Between August and September 2020, around 1.8 million people in Kenya’s rural and arid and semi-arid land (ASAL) areas faced high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above). This represents about 10% of Kenya’s analysed population of 17.9 million people. The majority of those facing high levels of acute food insecurity (about 1.1 million people) are in urban areas where approximately 267,000 people were classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4), with Mukuru, Dandora, and Kawangware informal settlements in Nairobi County being the most affected. In the ASALs, approximately 739,000 people faced high levels of acute food insecurity, including 43,000 people being the most affected. In the ASALs, approximately 739,000 people faced high levels of acute food insecurity, including 43,000 people being the most affected.

Compared to the same period last year, the current results from Kenya’s rural and arid and semi-arid land (ASAL) areas indicate a 13% reduction in the proportion of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above). The decline in numbers is attributed to the further improvement in the food security situation owing to two consecutive seasons of good performance during the October – December 2019 short rains season and the March – May 2020 long rains season.

In the projection period of October to December 2020, around 1.9 million people (11% of the population analysed) will likely face high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above). This includes nearly 400,000 people classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). The food security situation in urban areas is expected to improve slightly due to cash transfer programmes and food distributions.