

Urgent humanitarian action needed to respond to alarming levels of food insecurity and malnutrition in Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen

IPC GSU Information Note, March, 2017

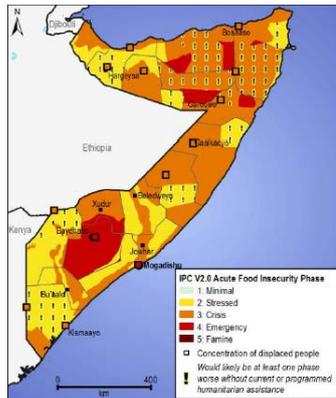
| KEY FIGURES (MARCH – JULY 2017) | | KEY HIGHLIGHTS | |
|---|---|--|------------------------------|
|  <p>People in IPC Phase 3+ in need of urgent action</p> | | <p>Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen are currently facing alarming levels of food insecurity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of March 2017, nearly 25 million people are facing food crisis, emergency and catastrophe (IPC Phase 3, 4 and 5) and require urgent humanitarian assistance across the three countries. Of these people, 100,000 are facing famine conditions in localized areas of South Sudan. Additionally, nearly than 13.6 million people are in Stress conditions (IPC Phase 2) across the three countries, and require support for livelihood protection. The number of people in urgent need of humanitarian assistance is growing, especially in Yemen, where the population in Crisis and Emergency has increased by 20% as compared to June 2016, and in Somalia, where current figures represent a two-fold increase as compared to August 2016. The situation is expected to deteriorate in the coming months in case of inadequate and untimely response. In Somalia, in a worst case scenario, drought might lead to famine. The highest proportions of acutely food insecure populations are among the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), host communities and households with high dependency on market purchases. Conflict, drought and economic crises are major drivers of escalating food security emergencies in these countries. Acute malnutrition is a major outcome of the severe food insecurity in the three countries. According to UNICEF (Feb. 2017), over 900,000 children are at risk of death in 2017 in these three countries. | |
|  <p>Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)</p> | | | |
| YEMEN | <p>17 Million 60% of the population</p> | | <p>Over 2 Million</p> |
| SOMALIA | <p>Over 2.9 Million 24% of the population</p> | | <p>Over 1 Million</p> |
| SOUTH SUDAN | <p>4.9 – 5.5 Million 42% - 47% of the population</p> | <p>Almost 2 Million</p> | |
| <p>90.000-100.000</p>  <p>People in IPC Famine conditions</p> | | | |

ACTIONS NEEDED

The international community must take urgent action to mitigate and respond to high levels of acute food insecurity.

- Provide immediate humanitarian assistance to 100,000 people facing famine conditions in South Sudan.
- Scale up life-saving humanitarian response and livelihood protection for the 25 million people facing Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phases 3 & 4) across the three countries.
- Advocate for and secure humanitarian access and respect of humanitarian space in the areas that are still inaccessible due to ongoing conflict in these countries.
- Advocate for lifting restrictions that limit importation of essential commodities into Yemen.
- Closely monitor the evolving conflicts, the economic situation, weather patterns (especially in Somalia), food security and nutrition outcomes and humanitarian response and update IPC analyses as needed.

Somalia



Somalia IPC Acute Food Insecurity, February-May 2017

HOW MANY and WHEN - As of March 2017, over 2.9 million people are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance. Livelihood protection and support is also needed for over 3.3 million people in stress conditions (IPC Phase 2). The situation is expected to deteriorate further in 2017. In a worst-case scenario where large-scale humanitarian assistance is not delivered and the Gu season performs poorer than expected, Famine (IPC Phase 5) would be expected.

WHO - With few assets and limited livelihood opportunities, IDPs across Somalia remain the most vulnerable to shocks and food insecurity.

WHERE - The largest number of people facing acute food insecurity between now and June 2017 is observed in Bay and southern parts of Bakool Region, which are classified as Emergency (IPC Phase 4), and in Bakool, Juba, Shabelle, Hiran, Gedo and Galgadud Region, which are classified as Crisis (IPC Phase 3). The situation in Northern Inland Pastoral is expected to sharply deteriorate from June onwards.

WHY - Severe drought has resulted in insufficient household food production and depletion of food stocks, declining purchasing power and drought/hunger related displacement.

Most of the areas classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) based on the IPC Acute Food Insecurity scale are in IPC Phase 4 (Critical) according to the IPC Acute Malnutrition scale, namely Northern Eastern and Central Somalia and Bay Region. The number of severe acute malnutrition cases is 28 percent higher than the one recorded at the same time last year.

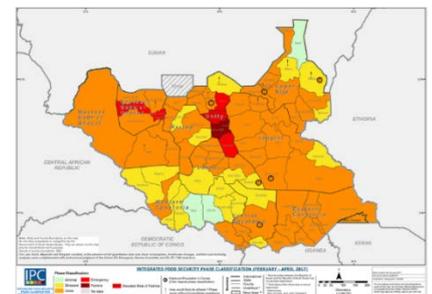
South Sudan

HOW MANY and WHEN - From February to April 2017, 4.9 million people are estimated to be in need of urgent humanitarian assistance (IPC phase 3 and above), out of which 100,000 are facing famine conditions. The number of people in crisis, emergency and famine is expected to increase to 5.5 million at the height of the 2017 lean season in July.

WHO - IDPs and host communities affected by the ongoing conflict are among the most food insecure.

WHERE - The highest proportions of populations in Crisis, Emergency and Famine (IPC Phase 3, 4 and 5) are observed in Northern Bahr el Ghazal (61%) and Unity (61%) State. People facing famine or risk of famine are located in Leer, Mayendit, Koch and Panyijar counties of Unity State.

WHY - Conflict and insecurity are the main drivers of acute food insecurity compounded by the coming lean season with devastating effects on livelihoods and the nutrition situation.



South Sudan IPC Acute Food Insecurity February-April 2017

Acute malnutrition has reached unprecedented levels, especially in Unity State and Aweil North County of Northern Bahr el Ghazal State, which were classified in IPC Phase 5 (Very Critical) and in Western and Northern Bahr el Ghazal, which were classified in IPC Phase 4 (Critical), based on the IPC Acute Malnutrition scale.

Yemen



Yemen IPC Acute Food Insecurity, March-July 2017

HOW MANY and WHEN For the period March-July 2017, the number of people estimated to be in need of urgent humanitarian assistance (IPC phase 3 and above) has risen to almost 17 million, a 20% increase as compared to the previous IPC analysis (June 2016).

WHO - IDPs and host communities affected by the ongoing conflict are among the most food insecure.

WHERE - The highest proportions of populations in Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phase 3 and 4) are observed in Abyan (80%), Taiz, Shabwa, and Hajjah (75%), while the highest numbers are found in Taiz, Sana'a City and Al Hodieda.

WHY - Conflict and displacement, coupled with the socio-economic crisis are the main drivers of acute food insecurity. The situation is highly volatile and susceptible to sudden

changes due to high reliance on food imports and humanitarian assistance passing through port infrastructure that is threatened by airstrikes and fighting.

Acute malnutrition is at alarming levels. Four governorates have Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) prevalence above the WHO Critical threshold ($\geq 15\%$). Seven and eight governorates have GAM prevalence at serious levels (10-14.9%) and poor levels (5-9.9%), respectively.

IPC Global Partners



*The EC in the global partnership is represented by the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission

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