

# Famine and Protracted Emergency IPC/CH Analysis

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This technical note and its updates are prepared by the Technical Support Unit of the Global Network Against Food Crises. It provides an analysis of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) and *Cadre Harmonisé* (CH) datasets in countries with populations facing prolonged Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and at risk of facing Catastrophe (IPC/CH Phase 5) and identifies the areas with the most severe levels of acute food insecurity and malnutrition. This note is developed to support famine prevention and response efforts through an analysis of acute food insecurity trends in the concerned countries.

The January 2024 update covers the following countries/territories: Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen. Palestine (Gaza) was added due to the escalation of the conflict in late-2023. This edition was produced within the framework of the FAO-WFP joint programme "Fulfilling the mandate of the Global Network Against Food Crises – A Game Changer" funded by the European Union.

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## Overview

In 2022, 258 million people faced high levels of acute food insecurity, in 58 countries/territories, with available data. This was up from 193 million in 53 countries in 2021. It marked the fourth consecutive year of rising numbers of people in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above or equivalent) due to persistently high numbers in some countries/territories, worsening situations in others, as well as increased analysis.<sup>1</sup>

As of August 2023, the number of people facing Emergency (IPC/CH Phase 4) reached 33.6 million people in 39 countries. IPC/CH Phase 4 refers to an extremely severe situation where urgent action is needed to save lives and livelihoods, and the final alert to avoid extreme acute food insecurity outcomes. At the same time, about 128 600 people were estimated or projected to be in Catastrophe (IPC/CH Phase 5) in four countries, namely Burkina Faso, Mali, South Sudan and Somalia.<sup>2</sup>

In the last quarter of 2023, the escalation of the conflict in Palestine led to a severe deterioration in acute food insecurity. Hostilities, including besiegement of the entire population, have caused catastrophic levels of acute food insecurity across the Gaza Strip.

The risk of Famine increases each day that the current situation of intense hostilities and restricted humanitarian access persists or worsens. Between December 2023 and February 2024, the entire population in the Gaza Strip (about 2.2 million people) is projected to be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above).

Moreover, about 50 percent of the population (1.17 million people) are in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and at least one in four households (more than half a million people) is facing catastrophic conditions (IPC Phase 5). These are characterized by households experiencing an extreme lack of food, starvation and exhaustion of coping capacities.<sup>3</sup>

The forecast is alarming, and projections indicate the situation may deteriorate further. At the same time, humanitarian operations remain underfunded and hampered by security and access constraints. While famine can be averted, swift and concerted international action is required to address its root causes and ensure humanitarian aid reaches people in need without delay.

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<sup>1</sup> FSIN and Global Network Against Food Crises. 2023. GRFC 2023. May. Rome.

<sup>2</sup> FSIN and Global Network Against Food Crises. 2023. GRFC 2023 Mid-Year Update. Rome

<sup>3</sup> IPC Global Initiative. 2023. Acute Food Insecurity Situation for 24 November - 7 December 2023 and Projection for 8 December 2023 - 7 February 2024. December. <https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1156749/>

IPC Special Briefs are produced by the IPC global initiative and do not necessarily reflect the views of stakeholders in Palestine.

The impact of our collective inaction on the most vulnerable – including women and children – will be devastating. We have a moral and ethical obligation to step up our efforts in line with our shared commitments and our humanity, and to eliminate the scourge of starvation in a world of relative plenty.

The objective of international humanitarian and development partners working in food crisis contexts is to prevent or decrease acute food insecurity that threatens lives or livelihoods. This includes reducing the number of people facing Catastrophe (IPC/CH Phase 5) and mitigating the high-risk of groups already in Emergency (IPC/CH Phase 4) slipping into IPC/CH Phase 5. It also means, reducing excess mortality and acute malnutrition, to prevent further deterioration into more widespread catastrophic acute food insecurity conditions.

## Multidimensional approach to famines

A multi-dimensional view promotes a better understanding of famine dynamics. This must include not only the severity dimension but also the magnitude of the crisis, the temporal dimension or duration, and the spatial dimension or geographic specificity of the crisis. A better understanding of dynamics will promote better prediction, prevention, and mitigation.<sup>4</sup>

For this reason, this note highlights not only areas where populations faced Catastrophe (IPC/CH Phase 5) currently but also in the recent past, as well as other areas where widespread and prolonged Emergency (IPC/CH Phase 4), and where significantly high levels of acute malnutrition and excess mortality were reported. In these circumstances, humanitarian access is a critical factor to consider in this analysis, allowing both a monitoring of the situation through data collection in affected areas and a humanitarian response in case of rapid deterioration.

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<sup>4</sup> Maxwell *et al.*, 2020.

# Criteria for identification of areas with populations at risk of facing Catastrophe (IPC/CH Phase 5)

The following criteria have been applied across 13 countries/territories based on an analysis of IPC and CH datasets:

- Populations in **Catastrophe (IPC/CH Phase 5)** in 2020–2024.
- Areas classified in a **protracted Emergency (IPC/CH Phase 4)** situation, i.e. at least three consecutive years or four non-consecutive years between 2016 and 2024.
- Populations in the most severe levels of **acute malnutrition and mortality** in 2023/2024, i.e. Crude Death Rate (CDR) over 1/10,000/day or Under-five Death Rate (U5DR) over 2/10,000/day or Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) equal to or above 20 percent.<sup>5</sup>

Finally, **risk factors particularly related to conflicts** (i.e. "high" or "very high" humanitarian access constraints as per ACAPS and humanitarian security incidents reported by OCHA) are also layered against the districts identified according to the criteria above.

## Application of criteria

In **530 districts** across Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Palestine, South Sudan, Somalia, and Yemen, people have so little to eat that they are currently, were recently or have been protractedly acutely malnourished, at risk of death or facing starvation and death (IPC/CH Phase 4 or above):

- **75 districts** across nine countries/territories had populations in **Catastrophe (IPC/CH Phase 5)** in 2020–2024:
  - two districts in Afghanistan (Ghor province);<sup>6</sup>
  - four departments in Burkina Faso (Sahel and Boucle du Mouhoun regions);
  - one neighborhood in Haiti (Cité-Soleil, in Port-au-Prince);

<sup>5</sup> This threshold aims to capture levels of acute malnutrition in between IPC Phase 4 and IPC Phase 5 acute food insecurity levels. As per IPC Manual 3.1, GAM based on Mid-upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) equal to or higher than 15 percent is indicative of IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) or IPC Phase 5 (Catastrophe/Famine). GAM based on Weight-for-length/Height z-score (WHZ) between 15 and 30 percent is indicative of Emergency (IPC Phase 4). The Famine threshold for GAM is at least 30 percent of children acutely malnourished identified through GAM based on WHZ, and in the absence of GAM based on WHZ, at least 15 percent of children acutely malnourished identified through GAM based on MUAC for Catastrophe/Famine classifications. As per global nutrition standards, wasting based on WHZ  $\geq 15$  percent is considered "Very High".

<sup>6</sup> The analysis at district level is indicative only and not considered statistically significant. Afghanistan IPC Technical Working Group, May 2022.



- one cercle in Mali (Menaka in Gao region);
  - one local government area in Nigeria (Bama, Borno state);
  - five governorates of Palestine (Gaza);
  - 29 districts in Somalia (across Bakool, Banadir, Bay, Galgaduud, Gedo, Middle Juba, Middle Shabelle, Mudug, Nugaal, and Togdheer);
  - 19 districts in South Sudan (across Jonglei, Lakes, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Unity, Warrap, Western Equatoria as well as among returnees); and
  - 13 districts in Yemen (across Al Jawf, Amran and Hajjah governorates).
- In addition, **369 districts** across nine countries had areas classified in a **protracted Emergency (IPC/CH Phase 4)** situation, i.e. at least three consecutive years or four non-continuous years between 2016 and 2024:
    - 141 districts in Afghanistan (in 16 provinces and urban areas);
    - one department in Burkina Faso (Nord region);
    - 28 sub-prefectures in the Central African Republic (across 10 prefectures);
    - 10 territories in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (in Ituri, Kasai, Kasai Central, Kasai Oriental, and Tanganyika);
    - 28 departments in Haiti (in Grand-Anse, Centre, Nord-Ouest and Ouest regions);
    - seven local government areas in Nigeria (across Borno State);
    - six districts in Somalia (in Awdal, Sanaag and Woqooyi Galbeed);
    - 35 districts in South Sudan (across 9 states); and
    - 113 districts in Yemen (across 19 governorates).
  - **Furthermore, 86 districts** across nine countries had populations in the most severe levels of acute malnutrition and excess mortality in 2023/2024, i.e. CDR over 1/10,000/day or U5DR over 2/10,000/day or GAM equal to or above 20 percent:<sup>7</sup>
    - 19 districts in Afghanistan (across Paktika province);
    - among IDP populations and one commune of two departments in Burkina Faso (across Boucle du Mouhoun and Centre-Nord regions);
    - 17 departments in Chad (across Batha, Borkou, Ouaddai, Salamat, Sila and Wadi Fira provinces);

<sup>7</sup> Due to discrepancies in units of analysis used in acute food insecurity (territories) and acute malnutrition (health zones) analyses, the map corresponding to DRC in this analysis only represents territories. Those territories flagged in the map as having high malnutrition and mortality levels might only have one health zone meeting these criteria. Nutrition data for Afghanistan and Chad were only available at provincial level.



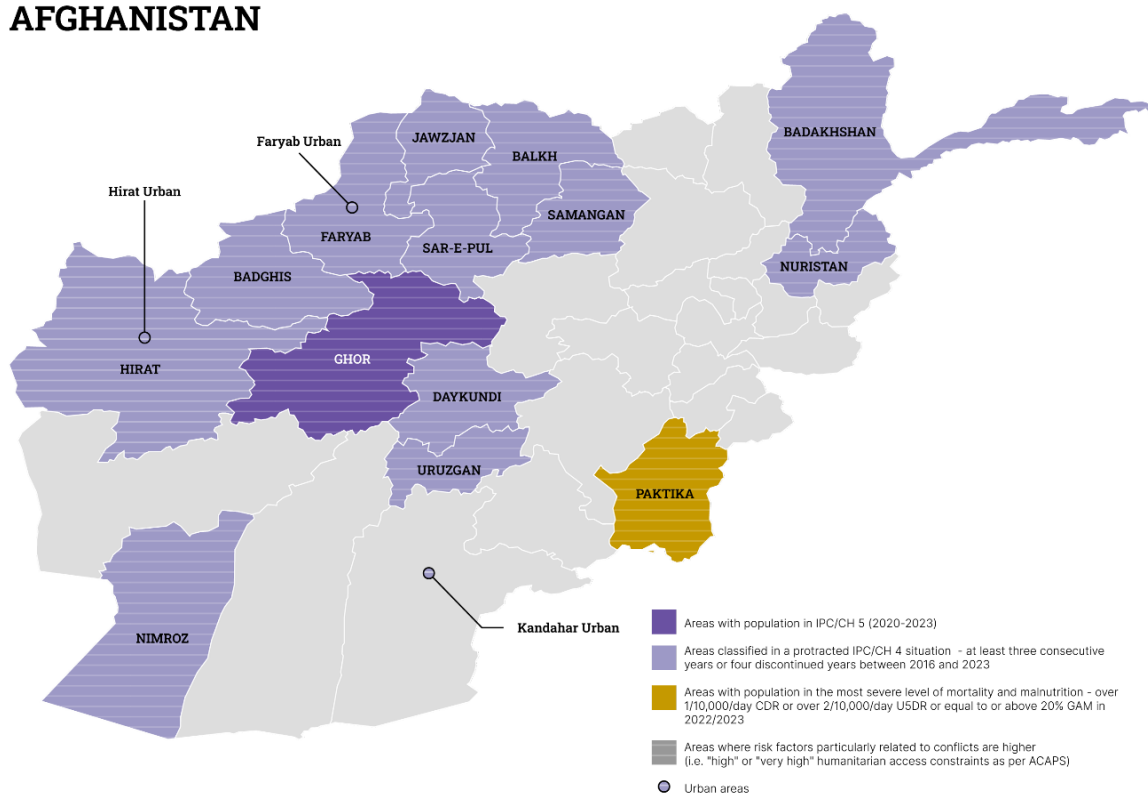
- four health zones in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (across Kasai Oriental, Mai-Ndombe and Sankuru);
  - eight districts in Kenya (across Baringo, Mandera, Marsabit, Samburu, and Turkana counties);
  - 14 local government areas in Nigeria (across Sokoto state in Northwest);
  - six districts in Somalia (in Sool and Sanaag regions);
  - five districts in South Sudan (in Eastern Equatoria, Unity and Upper Nile); and
  - 11 districts in Yemen (in Abyan, Al Hudaydah, Hajjah and Taizz governorates).
- **416 of these 530 districts** were identified with **risk factors particularly related to conflicts** (i.e. "high" or "very high" humanitarian access constraints as per ACAPS or at least one humanitarian security incident reported by OCHA in 2022). However, the disaggregated data at the district level was not as granular as for acute food insecurity and malnutrition data.

These criteria are **not mutually exclusive**, and some areas might meet the four conditions described above. More emphasis is given to the severity of acute food insecurity identifying areas with populations in Catastrophe (IPC/CH Phase 5) in priority, although this approach also includes other dimensions to better prevent and mitigate catastrophic acute food insecurity dynamics.

## Areas with the most severe levels of acute food insecurity and malnutrition

Thirteen countries and territories<sup>8</sup>: Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Palestine, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen.

### AFGHANISTAN

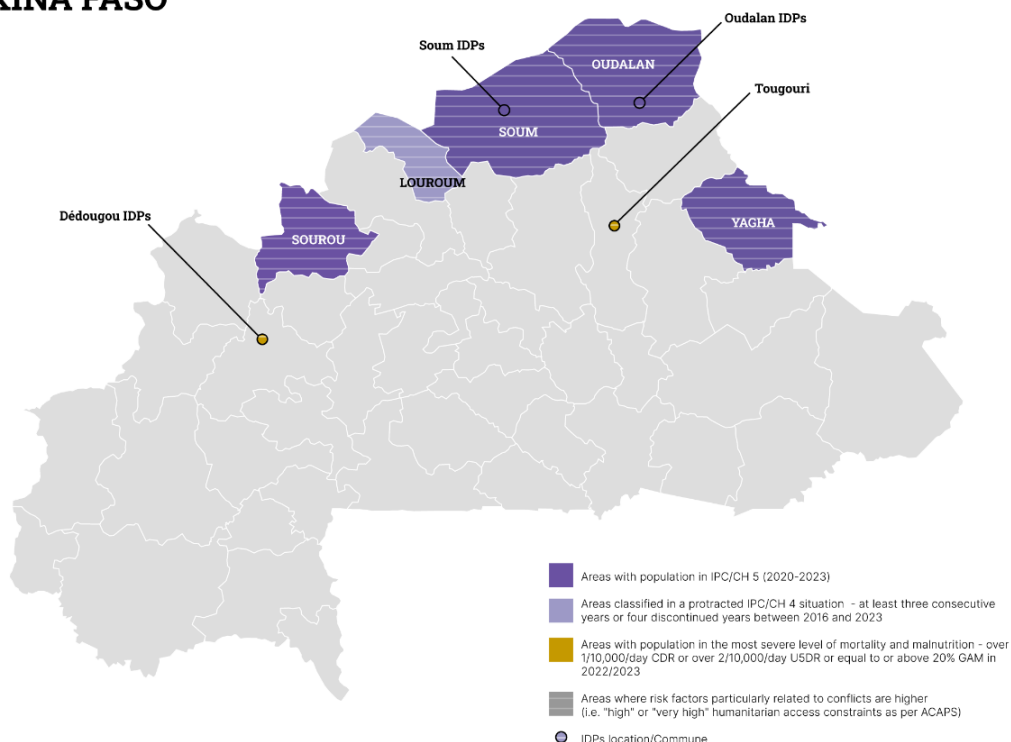


<sup>8</sup> These maps represent the 530 districts as per the IPC/CH acute food insecurity or acute malnutrition geographical units of analysis which might not correspond to districts or to livelihood/health zones. Source of maps: United Nations. 2020. Map of the World.

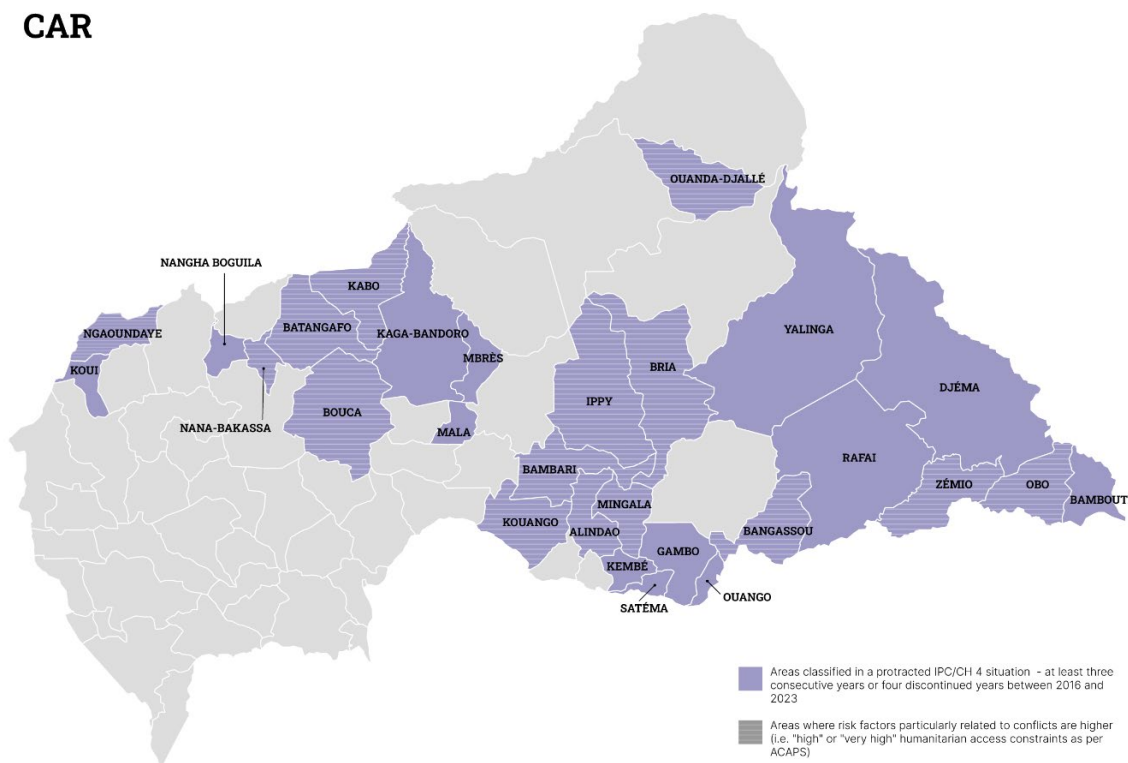
<https://www.un.org/geospatial/content/map-world-1>; IPC. 2024. Acute Food Insecurity Map. <https://www.ipcinfo.org/>.

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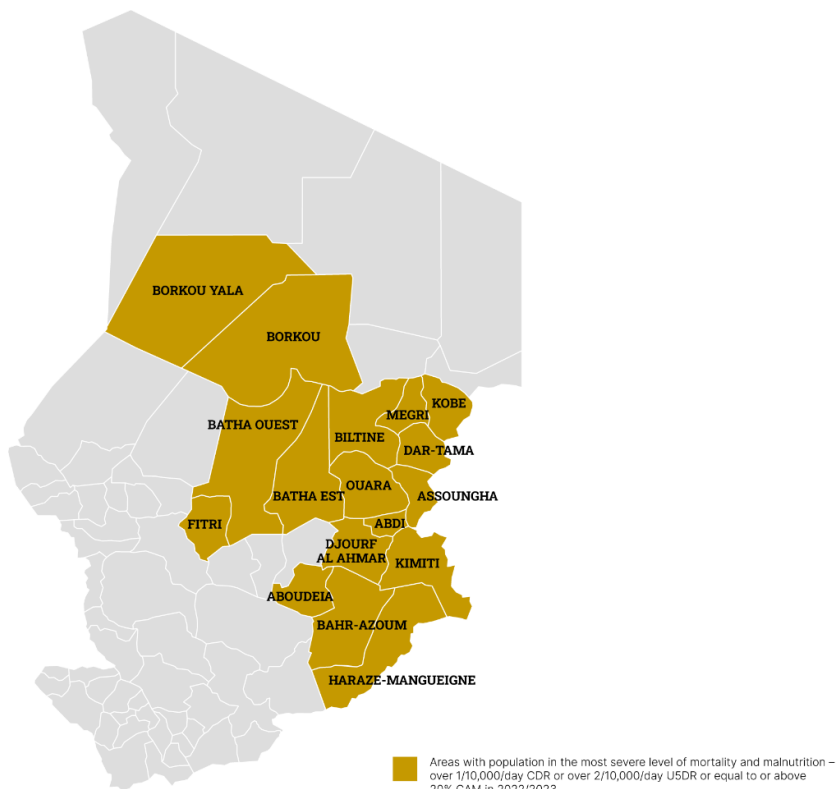
## BURKINA FASO



## CAR

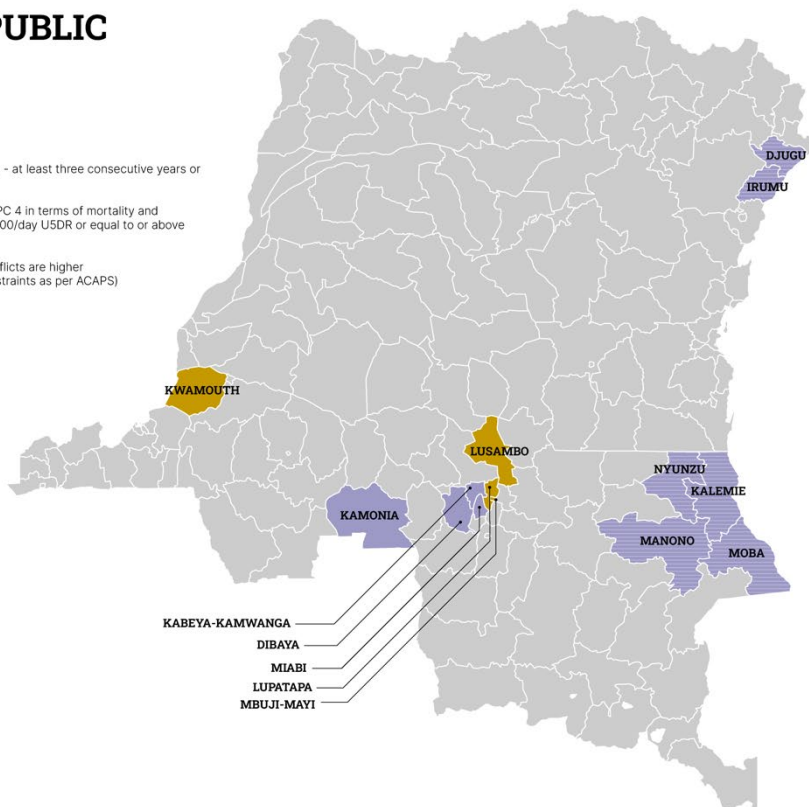


## CHAD



## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

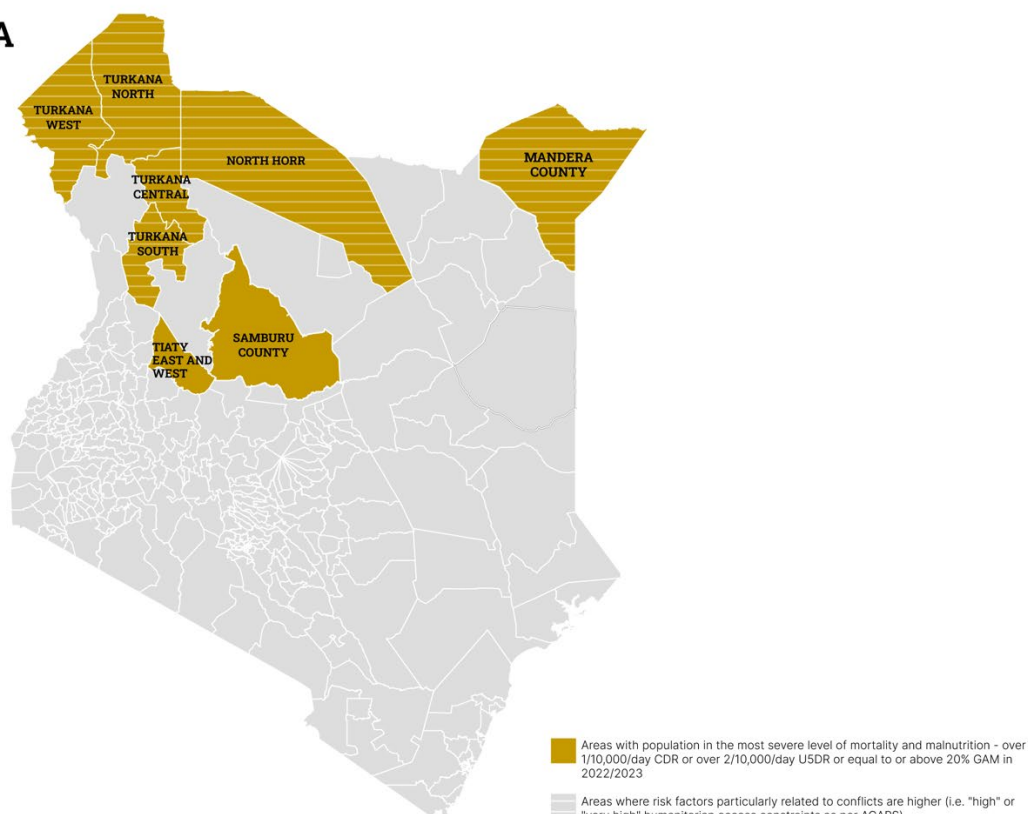
- Areas classified in a protracted IPC/CH 4 situation - at least three consecutive years or four discontinued years between 2016 and 2023
- Areas with population in the most severe level of IPC 4 in terms of mortality and malnutrition- over 1/10,000/day CDR or over 2/10,000/day U5DR or equal to or above 20% GAM in 2022/2023
- Areas where risk factors particularly related to conflicts are higher (i.e. "high" or "very high" humanitarian access constraints as per ACAPS)



## HAITI

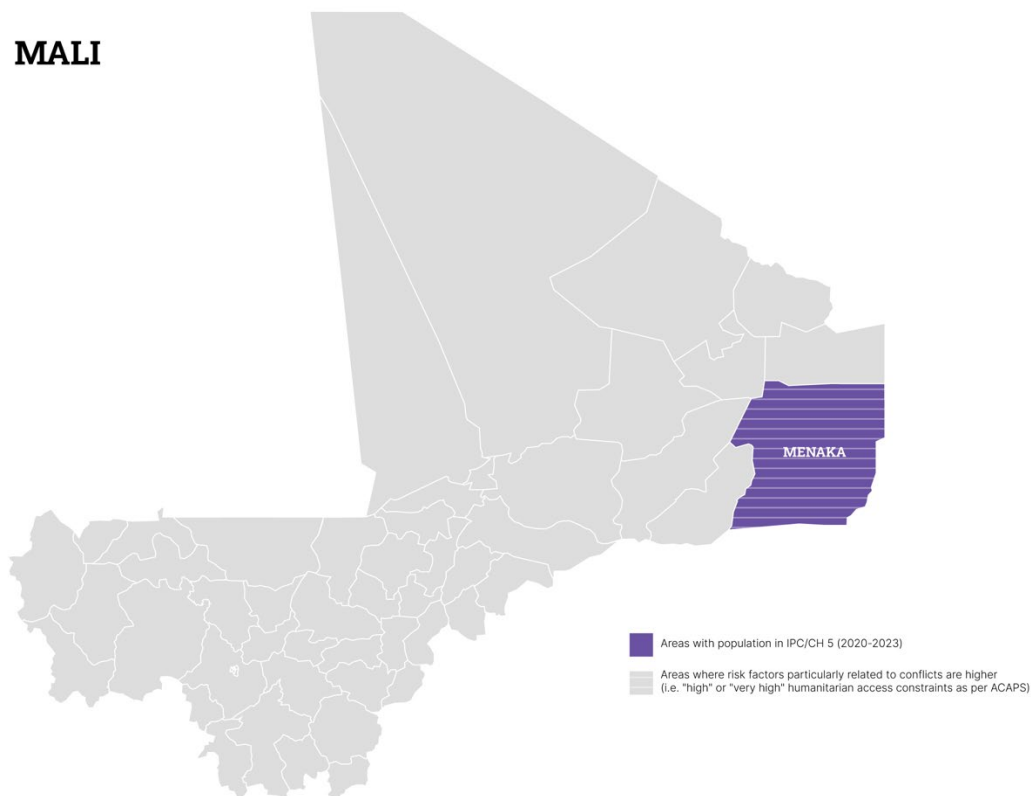


## KENYA

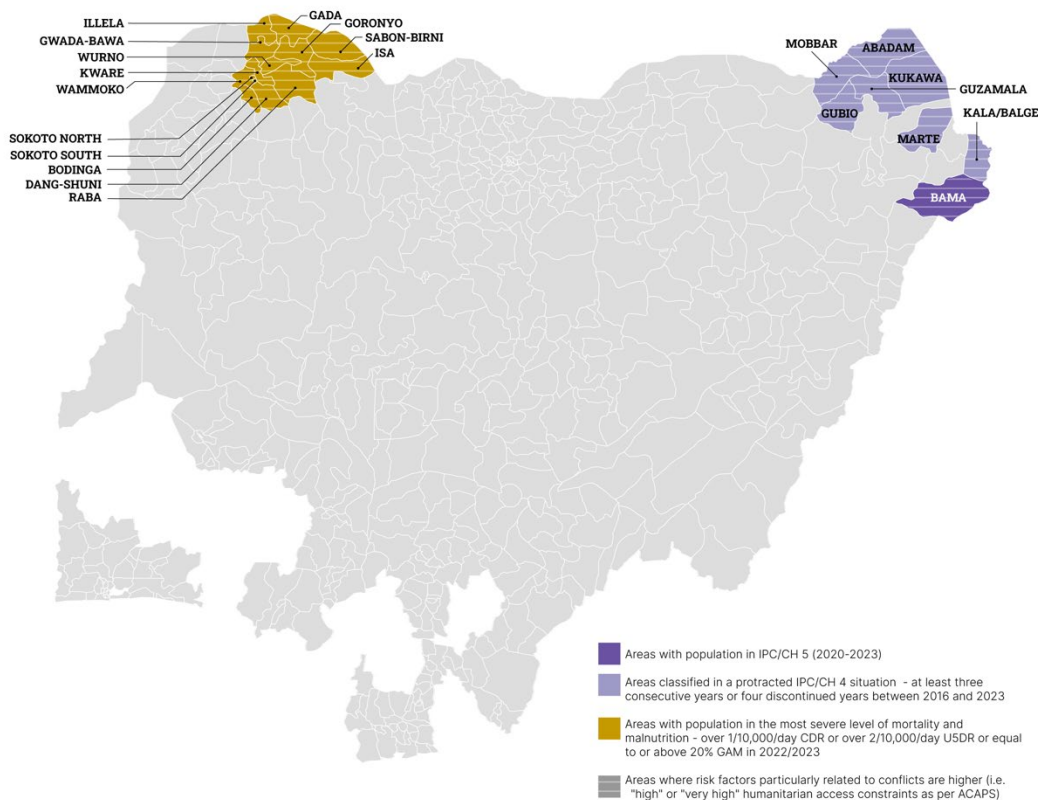


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## MALI



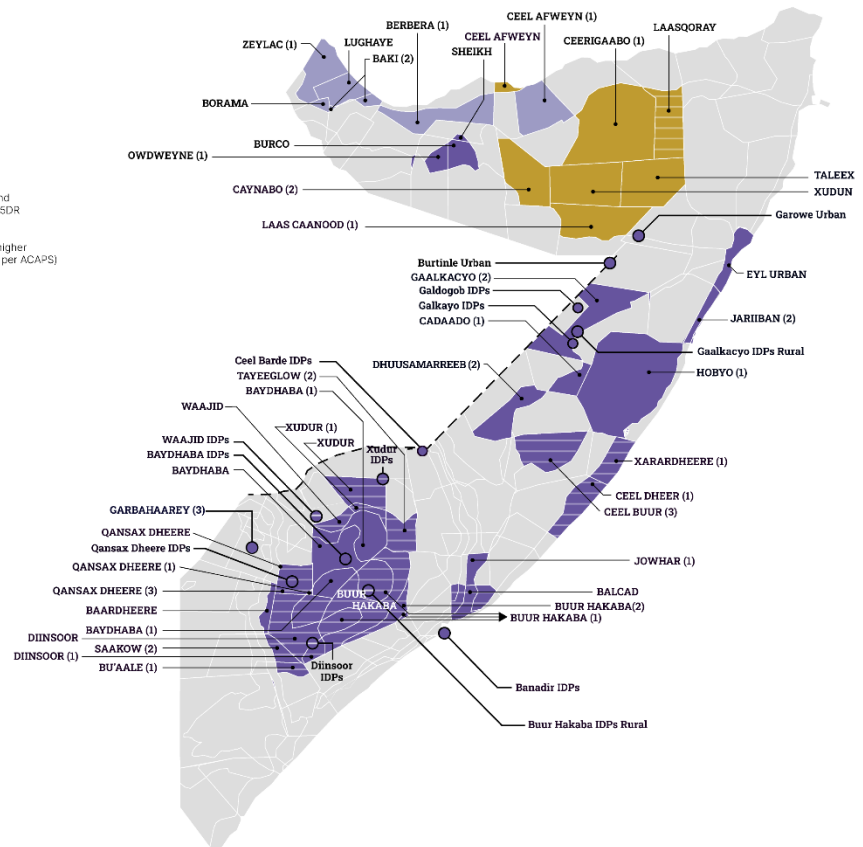
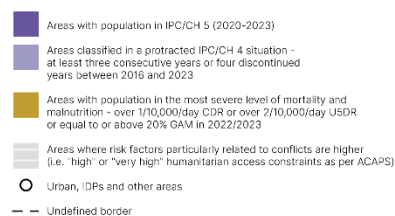
## NIGERIA



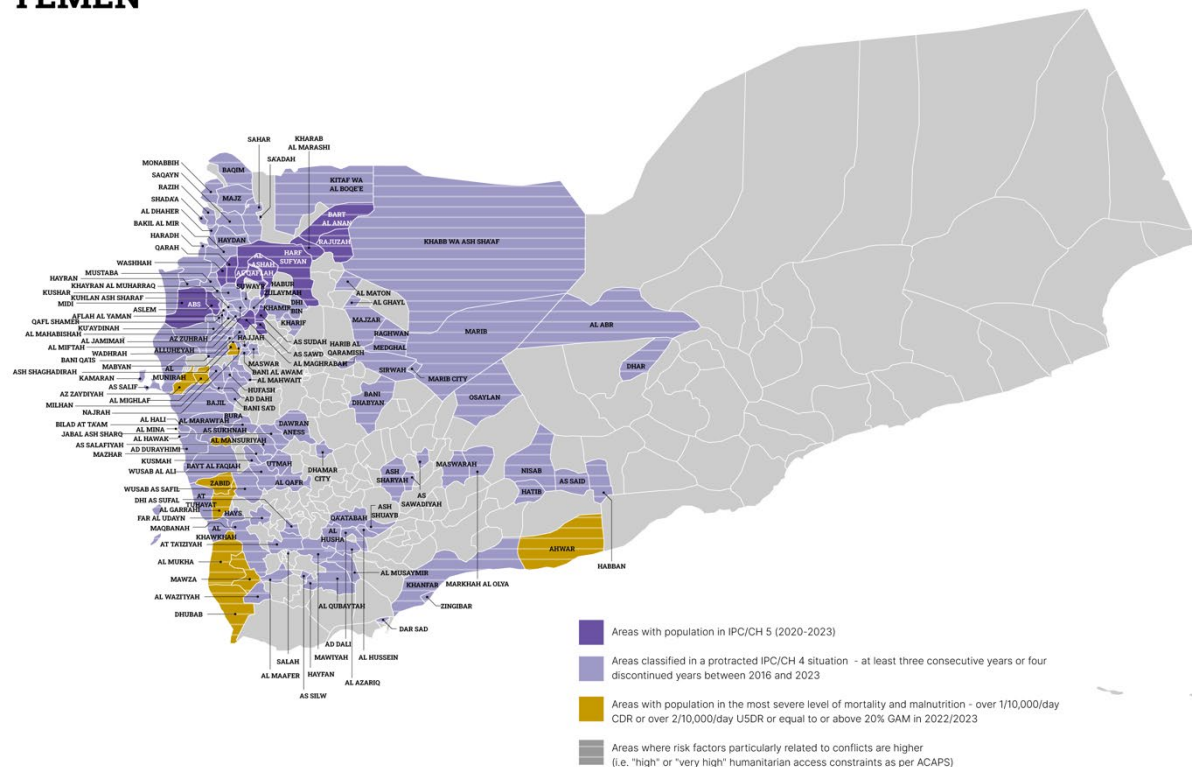
## PALESTINE (GAZA)



## SOMALIA







# Trends in acute food insecurity and external financing

Based on the IPC/CH projections in the 13 countries/territories:

- By June 2024,<sup>9</sup> the 530 districts identified are expected to encompass around 32.3 million people in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) – or 44 percent of the population analysed in these areas. **This includes 10.4 million people in Emergency (IPC/CH Phase 4) and 656 000 people in Catastrophe (IPC/CH Phase 5).**
- Another 24 million people in these districts are in Stressed (IPC/CH Phase 2) conditions and require assistance to reduce their vulnerability to disasters/shocks.

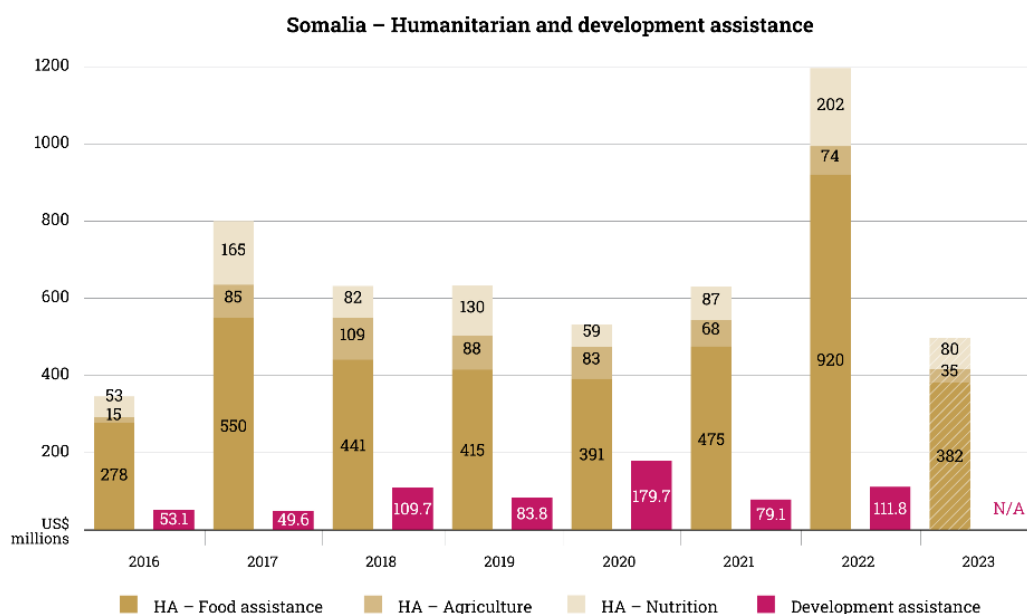
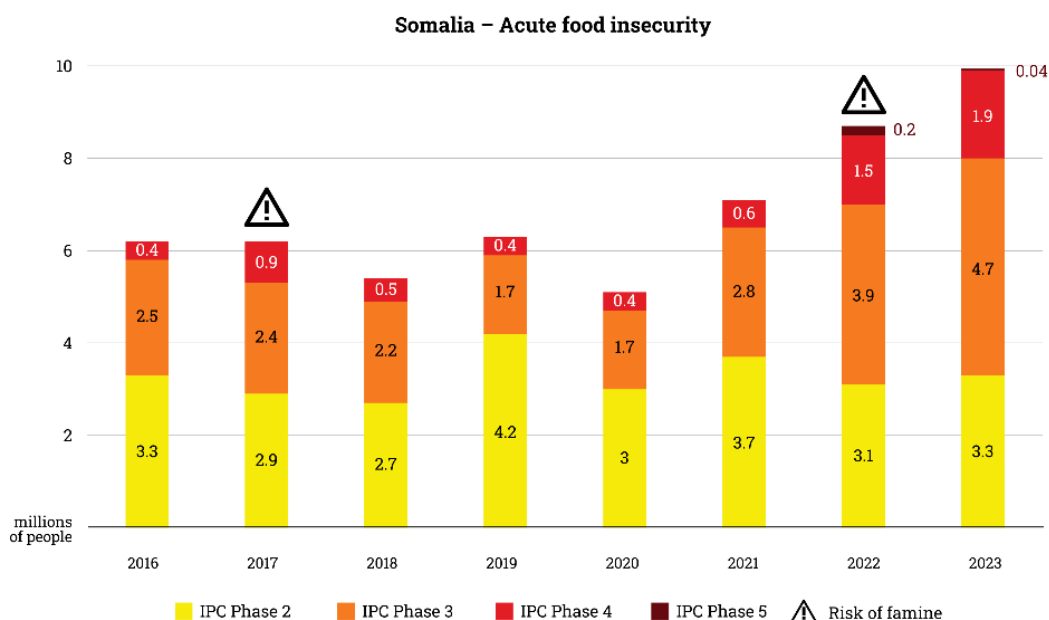
In these contexts, allocations of humanitarian and development assistance are often reactive to IPC/CH Phase 5, but do not vary significantly when IPC/CH Phase 4 conditions are persistent.

In **Somalia**, for instance, allocations of humanitarian assistance to food sectors increased significantly in 2017 and 2022, when a risk of famine was identified.<sup>10</sup> However, these levels of allocations were not sustained over the years, even though high and critical levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 and IPC Phase 4) persisted.

<sup>9</sup> Based on Global Network Against Food Crises calculations using IPC/CH data. As of 4 January 2024, IPC data for Yemen at the national level were available up to December 2022; the June 2023 IPC analysis only covered 118 districts and areas under the control of the Government of Yemen. The latest IPC projection for Kenya and Somalia covers respectively only up to January 2024 and December 2023, while in Afghanistan it covers until March 2024. In Palestine, the IPC projection only covers until early February 2024. For the other 8 countries, the IPC/CH data cover at least until June 2024

<sup>10</sup> FSNAU & FEWS NET, 2017; Somalia IPC Technical Working Group, 2022b and 2022c.

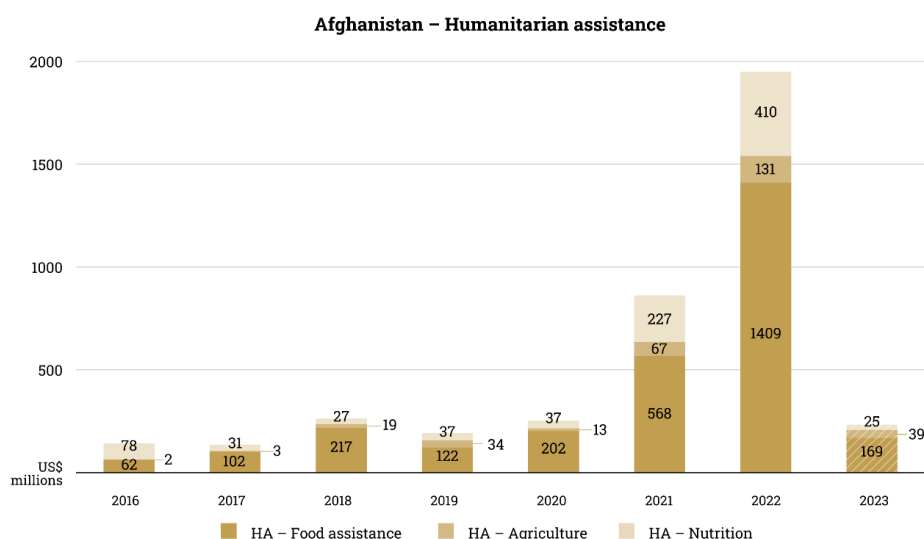
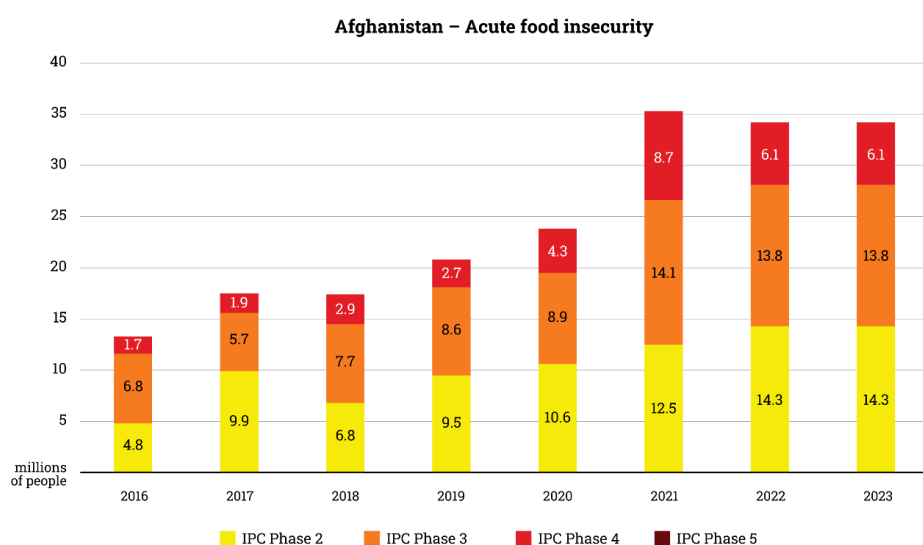
## Trends in acute food insecurity and humanitarian and development assistance to food sectors (2016–2023) in Somalia.



**Source:** GNAFC. 2024. 2023 Financing Flows and Food Crises Report - Analysis of humanitarian and development financing flows to food sectors in food crisis countries. Rome. Note: the 2023 humanitarian assistance figures are preliminary as of July 2023.

## Trends in acute food insecurity (2016–2023) and humanitarian assistance (HA) to food sectors (2016–2023)<sup>11</sup> in Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Palestine, South Sudan, and Yemen.

### Afghanistan

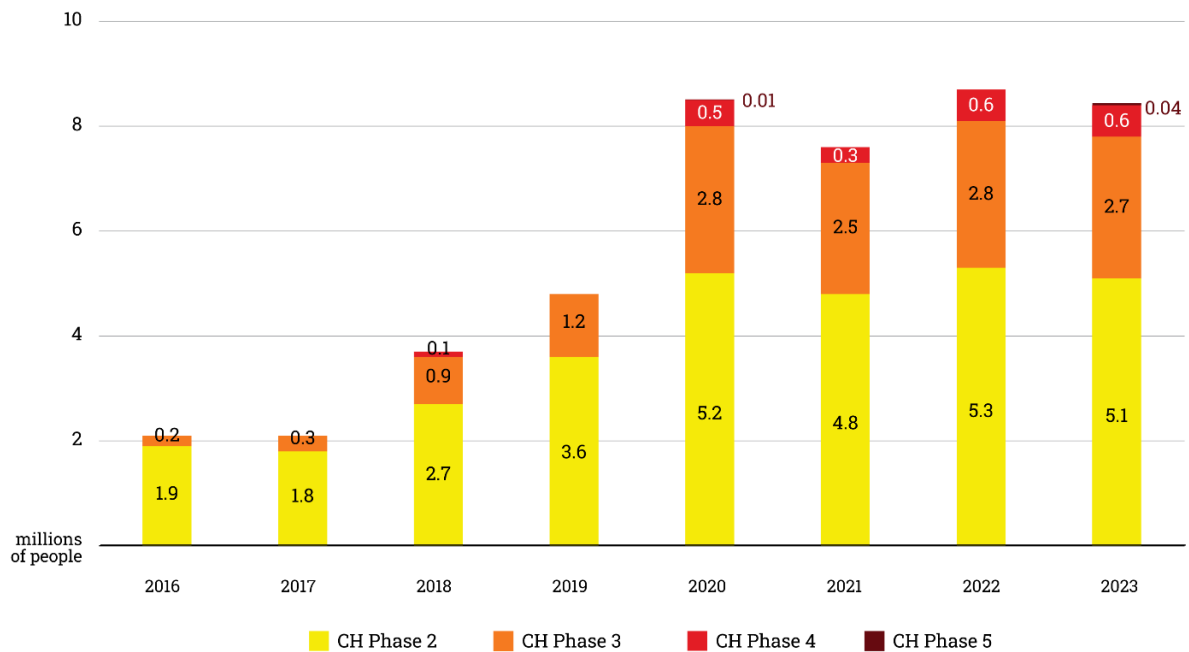


**Note:** From October 2021 onwards, the IPC reports used Flowminder population estimates and therefore expanded the number of people analysed relative to previous IPC analyses. The total country population reported in 2020 is therefore 32.9 million people, compared to 41.7 million in 2021. In the second quarter of 2022 around 20 000 people were reported to face Catastrophe situation (IPC Phase 5) while the peak of acute food insecurity was reached in the fourth quarter that year (i.e. analysis period covering November 2022–March 2023).

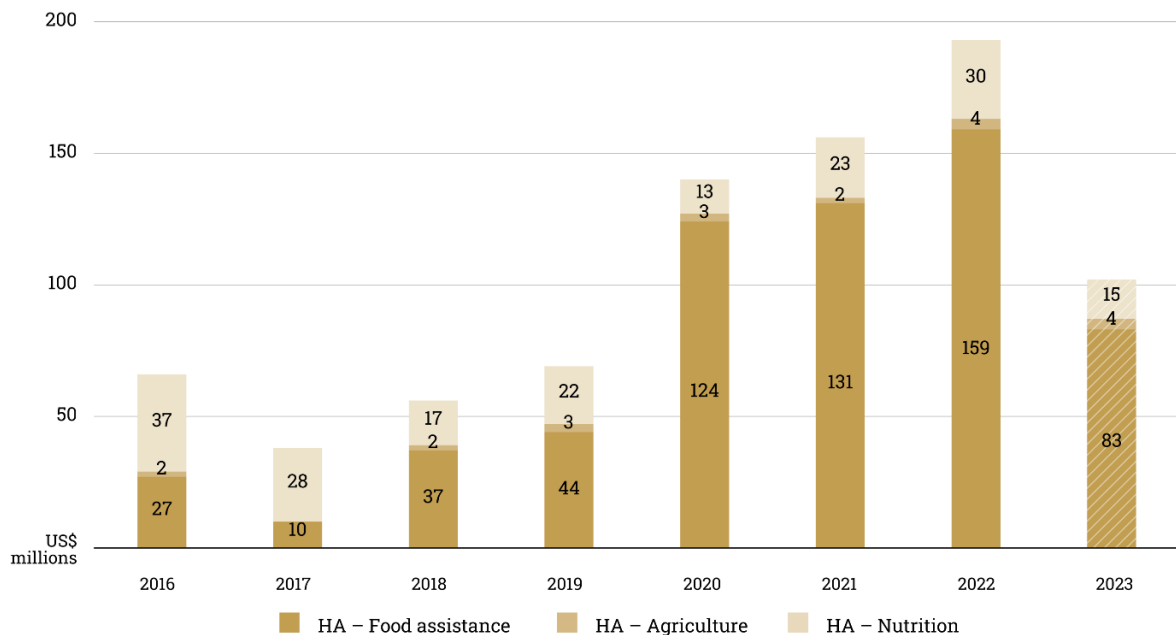
<sup>11</sup> In 2023, humanitarian assistance figures are preliminary as of July 2023 and indicated in the graphs below with a pattern.

## Burkina Faso

### Burkina Faso – Acute food insecurity

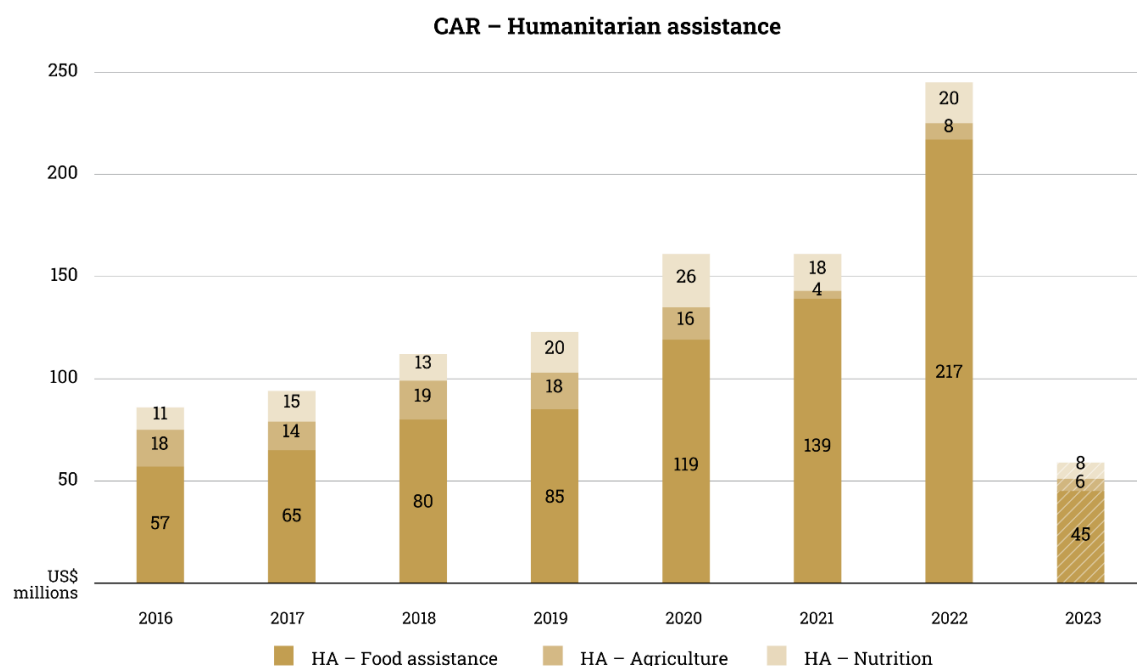
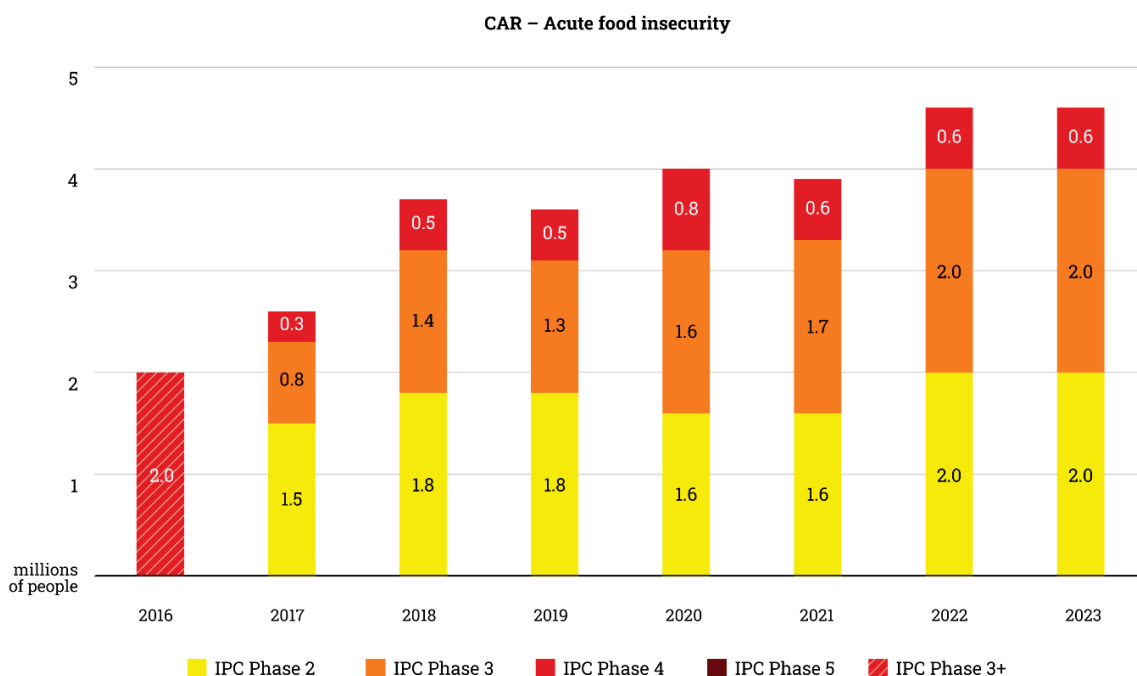


### Burkina Faso – Humanitarian assistance



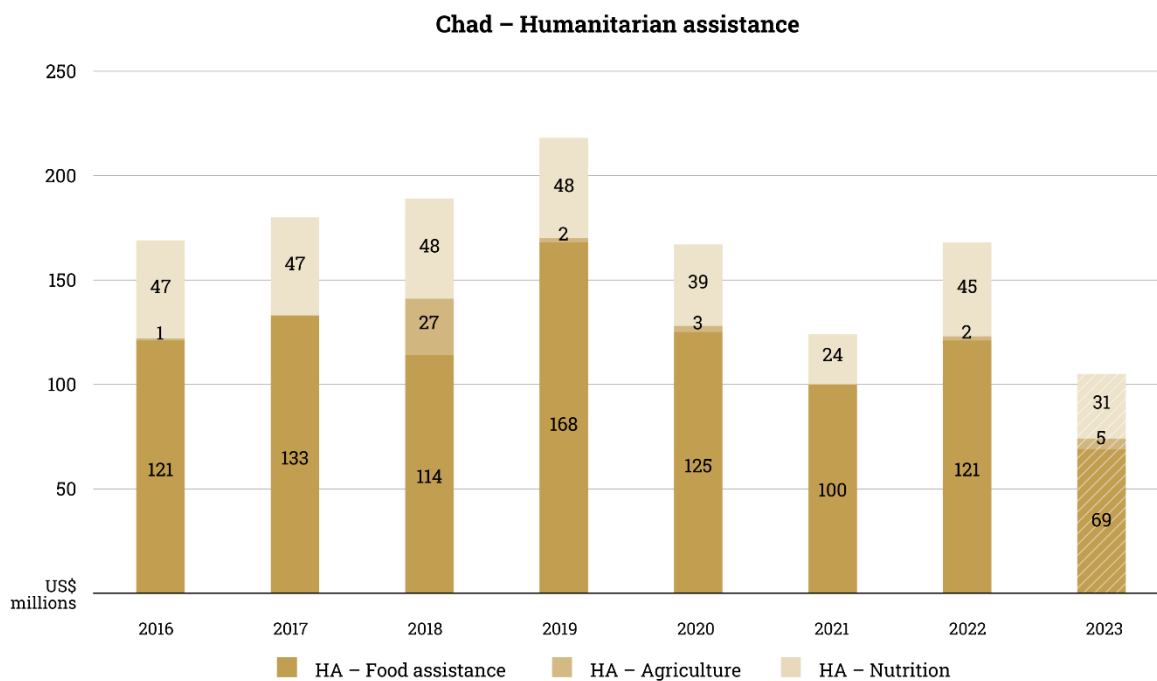
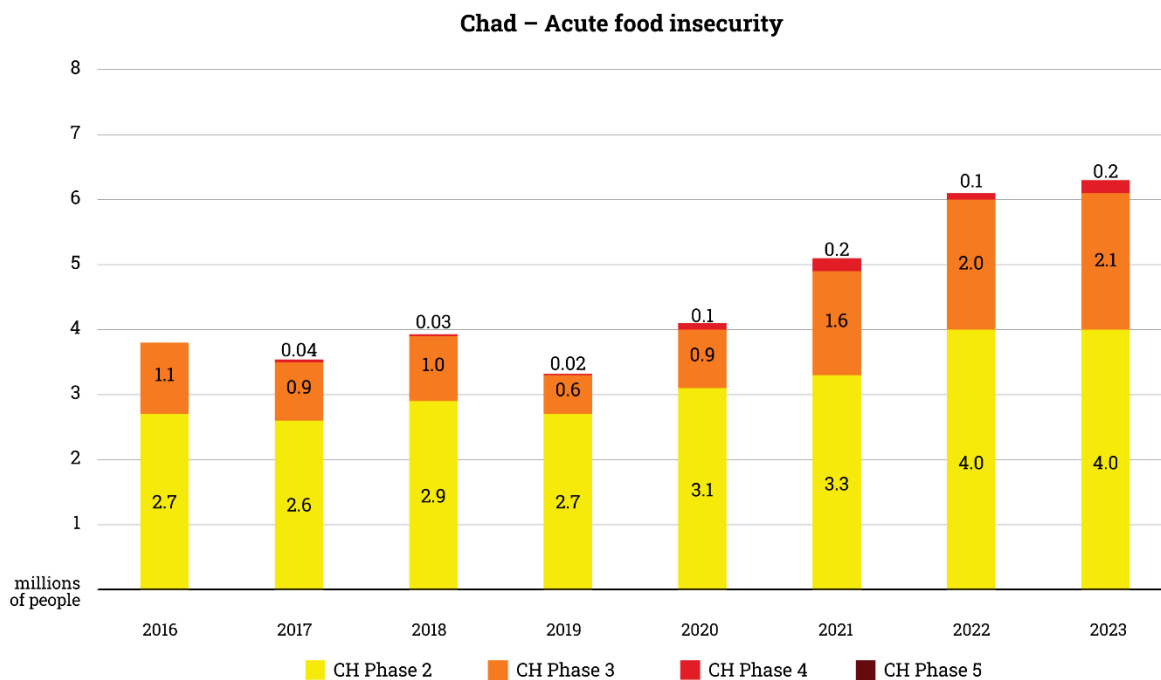
**Note:** In 2022, around 2 000 people were reported to face Catastrophe (CH Phase 5) in Oct–Dec 2022 while the peak of acute food insecurity was reached in Jun–Aug 2022 that year.

## Central African Republic



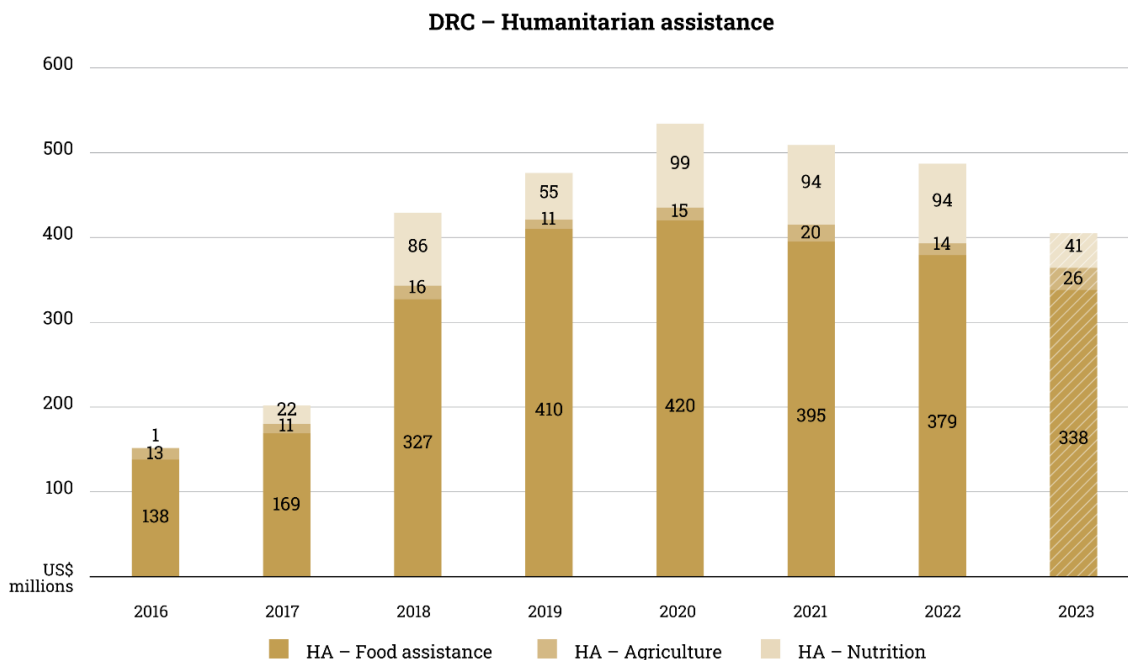
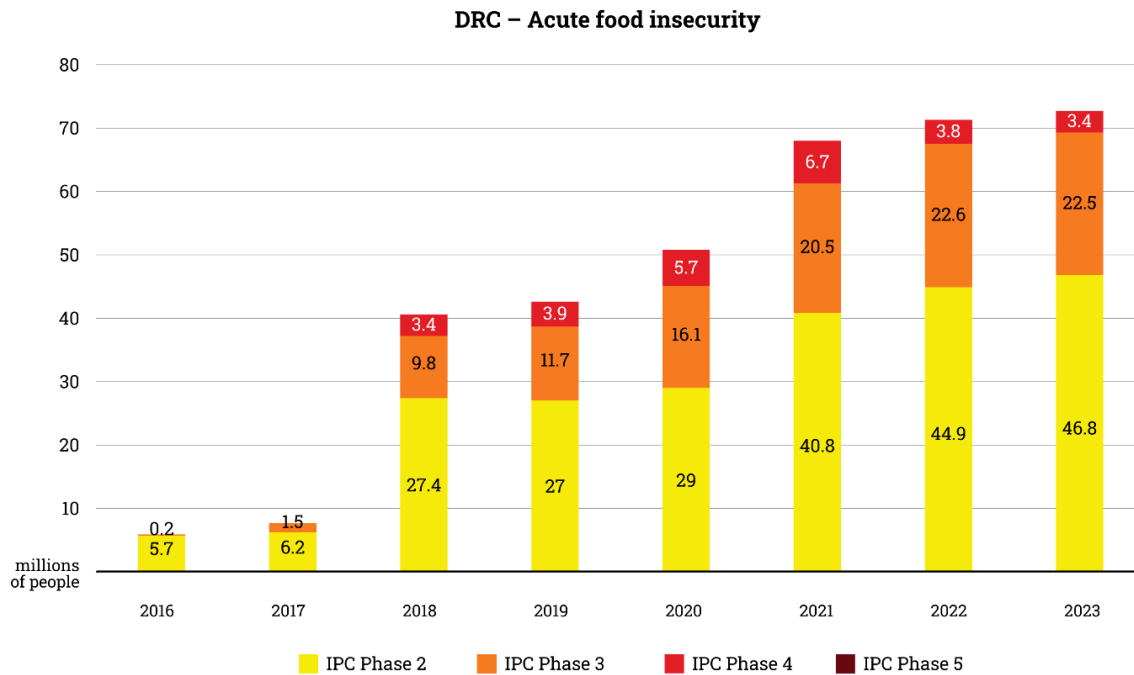
**Note:** In 2016, estimates for the population in Stress situation (IPC Phase 2) were not available. From 2022 onwards, the IPC considered the revised demographic projections of the National Statistics Institute (ICASEES) with a total country population increasing from 4.9 million people to 6 million. Compared with the previous IPC analysis, the situation in 2022 is relatively stable, with 44% of the population analysed in Crisis or worse situation (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) compared to 43% in the same season in 2021 in these conditions.

## Chad





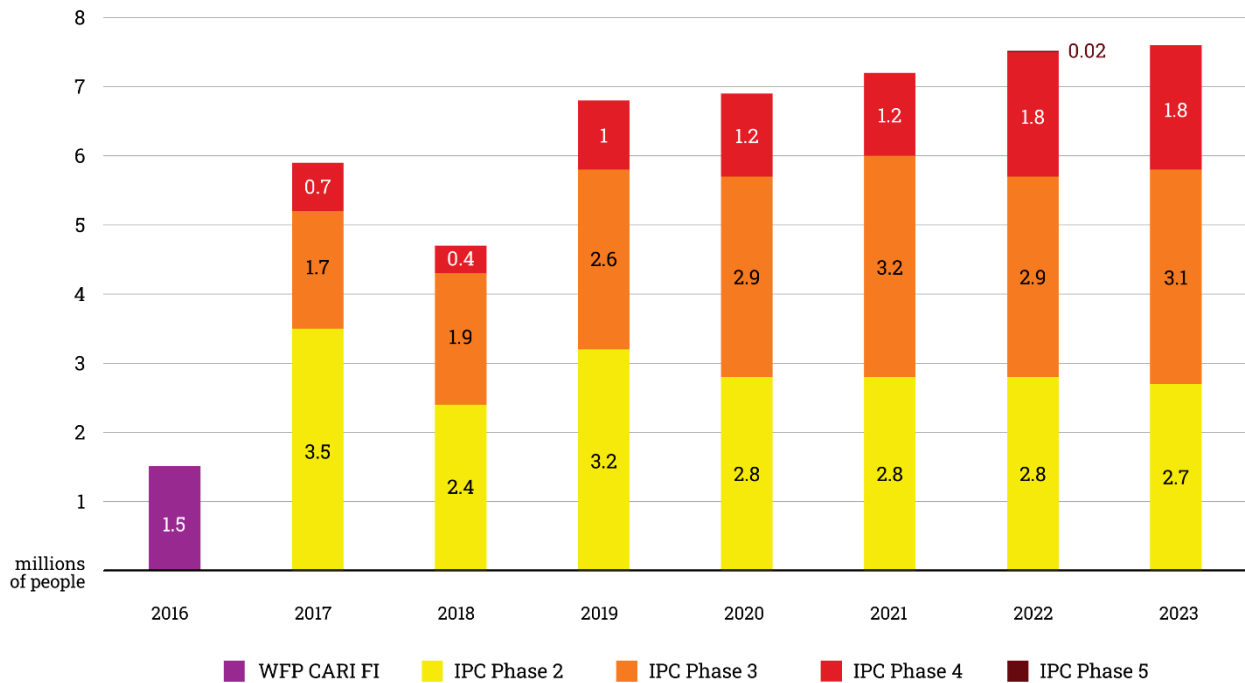
## Democratic Republic of the Congo



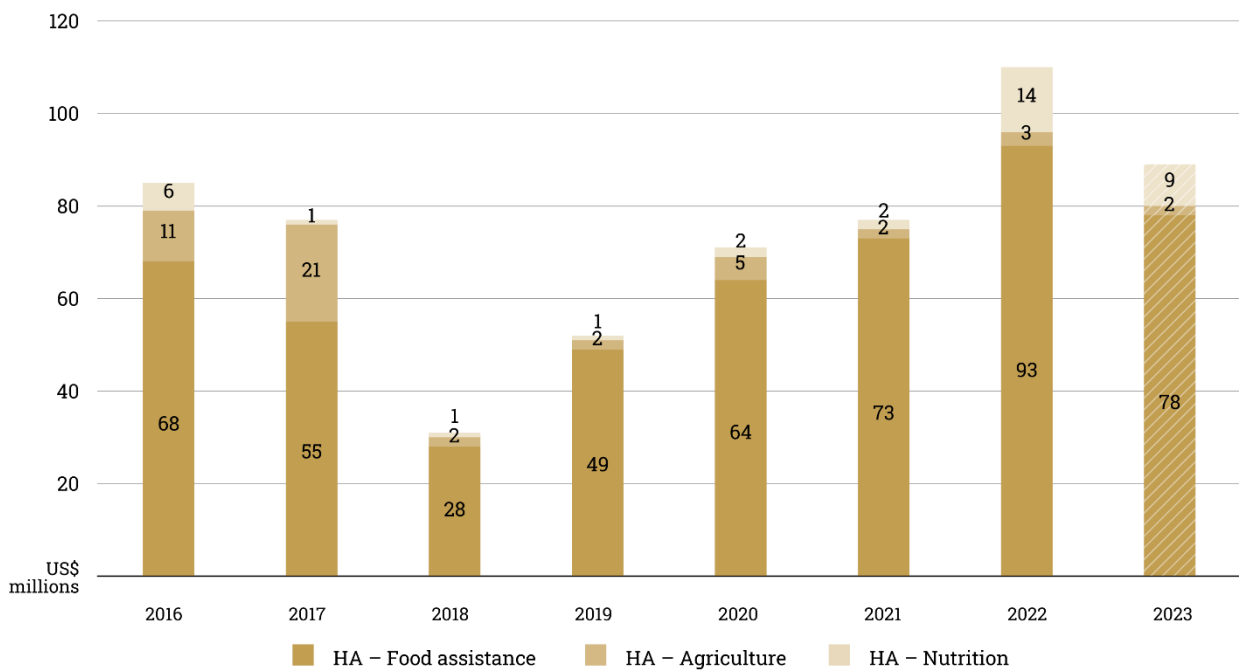
**Note:** In 2016–2017, the estimates of population in Stress situation (IPC Phase 2) were not available. There are significant comparability issues in acute food insecurity data over time – e.g. although the magnitude increased significantly in 2021, partly due to new and urban areas analysed, the prevalence of people in Crisis or worse situation (IPC Phase 3 or above) slightly decreased compared to the previous analysis – from 33 percent in July–December 2020 to 28 percent in February–July 2021. The total magnitude thus mainly increased due to the increase in the population analysed (67 million in July 2020 versus 96 million in February 2021).

## Haiti

### Haiti – Acute food insecurity

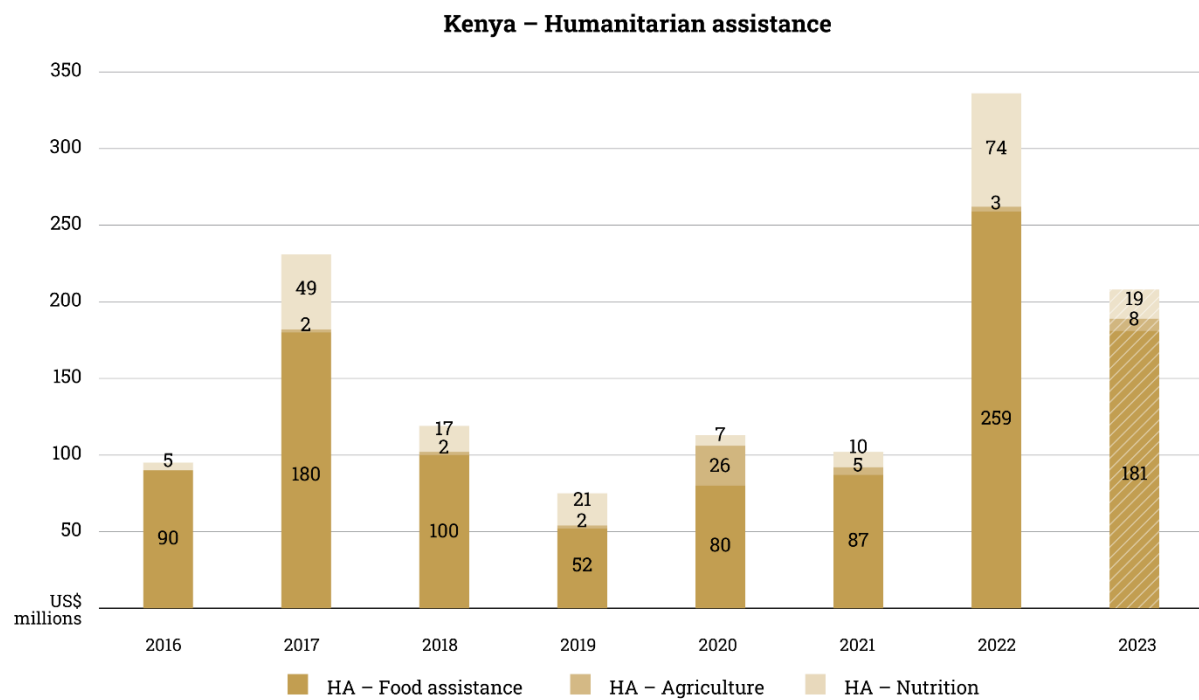
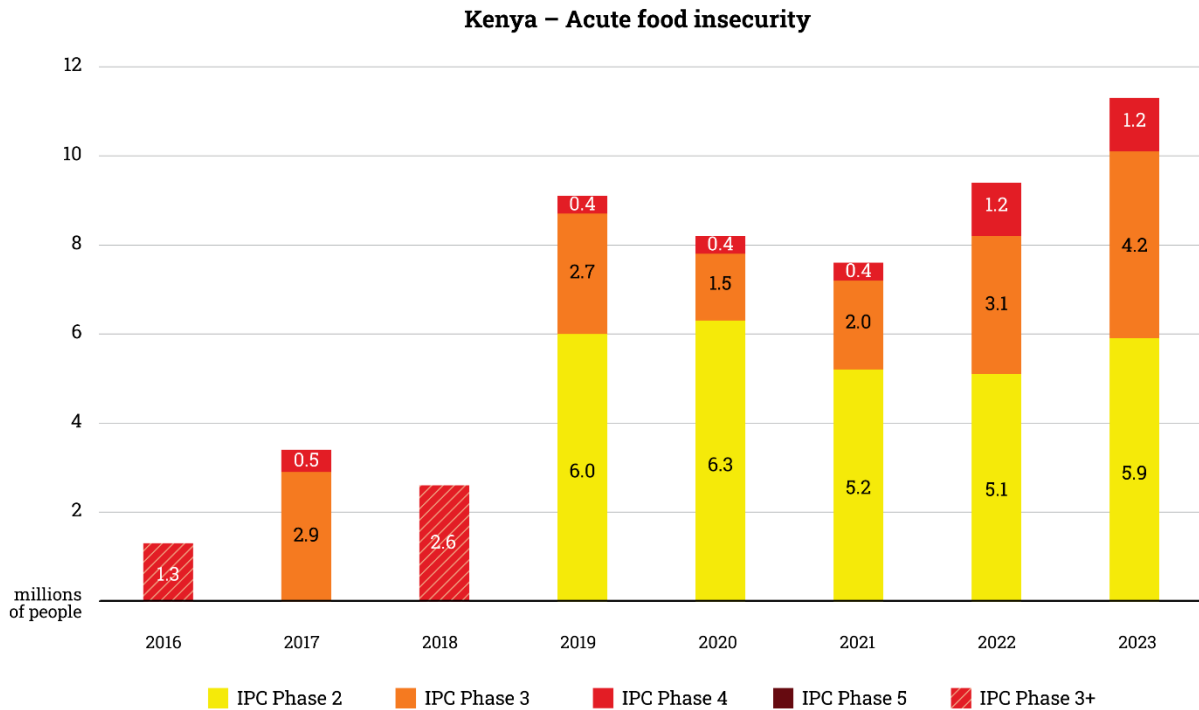


### Haiti – Humanitarian assistance



**Note:** From 2019 onwards, IPC analyses also integrated urban areas.

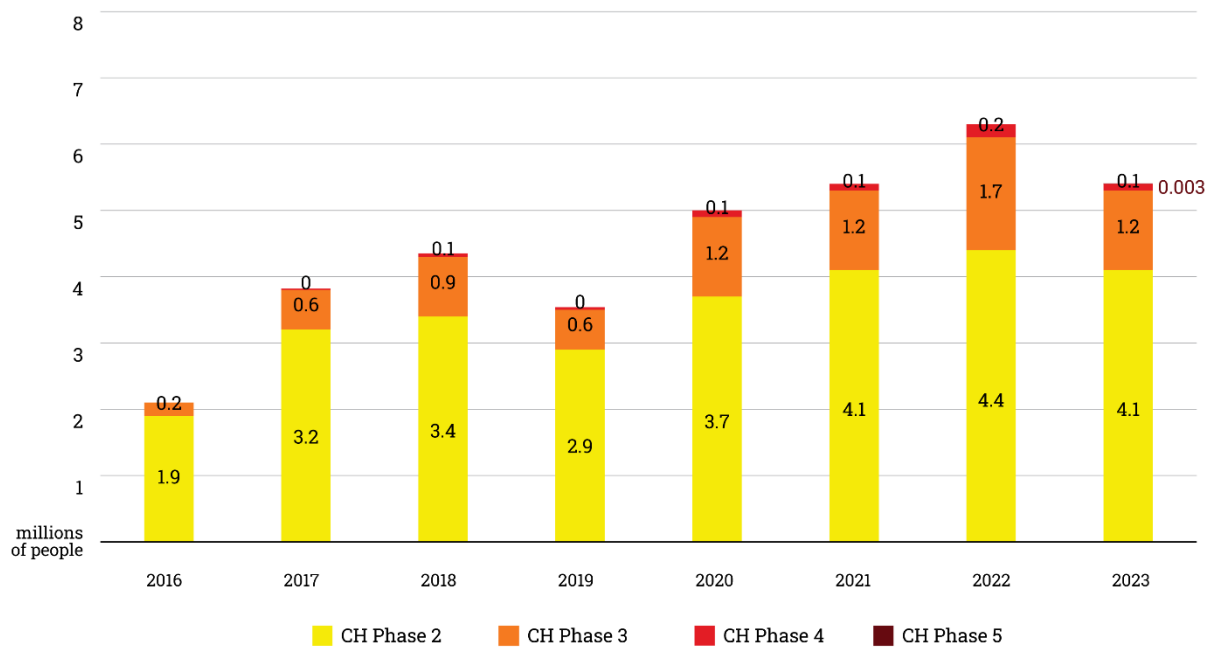
## Kenya



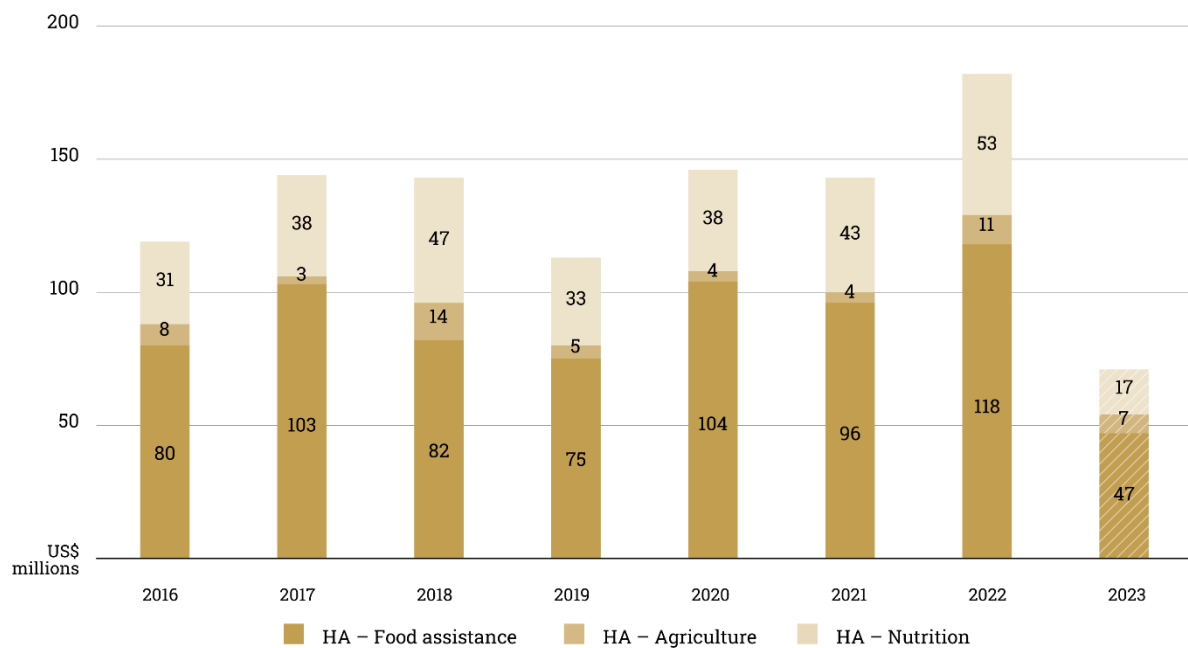
**Note:** Data for IPC Phase 2 were not available in 2016–2018. In 2018, the acute food insecurity data was based on FEWS NET data.

## Mali

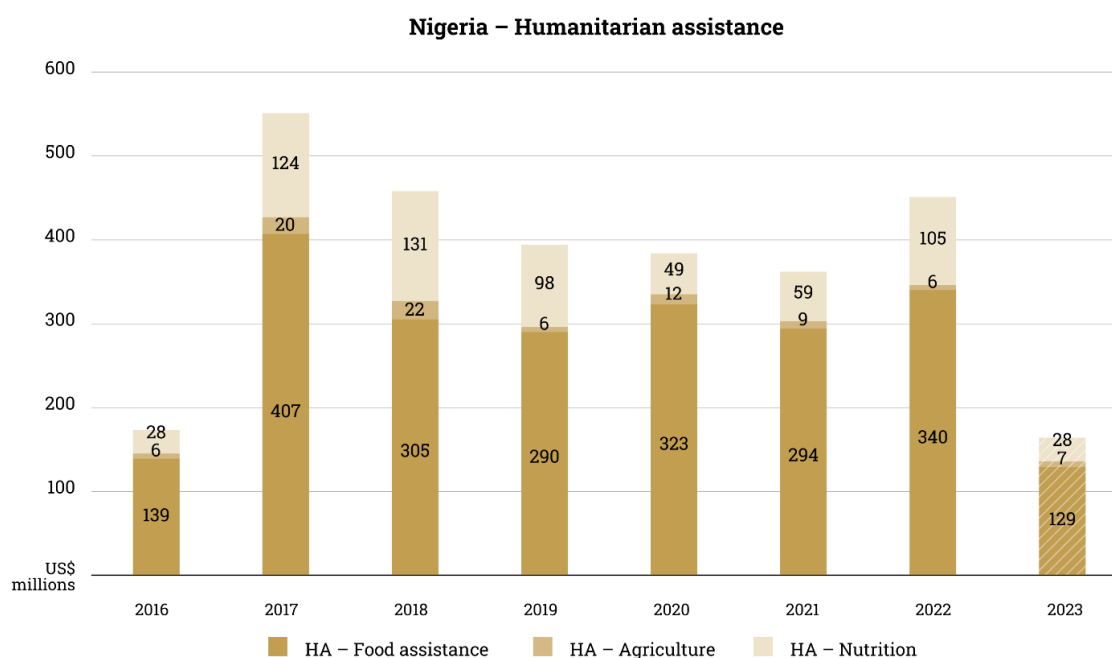
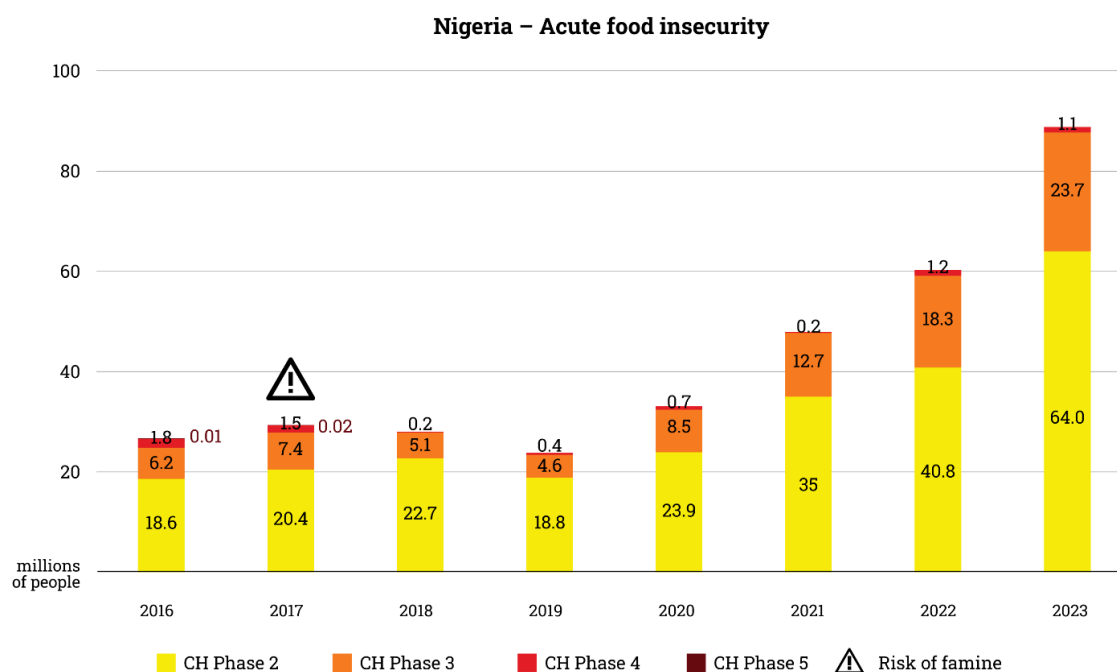
### Mali – Acute food insecurity



### Mali – Humanitarian assistance

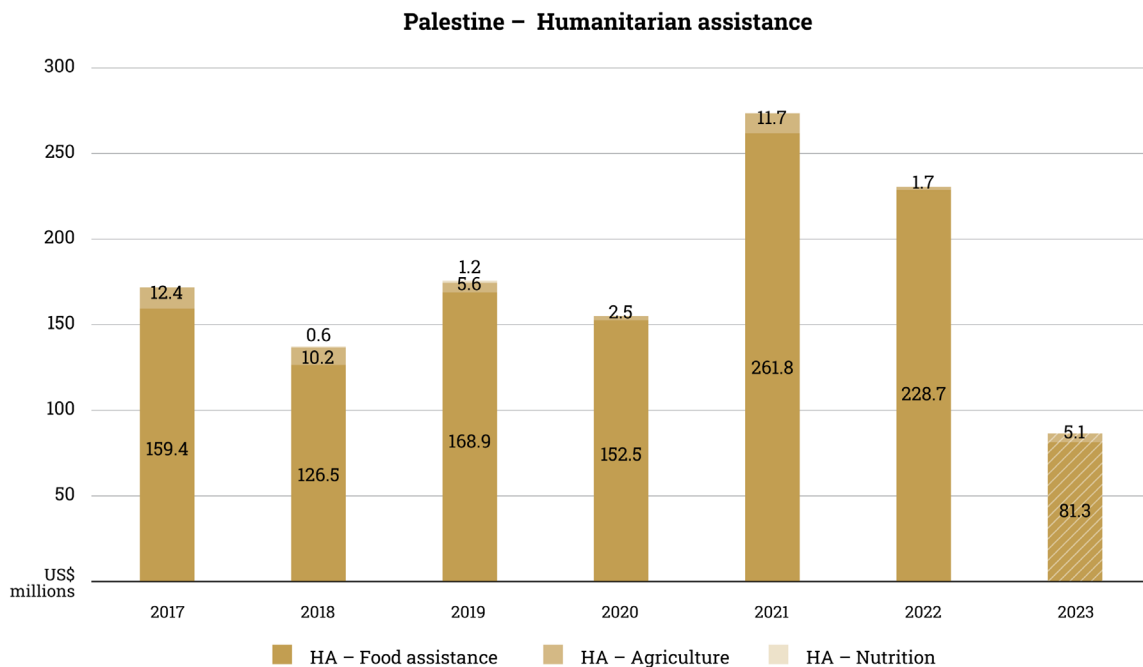
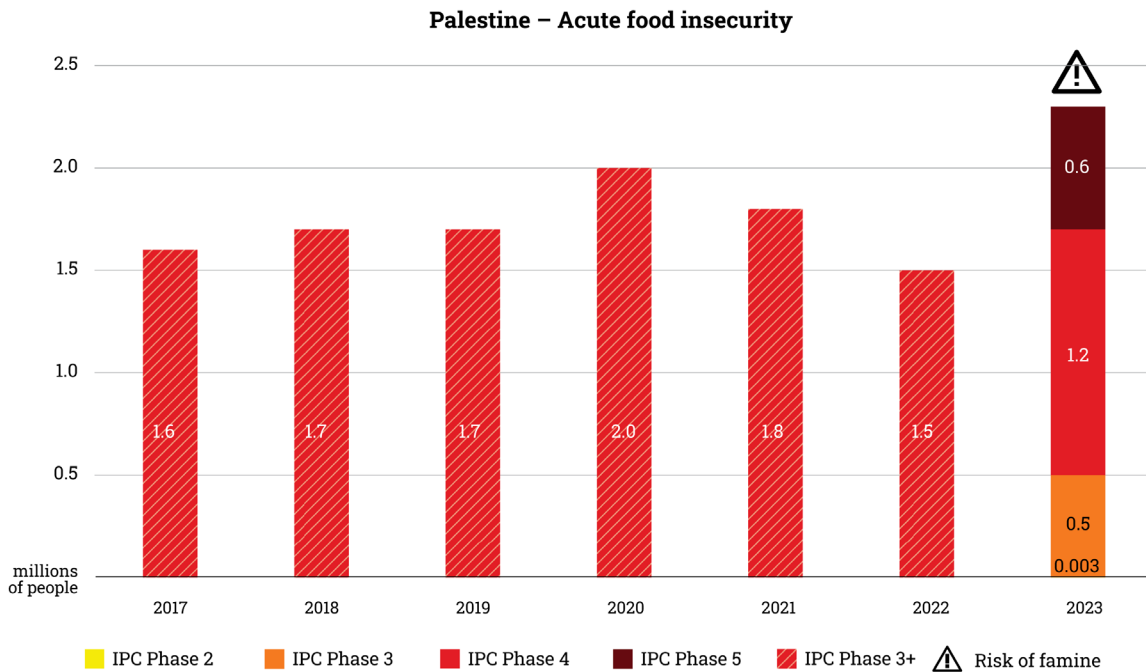


## Nigeria



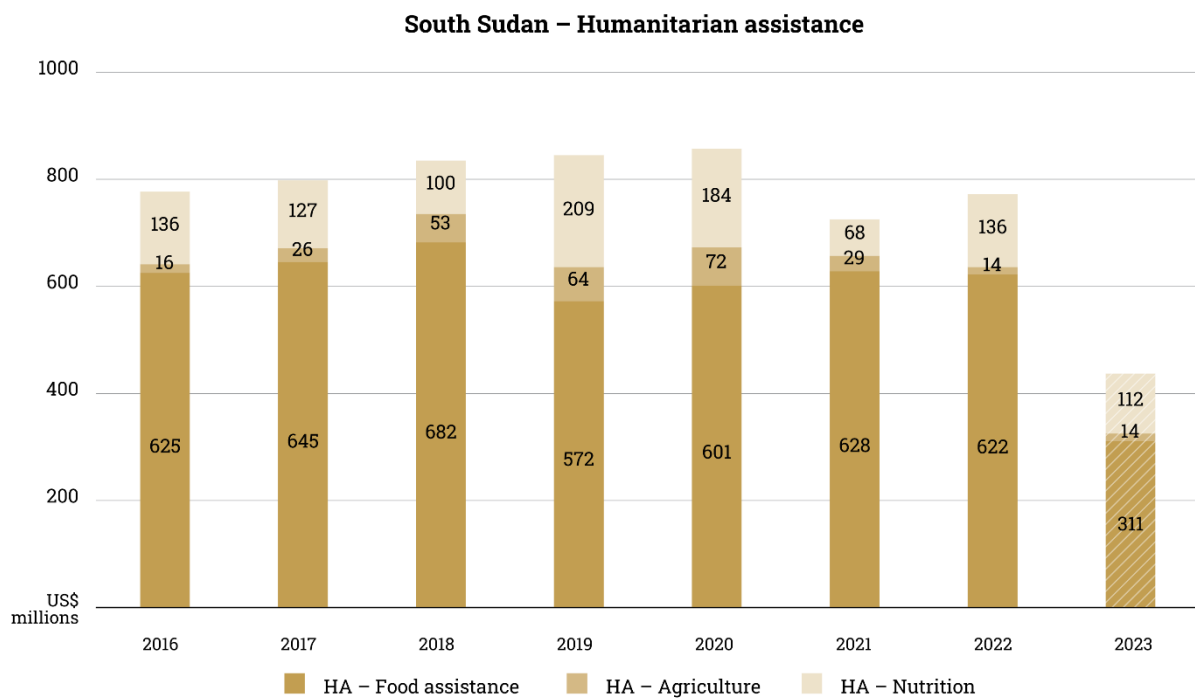
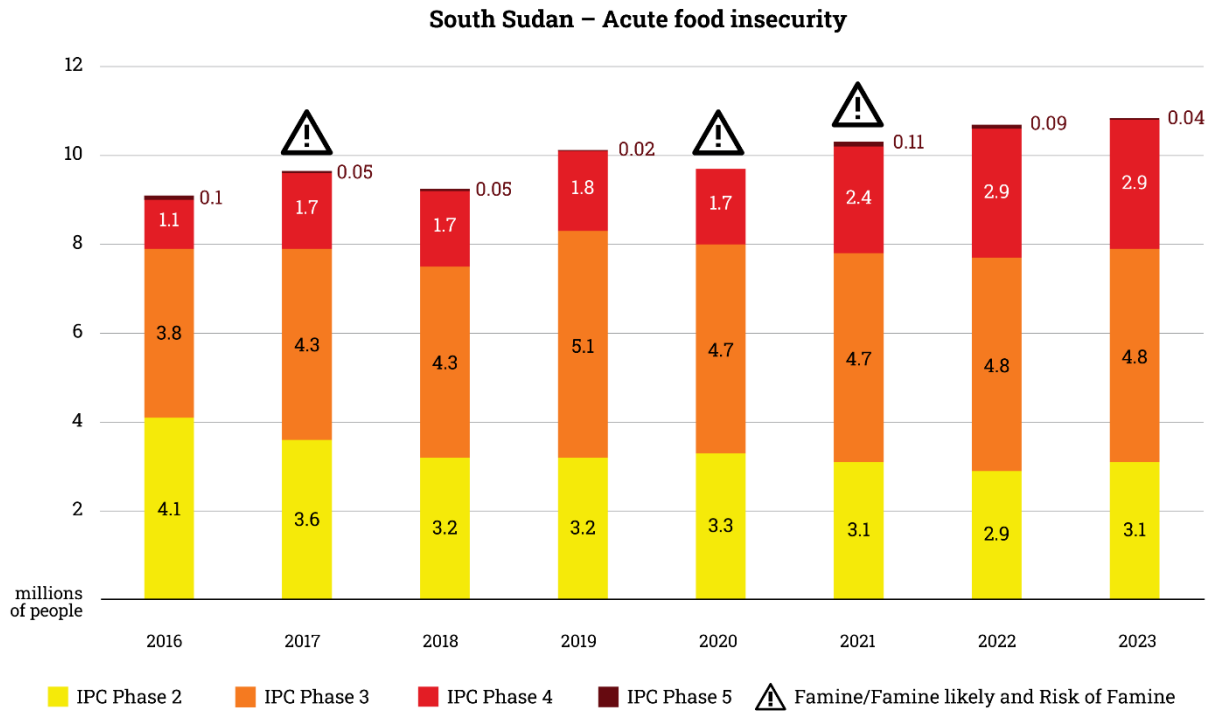
**Note:** The CH analysis country coverage expanded from 16 states in 2016–2017 (including the Federal Capital Territory in 2018–2020) to 21 states and Federal Capital Territory in 2021–2022 and 26 states and Federal Capital Territory in 2023. In 2022, around 3 000 people were reported to face Catastrophe (CH Phase 5) in Oct–Dec 2022 while the peak of acute food insecurity was reached in Jun–August that year.

## Palestine (Gaza)



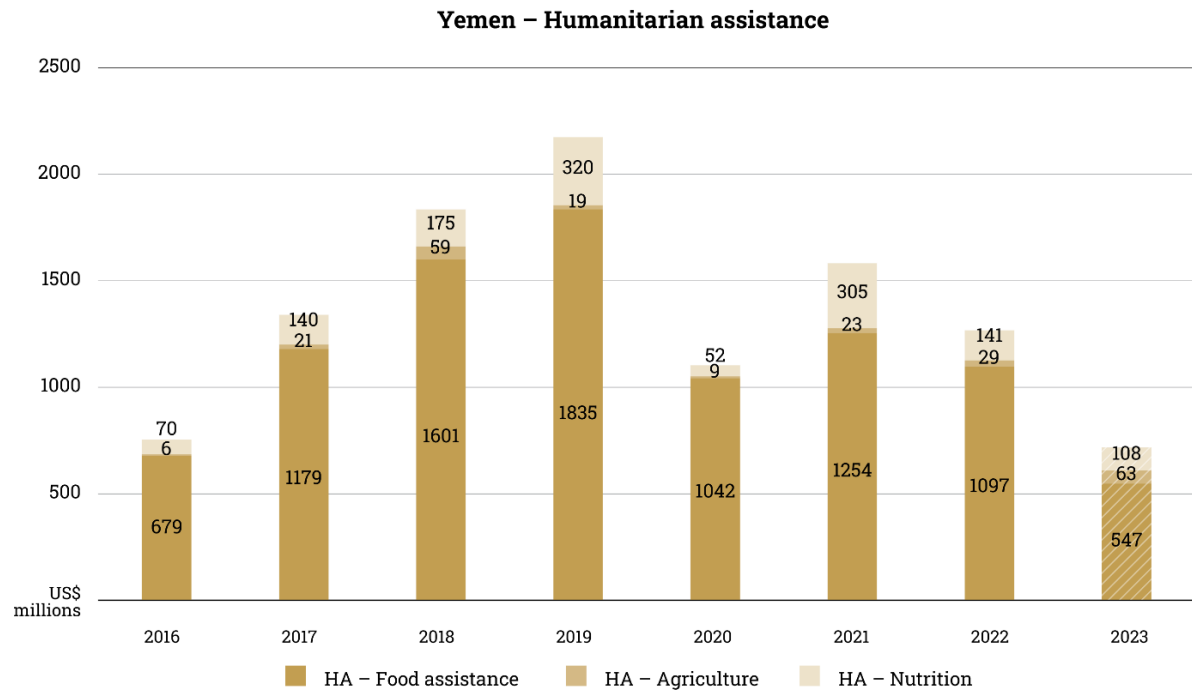
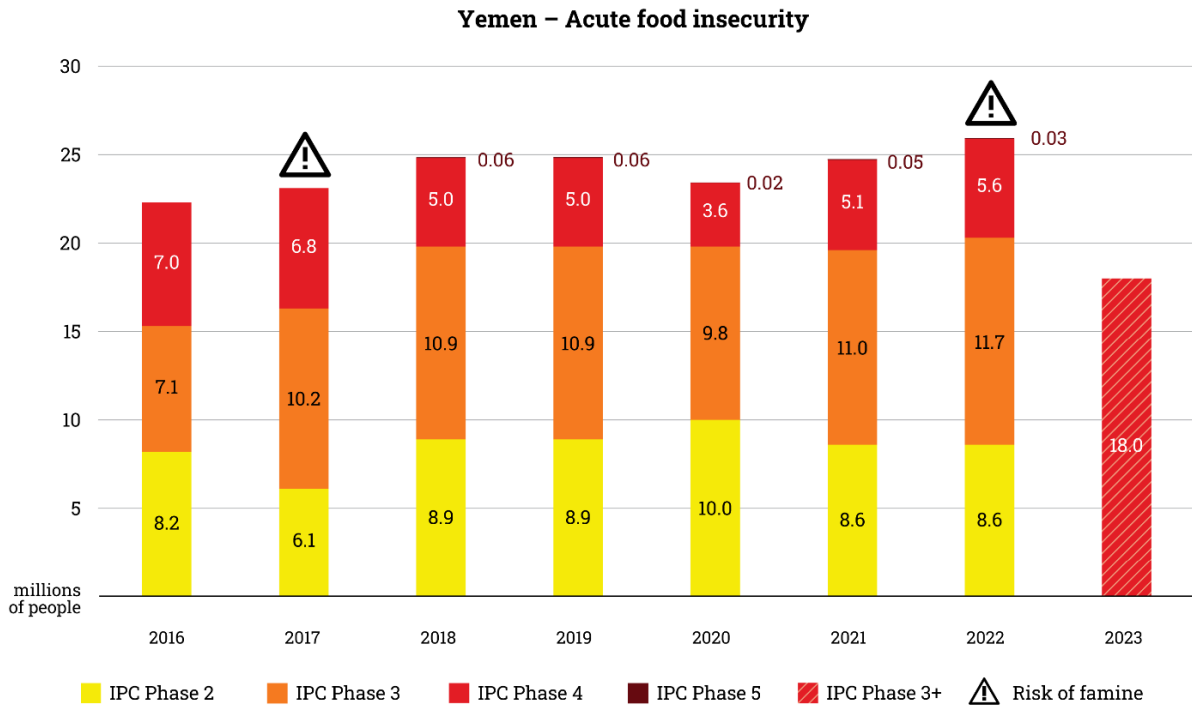
**Note:** The acute food insecurity data covers the entire territory of Palestine in 2017–2022, and only Gaza in 2023. Although the GRFC TWG validated the use of the 2016–2022 estimates, it noted certain methodological limitations that may limit the comparability of these estimates relative to conventional GRFC sources such as the IPC. The GRFC aims to focus solely on acute food insecurity as opposed to elements of chronic food insecurity as reported, for instance, in the 2021 Socio-Economic and Food Security Survey.

## South Sudan





## Yemen



**Note:** As of 23 June 2023, IPC data for Yemen at the national level were available up to December 2022; the June 2023 IPC analysis only covered 118 districts and areas under the control of the Government of Yemen.

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