Overview
The IPC acute food insecurity analysis conducted in December 2023 warned of a risk that Famine may occur by the end of May 2024 if an immediate cessation of hostilities and sustained access for the provision of essential supplies and services to the population did not take place. Since then, the conditions necessary to prevent Famine have not been met and the latest evidence confirms that Famine is imminent in the northern governorates and projected to occur anytime between mid-March and mid-May 2024. According to the most likely scenario, both North Gaza and Gaza Governorates are classified in IPC Phase 5 (Famine) with reasonable evidence, with 70 percent (around 210,000 people) of the population in IPC Phase 5 (Catastrophe). Continued conflict and the near-complete lack of access to the northern governorates for humanitarian organizations and commercial trucks will likely compound heightened vulnerabilities and extremely limited food availability, access, and utilization, as well as access to healthcare, water, and sanitation. The famine threshold for households for acute household food insecurity has already been far exceeded and, given the latest data showing a steeply increasing trend in cases of acute malnutrition, it is highly likely that the famine threshold for acute malnutrition has also been exceeded. In North Gaza, acute malnutrition (by Mid-Upper Arm Circumference - MUAC) moved from a pre-escalation estimated of 1 percent to 6.8 – 9.1 percent in January and 12.4 – 16.5 percent in February (weighted for children 6-59). Acute malnutrition (by MUAC) among children 6-23 months old increased in the same period from 16.2 percent to 29.2 percent. The upward trend in non-trauma mortality is also expected to accelerate, resulting in all famine thresholds likely to be surpassed immediately.

The northern governorates of Deir al-Balah and Khan Younis, and the Governorate of Rafah, are classified in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency). However, in a worst-case scenario, these governorates face a risk of Famine through July 2024.

The entire population in the Gaza Strip (2.23 million) is facing high levels of acute food insecurity. From mid-March to mid-July, in the most likely scenario and under the assumption of an escalation of the conflict including a ground offensive in Rafah, half of the population of the Gaza Strip (1.1 million people) is expected to face catastrophic conditions (IPC Phase 5), the most severe level in the IPC Acute Food Insecurity scale. This is an increase of 530,000 (92 percent) compared to the previous analysis. Between the current and the projection period, around 400,000 more people are expected to slide into IPC Phase 5 (Catastrophe). The rest of the population faces Emergency (IPC Phase 4) (854,000 people, 38 percent of the population) or Crisis (IPC Phase 3) (265,000 people, 12 percent of the population).

The escalation of the hostilities has caused widespread damage to assets and infrastructure indispensable to survival. About 50 percent of buildings - and more than 70 percent in the northern governorates - have been damaged or destroyed. This has included dwellings, shops and infrastructure, such as hospitals, schools, as well as water, sanitation and other facilities. Assets and infrastructure necessary for food production and distribution have also been destroyed or severely damaged, extremely limiting the functionality of the food system.

From a pre-escalation average of 500 trucks a day of which 150 carrying food, in the period between 7 October 2023 to 24 February 2024, only 90 trucks per day, of which only 60 carrying food, entered the Gaza Strip. Food, in the period between 7 October 2023 to 24 February 2024, only 60 trucks per day, of which only 60 carrying food, entered the Gaza Strip. In the northern governorates, in nearly two thirds of the households, people went entire days and nights without eating at least 10 times in the last 30 days. In the southern governorates, this applies to one third of the households.

Key Drivers

Current Acute Food Insecurity | 15 February - 15 March

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<th>Phase</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>IPC Phase</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>1.1M</td>
<td>2.23M</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
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<td>3</td>
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Projected Acute Food Insecurity | 16 March - 15 July

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Some areas are classified in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) despite the prevalence of households in IPC Phase 5 (Catastrophe) exceeding 20%. Households may be in IPC Phase 5 (Catastrophe), but the area may not be classified as IPC Phase 5 (Famine). Famine widespread deaths and acute malnutrition have not yet been expressed at the area level.

Acute Food Insecurity Phase name and description

- **IPC Phase 1 (None/Minimal)**: Households are able to meet essential food and non-food needs without engaging in atypical and unsustainable strategies to access food and income.
- **IPC Phase 2 (Stressed)**: Households have minimally adequate food consumption but are unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures without engaging in stress coping strategies.
- **IPC Phase 3 (Crisis)**: Households experience food consumption gaps that are reflected in high levels of acute food insecurity, but are not yet using crisis coping strategies.
- **IPC Phase 4 (Emergency)**: Households either have large food consumption gaps that are reflected in high levels of acute food insecurity or are marginally able to meet minimum food needs but only by depleting essential livelihood assets or through crisis coping strategies.
- **IPC Phase 5 (Catastrophe/Famine)**: Households have extremely critical levels of acute food insecurity. Famine widespread deaths and acute malnutrition have not yet been expressed at the area level.
An area is classified in Famine with solid evidence if there is clear and compelling evidence that the Famine thresholds for starvation, acute malnutrition and mortality have been reached, and analysts reasonably assess from the broader evidence that the threshold from the third outcome has likely been reached.

### Famine Review Committee Conclusions

- **North Gaza and Gaza Governorates**
  
  For the current period, the FRC concluded that the IPC Analysis Team findings for North Gaza and Gaza governorate, classified in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency), are plausible. However, the FRC highlighted that: (i) Famine thresholds for acute food insecurity have already been surpassed; (ii) Famine thresholds for acute malnutrition (Extremely Critical) have likely already been surpassed; (iii) It is likely that these extreme levels of malnutrition have not yet translated into a Crude Death Rate above 2/10,000/day. The likelihood of having surpassed Under-Five Death Rate thresholds (4/10,000/day for children) is higher but impossible to ascertain.

- **For the projected period, the FRC projects that famine is imminent in the North Gaza and Gaza Governorates and is expected to become manifest between mid-March and May 2024. The Famine threshold for household acute food insecurity has already been far exceeded and the steeply increasing trend in malnutrition data indicates that it is likely that the Famine threshold for acute malnutrition has also been exceeded. The FRC expects the upward trend in non-trauma mortality to accelerate and for all Famine thresholds to be passed imminently.**

- **Deir al-Balah, Khan Younis, and Rafah Governorates**
  
  For the Governors of Deir al-Balah, Khan Younis, and Rafah, with regards to both the current and projected period, the FRC considers the classification by the Analysis Team in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) as plausible and that, in a reasonable worst-case scenario, there is a risk of Famine during the projection period, from mid-March to mid-July.
  
  - **For all governorates, the FRC concluded that the levels of acute food insecurity as defined by the Analysis Team both for the current and projected period are plausible.**

### Analysis Approach

The IPC acute food insecurity analysis was conducted remotely from 26 February to 1 March by over 40 experts from 18 agencies, applying standard IPC protocols. The analysis relied on publicly available data from a wide range of sources. According to this analysis, the level of food insecurity in the Gaza Strip was assessed as “Medium” (level 2) for each of the three units of analysis. At the analysis completion, the Famine Review Committee was activated to review the Analysis Team findings. Their conclusions were adopted by the Analysis Team.

Given the major access constraints, data on food security outcomes was collected using Computer Assisted Telephone Interviews (CATI). Quality concerns regarding the use of this methodology including the representativeness and potential biases associated with mobile network coverage and ownership were discussed at length during the previous round of IPC analysis (for data collected in November 2023). The Analysis Team concluded that the data meets the requirements set by the IPC, especially considering the number of observations. Through the efforts of partners, gaps in nutrition information were filled through screening information. The high degree of reporting around the conflict limits the ability to consider longer analysis periods. Scenarios on the evolution of the conflict were developed in conjunction with conflict experts to the best of their knowledge and expertise.

### IPC Phase 5 Explained

**Famine** (IPC Phase 5) is the most extreme phase in the IPC Acute Food Insecurity scale and is classified when an area has:

- Deaths of two adults or four children per 10,000 people each day
- At least 20% of households facing an extreme lack of food
- At least 30% of children suffering from acute malnutrition

For the IPC, risk of Famine refers to a 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 speaking, has a realistic chance of occurring.

- **Complements the Famine projections of the most likely scenario by providing insights into potential Famine if prospects evolve in a worse manner than anticipated.**
- **Differs from Famine projections because it focuses on a worst-case scenario that has a reasonable and realistic chance of happening.**
- **Is a statement about the potential deterioration of the situation from what is expected. It is not a new classification, and it is not to be accompanied by population estimates.**
- **An additional assessment that focuses on assuring if the area could realistically go into Famine during the projected period. Not all areas need to undergo assessment for risk of Famine.**

For further information on how the IPC classifies Famine, please consult the IPC Famine Fact Sheet.