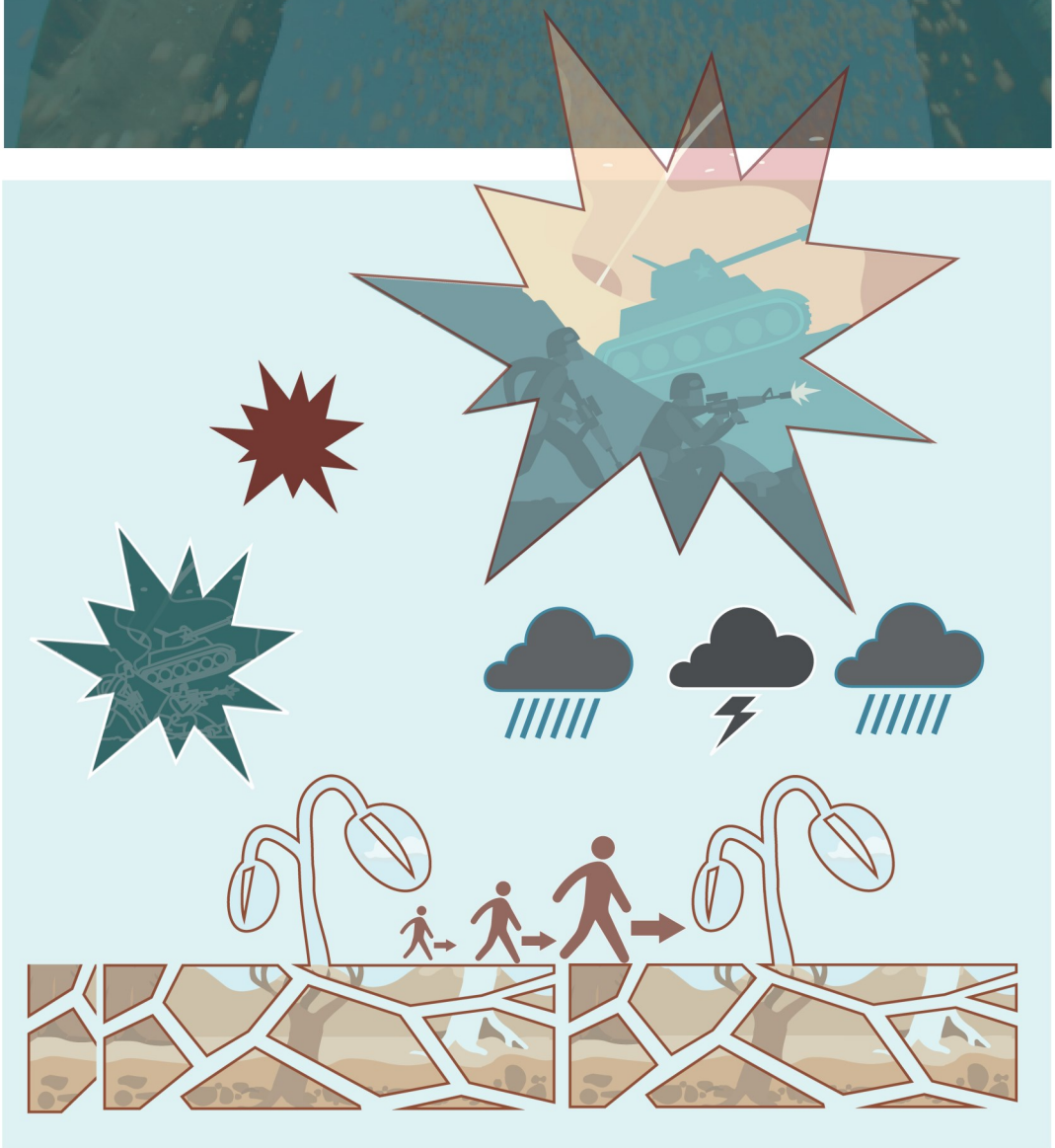
FSIN
Food Security Information Network

> *The lives of millions of people depend on our collective ability to act. In our world of plenty, there is no excuse for inaction or indifference.*
>
> (António Guterres, UN Secretary-General)

# GLOBAL REPORT ON FOOD CRISES 2017

## *Executive summary*



March 2017

# INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

Currently, the world is faced with an unprecedented call for action at a moment in which four countries (South Sudan, Somalia, Yemen, and northeast Nigeria) have been identified at risk of famine. The demand for humanitarian and resilience assistance is escalating. Against this background, informing the global and national food security community on the risk of food crises and on the severity of such crises is of fundamental importance. In recent years, stakeholders have made major investments to improve food security analysis and related early warning systems in order to prevent and tackle food crises more efficiently. Although significant improvements have been made over time in the methods and technologies used to improve the quality and timeliness of food security assessments and monitoring systems, a comprehensive global pictures of food crises is still often missing.

The 2016 World Humanitarian Summit sparked a major review of the way response financing is delivered in crisis settings, highlighting the need for more long-term development investments. In line with the indicative framework for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the recommendations of "The One Humanity: Shared Responsibility Report", the European Union, WFP and FAO have joined forces to coordinate needs assessment to increase the impact of humanitarian and resilience responses through the preparation of the "*Global Report on Food Crises*".

This Global Report aims to enhance coordination and decision making through a neutral analysis that informs programming and implementation. The key objective and strength of the report is to establish a consultative and consensus-based process to compile food insecurity analyses from around the world into a global public product. The Report compares and clarifies results of food security analyses conducted by various partners and across geographical areas to provide a clear picture of acute food insecurity situation.

The Global Report on Food Crises 2017 covers the period January to December 2016 and provides food security and nutrition analyses from countries that are chronically vulnerable to food crises and have large populations facing acute food insecurity. The key information sources are the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) and the *Cadre Harmonisé (CH)*, wherever these systems are in place. Complementary sources include products from European Union-Joint Research Centre, FAO, FEWS NET, Food Security Cluster, SADC Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis UNICEF and WFP.

The report provides food security population estimates for countries selected on the basis of the degree of risk of facing acute food crises in 2016 and beyond.[1] In addition, a detailed food security analysis is presented for those countries and/or population groups facing high severity and magnitude of acute food insecurity based on IPC/CH classification.[2]

1 Countries included in the FAO Global Information for Early Warning Systems (GIEWS) list in 2016 were automatically selected for the report, as they represent countries currently facing acute food crises. Also included were countries that have experienced at least one food crisis in the past three years, or that have had at least three food crises in the past ten years.

2 Criteria used for selecting countries: Countries with any segment of the population in IPC/CH Phase 4 *Emergency* or Phase 5 *Catastrophe*; Countries with at least 20 percent of the population in IPC/CH Phase 3 *Crisis*; Countries with at least 1 million people in IPC/CH Phase 3 *Crisis*.; countries for which an Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Humanitarian System-Wide Emergency Response was declared.

*The report provides a detailed food security analysis for those countries and/or population groups facing high severity and magnitude of acute food insecurity based on IPC/CH classification:*

| | |
|---|---|
| Afghanistan | 8.5 million food-insecure people |
| Burundi | 2.3 million food-insecure people |
| Cameroon | 0.3 million food-insecure people |
| Central African Republic | 2 million food-insecure people |
| Chad | 1 million food-insecure people |
| DRC | 5.9 million food-insecure people |
| Djibouti | 0.2 million food-insecure people |
| Ethiopia | 9.7 million food-insecure people |
| Haiti | 1.5 million food-insecure people |
| Iraq | 1.5 million food-insecure people |
| Lesotho | 0.5 million food-insecure people |
| Southern Madagascar | 0.8 million food-insecure people |
| Malawi | 6.7 million food-insecure people |
| Mozambique | 1.9 million food-insecure people |
| Niger | 0.3 million food-insecure people |
| North Nigeria* | 8.1 million food-insecure people |
| Somalia** | 2.9 million food-insecure people |
| South Sudan** | 4.9 million food-insecure people |
| Sudan | 4.4 million food-insecure people |
| Swaziland | 0.4 million food-insecure people |
| Syria | 7 million food-insecure people |
| Yemen | 14.1 million food-insecure people |
| Zimbabwe | 4.1 million food-insecure people |

**Syrian Refugees in:**

*Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey*

All partners are in agreement with the general magnitude and severity of acute food insecurity suggested by this report. Population estimates in this report may differ from individual agency estimates as they reflect a consensus-based approach.

* North Nigeria covers 16 states, including the three north-eastern states of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe which account for 4.7million in IPC/CH Phase 3 and higher.

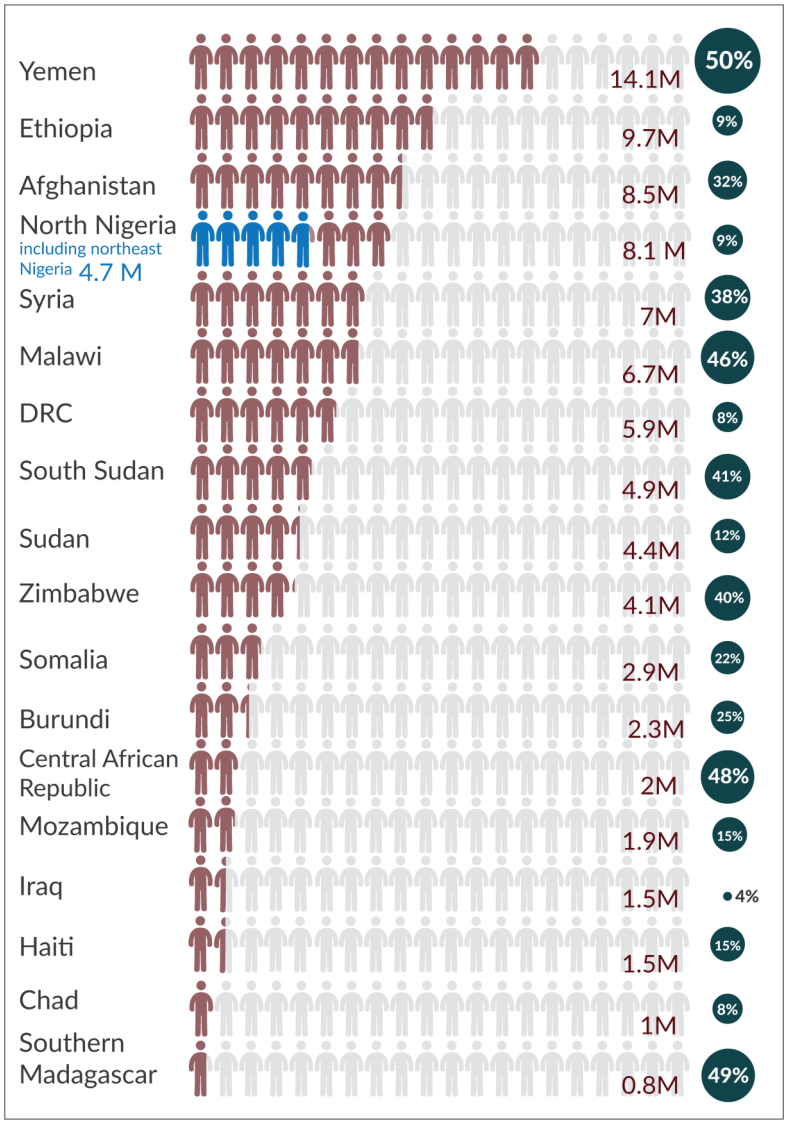
** Figures for South Sudan and Somalia refer to the IPC analyses conducted in January and February 2017 using data from 2016.

# GLOBAL OVERVIEW OF FOOD CRISES

Globally, 108 million people in 2016 were reported to be facing Crisis food insecurity or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 and above). This represents a drastic increase compared to 2015 when the figure was almost 80 million. **In 2016, major food crises were fuelled by conflict, record-high food prices and abnormal weather patterns caused by El Niño**. Crises were widespread and severe, in some cases affecting entire national populations, and in others, causing intense damage in localized areas such as in northeast Nigeria. Moreover, shocks were not bound by national borders, and the spillover effects had a significant impact on neighbouring countries (e.g. Syrian refugees crisis and Lake Chad Basin crisis).

**The acute and wide-reaching effects of conflicts left large numbers of people food-insecure** and in need of urgent assistance in Yemen (14.1 million), Syria (7.0 million), northeast Nigeria (4.7 million), and Burundi (2.3 million). In Somalia, insecurity coupled with severe drought conditions has resulted in high food insecurity levels in 2016, which were expected to increase further in early 2017. The latest analysis confirmed the worsening of food insecurity with an estimated 2.9 million classified as severely food insecure in February 2017 with risk of famine. In South Sudan, the latest IPC analysis confirmed also an upward trend estimating 4.9 million people in IPC Phase 3 and above, food insecure with famine and risk of famine in conflict affected counties of Unity state.

## FOOD SECURITY IPC/CH CRISIS PHASE 3 AND ABOVE




The outlook for 2017 points to worsening conditions in some locations, which may engender famine in pockets of northeast Nigeria, Yemen, Somalia and South Sudan. In addition to conflict, **record staple food prices**, notably in Nigeria and South Sudan, greatly restricted access to food for vulnerable populations, aggravating food insecurity.

**Conflict causes widespread displacement** (internal and cross-border), protracting food insecurity and placing a burden on host communities. The populations worst affected by displacement are those of Syria (6.3 million internally displaced people - IDPs) and Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries (4.8 million), Iraq (3.1 million), Yemen (3.2 million), South Sudan (3 million), Somalia (2.1 million) and northeast Nigeria (2.1 million).

In some countries, **El Niño largely manifested itself in drought conditions** that damaged agricultural livelihoods, triggering food insecurity. The countries most affected are in eastern and southern Africa and include Somalia, Ethiopia, Madagascar (0.8 million in the Grand Sud), Malawi (6.7 million) and Zimbabwe (4.1 million). Projections for 2017 indicate an increase in the severity of food insecurity, particularly in southern and south-eastern Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia. The infographic above presents acute food insecurity estimates and proportion in total populations[3] for countries affected by food crises.

3 The proportion refers to the population analysed and not necessarily the total population of a country.

# Main drivers of food insecurity - 2016

## ARMED CONFLICT

*The acute and wide-reaching effects of conflicts left significant numbers of people food insecure*

*Food insecure people IPC/CH Phase 3+*

| | |
|---|---|
| YEMEN | 14.1M |
| AFGHANISTAN | 8.5M |
| NORTH NIGERIA (INCLUDING NORTHEAST NIGERIA) | 4.7M 8.1M |
| SYRIA | 7M |
| SOUTH SUDAN | 4.4M |

### DISPLACEMENT

*Conflict caused widespread displacement (internal/external)*

- SYRIA 4.8M
- YEMEN 3.2M
- IRAQ 3.1M
- SOUTH SUDAN 3M
- NORTHEAST NIGERIA 2.1M
- SOMALIA 2.1M

## NATURAL DISASTERS

*El Niño-driven drought conditions and other climatic shocks have damaged agricultural livelihoods undermining food security*

*Food insecure people IPC/CH Phase 3+*

| | |
|---|---|
| ETHIOPIA | 9.7M |
| MALAWI | 6.7M |
| ZIMBABWE | 4.1M |
| HAITI | 1.5M |
| MOZAMBIQUE | 1.1M |

***Category 4 Hurricane Matthew** hit drought-affected Haiti in late 2016.*

# Outlook - 2017

## FOOD INSECURITY OUTLOOK

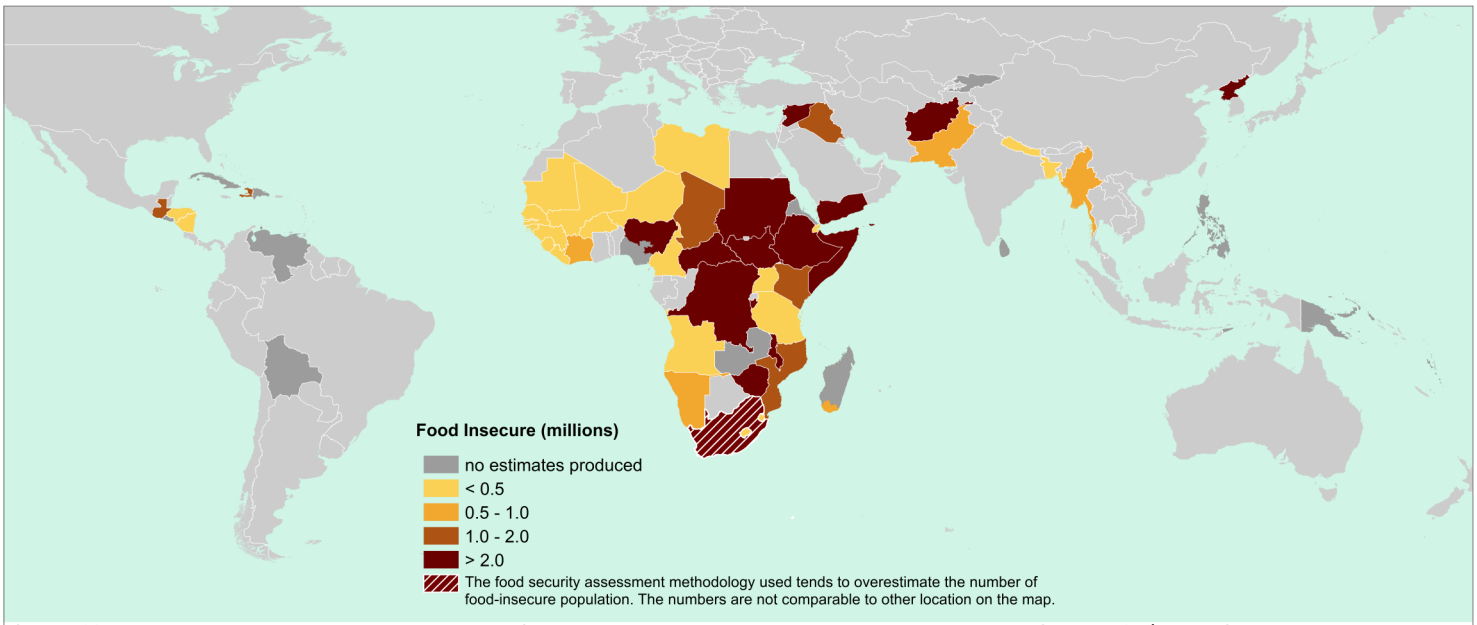
*Countries at risk of famine*

*Food insecure people IPC/CH Phase 3+*

| | |
|---|---|
| YEMEN* | 17M |
| NORTH NIGERIA (INCLUDING NORTHEAST NIGERIA) | 5.1M 10.9M |
| SOUTH SUDAN* | 4.9M |
| SOMALIA* | 2.9M |

**Figures confirmed by IPC analysis (January/February 2017)*

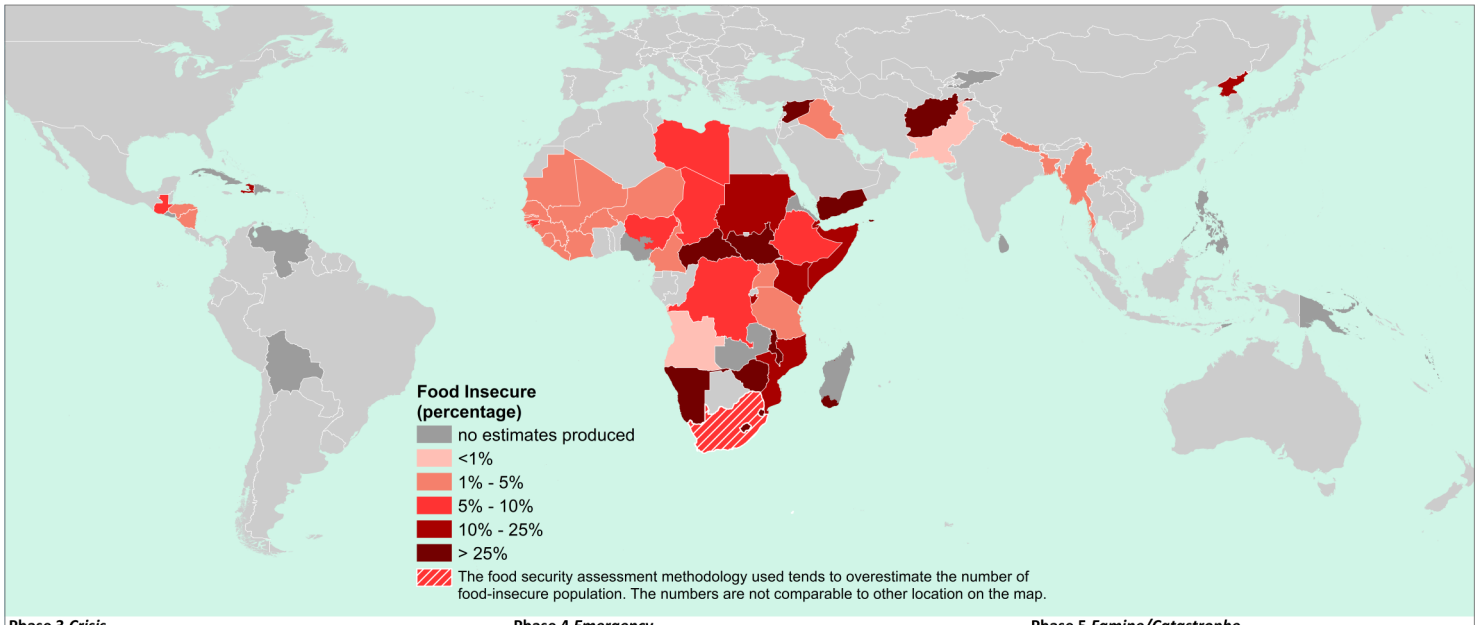
# POPULATION IN IPC/CH PHASE 3 CRISIS AND ABOVE,
*January 2017*




**Phase 3 *Crisis***
Even with humanitarian assistance, households have food consumption gaps with high or higher than usual acute malnutrition; OR households are marginally able to meet minimum food needs only with accelerated depletion of assets that will lead to food consumption gaps.

**Phase 4 *Emergency***
Even with humanitarian assistance, households have large food consumption gaps resulting in very high levels of acute malnutrition and excess mortality OR households have extreme loss of livelihood assets that will lead to large food consumption gaps in the short term.

**Phase 5 *Famine/Catastrophe***
Even with humanitarian assistance, households have an extreme lack of food and/or basic needs even with full employment of coping strategies. Starvation, death and destitution are evident.

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**Phase 5 *Famine/Catastrophe***
Even with humanitarian assistance, households have an extreme lack of food and/or basic needs even with full employment of coping strategies. Starvation, death and destitution are evident.

> ***We can prevent people dying from famine but if we do not scale up our efforts to save, protect and invest in rural livelihoods tens of millions will remain severely food insecure.*** (José Graziano da Silva, FAO Director-General)

# MAJOR FOOD CRISES IN 2016

# EASTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA

| Somalia | South Sudan | Ethiopia | DRC | Central African Republic | Burundi |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2.9M PEOPLE | 4.9M PEOPLE | 9.7M PEOPLE | 5.9M PEOPLE | 2M PEOPLE | 2.3M PEOPLE |
| IPC 3+ | IPC 3+ | | IPC 3+ | IPC 3+ | IPC 3+ |

According to the number of people classified as food insecure (IPC Phase 3 *Crisis* and above), the countries most affected in the Horn of Africa are Somalia, South Sudan and Ethiopia. In Central and Eastern Africa, food crises have also severely affected populations in Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic and Burundi.

In **Somalia,** between December 2016 and June 2017, 2.9 million people (25 percent of the population) are estimated to face IPC Phase 3 *Crisis* or Phase 4 *Emergency* conditions across the country. This is more than twice the number of people who were in need in August 2016. A further 3.3 million are in Phase 2 *Stressed,* bringing the total number of people facing acute food insecurity to over 6.2 million[4]. Many of those affected are IDPs and about 30 percent of food insecure people are concentrated in Hiraan, Bay and Banadir regions. The food insecure population grew by 60 percent between 2014 and 2016, as many more people were classified in IPC Phase 2 *Stressed*. With the current caseload being more than twice compared to the latest estimate in August[5] and more than three times the caseload estimated one year earlier[6], the dramatic deterioration of the food security situation is apparent. The number of people facing IPC Phase 4 *Emergency*, estimated at 22 000 in February 2016, increased 20-fold over the last 12 months to 439 000 in February 2017. Consecutive seasons of poor rainfall, near total crop failures and loss of livestock have undermined food security. In addition, population displacement, trade disruption due to insecurity and a scarcity of employment opportunities and income have combined with high food prices to erode purchasing power, especially among unskilled wage labourers. With preliminary weather forecasts pointing to below-average to near-average rainfall during the forthcoming 2017 *gu* (April-June) season, a further deterioration of the food security situation in some areas is very likely to occur. In a worst-case scenario, where the rainy season performs even poorer than currently forecast, household purchasing power further declines to levels observed in 2010/2011, and humanitarian assistance is unable to reach populations in need, *Famine* (IPC Phase 5) would be expected.

In **South Sudan,** an estimated 4.9 million people (about 42% of the population) were classified as food insecure (IPC Phase 3 *Crisis* and above) in January through April 2017. Of those, 100,000 people are facing *Famine* conditions (IPC Phase 5 *Catastrophe*) or high likelihood of *Famine* at least until July 2017 if humanitarian assistance is not delivered. The affected population is concentrated in Greater Unity Counties namely Leer and Mayendit. In Koch County there is a high likelihood that *Famine* is ongoing while Panyijiar County will likely avoid *Famine* if adequate humanitarian assistance is provided from February to July. Projections show a further deterioration at the height of the lean season in July 2017 with the number of food insecure people increasing to 5.5 million (47% of the population). The current situation shows a deterioration of the food security situation compared to the August/September 2016 IPC analyses which estimated 4.4 million people (37 % of the population) as food insecure and facing IPC Phase 3 *Crisis* and above. Food insecurity has increased dramatically since the start of the civil conflict in December 2013, and it reached record levels in 2016 and 2017. The nutrition situation is similarly alarming: in several counties, global acute malnutrition levels are near or above 30 percent – twice the WHO *Critical* threshold. In South Sudan, food insecurity is driven by conflict and insecurity, which have severely disrupted livelihoods, trade and agricultural production. Moreover, the sharp devaluation of the local currency has inflated food prices, and transport costs are high because of insecurity along trade routes. Humanitarian assistance has improved food security in certain areas, but the country struggles with underlying issues such as lack of investment in productive sectors, social services and infrastructure.

4 Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit for Somalia (FSNAU) and FEWS NET Technical Release 2 February 2017.
5 Somalia Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Post Gu 2016, Technical Series Report No VII. 69, 19 October, 2016.
6 Somalia Post-Deyr 2015/16 Food Security and Nutrition Outlook (February to June 2016), 17 February 2016.

In **Ethiopia,** the estimated number of food insecure was 9.7 million people – around 13 percent of the rural population in July 2016. The failure of the October - December rains has created a prolonged dry spell particularly affecting south and south-eastern areas, and putting increasing numbers of people at high risk of worsening food insecurity. Malnutrition rates in spring 2016 were shocking: 2.7 million children under 5 were acutely malnourished and 400,000 were severely malnourished. Ethiopia relies heavily on agriculture, so the 2015 drought – one of the worst in 50 years – had a devastating impact. Production losses severely diminished household food security and purchasing power, forcing many to sell agricultural assets and abandon their livelihoods. Despite better harvests between October and January, millions remain at risk. Although in December 2016, the total number of food insecure people has decreased to 5.6 million, poor rainfall, small-planted areas and poor livestock health put people in southern and south-eastern pastoral areas at risk of food insecurity in 2017.

In **DRC,** between June 2016 and January 2017, over 5.9 million people – 8 percent of the population - were estimated to be in IPC Phase 3 *Crisis* or Phase 4 *Emergenc*y. Most of the food-insecure population is in four territories that are badly afflicted by civil insecurity. Global acute malnutrition is above 10 percent in most parts of the country and severe acute malnutrition above 2 percent. Food insecurity is driven by conflict among armed groups which trigger large-scale movements of refugees. Natural disasters and animal/ plant diseases also reduce food availability, pushing up prices. An average of 63 percent of household expenditure goes toward food in DRC, and agriculture remains largely at subsistence level. Agricultural production is likely to be stable in early 2017, providing households with food until April. However, persistent insecurity and displacement will leave many territories in IPC Phase 2 or Phase 3.

In **Central African Republic,** the already fragile food security situation deteriorated sharply in 2016. An IPC analysis of the period August to December estimated that over 2 million people were in Phase 3 *Crisis* or Phase 4 *Emergency* – almost 40 percent of the population. Food consumption and nutrition are worsening, with global acute malnutrition at 18 percent and severe acute malnutrition above the WHO *Emergency* threshold of 2 percent. Conflict and insecurity are the main drivers of food insecurity. The population is confronted by displacement, destroyed livelihoods, limited income opportunities, asset depletion and lower levels of home production. Insecurity has also hampered the delivery of humanitarian assistance. IPC Phase 3 conditions are forecast to persist at least until late May 2017 in areas affected by conflict. Displaced people, returnees, host households and poor households will be of particular concern.

In **Burundi,** between May and June 2016, an estimated 2.3 million people were in IPC Phase 3 *Crisis* or Phase 4 *Emergency* representing 24 percent of the population. A further 3.4 million were in Phase 2 *Stressed*. A subsequent IPC analysis for the main harvest season (July-Sept) found better conditions, with just under 1.5 million people in Phases 3 or 4. However, multiple socio-economic factors have combined to undermine child nutrition: an estimated 226,000 children are acutely malnourished and 56,000 are severely malnourished. Food insecurity is fuelled by ongoing civil insecurity, which displaces the population and disrupts livelihoods. Political instability restricts trade both inside the country and across its borders, limiting the availability of food. Burundi is also vulnerable to recurrent floods, hailstorms, drought and torrential rains. In 2017, the economic situation is not likely to improve as instability persists. Of major concern are the eastern border provinces of Muyinga, Cankuzo and Rutana, where IPC Phase 3 conditions are forecast for late April/early May.

# LAKE CHAD BASIN

| Northeast Nigeria | Cameroon | Chad | Niger |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4.7M PEOPLE | 0.3M PEOPLE | 1M PEOPLE | 0.3M PEOPLE |
| CH 3+ | | CH 3+ | CH 3+ |

The long-running Boko Haram-related conflict across the Lake Chad Basin has reportedly left 8.2 million people destitute. With 2.6 million displaced in December 2016, food insecurity has reached worrying levels: 6.3 million people in northeast Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad and Niger are facing food insecurity and requiring humanitarian action.

In **northeast Nigeria**, the Boko Haram conflict has sparked a growing humanitarian crisis, with a huge impact on agriculture and related livelihoods. A CH analysis in Nigeria in October 2016 found an estimated 4.7 million people in CH Phase 3 *Crisis* and above in the states of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe. In Borno alone, 3.3 million – 59 percent of the population – are in Phase 3 and above, and 55,000 are facing Phase 5 *Catastrophe* conditions. Although territories in these areas are being liberated, food security and nutrition are worsening, especially in Borno where 3.6 million are forecast to be food insecure in August 2017. Around 115,700 people in Borno and 5,600 people in Yobe are expected to face *Famine* during the next lean season between June and September.

In **Cameroon** North, Far North, Adamawa and East regions, 2.5 million people were food-insecure, of whom 300,000 severely food insecure in 2016. Boko Haram attacks have hampered access to arable land, leaving households highly dependent on markets. The closure of the border with Nigeria has severed trade routes, and poor purchasing power has left many households struggling to source food from markets. Boko Haram attacks and conflict in Nigeria have also recently triggered worsening food insecurity in **Chad**, where one million people were in CH Phase 3 *Crisis* during last lean season. Insecurity and displacements look set to continue in 2017, with negative consequences for livelihoods, income opportunities, land cultivation and market functioning. In **Niger**, during the post-harvest season from October to November 2016, over 320,000 people were estimated to be in CH Phase 3 *Crisis* and 5,000 in Phase 4 *Emergency*. A further 2.5 million were in Phase 2 *Stressed*. The Boko Haram crisis has severely affected the Diffa region, where attacks are damaging livelihoods. Food insecurity is forecast to worsen from June to August 2017, with the number of people facing *Crisis* conditions rising to 748,700. The Lac region is expected to face Phase 3 *Crisis* conditions at least until May.

# SOUTHERN AFRICA

| Southern Madagascar | Malawi | Mozambique | Zimbabwe |
|---|---|---|---|
| 0.8M PEOPLE | 6.7M PEOPLE | 1.9M PEOPLE | 4.1M PEOPLE |
| IPC 3+ | | IPC 3+ | |

The strong impact of El Niño weather patterns on agricultural production in 2016 caused severely stressed food security across southern Africa. This was compounded by an economic downturn in many countries, which lowered households' ability to cope. The supply shortfalls in 2016 also triggered sharp food price increases, with maize prices reaching record highs in Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique and Swaziland. The effect of depreciating currencies in several countries added further upward pressure to domestic food prices and increased the cost of importing food. The combination of high food prices and poor harvests severely restricted food access and availability, increasing food assistance requirements and contributing to rising malnutrition rates, with parts of Madagascar, Malawi and Mozambique experiencing high levels of stunting. The El Niño-related drought hit these countries the hardest, along with Lesotho, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. Food insecurity also intensified in Angola, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zambia, where better national capacities to respond to shocks helped avert a crisis.

In **southern Madagascar**, in September 2016, 840,000 people were found to be in IPC Phase 3 *Crisis* or Phase 4 *Emergency* in Madagascar's Grand Sud – 6 percent of the local population. A further 528,000 were in Phase 2 *Stressed*. Global acute malnutrition rates were classified at *Serious* or *Alert* levels in the districts of Tsihombe, Ampanihy and Beloha. Drought caused by El Niño has been a fundamental driver of recent food insecurity. Household production was decimated and stocks were depleted much earlier than usual. Rising food prices have also exacerbated the situation, with 40 percent of households resorting to crisis-coping strategies such as consuming seed stocks. Food insecurity is expected to remain high in southern areas. However, food assistance and the forecast average harvests will improve food availability around April and May 2017. Recovery will be slow as the recent crisis has depleted assets and reduced incomes.

In **Malawi**, nearly 4.1 million people were estimated to be in IPC Phase 3 *Crisis* or Phase 4 *Emergency* between May and June 2016. This figure is expected to have risen to 6.7 million between October 2016 and March 2017 because of the sharply reduced harvest and depleted livelihood assets. Nutrition levels are deteriorating: national prevalence of global acute malnutrition was 4.1 percent in December 2016, up from 2.5 percent in May. Current food insecurity is the result of two consecutive years of below-average crop production, reflecting erratic weather. Lower production has reduced food availability and high prices have weakened purchasing power. Recurrent natural hazards undermine household resilience, which is already low because of poverty and other socio-economic factors. Food security is expected to worsen in the first quarter of 2017, which is the peak of the lean season. After April, new supplies from the main season harvest should improve the situation. Even so, the planted area for the 2016/17 cropping season is likely to be much smaller because farmers have lost assets, income and productive capacity.

In **Mozambique**, between July and September 2016, over 1.9 million people – 14 percent of the population - were estimated to be in IPC Phase 3 *Crisis* or Phase 4 *Emergency*. A further 4.1 million were in Phase 2 *Stressed*. In August 2016, global acute malnutrition was at *Alert* levels in two provinces and at *Critical* levels in one province. El Niño drought was the main driver of food insecurity in 2016, cutting household production and triggering high food prices. The situation was exacerbated by high levels of poverty and limited resilience to natural hazards. Productivity is generally low because of a lack of technology, inadequate infrastructure and limited access to goods and services. Those affected by the drought are expected to remain in Phase 3 or 4 in early 2017. Food security is likely to improve from April onwards, although households in conflict-affected areas may see *Crisis* conditions persist.

In **Zimbabwe**, between May and June 2016, an estimated 2.3 million people in rural Zimbabwe – 17 percent of rural households – were in IPC Phase 3 *Crisis* or Phase 4 *Emergency* between May and June 2016. According to ZIMVAC, the number was expected to rise to 4.1 million between June 2016 and March 2017. Global acute malnutrition prevalence ranges from 2.6 percent to 6.7 percent, but poor food consumption levels suggest that malnutrition rates are likely to increase in the near future. Zimbabwe's sharp economic downturn combined with severe drought increased food insecurity in 2016. Employment opportunities are scarce and household income is low, hampering food access. The drought caused a further drop in demand for workers, eroding purchasing power for households dependent on unskilled wage labour. Food insecurity is set to worsen in 2017, up until the next harvest season in March. Agricultural productivity is forecast to fall because of poor access to fertilizer and seed supplies.

# ASIA

| Afghanistan | Iraq | Syria | Yemen |
|---|---|---|---|
| 8.5M PEOPLE | 1.5M PEOPLE | 7M PEOPLE | 14.1M PEOPLE |
| IPC 3+ | | | IPC 3+ |

In Asia, key drivers of food insecurity are the prolonged conflicts and insecurity that have displaced thousands, disrupted livelihoods, hampered farming activities, affected trade flows of commodities and limited physical access to markets.

In **Afghanistan**, over 8.5 million people – nearly 32 percent of the population - were classified in IPC Phase 3 *Crisis* or Phase 4 *Emergency* during the pre-harvest season April to June 2016. A further 4.7 million were in Phase 2 *Stressed*. Food insecurity was expected to improve considerably from July to December thanks to the new harvest, with 4.3 million projected to face Phase 3 or 4 and 8.7 million to face Phase 2. Pre-harvest, global acute malnutrition prevalence among children under two was 21 percent, and severe acute malnutrition was 8.4 percent. These levels are likely to have deteriorated because of severe insecurity in many parts of the country. The acute food insecurity in June was the result of the peak lean season combined with a lack of food access caused by insecurity. Other underlying causes of food insecurity include widespread poverty, displacement, unemployment, depleted livelihood assets, limited market functionality and food price fluctuations. Although markets are expected to function normally in early 2017, many poor households will have struggled to stock for the winter and may have difficulty meeting their food needs. In conflict-affected areas, falling purchasing power and disrupted livelihoods will mean a greater need for food assistance. *Crisis* conditions are forecast for poor households in central and north-eastern areas, as well as for newly displaced people and undocumented returnees.

In **Iraq**, food security is extremely volatile, mirroring the dynamics of the conflict. An estimated 2.4 million people are food insecure, of whom 1.5 million are severely food insecure. Assessments of malnutrition in 2016 found mostly low prevalence; a new study in 2017 across all camps will give accurate data on the nutritional status of children under five, as well as pregnant and breastfeeding women. Conflict is damaging the food security of Iraqi people in many ways. Households face loss of assets, disrupted livelihoods and unemployment. Agricultural productivity has plummeted, fuel is scarce, markets are dysfunctional and food prices are rising. The conflict has displaced millions from their homes, leaving them increasingly reliant on assistance. The number of those in need is predicted to rise as the Mosul crisis continues in 2017. The worst food security conditions are likely to be faced by displaced families inside and outside camps, vulnerable residents of retaken communities and people fleeing intense fighting.

In **Syria** in June 2016, 7 million people were facing food insecurity, an increase of 5 percent compared to September 2015. An August 2016 assessment recorded particularly acute conditions for over half a million people living in 18 besieged or hard-to-reach places. Food insecurity is driven by the conflict and consequent population displacement and disruption of livelihoods. Agricultural productivity has been badly hit, producers face rising transaction costs and security risks, and large areas of cropland suffered drought in 2016. More than two thirds of the population is living in extreme poverty and unable to cover basic needs. In 2017, food security is expected to worsen as the conflict is set to continue and the main drivers of food insecurity will remain in place. Millions will continue to depend on humanitarian assistance, and in hard-to-reach areas people are at particular risk of malnutrition and disease. Millions of Syrians have escaped across borders, fleeing the war and seeking refuge in neighbouring countries, mainly (in order of refugee population) in **Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt**. The influx of refugees is having a huge impact on host communities in terms of competition over jobs, housing and access to basic services.

In **Yemen**, in June 2016, 14.1 million people were classified as food insecure: 7.1 million were in IPC Phase 3 *Crisis* and 7 million were in Phase 4 *Emergency* conditions. The combined figure represents 51 percent of the population. An additional 8.2 million were in Phase 2 *Stressed*. Malnutrition is at alarming levels: 3.3 million children and pregnant or breastfeeding women are acutely malnourished, including 462,000 children under five who are suffering severe acute malnutrition.

The main driver of food insecurity in Yemen is the ongoing conflict, which has devastated the economy, agriculture, infrastructure, markets and livelihoods. Millions have been displaced, and access to food has been curtailed by dwindling employment, high inflation and exchange rate fluctuations. Natural hazards such as locust invasions and flooding have also played a part. As of March and throughout July 2017, 17 million people are estimated to be in IPC Phase 3 *Crisis* and Phase 4 *Emergency.*[7] This corresponds to 60% of the population and represents a 20% increase compared to the results of the IPC Analysis conducted in June 2016. Food insecurity levels are alarming across the country, with IDPs facing the worst outcomes. Of particular concern is the magnitude of food insecurity in Al Hodaidah and Taiz governorates, where almost 2.2 million people are classified in Phase 3 *Crisis* and over 1.9 million people in Phase 4 *Emergency*.

# LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

## *Haiti*

In the Caribbean and Central America, during 2015 and early 2016, a drought exacerbated by El Niño hit Haiti and localized areas of the Dry Corridor in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua. In Haiti, in addition to this, the category 4 Hurricane Matthew in late 2016 directly affected the population leaving people in high need of assistance.

**In Haiti,** in January 2016, 3.6 million people were food insecure, of whom 1.5 million were at *Crisis* (IPC Phase 3 and above). In October, Hurricane Matthew affected 2.1 million people and left 1.4 million in need of food assistance. A nutrition study in 2016 in 20 communes found global acute malnutrition prevalence of 8.4 percent. Preliminary data indicate that malnutrition levels may be two to four times higher than normal in hurricane-affected areas. Current drivers of food insecurity are the past 2-year drought and Hurricane Matthew, both of which devastated agriculture and severely limited access to food. Underlying chronic drivers include poverty, high market dependency, poor infrastructure and limited market integration. The loss of food stocks and crops caused by the hurricane means that households are likely to struggle to meet their food needs during the lean season. According to the latest IPC analysis, between 1.3 and 2.1 million people are expected to be in IPC Phase 3 and above from February to May 2017.

7 http://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC_Yemen_AcuteFI_Situation_March-July2017_ENversion.pdf

*The numbers tell a deeply worrying story. It is a race against time - we need to act now to save the lives and livelihoods of the millions at the brink of starvation today.* (Ertharin Cousin, WFP Executive Director)

# MAIN COUNTRIES TO WATCH IN 2017

*Several countries will require special attention in 2017 in terms of food security and nutrition analysis and monitoring, as well as the delivery of humanitarian assistance. All major food crises reported will most likely continue in 2017. In particular, there is a high risk of famine in some areas of north-eastern Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen, where food security conditions may further deteriorate because of armed conflict, drought and macro-economic collapse. In 2017, widespread food insecurity is likely to persist in Iraq, Syria (including among refugees in neighbouring countries), Malawi and Zimbabwe. Some countries are currently facing more localized or less acute food insecurity and/or are exposed to specific risks that may lead to worsening food security and nutrition conditions in 2017. The availability of up-to-date information in early 2017 will be crucial to confirm these projections and inform humanitarian response in order to prevent further worsening of food insecurity.*

# Annex I: IPC/CH Phase descriptions

| Phase Name | Phase description | Priority response objective |
|---|---|---|
| Phase 1 Minimal | Household (HH) group is able to meet essential food and non-food needs without engaging in atypical, unsustainable strategies to access food and income, including any reliance on humanitarian assistance. | Resilience building and disaster risk reduction. |
| Phase 2 Stressed | Even with humanitarian assistance, HH group has minimally adequate food consumption but is able to afford some essential non-food expenditures without engaging in irreversible coping strategies. | Disaster risk reduction, protection of livelihoods. |
| Phase 3 Crisis | Even with humanitarian assistance, HH group has food consumption gaps with high or higher than usual acute malnutrition; OR HH group is marginally able to meet minimum food needs only with accelerated depletion of assets that will lead to food consumption gaps. | Protect livelihoods, reduce food consumption gaps and reduce acute malnutrition. |
| Phase 4 Emergency | Even with humanitarian assistance, HH group has large food consumption gaps resulting in very high levels of acute malnutrition and excess mortality OR HH group has extreme loss of livelihood assets that will lead to large food consumption gaps in the short term. | Save lives and livelihoods. |
| Phase 5 Famine/ Catastrophe | Even with humanitarian assistance, HH group has an extreme lack of food and/or basic needs even with full employment of coping strategies. Starvation, death and destitution are evident. | Prevent widespread death and total collapse of livelihoods |

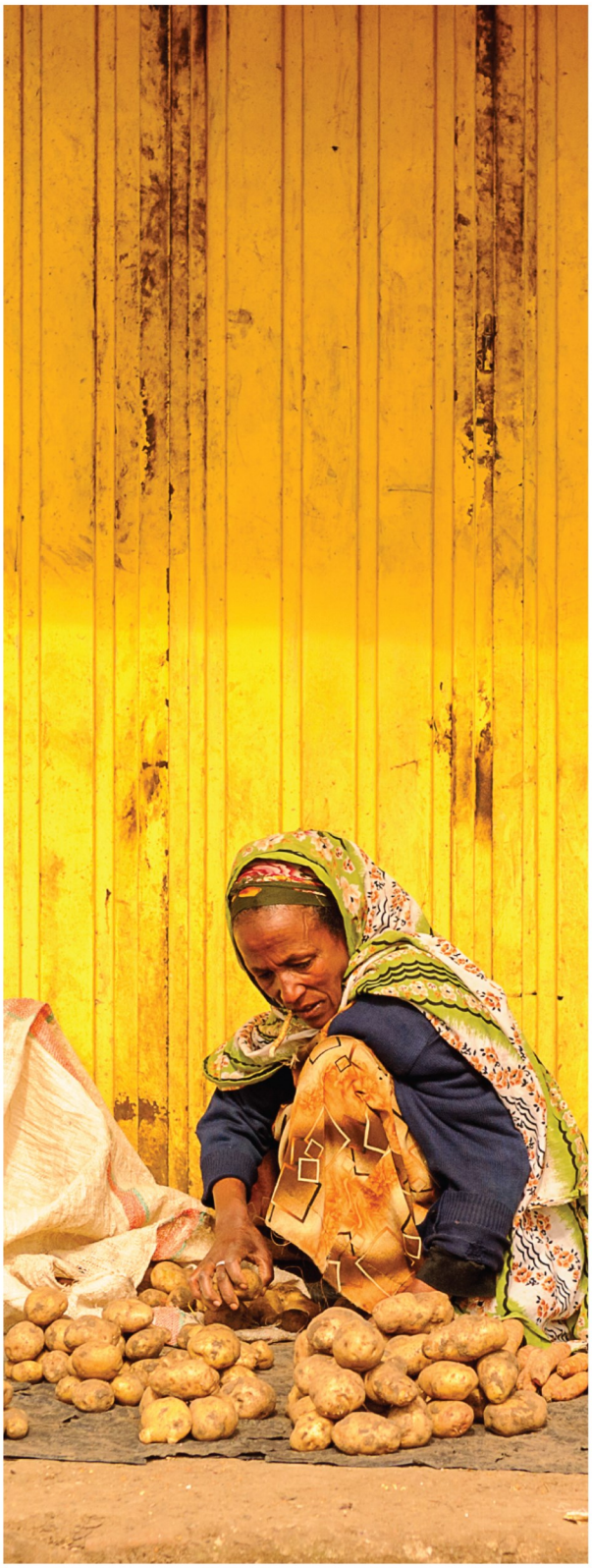
*Food-insecure people* (Phase 3 or higher)

*Urgent action required*

FSIN
Food Security Information Network

*Connecting people and institutions to strengthen analysis and decision making*

FSIN is a global community of practice linking national, regional and global institutions as well as individual professionals which aims to build sustainable food and nutrition security information systems in developing countries.



## *Why join the Community of Practice?*

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The website provides public access to professional development tools such as:

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- Guided access to e-learning courses and standard training materials on food and nutrition security analysis topics;
- Current studies and activities on emerging priority topics; and
- Relevant news and reports from the field.

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- Receive regular e-alerts and a quarterly e-newsletter;
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- Automatically receive invitations to participate in e-consultations;
- Access members' profiles for information exchange and networking; and
- Participate in dedicated discussion groups on emerging topics (e.g. the community of practice on resilience measurement).

For more information and to join the community of practice: www.fsincop.net
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