Households in Catastrophe (IPC/CH Phase 5) experience an extreme lack of food and/or other basic needs even after full employment of emergency coping strategies, with starvation, death and extremely critical acute malnutrition levels present. If there is insufficient data for Famine classification, usually because either nutrition or mortality data are lacking, but the available information indicates that Famine is likely occurring or will occur, then the Famine classification is determined as "Famine Likely". Famine Likely classification thus allows the IPC to warn about potential Famine in contexts when there are limited data. It is important to note that Famine and Famine Likely are equally severe, the only difference is the amount of reliable evidence available to support the statement. IPC 2023. Famine Facts. https://www.ipcinfo.org/famine-facts/en/

27 IPC Famine Review Committee. 2021. Famine review of the IPC Acute Food Insecurity analysis. Conclusions and recommendations for Tigray region, Ethiopia. https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1154897/?iso3=ETH The May 2021 IPC analysis is an IPC global product. It is based on the conclusions reached by the Ethiopia IPC analysis team. This report has not been endorsed by the Government of Ethiopia.

28 Madagascar IPC technical Working Group. 2021. Madagascar Grand South: Food Security and Nutrition Snapshot.

29 FSIN and GNAFC. 2023. Global Report on Food Crises 2023. Rome.

30 This number is lower than in 2021, when a total of 570 000 people were in Catastrophe (IPC/CH Phase 5) over the course of the year in four countries (Ethiopia, Madagascar, South Sudan and Yemen), but no new information by IPC phase was available for Ethiopia in 2022. FSIN and GNAFC. 2023. Global Report on Food Crises 2023. Rome.

Countries facing Famine, Risk of Famine and Catastrophe levels of acute food insecurity are characterised by high volumes of humanitarian assistance which tends to be reactive to identification of these acute states. In these contexts, development allocations tend to be smaller in volume.

Figure 22 shows the humanitarian assistance to food sectors and to non-food sectors in six countries, which were some of the largest food crises with areas or populations in Famine/Famine Likely, Catastrophe (IPC/CH Phase 5) or Risk of Famine from 2016 to 2022. The figure highlights that humanitarian assistance flows to food sectors tend to increase significantly when a risk of famine is identified in a food crisis country. Countries that faced a risk of famine saw their allocations of humanitarian assistance to food sectors increase by an average 30 percent year-on-year.

In 2017, the four countries facing a Risk of Famine (Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen) received around USD 3.5 billion in humanitarian assistance to food sectors, compared to USD 2.1 billion received the year earlier. In two of the four countries, these allocations to food sectors dropped the following year (by 17 percent in Nigeria and by 21 percent in Somalia) although acute food insecurity remained high. Overall, these observations also apply when considering non-food sectors as well.

Similar observations can be made regarding the countries with populations classified in Catastrophe (IPC/CH Phase 5). In 2022, the seven countries concerned saw a year-on-year increase in humanitarian assistance to food sectors from USD 4.4 billion to USD 5.9 billion. Allocations to other humanitarian sectors increased from USD 5.1 billion in 2021 to USD 5.4 billion in 2022.

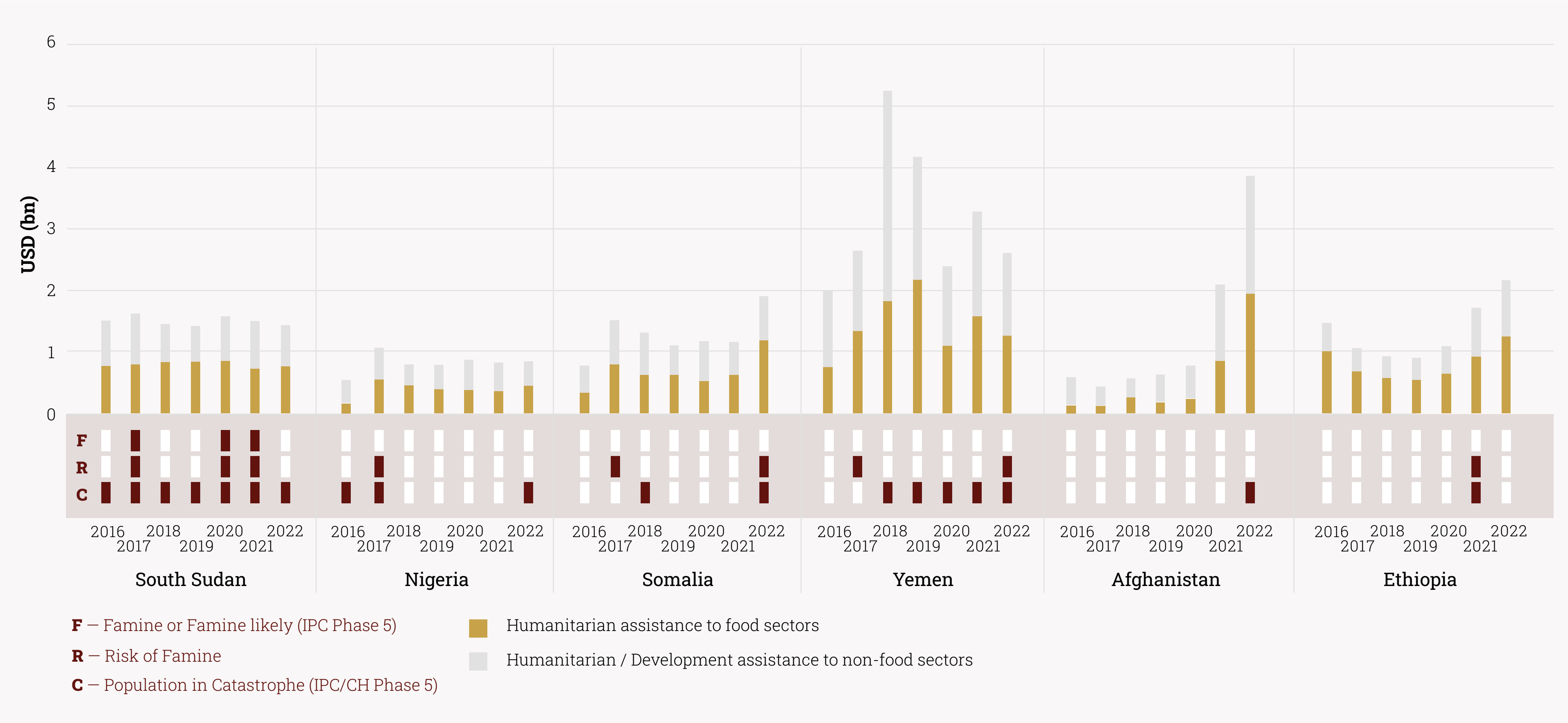
For what concerns countries with an actual declaration of Famine or areas classified as Famine Likely (IPC Phase 5), there are only a few occurrences to make any cross-country analyses. Two counties in South Sudan – Leer and Mayendit – were classified as being in Famine (IPC Phase 5) in February–July 2017[31] and four payams in Pibor county – Gumuruk, Pibor, Lekuangole and Verteth – as being in Famine Likely (IPC Phase 5) from October 2020 to July 2021.[32] However, in these years, South Sudan did not see major variations in its humanitarian allocations, which remained substantial over the period of analysis due to the prolonged nature of the food crisis, at around USD 1.5 billion, including USD 800 million to food sectors on average each year.

Increased granularity of data on financial flows and more systematic reporting at subnational level would allow for better assessment of the extent of allocations targeting the specific areas affected by Famine or Famine Likely (IPC/CH Phase 5), Risk of Famine and with populations in Catastrophe (IPC/CH Phase 5).

31 South Sudan IPC Technical Working Group. 2017. South Sudan: Acute Food Insecurity Situation for January 2017 and Projections for February–April 2017 and May–July 2017. January. https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1026671/?iso3=SSD

32 South Sudan IPC Technical Working Group. 2020. South Sudan: Acute Food Insecurity Situation for October–November 2020 and Projections for December 2020–March 2021 and April–July 2021. October. https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1153003/?iso3=SSD

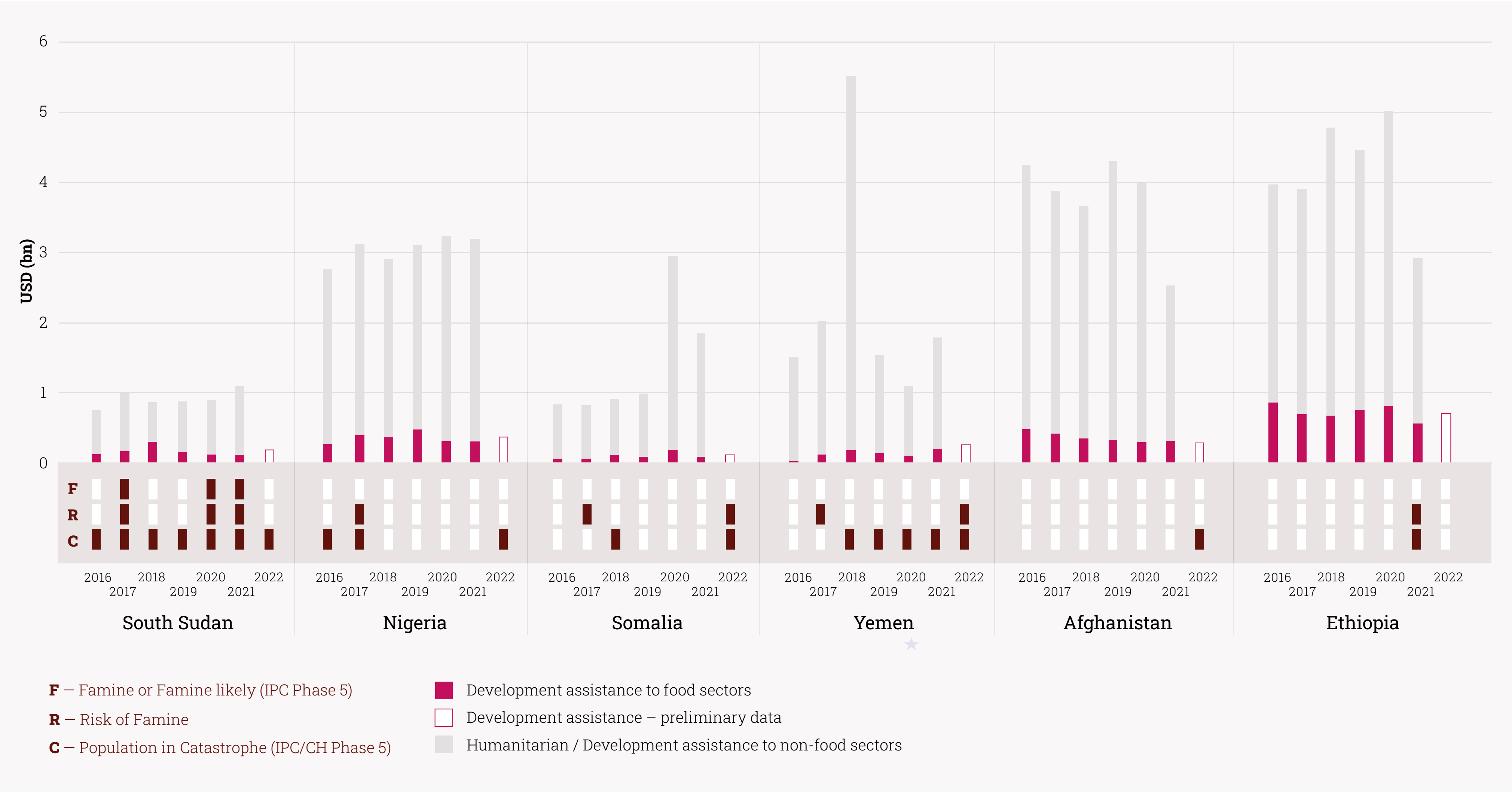
Figure 22: Humanitarian assistance to food sectors in the largest food crises with areas or populations in Famine/Catastrophe (IPC/CH Phase 5) or Risk of Famine (USD billions).



Note: Burkina Faso, Madagascar and Mali also had populations in Catastrophe (IPC/CH Phase 5) and/or Risk of Famine in 2016–2022, though these countries are not shown in this graph for visualization purposes.

Source: GNAFC calculations based on Global Report on Food Crises, IPC/CH and OCHA FTS data.

Figure 23: Development assistance to food sectors in the largest food crises with areas or populations in Famine/Catastrophe (IPC/CH Phase 5) or Risk of Famine (USD billions).



Source: GNAFC calculations based on Global Report on Food Crises, IPC/CH and OECD CRS data.

As shown in Figure 23, development assistance to food sectors seems less targeted to countries with either Risks of Famine, populations in Catastrophe (IPC/CH Phase 5) or areas in Famine or Famine Likely (IPC Phase 5). The volumes of development allocations to food sectors are considerably smaller than for humanitarian assistance, and the variations across countries indicate that there is no clear trend of development assistance being targeted to these categories of countries, even when these acute states are recurrent. These recurrent contexts are, among others, also an outcome of long-term and structural causes of acute food insecurity, highlighting the need for long-term investments to address the root causes of acute food insecurity and reduce humanitarian needs.

Glossary of terms

Acute food insecurity

Acute food insecurity is any manifestation of food insecurity at a specific point in time that is severe enough to threaten lives, livelihoods or both – regardless of the causes, context or duration. These acute states are highly susceptible to change and can manifest in a population within a short period due to shocks or sudden changes that impact food availability, access, utilization or stability. Transitory food insecurity is a short-term or temporary inability to meet food requirements related to sporadic crises, indicating a capacity to recover. In this report, acute food insecurity data refer to the highest numbers of acutely food-insecure people in each year, as published in the six editions of the Global Report on Food Crises covering 2016 to 2021. In particular, the analysis focuses on the number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above). Populations in Crisis (IPC/CH Phase 3), Emergency (IPC/CH Phase 4) and Catastrophe (IPC/CH Phase 5) are in need of urgent food, nutrition and livelihood assistance.

Food crisis

A food crisis occurs in countries and territories where there is ample evidence that the magnitude and/or severity of the food crisis exceeds the local resources and capacities needed to respond effectively, leading to a request for the urgent mobilization of the international community.[33]

This analysis compiles internationally comparable data on external flows to food sectors in terms of official development and international humanitarian assistance, with a specific focus on external financing for countries that experience food crises as identified by the methodology of the Global Report on Food Crises. Moreover, data on international humanitarian assistance to food sectors is analysed alongside figures on acute food insecurity at country level taken from the seven available editions of the Global Report on Food Crises. The lists of countries identified each year as facing a food crisis by the Global Report and used in this analysis as a subset of food crisis countries, are listed below.

2016 – as per the 2017 Global Report on Food Crises, 48 countries: Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Iraq, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar (southern), Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria (northern), Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

2017 – as per the 2018 Global Report on Food Crises, 51 countries and territories: Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh (South Central and Cox's Bazar), Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti (rural areas), Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Iraq, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar (southern and southeastern), Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar (selected areas), Namibia, Nepal (selected areas), Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria (northern), Pakistan (four

33 FSIN and GNAFC. 2023. Global Report on Food Crises 2023. Rome.

districts in Sindh province), Palestine, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka (ten affected districts), Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Ukraine (Luhansk and Donetsk), Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

2018 – as per the 2019 Global Report on Food Crises, 53 countries and territories: Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh (Rohingya refugee and host populations), Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon (seven regions), Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia (Venezuelan migrants), Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti (rural areas), Ecuador (Venezuelan migrants), El Salvador (Dry Corridor), Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guatemala (Dry Corridor), Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras (Dry Corridor), Iraq, Jordan (Syrian refugees), Kenya, Lebanon (Syrian refugees), Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar (southern and southeastern), Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar (selected areas), Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria (16 states and Federal Capital Territory), Pakistan (drought-affected areas of Sindh province), Palestine, Peru (Venezuelan migrants), Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Türkiye (Syrian refugees), Uganda, Ukraine (Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts and internally displaced persons [IDPs]), Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

2019 – as per the 2020 Global Report on Food Crises, 55 countries and territories: Afghanistan, Angola (24 communes in three provinces), Bangladesh (Rohingya refugee and host populations), Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon (seven regions), Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia (Venezuelan migrants), Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo (109 territories), Ecuador (Venezuelan migrants), El Salvador (Eastern region), Eswatini (rural population), Ethiopia (selected areas in six regions), Gambia, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras (13 departments), Iraq, Kenya (arid and semi-arid lands), Lebanon (Syrian refugees), Lesotho (rural population), Liberia, Libya, Madagascar (southern, southeastern and eastern areas), Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique (39 districts), Myanmar, Namibia, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria (16 states and Federal Capital Territory), Pakistan (drought-affected areas of Balochistan and Sindh provinces), Palestine, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan (excluding West Darfur), Syrian Arab Republic, Türkiye (Syrian refugees), Uganda, Ukraine (Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts and IDPs), United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, Zambia (86 districts) and Zimbabwe (rural population).

2020 – as per the 2021 Global Report on Food Crises, 55 countries and territories: Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh (Rohingya refugees and host populations), Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt (Syrian refugees), El Salvador, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Iraq, Jordan (Syrian refugees), Kenya, Lebanon (Syrian refugees), Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria (15 states and Federal Capital Territory), Pakistan, Palestine, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Türkiye (Syrian refugees), Uganda, Ukraine (Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts and IDPs), United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

2021 – as per the 2022 Global Report on Food Crises, 53 countries and territories: Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh (Rohingya refugees and host populations), Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt (Syrian refugees), El Salvador, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Iraq (IDPs and returnees), Jordan (Syrian refugees), Kenya, Lebanon (Syrian refugees), Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria (21 states and Federal Capital Territory), Pakistan, Palestine, Rwanda (refugees), Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Uganda, Ukraine (Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts and IDPs), United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

2022 – as per the 2023 Global Report on Food Crises, 58 countries and territories: Afghanistan, Algeria (refugee population), Angola, Bangladesh (refugee population), Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia (refugee population), Congo (refugee population), Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador (refugee population), El Salvador, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Iraq, Jordan (refugee population), Kenya, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Uganda, Ukraine, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Food sectors

This analysis focuses principally on three humanitarian sectors considered as "food sectors"– food assistance (cash and in-kind), emergency agriculture support and nutrition interventions. Depending on the type of aid that is being analysed, food-related assistance to these sectors may appear in graphs and tables as these three sectors or as a number of more specific subsectors. Food assistance covers disbursements aimed at safeguarding or improving food security by providing in-kind food assistance or in the form of cash transfers. Emergency agriculture assistance includes disbursements for assistance aimed at safeguarding or improving food security through increased food production. Nutrition support includes disbursements to assistance aimed at safeguarding or improving beneficiaries' nutritional and health status.

It also provides an aggregation of "non-food sectors", which include: health, education, protection, camp coordination and management, water, sanitation and hygiene, emergency shelter, logistics, coordination and support services and emergency telecommunications.

For development assistance, food sectors include: agriculture, basic nutrition, development food assistance, fisheries, food safety and quality, food security policy and administrative management, forestry, household food security programmes, rural development and school feeding. Non-food development sectors comprise of health, government and civil society, general budget support, education, energy, transport and storage, other social infrastructure and services, water supply and sanitation, conflict, peace and security, industry, business and finance, general environmental protection, communications, development food assistance (non-agriculture).

IPC/CH phases

The IPC and CH scales are the protocols used by the Global Report on Food Crises for classifying the severity and magnitude of acute food insecurity. Populations in Crisis (IPC/CH Phase 3), Emergency (IPC/CH Phase 4) and Catastrophe (IPC/CH Phase 5) are deemed to be those in need of urgent food, livelihood and nutrition assistance. More information on the IPC/CH classification system is available here.

External financing

The analysis benefited from the collaboration with Development Initiatives that extracted, cleaned, and calculated the data on external financing to addressing food insecurity, with both humanitarian and development objectives in countries and territories that are facing food crises and made this data available to the Technical Support Unit of the Global Network Against Food Crises for the analysis.

In the report, the term "external financing" refers to both data on development assistance to food sectors (excluding data reported as humanitarian assistance) extracted from the OECD DAC CRS and data on humanitarian assistance to food sectors extracted from the OCHA FTS.

Although this analysis covers humanitarian and development assistance data, it is important to note that it does not consider other important resources such as domestic resources, foreign direct investments and private sector financing.

Humanitarian assistance

Humanitarian assistance is intended to save lives, alleviate suffering and maintain human dignity during and after human-made crises and natural disasters, as well as to prevent and strengthen preparedness for such situations. This assistance should be governed by the humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence.

The primary source of data on international humanitarian assistance is the OCHA FTS, in particular commitments and paid contributions to the food sectors recorded in the dataset.

Unless otherwise specified, the total of humanitarian assistance presented in the report refers only to assistance to food sectors. Humanitarian assistance to food sectors includes allocations aimed at improving or safeguarding food security by providing cash or in-kind food assistance, emergency agriculture support, as well as allocations to improve and safeguard nutrition and health. Emergency agriculture support covers a broad range of activities that specifically aim to save lives and safeguard livelihoods ahead of, during and immediately after crises. For example, these include the provision of livestock feed, water and healthcare to keep animals alive and productive, fishing nets and other equipment to restore fishing livelihoods, or quality seeds, tools and fertilizers when a season is threatened by disaster. These totals comprise the sum of commitments and paid contributions for humanitarian action spent outside donor countries as reported to the OCHA FTS – including those from non-official resource partners (e.g. private donors). They exclude domestic responses by national governments. The FTS data were cross-checked against development assistance from the OECD CRS to avoid duplication and presented in United States dollars (2021 constant prices).

Development assistance

Development assistance is referred to as "flows to countries and territories on the DAC list of official development assistance recipients [...] provided by official agencies and administered with the promotion of the economic development and welfare of developing countries as its main objective; and [that] are concessional in character".

The main source for tracking official development assistance data is the OECD DAC CRS. Specifically, the gross disbursement to the food sectors recorded in the dataset.

Amounts of development assistance presented in the report include allocations to agriculture, basic nutrition, development food assistance, fishing, forestry, rural development and school feeding, as well as additional sectors such as food safety and quality, food security policy and administrative management, and household food security programmes. Among them, development food assistance supports lasting physical assets or human capital that benefit poor, food-insecure households and their communities. It is intended for social protection programmes and long-term household food security. These totals correspond to the sum of disbursements spent outside donor countries as reported in the OECD DAC CRS, excluding flows reported as humanitarian assistance. Estimates of development assistance include flows categorized as “grants”, “loans”, and “equity investments”. The CRS data were cross-checked against humanitarian assistance from the OCHA FTS to avoid duplication. Monetary amounts are presented in United States dollars (constant 2021 prices).

Official development assistance data from the OECD’s CRS disaggregated by country was only available up to 2021 (at the time of the analysis). To analyse development assistance in 2022, data was accessed from the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI). IATI is a global initiative that aims to improve the transparency of aid and development finance by providing a common standard for publishing and sharing information about development activities and spending. Data is sourced from 41 OECD donor agencies that also publish to IATI. All IATI data was accessed on 17 November 2023, with the exception of the African Development Bank, for which data accessed on 17 April 2023 had to be substituted. Because IATI data for all donors to food sectors was not available, the relationship between the development finance reported to IATI for these sectors and recipient countries was modelled against the same values reported to the CRS for 2015 to 2021. Data was modelled using ordinary least squares with fixed effects for sector, recipient and year. All confidence intervals reported are at the 95 percent level.

It is important to note that the development assistance analysis of food crisis countries excludes those countries that are facing a localised food crisis from each year’s country list (e.g. refugee crises, or only partial data coverage applicable). This is because it cannot be assumed that national development assistance in some very localised food crises (e.g. refugee populations) is directed to these specific population groups/areas. Greater data granularity is needed to reduce this caveat.

Global Network Against Food Crises

INTEGRATED ACTIONS FOR LASTING SOLUTIONS

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Global Network Against Food Crises

The European Union, FAO and WFP founded the Global Network Against Food Crises at the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit to step up joint efforts to address food crises along the humanitarian-development-peace nexus and continue to raise global awareness and commitment from all relevant actors. The Global Network offers a coherent coordination framework to promote collective efforts in analysis and strategic programming for more efficient use of resources to prevent, prepare for and respond to food crises and, ultimately, support collective outcomes related to SDG 2 for lasting solutions to food crises.

Through its work, the Global Network Against Food Crises facilitates a fundamental transformation in the way international and local actors interact to holistically address food crises worldwide.

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