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## رسالة مؤرخة ٢٨ آب/أغسطس ٢٠١٩ موجهة إلى رئيس مجلس الأمن من ممثل الجمهورية الدومينيكية لدى الأمم المتحدة

أتشرف بأن أحيل طيه العدد السادس من التقرير المحدث المعنون "رصد الأمن الغذائي في البلدان التي توجد بها حالات نزاع: تقرير محدث مشترك بين منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة وبرنامج الأغذية العالمي موجه لأعضاء مجلس الأمن التابع للأمم المتحدة"، المنشور في آب/أغسطس ٢٠١٩ (انظر المرفق)\*.

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مرفق الرسالة المؤرخة ٢٨ آب/أغسطس ٢٠١٩ الموجهة إلى رئيس مجلس  
الأمن من ممثل الجمهورية الدومينيكية لدى الأمم المتحدة



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Food  
Programme

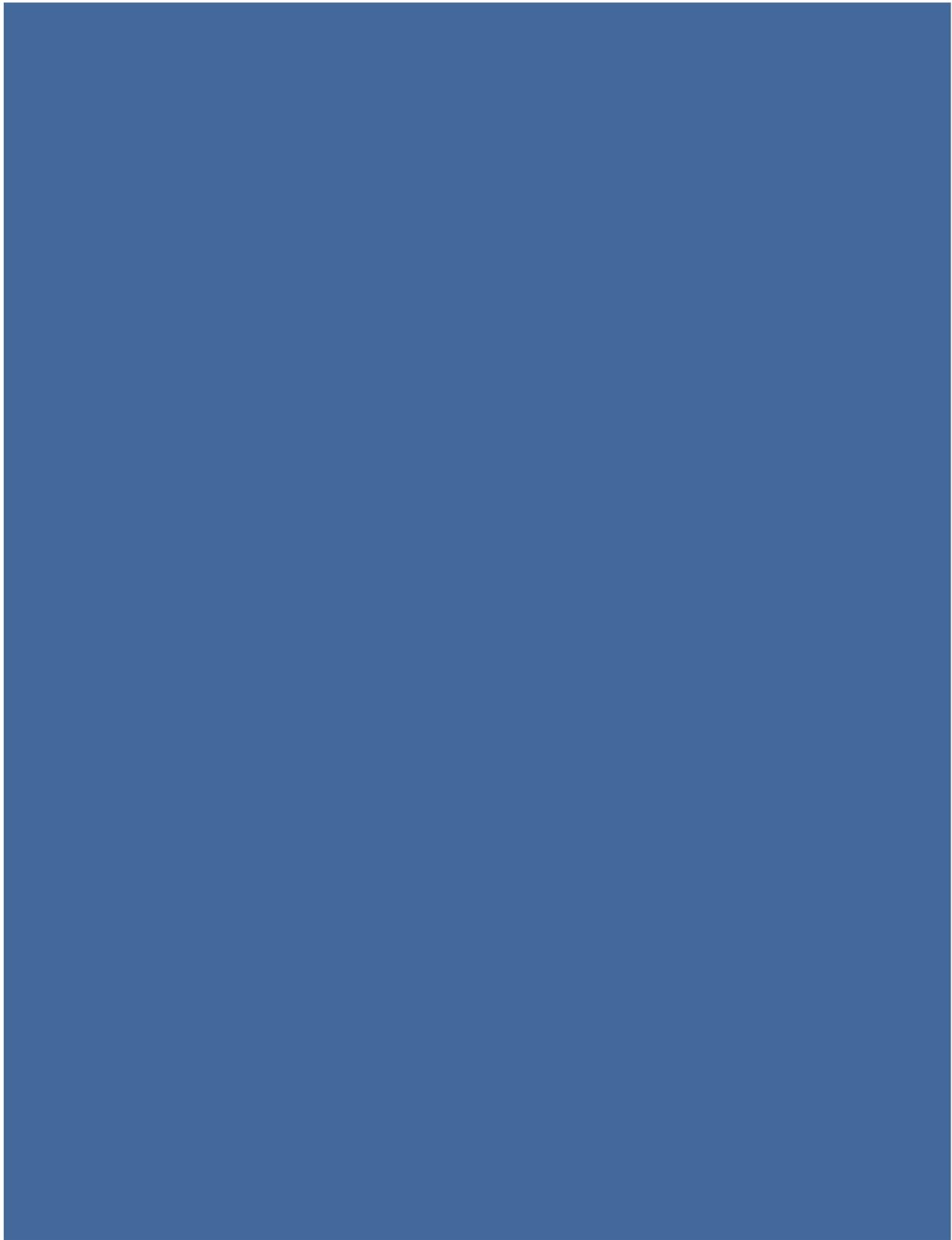
## Monitoring food security in countries with conflict situations

A joint FAO/WFP update for the members  
of the United Nations Security Council

August 2019

ISSUE N° 6

Spotlight on Afghanistan, the Central African Republic,  
the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Lake Chad Basin, Somalia,  
South Sudan, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen





“As this update shows, violence and conflict continue to trap millions of men, women and children in situations of extreme food insecurity. Efforts to resolve conflicts and to promote peace must include increased investments in resilience building to stop and reverse the trend and establish lasting and sustainable solutions to the scourge of hunger.”

Qu Dongyu  
FAO Director-General

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“This update shows the real cost of conflict: the suffering of millions of hungry, vulnerable people. The entire world is reminded that we will never be able to truly eliminate hunger unless we have peace. So we must do more to help create the conditions that can bring peace to areas where conflicts rage, with programmes that help make communities more prosperous and self-reliant.”

David Beasley  
WFP Executive Director

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## Executive summary

This update, facilitated by the Food Security Information Network and produced under the Global Network Against Food Crises<sup>1</sup>, provides the members of the United Nations Security Council with an overview of the magnitude, severity and drivers of acute food insecurity in nine countries and territories that have the world's highest burden of people in need of emergency food, nutrition and livelihood assistance as a result of protracted conflict combined with other factors. This issue focuses on the acute food insecurity situation in: Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Lake Chad Basin, Somalia, South Sudan, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen.

The latest evidence clearly shows a general deterioration in the food security situation in countries with conflict between January and August 2019.

In South Sudan, food security has continued to decline despite the peace process. Similarly, a worsening situation is observed in the Lake Chad Basin (particularly in Cameroon's Far North), the Sudan, Afghanistan and the Syrian Arab Republic. In the Central African Republic, armed conflict has persisted even after the signature of peace accords.

The provision of multi-sector humanitarian assistance has been vital in preventing catastrophic food crises in these countries from worsening. Yet, distribution of relief assistance, needs assessments and beneficiary monitoring are severely constrained by continued fighting and violence against humanitarian workers. High fuel prices, checkpoints, landmines and explosive remnants of war, damaged roads and difficult terrain further inhibit humanitarian response in all the countries/territories profiled.

### Summary of the situation in each country (in alphabetical order):

#### Afghanistan

The last Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) projection for November 2018–February 2019 indicated that 10.6 million people would require urgent action to save their lives and protect their livelihoods, making Afghanistan the world's third worst food crisis in 2018.

Gradual improvements in the food security situation were expected following the main harvest in mid-2019; however, many vulnerable groups continued to depend on humanitarian assistance, including over 3.5 million internally displaced people (IDPs) and 3.2 million returnees.

#### The Central African Republic

According to the latest IPC acute food insecurity analysis, 1.8 million people were in need of urgent food, nutrition and livelihood assistance. Food security particularly worsened in eastern and southeastern areas.

Despite the signing of the Khartoum peace agreement in February 2019, the security situation remained volatile. Insecurity and related displacement, increased staple food prices, loss of assets and livelihoods continued to be the main drivers of this food crisis. In areas where armed groups were still active, farmers contended with restricted access to land and lack of agricultural inputs, while herders lost animals to raids, theft and attacks.

#### The Democratic Republic of the Congo

Around 15.8 million people are in need of urgent assistance from July to December 2019. In the first half of 2019, armed conflict and insecurity intensified in North Kivu Province and northeastern Ituri Province, prompting further displacement and reliance on humanitarian assistance for survival. About 4.8 million people remained internally displaced in July 2019. Persistent insecurity and inter-ethnic clashes coupled with delayed rains, flooding and soil erosion in some areas have curtailed food production and limited food availability in markets. The number of cases of Ebola virus disease has increased dramatically since March 2019 as armed groups have hindered the response.

<sup>1</sup> The Global Network Against Food Crises is conceived as a consensus-building coordination and decision support platform to combat food crises from humanitarian/development/peace perspectives and tackle the root causes of these crises. The Global Network was launched by the European Commissioners for International Cooperation and Development and for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, the FAO Director-General and the WFP Executive Director at the World Humanitarian Summit in May 2016.

### Lake Chad Basin

As the Boko Haram insurgency in northeastern Nigeria stretched into its tenth year, during the 2019 lean season (June–August), around 3.6 million people were in need of urgent assistance in the four subnational areas of the Lake Chad Basin.

In northeastern Nigeria, 3 million people needed urgent support, with Borno and Yobe states seeing an increase in food insecurity since 2018, following an upsurge in armed attacks. Intercommunal conflicts between farmers and herders, limited access to farming and grazing land, strained communal resources owing to mass displacement, and high food prices drove this alarming situation.

Conflict and insecurity also intensified in Chad's Lac region and the Niger's Diffa region, causing new population displacements, loss of livelihoods and disrupted trade/markets.

Consequentially, around 145 000 people needed urgent assistance in the Lac region of Chad and around 121 000 people needed urgent assistance in the Niger's Diffa region.

In Cameroon's Far North, 316 000 people were food insecure, representing an 80 percent increase between 2018 and 2019. A 45 percent increase in incursions from January to June 2019 compared with the same six months in 2018 triggered new population displacements, limited crop production and food availability in certain areas and reduced cross-border trade, lowering purchasing power.

### Somalia

Some 1.6 million people were in need of urgent food, nutrition and livelihood assistance between February and June 2019, up from 1.1 million in January 2019 and marking an increase of around 37 percent.

While insecurity and armed confrontation intensified in southern Somalia and other areas affected by renewed clan-based conflicts, three consecutive poor rainy seasons resulted in widespread crop failures and a sharp decline in livestock productivity. While insecurity disrupted trade flows, employment opportunities declined and low wage rates in crop-producing areas further weakened poor households' purchasing power. Around 2.6 million people were displaced – 80 percent of them in urban areas – increasing competition for limited labour opportunities and access to social support and services.

### South Sudan

Despite improvements in security, the food insecurity situation in South Sudan continued its downward spiral with almost 7 million people in need of urgent food, nutrition and livelihood assistance in May to July 2019, representing 61 percent of the total population. Of greatest concern were around 21 000 people facing catastrophic conditions of acute food insecurity. A prolonged 2019 lean season following the low 2018 harvest, persistent economic instability, and conflict-related destruction of livelihoods and disruption of agriculture, markets and trade flows drove this deterioration.

Despite the implementation of the September 2018 peace accord and a significant decrease in security incidents between January and May 2019 (30 percent less than in 2018), armed and intercommunal conflict continued. Five consecutive years of active conflict have severely eroded household resilience.

### The Sudan

The Sudan's deepening economic crisis in the first half of 2019 pushed increasingly large segments of the population into food insecurity. About 5.8 million people were estimated to be in need of urgent assistance from January to March 2019, not taking into account the impact of the political instability that started in April and seriously hampered the ability of Government institutions, humanitarian organizations and development agencies to operate.

Market availability was low, and cereal prices increased up to 80 percent in May compared with the already high levels of one year earlier and are expected to further rise until the harvest in late 2019.

### The Syrian Arab Republic

The Syrian Arab Republic is now in its ninth year of conflict. While the fighting has subsided across much of the country, it has intensified in some areas. In the first half of 2019, heavy fighting in areas of southern Idlib, western Aleppo and northern Hama governorates made it unsafe for civilians to travel to markets and hospitals, or seek other services, compounding an already dire humanitarian situation. As of May 2019, over 1.6 million people were estimated to be in need of assistance in Al Hasakeh and Deir ez-Zor governorates in northeastern Syria.

The 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) for the country estimated that in 2018, 6.5 million people – one in three Syrians – were in need of food assistance and another 2.5 million were at risk of needing food assistance if they did not receive livelihood support.

**Yemen**

The last country-wide IPC analysis in December 2018 indicated that despite food assistance, 15.9 million people – more than half of the population – was in urgent need of food, nutrition and livelihood assistance. About 64 000 people in 45 districts faced catastrophic food insecurity conditions.

The latest IPC analysis conducted (July–September 2019) covers 29 of the 45 most affected districts, where an improvement has been reported since December 2018, with the number of people requiring urgent assistance decreasing from over 1.5 million to 1.2 million, or half of

the population analysed. This was largely attributable to the scale-up of multi-sector assistance in the worst-affected districts and improved food availability from seasonal production. Access constraints made collecting food security data impossible in 16 of the 45 most affected districts.

The food insecurity situation was most alarming in areas with active fighting, where IDPs and host communities faced limited access to essential services and livelihood activities, and for the 6.5 million people living in hard-to-reach areas.

## Acronyms

<b>ACLED</b>	Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project
<b>CH</b>	<i>Cadre Harmonisé</i>
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
<b>FEWS NET</b>	Famine Early Warning Systems Network
<b>FSIN</b>	Food Security Information Network
<b>FSNAU</b>	Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit
<b>GIEWS</b>	Global Information and Early Warning System
<b>HNO</b>	Humanitarian Needs Overview
<b>IDP</b>	Internally displaced person
<b>IMF</b>	International Monetary Fund
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration
<b>IPC</b>	Integrated Phase Food Security Classification
<b>OCHA</b>	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>UNSC</b>	United Nations Security Council
<b>USD</b>	United States Dollar
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme

## Rationale

This is the sixth update on acute food insecurity in countries affected by conflict that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) have jointly produced for the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) members since June 2016. It analyses eight countries and one region that are experiencing protracted conflict and extremely grave levels of conflict-related hunger. The eight countries are: Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia, South Sudan, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen. The analysis of the Lake Chad Basin region includes the parts of the four countries affected by that conflict: northeastern Nigeria, the Diffa region of the Niger, Far North Cameroon and the Lac region of Chad.

For each of these countries this analysis provides updated figures on the numbers of acutely food-insecure people since the last update for the UNSC members in January 2019. It highlights the worst-affected areas within these countries, how the situation has changed since the last comparable period and, where possible, identifies the most vulnerable population groups. It provides an update on developments in these conflicts and examines ongoing hunger-conflict dynamics including inter-related drivers of acute food insecurity, such as economic destabilization, population displacement and climate shocks.

The analysis comes 16 months after the UNSC passed Resolution 2417 (May 2018), which condemned the starvation of civilians as a method of warfare, the unlawful denial of humanitarian access to civilian populations and the deprivation of their means of producing food.

The overall aim of this update is to provide UNSC members with the most recent estimates of the severity, magnitude and drivers of acute food insecurity in this group of key conflict-affected countries and to reinforce the urgent need for all parties, including governments and humanitarian and development agencies, to target efforts towards resolving conflict in order to end the current trend in rising numbers of acutely hungry people reliant on urgent humanitarian assistance.

This update is part of a series of analytical products facilitated by the Food Security Information Network (FSIN) which also include the publication of the annual Global Report on Food Crises and inform the Global Network Against Food Crises.

## Methods

### Selection of countries

This issue of the UNSC update continues monitoring the nine countries or regions affected by protracted conflicts that were selected for the previous issue n°5 published in January 2019.

Additionally, this issue includes the Sudan that the *Global Report on Food Crises 2019* had identified as being the sixth worst global food crisis in 2018 in terms of numbers of acutely food-insecure people.

According to the *Global Report on Food Crises 2019*, across these eight countries and the Lake Chad Basin region the total peak number of acutely food-insecure people in 2018 was 66 million, representing 59 percent of the total number in need of urgent food, nutrition and livelihood assistance.

The eight countries have a UN peacekeeping mission and/or political mission to reduce conflict and the impact of it: Afghanistan and Somalia host United Nations Assistance Missions (UNAMA and UNSOM respectively), while the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan and the Sudan have peacekeeping missions (MINUSCA, MONUSCO, UNMISS and UNAMID respectively). There are UN Special Envoys for the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen. The Lake Chad Basin region is covered by the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) which also covers other countries in West Africa and the Sahel.

### Data sources

The data for six out of the nine countries/regions comes from the latest IPC analyses, which provide a 'common currency' for classifying food insecurity into different phases of severity. IPC analyses use international standards that allow for comparisons of situations across countries and over time. This analysis includes the numbers of people in the three most severe phases

considered Crisis (Phase 3), Emergency (Phase 4) and Catastrophe (Phase 5) (see Annex 1), and who are in need of urgent food, nutrition and livelihood assistance. Populations in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) are also indicated where relevant, although they require a different set of actions – ideally more long-term resilience-building interventions.

For countries in the Sahel and West Africa, the data comes from the latest *Cadre Harmonisé* (CH) analysis, which uses similar standards to IPC to classify acute food insecurity. IPC and CH share the same phase scales and descriptions.

In this issue, the acute food insecurity situation is determined according to the latest IPC and CH analyses available for four countries (the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia and South Sudan), four regions in Nigeria, the Niger, Chad and Cameroon that are affected by the Lake Chad Basin crisis, and for selected districts in Yemen.

Since there are no recent IPC analysis available for Afghanistan, the Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic, a broad range of sources were used to provide an indication of the food security situation in these countries as of mid-2019.

For the analysis of drivers of food insecurity in each of these countries, the authors have employed a wide range of secondary data sources to support the information provided in the IPC/CH analyses themselves. These include situation reports from agencies such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), country briefs from FAO, Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS), Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU); food security and crop prospect outlooks from the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET); various WFP bulletins, situation updates and surveys.

## Humanitarian access constraints

A recurring theme in the analysis of each of the countries profiled in this update is that of restricted humanitarian access to reach those in need or assess their needs.

In Yemen, insecurity, administrative constraints, entry restrictions, fighting and violence against humanitarian workers continue to hamper humanitarian access, especially in populated western coastal areas. High fuel prices, checkpoints, landmines and explosive remnants of war, damaged roads and difficult terrain limit transportation of aid and prevent freedom of movement.

Across the Lake Chad Basin regional conflict area humanitarian assistance has been limited in recent years and persistent insecurity undermines the provision of aid as humanitarian actors have come under attack.

In the Syrian Arab Republic many humanitarian actors have had to suspend services in areas directly affected by the conflict. Humanitarian access to distribute relief assistance, assess needs and monitor nearly 1.2 million people in hard-to-reach areas is particularly challenging.

In South Sudan an improvement in the security situation in several areas somewhat facilitated humanitarian access in 2019, averting more extreme food insecurity outcomes. However, between April and May, 40–45 percent of reported security incidents still involved violence against humanitarian personnel, including detention, relocation and killings of humanitarian workers.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo besides armed conflict and insecurity, remoteness and poor infrastructure are major obstacles for humanitarians. Attacks on humanitarian staff and facilities, including kidnapping and looting, forced humanitarian actors to suspend activities in some areas.

In the Central African Republic some 70 security incidents involving humanitarian actors were reported during the first trimester of 2019 – including two deaths and ten injuries – and continued hindering interventions and provision of assistance.

The ACAPS Humanitarian Access Overview rates Afghanistan as ‘nearly inaccessible’ because of widespread insecurity, mine contamination, poor road conditions, remoteness, and mountainous terrain. It is particularly challenging for humanitarian actors to access the increasing number of areas controlled or contested by non-state armed groups.

In Somalia increased conflict, insecurity, seizure of goods, attacks against aid workers, restrictions imposed by armed groups, demands for arbitrary taxation, and interference in supply and procurement all make it extremely challenging for humanitarians to carry out their work. Some areas controlled by Al Shabaab are inaccessible for humanitarian actors. In southern and central Somalia, unauthorized roadblocks, checkpoints and extortion restrict the delivery of assistance and nearly 2 million people are living in hard-to-reach, conflict-affected areas.

## Afghanistan

In terms of numbers of acutely food-insecure people, Afghanistan constituted the world's third worst food crisis in 2018. A combination of widespread drought severely affecting wheat production and pastureland with increased violence drove mass displacement.

Many farmers and livestock keepers – whose capacities to cope have been diminished by four decades of conflict – lost additional assets and livelihoods, further decimating their capacity to withstand shocks. Secure work opportunities were extremely scarce.

The latest IPC projection covering November 2018–February 2019 estimated the number of rural Afghans facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) at 10.6 million. However, favorable rainfall for crop development drive positive expectations for the main harvest (late May/early June to September) which would gradually improve food security. Drought-damaged pasture and livestock body conditions were also expected to improve.

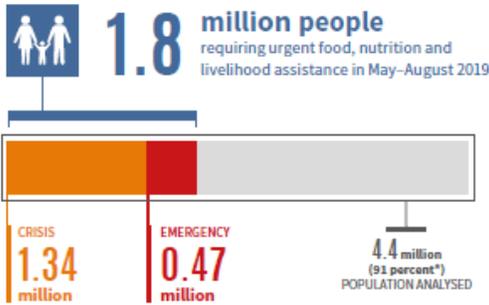
Many vulnerable groups continue to need urgent assistance to protect livelihoods and mitigate food consumption gaps. These include more than 132 000 households newly displaced by conflict in the first five months of 2019, and mainly hosted in the provinces of Kabul, Kunduz, Takhar, Faryab, Farah, Badghis and Herat. Between 2012 and 2018, over 3.5 million people have been internally displaced among host communities and 3.2 million had returned from abroad.

In addition, the continued weak casual labour market and lower than average remittances from Iran, were expected to decrease incomes to below-average levels, ensuring households in areas of Badghis and Badakhshan and poor households still recovering from the 2018 drought would remain in need of urgent livelihood and food assistance. Low-income households are increasing their reliance on credit to buy food and/or agricultural inputs, such as seeds.

In April 2019, retail wheat flour prices were on average 12 percent higher across monitored markets than the same time last year, straining the resources and food security status of poor households highly dependent on market purchases during the pre-harvest period. This is the result of the continued depreciation of the Afghani currency compared to the US Dollar (USD) as wheat flour is imported from Kazakhstan based on the USD.

Humanitarian access is a persistent challenge in Afghanistan. The ACAPS Humanitarian Access Overview rates Afghanistan as 'nearly inaccessible' because of widespread insecurity, mine contamination, poor road conditions, remoteness, and mountainous terrain. It is particularly challenging for humanitarian actors to access the increasing number of areas controlled or contested by non-state armed groups.

# The Central African Republic



- ▶ Food security slightly improved between August 2018 and May–August 2019. However, the situation worsened in eastern and southeastern areas, such as the prefecture of Mbomou where it deteriorated from Crisis (IPC Phase 3) in 2018 to Emergency (IPC Phase 4) in 2019.
- ▶ As of May–August 2019, the most food-insecure areas were Mbomou, Haute Kotto and Haut Mbomou prefectures and areas with a high concentration of IDPs in Bria, Kaga-Bandoro, Obo, Rafai and Zémio, which all faced Emergency (IPC Phase 4) conditions. In addition, 13 other prefectures and three areas with a high concentration of IDPs were classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3).

In the first half of 2019, insecurity and related displacement, increased staple food prices, and loss of assets and livelihoods remained the main drivers of this food crisis. Delayed rainfall in some areas pushed production levels below pre-crisis levels.

- The food security situation is expected to improve by September–October 2019, with the number of people in need of urgent assistance projected to decrease by 25 percent to 1.3 million. This improvement mainly rests on the implementation of the peace agreement signed in February in Khartoum, except in eastern and southeastern areas, such as Haut-Mbomou, Mbomou and Haute Kotto where armed groups are

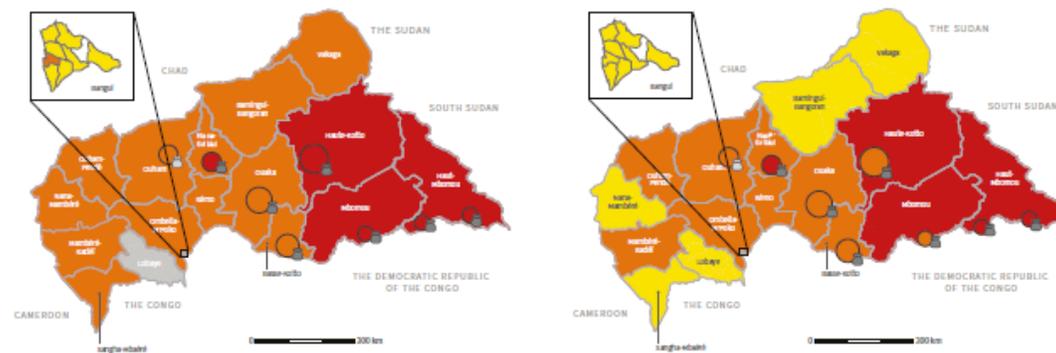
still active, and food insecurity will likely remain at Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels.

- In areas where armed groups are still active, farmers contend with restricted access to land as well as lack of agricultural inputs and herders face intercommunal conflicts. This considerably limits food availability and access.
- Given that around half the population depends on subsistence agriculture, food insecurity is likely to persist in the second semester of 2019 because of the difficulty in accessing agricultural inputs and seeds, and veterinary products to help repopulate the livestock sector.

## The Central African Republic, IPC acute food insecurity situation

May–August 2019

September–October 2019



### IPC acute food insecurity phase classification

- |          |           |                                |   |   |
|----------|-----------|--------------------------------|---|---|
| Minimal  | Crisis    | Famine                         | Areas not included in the analysis                                  | At least 25 percent of households meet 25–50 percent of caloric needs from humanitarian food assistance   |
| Stressed | Emergency | Areas with inadequate evidence | Displaced population in camps (colour depicts phase classification) | At least 25 percent of households meet over 50 percent of caloric needs from humanitarian food assistance |

Source: IPC Central African Republic Technical Working Group, June 2019

## Factors driving food insecurity

### Persistent insecurity erodes livelihoods and affects agricultural production

Despite the signing of the Khartoum peace agreement in February 2019, the security situation remained volatile constituting the main driver of food insecurity, with the sous-prefectures of Bambari, Batangafo, Bria and Kaga-Bandoro being the worst-affected between March and April. In these areas, armed group activities prevented farmers from accessing their fields. While the number of violent incidents against civilians decreased in the first six months of 2019, the number of civilian casualties remained significant.

Insecurity disrupted trade between areas with a high concentration of IDPs and the rest of the country, which further limited the distribution of inputs for agricultural and livestock production. Production remained below their pre-crisis levels, which severely limited food availability in the first semester of 2019.

### Conflict has devastated the livestock sector

Similarly, the livestock sector has been devastated by six years of conflict, as herders lose animals to raids, theft and attacks by armed groups and have faced multiple disease outbreaks, such as the contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, the Newcastle disease and the *peste des petits ruminants*. Localized conflicts between herders and farmers continued to affect transhumance.

### Increasing food prices

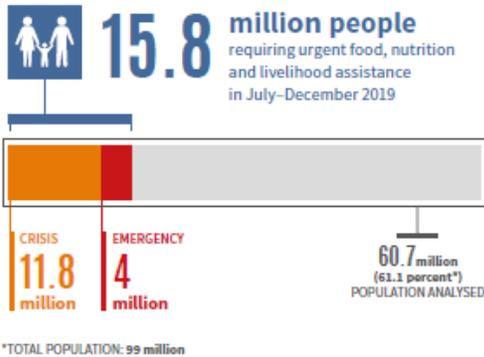
While the majority of households are reliant on markets for their food, security-related trade disruption, road degradation and depletion of stocks in supply areas further pushed up food prices, with maize increasing both in the first quarter of 2019 and compared to last year same period. Price increases were particularly worrying in Zémio and Obo, where shortages of staples such as maize, beans and rice were reported as well as significant increases in cassava prices (25 percent in the first trimester). Trade was severely disrupted by blockages in parts of the Douala-Bangui axis, which represents 80 percent of import flows. However, prices are likely to decrease with the harvest of the 2019 crops in the second half of the year.

### Renewed incidents and population displacements

Despite the peace agreement in July 2019, IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix identified over 1 million displaced individuals in the Central African Republic, consisting of around 464 000 IDPs, 454 000 returnees (former IDPs) and over 130 000 returnees from abroad. Most IDPs live among host communities, putting additional strain on the already exhausted livelihoods of local populations. Some 75 percent of internal displacements are caused by armed conflict and 17 percent by intercommunal tensions (IOM, 2019).

Some 70 security incidents involving humanitarian actors were reported during the first trimester of 2019 – including two deaths and ten injuries – and continued hindering interventions and provision of assistance (OCHA, 2019).

# The Democratic Republic of the Congo



- ▶ The food insecurity crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo continues its downward spiral with 26 percent of the population analysed in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) in the latter half of 2019 compared with 23 percent for the same period the previous year. Around 15.8 million people are in need of urgent assistance from July to December 2019.
- ▶ Inter-ethnic violence and armed conflicts that destroy livelihoods, particularly in the eastern and central parts of the country, are creating this worsening humanitarian crisis.

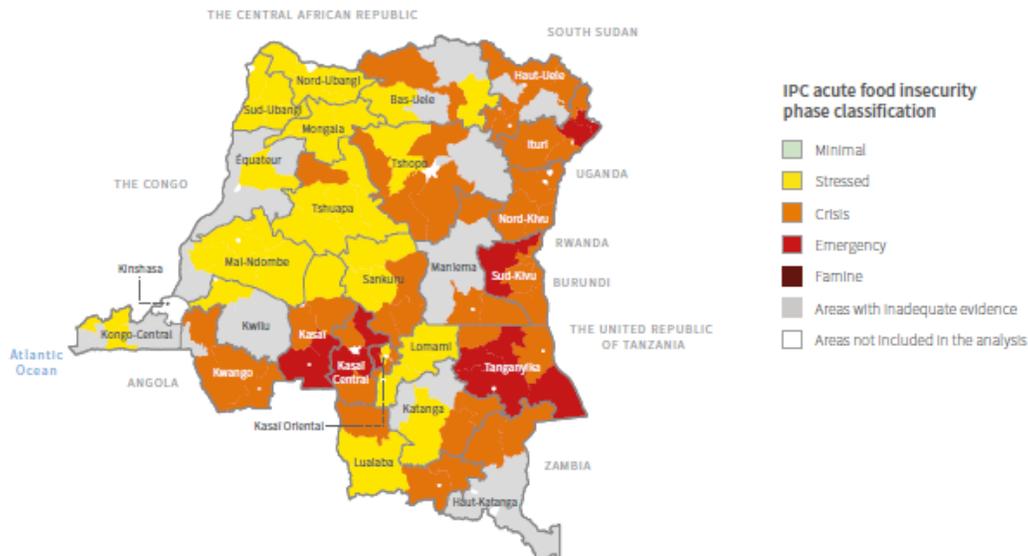
Despite the relatively calm post-election period, conflict, violence and associated large-scale displacement continue to damage agricultural activities and trade, hinder people's access to food and destroy basic social services. Rising prices of staple foods, the delay and deficit of rains in some areas, disease (particularly the Ebola virus disease outbreak), and precarious road infrastructure also weaken food availability and access.

- Of the 4 million people estimated to be facing Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels of food insecurity in July–December 2019, the majority are in Ituri, Kasai, Kasai-Central, Kasai-Oriental, Nord-Kivu, Sud-Kivu, and Tanganyika provinces.

- Out of 109 territories analysed under IPC protocols in 2019, 52 were classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and 15 in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). None were classified in Minimal (IPC Phase 1).
- It is projected that 28 percent of the population will require urgent assistance between January and May 2020.
- As of July, about 4.8 million people were reportedly internally displaced across the country in addition to about 548 000 refugees and asylum seekers from neighbouring countries (mostly Rwanda, the Central African Republic, South Sudan and Burundi).

## The Democratic Republic of the Congo, IPC acute food insecurity situation\*

July–December 2019



Source: IPC Democratic Republic of the Congo Technical Working Group, July 2019  
\*pending official release

## Factors driving food insecurity

### Persistent insecurity erodes livelihoods and affects agricultural production

In Nord-Kivu province attacks against civilians and military outposts intensified throughout 2019. After an upsurge of inter-communal violence in northeastern Ituri province in mid-2019 UNHCR reported a decrease in armed violence in July, but unidentified armed assailants continued to pose a serious security threat to civilians and to restrict their access to food and livelihoods.

Conflicts continued disrupting farming activities and coupled with fall armyworm infested crops, resulted in below-average maize production from the main harvest. In Nord-Kivu, persistent insecurity still hindered agricultural production and livelihoods. In the southern provinces, inter-ethnic clashes led to crop destruction and livestock slaughter in Uvira (Sud-Kivu) in February, and triggered displacement between March and May – a critical period for transhumance and crop preparation.

### Increasing food prices

Food availability in markets was therefore limited by the below-average output while poor roads and market integration across the country triggered high food prices. As of April 2019, two markets – Goma in Nord-Kivu and Kananga in Kasai Occidentale – were in Alert according to the WFP Alert for Price Spikes and one – Zongo (Orientale) – was in Stress (IPC Phase 2).

In the southeast, the interdiction to import maize from Zambia and the United Republic of Tanzania limited its availability on local markets and put upward pressure on prices.

### Population displacement

The violence in Ituri province led to massive new displacements – an estimated 360 000 according to OCHA with 145 000 of them towards IDP sites and the rest (215 000) in host communities. Additional refugees arrived in Ituri because of an upsurge in clashes in South Sudan. As of 31 May, the country hosted around 548 000 refugees and asylum-seekers.

The majority of displaced households depend on food assistance to meet their consumption needs, while peaceful coexistence is a challenge, as communities in displacement-affected areas continue to accuse each other of exactions. Moreover, at the end of 2018, IOM had reported 4.5 million returnees.

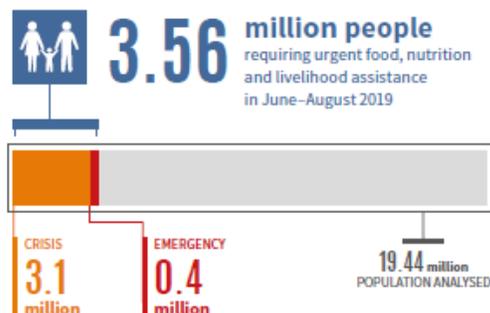
### Ebola outbreak

The number of cases of Ebola virus disease, which broke out in Nord-Kivu and Ituri in August 2018, increased dramatically from March 2019 as the response was severely hindered by armed groups. As of 4 August 2019, 2 763 cases and 1 849 related deaths were reported by WHO. The persistence of the Ebola virus disease outbreak in affected areas (Beni and Lubero) continued to disrupt agricultural activities and limit people's access to their livelihoods.

Besides armed conflict and insecurity, particularly in Nord- and Sud-Kivu, Ituri, Tanganyika and Haut-Uele provinces, remoteness and poor infrastructure are major obstacles for humanitarians. Attacks on humanitarian staff and facilities, including kidnapping and looting, forced humanitarian actors to suspend activities in some areas. Attacks against Ebola treatment centres increased since December as community mistrust against aid workers persisted.

## Lake Chad Basin

Cameroon (Far North), Chad (Lac), the Niger (Diffa) and northeastern Nigeria (Adamawa, Borno, Yobe)



- ▶ The number of people in need of urgent assistance remained stable in the Lake Chad Basin between June–August 2018 and 2019, according to the *Cadre Harmonisé* analysis from March 2019. However, significant increases occurred at the local level, such as in Cameroon’s Far North region (80 percent), as well as in Nigeria’s Borno (9 percent) and Yobe (9 percent) due to heightening of the insurgency and restricted livelihood activities.
- ▶ In June–August 2019, urgent assistance was needed for:
  - 3 million people in northeastern Nigeria (Borno, Adamawa, Yobe), including around 412 000 in Emergency (CH Phase 4)
  - 145 000 people in the Lac region of Chad, including 14 000 in Emergency (CH Phase 4)
  - 121 000 people in the region of Diffa in the Niger, including 5 000 in Emergency (CH Phase 4)
  - Over 316 000 people in Crisis (CH Phase 3) in Cameroon’s Far North

Millions of people are still dependent on assistance, as the conflict in the Lake Chad Basin stretches to its tenth year. Humanitarian assistance has been limited in recent years and persistent insecurity undermines the provision of aid as humanitarian actors have come under attack. Population displacement remains significant, with returns constrained by recurrent armed attacks.

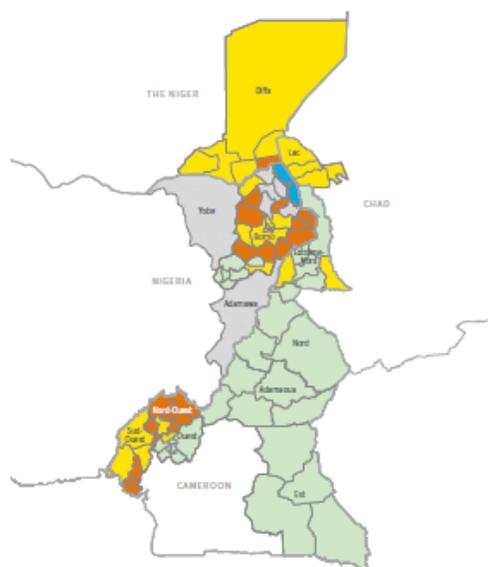
- Approximately 1.3 million people were in need of urgent assistance between March and May 2019 in Nigeria’s Borno state, Chad’s Lac region, the Diffa region of the Niger and Far North region of Cameroon, though no analyses were carried out in Nigeria’s Adamawa and Yobe states for this period. During the lean season (June–August 2019), around 3.6 million people were projected to be in Crisis (CH Phase 3) and Emergency (CH Phase 4) in Nigeria’s three northeastern states, and in the affected areas of Chad, the Niger and Cameroon.
- In March–May 2019, nine areas were classified in Crisis (CH Phase 3) in Borno state (Nigeria) and one in

Diffa (the Niger). By June–August 2019 almost one in two areas in the Lake Chad Basin region was projected in Crisis (CH Phase 3) and one area projected in Emergency (CH Phase 4) in Borno.

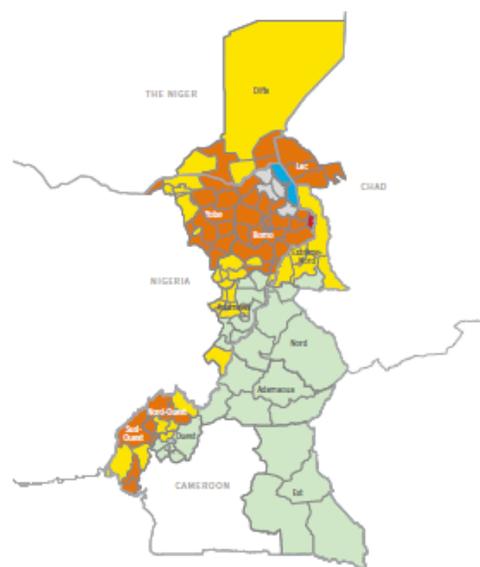
- In northeastern Nigeria, an upsurge in armed attacks, intercommunal conflicts between farmers and herders, limited access to farming and grazing land, stressed communal resources because of population displacement, and high food prices continued to drive high levels of food insecurity.
- As of May 2019, Nigeria has hosted almost 2 million IDPs, approximately 1.8 million of them displaced in the northeastern states. In addition, there were approximately 1.6 million returnees in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe. In April/May over 451 000 people were internally displaced in regions of Diffa (the Niger), Lac (Chad) and Far North region of Cameroon. These affected areas also hosted around 240 000 Nigerian refugees, as of 31 May.

## Lake Chad Basin, CH acute food insecurity situation

March–May 2019



June–August 2019



### CH acute food insecurity phase classification

■ Minimal   
 ■ Stressed   
 ■ Crisis   
 ■ Emergency   
 ■ Famine   
 ■ Areas with inadequate evidence   
  Areas not included in the analysis

Source: Cadre Harmonisé, March 2019

## Factors driving food insecurity

### Northeastern Nigeria: Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states

The Boko Haram insurgency in northeastern Nigeria continued to constrain local populations' access to food, with 3 million people still in urgent need of assistance between June and August 2019. While security and land access improved in localized areas, the threat of attacks remained significant and continued to disrupt livelihoods, such as pastoralists' access to grazing lands. Food prices increased in the first semester and were relatively higher than at the national level because of the armed conflict and market and livelihood constraints. For instance, as of April prices of imported rice, groundnuts and maize flour increased by up to 47 percent since the same period last year in Borno and Yobe. Displacement continued to increase because of attacks, such as in Bama, Konduga and Monguno. As of 29 May 2019, IOM had identified nearly 1.8 million IDPs across Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states and 1.6 million returnees.

### Chad: Lac region

Between June and August 2019, around 145 000 people were in need of urgent assistance in the Lac region of Chad – a nine percent decrease compared to the corresponding 2018 lean season. During the first half of 2019, the upsurge in armed conflicts perpetuated food insecurity, in particular through new population displacements, loss of livelihoods and disrupted markets – stemming from the closure of the Nigerian border, for instance. Although the 2018 cereal production generally improved security, displaced households had almost no food stocks and faced particularly limited livelihood opportunities. As of May, there were around 133 000 IDPs and 43 000 returnees in the region, in addition to around 16 000 Nigerian refugees.

**The Niger: Diffa region**

The number of people in urgent need of assistance in Diffa was around 121 000 between June and August 2019, a two percent increase compared to the same period the previous year. During the first half of 2019, the civil conflict and related security restrictions combined with the impact of dry spells and pest attacks limited agricultural production and households' food stocks. Pastoralist households also faced scarcity of pasture, drying up of water points, emergence of epizootic diseases and degradation of animal body conditions, which contributed to detrimental terms-of-trade and decreased purchasing power. In early 2019, the rapid deterioration in the security situation triggered further displacement. As of late May 2019, 249 000 displaced people were registered by UNHCR in Diffa, including 119 000 refugees, 104 000 IDPs and 26 000 returned Niger nationals from Nigeria.

**Cameroon: Far North region**

The number of people in Crisis (CH Phase 3) almost doubled between June–August 2018 and 2019 – from 176 000 to 316 000. While security in the Far North region improved in 2018, the number of Boko Haram-related incursions increased again between January and June 2019 triggering new population displacements. At the end of March, around 263 000 individuals were internally displaced in the Far North, and the region had 110 000 returnees and 51 000 out-of-camp refugees.

Incursions, together with damages to crops caused by wild animals, limited crop production and food availability in certain areas. Insecurity and strict border controls also slowed trade with Chad and Nigeria to the detriment of Cameroonian cash crops and livestock producers, in particular, who already faced low prices and reduced purchasing power. Income sources and livelihood opportunities were also particularly limited for poor households and IDPs.

# Somalia



\*TOTAL POPULATION: 12.3 million

- ▶ The number of people projected to be in need of urgent food, nutrition and livelihood assistance increased by around 37 percent from 1.1 million in January 2019 – but the number was significantly lower than that of February–May 2018 (2.7 million).
- ▶ Northern parts of Awdal and Woqooyi Galbeed were projected to deteriorate to Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels of acute food insecurity; in addition, populations in Awdal, Bay, Sanaag, Sool, parts of Galgaduud, Mudug and Togdheer were projected to deteriorate from Stressed (IPC Phase 2) to Crisis (IPC Phase 3) levels.

Heightened violence and the cumulative impact of two consecutive poor rainy seasons and severely affected food availability and access, led to a sharp deterioration in the food security situation in 2019.

- Exceptionally dry conditions during most of the 2019 April–June *Gu* rainy season resulted in widespread crop failures and in a sharp decline in livestock productivity, with a serious negative impact on the food security situation.
- Between January and March 2019, insecurity and armed confrontation escalated in southern Somalia, especially in Mogadishu (Banadir region) and

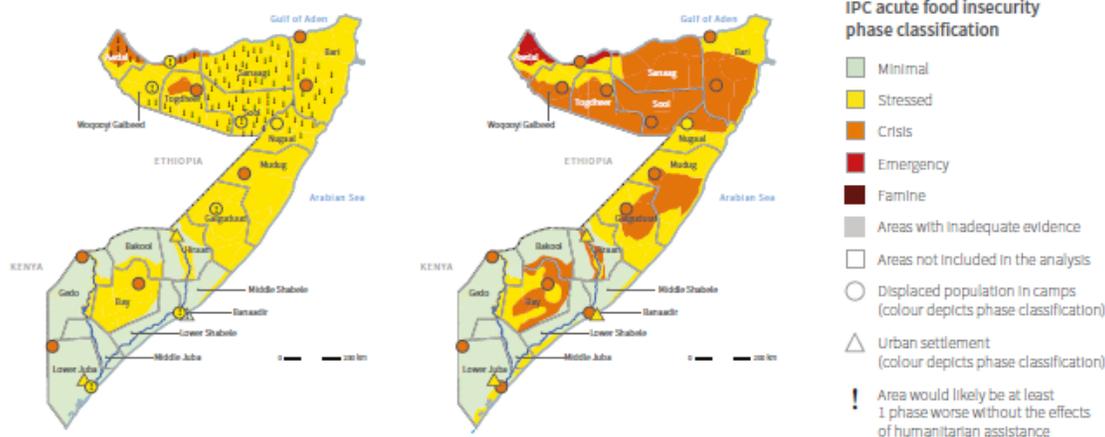
Bossasso (Bari region). Other areas been affected by renewed clan-based conflicts.

- Insecurity, drought and floods are the many drivers of the internal displacement of 2.6 million people. UNHCR estimates that 162 000 people were newly displaced between January and May 2019.
- An estimated 80 percent of the IDP population are in urban areas, increasing competition for limited labour opportunities and access to social support and services, including health, education and housing. In addition, the country hosts about 33 000 refugees and asylum-seekers, mainly from Ethiopia and Yemen.

## Somalia, IPC acute food insecurity situation

January 2019

February–June 2019



Source: IPC Somalia Technical Working Group, January 2019

## Factors driving food insecurity

### Crop and livestock production shortfalls

Below-average rains across most of Somalia during the end of 2018, followed by harsh weather conditions during the first trimester of 2019 and the poor performance of the rains in April caused deterioration in pasture availability and widespread water shortages in most pastoral and agropastoral livelihood zones.

The significant reduction (50 percent below average) of the *Gu* production expected, particularly due to harvest delays in southern key cropping areas, would mark the second consecutive poor harvest after the reduced 2018/19 *Deyr* harvest. The prolonged and severe dryness in agro-pastoral and pastoral areas created very poor rangeland conditions, and a sharp deterioration in livestock body conditions. Drought-induced livestock diseases, abortions and deaths were reported in various regions. Although heavy late season precipitations improved livestock conditions, herd sizes were well below-average.

### Escalating insecurity

Between January and March 2019, incidences of insecurity from military confrontation, targeted assassinations and roadside bomb explosions targeting state and civilian institutions and installations escalated in southern Somalia, especially in Mogadishu (Banadir region) and Bossaso (Bari region). Other areas have been affected by renewed localized clan-based conflicts. Conflict is driving double taxation of commodities, increased travel distance to avoid roadblocks or illegal tax payments resulting in increased transportation cost and localized food price increases in rural markets. This adds additional strain to household purchasing power and constrains food access.

### Low purchasing power for poor households

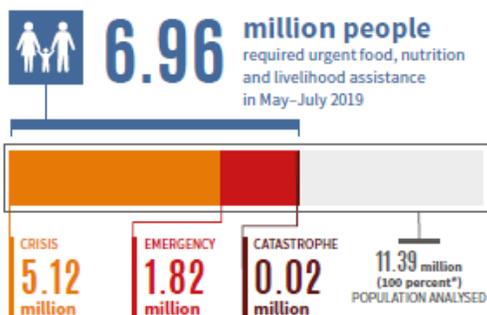
Prices of maize and sorghum seasonally increased by 10–30 percent between January and May in several markets. Despite a reduced 2018 secondary *Deyr* harvest and concerns over the upcoming 2019 main *Gu* harvest, prices of coarse grains in May were still around their year-earlier levels, as stable supplies from neighbouring Ethiopia offset upward pressures. However, poor households still faced major food access challenges as heightened insecurity disrupted trade flows, employment opportunities declined and low wage rates in crop-producing areas weakened their purchasing power. Extremely high prices of water limited the amount of expenditure they could assign to other essentials, including food.

Over the same January–May period, prices of livestock increased by 10–40 percent in most markets as the numbers of saleable animals with good body conditions was very low, reducing market supplies. With rates of increase of livestock prices similar to those of cereals, terms of trade for pastoralists remained mostly stable – but pastoralists were unable to reap significant income as livestock marketing activities are generally scarce and they needed to repopulate their herds.

### Humanitarians face extreme constraints

Increased conflict, insecurity, seizure of goods, attacks against aid workers, restrictions imposed by armed groups, demands for arbitrary taxation and interference in supply and procurement all make it extremely challenging for humanitarians to carry out their work. Some areas controlled by Al Shabaab are inaccessible for humanitarian actors. In southern and central Somalia, unauthorized roadblocks and checkpoints and extortion restrict the delivery of assistance and nearly 2 million people are living in hard-to-reach conflict-affected areas.

## South Sudan



\*TOTAL POPULATION: 11.39 million

- ▶ Since the start of the conflict in 2013, the food security situation has steadily deteriorated, and food insecurity has now reached dire levels. In 2019, the number of people estimated to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse levels of acute food insecurity was the highest on record, both in absolute numbers (6.96 million) and as a proportion of the population (61 percent).
- ▶ An improvement in the security situation since mid-2018 in several areas of the country has somewhat facilitated humanitarian access, and the delivery of humanitarian food assistance continues to avert more extreme food insecurity outcomes.

The deterioration of the food security situation mainly resulted from a particularly difficult and prolonged 2019 lean season. This combined with persistent economic instability, the effects of previous years of conflict and related livelihood destruction and population displacements, sharply reduced food availability and constrained food access for large segments of the population. High food prices caused by last year's poor harvests, market disruptions due to insecurity, high transport costs and a depreciated currency also contributed to these very high levels of acute food insecurity.

- Between May and July 2019, about 6.96 million people were estimated to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3), Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) levels of acute food insecurity.
- Of the 21 000 people estimated to be facing Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) levels of food insecurity,

10 000 were located in Canal/Pigi of former Jonglei state, 10 000 in Cueibet of former Lakes state, and 1 000 in Panyikang of former Upper Nile state.

- Some 25 counties were classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) acute food insecurity across the former states of Eastern Equatoria, Jonglei, Lakes, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Unity, Upper Nile and Warrap.
- As of May, about 1.83 million people were reportedly internally displaced across the country in addition to about 298 000 refugees from neighbouring countries (the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, and the Sudan).
- Despite the implementation of the September 2018 peace accord, armed and inter-communal conflict continued unabated in parts of the country and resulted in loss of lives, displacement and disruption of trade routes, farming and other key livelihood activities.

### South Sudan, IPC acute food insecurity situation

May–July 2019



#### IPC acute food insecurity phase classification

- Minimal
- Stressed
- Crisis
- Emergency
- Famine
- Areas not included in the analysis
- Displaced population in camps (colour depicts phase classification)
- At least 25 percent of households meet 25–50 percent of caloric needs from humanitarian food assistance
- At least 25 percent of households meet over 50 percent of caloric needs from humanitarian food assistance
- Areas with inadequate evidence

Source: IPC South Sudan Technical Working Group, May 2019

## Factors driving food insecurity

### Record low 2018 cereal production

According to the 2019 joint FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission, the estimated 2018 aggregate cereal harvest reached the lowest recorded output since the start of the conflict in 2013, and the overall cereal deficit increased in 2019. A slight increase in plantings compared to 2017, because of improved security in some areas, was more than offset by significant yield reductions following poor and erratic rains, especially between July and September 2018.

According to the multi-agency Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring System assessment, food stocks from the 2018 harvest were likely to last for not more than four months. Starting from May 2019, the majority of households had exhausted their food stocks and had to rely heavily on market purchases to cover their food requirements.

### Exceptionally high food prices

Prices of sorghum and maize declined by 40–45 percent between June and December 2018 in the capital, Juba, due to a substantial appreciation of the South Sudanese pound reflecting renewed investor confidence following the beginning of peace talks in June. Subsequently, they increased by 20 and 35 percent between December 2018 and May 2019 as the local currency depreciated again and stocks from the poor 2018 harvest were depleted earlier than usual. Prices in May were generally down from a year earlier, but still at exceptionally high levels, more than ten times higher than in July 2015 when they started surging as the South Sudanese pound began to rapidly depreciate. Widespread insecurity that has hindered normal market functioning, trade flows and agricultural activities, and high transport costs have also contributed to the high price levels.

### Delayed onset of 2019 seasonal rains

In former Central and Western Equatoria states, delayed rains reduced the availability of food in June and were likely to result in a delayed harvest. In pastoralist areas of the former East Equatoria state, herders faced unusual dryness affecting pasture availability and water sources, and drastically reduced household milk availability. By contrast, in central and northern agricultural areas, despite favourable rainfalls in May–June, access to fields was constrained as insecurity persisted in several areas and the planted area remained below the pre-conflict levels.

### Security situation still volatile despite improvements since mid-2018

Despite the implementation of the September 2018 peace accord and a significant decrease in security incidents, renewed fighting and inter-communal violence in former Western Bahr el Ghazal, Unity and Jonglei states displaced thousands of civilians in May. Armed and inter-communal conflict continued unabated in parts of the country, including in the former states of Lakes, Eastern Equatoria (Kapoeta East), Jonglei (Pibor), Warrap (Twic) and Central Equatoria (Yei), and resulted in loss of lives, displacement and disruption of trade routes, farming and other key livelihood activities. The last five years of active conflict have resulted in severe losses and damages to livelihoods and household assets, and undermined household resilience, thus continuing to drive high levels of acute food insecurity.

Humanitarian access continued to improve generally across the country in 2019. However, between April and May, almost one in two reported security incidents still involved violence against humanitarian personnel, including detention, relocation and killings of humanitarian workers.

## The Sudan

During the first half of 2019, the deepening economic crisis that started in late 2017 and resulted in a spiraling parallel foreign exchange rate, dwindling foreign currency reserves, high inflation rates and GDP declining by about two percent in 2018, pushed increasingly large segments of the population into food insecurity. About 5.8 million people were estimated to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels of food insecurity from January–March 2019 – up from 3.1 million during the same period in 2017.

However, these latest estimates of the number of food insecure did not take into account the impact of the political instability that occurred subsequently, and which has worrying implications for food insecurity. On 11 April 2019, after nearly four months of protests, President Omar al-Bashir stepped down, leading to negotiations for a transitional government. Subsequently, demonstrations and strikes broke out in many localities, and on 3 June, tensions escalated as a violent raid by security personnel on public protests in Khartoum led to 61 deaths and 748 injured.

In this volatile political context, Government institutions, humanitarian organizations and development agencies faced major obstacles including delays to obtain customs clearance and permits in major ports, curfews, disrupted transportation, closure of most hospitals in Khartoum, inoperability of Port Sudan, nation-wide disruption of internet and phone networks, and difficulties to access cash.

In 2018/2019 agricultural production was very successful, with cereal production 57 percent above the 2017 level thanks to abundant and well-distributed seasonal rains and increased plantings. In particular, millet production tripled from the previous year, mainly due to increased plantings in Darfur, where security improvements allowed substantial numbers of IDPs to return to their homes and to engage in agricultural activities. These conditions also benefitted the livestock sector. However, harvesting of coarse grains and wheat was substantially delayed,

as reduced availability of fuel and currency shortages hindered agricultural operations and the ability to pay for labour. High prices of seeds were also detrimental to farmers and particularly for vulnerable subsistence farming households.

Despite the above-average cereal production, market availability was low, as traders preferred keeping their stocks rather than selling with the depreciation of the Sudanese pound. Cereal prices were up to 80 percent higher in May than the already high levels of one year earlier and are expected to further increase until the harvest in late 2019.

The country still hosted 1.86 million IDPs in late 2018. Outside Khartoum, IDP and refugee populations were subjected to inter-tribal and inter-clan clashes and attacks against camps resulting in several fatalities and the displacement of thousands of people. This is likely to further increase food insecurity as these populations were preparing for the agricultural season. During the first half of 2019, thousands of IDPs were forced to move again because of the presence of armed groups and insecurity as well as lack of food. As of 30 June, there were almost 856 000 refugees from South Sudan hosted in the country according to UNHCR, including 14 000 new arrivals in 2019.

This political instability and persistent poor macroeconomic conditions resulted in worse food security outcomes than are typical of the start of the June to September lean season, and somewhat worse than the same time last year. Food security is expected to further deteriorate during the lean season with Crisis (IPC Phase 3) levels. Of highest concern were the IDPs in Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North controlled areas of South Kordofan and Sudan People's Liberation Army – Abdul Wahid controlled areas of Jebel Marra, where it expected Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes during the August–September peak of the lean season. Also of concern were poor households in Red Sea state.

## The Syrian Arab Republic

As the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic enters its ninth year fighting has abated across much of the country but intensified in some areas. Lack of fuel, high prices, stagnant salaries, lack of employment and livelihood opportunities all continued to contribute to widespread food insecurity.

In 2018, an estimated 6.5 million people were in need of food assistance according to the 2019 HNO. This represented 33 percent of the country's population. A further 2.5 million were considered marginally food insecure and at risk of needing food assistance if they did not receive livelihood support. According to UNHCR, the most vulnerable were the country's 6.2 million IDPs. Another 5.6 million people were registered as refugees outside the country.

As of May 2019, over 1.6 million people were estimated to be in need of assistance in northeast Syria, including residents of al Hol camp in Al Hasakeh governorate, as well as those in neighbouring Deir ez-Zor governorate. Home to around 12 000 people in December 2018, by May al Hol camp's population stood at close to 74 000. Conditions at the camp were reportedly dire, with critical needs across all sectors.

The security and humanitarian situation across northwestern Syria deteriorated in the first seven months of 2019, with fighting reported in areas of southern Idlib, western Aleppo and northern Hama governorates as conflict intensified. Travelling to markets and hospitals, or seeking other services, was increasingly unsafe for civilians, compounding an already dire humanitarian situation.

Between 1 May and 31 July, 518 000 displacements were recorded, according to the UNHCR-led Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster with almost twice as many displacements recorded in July across northern Hama and southern Idlib governorates (126 200) than in June (67 500). The majority of the displaced headed towards already densely populated areas of northern Idlib governorate, straining humanitarian operations that were already at or above capacity, with the Dana sub-district receiving the biggest share of the displaced. UNICEF reported that attacks on water facilities over the past two months affected the water supply to 250 000 people.

Many humanitarian actors had to suspend services in areas directly affected by the conflict, due to the displacement of their staff and beneficiaries, as well as to keep them safe. For the people left behind life-saving humanitarian assistance was vital as their resources were depleted, and their vulnerability deepened.

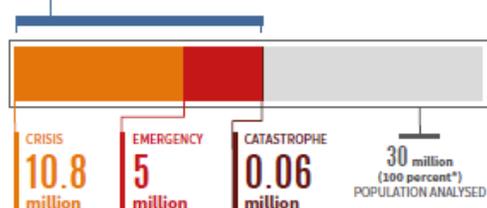
Although conflict lines have shifted, humanitarian access to distribute relief assistance, assess needs and monitor generally remained a challenge in hard-to-reach areas of the country. According to OCHA's overview of hard-to-reach and besieged locations there were nearly 1.2 million people in hard-to-reach areas.

According to the mVAM May 2019 bulletin, food security indicators improved during Ramadan festivities (May) when households tend to eat more and a wider variety of food commodities. This was also the beginning of the harvest season. While overall use of coping strategies also decreased in May, female-headed households reported relying more frequently on food-based coping strategies, including reducing the number of meals eaten per day, restricting consumption by adults so children could eat and borrowing food from friends and family. Use of these coping strategies also increased in hard-to-reach areas of Aleppo and Tartous between April and May.

Although beneficial and timely distribution of rains contributed to a production recovery in 2019, ongoing or recently ceased conflict continued to affect availability of agricultural inputs and agricultural production. On a positive note, farmers reported rebuilding their agricultural livelihoods after conflict. However, the country's worst drought in three decades, followed by heavy out-of-season rains, caused wheat production to hit its lowest point in almost 30 years in 2018. Moreover, fires reportedly caused losses of essential crops such as wheat and barley, either because of high temperatures, accidents or in some cases triggered by fighting across the northwestern region. Despite good expected harvests, farmers lack marketing opportunities and have to accept low local prices because of lack of infrastructure and value-added processing and high costs of transporting agricultural products, particularly vegetables.

# Yemen

**15.9 million people** required urgent food, nutrition and livelihood assistance in December 2018



\*TOTAL POPULATION: 30 million

- ▶ The number of acutely food insecure people in 29 of the 45 worst-affected districts is lower than in December 2018 when it was over 1.5 million in the same 29 districts. This included 658 000 in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and 44 000 in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5).
- ▶ Food insecurity is more severe in the areas with active fighting where IDPs and host communities face restricted access to essential services and livelihood activities.
- ▶ The July–September IPC analysis covered 8 percent of the country population only.

Yemen remains the world’s most serious humanitarian emergency. Despite food assistance, 15.9 million people – more than half of the population – were in urgent need of food, nutrition and livelihood assistance in December 2018. About 64 000 were in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5), 5 million in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and 11 million in Crisis (IPC Phase 3).

- The latest IPC analysis conducted (July–September 2019) covers 29 of the 45 most affected districts, where an improvement has been reported since December 2018, with the number of people requiring urgent assistance decreasing from over 1.5 million to 1.2 million. The improvement is mainly attributable to the scale-up of multi-sector assistance to the most vulnerable in the worst-affected districts as well as availability of food from seasonal production.
- Significant food consumption gaps persist, leading to an accelerated depletion of essential livelihood assets among most households. The situation

remains alarming in conflict-affected districts and hard-to-reach areas.

- Crumbling macroeconomic environment, destruction of agricultural productive assets, loss of livelihoods, population displacement and diminished purchasing power have increased the pressure on social support mechanisms.
- High levels of unemployment, extremely high food prices, devaluation of the Yemeni riyal against the USD and liquidity crunch have led to low household purchasing power, and increasing dependency on humanitarian assistance for survival.
- While the food security situation has improved in selected locations, nationwide situation remains fragile as the news that of WFP began temporary partial suspension of food assistance in 20 June, in Sana’a city, until negotiations related to humanitarian operations lead to successful outcome.

## Yemen, IPC acute food insecurity situation in 29 districts July–September 2019

July–September 2019



Source: IPC Yemen Technical Working Group, July 2019

## Factors driving food insecurity

### Protracted armed conflict

Although the UN-brokered ceasefire in December 2018 reduced violence around the strategic port city of Al Hudaydah, with the number of civilian casualties falling by 68 percent in June 2019 compared with December, fighting persists, particularly in western areas such as Hajjah, Sa'ada, and Tai'zz, and continues to affect civilians' security and access to services, markets, farms and their place of work, all of which erode their access to food. In the first seven months of the year almost 313 000 people were displaced, mainly in conflict-affected Al Dhale and Al Hudaydah governorates.

The fragile ceasefire would precipitate an escalation of conflict in the city and the closure of Al Hudaydah and Saleef ports (entry points of about 70 percent of all food imports and 40–50 percent of fuel imports into Yemen), increasing food and fuel prices, limiting import of much-needed medical supplies and humanitarian aid. Exchange rate of Yemeni riyal against USD remains fluctuating and at higher levels than in May 2018. This would reduce households' purchasing power, limiting their capacity to meet their basic needs, with a grave impact on food security.

### Economic decline

After four years of escalating civil war, the country's economic situation is fragile. More than 40 percent of households have lost their primary income source and find it increasingly difficult to purchase the minimum food requirements. Welfare analysis suggests that poverty has increased to an estimated 71 to 78 percent, with women more severely affected than men.

### Floods and escalation of cholera epidemic

In June, torrential rains, winds and flooding damaged infrastructure, shelters, health clinics, food stocks, and water and sanitation facilities, affecting close to 80 000 people, including vulnerable IDPs in camps and informal settlements, with Hajjah worst-affected. There were urgent concerns that floods would spread sewage and contaminate drinking water, escalating the spread of cholera and other water-borne diseases across the country. By early July, the cholera outbreak had reached over 460 000 suspected cases in 2019, including approximately 200 000 children.

### Poor harvests predicted

Agricultural harvests between July and September in the Central Highlands and the Eastern Plateau zones, were not expected to significantly improve food security outcomes at the area level, given the small-scale nature of cereal production in Yemen and the fact that these harvests are likely to be below average due to a lack of availability and/or access to inputs and limited access to fields in conflict zones.

### Lack of humanitarian access

Insecurity, administrative constraints, entry restrictions, fighting and violence against humanitarian workers continue to hamper humanitarian access, especially in populated western coastal areas. Some 6.5 million people live in hard-to-reach areas.

High fuel prices, checkpoints, landmines and explosive remnants of war, damaged roads and difficult terrain limit transportation of aid and prevent freedom of movement. Armed actors have attempted to block aid from reaching groups suspected of disloyalty, directing it to groups more supportive of their agenda or selling it on the black market.

By July, 47 out of 67 non-governmental organization projects remained unimplemented due to pending approvals by authorities in Yemen. A number of international non-governmental organizations were forced to suspend activities due to bureaucratic restrictions.

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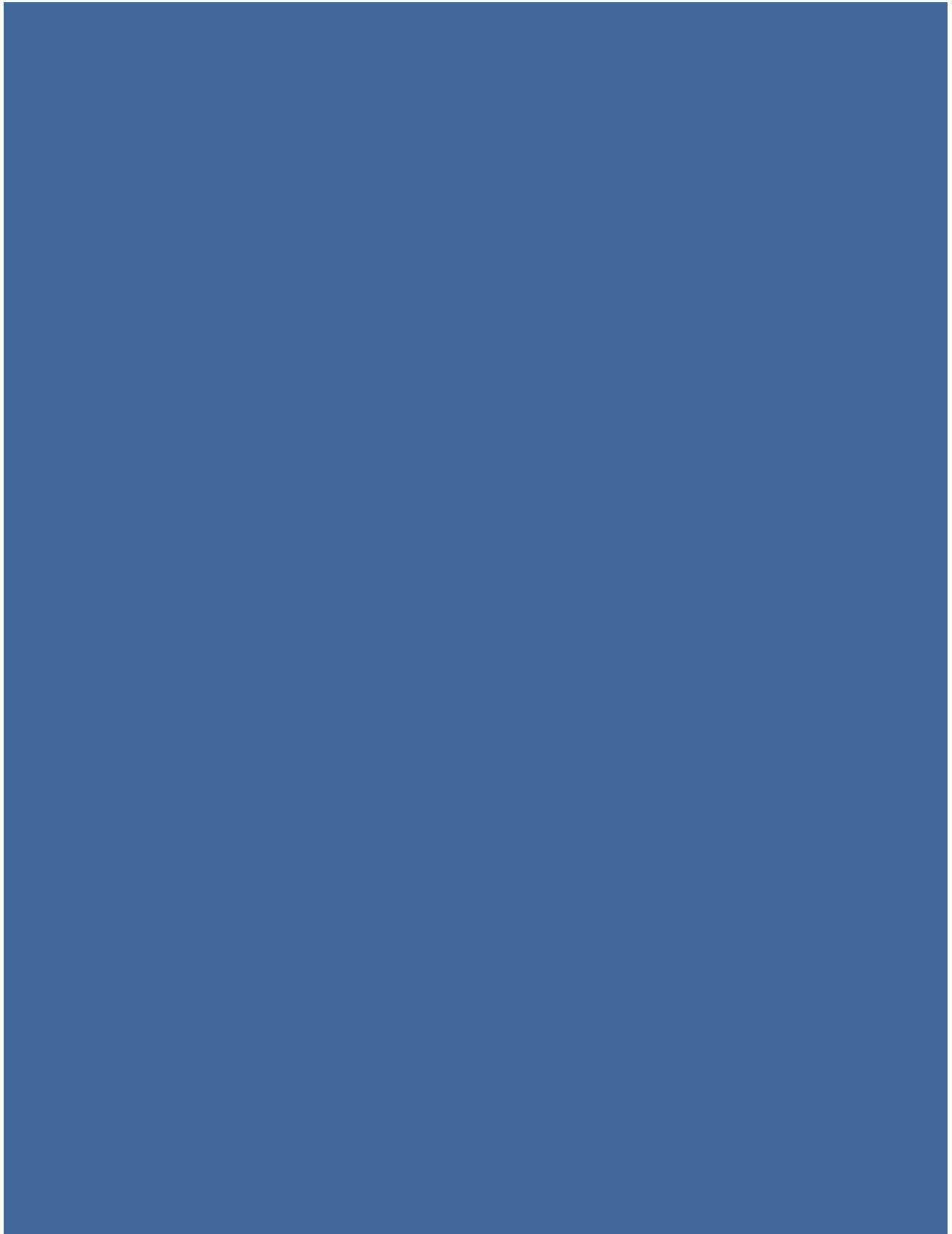
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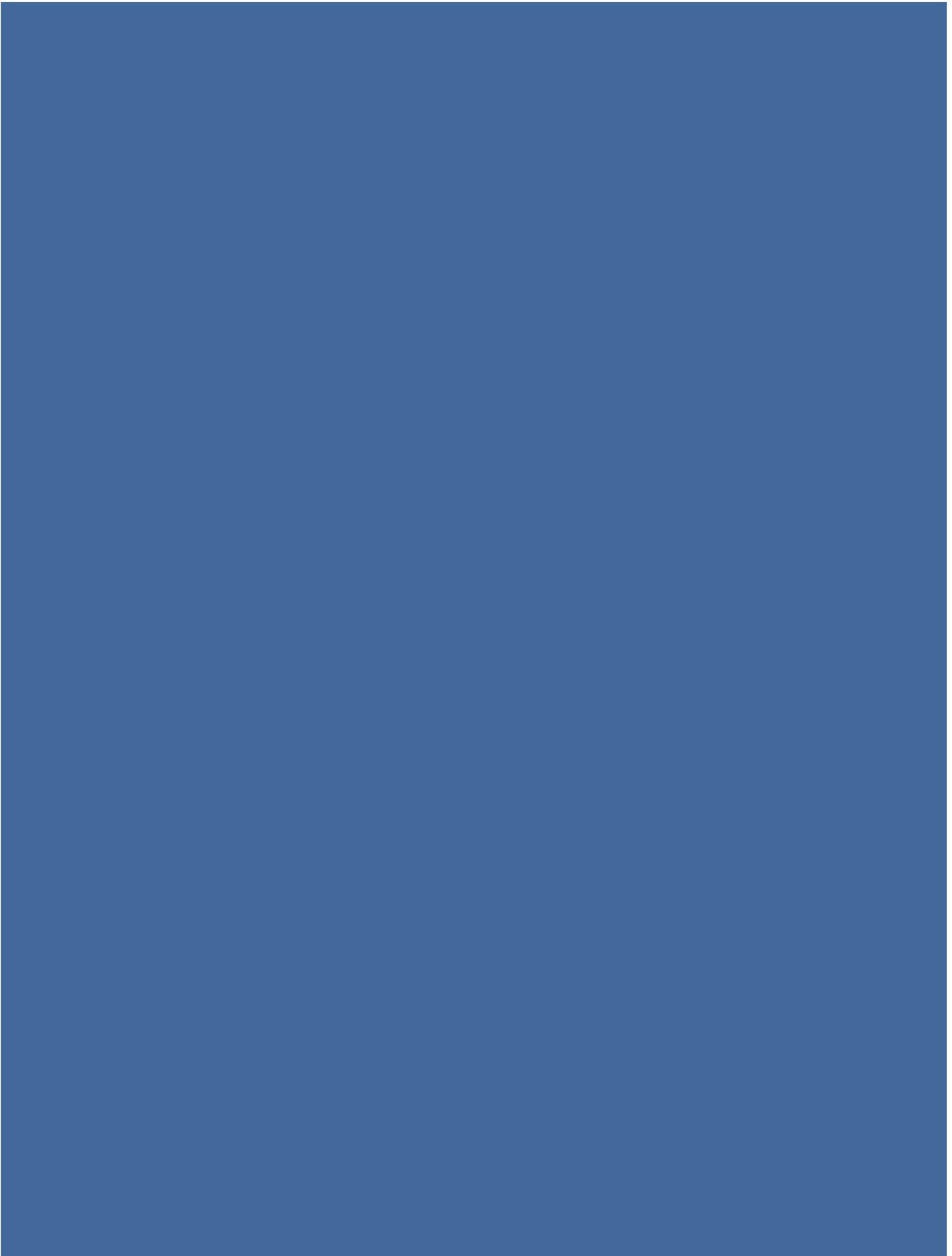
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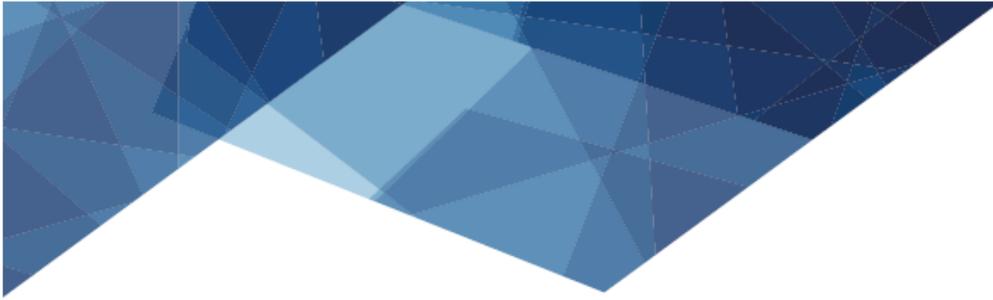
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