



# EMERGENCY APPEAL

## OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

### AFRICA REGION | HUNGER CRISIS



*African National Societies staff and volunteers go the last mile to reach those most in need.*

Appeal No: <b>MGR60001</b>	To be assisted: <b>7.6 million people</b>	Appeal launched: <b>06/10/2022</b>
Glide No: <b>n/a</b>	DREF allocated: <b>CHF 9.3 million<sup>1</sup></b>	Disaster Categorisation: <b>Red</b>
Operation Start date: <b>06/10/2022</b>	Operation End date: <b>31/12/2023</b>	

**IFRC Secretariat funding requirement: CHF 132 million**

**Federation-wide funding requirement: CHF 205 million**

*Built on a foundation of strong, national country response plans, this Regional Emergency Appeal and Operations Strategy provide an overarching structure and technical guidance for Hunger Crisis responses of National Societies across the continent. It consolidates the IFRC's network operational planning and coordination for collective impact, positioning the IFRC Membership's food insecurity response with humanitarian and government partners.*

<sup>1</sup> This includes CHF 5,788,786 in DREF grants and loans on active operations, as well as an additional CHF 3,600,094 allocated with the launch of the Regional Hunger Crisis Appeal, to boost the response as part of the IFRC pan-Africa Zero Hunger Initiative.

## TIMELINE

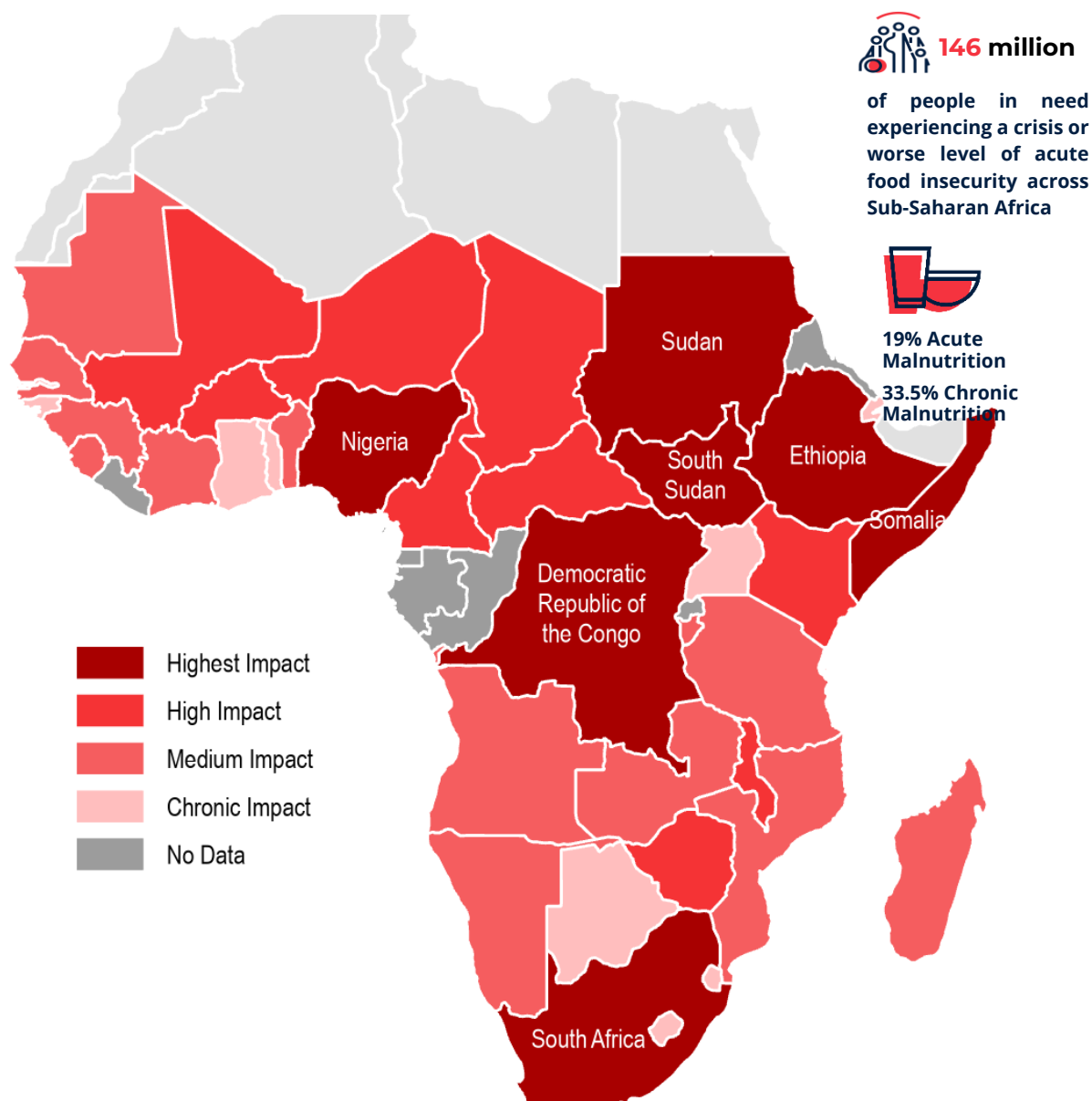


*Red Cross Red Crescent volunteers going the last mile to alleviate human suffering*

### Key events in the Hunger Crisis 2021/22

-  **May 2021:** The Government of Somalia declares a National Emergency due to the drought situation and calls for support in responding to the humanitarian crisis. This is the third consecutive failed rainy season in Somalia. The IFRC launches a DREF which is later scaled-up to an Emergency Appeal to respond to the first phase of this Hunger Crisis.
-  **July 2021:** The Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in the Horn of Africa, West Africa, Sahel and Southern Africa begin to report that communities need support as the Hunger Crisis begins to scale due to the socio-impacts of COVID-19, and the price escalation of fuel and basic commodities.
-  **July 2021:** To avert disaster, the IFRC responds by launching a [Call for Action](#) in September 2021 and Emergency Appeals and DREFs in the most critical countries with high food insecurity indicators.
-  **February 2022:** The Ukraine crisis begins affecting the supply of wheat and fertiliser and adds to price increases in fuel and basic commodities.
-  **May 2022:** March to May rains fail in East Africa affecting millions in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia, bringing the worst drought conditions in 40 years. Humanitarian sector agencies call for urgent action to avert a famine brought about by the climate crisis and price escalations.
-  **May 2022:** The Hunger Crisis continues to escalate across the continent affecting the Horn of Africa, West Africa and the Sahel, and Madagascar in addition to growing concerns in Southern Africa, including Angola and Zimbabwe, brought about by both the climate and economic crises.
-  **September 2022:** The IFRC launches the Africa Hunger Crisis Emergency Appeal seeking CHF 205 million (Federation-wide) to support 7.6m people across 14 countries.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT



Across the region, millions of people are living in poverty and facing multiple daily threats to their food security. An estimated 146 million people are facing crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity in sub-Saharan Africa.<sup>2</sup> Climatic shocks, such as prolonged drought and recurrent flooding, conflict, desert locusts, and economic downturns, exacerbated by the effects of COVID-19, have combined to hit communities hard. The impact of global drivers is compounding the effect of pre-existing deep-rooted local drivers such as poverty and marginalisation.

The crisis has spread across all of Africa – from East Africa with the fourth consecutive failed rains in the Horn of Africa and extreme flooding for four successive years in South Sudan, to the Sahel region of West Africa plagued by insecurity and political instability, to Southern Africa where countries, such as Zimbabwe, are experiencing surging inflation. Unfortunately, this is not new and in 2010–2011, in spite of early warning signs that failed rains in East Africa would result in acute food insecurity and a loss of lives, the humanitarian response was too little and too late. History almost repeated itself in 2016–2017, but governments and humanitarian organisations mobilised a response sufficient enough to head off mass mortality.

<sup>2</sup> IPC data as of 26 August 2022.

Warnings of the current situation were given as early as 12 months ago when African Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies started to launch hunger crisis emergency appeals. So far, 17 African National Societies have responded to the hunger crisis across the region with the limited resources they have. However, to respond to the rapidly escalating humanitarian needs and scale up, the National Society response, funding for the crisis needs to be urgently increased. The IFRC, in turn, must quickly and massively scale-up life-saving assistance to millions of people facing crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity, of which hundreds of thousands are at immediate risk of or experiencing catastrophic levels of acute food insecurity, but also to decisively address the root causes of this crisis through longer-term commitments.

The following sections detail how the African Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies plan to scale up life-saving assistance to millions of people. At the same time, through longer-term programming, African National Societies will address the root causes of food insecurity. The IFRC will build on our previous successes and work in support of government plans and frameworks to improve the resilience of the most impoverished communities, including displaced populations.

## Regional Situation Snapshot

### East Africa Region

- Over [51.5 million people](#) are expected to face crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above\*) this year across seven countries: Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda.
- The Horn of Africa is experiencing one of its most severe droughts in 40 years. This follows four back-to-back poor failed rainy seasons. The 2022 March-May rains seasons were the driest in at least the last 70 years and the latest forecasts suggest that the next rainy season is also likely to fail (October to December rains).
- Currently, across Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia, about 15.6 million to 21.1 million people face high levels of acute food insecurity due to the drought. This figure includes 3.2 million people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) in Kenya and Somalia and 213,180 people in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) in Somalia. Populations in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) are of particular concern as these phases are associated with increased rates of excess mortality.
- This year, [about 300,000 people in Somalia and South Sudan](#) are projected to face the highest level of acute food insecurity – IPC Phase 5, meaning that there is an extreme lack of access to food – with the risk of famine occurring in eight areas of Somalia, should widespread crop and livestock production fail.
- Conflict, climate extremes, economic shocks, rising costs of basic commodities and now the impact of the conflict in Ukraine on food and energy prices are pushing millions towards starvation in Eastern Africa.

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### West Africa and the Sahel Region

- Conflict, economic shocks and climate change have also been driving mass displacement in Africa's Sahel region for years. Between 2015 and 2022, the number of people in the region in need of emergency food assistance more than quadrupled, from 7 million to over 30 million.
- Food prices have increased by 20-30 per cent over the past five years in West Africa. While the increase in staple food prices has been steady in all countries in the region, a [staggering 40 per cent jump from the five-year average](#) has been witnessed in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Togo, Niger, Mali and Mauritania.
- More than 40 million people in West Africa are projected to face crisis or worse levels of food insecurity between June to August. This represents 11.4 per cent of the total analysed population. Record numbers of people are facing extreme hunger in Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso. Malnutrition is steadily increasing in the Sahel, with an [estimated 6.3 million](#) children aged 6-59 months who will be acutely malnourished this year – including more than 1.4 million children in the severe acute malnutrition phase – compared to 4.9 million acutely malnourished children in 2021.

## Southern Africa Region

- A below-average harvest and worsening macroeconomic conditions across the region will severely limit post-harvest improvements. Overall, the main harvest is below average in Zimbabwe, Mozambique, southern parts of Madagascar, Angola, and Malawi.
- In [Zimbabwe](#), food insecurity levels remain elevated, as drastic price increases reduce the purchasing power of households. Food inflation in the country increased to 225% in June (155% in May, 69% in February). Prices for fertiliser raw materials have also tripled, causing a further problem as Zimbabwe is heavily reliant on fertiliser from Russia.
- In [Madagascar](#), multiple consecutive droughts, an atypically long lean season amidst above-average prices and below-average labour demand, and significantly below-average maize harvests are driving crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes across the Grand South.
- In [Angola](#), a fifth consecutive year of drought conditions in parts of the southern provinces – the worst in the last 40 years in some areas – and high food prices continue to drive food insecurity.

## Food security and nutrition facts and figures – in 23 countries targeted by the Regional Emergency Appeal

Country	Risk Class	Total Pop	IPC3	IPC4	IPC5	IPC3+	% Affected <sup>3</sup>	Malnutrition	
								Acute	Chronic
Angola	Medium	32,866,272	1,167,337	416,660	0	1,583,997	5%	5%	38%
Burkina Faso	High	21,880,805	2,825,046	628,464	0	3,453,510	16%	8%	25%
Cabo Verde	Low	555,987	43,003	3,090	0	46,093	8%		21%
Cameroon	High	26,545,863	2,228,138	185,150	0	2,413,288	9%	5%	29%
CAR	Very High	4,829,767	1,570,882	638,021	0	2,208,903	46%	6%	42%
Chad	Very High	16,425,864	1,997,572	101,289	0	2,098,861	13%	10%	31%
Djibouti	High	1,181,675	179,778	12,390	0	192,168	16%	22%	34%
DRC	Very High	89,561,403	20,463,608	5,415,900	0	25,879,508	29%	8%	43%
Ethiopia	Very High	114,963,588	2,193,953	1,802,111	401,313	4,397,377	4%	7%	37%
Kenya	High	53,771,296	3,002,100	1,100,155	0	4,102,255	8%	4%	26%
Madagascar	High	27,691,018	1,495,073	189,056	0	1,684,129	7%	6%	42%
Malawi	Medium	19,129,952	2,632,740	0	0	2,632,740	14%	1%	39%
Mali	Very High	21,696,914	1,684,507	156,560	0	1,841,067	8%	9%	27%
Mauritania	High	4,372,039	795,603	83,317	0	878,920	20%	12%	23%
Mozambique	Very High	31,255,435	1,419,830	23,553	0	1,443,383	5%	4%	42%
Niger	Very High	24,933,140	3,976,601	425,805	0	4,402,406	18%	14%	49%
Nigeria	Very High	159,253,322	18,276,846	1,176,459	0	19,453,305	12%	7%	37%
Somalia	Very High	15,893,222	4,730,510	2,127,580	213,180	7,071,270	44%	12%	28%
South Sudan	Very High	11,193,725	4,765,000	2,892,000	87,000	7,744,000	69%	23%	31%
Sudan	High	43,849,260	8,549,970	3,103,098	0	11,653,068	27%	16%	38%
Tanzania	High	18,383,955	496,785	94,935	0	591,720	3%	4%	32%
Zambia	Medium	17,400,000	1,575,154	0	0	1,575,154	9%	4%	35%
Zimbabwe	High	16,600,000	2,611,638	768,594	0	3,380,232	20%	3%	24%
		<b>774,234,502</b>	<b>88,681,674</b>	<b>21,344,187</b>	<b>701,493</b>	<b>110,727,354</b>	<b>14%</b>		

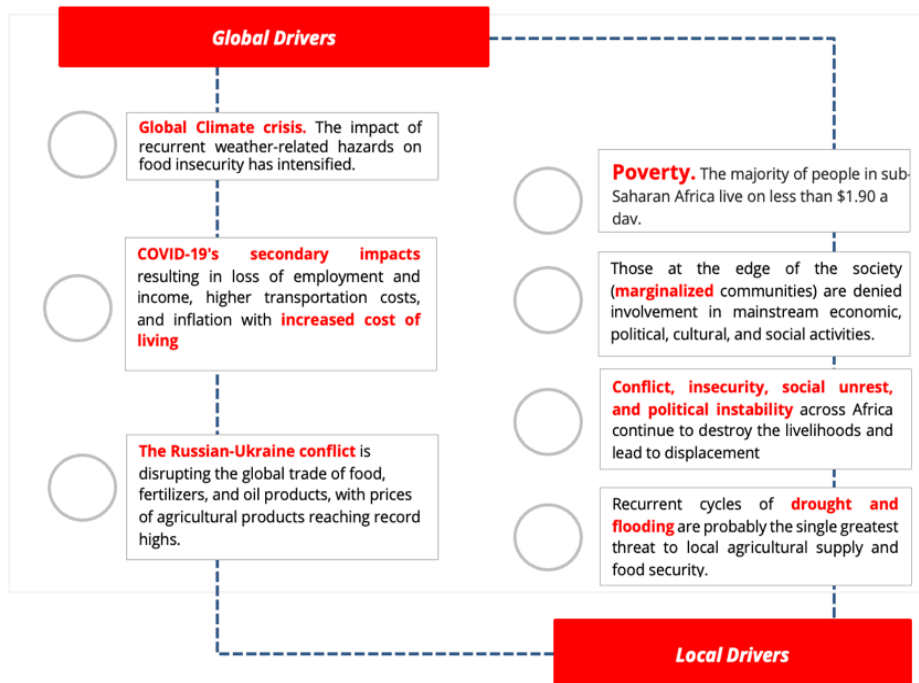
Table 1 – IPC most updated data per country (July -September 2022)<sup>4</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Against the measured population.

<sup>4</sup> [IPC](#) and [Cadre Harmonisé](#)

## Global and local drivers

The current factors creating pressures on food systems in Africa and driving the hunger crisis are multifaceted, inter-related, and frequently mutually reinforcing, namely conflict and insecurity, economic slowdowns and downturns resulting in inflation in consumer prices (especially food and energy), and weather extremes and climate variability. The COVID-19 pandemic and recently the Ukraine crisis are exacerbating pre-existing vulnerabilities and already high levels of hunger on the continent. The hunger crisis has more deep-rooted causes related to underdevelopment, fragile food systems, poverty, inequality and marginalisation – all underpinned by governance challenges.



## Extreme weather and climate variability

Climate change is contributing to an intensified impact of recurrent and consecutive weather-related hazards, particularly drought/dry spells, floods, and cyclones, on acute food insecurity. In 2021, weather extremes were the main cause of crisis or worse acute food insecurity for 23.5 million people living in eight countries. In Southern and East Africa, many countries regularly experience arid or drought conditions. Drought (and low and erratic rainfall) is probably the single greatest threat to agricultural supply. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), this accounts for more than one-third of crop and livestock losses in low and lower-middle-income countries. In 2021, southwestern Angola and southern Madagascar experienced the worst drought conditions in the last 40 years. Although weather extremes were not a primary driver of food crises in West Africa and the Sahel, rainfall deficits in 2021 affected food production and livelihoods across several countries, including Niger, Mauritania, Nigeria, Chad, and Mali. In 2022, the Horn of Africa is experiencing one of its most severe droughts in 40 years, following four back-to-back poor rainy seasons. The 2022 March-May rains seasons were the driest in at least the last 70 years (FAO-WFP monthly Geneva briefing). Intertwined with drought, southern and southeastern Ethiopia, and the arid and semi-arid lands (ASAL) regions of Kenya and Somalia, have been affected by three exceptionally wet seasons, bringing widespread floods, displacement, and a locust outbreak that was the worst in 25 years in Ethiopia and Somalia, and in 75 years in Kenya. This exceptional series of consecutive drought and flood shocks is having devastating impacts on agriculture, rangelands and water resources (IFRC Operational Strategies for Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya – 2022). Several countries across southern and East Africa, including Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Sudan, and South Sudan, also experienced torrential rains, tropical storms and cyclones, and floods from 2019 to 2022 that damaged crops and brought on locust swarms. South Sudan has experienced an unprecedented cycle of climate shocks, as drought followed by heavy rains have caused extreme flooding for a fourth consecutive year in 2022.

## Economic downturns: price surges

The increase in consumer food price inflation predates the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>5</sup> Price surges in the last few years in consumer goods in sub-Saharan Africa have mainly affected food, which accounts for approximately 40 per cent of the population's consumption basket (and up to 70 per cent for very poor households), compared to 16 per cent in advanced economies. In 2019, food inflation increased in many countries in the region, stabilising during the pandemic only to start rising again in April 2021.<sup>6</sup> **Food prices in sub-Saharan Africa are estimated to be 30-40 per cent higher than the rest of the world**, taking into account comparative levels of GDP per capita.<sup>7</sup> Numerous countries in Africa are encountering high food price inflation at the retail level, attributed to a combination of domestic and external factors, including currency devaluations, rising oil prices (which raise the cost of fertilisers and transportation), droughts and export restrictions of major cereal exporters, stockpiling in some countries, and increased government taxes on everyday household goods such as cooking gas, fuel, and food. Rising food prices across the Southern Africa region are a result of currency depreciation (e.g. Zimbabwe and Angola), disruptions in trade due to insecurity, or high prices of imported cereals.<sup>8</sup>

The increase in staple food prices has been steady in all countries in the West Africa and Sahel Region, caused by insecurity-related disruptions to agricultural activities and markets, higher transport costs linked to COVID-19 containment measures, rising international commodity prices, depletion of stocks, and various national bans on cereal outflows.<sup>9</sup> A staggering 40 per cent jump from the five-year average has been witnessed in Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Niger, Mali, and Mauritania – putting basic meals out of reach of millions of women, men, and children.<sup>10</sup> High inflation in Nigeria and restrictions on food exports from Nigeria, Benin, Burkina, and Mali are having a negative impact on Niger, which recently experienced one of the worst agricultural seasons since 2005.<sup>11</sup>

## Conflict and insecurity

Today, 20 African countries are facing conflict and insecurity, including seven coup d'états in 2021 alone.<sup>12</sup> Four out of the eight countries experiencing the worst food crisis globally are in sub-Saharan Africa (DRC, Nigeria, Ethiopia, and South Sudan) and are experiencing conflict.<sup>13</sup> Organised violence, extremism, and conflict are also affecting Mozambique, the Sahel countries, and Somalia. In the Sahel region of West Africa, insecurity remains the primary cause of food insecurity, resulting in disruption to livelihoods and trade, and in displacement.<sup>14</sup> Insurrections, riots and protests, now account for over half of violent events in Africa.<sup>15</sup> Recent violent protests sparked by domestic food and fuel price hikes in countries such as Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Sudan, illustrate the contribution of inflation of key commodities to instability. According to the 2022 Global Food Crisis Report, in 2021, all countries/territories with major food crises (mainly driven by conflict) were also

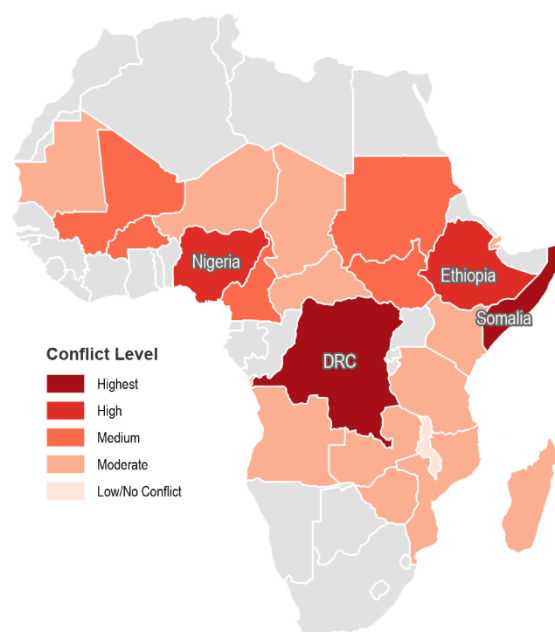


Figure 2 - Conflict level across 23 countries (ACLED)

<sup>5</sup> [IMF Blog](#)

<sup>6</sup> [IMF Blog](#)

<sup>7</sup> [OECD Policy Blog](#)

<sup>8</sup> [Global Report on Food Crises 2022](#)

<sup>9</sup> Idem: [FEWS NET Global Price Watch](#)

<sup>10</sup> [WFP news release](#)

<sup>11</sup> [ECOWAS, WFP, FAO assessment report](#)

<sup>12</sup> [Oxfam Press Release](#)

<sup>13</sup> [Global Report on Food Crises 2022](#)

<sup>14</sup> [OCHA situation report](#)

<sup>15</sup> [ACLED data](#)

affected by either economic shocks, weather extremes, or both – in turn, increasing competition over limited natural resources (e.g. grazing lands and water) and employment opportunities, which is fuelling tensions and conflict.

### **Extreme weather and climate variability**

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### **Economic downturns: price surges**

The increase in consumer food price inflation predates the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>16</sup> Price surges in the last few years in consumer goods in sub-Saharan Africa have mainly affected food, which accounts for approximately 40 per cent of the population's consumption basket (and up to 70 per cent for very poor households), compared to 16 per cent in advanced economies. In 2019, food inflation increased in many countries in the region, stabilising during the pandemic only to start rising again in April 2021.<sup>17</sup> Food prices in sub-Saharan Africa are estimated to be 30-40 per cent higher than the rest of the world, taking into account comparative levels of GDP per capita.<sup>18</sup> Numerous countries in Africa are encountering high food price inflation at the retail level, attributed to a combination of domestic and external factors, including currency devaluations, rising oil prices (which raise the cost of fertilisers and transportation), droughts and export restrictions of major cereal exporters, stockpiling in some countries, and increased government taxes on everyday household goods such as cooking gas, fuel, and food. Rising food prices across the Southern Africa region are a result of currency depreciation (e.g. Zimbabwe and Angola), disruptions in trade due to insecurity, or high prices of imported cereals.<sup>19</sup>

### **The COVID-19 pandemic and the Ukraine crisis**

The COVID-19 pandemic, and now the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, have exacerbated an existing food crisis, particularly in contexts already experiencing humanitarian crises. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic,

there were more than 280 million undernourished people in Africa.<sup>20</sup> In 2020, the region recorded the sharpest rise in the prevalence of undernourishment – covering 21 per cent of the population, which is more than double that of any other region.<sup>21</sup> The pandemic's impact also contributed to economic slowdowns and downturns going from the third to the second most important driver of acute food insecurity from the year-earlier period. In parts of East Africa (e.g. Central part) and in Southern Africa, COVID-19 restrictions severely impacted access to food through widespread losses of informal jobs, particularly for households reliant on remittances from South Africa.<sup>22</sup>

Both the pandemic and the Ukraine-Russia crisis, which is the latest threat to the stability of world food supplies, have exposed issues related to the governance of food systems, including deficiencies in supply chains and an inequitable global food system. Remarkably, for a continent that holds 60 per cent of the world's arable land, many countries in Africa have low domestic food availability and a high and growing import reliance on a few wealthier countries for key food commodities, such as wheat, rice, palm oil, and soybeans. From 2016 to 2018, Africa imported around 85 per cent of its food needs from outside the continent.<sup>23</sup> Fourteen countries depend on Russia and Ukraine for more than half of their wheat imports. The Ukraine-Russia crisis pushed food grain prices up by more than 25 per cent in a matter of a few weeks and some countries are bracing for supply shortfalls. Around 80 per cent of East Africa's wheat and wheat products are imported. The region obtains 90 per cent of its wheat imports from the Russian Federation (72%) and Ukraine (18%). However, although many countries in sub-Saharan Africa import significant quantities of wheat, it is not a staple food for the majority of households,<sup>24</sup> mainly being consumed for breakfast or as a snack, especially in urban centres. On the other hand, the price of fuel and fertilisers (already inflated before the Ukraine crisis) is also rising on the international market. As an example, fertiliser prices in May were 60 to 200 per cent above 2021 prices in Kenya.<sup>25</sup> The increase in fuel prices region-wide has risen by 17 to 75 per cent in April 2022 year-on-year, the steepest increase was observed in Burundi, Somalia, Kenya, Ethiopia, and South Sudan.<sup>26</sup> This, unfortunately, coincided with the 2022 main season crop planting that disrupted farming. The Logistics Cluster in Somalia reported a 45% cumulative increase in fuel prices in 2022 on August 30. Most recently, there was a four per cent increase between June and July and, in the same period, retail petrol prices increased by five to seven per cent in Nigeria.<sup>27</sup>

Rising fuel and higher costs of food production and transport costs (including within the region) are being passed onto consumers in the form of higher food prices. This is having a significant impact on the food security of populations with low purchasing power in many countries that are heavily reliant on imports of food that are more important to consumers, such as rice, maize, and vegetable oil. The FAO Food Price Index climbed 12.6 per cent in March 2022 compared to February 2022 and reached its highest level since its inception in 1990. In the DRC, FEWS NET market analyses for June 2022 shows cyclical and atypical fluctuations in prices of the main imported products, particularly rice and refined vegetable oil, due to supply slowdowns and speculation, almost certainly linked to the crisis in Ukraine. There has also been a slowdown in supplies from neighbouring countries such as Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania, in the face of the uncertainty caused by the current global crisis. In 2017, Uganda was the third-largest exporter of maize in Africa and second largest of maize flour.<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> [FAO, ECA, AUC Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition 2021: Statistics and Trends](#)

<sup>21</sup> [FAO news release](#)

<sup>22</sup> [Global Report on Food Crises 2022](#)

<sup>23</sup> [UNCTAD news release](#)

<sup>24</sup> Although the net import dependence of countries in sub-Saharan Africa on wheat is 82%, wheat contributes to 8% of household caloric intake compared to a 20% caloric intake for maize for which net import dependence is around 9% ([IMF 2022](#)).

<sup>25</sup> Kenya Fewes Net Food Security Outlook June 2022 to January 2023

<sup>26</sup> WFP Fertiliser Price Impact on 2022 Cereal Production in Eastern Africa (June 2022)

<sup>27</sup> Nigeria Fewes Net Food Security Outlook August 2022

<sup>28</sup> [Agrilinks-Chemonics post](#)

# 1. Severity of the crisis

## 1.1. Impact of drivers on the availability of and access to goods and services

### Markets: food availability and access

#### *Impact of poor rainfall and floods on markets*

Climate variability and extreme weather events, particularly floods, dry spells/droughts, and poor distribution of rainfall, have decreased crop yields across regions and affected the availability of and access to essential goods and services on markets. In some countries, climate shocks have reduced stocks held by traders or in national reserves either due to the failure to replenish from local producers or failure to import from other regions affected by similar conditions. In the Sahel, market supplies have been below average in most countries due to reduced production for the 2021/22 agricultural season, lower carry-over stocks, and reduced cross-border flows. Below-average and erratic rainfall have also impacted cereal production in East Africa, including in Uganda and Tanzania, countries that are the main maize exporters of the East Africa region. Additionally, FEWS NET analyses show that markets in the region are currently inadequately supplied by regional sorghum production, which is at lower than average levels due to expectations of below-average harvests in the main producing countries of Sudan, Ethiopia, and Uganda.

In agropastoral and pastoral zones, droughts have also had an impact on livestock due to a lack of pastures and the drying up of watering points. According to the UN, at least seven million livestock have died across the Horn of Africa. Subsequently, there is a significant decrease in the availability of animals and animal products on markets because of livestock deaths or poor body conditions. In Somalia, where livestock accounts for 40 per cent of GDP and 60 per cent of the workforce, over three million livestock have died.<sup>29</sup> Poor to emaciated body conditions render animals unsalable and have resulted in reduced availability and access to livestock and livestock products, including milk, on markets. In the areas worst affected by drought in Kenya, prices for emergency destocking sales of livestock were at their lowest since 2011. Drought and dry spells are also creating large feed deficits in the Sahel. Combined with the restrictions on movement linked to the COVID-19 pandemic, which limited cross-border transhumance (representing 70 to 80% of the cattle population in the Sahel) and the supply of many livestock markets, these feed deficits are posing a significant threat to the food security of many households in the region.<sup>30</sup> The FEWS NET food security outlook for the month of April 2022 reported that feed prices rose by 20 per cent in northern Mali.

Drought conditions are often followed by heavy rains and floods. Across sub-Saharan Africa, floods continue to destroy marketplaces, roads, and bridges, resulting in low food transfers by traders, governments, and aid agencies to affected areas. In the Somali region, Galuun bridge which connects the Dawa and Liben zones is often submerged during rainy season, effectively blocking movement between the two zones.<sup>31</sup> In some parts of South Sudan, floodwaters from preceding rainy seasons do not recede by the start of the next rainy season. The situation has limited food stocks in the few available functional markets and the supply of these stocks has been cut-off, forcing up food prices.<sup>32</sup>

#### *Impact of conflict, insecurity, and civil unrest on markets*

In East Africa and the Sahel Region of West Africa, conflicts, insecurity, and civil unrest are disrupting and limiting access to markets for food purchases, inputs, and sales. Conflict has affected the movement of food crops and goods to markets in the Central African Republic, where transport was halted along the main supply route between Bangui and Garoua-Boulai in Cameroon in 2021. Conflict has also increased the costs of transporting goods and services. This has reduced the availability of food crops, goods, and services in markets in Cameroon (IPC analysis October 2021), while ongoing civil unrest and insecurity in Sudan and South Sudan have disrupted trade flows and markets. In Hirshabelle, Somalia, illegal taxes and checkpoints

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<sup>29</sup> [WFP analysis eastern Africa](#)

<sup>30</sup> [CILSS newsletter](#)

<sup>31</sup> [OCHA situation report](#)

<sup>32</sup> [IFRC operations update South Sudan](#)

are negatively affecting trade activities by delaying, reducing quantities, and increasing the cost of goods in markets. Due to banditry, kidnapping, and cattle rustling, market and trade routes remain disrupted in most areas of the northwest and northcentral states of Nigeria, limiting the flow of goods and market supply.<sup>33</sup> A 2021 World Food Program (WFP) study on market functionality conducted in the G5 Sahel countries (Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Chad), showed that up to 54 per cent of markets were less functional due to insecurity and only 27 per cent of markets in Burkina Faso were functioning properly.<sup>34</sup> Before the violence in northern Burkina Faso, the town of Djibo had one of the biggest and most vital livestock markets in the West African Sahel.

## **Health and nutrition services**

Conflicts and insecurity are also affecting availability and access to services due to the destruction of facilities, exodus of skilled personnel, and destruction/blockades of access routes. The violence in the Central African Republic destroyed health facilities and schools, in turn, impacting drought responses related to health, nutrition, education, and WASH. In northern Ethiopia, the ongoing conflict continues to displace millions, disrupt livelihoods, and limit access to basic health/nutrition, water, and education services. In the northern Sahel region of Burkina Faso, 64 per cent of health facilities are closed due to insecurity.<sup>35</sup> By drastically reducing availability and access to health/nutrition services, conflict and insecurity have caused higher disease prevalence which persists without functional services, further impacting food and nutrition security of the affected populations.

The COVID-19 pandemic also increased demands on health services across the region. The increased number of people who are sick and require medical support has created pressure on health facilities and personnel. The nutrition situation in the Horn of Africa region was aggravated by COVID-19 due to the impacts on incomes, and food and water prices. In the Central African Republic, a phenomenal rise in levels and the burden of severe acute malnutrition (25% increase) has been recorded since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, compounding the hunger crisis.<sup>36</sup>

## **Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services**

Food insecurity has a multiplier effect on one's physical and mental health and this can negatively impact family relationships, livelihood progress, and overall socioeconomic functioning. Drought and hunger can result in emotional instability, stress, anxiety, trauma, and other psychological symptoms which are commonly observed during and after a crisis. These psychological effects have a massive impact on the concerned individual and communities. Resilience plays a vital role and acts as an effective measure. For instance, the impact of the drought on the livelihoods of affected communities is already devastating and is expected to further worsen in the second half of 2022, increasing the severity of needs. Recent weather forecasts point towards a higher likelihood that the upcoming rainy season (October-December 2022) will also be below-average, making it an unprecedented fifth consecutive failed rainy season, and the risk of gender-based violence (GBV) has also increased as women and girls are forced to travel far distances to fetch water, while in other cases they are often left alone while family members are away looking for food or jobs.<sup>37</sup>

All of this will continue to expose the affected communities to higher odds of experiencing adverse psychosocial conditions such as misery, worry, stress, anger, and lower odds of experiencing positive psychosocial conditions such as enjoyment, feeling well-rested, and being treated with respect. In addition to the negative impacts on physical health, food insecurity is associated with cognitive problems,

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<sup>33</sup> [FEWS NET West Africa Key Message Update May 2022](#)

<sup>34</sup> [WFP West and Central Africa market analysis](#)

<sup>35</sup> [UNICEF situation report](#)

<sup>36</sup> [UNICEF press release](#)

<sup>37</sup> Drought Response Ethiopia, July – December 2022 (Revised)

behavioural problems, aggression, anxiety, depression, and even suicidal thoughts. Mothers and children are at high risk of experiencing traumatic effects on their mental health.<sup>38</sup>

Recent inter-sectoral assessments show an increase in psychosocial distress, especially among children and caregivers, as well as in resorting to negative survival strategies. Child labour, street begging, and an increase in the number of school dropouts and early marriage cases were observed in drought-affected areas. Based on government data and UNICEF analysis (May 2022), the number of child marriage cases in Ethiopia increased by 264 per cent in Somali, 69 per cent in Oromia and 38 per cent in SNNP – all regions severely affected by drought – compared to the same period (January- April) last year. Cases of family separation and serious neglect of children, older persons and persons with disabilities were reported as well. With the worsening conditions, hundreds and thousands of people continue to migrate in search of water, pasture, and assistance, leaving behind their elderly and sick family members. Further movements are anticipated in the months to come as the drought is expected to continue. The movement of communities heightens the risk of disease transmission (for both humans and livestock) due to the high concentration of the population and weakened immunity. The longer the drought condition persists, the weaker they become exposing them to illnesses, including waterborne and skin diseases and increased mental health and psychosocial problems.<sup>39</sup>

## **Water services and infrastructure**

Access to safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene services is already low in Africa. About half of the global population without access to improved drinking water live in sub-Saharan Africa, which also has more than double the number of people who do not have access to improved sanitation facilities. In 2020, 39 per cent of the population used safely managed drinking water, 27 per cent used safely managed sanitation, and 37 per cent used basic hygiene in 2020.<sup>40</sup> In addition to more underlying structural barriers, conflicts, insecurity, recurrent drought conditions, and seasonal flooding are reducing further availability and access to water across sub-Saharan Africa, particularly in the Horn of Africa, and the Sahel and West Africa regions. Securing a reliable water source in these arid and drought-prone regions is extremely difficult, and the provision of safe drinking water greatly depends on water trucking operations or in-depth drilling. Even when durable solutions are applicable in these settings, more funding and a longer implementation period are required.

According to an OCHA update, water prices in the Horn of Africa remained unchanged but high during the month of May 2022, especially in the pastoral livelihood zones of Somalia. In the Sahel Region of West Africa, drought is causing water points to dry-up and annual floods are regularly damaging WASH infrastructure. Additionally, displacement and growing insecurity in the region have disrupted access to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services and slowed down investments in existing but limited WASH infrastructure. A sharp increase in displacement has placed WASH infrastructure in host communities under pressure and is exponentially increasing the need for WASH humanitarian assistance in the Sahel.<sup>41</sup> In regions with acute food insecurity, water points have either been ransacked by armed groups, the paths to them have been mined, are occupied by the armed groups, or there are no water points apart from natural ones (IFRC Burkina Faso Emergency Appeal, June 2022).

## **1.2. Impact on household livelihoods and food security**

### **Decrease in household crop and livestock production**

Drought, dry spells, low erratic rainfall, and insecurity are decreasing the cereal production of smallholder farmers across the continent. Rainfall deficits have decreased cereal production by 39 per cent in Niger

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<sup>38</sup> <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0255392>

<sup>39</sup> Drought Response Ethiopia, July – December 2022 (Revised)

<sup>40</sup> [UNICEF and WHO progress report SDG WASH](#)

<sup>41</sup> [UNICEF advocacy brief](#)

compared to the five-year average. In Burkina Faso, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, at least 412,000 hectares of land were abandoned or not cultivated by households for the month of December 2021 alone due to insecurity (IFRC Emergency Appeal Burkina Faso, June 2022). In Somalia, the July crop harvest, normally accounting for about 60 per cent of the country's total annual cereal output, was severely affected by poor seasonal rains. Rain-fed agriculture in the Horn of Africa and Southern Africa regions has systematically failed in the past four years, resulting in poor crop performance of between 58 per cent to 70 per cent below average. In Southern Africa, while production has generally been favourable in 2022, poor rainfall has resulted in below normal production in some areas of Angola, Madagascar, and Zimbabwe. In Zimbabwe, production has dropped by 43 per cent compared to the previous season.<sup>42</sup> In many countries, low production has resulted in an early lean season with the rapid depletion of household cereal stocks and increased dependence on markets. According to the Kenya Food Security Steering Group (KFSSG), in marginal agricultural areas of the country, household maize production was 45 to 50 per cent of the five-year national average, with one to seven per cent of the five-year average in some areas. Most cereal stocks of poor households were depleted after one to two months, compared to typical two to four months.<sup>43</sup>

The livelihoods of pastoral households have been adversely affected by climate change and conflict. In the pastoral areas of East Africa and Sahel Region of West Africa, due to declining forage and water resources, households are increasingly keeping livestock in dry season grazing areas or migrating early and for prolonged periods in search of pasture and water. This is resulting in competition and conflict among communities over rangeland resources. Livestock deaths and low fertility and reproduction rates are dwindling household herd sizes and value. The consumption and income of pastoral households have been negatively affected by the decline in milk production and livestock market prices. In 2022, daily household milk production in the pastoral zones of Kenya is 12 to 50 per cent below the three-year average. According to the Kenyan National Drought Management Authority, at the end of 2021, the price of a cow declined from about 40,000 Kenyan shillings (357 US dollars) to 5,000 KSH (45 US dollars). It will take a minimum of two to four years for pastoralist and agro-pastoralist households to recover (assuming good rainfall patterns) – meaning household incomes will remain low to non-existent.<sup>44</sup> In the absence of buyers due to insecurity, livestock prices, especially for small ruminants (goats and sheep), have fallen by 35 per cent in the weekly market of Djibo in northern Burkina Faso.<sup>45</sup>

## **Disruption of urban livelihoods**

In 2020, hunger cut across the urban and rural divide. A total of 68.1 million people in urban centres were at risk of acute food insecurity in sub-Saharan Africa – 42 per cent of the total 162 million food insecure people in both urban and rural areas. Of the 68.1 million, 22 million were in Central Africa, 16 million in West Africa, 15.7 million in East Africa and 14.4 million in Southern Africa.<sup>46</sup>

Urban livelihoods and food security, particularly of poor households in informal settlements (often overcrowded with limited basic services) have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, volatile prices, and inflation. This is mainly due to a high dependency on markets for food purchases and higher consumption of imported fuel and wheat products. In 2020, the sudden economic slowdown in several sub-Saharan African countries resulted in a disproportionate level of loss of income and employment among the urban poor. At the same time, more than a third of households in sub-Saharan Africa rely on informal food suppliers for access to food. According to UN-Habitat and WFP analyses, at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the earnings of informal workers are estimated to have declined by 81 per cent and these workers are still recovering from this loss. Some informal workers were also affected by the destruction of their informal workspaces, predominantly informal market stalls, as part of enforcement of public health

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<sup>42</sup> [FEWS NET situation report June 2022](#)

<sup>43</sup> [FEWS NET East Africa Food Security Outlook February to September 2022](#)

<sup>44</sup> [FEWS NET Kenya Food Security Outlook February to September 2022](#)

<sup>45</sup> [FEWS NET Burkina Faso Food Security Outlook update April 2022](#)

<sup>46</sup> [UNHABITAT/WFP report](#)

measures.<sup>47</sup> Urban acute food insecurity has worsened due to loss of employment and falls in purchasing power.

## **Declining terms of trade and household purchasing power**

Across regions, favourable terms of trade (e.g. livestock exchanged for cereals, wage labour exchanged for cereals) and household purchasing power are progressively declining, linked to sharply rising food prices, the death or off-take of livestock assets at reduced prices, limited income from milk sales, and the loss of cash income from agricultural labour. In early 2022, declining livestock prices and rising cereal prices, leading to sharp drops in the terms of trade, were seen across East Africa. In southern regions of Somalia and in the northern and eastern pastoral areas of Kenya, the amount of cereal that could be purchased with the sale of a goat fell 10 to 40 per cent below the five-year average and by over 80 per cent in some areas of Somalia.<sup>48</sup> In Somalia, the terms of trade for wage labour against imported rice and wheat flour in April were the lowest in the last 12 months, attributed to diminishing unskilled labour opportunities, especially in the agropastoral and riverine areas due to drought and the high prices of farm inputs. In the Sahel Region of West Africa, Mali saw a marked decline in terms of trade for livestock and cereals of 20 to 30 per cent compared to the five-year average.<sup>49</sup>

In Burkina Faso, together with the atypical increase in cereal prices, terms of trade for goats/millet have deteriorated by half compared to the previous year.<sup>50</sup> These all translate to reduced spending power by households on food and other essential goods. At the Gode market in Ethiopia, in March 2022, the sale of one goat purchased only enough maize to meet the minimum calorie needs of a household of six people for around seven days, compared to around 23 days in March 2020. South Sudan, Somalia and Rwanda recorded the highest percentage increase in food costs between January and May 2022. In Burkina Faso, retail market prices for key consumer goods have more than doubled in blockaded insecure areas.<sup>51</sup>

Households are also having to pay more for water. High water prices have been reported for most pastoral and agro-pastoral areas in countries across all regions, including in Kenya, Somalia, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, and Angola. For example, analysis from the IFRC Emergency Appeal for Kenya shows that in some areas of the country, the cost of vended water increased by 50 per cent during the critical drought period in 2022. The cost of household cooking gas and kerosene has also steadily increased throughout Africa, notably impacting urban populations. In Nigeria, according to the National Bureau of Statistics, the retail price for cooking gas and kerosene rose by almost 90 per cent from May 2021 to May 2022.

## **Household coping strategies**

The most common coping strategies of households are food-related, such as reducing the number of daily meals as well as portion size, restricting adult consumption so that children can eat, and skipping meals. Households have also increased spending from savings and borrowing of money to purchase food and water and have reduced expenditures on household items. However, consecutive shocks and widening food consumption gaps are eroding household coping capacities, forcing them to use crisis and emergency strategies, including the sale of productive assets, begging, and distress migration. For example, the selling of more animals than usual (including valuable female animals) has been adopted as a coping mechanism in pastoral communities in Niger and Burkina Faso. Reports from Somalia indicate pastoralists have explored the acquisition of loans to purchase water and feed for their livestock, amid limited household incomes. Atypical migration is increasingly used as a coping strategy across regions. In the insecure provinces of northern Burkina Faso, where crisis or emergency livelihood coping strategies are employed by 60 to 75 per cent of host and internally displaced people (IDP) households, households are forced to migrate to reach areas where assistance is provided.<sup>52</sup> Populations in many of the affected countries are

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<sup>47</sup> Ibid.

<sup>48</sup> [FEWS NET East Africa Key Message Update January 2022](#)

<sup>49</sup> [FEWS NET Mali Food Security Outlook update April 2022](#)

<sup>50</sup> [FEWS NET Burkina Faso Food Security Outlook April 2022](#)

<sup>51</sup> Idem.

<sup>52</sup> [FEWS NET Burkina Faso food security projections June 2022 to January 2023](#)

also gathering more wild foods than usual to eat and sell in order to cope with consumption gaps. Even so, wild foods, such as leaves and fruit, although more resistant to drought conditions than crops, are also negatively affected by consecutive droughts (e.g. Southern Madagascar).

## **The hunger crisis and protection concerns**

Depending on household and individual coping strategies in a given economic and sociocultural context, the drivers of the hunger crisis are having differential impacts on the food security of sub-groups. In the current crisis, women and girls, households living with disabilities, older people, and the forcibly displaced are experiencing higher levels of food insecurity across sub-Saharan Africa.

### ***Women and girls***

Women are hardest hit by the drivers of the hunger crisis. In 2021, the FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO, reported that the prevalence of moderate to severe food insecurity in West and Central Africa was 10 per cent higher among women than men in 2020 and that the food insecurity gender gap widened from 2019 to 2020.<sup>53</sup> A lack of food or means to acquire it is affecting its allocation between household members, with women often eating smaller portions or skipping meals. It also means that in addition to women eating last and less, their other needs are not prioritised. For example, in drought-affected areas, households are prioritising food-related needs over the protection of women's (and girls') dignity, reducing their agency to decide on menstrual hygiene management methods.<sup>54</sup>

Climate shocks, such as drought, place additional burdens on women and girls in terms of their responsibilities over household care responsibilities, food consumption, and water collection. Water scarcity, particularly in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel Region of West Africa, means that women and girls walk longer distances and often stand in long queues to collect water. Adolescent girls are particularly vulnerable to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) with child marriage and other harmful practices on the rise as families adopt negative coping mechanisms for survival. The Kenya Red Cross Society has reported that girls in drought-affected areas of the country are walking more than three times longer than before to find water – up to 30 kilometres in some locations – and are no longer attending school due to the time spent fetching water. The time spent collecting water is also time taken away from women's paid work or an economic activity as well as caring for and feeding young children and other dependent household members. Consequently, the risks of illness and malnutrition have increased.

Drought-related migration of men in several regions is increasing the workloads of women and girls and reducing available resources and labour. Additionally, women left at home to manage the household may lack the power to make timely livelihood decisions or to respond to the impacts of drought and compound shocks. Boys are also affected by drought-induced migration. In countries such as Ethiopia, boys aged 12 to 14 years old are leaving schools as they are expected to join men in search of food and pasture for livestock.<sup>55</sup>

Climate shocks and the impact on food security has increased SGBV including exploitation and abuse in many countries. For instance, in Somaliland, a third of people surveyed by an NGO in several regions believed security risks to girls and women had increased as a result of the drought.<sup>56</sup> This anecdotal evidence is supported by results from a government-led joint rapid drought assessment in another part of Somalia, which found that the number of SGBV cases in Puntland increased by 20 per cent compared to previous years. Action Aid in Kenya has seen rising cases of early pregnancies, early marriages, and female genital mutilation with the drought as families adopt negative coping strategies for survival. The organisation's project partner used to support two to four cases of violence against women and girls in the

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<sup>53</sup> [Global Protection Cluster, GBV Working Group West and Central Africa advocacy brief](#)

<sup>54</sup> *Idem.*

<sup>55</sup> Protection Implications of the Drought in East Africa Note of the East Africa Regional Protection Working Group June 2022.

<sup>56</sup> [Plan International news release](#)

past, but this grew to about 20 cases a month due to the drought.<sup>57</sup> Trekking long distances for water is putting women and girls at risk of SGBV. In Somalia, in 2021, 56 per cent of women had to travel more than 30 minutes to safely access water – increasing their vulnerability to violence.<sup>58</sup> This figure is likely significantly higher as the severity of the drought has evolved.

### ***Persons with disabilities and the elderly***

The hunger crisis is disproportionately affecting persons with disabilities and the elderly who are often unable to move with their communities or households in search of economic opportunities, food, water, basic services, and humanitarian assistance. Households with disabilities experience higher levels of food insecurity compared to households without disabilities. A WFP National Agriculture and Food Security Survey in the Central African Republic showed that, overall, households with at least one member with a disability were less likely to be food insecure and twice as likely to experience severe food insecurity. They also adopt more emergency coping strategies and spend more of the household budget on food. Women with disabilities are more than ten times as likely to face violence because of their gender in both development and humanitarian settings.<sup>59</sup> A HelpAge International commissioned survey in Kenya, Ethiopia, and South Sudan found that more than three-quarters of older people (and as high as 90% in Ethiopia) reported that they do not have access to sufficient food. At the time of the survey, more than half of them were eating one daily meal, with many going an entire day without eating.<sup>60</sup> In the case of distress migration, older people are often left behind with the responsibility of feeding their grandchildren when they are not even able to feed themselves. In the Horn of Africa, droughts also negatively affect the traditional roles of older people, and perhaps more specifically their social position, as communities and power and support structures are dismantled, leaving older people with less influence and power.<sup>61</sup>

### ***Forcibly displaced people***

Drought, floods, and insecurity are causing displacement across sub-Saharan Africa. At the end of 2021, five sub-Saharan countries were part of the eight countries facing the worst food crises globally and hosting 70 per cent of the world's 59 million IDPs – the majority (90%) displaced as a result of conflict and violence, followed by disasters (10%).<sup>62</sup> Displacement is augmenting the risk of communities competing over scarce resources, further contributing to tension and conflict. It also exposes women, children, and the elderly to elevated protection risks. IDPs and refugees often live in unsafe conditions with inadequate shelter in flood-prone locations, and with high risk of fire outbreaks. As of the end of May 2022, countries in the Lake Chad Basin were hosting approximately 5.3 million displaced persons, refugees, and returnees seeking refuge from the region's complex and compounded crises. More than half of them are women and children.<sup>63</sup> In these places of displacement, sexual and gender-based violence in the form of forced marriage and child marriage, sexual and physical violence, and sexual exploitation is a daily occurrence, particularly for women and girls. In South Sudan, flooding has forced people into cramped communal living where women and girls are exposed to sexual and gender-based violence and health risks. Women and girls are also walking long hours to get wild food to feed their families with a heightened risk of violence.<sup>64</sup> In Mali, where more than 400,000 people are displaced internally, while the crisis has seriously impacted social cohesion among communities, women and girls are bearing the brunt of the violence, with a 40 per cent increase of reported SGBV cases compared to 2021.<sup>65</sup>

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<sup>57</sup> [Action Aid blog](#)

<sup>58</sup> [CARE assessment report](#)

<sup>59</sup> [CBM blog](#)

<sup>60</sup> [HelpAge International news and blog](#)

<sup>61</sup> [WFP Regional Drought Response Plan Horn of Africa](#)

<sup>62</sup> [Global Report on Food Crises 2022; IDMC data](#)

<sup>63</sup> [OCHA Sahel crisis appeal](#)

<sup>64</sup> [Oxfam news and press release](#)

<sup>65</sup> [Global Protection Cluster Central Sahel Protection Messages for Senior Officials](#)

# CAPACITIES AND RESPONSE

## 1. National Societies' response capacity

### 1.1 National Societies' capacity

The IFRC is the largest humanitarian organisation in the world, uniting 192 National Societies. There are 49 Red Cross and Red Crescent (RCRC) National Societies in sub-Saharan Africa that provide humanitarian and recovery services to people and hard-to-reach communities in every country, province, and locality. Cumulatively, these 49 National Societies have about 1.6 million volunteers and over 12,000 local branches ensuring that humanitarian, recovery and development initiatives reach those most in need. The network of 49 African National Societies constitutes an unparalleled force for reaching and supporting the most vulnerable communities.

With a strong local presence and first-hand knowledge, African National Societies are uniquely positioned to be at the forefront of the response. Their strength lies in their volunteer network, unparalleled community-based expertise, and independence and neutrality. The RCRC enjoys wide acceptance in all countries of operation, including access to the hardest-hit areas and last-mile communities. RCRC volunteers are recruited from the communities and understand the cultural context and local languages.

National Societies are auxiliaries to their governments. The auxiliary role is designed specifically for National Societies and provides the legal facilities they need to provide rapid and effective relief to people affected by emergencies, including the regulation of:

- 1) their access to communities in need.
- 2) movement of people and transport of goods between and within countries.
- 3) their protection as they go about their activities.

Through the IFRC network, Africa National Societies are supported by its peer National Societies from around the globe, which enhances their overall response capacity in emergency and recovery operations. Depending on the response strategy of the Africa National Societies, they may seek human resources, technical expertise, material resources from their peers, allowing them to overcome gaps. This process is facilitated and coordinated by the IFRC Secretariat. Currently, Partner National Societies are present and supporting FSL programmes of the Host National Society in 13 out of the 17 countries.

A survey was conducted by the IFRC to assess the capacity of the 17 National Societies currently implementing food security programmes. Some of the most relevant results are:

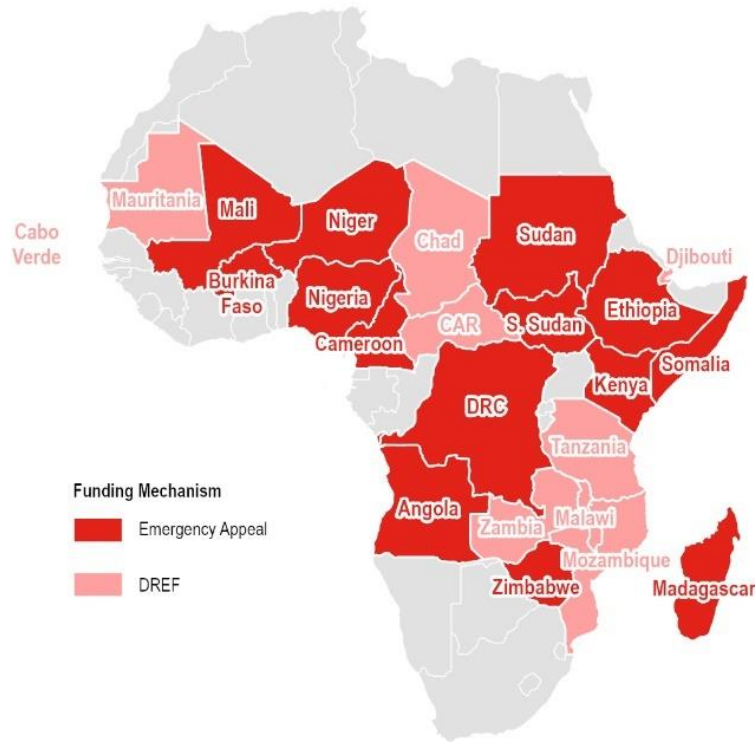
- 94 per cent of National Societies have previous experience in implementing FSL programmes, and 71 per cent have an active FSL initiative.
- 82 per cent of National Societies are “cash ready” and 76 per cent currently participate in national cash working group meetings. 71 per cent use regularly Cash and Voucher Assistance as part of their responses.
- There are 1,153 staff and volunteers specifically trained on Food Security programmes, and 156,374 volunteers active in food security response.

Despite solid experience and capacity, some gaps became evident in the survey:

- Lack of capacity to conduct FSL detailed assessments, which would provide National Societies a better understanding of the context
- Lack of capacity to conduct information management, improve communication products and digitalization of communication tools
- Challenges in National resource mobilization, increasing their financial dependency
- Reduced number of staff in operations and support services (PMER in particular)

## 1.1 National Societies ongoing response

So far, 17 African National Societies are responding to the hunger crisis across the continent, via country specific DREFs or Emergency Appeals. So far, these National Societies have reached over 1.2 million people with Food Security, Livelihoods, Health and Nutrition and WaSH services. PGI and CEA are core components integrated in National Societies actions.



### FSL



**324,893** people reached through food security and livelihood support.

### HEALTH



**1,066,284** people reached through health activities.

### WASH



**1,201,815** people reached through water and sanitation activities.

## 1.2 Capacity and response at the national level

An emergency was already declared by governments in several countries in the Horn of Africa, Sahel region, and southern Africa in mid-2021. Governmental emergency mechanisms have since then been active in coordination with UN agencies and humanitarian agencies. As auxiliary to the public authorities, the RCRC National Societies have a key role in this coordination work, benefiting from the volunteer network and local branches. Presently, seven out of the seventeen National Societies are partnering with Governments on Food Security Programmes and ten have or will link their Cash and voucher programmes to government's safety nets to combat hunger and poverty. Furthermore, eleven National Societies deliver their food security related programmes with other humanitarian partners (UN, INGOs and CSOs) and twelve have or will support planned multi-agency assessments.

In June 2022, [The World Bank Group](#) approved a 2.3 billion US dollar programme to help countries in Eastern and Southern Africa increase the resilience of the region’s food systems and ability to tackle growing food insecurity.

Food system shocks brought on by extreme weather, pest and disease outbreaks, political and market instability, and conflict are becoming more frequent and severe, putting a higher number of people at risk of food insecurity. The war in Ukraine is further exacerbating these effects by disrupting the global food, fuel, and fertiliser markets. As a result, an estimated 66.4 million people in the region are projected to experience food stress or a food crisis, emergency, or famine by July 2022. To address these risks, the Food Systems Resilience Programme for Eastern and Southern Africa (FSRP) will enhance inter-agency food crisis response strategies—including strengthening early warning systems and rapid response planning, emergency support to producers, emergency trade measures, emergency food reserves—and will include a Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC) to provide agile and rapid funding. In June 2022, [The World Bank Group](#) approved a 2.3 billion US dollar programme to help countries in Eastern and Southern Africa increase the resilience of the region’s food systems and ability to tackle growing food insecurity.

Following a high-level Food Security and Nutrition conference held in Addis Ababa in October 2022, the African Union (AU) and the IFRC came together to massively scale up their interventions for adaptation to climate change in Africa, both for increasing food resilience and reducing disaster risk, focusing on those countries most affected by the food and nutrition insecurity. By combining the AU’s expertise and IFRC’s members proven capacity to reach the farthest corner of the continent through the RCRC National Societies Volunteers, there is potential for substantial and real impact. The intention is to leverage the AU and IFRC combined strengths to assist at least 60 million people vulnerable to food insecurity in Africa to lead safe, healthy, and dignified lives, free of hunger and reduced poverty and with opportunities to thrive, by 2030.

## 2. International capacity and response

### 2.1 Red Cross Red Crescent Movement capacity and response

#### IFRC membership

The IFRC Secretariat through the Regional Office for Africa, located in Nairobi, Kenya and fifteen Country Cluster Delegations provides support to 49 Africa National Societies and coordinates within the Red Cross and Red Crescent Membership. In line with its core mandate, the IFRC will facilitate a movement-wide strategic direction, membership coordination, humanitarian diplomacy and NSD services to its members in the Africa region.

A joint position paper ([common narrative](#)) was agreed upon with members, setting out the Federation-wide approach to this Red Level emergency, including a joint scale-up plan and positioning the added value of the IFRC network in the Hunger Crisis response. Furthermore, a meeting with members was held in Nairobi on 08 September 2022 resulting in a statement which detail the principles of engagement for the movement:



- 1) significantly scale-up our immediate and long-term operational and humanitarian diplomacy response to the food insecurity crisis
- 2) make decisions as close to the operation as possible, capitalising on Host National Society leadership role, empowered and supported through coordination structures in line with the Movement coordination for collective impact agreement (Seville 2.0)
- 3) in each country, commit to one plan, one budget, one funding target and common deliverables;
- 4) Deepen our partnership with communities
- 5) Recognise the unique capacity of African National Societies through local branches and volunteer networks to ensure access and acceptance for last-mile action
- 6) Invest in stronger information management and analysis
- 7) Build upon our commitment and capacity in community engagement...and put community voices at the core of our humanitarian diplomacy
- 8) Position National Societies with government, Africa Union, UN and other stakeholders as strategic partners
- 9) Jointly advocate for key asks and policy change, using common talking points to raise the profile of the acute and chronic issues facing communities
- 10) Make an extraordinary effort to mobilise resources, led by National Societies and supported by partners through international fundraising efforts
- 11) Harness and mainstream cash-based interventions as transformational modality for emergency assistance and investment in durable development
- 12) Promote locally owned African solutions to address challenges and gaps, recognising the long-term nature of the work related to addressing food insecurity and underlying systemic issues.
- 13) Follow up on commitments, and objectively evaluate and report back on progress through the IFRC-wide Zero Hunger Cell, in liaison with the Movement coordination mechanisms.

The IFRC serves as a representative in global and regional policy platforms, and together with its National Societies, is actively working in collaboration with governments, international organisations and regional stakeholders such as the African Union, Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and Southern African Development Community (SADC).

There are other joint membership programmes that are complementary to the Hunger Crisis response. For example, the case of the Programmatic Partnership that IFRC and National Societies are piloting with DG ECHO. This is an innovative funding instrument in line with the objectives of the Grand Bargain, as the programme is navigating new ways of working with main humanitarian partners. This programme will allow boosting preparedness and response to the hunger crisis in eight countries that are part of the Hunger Crisis response, through investing in early warning systems (particularly for droughts and floods), support communities and DRM local and national institutions in the development, effective communication and implementation of risk-informed and multi-risk contingency plans and response mechanisms, support communities to take climate-smart, context-specific and innovative measures to protect their livelihoods and assets, including through climate-smart production, income-generation, and timely safety nets, and provide people affected with timely and appropriate cash and voucher assistance (short and medium-term).

Participating National Society	Presence in country													
	Angola	Burkina Faso	Cameroon	DRC	Ethiopia	Kenya	Madagascar	Mali	Niger	Nigeria	Somalia	South Sudan	Sudan	Zimbabwe
American RC						●								
Austrian RC					●									
Belgium RC		●		●				●	●					
British RC						●				●				●
Canadian RC				●				●			●	●		
Danish RC					●	●		●	●		●	●	●	●
Finnish RC					●	●					●	●	●	
French RC			●	●			●		●					
German RC					●		●				●	●	●	
Icelandic RC											●			
Italian RC					●	●			●					
Luxembourg RC		●					●	●	●					
Monaco RC		●												
Netherlands RC	●			●	●	●		●				●	●	
Norwegian RC		●		●		●				●	●	●		
Qatar RC								●					●	
Spanish RC		●		●				●	●				●	
Swedish RC				●		●			●			●	●	
Swiss RC					●							●	●	
Turkish RC	●											●	●	

The following Participating National Societies are supporting African National Societies through IFRC Secretariat or bilaterally: American Red Cross, Austrian Red Cross, Bahrain Red Crescent, Belgian Red Cross, British Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, China Red Cross, Hong Kong branch, Danish Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, French Red Cross, German Red Cross, Icelandic Red Cross, Irish Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross, Kuwait Red Cross, Luxembourg Red Cross, Monaco Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Singapore Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross, Taiwan Red Cross organisation and Turkish Red Crescent.

### ICRC

In responding to this food insecurity crisis, both international components of the Movement—ICRC and IFRC—are present in ten countries—Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Somalia, and Sudan—most of which are impacted by both conflict and climactic shocks. The ICRC has active emergency operations for these ten countries and is stepping up its resource mobilisation efforts, while the IFRC focused its Regional Emergency Appeal in 23 countries and supporting initially 14 National Societies across sub-Saharan Africa with the potential to expand its scope of activities, while the other remaining 9 will continue to focus on assessments and localized response via the DREF. The ICRC is scaling its operations in areas affected by armed conflict and violence alongside Operating and Participating National Societies. Being aware of security risks, its neutral, impartial, and independent humanitarian approach, and its dialogue with parties to armed conflict enable it to reach communities in areas where few or no other humanitarian actors are present. The IFRC and ICRC are signatory parties to the Nairobi Statement, and have agreed to the principles therein, reinforcing the Movement partnership in face of the Hunger crisis.

In line with the recent adoption of the Seville Agreement 2.0, Movement coordination aims to ensure that the movement international efforts and support acknowledge and strengthen the essential role of National Societies in their own countries, who play a central role in co-creating and delivering the Movement's collective response. Throughout the emergency response, the Movement coordination will ensure the complementarity of its interventions by ensuring that each component builds on its strength and comparative advantages and keeps the Operating National Societies at the centre. Movement coordination mechanisms will continue to be used and strengthened at all levels and, to the extent possible, operations, advocacy, communications, and fundraising will be aligned. Externally, the Movement is committed to complementing the actions of other humanitarian partners and avoiding duplication in programming design and implementation. Movement coordination mechanisms exist and have been strengthened at the sub-

national, national, and Africa-regional levels to guide this complementarity and support operations through streamlined logistics, joint advocacy and communications, and coordinated fundraising.

Together with the ICRC in conflict situations and Participating National Societies operating in Africa, the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement is uniquely positioned to respond to this crisis given its reach and vast experience in humanitarian response, leading to greater collective and lasting impacts.

## 2.2 International Humanitarian Stakeholder capacity and response

The '[Hunger Hotspots – FAO-WFP early warnings on acute food insecurity](#)' report - issued by the FAO and WFP calls for urgent humanitarian action to save lives and livelihoods and prevent famine in hotspot countries where acute food insecurity is expected to worsen from October 2022 to January 2023. The report lays out country-specific recommendations on priorities for anticipatory action – short-term protective measures to be put in place before new humanitarian needs materialise; and emergency response – actions to address existing humanitarian needs. The report stated that globally, an all-time high of 970,000 people are expected to face catastrophic hunger (IPC Phase 5) and are starving, projected to starve, or at risk of deterioration to catastrophic conditions in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Somalia, and Yemen if no action is taken – ten times more than six years ago when only two countries had populations in Phase 5.

[FAO reports](#) that the severe drought in the Horn of Africa has pushed people to the brink of starvation, destroying crops and killing livestock on which their survival depends. Acute food insecurity is rapidly rising and spreading across the world. People in the poorest countries, in particular, who have yet to recover from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic are suffering from the ripple effects of ongoing conflicts, in terms of prices, food and fertiliser supplies, as well as the climate emergency. Without a massively scaled-up humanitarian response that has at its core time-sensitive and life-saving agricultural assistance, the situation will likely worsen in many countries in the coming months.

The overall funding of [humanitarian response plans remains low](#), notably in West Africa and the Sahel. With regard to funding for the Horn of Africa, the US Agency for International Development (USAID) has contributed significantly with more than 70% of the funding to the humanitarian response plans. This includes a nearly 1.18 billion US dollar surge in humanitarian assistance that will allow partners to provide critical aid for millions of people across the region. This has seriously helped in supporting the severely underfunded humanitarian appeals. This funding includes emergency food to respond to the threat of famine; nutritional support to prevent and treat child malnutrition; farming and agricultural support to prevent crop and livestock losses; urgent health support, clean water to prevent disease outbreaks; and support to protect women and children from the higher risk of violence.

## 3. Gaps in the response

The immediate priority is to scale-up life-saving support—paying particular attention to the Horn of Africa, Central Sahel and other hot spots across the continent. The core gaps in the current responses are to varying degrees common across all locations as follows:

<p><b>FOOD ASSISTANCE (CASH &amp; IN-KIND)</b> Urgent need to scale food assistance to affected households suffering from high levels of acute food insecurity and also protect livelihoods.</p>	<p><b>NUTRITION AND HEALTH SUPPORT</b> Urgent need for lifesaving essential nutrition health services to affected communities, including perinatal, child health, and immunisation services, is critical.</p>	<p><b>WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE</b> Urgent need for safe drinking water for households and livestock.</p>
<p><b>PROTECTION, GENDER AND INCLUSION</b></p>		

To address the root causes of food insecurity in the longer-term, there is a need to build on our work in support of the plans and frameworks of governments to restore the resilience of the most impoverished communities, including displaced populations.

## OPERATIONAL CONSTRAINTS

### Funding

The main operational constraint relates to the significant needs and the challenges of raising sufficient funds to address them. The crisis in Ukraine has attracted most of the attention since March, and this has had an effect on available funding and consequently, the humanitarian response. Like other sectors, humanitarian agencies are struggling with widespread price increases. The cost of life-saving food aid, including therapeutic foods for malnourished children, and logistical costs have spiked.

Where the operation is not fully funded, a prioritisation process will be used to identify the most vulnerable communities and households.

### Conflict

Across sub-Saharan Africa, conflict, political instability, and the rising cost of fuel are expected to impact the delivery of operations. There are already planned elections for 2023 that have been included in the planning for this response. The IFRC has also already seen an increase in resource-based conflict, especially between pastoralists and farmers, in drought-affected areas in the region, notably in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel region of West Africa, resulting in a rise in deaths and injuries.

### Displacement

The IFRC expects displacement internally and, in some cases, cross-border, to impact the delivery of the operations. As the drought crisis worsens, hundreds of thousands of people have been forced to flee their homes in search of life-saving aid.

The [number of forcibly displaced people](#) (internally displaced, refugees, and asylum seekers) in Africa continued its uninterrupted escalation over the past decade—expanding by 12 per cent (3.7 million people) in the past year. The record 36 million people currently displaced is triple the figure of a decade earlier. As a direct result of the hunger crisis and drought, the IFRC has witnessed a large increase in displacement in Somalia and even cross-border movements between Ethiopia and Somalia.

## FEDERATION-WIDE APPROACH

The Regional Hunger Crisis Emergency Appeal is a Federation-wide endeavour. It reflects the ambition of the IFRC network to position itself as a major player in the fight against hunger by significantly scaling-up in each of the countries: to fundraise 205 million Swiss francs to provide assistance to 7.6 million people among the most in need, across 14 priority countries.

This Federation-wide approach will be implemented taking into consideration the principles of engagement and ways of working agreed upon between the IFRC secretariat and its members:

- The federation-wide response is based on the priorities of the Host National Society, after consultation with all Federation members contributing to the response. This will result in one single plan per country, endorsed by all members. The approach will ensure linkages between all response activities (including bilateral activities and activities funded domestically) and will leverage the capacities of all members of the IFRC network in the country, to maximise the collective humanitarian impact. The plan will present a clear programmatic offer to governments, donors and partners.

- Ensure resources are provided to the Operating National Society to capitalise on their leadership role in country, empowered and supported by the IFRC secretariat and membership. This includes the support to branches and volunteer networks to ensure access and acceptance for last-mile action, and the unique value this offers to governments and partners.
- Establish a common framework for Information Management as well as Monitoring and Reporting, allowing better joint-analysis and collective decision-making, as well as allowing visibility of the Federation-wide impact. This will pave the way for strengthened and joint Humanitarian advocacy and diplomacy with stakeholders in key asks and policy change, using common talking points to raise the profile of the acute and chronic issues facing communities.

A Special Advisor to the Regional Director and the Under Secretary General, Operations and Programmes is working with high-level governments and Pan-African organizations to raise the profile and efforts of the IFRC for the Hunger crisis. Working with the Cluster Delegations, Heads of Delegation and National Societies, the Region provides advice and tools in establishing linkages with the diplomatic communities, governments, international agencies, and private sector at the country level. This work is essential in establishing partnerships with key actors to deliver our programmes. Integration of PNS's humanitarian diplomacy efforts will be an integral part of this approach.

The Federation-wide funding requirement for the Regional Emergency Appeal comprises all support and funding to be channelled to the Host National Society in the response to the emergency event. This includes the Host National Society's domestic fundraising ask, the fundraising ask of supporting Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, and the funding ask of the IFRC Secretariat.

## OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

The IFRC will provide life-saving humanitarian assistance, and at the same time, develop longer-term programming together with National Societies, to address the root causes of food insecurity. The emphasis of the response under this Regional EA is on meeting the urgent food, nutrition, and WASH needs of the most vulnerable groups impacted by the crisis and on protecting their livelihoods while setting a foundation for resilience-building. This approach facilitates the transition to longer-term programming of National Societies and development partners. The Movement will build on our previous successes and work in support of governments' plans and frameworks to restore and build the resilience of the most impoverished communities, including displaced populations.

Our approach is fully aligned with the IFRC-wide Pan-African Zero Hunger Initiative working towards zero hunger and more sustainable development through the following:

- **Humanitarian response:** Our response will meet the urgent humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable families experiencing emergency or worse levels of acute food insecurity in Africa through the provision of cash-based assistance alongside a package of health and nutrition, water, sanitation, and hygiene services. All interventions are underpinned by protection, gender and inclusion, community engagement and accountability, and National Society strengthening activities. This integrated approach will maximise the impact on food security and the nutritional status of the affected population and halt negative coping strategies.
- **Resilience building and sustainable food security:** In working towards zero hunger and a sustainable recovery, the longer-term programming will focus on building resilience and providing people and their communities with resources and tools to help them cope with the impacts of seasonal and multiple concurrent shocks and stresses. In line with the plans and priorities of African governments on food security (under SDG 1 and SDG 2), efforts will focus on food systems and agricultural value chains, nature-based solutions, climate-smart livelihoods, women, and youth empowerment in line with the African Union's Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want and climate adaptation plans.

- **Humanitarian diplomacy:** To witness and draw attention to the ongoing hunger crisis by mobilising decision-makers and opinion leaders in Africa as well as funding partners to scale-up humanitarian support and investments for development. The IFRC will bring the voice and evidence from those most affected and work with African governments to promote policies that protect vulnerable households and use our unique positioning as the IFRC network to leverage a longer-term response that leads to resilience and meets the Zero Hunger commitments.

A hunger crisis is often associated with a lack of food. However, acute food insecurity is multi-dimensional and complex. It has multiple drivers, especially in protracted crises, and is also, among others, about access to healthcare, sanitation, and clean water. No single sector can address this. Starting from higher-level objectives, the hunger crisis response is promoting an integrated approach between food security and livelihoods, health/nutrition, WASH, PGI, and CEA to address the different impacts and vulnerabilities that household and particular groups face. Geographic, community, and population targets will be aligned between sectors and complementary partnerships with other humanitarian organisations will be promoted, including around the rehabilitation of community livelihood assets that support food availability and access, such as feeder roads to markets and community grain stores. In addition to the direct provision of support, National Societies will play an important role in enabling and facilitating access to services and goods provided by governments and other actors.

The response is aligned with the IFRC-wide Pan-African Zero Hunger Initiative that undertakes a holistic approach to food security, associating rapid support for food and nutrition security and livelihoods with a long-term strategy working towards zero hunger and more sustainable development.

#### **Pan-African Zero Hunger Initiative**

**Goal:** Sustained food security for people affected by hunger (Zero Hunger Initiative Goal 2030)

**Impact:** By December 2023, improved food and nutrition security for five million people from the most vulnerable groups in rural and urban areas facing acute food insecurity at crisis or worse levels (IPC 3+).

**Outcomes:**

- Improved quantity and quality of food consumed by affected households and individuals.
- A strengthened health and sanitation environment.
- Enhanced protection of affected household productive assets, production, and income-generation.

**Outputs:**

- Households have received relevant, adequate, and timely cash/voucher/in-kind support for essential food and other consumption needs during the crisis period(s).
- Household have received support to protect and sustain existing production and/or income-generation activities over the crisis period(s).
- Households have received support to protect valuable/breeding livestock and sustain production (including milk) over the crisis period(s).
- Household have accessed/used services for malnutrition prevention and treatment.
- Households have gained knowledge to improve nutrition – including consumption, hygiene, and health seeking behaviours and practices.
- Households have accessed/used essential water and sanitation infrastructure and services for consumption, hygiene, health, and production needs.
- Households have gained knowledge to improve hygiene practices that protect health and nutrition.
- Households have received mental health and psychosocial support services.

**Priority actions:**

- 1) Lifesaving basic needs assistance (primarily multipurpose cash – complementing other priority actions).
- 2) Provision of inputs and tools (plus awareness raising on improved practices, nutrition-sensitive approaches).
- 3) Emergency livestock management (water, feed, basic health, information/facilitation of destocking).
- 4) Nutrition (screening, referrals, education/awareness raising, follow-up).
- 5) WASH (for consumption – human/animal, sanitation/hygiene, production).

## **Anticipated climate-related risks and adjustments in operations**

Across Africa, the IFRC expects floods, cyclones, droughts and desert locusts to exacerbate the situation and have a direct impact on operational implementation. National Societies will use their experience and preparedness to anticipate such events and build measures into the response to mitigate against them, and also take account of local seasonal calendars in the design of responses to ensure they are as effective as possible. National Societies currently have Early Action Protocols in place with several African National Societies for drought and floods that are being pre-planned with communities in anticipation of these events based on an agreed set of triggers.

### **Climate Change and Adaptation**

Climate change is a threat multiplier for hunger, destroying livelihoods, driving displacement, widening social inequalities, and undermining sustainable development. The integration of Climate Smart Agriculture's key techniques and multi-faceted approaches to climate adaptation can contribute to food security, with farmers better prepared to handle climate shocks ensuring improved livelihood activities which, in turn, build community resilience. Community resilience will be further promoted through the diversification of livelihood activities, for example, pastoralist communities will be encouraged to integrate farming activities as an approach to livelihood diversification, with support for the construction of water wells/ponds to access water for farming and livestock, while reduced migration movements will be mitigated.

### **Green Response**

The integration of Green Response promotes more environmentally sustainable humanitarian response and recovery operations, and builds the resilience of communities to cope with and adapt to the effects of the environmental and climate crises that already exist. National Societies are required to protect the ecosystems and natural resources that communities rely on for their livelihoods, health, and well-being. This will support the community to quickly recover from a crisis, with more resilience to withstand future disasters and crises with an extension of the Do No Harm principle to the environment. Cash and voucher assistance (CVA) will mainly dominate as an assistance delivery modality to the affected population, which should be served with dignity, and has a multiplier effect in the early and long-term recovery of the operation by immediately ensuring food access, and increasing access to health and nutrition services and the availability of dignity kits for women and girls. Thus, promoting the use of CVA will generally improve environmental sustainability by reducing the carbon emissions associated with international procurement and transportation of relief items and other materials. The National Society will consider environmental issues when planning CVA interventions, such as the suppliers, products, and energy sources available to community members who will receive assistance.<sup>66</sup>

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<sup>66</sup> IFRC Green Response Key Messages

Figure

<b>GOAL (ZERO HUNGER 2030)</b>				
<i>(Operational Strategy's impact contributes to impact)</i>				
<b>OPERATIONAL STRATEGY'S IMPACT</b>				
<b>By December 2023, improved food and nutrition security for 7.6 million vulnerable people in rural and urban areas</b>				
<b>facing acute food insecurity at crisis or worse levels</b>				
<i>(Change achieved and measured at the end of the operation)</i>				
<b>OUTCOMES:</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Strengthened health and sanitation environment</li> <li>■ Improved quantity and quality of food consumed</li> <li>■ Enhanced protection of productive assets / production / income-generation</li> </ul>				
<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Outputs</b>
Received relevant, adequate, and timely cash/voucher/in-kind support for essential food and other consumption needs during the crisis period(s)	Received support to protect and sustain existing production and/or income-generation activities over the crisis period(s)	Received support to protect valuable/breeding livestock and sustain production (including milk) over the crisis period(s)	<b>Accessed/used services for malnutrition prevention and treatment</b>  Gained knowledge to improve nutrition – including consumption, hygiene, and health seeking behaviour and practices	Accessed/used essential water and sanitation infrastructure and services for consumption, hygiene, health, production needs  Gained knowledge to improve hygiene practices that protect health and nutrition
<b>Priority Action:</b> Lifesaving basic needs assistance	<b>Priority Action:</b> Provision of inputs and tools	<b>Priority Action:</b> Emergency livestock management	<b>Priority Action:</b> Nutrition	<b>Priority Action:</b> WASH

# Targeting

## 1. Target countries in the hunger crisis response

Based on the IFRC Emergence Response Framework, 23 countries were identified as at risk and put on our initial watch list as follows:

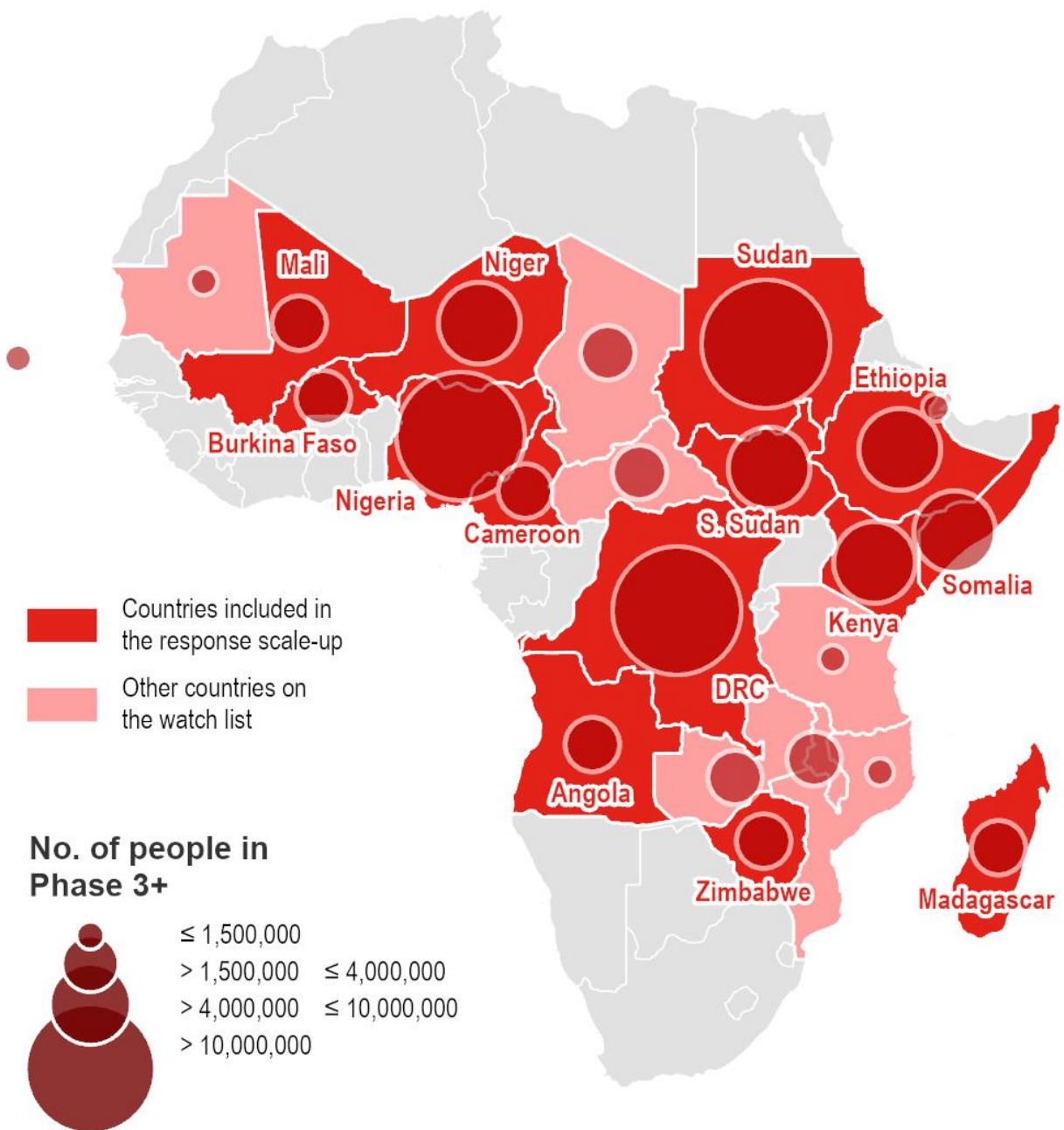
	Countries currently on the watch list	IPC3+	IFRC Cat	Status of ongoing responses linked to the Hunger Crisis (2021-22)	Status
1	Somalia	7,071,270	Red	Hunger Crisis EA	Request immediate scale-up through the Regional Appeal
2	Kenya	4,102,255	Orange	Hunger Crisis EA	
3	Ethiopia	16,800,000	Red	Hunger Crisis EA	
4	Nigeria	19,453,305	Red	Hunger Crisis EA	
5	Niger	4,402,406	Orange	Hunger Crisis EA	
6	Angola	1,583,997	Orange	Hunger Crisis EA	
7	Sudan	11,653,068	Orange	Floods EA	
8	South Sudan	7,744,000	Red	Floods EA	
9	Madagascar	1,684,129	Orange	Develop a new POA	
10	Burkina Faso	3,453,510	Orange	DREF scaling-up to an EA	
11	Zimbabwe	3,380,232	Orange	Request for EA	
12	DRC	25,879,508	Orange	DREF scaling-up to an EA	
13	Mali	1,841,067	Red	DREF scaling-up to an EA	
14	Cameroon	2,413,288	Orange	Request for an EA	
15	Djibouti	192,168	Orange	Hunger Crisis DREF	Monitor for possible future scale-up
16	Cabo Verde	46,093	Orange	Hunger Crisis DREF	
17	Mauritania	878,920	Orange	Hunger Crisis DREF (closed)	
18	Tanzania	591,720	Orange	Hunger Crisis DREF (closed)	
19	Zambia	1,575,154	Orange	None	
20	Malawi	2,632,740	Orange	None	
21	Mozambique	1,443,383	Orange	None	
22	CAR	2,208,903	Red	None	
23	Chad	2,098,861	Red	None	

### The country targeting in the Regional Emergency Appeal will be based on the following:

- All 23 countries will be referenced in the Regional Appeal as being on the hunger watch list and supported with communications and humanitarian diplomacy.
- Fourteen of the countries will be supported with an immediate scale-up in response activities through this Regional Emergency Appeal with an overall Federation-wide funding ask of CHF 205 million to reach up to 7.5 million people.
- Nine other countries will continue to be supported through the scale-up of existing or allocation of new Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREFs). These nine countries will also have the option to scale-up and integrate the Regional Appeal level response based on the needs and plans developed. These countries would then be included in a revised funding ask for the Regional Appeal.
- The number of countries on the watch list, number of DREFs allocated, and number of countries included in the regional appeal funding ask can increase over time depending on how the crisis evolves into 2023.
- As food insecurity is forecast to deteriorate further in these and many other sub-Saharan countries in 2022 and well into 2023, the IFRC will continue to closely monitor the situation with all African National Societies and scale-up the response in terms of countries and communities as needed.

## 2. Targets and Funding Ask by Country

At this stage, 14 African National Societies are scaling-up the response to this unprecedented crisis in Somalia, Kenya, Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan, Nigeria, Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali, Democratic Republic of Congo, Cameroon, Angola, Zimbabwe and Madagascar. Nine additional National Societies are using the DREF as a primary assessment and response tool to attend to the extreme food insecurity situations in their respective countries.



The proposed target population by country for the 14 countries included in the Funding Ask is below:

	Countries currently on the Hunger Crisis watch list	Population analysed by the IPC	IPC3+	% affected	Target people – Fed-wide	% targeted	Funding ask	Funding mechanism
1	Somalia	15,737,178	7,071,270	45%	760,000	11%	24,000,000	Appeal
2	Kenya	15,152,179	4,102,255	27%	1,400,000	34%	25,000,000	Appeal
3	Ethiopia	114,964,000	16,800,000	15%	500,000	3%	12,500,000	Appeal
4	Nigeria	159,066,022	19,453,305	12%	1,092,300	6%	27,000,000	Appeal
5	Niger	24,933,140	4,402,406	18%	433,153	10%	10,000,000	Appeal
6	Angola	2,750,124	1,583,997	58%	328,880	21%	10,000,000	Appeal
7	Sudan	47,851,097	11,653,068	24%	590,000	5%	12,000,000	Appeal
8	South Sudan	12,345,000	7,744,000	63%	413,000	5%	16,000,000	Appeal
9	Madagascar	5,250,604	1,684,129	32%	225,000	13%	5,500,000	Appeal
10	Burkina Faso	21,253,894	3,453,510	16%	186,000	5%	10,000,000	Appeal
11	Zimbabwe	9,706,119	3,380,232	35%	364,000	11%	14,000,000	Appeal
12	DRC	105,251,041	25,879,508	25%	450,000	2%	16,000,000	Appeal
13	Mali	21,696,914	1,841,067	8%	350,000	19%	8,000,000	Appeal
14	Cameroon	26,553,618	2,413,288	9%	545,079	23%	10,000,000	Appeal
							<b>200,000,000</b>	
15	Djibouti	1,181,676	192,168	16%	30,000	0%		Supported through the DREF for possible scale-up in the future based on needs assessments
16	Cabo Verde	483,628	46,093	10%	6,026	13%		
17	Mauritania	4,359,274	878,920	20%	3,600	0%		
18	Tanzania	3,518,200	591,720	17%		0%		
19	Zambia	12,181,243	1,575,154	13%		0%		
20	Malawi	19,348,953	2,632,740	14%		0%		
21	Mozambique	14,519,709	1,443,383	10%		0%		
22	CAR	4,946,680	2,208,903	45%		0%		
23	Chad	15,800,188	2,098,861	13%		0%		
	IFRC Coordination						<b>5,000,000</b>	
		<b>658,850,481</b>	<b>123,129,977</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>7,647,038</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>205,000,000</b>	

The Funding Ask is based on the scale-up of existing Emergency Appeals or based on new country-level plans of action where no Emergency Appeals are ongoing.

## Geographic targeting

In-country geographic targeting of the affected regions and smaller administrative units (e.g. districts) will be based on IPC/Cadre Harmonisé 3+ data and WFP HungerMapLive data. Targeting can be further refined through more detailed and disaggregated data from more focused assessments of National Societies and/or partner agencies where these have been or can feasibly be conducted.

## Household criteria

When geographic targeting is completed, the next step is to target affected households based on food security and economic criteria, agreed with the community or ideally developed jointly with them. Within these food insecure and poor households, targeting can be further refined by identifying social categories. Due to the economic barriers in accessing food and livelihood inputs, these households receive life-saving basic needs assistance as well as livelihood protection support. All households with malnourished children and pregnant and lactating women will also be identified through volunteer screening of acute malnutrition (using MUAC – mid and upper arm circumference – tape) and will be targeted for referrals and nutrition education.

## Food security status

The principal eligibility criteria for household selection are the severity of food insecurity and the inability to meet basic needs among the most vulnerable households affected by the compounding climate, economic,

and other shocks. There is a particular focus on rural smallholder farming and pastoral households and the urban poor in informal settlements. The primary indicator of need is that people are severely or acutely food-insecure and are facing a combination of food availability, food access, and food utilisation constraints.<sup>67</sup> Therefore, the first targeting criteria is based on weighted food insecurity indicators (e.g. household food stocks, quantity and quality of meals consumed, negative food-related coping strategies, presence of a malnourished child/PLW, etc.).

### **Economic criteria**

The second household criteria to consider is economic criteria – e.g. an indication of the proportion of the household's total budget spent on food; household sources of income and how these have changed; whether households have access to credit, remittances, and support from other actors (e.g. government, NGOs, UN); and household debt. Likewise, asset ownership, type of housing (e.g. mud or brick house, thatched or tin roof), and demographics can be used as proxy (alternative or substitute) indicators of wealth.

### **Social vulnerability criteria**

While the social status of the household (e.g. female-headed household) or individual (e.g. person with a disability) is often an element of their vulnerability, the focus for this response lies in establishing social categories within food insecure and poor households. Community engagement and accountability as well as protection, gender, and inclusion minimum standards will help further refine the targeting methodology, with attention focused on the following vulnerable and/or most at-risk groups:

- Pregnant and lactating mothers and/or children under five
- Older persons
- Chronically ill persons (e.g. HIV/AIDS)
- Children or adolescent-headed households
- Persons with disabilities
- Internally displaced households

### **Nutrition criteria**

All households with a presence of acute malnutrition (moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and severe acute malnutrition (SAM)), identified through MUAC screenings, will be targeted for nutrition education, irrespective of their food security status. However, only those with economic constraints will benefit from the life-saving basic needs assistance and livelihood protection actions presented below.

## **3. Protection, gender and inclusion, and community engagement and accountability considerations for targeting**

### ***Protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI) in targeting***

PGI considerations are incorporated into the targeting process to ensure an understanding and response to individuals and groups based on their specific risks, needs, and concerns. From the beginning, a PGI analysis integrated into needs assessments informs the targeting criteria and process. Other PGI considerations in targeting include:

- a. Organising consultations with representatives of all groups when establishing selection criteria, including persons with disabilities/organisations of persons with disabilities, women, youth, the elderly, and children.
- b. Ensuring that information is accessible to all individuals and groups related to the intervention, the assistance to be provided, selection criteria, registration process, and the complaints and feedback mechanisms. This way, people can better self-assess whether they meet the targeting criteria and want to be included.

- c. Ensuring that recipient registration processes are available to persons of all gender identities, ages, disabilities and backgrounds (e.g. if through community meetings, ensure a simultaneous process to reach marginalised or at-risk groups through, for example, home visits or phone self-registration).
- d. Ensuring that data collected is sex, age, and disability disaggregated data (SADDD).
- e. Consulting targeted households on who within the family should be registered as the primary recipient of assistance.
- f. Ensuring opportunities to register a (trusted) proxy who may access the assistance on behalf of a person at risk.

### ***Community engagement and accountability (CEA) in targeting***

Community engagement and accountability processes will be used in the targeting and selection criteria to ensure that the approach is participatory, community-centred and representative of needs. The vulnerability and selection criteria will be discussed with a diverse range of community groups, including those likely to be targeted and those who will not, to ensure equal participation. A community-based approach should keep in mind local power structures and social hierarchies and how these could impact people's suggestions on selection criteria and targeting. The National Society will widely and clearly communicate the selection criteria, using a mix of channels and approaches for everyone to access and understand. Communication strategies will be developed on why the National Society cannot help everyone equally (e.g. limited resources). Community feedback mechanisms will also be put in place to respond to questions and complaints about the selection process. The CEA Toolkit provides guidance on different participatory approaches to agree on selection criteria with communities, including do no harm considerations.<sup>68</sup>

## **PLANNED OPERATIONS**

The IFRC will provide life-saving humanitarian assistance and at the same time, develop longer-term programming, together with National Societies, to address the root causes of food insecurity. The emphasis of the response is on meeting the urgent food, nutrition, and WASH needs of the most vulnerable groups impacted by the crisis and on protecting their livelihoods while setting a foundation for resilience building. This approach facilitates the transition to longer-term programming of National Societies and development partners. The Movement will build on our previous successes and work in support of the plans and frameworks of governments to restore and build the resilience of the most impoverished communities, including displaced populations.

Activities under the three pillars are schematically presented below:

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<sup>68</sup> CEA [Tool 18](#)

Intervention Pillar 1			Intervention Pillar 2	Intervention Pillar 3
<p><b>Priority Action: Lifesaving basic needs assistance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Multipurpose cash transfers</b> Where not relevant and/or feasible: In-kind/voucher assistance</li> <li>- <b>Complementing</b> production, livestock, nutrition/health, and WASH activities</li> </ul>	<p><b>Priority Action: Inputs and tools</b></p> <p>In combination with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Weather/market related <b>information</b></li> <li>- Practical real-time <b>awareness raising</b>/short-term practical training</li> <li>- <b>Cash transfers / nutrition-sensitive</b> approaches and education</li> </ul>	<p><b>Priority Action: Emergency livestock management</b></p> <p>Through facilitation of access/support to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Health, feed, water supply, shelter</b></li> <li>- Traditional <b>herd management</b> practices</li> <li>- Information and awareness-raising on time <b>critical destocking</b></li> </ul> <p><u>In combination with:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cash transfers / nutrition activities</li> </ul>	<p><b>Priority Action: Heath/Nutrition</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Nutrition <b>education</b> on optimal feeding, hygiene, and care practices for children/women</li> <li>- <b>Health promotion</b></li> <li>- Nutrition <b>screening and referrals</b></li> <li>- <b>Follow-up</b> of malnutrition cases in collaboration with nutrition partners</li> <li>- <u>In combination</u> with cash transfer when food is inaccessible due to economic constraints</li> </ul>	<p><b>Priority Action: Water &amp; Sanitation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Water <b>trucking</b></li> <li>- Rehabilitation/maintenance of <b>water facilities/points</b></li> <li>- Provision of water <b>treatment</b> / safe <b>storage</b> products</li> <li>- Promotion of <b>hygiene and sanitation</b></li> <li>- <u>In combination</u> with nutrition and livestock herd management activities/cash transfers for community oversight and household access to water services and products</li> </ul>
<b>PROTECTION, GENDER &amp; INCLUSION / COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT &amp; ACCOUNTABILITY</b>				
<p><b>Foundation for Resilience:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Link to unified planning, Zero Hunger Initiative, ECHO PPP</li> <li>■ MPC as safety net</li> <li>■ MPC FSP – door to financial inclusion</li> <li>■ Rehabilitation of key community assets</li> <li>■ Small-scale innovations</li> </ul>				

Details of the priority actions are in the following tables:

### Response Pillar 1: Food Security and Livelihoods

	<b>Food Security and Livelihoods</b>	Female	3.8076m	CHF 99m
		Male	3.7924m	Total target: 7.6m ppl
<b>Objective</b>	The food security of five million people from the most vulnerable groups in rural and urban areas facing acute food insecurity at crisis or worse levels (IPC 3+) is improved.			
<b>Priority actions</b>	<p><b>1) Lifesaving basic needs assistance through multipurpose cash grants</b></p> <p>Households are unable to meet their basic food requirements because of production losses, low incomes, and deteriorating purchasing power. Hence, the hunger crisis response seeks to improve food access and maintain consumption levels through the scale-up of emergency food assistance, primarily through cash transfers to poor households experiencing acute food insecurity.</p> <p>Lifesaving assistance is grounded in a basic needs approach with the main response modality being multipurpose cash transfers (MPC). MPC, in the context of hunger, refers to cash transfers designed to address multiple basic needs that influence household food security. Using the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) to set MPC values ensures a holistic and multisectoral approach to reflect affected the needs of populations, including other needs, such as transportation (to markets and services) and communication.</p> <p>Cash transfers may increase household food intake, and potentially improve the quality of diet if it is complementing nutrition activities. Cash transfers can potentially increase access to health services, water, and hygiene items, such as soap, for households, especially if coupled with facilitation of access to services and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) promotion. Furthermore, it might also free up time for household members to focus on care activities, such as children’s nutrition and health, and on their own livelihood activities.</p>			

### **Response Modality**

The preferred response modality in the hunger crisis response is an unconditional, unrestricted cash transfer.<sup>69</sup> Vouchers may be used in some contexts based on strong justification of the benefits compared to cash transfers – for example, because of market weakness, insecurity, or lack of networks to distribute cash. However, ideally, vouchers should include a percentage of cash-back modality<sup>70</sup> to ensure that the intervention enables purchases of other essential needs prioritised by the household. In-kind assistance may also be applied in contexts where a National Society does not have cash capacity but has the capacity to deliver in-kind. The MPC for basic needs is used alongside sector-specific actions for food security, health/nutrition, and WASH (see sections below). All National Societies engaged in the Hunger Crisis response and using CVA modalities will develop a CVA risk register (if not already done) and ensure that mitigation measures are implemented and followed up.<sup>71</sup>

### **Cash transfer value (also see the footnote on adequacy and coverage)<sup>72</sup>**

The cash transfer value and frequency are determined by data from multisectoral assessments and are adequate to meet the food consumption and other basic needs of the affected individuals and households when most needed. The National Cash Working Group (NCWG), in most contexts, sets the MEB according to recurrent costs,<sup>73</sup> defined as what a household requires to meet basic needs – on a regular or seasonal basis – and the cost attributed to these according to the local market. The MEB accounts for the inclusion of fresh food, health expenses, access to services (including transport), cooking fuel, and water. The cash transfer value likely differs from the MEB and is set based on the needs, gaps and assumed capacities of the affected populations. The agreed-upon MEB and transfer value<sup>74</sup> is followed to harmonise with other actors' responses. NCWGs also determine amendments to the MEB and contingency margins.<sup>75</sup> All National Societies are encouraged to check if costs of transport to markets, services (e.g. health), water, and cooking fuel are included in the MEB; if not, then this should be considered in the current response.

### **Frequency, duration and predictability**

The typical transfer frequency of food assistance, including MPC, is monthly. In some contexts, assistance may be grouped into fewer instalments, if it allows people to purchase food in bulk at a cheaper price or if physical access to affected areas is cut-off in particular periods during implementation, such as the rainy season (i.e. case of direct cash transfers or in-kind). Risks to bulk transfers must be assessed, including preferences, safety and storage opportunities as well as any negative impacts on markets (e.g. demand spikes driving up market prices).

The duration of the cash transfer is based upon the projected time that affected populations need external support to cover food and non-food consumption gaps. This is done in consultation with country-level food security actors to align with the hunger gap and seasonal calendar. In the current context, it is relevant to support the same target group in several instalments over a longer duration to increase risk management and help households better manage shocks.<sup>76</sup> This can be designed to factor in seasonality, ensuring support in the lean season(s), contingency for compound shocks, and variational impacts of shocks on different livelihoods and groups (e.g. pastoralists and crop farmers may experience different lean seasons and risks). The hunger crisis is expected to continue well into 2023 due to projected failed rains and high food prices, which will increase the need for longer-duration assistance.

<sup>69</sup> Country-level response plan: Each country plan provides an overview of the analysis that informed the decision on the response modality, the MEB calculation including the transfer value in local currency and CHF, any foreseen adjustments, number of instalments, and duration.

Delivery mechanisms: Most contexts have financial service provider (FSP) agreements in place to enable digital transfers (mobile money or bank transfers) or at minimum, direct cash distributions through a third-party. The FSP name, contract type and validity is specified in country plans.

<sup>70</sup> For example, in the agreement with contracted vendors, beneficiaries can withdraw from 5-10% of the full amount in the voucher as cash to enable access to cash for other needs (e.g. transportation, access to services, or commodities not available in contracted shops).

<sup>71</sup> <https://cash-hub.org/resources/africa-cash-community-of-practice/africa-cop-key-documents-and-tools/#CVA-risk-register>

<sup>72</sup> Adequacy and coverage: With any response modality, there is likely to be a difficult trade-off between adequacy of the assistance and coverage of the affected populations. The hunger response focuses on reaching an optimal impact for those in need of assistance to be covered throughout the lean period and if possible, other anticipated high-risk periods. Community engagement is critical to ensure acceptance, while coordination with other actors is pursued to increase coverage.

<sup>73</sup> In some contexts, the transfer value is aligned to government programmes, primarily due to a requirement to do so from the government.

<sup>74</sup> The transfer value rarely covers the full amount of the MEB due to different factors, most often due to a lack of resources available.

<sup>75</sup> Such as an increase in the amount to account for inflation and differing the percentage of the MEB provided across districts or zones (e.g. based on IPC classifications as in Kenya where the percentage of the MEB provided differs across categories 3, 4, and 5).

<sup>76</sup> Bastagli et al. 2016.

### ***Cash transfers as complementary to other actions***

MPC complements a range of actions (cash plus) to protect livelihoods and improve nutrition and WASH, ultimately strengthening impacts. There is growing evidence that cash alone does not achieve medium and longer-term outcomes, such as improved nutrition and access to health services. Therefore, a cash-plus approach suggests carrying out cash transfers simultaneously with awareness raising, information dissemination, practical trainings, provision of inputs/tools, provision of or facilitation of linkages to services, and strengthening of social networks and community safety nets.<sup>77</sup>

### **2) Safeguarding/protecting livelihoods**

The protection of livelihoods can be done from two angles:

- 1) Through actions to prevent the consumption, sale, or exchange of household inputs and assets to cover food gaps originating from access and availability constraints – including after loss of production, during food price hikes, and/or during lean periods and,
- 2) Through actions that provide emergency production inputs and tools aimed at protecting and sustaining primary household production (and where relevant income-generating) activities, mainly related to crops and livestock.

These actions can also prevent the overexploitation or destruction of natural resources – an important livelihood asset on which poor households depend for food, firewood, and other materials. Actions should be accompanied where feasible by PGI-sensitive cash transfers, basic awareness raising (e.g. on environmental protection, climate-smart and other improved production practices, nutrition-sensitive practices) and the facilitation of access to essential information, goods, and services provided by government and other actors.

### ***Basic needs assistance (see above)***

Multipurpose cash, vouchers, or in-kind assistance (or a combination of modalities) intended to cover consumption gaps will prevent households from selling or exchanging key productive assets, such as tools and livestock, in order to generate income to purchase food and other essential goods and services that they need. In some contexts, CWGs include sector-specific areas directly in the MEB – related to livelihoods or shelter, for example. A more common approach is to design complementary cash transfers for sector-specific objectives.

### ***Provision of inputs/tools to sustain production and income-generation***

The aim of this action is to sustain production and income-generating activities (and not to invest in or diversify these activities at this stage). The provision of locally adapted and accepted production and income-generating inputs and tools will be done in contexts where households have lost these options (or access to these options), where they can safely access production and income-generation spaces, and where there is still the potential for good levels of agricultural productivity and market demand. The following factors will be considered when designing and implementing this action:

- Provision of inputs will always be accompanied by weather and market-related information (potentially supporting anticipatory action).
- Provision of inputs will be done in combination with practical real-time awareness-raising activities (and where possible short-term trainings) on improved production (including practical climate-smart agriculture), income-generation, and/or consumption practices.
- Delivery and associated activities will be carried out through or in partnership with local services (including relevant local government departments) and suppliers where they exist and are effective.
- Inputs will be provided on time for seasonal use and based on available forecasts related to production and markets.
- Preference will be given to cash transfers (where feasible) to give households the flexibility to select preferred inputs. Note: Evidence shows that people are more likely to use cash transfers provided for livelihood inputs and tools when provided with lump sum higher-value cash transfers alongside regular cash transfers.
- Cash transfers or other modalities should support, where possible, inputs for household or community production of nutrient-rich foods, accompanied by practical nutrition awareness-raising activities.

<sup>77</sup> Roelen et al. 2017; Bastagli et al. 2016.

### Support to emergency livestock management

Emergency livestock management should be done with local services, providers, suppliers, and markets where this is both relevant and feasible.<sup>78</sup> The main objective of the action is to protect livestock and key livestock-related assets of crisis-affected communities and households. Priority actions to achieve this objective include:


- Facilitation of access to animal health services, including through supporting local health services on basic community-based disease surveillance, treatment, and dissemination of information (e.g. on timing of destocking, prices, and vaccination campaigns). Where possible, this action should be linked to a One Health approach (see the section on health and nutrition below).
- Enabling access to emergency feed and water supply, coupled with nutrition and WASH actions. WASH promotion can mitigate health risks associated with human and animal use of water facilities. The rehabilitation of water facilities in proximity to communities can also allow for the retention of milking herds near households for children's milk consumption instead of the outmigration of livestock in search of watering points.
- Shelter provision – e.g. supporting livestock keepers in displaced or flood contexts to access materials or to build temporary shelters using cash transfers or cash-for-work.
- Support for traditional herd management practices to enhance protection.
- Livestock feed and health activities can complement nutrition activities that support the consumption of milk (e.g. goat's milk), targeting groups with specific needs, such as young children (provided that this does not influence early weaning from breastfeeding before six months of age), pregnant and lactating women, the chronically ill, and the elderly.

In contexts where there are considerable challenges with water and feed resources and where animals are weak, one of the objectives of emergency livestock interventions should be to provide immediate benefits to affected communities and households using livestock resources. This can take the form of:

- Facilitation of time-critical destocking (potentially negotiating fair prices and bringing traders to affected areas). In some contexts, the processed meat (e.g. dried) can be redistributed to communities and households as part of nutrition interventions to diversify protein sources during lean or crisis periods.
- Facilitation of restocking only when the likelihood of recovery is high.

Destocking interventions during droughts should take place before excess livestock mortality occurs. When done properly, destocking can contribute to the protection of healthier or more valuable livestock in the herd by freeing up resources and lowering the risks of disease. However, such interventions are often too little and implemented far too late. Destocking also requires significant planning and early warning as well as large investments to have an impact. The focus will be on collaborating with key livestock services and partners by facilitating timely access to information on when to destock and on market prices as well as raising awareness on the benefits of destocking.

## Response Pillar 2: Health and Nutrition

	<b>Health &amp; Nutrition</b>	Female	3.8076m	CHF 6.6m
		Male	3.7924m	Total target: 7.6m ppl

<b>Objective</b>	The immediate risks to the health of affected populations are reduced.
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### Priority actions

The integration of the health and nutrition components with lifesaving basic needs assistance and livelihood protection will focus on ensuring that cash recipients can effectively access key services, nutrition inputs and referrals. At the same time, these services will make referrals so that households facing economic constraints can receive cash assistance provided by other actors. Evidence shows that cash alone does not lead to any significant changes in nutrition outcomes. Hence, using the cash transfer modality alongside interventions related to nutritional education, sanitation and access to clean water is necessary. The use of unrestricted cash transfers also allows people to prioritise needs – e.g. transport to access nutrition and health services. However, awareness raising must be included so that people have knowledge on where to access free or low-cost services while this access should be facilitated when needed. Where appropriate, the nutrition-sensitive provision of inputs will be promoted, such as seeds for nutrient-dense crops and inputs to maintain

<sup>78</sup> See the Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards for the full range of multisectoral interventions at: <https://www.livestock-emergency.net/download-legs/>

livestock milk production for children's consumption. Nutrition actions will be focused on Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) and nutrition promotion across the life course, as well as coordination with nutrition partners, to support referrals and follow-up at the community level.

## **1) Acute malnutrition support**

### ***Stakeholder mapping and engagement with nutrition partners***

As a prerequisite to screening for malnutrition, the identification of nutrition partners and health nutrition facilities with nutrition services<sup>79</sup> for establishing referral mechanisms will be done through bilateral engagements, via the Ministry of Health, through partner coordination platforms (e.g. nutrition clusters, nutrition working groups), and with the support of local and health leaders and community-based associations, including women and youth-led groups. National Societies will also engage with UNICEF's nutrition team and maintain an observatory role in the nutrition cluster where this exists and is feasible. Once the mapping of nutrition partners and facilities is completed, National Societies will organise joint planning meetings to ensure that referral pathways are established and that nutrition partners are aware of the activities of volunteers in malnutrition screening, referrals, and follow-up.

### ***Screening for malnutrition***

Screening for malnutrition in children aged 6-59 months will be carried out by trained community volunteers, concurrently with baseline surveys/targeting. This will be done via the MUAC tape and bilateral pitting oedema checks.<sup>80</sup> In the context of displacement, migration or nomadism, RCRC volunteers will ensure that mothers, pregnant women, and heads of households are provided with and trained in the use of MUAC tape so that they can carry out continuous screening during their various movements. They will be instructed on how to reach out to volunteers or community health workers or to bring the child to a primary healthcare centre in the event MUAC criteria for acute malnutrition are met. Treatment of acute malnutrition is not an activity that will be done by volunteers, except in contexts where such activities may have already been established and where the role of the National Society as a nutrition partner is well-recognised (e.g. Somalia). Further referrals by volunteers will be possible through home visits or when relevant, through mobile clinics or humanitarian service points.

### ***Follow up of cases of malnutrition under treatment, in collaboration with nutrition partners***

Volunteers will support the Ministry of Health and nutrition partners through home visits to children and PLWs under nutrition treatment (OTP/TSFP) to provide nutrition messages (IYCF and nutrition across the life course) and maintain adherence to treatment protocols. Volunteers will also identify and report risk factors for appropriate management by nutrition partners, and ensure that cash transfers and livelihood protection support are provided to households facing economic constraints to access food and to maintain production or income-generating activities while a child/PLW is in treatment.

## **2) Nutrition education**

The delivery of nutrition and health promotion messages by trained RCRC volunteers will be done through two-way communication channels that are preferred by communities. This could be through home visits, community conversations, existing care groups<sup>81</sup> or other community groups or platforms (e.g. women's groups, savings groups, older people's associations, youth groups, support groups for the chronically ill or persons living with disabilities). Several National Societies are working with Mothers' Clubs.<sup>82</sup> Such groups can facilitate the delivery of both nutrition and health promotion messages, particularly on prevention and health-seeking behaviours related to diarrheal diseases.

<sup>79</sup> Outpatient Therapeutic Programme (OTP), Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme (TSFP), and Stabilisation Centre (SC).

<sup>80</sup> Also known as nutritional oedema, bilateral pitting oedema identifies a type of severe acute malnutrition known as kwashiorkor. It is identified when thumb pressure, applied to the tops of both feet for three seconds, leaves an indentation in the foot after the thumb is lifted.

<sup>81</sup> A care group is a group of 10 to 15 community-based volunteer health educators who regularly meet with project staff for training and supervision. They are different from typical mothers' groups in that each volunteer is responsible for regularly visiting 10 to 15 of her neighbours, sharing what she has learned and facilitating behavioural change at the household level. Care groups create a multiplying effect to equitably reach every target household with interpersonal behavioural change communication. The care group methodology has contributed to improvements in maternal, child health, and nutrition outcomes in a variety of settings.

<sup>82</sup> A Mothers' Club (MC) is an association of volunteer women who adhere to the principles of the Red Cross, and come together to exchange and sensitise other members of the community on topics they have previously been trained on, such as maternal and child health, WASH, nutrition, etc. For example, as part of its Hunger Crisis Emergency Appeal, the Nigerian Red Cross Society has set up 140 Mothers Clubs to tackle acute hunger and malnutrition in local communities in the northwest and north-central regions of the country.

Nutrition education messages delivered by volunteers will include IYCF and nutrition across the life course, and where possible, will also include messages for the elderly, people with disabilities, and individuals with chronic diseases in an emergency context.

### **3) Health promotion (with a 'One Health' approach)**

Health promotion and health seeking stimulation activities will focus particularly on diarrheal diseases and pneumonia in children. Diarrheal diseases and malnutrition are part of what is defined as a vicious loop: Malnutrition is the primary cause of immunodeficiency worldwide and this may lead to increased susceptibility to infections, particularly diarrheal diseases and pneumonia; on the contrary, diarrhoea impairs the absorption of nutrients (one of the four key dimensions of food security) and increases morbidity and mortality risks, especially as a result of severe dehydration.

The activities of Epidemic Control for Volunteers (ECV) and Epidemic Preparedness and response in Communities (EPiC), for which appropriate training shall be provided, will be included, with a particular focus on the main causes of childhood morbidity and mortality in contexts of acute malnutrition: acute watery diarrhoea (including cholera) and pneumonia. Other context-specific diseases may be added on the basis of the season and area of response, following a brief analysis of the predictable disease outbreaks.

The equilibrium between human, animal and environmental health, which has progressively become more fragile due to global and regional climatic and environmental changes, is being further disrupted during droughts and floods, increasing the risk of zoonotic diseases affecting livestock, which in some cases, may also spread to humans (e.g. anthrax). For this reason, reporting atypical animal deaths should be included in ECV training topics. The detection and reporting of sudden animal deaths and any volunteer support to veterinary services in addressing animal health, during lean and crisis periods, should be linked to priority actions on emergency livestock management presented above as part of integrated livelihoods protection and health promotion actions. Integrated livestock and human health activities include:


- Supporting animal vaccination campaigns.
- Helping to isolate and quarantine sick animals.
- Reducing the risk of spill-over of zoonoses, for example, by ensuring that people do not eat sick or dead animals and that they thoroughly cook animal products.
- Promoting use of personal protection equipment (PPE) when in contact with animals that have highly infectious diseases.

### **4) Mental health and psychosocial support services**

Provision of Psychosocial First Aid to address the immediate risks to health, hunger, livelihoods, access to water and sanitation services of the affected communities will be provided to improve physical and mental well-being. The following activities will help to lessen psychosocial impacts:


- Conduct assessments of community needs and feedback to supervisors on developments in the community.
- Conducting basic training in psychological first aid and supportive communication for volunteers, health, and community workers.
- Provide psychological first aid to the affected families, discharged patients, and other affected community members.
- Provide psychological first aid to RC volunteers and community-based responders.
- Collaborating with healthcare humanitarian actors to ensure that people who are undergoing treatment in clinical centres and their family members receive support including food, psychological first aid and other needs.
- Set up activities for the affected families that foster a return to normality such as play and recreational activities for the children, support groups for adults, rituals, and memorial ceremonies.
- Develop effective collaborations between mental health and psychosocial actors, community members, and stakeholders to maximise the positive impacts of activities among the population.
- Collaborate with communication teams to document and inform the public about the positive impacts of psychosocial support through all Red Cross and Red Crescent activities.

## Response Pillar 3: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

	<b>Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)</b>	Female	3.8076m	CHF 9.24m
		Male	3.7924m	Total target: 7.6m ppl
<b>Objective</b>	Community managed WASH services are provided to target populations to reduce health risks and improve food security and dignity.			
<p><b>Priority actions</b></p> <p>Access to WASH services underpins health, food security, and livelihoods as none can exist in its absence. While WASH is a life-saving intervention, it can also contribute to sustainable improvements in health, dignity, protection, livelihoods, and a wide range of other improvements that contribute to resilience.</p> <p>The provision of WASH services will take a variety of forms, including direct provision or rehabilitation of basic water supply infrastructure, in-kind provision of water treatment and storage products, and the use of cash or voucher assistance to support WASH objectives. In many cases, water supply will need to be multipurpose. While National Society WASH services usually focus on human consumption, considerations will need to be made for livestock, household production activities, and other food security and livelihood issues.</p> <p><b>1) Increasing access to WASH</b></p> <p>WASH services should be provided directly to communities and at the institutional level, including health centres, and schools. In the hunger crisis response, food security, health, and nutrition activities are integrated with WASH components. As much as possible, geographic overlap with health and other sectors should be attempted in order to support an integrated approach and to increase impacts as well as cost-efficiencies.</p> <p>Activities to increase access to safe and environmentally sustainable water supply include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water trucking can be considered in communities without alternative means of accessing water. Where possible, this can be supported by cash transfer or voucher modalities to increase community oversight of water trucking and facilitate household financial access to water.</li> <li>• Rehabilitation and maintenance of water facilities, including provision of spare parts and, where appropriate, solarisation. To increase sustainability, water supply infrastructure work should be coupled with community engagement that ensures community water management structures have financial resources, access to spare parts, and technical support to sustainably operate and maintain water facilities. Payment mechanisms might be established where relevant and where payment for water is considered in the MEB.</li> <li>• Fuel subsidies for motorised boreholes.</li> <li>• Provision of household water treatment and safe storage products, in-kind or through cash transfers or vouchers (supporting what is accessible through local markets), coupled with training, hygiene promotion and post-distribution monitoring.</li> <li>• Provision of water storage tanks and household level containers.</li> <li>• Equipping water points with drinking troughs for livestock.</li> <li>• Community-based hygiene and sanitation promotion activities, including in schools.</li> </ul>				


## Cross Sectors – Protection, Gender and Inclusion

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) and Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) are critical and transversal components of the operation, which will recognise and value all community members as equal partners whose diverse needs, priorities, and preferences guide Red Cross actions.

	<b>Protection, Gender and Inclusion</b>	Female	3.8076m	CHF 660k
		Male	3.7924m	Total target: 7.6m ppl

<b>Objective:</b>	Programmes improve equitable access to basic services, considering different needs based on gender and other diversity factors.
<p><b>Priority actions across all sectors:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PGI will be integrated throughout sectoral interventions to ensure the dignity, access, participation, and safety of communities.</li> <li>• All sectors will seek to meet the IFRC Minimum Standards on Protection, Gender and Inclusion in emergencies.</li> <li>• National Society PGI focal points will collaborate and coordinate with Child Protection/GBV sub-clusters in-country to actively engage with other sectors (food security, WASH, health, nutrition) on risks and safe referral pathways.</li> <li>• The active participation of women, girls, persons with disabilities or organisations of persons with disabilities will be ensured in all sectoral interventions.</li> <li>• In coordination and collaboration with other actors, map and disseminate safe referral pathways for child protection and SGBV.</li> <li>• Staff and volunteers involved in the operations will be briefed on child safeguarding, protection from sexual exploitation, and abuse ensuring all staff and volunteers sign the code of conduct.</li> <li>• Capacity building on protection principles, SGBV, child safeguarding, and PSEA will be done for staff and volunteers in the operation.</li> <li>• Actions should be accompanied by awareness raising on SGBV prevention and response that includes safe referral pathways and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse.</li> </ul> <p><b>Food security and livelihoods</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actions will be based on an understanding of the impact of the crisis on food security and the livelihoods of women and other socially differentiated groups, including persons with disabilities, children, youth, and the elderly.</li> <li>• Actions will be based on an understanding of issues of ownership and control over livelihood assets (i.e. rights of use and disposal, including livestock (and milk), as a social and economic asset).</li> <li>• Consultation/participatory risk assessment with target groups on intervention and response modality design including who should be a recipient, access to distribution/pay-out points and markets, additional demands on women linked to payment/distribution dates, and safety in households and communities.</li> <li>• Consider the roles, rights, and responsibilities of women and other socially differentiated groups in production and consumption, including daily and seasonal contributions and responsibilities.</li> <li>• When supporting improvements to livestock herd management or access to feed and water, avoid women and girls needing to travel to remote areas.</li> <li>• Ensure that production and income-generating inputs and services do not increase vulnerability for recipients or create conflict within the community.</li> <li>• Engage in social cohesion activities (e.g. dialogue, targeting both sides, joint or mutually beneficial activities) in a context where coping strategies create intercommunal or displaced/host community tensions or conflicts.</li> <li>• When providing support with production inputs, assess the potential competition for scarce natural resources (such as land or water) as well as potential damage to existing social networks.</li> <li>• Ensure that the free provision of inputs does not disrupt community safety nets (traditional social support) and redistribution mechanisms or affect local suppliers.</li> </ul> <p><b>Nutrition</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In consultation with the affected groups, the constraints and barriers faced by persons with disabilities and different backgrounds in accessing nutrition services and facilities are identified and actions taken to respond to each constraint and barrier.</li> <li>• Support the mapping of nutrition facilities and services and dissemination of referral pathways to ensure that specific mechanisms are in place to make safe and dignified referral services. In collaboration with CEA, set up mechanisms to ensure that referred cases have the opportunity to provide their feedback on the facilities and services used.</li> </ul> <p><b>WASH</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mechanisms to prevent conflict in the context of limited functional water points where there are competing water needs – both domestic and for livestock (WASH livestock).</li> <li>• In consultation with the affected groups, the constraints and barriers faced by persons of all gender identities, ages, disabilities and backgrounds in accessing WASH activities are identified and actions taken in response.</li> </ul>	

- Ensure WASH assessments, mapping exercises, and other data collection mechanisms include questions for a gender and diversity analysis. Data is disaggregated at least by sex, age and disability, and other context-specific variables to provide an understanding of and access to the most marginalised.
- Ensure that communities are informed of their entitlements in terms of WASH assistance.
- Dignity kits will be provided with MPC, including clothing/hygiene kits.
- Engage Women and girls including those with disabilities on norms in their communities and personal preferences related to WASH.
- Ensure that staff and volunteers utilise the [PGI in WASH guidance note](#) in their interventions.

	<b>Community Engagement and Accountability</b>	Female	3.8076m	CHF 660k
		Male	3.7924m	Total target: 7.6m ppl
<b>Objective:</b>	The response is guided by the diverse needs, priorities, and preferences of the affected population through a community-centred approach and meaningful participation.			

**Priority actions across all sectors:**

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) will be the underpinning approach to amplify affected people and community voices to inform and scale-up the response. The overall approach will ensure that ways of working encourage collaboration with people and communities through meaningful community participation, timely, open, and honest communication, and mechanisms to listen to and act on feedback throughout all stages of the response. Support will be provided to staff and volunteers so they have the knowledge, skills, and tools to effectively engage with communities while dedicated CEA processes will be established to support FSL, health and nutrition, and WASH interventions, in addition to using the CVA modality.

- Carry out context analysis and community mapping to understand community structures, groups, power dynamics, capacities, social and cultural values, vulnerabilities, and needs. This also includes understanding the priorities and preferences of communities.
- Conduct periodic perception surveys to measure the level of community satisfaction with interventions and whether it is meeting the needs and priorities of communities.
- Develop a communications strategy outlining what information will be shared, when, with whom, and with which channels. Ensure that preferred and trusted two-way communication channels are used to receive information and share feedback.
- Systematically share information on intervention plans, progress, activities, selection criteria and distribution processes, delays and challenges, as well as people's rights and entitlements.
- Organise community meetings with key representatives and community leaders to discuss how to manage community expectations regarding the selection criteria and distribution mechanisms.
- Establish durable mechanisms to hand over more decision-making power to communities, for example, through community committees or representatives. Discuss ongoing operational issues and ask for community input to key decisions. Check that the committee is trusted and performing its role as the bridge between communities and the National Society.
- Establish, or work with existing, representative community groups or committees to develop community-led actions plans to implement local solutions that mitigate impacts and support community committees in implementing these action plans.
- If service providers (including financial service providers for cash transfers) are used for the delivery of assistance, then their staff should be trained on CEA and PGI, understand the principles, respect diversity, and sign the Code of Conduct.
- Set up and strengthen systems to collect, analyse, respond to and act on community feedback data using preferred feedback channels for receiving and responding to feedback that have been identified with the communities. The [Feedback Starter Kit](#) provides useful guidance on how to set up and strengthen community feedback mechanisms.
- In collaboration with PGI counterparts set up a system for managing and responding to sensitive and serious complaints, including integrating a referral pathway into the community feedback mechanism to ensure safe, dignified, and timely referrals.

- Ensure that any feedback received from communities on sectoral interventions/modalities (including CVA), service providers, challenges, satisfaction, and other themes is used to inform decision-making and guide improvements to the response.
- Update information shared to communities based on evolving beliefs, fears, rumours, concerns, questions, and suggestions from members.

### **Food security and livelihoods**

- Ensure the context analysis and mapping exercises include questions that help to understand the coping mechanisms, attitudes and practices of communities towards farming, access to animal health clinics, etc. During feasibility assessments, ensure that people have the opportunity to specify their preferences in receiving cash, e.g. mobile money transfers, prepaid cards, or physical cash.
- Engage with vulnerable groups (e.g. the elderly, pregnant and lactating women, or people with disabilities) to identify possible barriers in registering or accessing cash assistance and discuss solutions to the identified barriers.
- Empower communities to realise their own capacities and seek local solutions to employ climate-smart agricultural strategies.
- Use social and behavioural change approaches to influence positive attitudes and practices of communities in herd management, animal health, and destocking.
- Ensure that awareness-raising messages on livestock management and destocking are well understood and that channels used to communicate information are accessible to different community groups.
- Ensure that feedback received on food security and livelihood interventions, including those related to financial service providers, animal care, distributions as well as challenges and satisfaction, are used to guide improvements to FSL interventions, including CVA modalities.

### **Nutrition**


- Ensure that the context analysis, mapping exercises and other assessments include questions to better understand the determinants of malnutrition (e.g. economic, accessibility and availability of food, cultural influences, attitudes and beliefs, etc.), access to health services, health-seeking behaviours, etc.
- Develop risk communication strategies in collaboration with nutrition partners and the Ministry of Health to communicate health risks, identify information gaps/needs and address stigma associated with diarrheal diseases, malnutrition and other health issues.
- Engage with community members and groups in developing behavioural change and health promotion messages and materials.
- Through social mobilisation activities and mass communication campaigns, such as household visits, community dramas, mobile radios, interactive radio shows, TV shows, social media, and WhatsApp groups, encourage positive behaviours and address rumours, beliefs, fears and stigmas.
- Build community capacity and social capital to engage in, identify and build solutions to nutrition and health problems and issues. This could be implemented through local partnerships with community leaders, traditional healers, influencers, groups, and local networks. The problem/solution tree from the eVCA toolkit could be used or topic 8 on preparing a community action plan from eCBHFA.
- Engage with different community groups and health service providers to identify areas for improvement within nutrition facilities and services to ensure quality healthcare and equal access.
- Ensure that any feedback received on nutrition and health interventions, including related to nutrition facilities and services, health promotion, challenges and satisfaction, are used to guide improvements to the programme.

### **WASH**

- Ensure the context analysis, community mapping and other assessments include questions on community practices and the socio-cultural context related to WASH to inform effective social and behaviour change approaches.
- Use participatory approaches, such as FGDs and dialogue sessions, to listen to people's preferences and requirements on the design and location of WASH facilities.
- Work with community leaders and a diverse range of community groups to identify and support them in implementing local, practical solutions to improve WASH infrastructure and behaviours.
- Organise community meetings and workshops to discuss how WASH facilities will be maintained and managed and agree on a handover plan of the facilities.
- Ensure that hygiene promotion activities are well understood by communities, key activities are adapted to the audience, and that any channels used are accessible to different community groups.
- Ensure that feedback received on WASH facility design, operation and maintenance, distributed materials, hygiene promotion activities, challenges, satisfaction, etc. are used to guide improvements to the programme.

**Amplifying voices and perspectives of affected people to drive humanitarian action**

- Use storytelling approaches to generate human insights and gather evidence into how the hunger crises is impacting communities (this can be done using the [Most Significant Change methodology](#), the [IFRC's Indaba app](#) or the [Dignified Storytelling Handbook](#)).
- Develop local and high-level advocacy tools on hunger crises (PROFILE, Cost of Hunger studies, RENEW multimedia presentations).
- Organise advocacy events and seminars at the national and district levels.

	<p><b>Risk Reduction, climate adaptation and Recovery</b></p>	Female	3.8076m	See Unified plans
		Male	3.7924m	Total target: 7.6m ppl
<b>Objective:</b>	Promoting a foundation for resilience building – IFRC Africa Zero Hunger Initiative.			

**Priority actions across all sectors:**

**Setting the foundation early on in the emergency**

Resilience building is often equated with longer-term programming. However, although achieving resilience-building outcomes requires interventions over the long-term, certain interventions can be initiated during an emergency response without undermining the intended humanitarian objectives. The IFRC's emergency appeals will be designed so that considerations around risks and vulnerabilities are an important part of the response. Responses will protect livelihoods by effectively addressing consumption gaps (e.g. through cash or in-kind transfers). Doing so prevents households from being forced to sell or exchange key productive and other valuable assets, which habitually support their livelihood and risk management strategies, in order to cover these gaps. Emergency assistance will also be predictable for communities and households and aligned with the timing of seasonal or anticipated needs and risks over the duration of the response. Ultimately, this allows them to better prevent, prepare for, and manage shocks and stresses.

**Integrated response linking up with unified planning/country plans and projects**

An integrated approach will begin to address some of the multiple interconnected factors influencing resilience. The hunger crisis response is designed to allow for integrated responses, including basic needs assistance, using a safety net approach, and livelihood protection activities, to transition to the unified planning process or existing programmes, projects or interventions in Federation-wide multi-year country plans. Actions to respond to ongoing, chronic, and protracted food security needs and recovery from a food insecurity crisis beyond the timeframe of an emergency appeal will be integrated into country plans. Within the duration of the hunger crisis response, the design of new emergency appeals will build on ongoing programmes and interventions in-country plans. These linkages facilitate longer-term and humanitarian-development nexus thinking and approaches.

The hunger crisis response sits within the IFRC Africa Zero Hunger Initiative, which informs the longer-term food security and livelihood plans of National Societies. Priority actions are directly related to the initiative's broad intervention area in scaling-up cash transfers to provide timely one-off, recurrent, or seasonal safety nets for the protection of consumption and livelihood productive assets during a disaster or crisis. Integrated FSL and health/nutrition and WASH actions in emergency operations also contribute to the broad intervention area related to resilient and nutrition-sensitive food solutions. Short and longer-term linkages will also be made between food security emergency responses and the other three flagship Pan-African initiatives. Among other goals, these initiatives aim to adapt to and mitigate climate change, reduce poverty, and provide effective and timely responses to localised crises and disasters.

Finally, several countries are also part of the multi-year DG ECHO Pilot Programme Partnership (ECHO PPP), which seeks to move away from hazard-by-hazard, siloed approaches. The ECHO PPP espouses a more

holistic multi-hazard, multi-sectoral, and integrated systems approach to address increasing humanitarian needs, including through cash preparedness and response, anticipatory action, climate-smart programming (with an emphasis on agriculture), and expanding the scale and quality of community-level health and WASH services. In those countries, the hunger crisis response should be complimentary and build on approaches and ongoing activities in the ECHO PPP where relevant and feasible, including cash preparedness and the adoption of cash “plus”.

### ***Understanding, responding to, and monitoring risks and vulnerabilities***

The key to resilience building is an understanding and monitoring of risk and, especially, vulnerability. Some National Societies have done or are planning to conduct an Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (eVCA). These assessments support communities by helping understand where risks come from, which members of the community will be worst affected, and what resources are available to reduce these risks. EVCA, where they are available and still relevant, will inform the hunger response. Where the capacity to do this is absent, then risk and vulnerability analyses from external partners will need to inform food security resilience-building activities. Existing approaches used by National Societies related to food security sentinel sites (examples exist from the Sahel sub-region), early action protocols, and community-based disaster risk reduction will all contribute to the monitoring and response to food insecurity risks.

### ***Safety net approaches***

In the response to the hunger crisis, resilience-building starts by helping communities and households access safety nets. Multipurpose cash transfers can be designed as a safety net to address existing, anticipated, and multiple hazard events (e.g. droughts and floods) and shocks, such as lean period food gaps, seasonal or sudden spikes in food prices, and poor harvests as well as livestock conditions and loss. These events and shocks will continue to occur simultaneously and consecutively within the timeframe of an acute food insecurity crisis response. Through several instalments over the duration of the response, multipurpose cash transfers can support affected households to buffer the impact of shocks on their basic needs and livelihoods. Predictable and longer-duration transfers, accompanied by information and awareness raising on risk management practices, will allow affected households to plan and prepare for multiple hazards and shocks – potentially protecting consumption and preventing or reducing the loss of assets and, subsequently, a further negative impact on their livelihood activities.

In contexts with functional social protection schemes, National Societies, in consultation with country cash working groups, should coordinate between governments to align safety net approaches to transfer values, targeting grievance redress mechanisms and monitoring and evaluation or to engage in shock-responsive social protection (SRSP) programmes for vertical and horizontal expansion. However, realistically, robust social protection systems in sub-Saharan Africa are generally not the norm, hence, alignment and integration opportunities are limited within the timeframe of the hunger crisis operation.

Savings and other community groups are first responders in emergencies, often providing support through group solidarity mechanisms, which are a form of traditional/community safety nets. National Society volunteers will work with community groups to deliver information, messages, and assistance and/or engage them in early resilience-building activities.

### ***Facilitating access to financial services***

The hunger crisis response will engage in minimum actions related to financial inclusion. Where feasible, partnerships with financial service providers, especially mobile money service providers, will be promoted due to the potential for reach and financial inclusion of unbanked, poor, and hard to reach populations.

Activities are likely to focus on: 1) Linking up cash-based responses to community safety nets, such as savings groups, and 2) ensuring that access established to financial service providers (e.g. mobile money operators) is maintained. For the latter, National Societies will negotiate with financial service providers to keep accounts opened for cash recipients who want to maintain their accounts and can access other low-cost

financial services for remittances, payments, credit, loans and savings. Basic financial awareness raising, or literacy can be included in activities to facilitate access. These activities create a foundation for strengthening financial inclusion in medium to longer-term resilience building activities.

#### ***Rehabilitation of key community livelihood assets***

Basic community livelihood assets, such as communal land, feeder roads, seed/cereal storage facilities, and water facilities, are destroyed by natural hazards and in most cases, are in a poor state or do not function due to a lack of investment and/or maintenance. Nonetheless, the priority actions in this Operational Strategy cannot be achieved without some degree of functioning of assets that support food security and health/nutrition outcomes. A cash-for-work (CfW) modality may be considered in some contexts where, for example, short-term rehabilitation interventions can be implemented with unskilled labour (overseen by skilled labour) and able-bodied persons are available for labour-intensive activities. CfW transfer values are carefully considered against basic needs and often aligned to CWG endorsed local wage rates. The provision of infrastructure will be coupled with feasible community management activities which enables the availability of financial resources, spare parts, and technical support ensuring sustainability of services provided by these assets.

#### ***Nutrition education as a first step to behavioural change***

Changes in peoples' nutrition and health seeking behaviours and practices takes time, often engrained in socio-cultural beliefs or norms and dietary preferences. The focus of nutrition actions as part of the hunger crisis response is to begin to build knowledge and gradually transition into influencing actual changes in behaviours and practices through longer-term programming. Additional activities related to nutrition education may include cooking demonstrations, using locally available food and promoting positively deviant nutrition behaviours. The approach may be implemented in a context where survey data indicate pockets of communities with better nutritional outcomes despite the same composition of socioeconomic factors and other determinants of health and nutrition. In this case, if specific positive nutrition behaviours can be identified, these could be promoted through cooking demonstrations or other approaches.

#### ***Small-scale testing of innovations***

Conflict/insecurity, economic shocks, and weather extremes driving hunger in Africa are on the rise. There is a growing need for smarter, faster, and more effective humanitarian assistance that simultaneously helps communities manage risks and build resilience for food security. Opportunities, in the hunger response, to test, at a small-scale, innovations in technology and practice will be created through partnerships. National Societies are currently testing innovations on anticipatory action, water pumping systems, agriculture in displacement contexts, sentinel sites, and savings and other community groups (including group cash transfers that could support community-determined needs related to disaster risks management). Agreements and negotiations with financial service providers, especially mobile money operators, can open new doors for digital solutions and household risk management capabilities through financial services. Community-based surveillance of climate and other risks in relation to food production and access can build on or integrate into existing National Society community-based health surveillance initiatives.

## **ASSESSMENTS AND ANALYSES**

### **Food Security and Livelihoods**

Crucial to the identification of response options and interventions is an understanding of how the hunger crisis shocks and stresses have affected the ability of households to meet essential food and income-related needs and to cope and protect their livelihoods. The responses of government and other humanitarian actors should be assessed as well as projections of how food and nutrition security will evolve in the near future. The assessment and analysis phase prior to the response prioritises the consolidation of information available from a variety of sources on food and nutrition security to provide an initial analysis of how the drivers have impacted the food security of households and communities within IPC 3+ targeted areas. Where

there are gaps in secondary information and where National Society capacity is present, primary data can be collected using the Household Economic Security methodology, complemented by other tools such as the Oxfam “48 hours toolkit” and the IRFC RAM (Rapid Market Assessment).<sup>83</sup>

A feasibility assessment is needed for National Societies without cash experience or which are intervening in new areas. Relevant guidance is provided through the Cash in Emergencies toolkit, Module 3.<sup>84</sup> The contextual feasibility assessment and market assessment determines whether cash, vouchers or in-kind is the most appropriate response modality. Even in the case of in-kind, a sound market analysis must be conducted to understand any potential impacts on supply and price trends of local or national procurement versus imported goods.

Market assessment, analysis, and monitoring are integrated into all interventions, irrespective of the response modality. National Societies will, where feasible, participate in joint market monitoring initiatives (e.g. JMMI by REACH). IFRC cash officers and coordinators participate in Cash Learning Partnership (CaLP) regional meetings and coordination, especially to understand (sub)regional market dynamics and their impact on national and local markets.<sup>85</sup>

## **Nutrition**

It is essential that nutrition-related needs and priority actions be based on solid data from surveys and assessments. These surveys and assessments may also be useful to monitor and assess community perceptions, behavioural change or changes in needs or to measure the impacts, as well as identify bottlenecks and best practices, of implemented activities. Regular malnutrition screening exercises, Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices (KAP) surveys, observation of nutrition practices, and focus group discussions and key informant interviews will provide a better understanding of nutritional practices along the life course, identification of specific community practices and needs, and analysis of the combined impacts of an integrated food security, livelihoods, nutrition, and WASH response on the hunger crisis. Additionally, ECV/EPiC and nutrition interventions which would most likely include cases of malnutrition may be accompanied by Community-Based Surveillance (CBS), which could include other health events (like diarrheal diseases), to be determined based on predictable health emergencies.

## **WASH**

Insufficient access to drinking water and sanitation infrastructure is one of the underlying causes of undernutrition. WASH assessments, carried out by WASH specialists, will be critical in integrating the sector in the response design. WASH infrastructure for an immediate response but with long-term impacts on water security should have a key role in the assessment as the construction of WASH infrastructure is time consuming. KAP surveys will give valuable information on how WASH is impacting the nutrition status and the overall public health standard and feasibility assessments should determine whether cash is appropriate in the WASH response design. Close coordination with the country level, WASH Cluster, or other relevant coordination bodies needs to be prioritised to maximise the outcome.

## **PGI and CEA**

Gender and diversity will be incorporated into the design of all sectoral needs assessments, baselines and endlines, and monitoring and evaluation activities related to the hunger crisis response. When feasible, community members should be involved in all phases of the assessment process and findings should be, at the very least, shared and discussed with them. PGI and CEA considerations will be integrated into food security, nutrition, and WASH assessment and tool design, data collection, and analyses as well as the identification of response options and specific interventions. Analysis will ensure SADDD. Do-No-Harm

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<sup>83</sup> Assessment toolkits and support can be found through the IFRC Livelihoods Resource Centre – <https://www.livelihoodscentre.org/guidance-and-tools>.

<sup>84</sup> <https://cash-hub.org/guidance-and-tools/cash-in-emergencies-toolkit/response-analysis/>

<sup>85</sup> CaLP’s regional cash working groups in East Africa, Southern Africa, West and Central Africa Cash Working Groups all have this on their agendas, especially in the current food insecurity context.

principles will be incorporated throughout and the impact interventions are having on the wider community will be monitored through cash/food assistance post-distribution monitoring exercises, focus group discussions, and community feedback mechanisms to make sure there are no unintended negative consequences that could cause harm to people. This includes market monitoring to understand if people not targeted by the response are facing any positive or negative impacts from the interventions related to the availability and access to services and goods. Finally, context analysis and community mapping will be carried out to understand community structures, power dynamics, capacities, vulnerabilities, beliefs, etc. with feedback collected to find out how all of this has been impacted by the response interventions.

## ENABLING APPROACHES

	<p align="center"><b>National Society Strengthening</b></p>	<p align="right">CHF 4.62m</p>
<p><b>Objective:</b></p>	<p>National Societies are prepared and respond effectively to population movements/emerging crises and their auxiliary role in disaster risk management is well-defined and recognised.</p>	
<p><b><i>National Society capacity development</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In line with its core mandate, the IFRC secretariat team will always put the National Society at the centre to facilitate and directly support targeted investments and technical support in developing organisational and operational capabilities based on priorities the National Societies have set for themselves. Support will include a particular focus on the National Society's legal basis and auxiliary role, financial sustainability, leadership development, accountability systems, digital transformation, and youth and volunteering with a view to further establish National Societies as humanitarian partners of choice and drivers of the localisation agenda at the national level.</li> <li>• Throughout the operation, the IFRC will promote the use of the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) common approach to enable additional National Societies to strengthen local response capacities to crises and disasters (sudden onset, slow-onset, time-bound and protracted), considering the needs of people affected by multiple hazards.</li> <li>• Throughout the operation, the IFRC will support National Society Financial Sustainability focusing on recovering and improving income generation through services (e.g. commercial first aid, health services) and improved asset management: the technical assistance in these areas will be underpinned by additional measures to support National Societies to better monitor their financial health (National Society Financial Sustainability dashboard, scenario-based Predictive Modelling approach for improved financial risk management), and the establishment and launch of dedicated communities of practice to support peer learning (on financial management, asset management, etc).</li> <li>• Throughout the operation, the IFRC will enhance data management capacities of National Societies, bridging the digital divide for those that need support to meet minimum standards, together with analysis across datasets to provide increased ability to leaders to take decisions based on evidence.</li> </ul>		
<p><b><i>Operational support services:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Throughout the operation, the IFRC will increase support to the local branches of National Societies enabling them to reach out to the hardest hit areas, providing a dedicated community of practice for branch leaders to exchange ideas, challenges and learning, and to provide seed funding whenever necessary.</li> </ul>		
	<p align="center"><b>Coordination and Partnerships</b></p>	<p align="right">CHF 660k</p>
<p><b>Objective:</b></p>	<p>Technical and operational complementarity among IFRC membership and with the ICRC is enhanced through cooperation with external partners.</p>	
<p><b><i>Humanitarian diplomacy and representation with external partners</i></b></p>		

- A Humanitarian Coordinator and Special Advisor have been appointed to facilitate and increase the linkages with governments and stakeholders. Part of their support is to develop a Humanitarian Diplomacy plan for regional office and to support country level activities.
- In line with its core mandate, the IFRC secretariat team will engage with external stakeholders to represent the collective in advancing the interest of the most vulnerable and supporting the National Societies' auxiliary status. The team will take a lead role in coordinating policy dialogue with a view to position member National Societies and the IFRC in policy forums and via public and bilateral engagements with governments, multilateral actors, academia and the private sector and with communities the Movement serves. The IFRC will also leverage its international organisation status to maximise strategic partnerships at the country and multi-country levels in support of members with a focus on Pan-African priorities and for larger-scale emergency response, including in protracted crisis contexts.
- The IFRC network assists National Societies in undertaking humanitarian diplomacy in common areas of concern relating to the hunger crisis by collecting and sharing information on challenges and good practices. and providing clear messaging and evidence across all levels.
- The IFRC will use its experience, networks and auxiliary role to advocate for increased funding allocations and support to scale up the hunger response in those affected countries, and will bring the voice and evidence from those most affected and work with African governments to promote policies that protect vulnerable households. The Movement will use its unique positioning as the IFRC network to leverage a longer-term response that leads to resilience and meets the Zero Hunger commitments.
- The IFRC's Zero Hunger Pan-African Initiative will be the enabler for further public engagement with other food-insecurity initiatives and partners, to streamline efforts and jointly work to address chronic hunger from a long-term perspective.
- The Humanitarian Diplomacy plan is to work at the regional as well as local level. On the regional level, the Movement has engaged with the African Union and its member states and co-chaired the High-Level Food Security Conference in Addis Ababa in October 2022.
- The IFRC is engaged with the World Bank to seek ways to work closely together on longer-term issues to attack food security issues.
- The IFRC is also concentrating on approaches between National Societies and Heads of Delegations to reach within their respective governments to better coordinate and assist in the delivery of aid to the most vulnerable. To assist in this, a Surge Humanitarian Diplomacy delegate was hired to provide inputs and recommendations to the Africa team. The SHD delegate has developed a plan to provide a toolkit to gather and disseminate information across the region.
- Contacts with embassies and funding organisations have taken place which needs to be followed up in the coming weeks and months.

### ***Membership coordination***

- In applying its core mandate, the IFRC secretariat team will coordinate contributions and support from Red Cross Red Crescent partners to the Operating National Society in sharing common analysis on the hunger crisis. This will include operational coordination on emergency response and resilience-building programming bringing at scale National Society-led priorities in the delivery of humanitarian responses. At the regional level, the IFRC team will play a brokering role and leverage the power of Red Cross Red Crescent members by fostering synergies as a distributed network, facilitating multi-stakeholder approaches, promoting peer-to-peer support as well as inter-African and cross-border cooperation.
- The IFRC Secretariat continues to prioritise effective membership coordination in the response. The strategic coordination occurs with National Societies at the global leadership level, through the bi-weekly engagement of the National Society Advisory Group in which issues are discussed and the ongoing strategic direction of the response is agreed. Similar discussions at the regional level occur regularly with National Society leadership.
- This Emergency Appeal promotes a Federation-wide approach to the response. It builds on the expertise, capacities, and resources of all active members in the targeted areas. The National Society will develop one response plan, and a Federation-wide approach to resourcing and implementation will be adopted. Therefore, the IFRC will emphasise building a holistic approach to programming, monitoring, and reporting, risk management, information management, external communications, resource mobilisation, and peer-to-peer exchange between National Societies.

### ***Movement cooperation***

- The ICRC has a Regional Delegation hosted in Nairobi, which serves as a hub for operations in eastern and central African countries.

- The IFRC is also cooperating with the ICRC to streamline its response to the hunger crisis in line with the SMCC process.

**Regional stakeholder coordination**

- The IFRC serves as a representative in global and regional policy platforms, and together with its National Societies, is actively working in collaboration with governments, international organisations, and regional stakeholders such as the African Union, Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and Southern African Development Community (SADC).

**Humanitarian system**

- IFRC and National Society focal points will coordinate with existing humanitarian structures such as the Humanitarian Country Team, Inter-Cluster Coordination Team, and relevant inter-agency working group meetings/forums, including the Food Security Cluster, and working group members including NGOs, UN agencies, and public authorities.
- National Society PGI focal points will collaborate and coordinate with Child Protection/GBV sub-clusters to actively engage with other sectors (food security, WASH, health, nutrition) on risks and safe referral pathways in-country.



**IFRC Secretariat Services**

CHF 10.56m

**Objective:**

The IFRC is working as one organisation, delivering what it promises to National Societies and volunteers, and leveraging the strength of the communities for whom they work as effectively and efficiently as possible.

The IFRC Secretariat will deliver its services based on its core principles, such as the principles and rules for Red Cross Red Crescent Humanitarian Assistance, as well as applicable rules and responsibilities in the IFRC Emergency Response Framework as per the disaster categorization. This will enable the secretariat to be unified, but ensure resources and operations management happen as close as possible to impacted countries, with clear levels of authority and accountability. The RED categorization of the Hunger Crisis implies that the Secretariat makes it a priority at all levels – Headquarters, Regional Office, and Delegation – working together to ensure technical and managerial support is provided coherently and compliant with applicable standards.

Furthermore, considering the Federation-wide and movement ambitions for the Hunger Crisis response, services will ensure the secretariat provides the enabling environment for partner National Societies to contribute to the common goal effectively, and that the host National Society is able to harness the resources of the network. Continued collaboration with the ICRC will be done following the SMCC principles and the Seville Agreement 2.0, with staff dedicated to movement coordination. Based on the demand for technical and coordination support required in this operation, the following programme support functions will be put in place to ensure effective and efficient technical coordination:

**Technical sectors**

- The IFRC will support the affected National Societies to further develop capabilities relating to their auxiliary role, IDRL, food security and livelihoods, health and nutrition, WASH, PGI, and CEA.

**Partnerships and resource development:**

- The IFRC regional Partnerships and Resource Development (PRD) unit leads on, and coordinates the implementation of the IFRC partnership and cooperation agendas with public, private and Movement partners in Africa, in line with the global PRD approach and priorities, and with a view to maximising IFRC resource development in emergencies and for longer-term plans. The IFRC, on behalf of African National Societies, will support coordinating, liaising, and strengthening partnerships with donors and partners. Through efficient pledge registration and management, the IFRC PRD unit will support a culture of continuous growth in resource development to equip with appropriate financial means the National Societies mobilised to respond to this crisis.

**Communications:**

Support will be provided for both content generation and National Society capacity building. A communications strategy has been developed to promote the campaign's approach advocating greater support for the response.

- Social media:
  - Establish an easily recognisable social media brand identity around the crisis and create engaging but meaningful posts.
- Continuous media pushes:
  - Shared through the IFRC Newsroom.
  - The aim is to supply media with content they would have difficulty reaching.
- Long-term PR campaign:
  - Exploring a partnership with a PR agency, focusing on external relations.
- Continuous gathering of audio-visual footage.

**Planning, Monitoring:**

- The Regional PMER office will work with Delegation and Country level PMER to ensure that planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting are done on time and inform the operation. PMER, together with the HDCC and cash team, developed [FSL assessments tools](#) that countries will adopt to their context for needs assessments, establishing baselines and targeting. Further details on monitoring, evaluation and reporting are included in the Accountability section below.

**Risk Management:**

- Support will be provided at the regional, delegation, and country levels on integrating proactive risk management into the operation. A Risk Management Plan has been developed which elaborates on what needs to be done, by who, and at what point to apply a systematic risk management process in the identification, prioritisation, and management of potential risks to achieve the operation's objectives.

**Information Management:**

- Everything the IFRC does is underpinned by solid data and meaningful community engagement making sure the response is evidence-based and tailor-made. An Information Management (IM) Cell was created specifically for this operation with the express purpose of analysing the food insecurity situation and, in partnership with humanitarian and other actors, forecasting the evolution of the crisis. This to inform our operational and strategic decision-making. At the same time, the IFRC is developing longer-term programmes outside of this Emergency Appeal, to address the root causes of food insecurity, and in addition, is building on our previous successes and work in support of the plans and frameworks of governments to increase the resilience of the most impoverished communities, including displaced populations.
- The PMER, CVA, PGI and CEA will engage the use of data collection applications and analysis platforms, supported by Information Management. IM will maintain close coordination with heads of sectors, partners, and National Societies to collect and consolidate the available data. A secondary data review will be conducted regularly to provide accurate and timely analyses to inform decision-making. Information Management will set up a data management system and tools for data collection, analysis and visualisation, in addition to providing technical support to National Societies on the various data tools for the operation, as well as support to communications through the production of maps, charts, infographics, etc.

**Logistics and supply chain, procurement:**

- Both local and international procurement will be carried out following IFRC standard procurement procedures. The logistics responsibilities will include sourcing the most urgent and relevant relief items, delivering and distributing equitably to those in need, in a timely, transparent, and cost-efficient manner. International procurement support will be provided by the Logistics Procurement and Supply Chain Management (LPSCM) Units in Nairobi and Dubai.

**Finance and administration:**

- The IFRC will provide the necessary support to the operation to review and validate budgets, bank transfers, technical assistance to the National Society regarding expense justification procedures, and the review and validation of operational invoices.

**Human resources:**

- Based on the demand for the technical and coordination support required in delivering this operation, the following programme support functions will be put in place to ensure effective and efficient technical coordination.

**Security:**

- The Regional Security Unit will support the coordination of security risk management across the Africa region, to make sure that all IFRC (and other RCRC) personnel, assets, and operations are adequately protected, and to enable business operations even in the most complex environments.
- There will be extensive liaison with National Societies and other relevant organisations in matters of security. Security orientations and briefings for all teams before deployment will take place to help ensure the safety and security of response teams. Standard security protocols about general norms, cultural sensitivity, and an overall code of conduct will be put in place.
- As a senior management priority, Clusters Minimum-Security Requirements will be strictly maintained. Senior managers in charge of security management in respective countries and cluster delegations must make sure that assigned IFRC staff duly complete Stay Safe 2.0, levels 1-3, with a 100% completion rate as part of the mandatory training before or in time for the mission. This also serves as a pre-condition for staff to be deployed to high risk, extreme risk operational environments and as such, it is a part of the duty of care system in place by the IFRC.
- All National Society and IFRC personnel actively involved in the operations will complete, before deployment, the respective IFRC security e-learning courses. The IFRC security plans will apply to all IFRC staff throughout the operation. An area-specific Security Risk Assessment will be conducted for any operational area should any IFRC personnel deploy there, while risk mitigation measures will be identified and implemented.

**IDRL**

- The IFRC will be supporting the National Society in negotiating simplified procedures and priority access for the movement of RCRC goods and personnel, and needed legal facilities, such as waivers and exemptions, for the efficiency of its international operation.
- Ensuring IDRL facilities are in place to support programming.
- Provide technical support to assist governments in facilitating and regulating international assistance to avoid some of the most common problems, including barriers to entry, coordination, quality and oversight. This includes support with the drafting of an IDRL decree and ad hoc measures and instruments, as well as advice on international best practices and standards in the management of international disaster operations, including setting up the One Stop Shop (or Single Window International Facilitation Teams).
- Develop a full picture of the laws and procedures impacting international assistance, in particular, those related to the entry of goods and personnel, and in regard to unsolicited bilateral donations. This could provide a better understanding of national and regional contexts while helping support cross-border operational support, if necessary.
- Advise the National Society in making use of the pre-disaster agreement and/or other agreements with governments to enhance their auxiliary role in DRM.

## **AFRICA REGION HUNGER CRISIS ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK**

### **Quality and accountability**

The PMER team will establish a Federation-wide reporting system to provide information on progress and accountability. National Societies and Partner National Societies will report on the Federation-wide indicator tracking tool every month, and with support from IM, PMER will establish a Federation-wide dashboard to be hosted on the Go platform. The team will lead quarterly reviews of operations for participating countries to discuss implementation, challenges and successes and ensure that the necessary steps are taken for effective implementation. In addition to the minimum requirement for operational updates, the PMER team will support quarterly operation updates for this operation. PMER, the Operations team, and other technical teams will collaborate to hire a consultant for a final external evaluation in accordance with the IFRC evaluation framework.

Working alongside National Societies, the IFRC will conduct continuous monitoring at the country level,

including a regular update on the operational risk register, ensuring timely adaptation of the operation and regular reporting on progress in the implementation of the activities. A final evaluation will be conducted at the end of the appeal.

Post-distribution monitoring will be carried out regularly after each significant part of the operation by sector. PDM, as well as baseline and endline KAP surveys, will be used to assess the behavioural change in health and WASH.

	Outcome/output	Indicators
FSL Outcome	Improved food security of X% of vulnerable groups in rural and urban areas facing acute food insecurity at crisis or worse levels by December 2023	% of targeted households that meet their essential food needs [minimum food basket] % of targeted households with a reported/perceived decrease in food consumption gaps [quantity and diversity] % of targeted households with a reported/perceived decrease in negative consumption-based coping strategies [type and frequency] % of HH who report being able to meet the basic needs of their households, according to their priorities (MEB) % of targeted households that have not sold any assets
FSL Output 1.1	Targeted population receive relevant, adequate and timely cash/voucher/in-kind support for essential food and other consumption needs during the crisis period(s)	# of households that successfully received cash/voucher/in-kind support for basic needs after being identified and processed for transfer % HH receiving cash/vouchers/in-kind support from the RCRC and who were satisfied with the assistance provided
FSL Output 1.2	Targeted population receive support to protect and sustain existing production and/or income-generation activities over crisis periods	# of HH reached with essential on-farm, off-farm and non-farm inputs/materials/tools for income-generation # of people reached with essential services/information for income-generation
FSL Output 1.4	Targeted population receive support to protect valuable/breeding livestock and sustain production (including milk) over the crisis period(s)	# of HH reached with essential on-farm, off-farm and non-farm inputs/materials/tools for livestock production # of people reached with essential services/information for livestock production
FSL Output 1.5	Targeted population have gained practical knowledge to protect livestock and sustain production	# of people who have completed training in improved production/production risk management practices
Health: Output 2.1	Targeted population have accessed/used services for malnutrition prevention and treatment	# of children < 5 years who have been enrolled in a supplementary feeding programme of another agency following an assessment by the National Society
Health: Output 2.2	Targeted population have gained knowledge to improve nutrition – including consumption, hygiene, and health-seeking behaviours and practices	# of people reached with messages on nutritional choices and/or food preparation
Health Output 6.1	Psychosocial support provided to the target population as well as to RCRC volunteers and staff	# of people in the targeted population provided with psychosocial support services # of RCRC volunteers and staff provided with psychosocial support services
WASH: Output 3.1	Targeted population have accessed/used essential water and sanitation infrastructure/services for consumption, hygiene/health, and crop/livestock production needs	# of people reached by WASH assistance % of the target population who state they are satisfied with their access to water and sanitation facilities % of the target population with access to sufficient safe water which meets Sphere and WHO standards in terms of quantity and quality

## Africa Region Hunger Crisis Risk Matrix

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
COVID-19 might adversely affect implementation. National Society/IFRC personnel contracting COVID through response activities.	High	Medium	All staff and volunteers receive information, PPE, and adhere to COVID-19 protocols. Vaccinations (including boosters) are encouraged. Procedures are in place to prevent as well as manage suspected and confirmed COVID-19 cases.
Extreme climate or seismic events, or other disasters may impose additional humanitarian needs.	High	Medium	Capacity building for National Societies on the response, at local branches, in close collaboration with key stakeholders. Ensuring emergency response goods are adequately pre-positioned at strategic locations for immediate response.
National elections	Medium	High	Regular monitoring of the security situation. Business Continuity and Contingency Plans to be in place prior to the elections.
Insecurity and conflict	Medium	High	Security and risk management measures should be taken to ensure that staff and volunteers are not subjected to increased risk because of insecurity and local conflicts. Further, mitigation strategies should be employed to reduce the risk of resource-based conflicts in targeted communities. Minimum Security Requirements to be strictly maintained.
Highly politicised environment may result in misinterpretation of humanitarian action and lead to reputational damage.	Low	Medium	HD and communications efforts to underline and explain our principled humanitarian action, at the National Society and IFRC level. Monitoring of, and reactions to, rumours or miscommunications, including on social media. Coordinated efforts by the National Society at the national and local levels to ensure proactive community engagement and acceptance.
Fraud and corruption/aid diversion	Medium	Low	The IFRC has strict finance procedures and an accountability framework in place. The IFRC's Office of Internal Audit and Investigations oversees the effectiveness of the organisation's risk management and internal control systems. In addition, the IFRC regularly undergoes external reviews. Any suspicion of fraud and corruption can be reported through the integrity line. IFRC staff are required to complete respective online trainings.
Overdue reporting and late reconciliation of working advances, subsequent cash flow delays.	Medium	Medium	Coordination at all levels; means of communication identified at the operational and strategic levels allowing for regular monitoring and follow-up.
Supply chain disruptions, procurement delays and compliance issues.			Timely start of procurement during the preparedness phase. Fallback on the international supply chain to avoid delays in procurement. Capacity building on logistics for National Societies. Promote adherence to the IFRC's strict financial management and procurement rules. Tenders and contracts with suppliers are monitored by IFRC Supply Chain Management.
Sexual exploitation and abuse by RCRC staff/volunteers.	Low	High	Internal protection mechanisms ensure that the IFRC and National Society staff and volunteers have received briefings on PSEA and child safeguarding, sign up to the Movement's Code of Conduct (COC), and must report any suspicions of SEA or other COC breaches through various systems, such as the Integrity Line.

# FEDERATION WIDE FUNDING REQUIREMENT

## Federation-wide funding requirement\*

<b>Federation-wide Funding Requirement</b> including the National Society domestic target, IFRC Secretariat, and the Partner National Society funding requirement <b>CHF 205 million</b>	<b>IFRC Secretariat Funding Requirement in</b> <b>support of the Federation-Wide funding</b> <b>ask</b> <b>CHF132 million</b>
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*\*For more information on Federation-wide funding requirement, refer to section: Federation-wide Approach*



## OPERATING STRATEGY

### MGR60001 – Africa Region - Hunger Crisis

#### Federation-wide FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

<b>Planned Operations</b>	<b>116,160,000</b>
Food Security and Livelihoods	99,000,000
Health and Nutrition	6,600,000
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	9,240,000
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	660,000
Community Engagement and Accountability	660,000
<b>Enabling Approaches</b>	<b>15,840,000</b>
Coordination and Partnerships	660,000
Secretariat Services	10,560,000
National Society Strengthening	4,620,000
<b>TOTAL FUNDING REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>132,000,000</b>

*all amounts in Swiss francs (CHF)*

## Contact information

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### For In-Kind donations and Mobilisation table support:

- **Head of Regional Logistics Unit:** Rishi Ramrakha, email: [rishi.ramrakha@ifrc.org](mailto:rishi.ramrakha@ifrc.org); phone: +254 733 888 022

#### Reference



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