REGIONAL FOCUS ON
THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY ON DEVELOPMENT (IGAD) MEMBER STATES

2020 GLOBAL REPORT ON FOOD CRISES
JOIN T ANALYSIS FOR BETTER DECISIONS
This second annual regional report on food crises for the IGAD region is:

• A key reference document

• A regional baseline of the numbers and trends of acutely food-insecure people in need of urgent food and livelihood assistance

• An important reminder that the region requires continued support in development and resilience-building interventions, as much as humanitarian response
Around one in five of the world’s acutely food-insecure people are in the IGAD region.

- **27M people** in 6 IGAD member states were in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in 2019.
- **21,000 people** people in South Sudan were in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) in 2019.
Acute food insecurity levels across the IGAD region have been steadily increasing in recent years.

None of these figures include Eritrea. 2019 figure does not include Djibouti.

Source: FSIN, GRFC 2020
**Ethiopia** had the highest number of acutely food-insecure people in the region and fifth highest in the world.

**South Sudan** had the second highest number regionally and the highest prevalence globally (61 percent of the population analysed).

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**ETHIOPIA**

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**SOUTH SUDAN**

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The Sudan constituted the world’s eighth worst food crisis in terms of numbers of acutely food-insecure people and third worst in the IGAD region.

In Kenya, the number of acutely food-insecure people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) spiked towards the end of the year.

** Please note that for the Sudan, the 2019 estimates excluded West Darfur. Source: FSIN, GRFC 2020
In Somalia, 300,000 fewer people were facing Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) compared to 2018 when households were still recovering from the 2016/17 drought.

In Uganda, the situation was worse than in 2018. The acutely food-insecure population mainly consisted of refugees and asylum-seekers from neighbouring countries.

**SOMALIA**

- 2019: 2.1M
- 2018: 2.7M
- 2017: 3.3M
- 2016: 2.9M

**UGANDA**

- 2019: 1.5M
- 2018: 1.1M
- 2017: 1.6M
- 2016: 0.4M

Source: FSIN, GRFC 2020
In Djibouti, there were no estimates of the number of acutely food-insecure people in 2019 since it did not conduct an IPC or IPC-compatible analysis.

Eritrea has had no estimates of food-insecure populations in recent years.

Source: FSIN, GRFC 2020
Weather extremes constituted the primary driver of acute food insecurity and malnutrition in 2019. In reality most IGAD countries faced a complex and mutually reinforcing combination of all three drivers – weather extremes, conflict/insecurity and economic shocks.

Number of people (millions) in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above), by driver:

- **5.9M** in 1 country (Weather extremes)
- **13.2M** in 3 countries (Conflict/insecurity)
- **8.5M** in 2 countries (Economic shocks)

Source: FSIN, GRFC 2020
Very high numbers were facing **Stressed** (IPC Phase 2) levels of acute food insecurity in five of the IGAD countries, and need livelihood support and/or disaster risk reduction.

**35M people** in 5 IGAD member states were in Stressed (IPC Phase 2)

*Note: No estimates for Djibouti, Eritrea or Uganda*

**19%** of the global number of people in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) were in this region.
By the end of 2019, the IGAD region was hosting over 4 million refugees – more than half of them from South Sudan.

Uganda, the Sudan and Ethiopia host nearly 80 percent of them.

Displaced people are heavily dependent on humanitarian food assistance to meet their minimum food and nutrition needs, but funding shortfalls have forced cuts in assistance.

Source: UNHCR, December 2019
Child malnutrition levels continue to be concerning across the IGAD region

13.6M children under the age of 5 years are chronically malnourished, with the highest numbers in Ethiopia, the Sudan and Uganda.

9M children across the eight IGAD countries are acutely malnourished, 2.3 million of them severely so.

Source: UNICEF/WHO/WB 2020
Without taking into account the effects of COVID-19, projections indicate that 24–25.4 million people will face acute food insecurity requiring urgent action (IPC Phase 3 or above) in 2020 – fewer people than in 2019.
The region is experiencing the most severe desert locust infestation in decades.

The second and third waves of breeding are expected to cause destruction on a wider scale than the earlier invasion.
Impact of COVID-19 in the region

• The wide-reaching impacts of the pandemic – including border closures and restricted movement – are likely to drive up the numbers of acutely food-insecure people well beyond the pre-COVID-19 estimates

• The largest numbers of acutely food-insecure people are expected to remain in rural areas but the greatest increases due to COVID-19 are expected to be among the urban poor

• The region is preparing for a significant increase in the number of acutely malnourished children