The worst drought in the last 40 years and rising food prices have resulted in high acute food insecurity in the Cunene, Huila and Namibe provinces of South-Western Angola. The poor harvests have severely affected people’s access to food in this region, which is highly dependent on agriculture, and has also adversely affected the nutrition situation. As food reserves are depleting, the situation has deteriorated and will likely worsen during the lean season. Humanitarian assistance until the next harvest is needed to prevent further deterioration.

Acute Food Insecurity (AFI)

An IPC Acute Food Insecurity analysis of 17 municipalities of Southern Angola found that, between July and September 2021, around 1.32 million people (49% of the analysed population) have experienced high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above), of which 38% are in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and 12% in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency). These people face difficulties in accessing food or are only able to meet the minimum food requirements through crisis and/or emergency coping strategies. Between October 2021 and March 2022, the number of people in IPC Phase 3 or above is expected to rise to around 1.58 million people (59% of the analysed population), of which 42% are likely to remain in IPC Phase 3 and 15% in IPC Phase 4. Three of the municipalities are also expected to move to a worse phase (Chicomba, Moçâmedes and Tômbua). This takes into account that these are months of scarcity characterised by rising food prices, and that the next harvests will only take place from March onwards if the next rainy season is normal.

High levels of acute food insecurity are present in all municipalities. However, the municipalities of Cahama, Curoca and Ombandja (Cunene), Gambos (Huila), and Víri and Camuculo (Namibe) have the highest prevalence of their population in IPC Phase 3 or 4, with more than 60% of the total population in these two phases between July and September 2021. The high acute food insecurity in this region can mainly be attributed to the recurrent effects of drought which has reduced both agricultural and livestock production, high food prices and locusts, that affected some communities. Other contributing factors to loss of animals are diseases and theft. Households who have moved with their livestock in search of better living conditions are of great concern, as they need to find shelter and livelihoods that can guarantee access to food.

Acute Malnutrition (AMN)

An IPC Acute Malnutrition analysis of 10 municipalities in Southern Angola has revealed that around 114,000 children under the age of five are suffering or are likely to suffer from acute malnutrition in the next 12 months and therefore require treatment. Between April and September 2021, the five municipalities of Chicomba, Curoca, Moçâmedes and Tombua had Serious levels of acute malnutrition (IPC AMN Phase 3), the municipalities of Namacunde and Curoca (Cunene), Chibia and Quilengues had Alert levels of acute malnutrition, and the municipalities of Chicomba, Curoca, Moçâmedes and Tombua had Alert levels of acute malnutrition (IPC AMN Phase 3). The generalised rise in food prices has reduced household purchasing power, thus reducing access to food for low-income households.

Contributing Factors to Acute Malnutrition

Drought
Rainfall shortages have significantly reduced agricultural production, which is the main source of food for rural households, and caused loss of livestock due to lack of pasture and water.

High food prices
High levels of food insecurity as well as inadequate care and feeding practices contribute to high levels of acute malnutrition in all municipalities, the percentage of children exclusively breastfed until they are six months old is low.

High prevalence of infectious diseases
Inadequate access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation, with a very considerable proportion of the population in the municipalities still drinking water from sources considered unsuitable, as well as high infant mortality rates.

Moderate Acute Malnutrition (AMN)

Around 114,000 children under the age of five in three provinces of Southern Angola will likely suffer from acute malnutrition in the next 12 months and therefore require treatment.

Global Acute Malnutrition (AMN)

114,000

IPCPopulation data is based on population estimates by the National Institute of Statistics of Angola.