

Food Insecurity “Hot Spots” Analysis

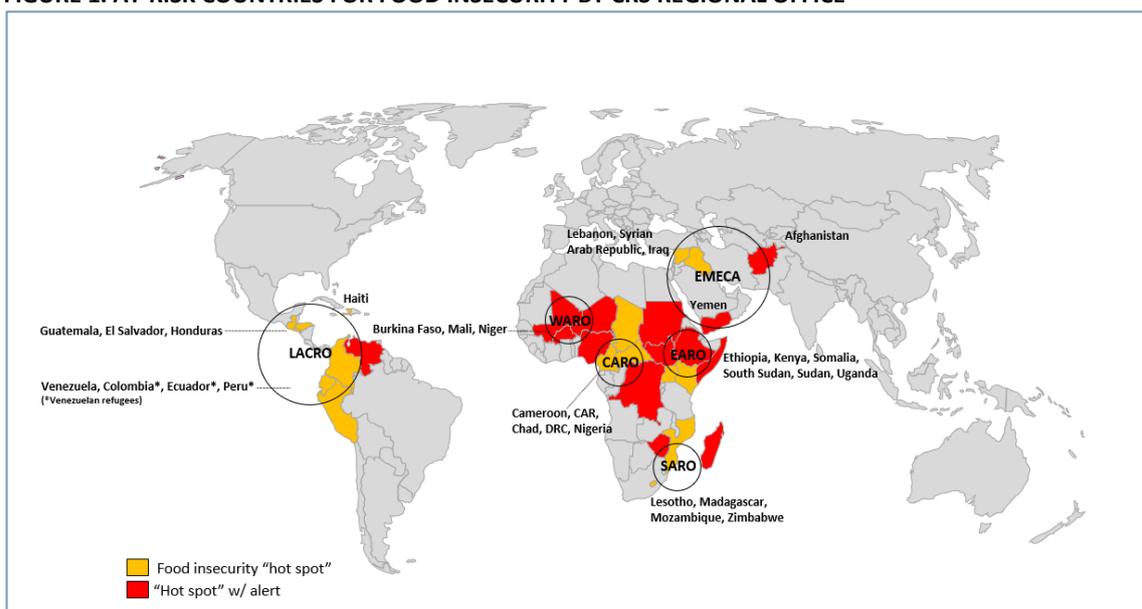
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic continues to spread globally, health systems are strained and secondary impacts are often worse than the initial health crises – threatening livelihoods, food systems, and social protections, especially in vulnerable populations that were already coping with multiple crises. The World Bank estimates COVID-19 will cause global extreme poverty to rise for the first time in 20 years and estimates that in 2021 there could be [110 to 150 million people falling back into extreme poverty](#). The World Food Programme (WFP) is estimating that since the start of 2020 an [additional 135 million people may need emergency food assistance](#), almost doubling the current needs.

Exponential growth of food insecurity is of particular concern given reduced incomes, slow food chains or agricultural production, increasing food prices, limited protection of vulnerable groups, increasing political instability, and changes in conflict (FAO & WFP, 2020, p.5). As such, this document highlights countries with projections for high levels of acute food insecurity in the context of COVID-19 to *inform response planning and advocacy efforts*, with countries of greatest concern highlighted. Secondary data acquired from multiple sources, cross-referenced with existing analyses, were used to select these priority countries.

In this version, 31 countries are included, with 14 highlighted as countries of greatest concern; supporting data is included in [Annex I](#).

FIGURE 1. AT-RISK COUNTRIES FOR FOOD INSECURITY BY CRS REGIONAL OFFICE



*Countries whose data may not show a severe impact of COVID-19 may still be of greatest concern due to other exacerbating factors including conflict, displacement, climate change, etc.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTERS OF FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS PROGRAMMING:

- **Preserve and scale up humanitarian assistance for food, nutrition, and livelihoods** (e.g., remote, unconditional cash transfers/vouchers);
- **Adapt assistance activities to local operating context** (e.g., adapting programming to prevent COVID-19 transmission to participants or changing/adapting response modalities);
- **Minimize interruptions to food chains and ensure functioning and resilience of agri-food system** (e.g., support for food storage, processing, marketing, transport; supporting producers' groups; or advocating for open trade corridors);
- **Support country governments with scaling up social protection services and strengthening basic service delivery** (e.g., safeguarding critical nutrition and school-based programs);
- **Reach excluded groups** (e.g., mobile and displaced populations) and **consider impact of COVID-19 on women and girls** (e.g., gender-based violence, increase burden of care, reduced health services);
- **Promote innovative data collection, monitoring, and evaluation to inform programming;** and
- **Strengthen coordination and partnership with relevant stakeholders** (e.g., peer agencies, government officials, food security/nutrition clusters, etc.).

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POLICYMAKERS:

1. **Scale up foreign assistance that is flexible and adaptive.** Congress should appropriate at least \$20 billion in emergency funding to respond to COVID-19 overseas to continue addressing the secondary and tertiary impacts of the pandemic, especially hunger, while meeting health needs. The administration should request flexible funding that supports both bilateral and multilateral response mechanisms so that decades of development gains are not lost, and ongoing humanitarian crises do not deteriorate further. Program interventions should utilize unconditional cash transfers or vouchers, and allow for programs to adapt to the local operating context, which is necessary given the rapidly changing nature of the pandemic. Responses should also address issues of inclusion to minimize social tension.
2. **Support locally-led responses to COVID-19, including faith-based organizations (FBOs).** For an appropriate, effective and sustainable response to acute food insecurity crises, international actors – donors, multi-laterals, and INGOs – must support local leadership through quality partnerships, effective capacity strengthening, flexible and adaptive funding, fair multi-stakeholder risk sharing, and reasonable and realistic compliance requirements. This includes expanding funding opportunities to local organizations, including via avenues such as the United Nations pooled funds or Start Network. FBOs, in particular, are essential to respond effectively in communities because they have broad community recognition and are trusted by people of all faiths. Supporting local leadership should also include supporting the country's government with service delivery or scaling up social protection services, such as school-based feeding programs.
3. **Prioritize nutrition, food security, and livelihoods as part of a holistic, multi-sectoral approach.** Addressing nutrition, food security, and livelihoods can have a multiplier effect across sectors. The United States should continue to strengthen data collection, monitoring, and evaluation to inform nutrition, food security, and livelihoods programming. Data should be shared with communities to make informed decisions in the future, to enhance their resilience, prepare for and cope with similar shocks and stresses. Food security, nutrition and livelihoods programming should prioritize displaced populations, women, youth, elderly, and persons with disabilities, who have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. Support longer-term recovery programming.

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INTRODUCTION

The world has endured the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic for nearly a year, straining public health and food systems and work opportunities. The global impacts are becoming more evident; the World Bank estimates [88 million to 115 million people will be pushed into extreme poverty this year](#). COVID-19 related supply chain disruptions have pushed food prices to a [high not seen since December 2014](#), 164 million migrant workers in the informal sector have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, and remittances could drop by 14 percent by 2021 (IOM & WFP, 2020, p.6).

The pandemic has become an exacerbating factor for acute food insecurity, adding to major drivers such as conflict, climate change, and economic downturn (FAO & WFP, 2020, p.5). Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, hunger was already an issue; 8.9 percent of the world's population was undernourished in 2019 and acute food insecurity has risen over recent years (FAO & WFP, 2020, p.5). COVID-19 and the resulting containment efforts have impacted food security and nutrition through many pathways:

- **Loss of income sources** preventing households from accessing food needed to prevent hunger and undernourishment;
- **Constrained government financing** and overstretched capacities of some governments to protect vulnerable populations;
- **Deepening inequalities** amongst the poorest populations and girls and women, people with disabilities, and other marginalized groups;
- **Disrupted trade and supply chains** leading to higher food prices and reduced access to agricultural inputs and labor;
- **Increasing malnutrition levels** given reduced access to nutritious foods and healthcare services; and
- **Humanitarian access constraints** related to funding shortfalls, access challenges, and supply chain disruptions (FSIN & Global Network Against Food Crises, 2020, p.8-10).

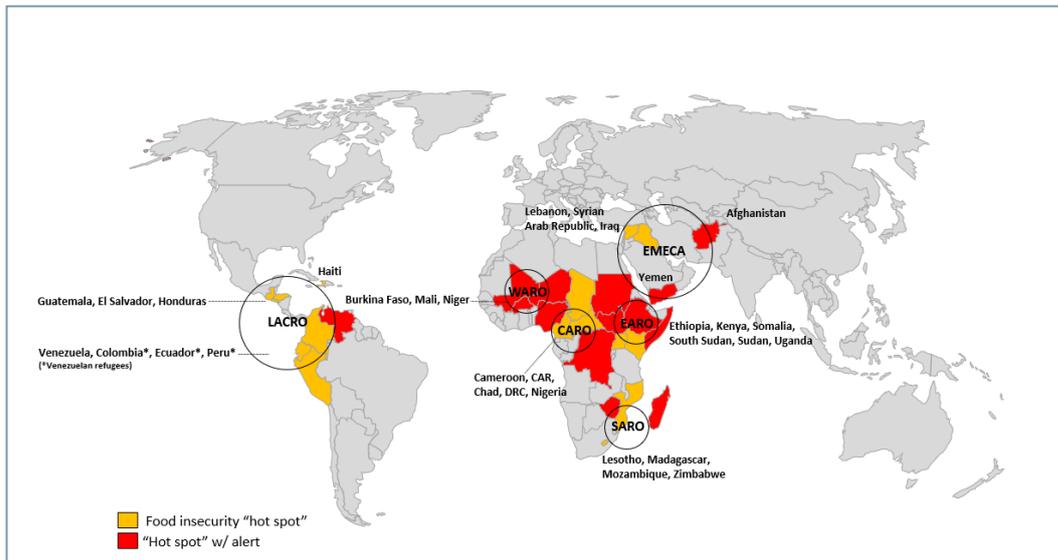


In a June 2020 update, the World Food Program (WFP) estimated an [additional 121 million people could experience acute food insecurity](#) by 2021, an increase of 82 percent compared to pre-COVID numbers. These estimates pushed the total number of food insecure in WFP-operating countries¹ to 270.2 million people. WFP's November 2020 update estimated a total of [271.8 million people acutely food insecure, or directly at risk](#), because of COVID-19 and its compounding effects.

As such, the objective of this document is to highlight food insecurity hotspots, considering the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and other compounding crises, to help inform CRS' response planning and donor advocacy. This is a living document that will be updated as needed, given the dynamic nature of the pandemic and drivers of food insecurity (e.g., economic crisis, extreme weather events, and conflict). In this December 2020 version, 31 countries are highlighted as "hot spots" at risk for acute food insecurity; for brevity, the narrative details the 14 countries that may require urgent attention by CRS staff (in dark orange in **Figure 1**).

¹ WFP operates in 79 countries; North Korea and Iran were excluded given limited data availability.

FIGURE 2. AT-RISK COUNTRIES FOR FOOD INSECURITY BY CRS REGIONAL OFFICE



*Countries whose data may not show a severe impact of COVID-19 may still be of greatest concern due to other exacerbating factors including conflict, displacement, climate change, etc.

METHODOLOGY AND LIMITATIONS

Many secondary sources were used to create the list of hot spot countries and further narrow down to the countries of highest concern. Because conflict and crises heavily impact food security, countries with ongoing crises were first selected for inclusion, as well as countries highlighted by WFP, FAO, IPC Info, and FEWS NET as countries of concern or “hot spot” countries. Countries with recent food insecurity alerts and Crisis and higher IPC levels (IPC 3+) were then prioritized as highest concern. Finally, at least one country was highlighted as highest or greatest concern for each CRS regional office. For primary data, Market and Supply Chain monitoring data and Measurement Indicators for Resilience Analysis (MIRA) data countries are referenced below for select countries. MIRA selects a sample that represents the households participating in CRS projects, and the Market and Supply Chain data pertain only to the households surveyed and are not generalizable.

Additionally, contexts can vary widely within and between countries and situations can change rapidly, and therefore, so can estimated levels of acute food insecurity. For example, the Cadre Harmonisé for June to August 2020 predicted Emergency (IPC 4) and Famine (IPC 5) levels of insecurity in certain provinces of the Burkina Faso, whereas [FEWS NET’s December Food Assistance Outlook](#) reports the highest predicted IPC level through June 2021 to be at Crisis level (IPC 3).

[Annex I](#) offers supporting data for all countries related to food insecurity and COVID-19 and rationales for their inclusion, as well as external links for additional information on the country’s food security status (if available). An estimated impact of COVID-19 on the country’s acute food insecurity (limited, moderate, severe) is also included in [Annex I](#). Finally, it should also be noted that only in which CRS has a presence were included in this document.

TRENDS OBSERVED SINCE LAST VERSION

In [Annex I](#), the reader can see how data changed between these versions. Generally, food insecurity projections, specifically the Integrated Food Security Phased Classification (IPC) levels, have remained the same except for a few countries. COVID-

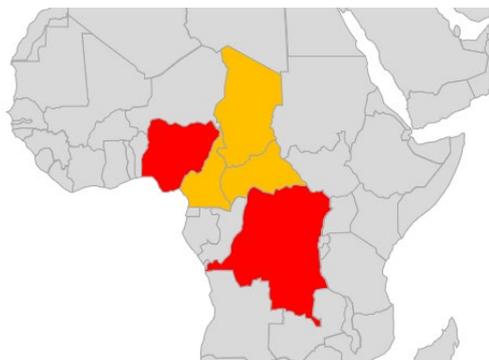
19 related restrictions have lessened for most countries, except for LACRO countries, and country cargo entry statuses are similar to September 2020. For countries that have COVID-19 hunger snapshots reported by WFP, market access and health access improved in most reporting countries. Health access is of particular concern, given the explosion of COVID-19 cases worldwide. For example, South Africa recently declared a [second wave of COVID-19](#) and is struggling to contain the disease, which may be driven by a more transmissible variant.

IPC levels	Unchanged in 19 of 24 reporting countries
COVID-19 restrictions	Lessened in 22 of 31 countries
Cargo entry status	Unchanged in 30 of 31 countries
Market access	Improved in 12 of 17 reporting countries
Health access	Improved in 11 of 17 reporting countries

ASIA

No Asian countries were included in this version given a dearth of information past August 2020. However, CRS should monitor secondary and primary data on the impact of COVID-19 on livelihoods and food consumption in Bangladesh whenever possible, given the large population of migrants – 7.8 million, according to a November 2020 joint report from the International Organization of Migration (IOM) and WFP (p.37). The pandemic may be driving migration, given reduced food security and wellbeing and the need for people to search for livelihoods elsewhere (IOM & WFP, 2020, p.6). At a subnational level, there are [1.3 million in need of humanitarian assistance in Cox's Bazar](#), with over 855,000 Rohingya refugees.

CENTRAL AFRICA REGIONAL OFFICE (CARO)



Multiple countries within CARO are projected to have high levels of food insecurity (IPC 3+), given conflict and displacement in Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and Nigeria. DRC and Nigeria are the countries of greatest concern in CARO.

According to a [November 2020 WFP update](#), DRC has the highest number of food insecure people in the world. IPC Info projects [nearly a third of DRC will face acute food insecurity through June 2021](#), given conflict, flooding,

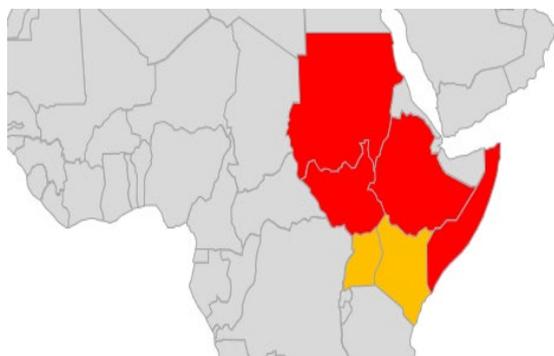
locusts, and COVID-19 restrictions and secondary impacts. Additionally, urban households within DRC have been hit the hardest by the secondary impacts of COVID-19. FEWS NET and IPC Info both project parts of eastern DRC (North and South Kivu, Ituri, and Tanganyika) to be in Crisis or higher (IPC 3+) levels of food insecurity through June 2021 because of conflict.

However, the projected levels of acute food insecurity within DRC between December 2020 and June 2021 differ by source. For example, IPC Info [projects parts of Kasai, Kasai Central, and Kasai Oriental](#) in southern DRC to have Emergency (IPC 4) levels of acute food insecurity through June 2021, whereas [FEWS NET projects Stressed \(IPC 2\) levels or below](#) in similar regions. Further, WFP notes in a [November 2020 update](#) that the Kinshasa region has been the most affected region for price inflation and job losses, but this is not reported in recent analyses by FEWS NET and IPC Info.

USAID approval to reassign funds from CRS Rwanda's Nutrition/WASH program allowed for the construction of permanent, hand-free handwashing stations in health facilities and public buildings in project areas and dissemination of hygiene, nutrition and COVID-19 prevention messages via voice recording messages to 20,000 households.

Nigeria's macroeconomic condition is considered fragile, with high food prices recorded because of flooding and conflict, particularly in northeastern Nigeria (Borno state). FEWS NET reports [Crisis or higher levels of food insecurity through June 2021](#) in northeastern, northern, and northwestern Nigeria. Borno state is predicted to have Crisis levels of food insecurity (IPC 3) with a risk of famine (IPC 4 and 5) given conflict, reduced income opportunities, and limited harvest. North/northwestern Nigeria is also projected to have Crisis levels of food insecurity (IPC 3) because of displacement, limited income, or no humanitarian assistance. Finally, Nigeria is on the brink of a second wave of COVID-19, with [discussions of renewed restrictions in certain states](#). Additional lockdowns could potentially exacerbate already high market prices and further reduce income opportunities.

EAST AFRICA REGIONAL OFFICE (EARO)



Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda are projected to have high levels of food insecurity in the context of COVID-19 (IPC 3+), as well as multiple compounding factors including locust infestations, conflict, displacement, and economic decline and inflation (FEWS NET, 2020). Within this region, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan are the countries of greatest concern.

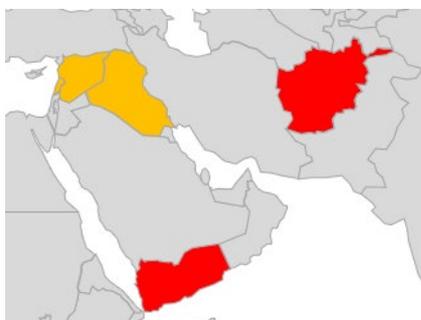
Ethiopia has suffered multiple crises in 2020, [including the conflict in Tigray, increased food prices, and decreased access to income opportunities](#). Crisis levels of acute food insecurity (IPC 3) or worse are projected throughout the country through June 2021 because of locusts, below average rainfall, conflict, limited agricultural inputs, etc. FEWS NET notes that the northern Tigray region is likely [currently facing Emergency levels of acute food insecurity \(IPC 4\)](#) because of ongoing conflict. According to Market and Supply Chain monitoring data collected by CRS in November 2020, 33 percent of surveyed households had lower income than usual, and 66 percent reported livelihood concerns, with the most cited reason being input price increases (34 percent) followed by no money for inputs (31 percent).

Within days of the announcement of the pandemic and enactment of restrictions by the Government of Ethiopia, USAID requested that implementing partners submit redirection plans to adapt programming. Feed the Future Ethiopia Livelihoods for Resilience – Oromia (LRO) anticipated that COVID-19 containment measures would negatively impact program participants' food security and livelihoods given the potential for limited access to markets, reduced labor opportunities, limited availability of loans, and higher food prices. In response, the LRO team provided multi-purpose cash grants to more than 8,800 households to be more resilient to COVID-19's secondary economic impact. The team was able to quickly pivot given the partner's previous experience with cash transfers, financial service provider relationships established by other CRS Ethiopia projects, alignment with Government of Ethiopia's safety net transfer amount, as well as the flexibility

Up to [2.1 million people](#) in **Somalia** are expected to face levels of high food insecurity (IPC 3+) through December 2020 because of flooding, locusts, secondary impacts of COVID-19, as well as the cumulative impacts of prior shocks. FEWS NET projects **South Sudan's** [lean season will begin early](#) because of lower crop production and the high cost of importing staple foods. Conflict, locusts, and COVID-19, along with the peak of the lean season, threaten to significantly deteriorate high levels of food insecurity (WFP, 2020, p.19). Emergency levels of acute food insecurity (IPC 4) is expected in many parts of the country and some households will likely be in Catastrophe (IPC 5) in Jonglei and Pibor through June 2021 according to [FEWS NET's December Food Assistance Outlook](#).

Multiple regions within **Sudan** are projected to be in [Crisis \(IPC 3\) levels of acute food insecurity](#) through May 2021 as the country's macroeconomic crises continue because of [currency depreciation, shortages of foreign currency, and high demand for food and non-food imports](#). At highest risk of food insecurity are IDPs, refugees, and urban poor households. Major drivers of increased food insecurity include [flooding, inflation, political instability, and tribal clashes](#). In November, there was also a large influx of refugees from Tigray region of Ethiopia (WFP, 2020, p.39). Finally, Sudan is experiencing a [second wave of COVID-19](#), which the Ministry of Health has warned may have a greater rate of death and infections.

EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST, & CENTRAL ASIA (EMECA)



Within EMECA, Afghanistan, Iraq, Lebanon, Syrian Arab Republic, and Yemen are projected to have high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC 3+) in the context of COVID-19.

In this region, **Afghanistan** and **Yemen** are countries of greatest concern. In Afghanistan, conflict, widespread unemployment, reduced income and remittances, and price increases drive acute food insecurity (WFP, 2020, p.2). Crisis (IPC 3) levels of food insecurity are possible during lean season and expected in the [absence of assistance in urban areas](#). Yemen is experiencing [conflict as well as political and macroeconomic instability](#). Crisis (IPC 3) levels of food insecurity are expected throughout much of the country through May 2021, with Emergency (IPC 4) levels possible in parts of northwestern Yemen during lean season.

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN REGIONAL OFFICE (LACRO)

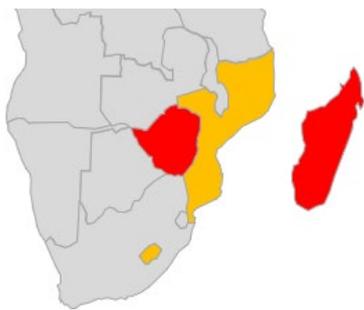


Regionally, hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean has quadrupled in WFP-operating countries and the region is experiencing its worst recession in 100 years (WFP, 2020, p.6). Many countries in LACRO are projected to have high levels of food insecurity (IPC 3+ in countries where FEWS NET operates), including Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Peru, and Venezuela.

Venezuela is the country of greatest concern. Because of the Venezuelan migrant crisis, 4.3 million people are displaced in the region, primarily in Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru (FSIN and Global Network Against Food Crises, 2020, p.36). In this region, it was reported that nearly [7 of 10 Venezuelan migrants lost income](#) because of COVID-19, with many having relied on informal sales or labor for income.

SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL OFFICE (SARO)

Within SARO, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe are projected to have high levels of food insecurity (IPC 3+). For Southern Africa, the recent projection of acute food insecurity levels has decreased from June 2020 projections (WFP, 2020, p.6).



Regionally, **Zimbabwe** and **Madagascar** are the countries of greatest concern. Consecutive droughts and the ongoing macroeconomic crisis are [driving Crisis levels of food insecurity \(IPC 3\)](#) in the west, south, and extreme north regions of Zimbabwe through March 2021. [Pest diseases, high food prices, and income loss](#) because of COVID-19 have also driven food insecurity. Given rising [COVID-19 infections, Zimbabwe has implemented a curfew, restrictions on gatherings, and mandated closures of non-essential businesses.](#)

FEWS NET predicts that most of southern [Madagascar will be in Crisis \(IPC 3\) levels of food insecurity](#) between February and May 2021. WFP reports an “atypically severe lean season is unfolding in Southern Madagascar” (2020, p.48). According to primary data collected by CRS through MIRA, as of December 2020, over 70 percent of sampled households in five communes of the Grand Sud had poor food consumption scores. CRS also found that since June 2020, the Household Hunger Scale, another measure of food insecurity, has been higher on average than the same period in 2018-2019, and an increasing number of households are resorting to more extreme coping strategies since early 2020.

WEST AFRICA REGIONAL OFFICE (WARO)



Multiple countries in WARO have conflict and displacement that are driving projections of high levels of food insecurity (IPC 3+), including Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger.

These three countries are all of greatest concern because they are expected to have [Crisis \(IPC 3\) levels of acute food insecurity through June 2021](#) and conflict is reducing [access to livelihoods and markets](#). According to the most recent [WFP Market Monitor](#), the impact of food staple prices have been severe for **Burkina Faso** and **Niger**, and between 25 to 40 percent or more of

respondents in these countries have been using crisis or emergency livelihoods coping strategies per WFP’s Hunger Snapshots. Given an uptick in COVID-19 cases, **Mali** is implementing [restrictive measures that could impact economic activities](#). According to Market and Supply Chain monitoring data collected by CRS, nearly 70 percent of households responded that they had not earned income.

NEXT STEPS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In this analysis, 31 countries have been detailed as having projections for high levels of acute food insecurity in the context of COVID-19 (IPC 3+). Fourteen of those countries may require more immediate assistance to meet food security and nutrition needs ([Table 1](#)).

TABLE 1. COUNTRIES OF HIGHEST CONCERN FOR FOOD INSECURITY

Regional Office	Country of Highest Concern	Estimated Secondary Impact of COVID-19 on Food Security & Livelihoods
CARO	DRC	Severe
	Nigeria	Severe
EARO	Ethiopia	Moderate
	Somalia	Severe
	South Sudan	Moderate
	Sudan	Moderate
EMECA	Afghanistan	Severe
	Yemen	Severe
LACRO	Venezuela	Severe
SARO	Madagascar	Severe
	Zimbabwe	Severe
WARO	Burkina Faso	Moderate
	Mali	Moderate
	Niger	Moderate

Sources note that the impact of COVID-19 on food security and livelihoods is highly contextual and the effects will vary by population (WFP & FAO, 2020, p.5). According to WFP and FAO, the following trends may be observed over the coming months:

- 
Expanding and intensifying conflict in parts of Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the CAR, DRC, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, and South Sudan
- 
Worsening macro-economic crises because of COVID-19 restrictions particularly in Venezuela and Venezuelan migrants, Haiti, Sudan, Lebanon, and Zimbabwe
- 
Combining effects of economic conditions & long-term conflict in Yemen and the Syrian Arab Republic
- 
Weather extremes globally because of La Niña, but especially in East African countries such as Somalia and Ethiopia

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTERS

All countries should be monitored on an ongoing basis for further exacerbation of food insecurity, particularly given that many countries are experiencing second waves of the virus and may quickly implement measures that have downstream impacts on food insecurity and livelihoods. CRS recommends that the implementers of food security, nutrition, and livelihoods programming:

- **Preserve and scale up humanitarian assistance for food, nutrition, and livelihoods** (e.g., remote, unconditional cash transfers/vouchers);
- **Adapt assistance activities to local operating context** (e.g., adapting programming to prevent COVID-19 transmission to participants or changing/adapting response modalities);
- **Minimize interruptions to food chains and ensure functioning and resilience of agri-food system** (e.g., support for food storage, processing, marketing, transport; supporting producers' groups; or advocating for open trade corridors);
- **Support country's government with scaling up social protection services and strengthening basic service delivery** (e.g., safeguarding critical nutrition and school-based programs);
- **Reach excluded groups** (e.g., mobile and displaced populations) and **consider impact of COVID-19 on women and girls** (e.g., gender-based violence, increase burden of care, reduced health services);
- **Promote innovative data collection, monitoring, and evaluation to inform programming;** and
- **Strengthen coordination and partnership with relevant stakeholders** (e.g., peer agencies, government officials, food security/nutrition clusters, etc.).

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POLICYMAKERS

U.S. government bodies, such as USAID, have encouraged redirection of funds to address the impacts of COVID-19 on project participants. This flexibility has allowed for adaptive programming, such as cash transfers and mobile health messaging. To further address the impacts of COVID-19, CRS recommends that the U.S. government and policymakers adopt the following recommendations:

1. **Scale up foreign assistance that is flexible and adaptive.** Congress should appropriate at least \$20 billion in emergency funding to respond to COVID-19 overseas. The administration should request flexible funding that supports both bilateral and multilateral response mechanisms so that decades of development gains are not lost, and ongoing humanitarian crises do not deteriorate further. Further, program interventions should utilize unconditional cash transfers or vouchers, and allow for programs to adapt to the local operating context, which is necessary given the rapidly changing nature of the pandemic. Responses should also address issues of inclusion to minimize social tension.
2. **Support locally led responses to COVID-19, including faith-based organizations (FBOs).** For an appropriate, effective and sustainable response to acute food insecurity crises, international actors – donors, multi-laterals, and INGOs – must support local leadership through quality partnerships, effective capacity strengthening, flexible and adaptive funding, fair multi-stakeholder risk sharing, and reasonable and realistic compliance requirements. This includes expanding funding opportunities to local organizations, including via avenues like the United Nations pooled funds or Start Network. FBOs, in particular, are essential to respond effectively in communities because they have broad community recognition and are trusted by people of all faiths. Supporting local leadership should also include supporting the country's government with service delivery or scaling up social protection services, such as school-based feeding programs.
3. **Prioritize nutrition, food security, and livelihoods as part of a holistic, multi-sectoral approach.** Addressing nutrition, food security, and livelihoods can have a multiplier effect across sectors. The United States should continue to strengthen data collection, monitoring, and evaluation to inform nutrition, food security, and livelihoods programming. Data should be shared with communities to make informed decisions in the future, to enhance their resilience, prepare for and cope with similar shocks and stresses. Food security, nutrition and livelihoods programming should prioritize displaced populations, women, youth, elderly, and

In order to address the impacts of COVID-19 on project participants, there is a need to scale up foreign assistance that is flexible and adaptive.

persons with disabilities, who have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. Support longer-term recovery programming.



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ANNEX I. SUPPORTING DATA FOR PRIORITY COUNTRIES

CRS Office	Country	Highest IPC (May 2021) ¹	GCSI ²	Impact of Staple Food Prices on Food Basket ³	COVID Stringency Index ⁴	Country Cargo Entry Status ⁵	Market Access Challenges (% of Resp.) ⁶	Negative Food Coping Strategies (% of Resp.) ⁷	Health Access Challenges (% of Resp.) ⁸	Emergency/Crisis Livelihood Coping (% of Resp.) ⁹	Estimated Impact of COVID-19 on Acute Food Insecurity
CARO	Cameroon	3 →	4 →	Severe ↑	20.4 ↓	Open →	39.2% ↓	—	56.0% ↑	37.9% ↓	Severe ↑
CARO	CAR	3 →	4 →	Low →	20.4 ↓	Open →	12.6% ↓	24.7% ↓	63.9% ↓	—	Severe →
CARO	Nigeria	4 →	4 →	Severe →	50.9 ↓	Open ↓	29.9% ↑	—	48.9% ↓	58.8% ↑	Severe →
CARO	Chad	3 →	5 ↑	Severe ↑	70.4 ↑	Limited →	14.2% ↑	—	85.0% ↑	57.0% ↑	Severe ↑
CARO	DRC	3 ↓	5 →	Moderate ↑	20.2 ↓	Limited →	51.1% ↓	—	79.6% ↑	71.6% ↓	Severe →
EARO	Sudan	3 →	5 →	Severe →	26.9 ↓	Limited →	—	—	—	—	Moderate ↓
EARO	Kenya	3 →	3 →	Low →	63.0 ↓	Limited →	—	—	—	—	Severe ↑
EARO	Ethiopia	3 →	5 ↑	Severe ↑	51.9 ↓	Limited →	—	—	—	—	Moderate ↓
EARO	Somalia	4 →	4 ↓	Moderate ↓	38.0 ↑	Limited →	39.9%	—	53.8%	75.3%	Severe →
EARO	South Sudan	4 →	5 →	Severe ↑	52.8 ↓	Limited →	—	—	—	—	Moderate ↓
EARO	Uganda	3 →	4 ↑	Low ↓	53.7 ↓	Limited →	—	—	—	—	Severe ↑
EMECA	Afghanistan	3 →	5 →	Low ↓	8.3 ↓	Open →	6.9% ↑	8.0% ↑	28.3% ↓	—	Severe →
EMECA	Lebanon	—	4 →	Severe →	87.0 ↑	Limited →	—	—	—	—	Severe →
EMECA	Iraq	—	4 →	Low ↓	48.2 ↓	Limited →	11.4% ↓	12.1% ↓	23.7% ↓	—	Severe ↑
EMECA	Syrian Arab Republic	—	5 →	Severe →	54.2 ↑	Limited →	21.9% ↓	47.6% ↑	31.3% ↓	—	Severe →
EMECA	Yemen	4 →	5 →	High →	16.7 ↓	Limited →	31.7% ↑	55.2% ↑	62.0% ↑	—	Severe →
LACRO	Colombia*	—	5 ↑	Severe ↑	60.2 ↓	Limited →	48.8% ↑	49.4% ↓	34.5% ↓	—	Severe →
LACRO	Ecuador*	—	3 →	Low ↓	52.8 ↑	Open →	—	—	—	—	Severe →
LACRO	El Salvador	3 →	3 →	Low ↓	47.2 ↓	Limited →	31.2% ↓	18.7% ↑	31.2% ↓	—	Severe →
LACRO	Guatemala	3 →	4 →	—	49.5 ↓	Limited →	53.7% ↓	27.1% ↓	54.8% ↓	—	Severe →
LACRO	Haiti	3 →	4 →	High ↓	41.7 ↑	Limited →	8.9% ↓	—	39.2% ↑	61.8% ↓	Severe →
LACRO	Honduras	3 →	4 →	Low ↓	87.0 ↑	Limited →	69.3% ↓	38.3% ↓	43.5% ↓	—	Severe →
LACRO	Peru	—	3 →	Moderate →	67.6 ↓	Limited →	—	—	—	—	Severe →
LACRO	Venezuela	—	5 ↑	—	88.0 ↑	Limited →	—	—	—	—	Severe →
SARO	Lesotho	2 ↓	3 ↓	High →	47.2 ↓	Limited →	—	—	—	—	Severe →
SARO	Madagascar	2 ↓	3 →	—	46.3 ↓	Limited →	28.3% ↓	—	47.2% ↓	47.6% ↑	Severe ↑

SARO	Mozambique	3→	4↑	High↓	56.5↓	Limited→	26.6%↓	—	28.8%↓	53.2%↑	Severe→
SARO	Zimbabwe	2↓	4→	—	69.4↓	Limited→	14.1%	—	44.7%	79.8%	Severe→
WARO	Mali	3↑	4→	Low↓	38.0↓	Open→	29.8%↓	—	61.4%↑	39.5%↓	Moderate
WARO	Niger	3→	4→	Severe↑	50.9↑	Open→	13.7%	—	68.8%	43.6%	Moderate
WARO	Burkina Faso	3→	4→	Severe↑	13.9↓	Open→	—	—	39.3%	25.3%	Moderate

*Venezuelan refugees

Note: →: An arrow to the right indicates no change (→), an arrow down indicates improvement (↓), whereas an arrow up indicates an increase or deterioration (↑)



DATA SOURCES AND RATIONALE FOR INCLUSION:

1. **Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) scores**: scores provide scale of magnitude and severe of acute food insecurity in the country; highest level IPC predicted through June 2021 included in this analysis. IPC scores are generally broken down to the subnational (e.g., country, province, department, etc.) level.
2. **GCSI scores**: aggregate score to measure the impact of a humanitarian crisis, a primary driver of food insecurity globally. November 2020 scores from ACAPS provided.
3. **Impact of Staple Food Prices on Food Basket**: this rating provided in WFP's quarterly October Market Monitor demonstrates the impact of staple food prices on the minimum food basket. Higher staple food prices could negatively impact a household's ability to meet their minimum food requirements.
4. **Oxford COVID Government Response Stringency Index**: a composite measure to help compare governments' responses during COVID-19. The measure is a simple additive score of nine indicators measured on an ordinal scale (e.g., school closures, workplace closures, and travel bans), rescaled to a value from 0 to 100 (100 = strictest). Early December 2020 indices are provided.
5. **Country Cargo Entry Status**: land, sea, and air cargo entry point updates (e.g., open, limited, or closed) from the Logistics Cluster, updated November 30, 2020. This helps demonstrate the movement of goods between countries, which may impact a country's food security status (e.g., limited access to imported staple foods could drive acute food insecurity in countries with limited agricultural production, such as Lebanon).
- 6-9. **Market Access, Food Coping Strategies, Healthcare Access, and Emergency Livelihoods Coping Strategies**: as reported in the latest WFP COVID-19 Hunger Snapshots; only select countries have reported data. Provides relevant food security updates related to market access, negative food coping strategies (e.g., eating less meals), and emergency or crisis livelihoods coping strategies (e.g., spending from savings or borrowing money).