



## 2022 Global Report on Food Crises



This is a summary of the following report: *Global Network against Food Crises (2022) 2022 Global report on food crises: Joint analysis for better decisions*. <https://www.wfp.org/publications/global-report-food-crises-2022>

In its sixth edition, the 2022 Global Report on Food Crises (GRFC) presents higher global levels of hunger than any previous year. The number of people classified as ‘in Crisis or worse’ (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)/Cadre Harmonisé (CH) Phase 3 or above), or equivalent, reached close to 193 million across 53 countries/territories in 2021. This equates to an increase of nearly 40 million since 2020 and an 80% increase since 2016. While such increases reflect greater availability of acute food insecurity data, broader geographical coverage, and revised population figures, they also indicate deteriorating levels of food security in several countries. Over half a million people (570,000) faced Catastrophe (IPC/CH Phase 5) – starvation and death – in four countries: Ethiopia, South Sudan, Southern Madagascar and Yemen, the highest number in GRFC history.

Food crises in 2021 were driven by multiple, integrated and often mutually reinforcing factors including economic shocks and uneven global recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as weather extremes and related disasters. However, conflict/insecurity remained the main driver and was primarily responsible for placing 139 million people across 24 countries/territories in need of urgent food and livelihood assistance. This is a stark increase from 99 million people across 23 conflict-affected countries/territories in 2020.

In 23 of the 35 major food crises, limited data suggests that almost 26 million children under five years of age suffered from wasting and over five million were at a markedly increased risk of death due to severe wasting. As with the food crises themselves, malnutrition was driven by a complex interplay of factors in these contexts, including acute food insecurity, poor child-feeding practices, a high prevalence of childhood illnesses, and poor access to sanitation, drinking water and health care. This highlights the fragility of global and local food systems which are under mounting pressure due to the increased frequency and severity of weather extremes, repercussions from the COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions, increasing conflict and insecurity, and rising global food prices.

Projections for 2022 indicate persistent or increasing acute food insecurity for most of the world's major food crises. Major deterioration is anticipated in northern Nigeria, Yemen, Burkina Faso and the Niger due to conflict, and in Kenya, South Sudan and Somalia, largely due to consecutive seasons of below-average rains. This deterioration will likely be exacerbated by the repercussions of the war in Ukraine on global food, energy and fertiliser prices and supplies.

The GRFC recognised that the international community has stepped up to calls for urgent action towards mitigating famine, but that global humanitarian and development funding for food crises is failing to match growing demands. The report further emphasised the need for at-scale action to protect lives and livelihoods and support sustainable food systems and production where it is needed most. Where food availability is limited, this should include supporting local food supply chains and market access, diversified livelihoods, and greater resilience to shocks. There is also a need to mobilise investments and political will to collectively address the causes and consequences of escalating food crises. While the overall quality of data has improved, further work is needed to improve the coverage, quality, and the timeliness of data collection and analysis.

## Women's nutrition: A summary of evidence, policy and practice including adolescent and maternal life stages



This is a summary of the following report: *James P, Wrottesley S, Lelijveld N et al (2022) Women's nutrition: A summary of evidence, policy and practice including adolescent and maternal life stages*.

<https://www.enonline.net/womensnutritionasummarytechnicalbriefingpaper>

Malnutrition – including undernutrition, overweight and obesity, and micronutrient deficiencies – disproportionately affects women and girls, with more than 1 billion women globally experiencing at least one form of malnutrition. While women and girls have a biological vulnerability to certain forms of malnutrition, such as anaemia, a number of economic, social and cultural factors contribute to gender inequalities that limit their access to optimal nutrition.

In 2013, ENN published a technical background paper summarising the evidence on maternal nutrition and identifying knowledge gaps regarding maternal undernutrition specifically in emergencies. While huge progress has been made, substantial gaps remain in our understanding of the current state of maternal nutrition globally. This technical paper therefore aimed to update and expand this evidence base, summarise current international guidance and explore what strategies and interventions are being implemented in both development and humanitarian settings. It extended the focus from just mothers to also include adolescent girls and women more broadly.

In this paper, ENN initially summarise the global goals and targets related to women's and girls' nutrition, the current relevant international guidelines, and the most common ways of assessing and reporting nutritional status in this population. The next section describes the scientific evidence on several key interventions, including supplementation (both macro and micronutrient) as well as important health-related interventions and nutrition-sensitive interventions such as social protection, education and counselling, and women's empowerment. In the final section the authors highlight key

gaps in this field and make recommendations for each.

In summary these recommendations are:

- Collate relevant guidelines in one place across pre-conception, pregnancy, and postnatal stages. Updated guidelines should reference each other.
- Global evidence, policies and programmes are needed for non-pregnant girls and women.
- Clear indicators that are disaggregated for adolescent girls, pregnant women and non-pregnant women are needed as part of global and national targets.
- Guidance and clarity on the assessment of nutritional status in adolescent girls and women is needed including mid-upper-arm circumference cut-offs, dietary adequacy indicators, and gestational weight gain.
- A consultation on the use of multiple micronutrient supplementation versus iron folic acid in pregnancy is needed.
- One comprehensive set of guidelines that covers the different options for macronutrient supplementation in both humanitarian and development settings, during and outside of pregnancy, is needed.
- There is a need for women's empowerment and climate change to be mainstreamed into all nutrition programming and more research is needed on maternal mental health.
- Nutrition services need to be fully integrated into health systems, not only during antenatal care.

An accompanying report focusing specifically on women's nutrition in humanitarian settings is expected for an October 2022 launch.

For more information, please visit the three-minute introduction video to the paper. French readers can also access a francophone summary at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=57go\\_Z9GNYE&t=3s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=57go_Z9GNYE&t=3s)