

Regional Developments: Africa

Hyacinth Edeh

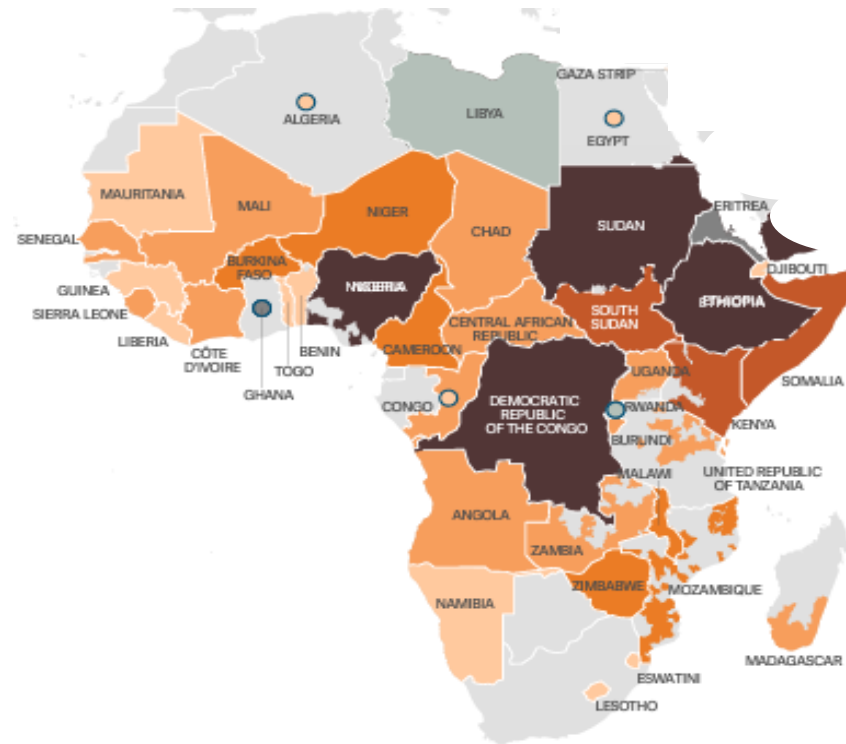
Country Program Manager, IFPRI-Nigeria

Fraser Suites, Abuja | July 25, 2024



Africa: 20% of the total population facing high levels of acute food insecurity

Number of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity, 2023



- Significant variation across regions and countries
 - Eastern Africa most affected, followed by central and southern, and western Africa
 - Countries with largest number of people affected: DRC, **Nigeria**, Sudan, Ethiopia

Africa

- African food systems are dominated by **cereals production**, leaving them unable to supply sufficient nutrient-dense foods.
- The high cost of nutrient-dense foods puts healthy diets out of reach for most Africans.
- **Poorly diversified** diets increase the risk of undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies.
- Africa faces a high burden of malnutrition, though **prevalence differs** across regions and rural/urban areas:
 - Rates of maternal anemia and child stunting are well above global averages
 - Vitamin A and iodine deficiencies are among the highest in the world
 - At the same time, rates of child overweight and adult obesity have gradually risen

Africa

- In recent decades, **political commitment** to food security and nutrition has grown at all levels across Africa, along with the coherence of multisectoral nutrition action.
- Strategies and programs to address gaps in the **production, marketing, and consumption** of healthy foods have potential to improve nutrition outcomes.
- Addressing micronutrient deficiencies and undernutrition in Africa will require **leveraging local, national, regional, and continental food systems.**
- There must also be efforts to focus on the food environments of **growing urban areas.**

Thanks to our authors

Africa: Elodie Becquey,
Samuel Benin, Wim Marivoet,
and Aulo Gelli

