

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



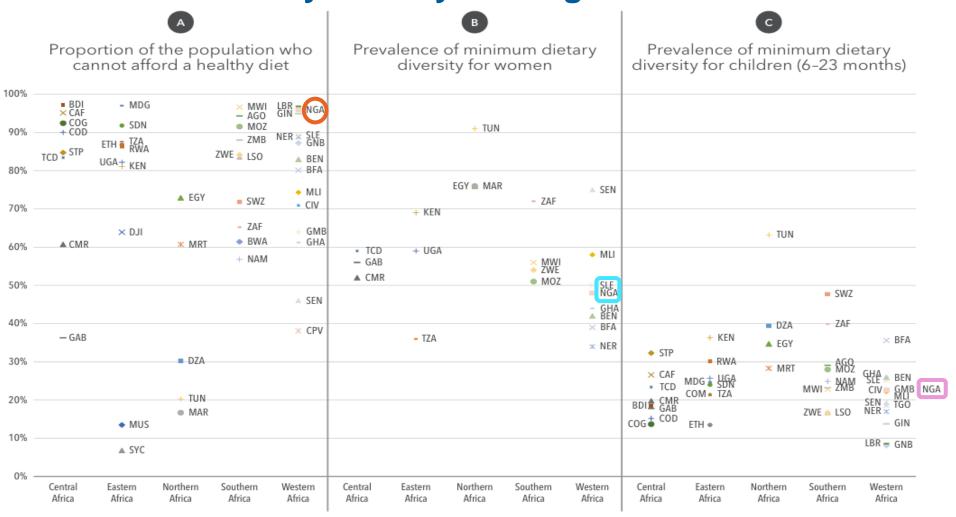
- Significant variation across regions and countries
 - Eastern Africa most affected, followed by central and southern, and western Africa
 - Countries with largest number of people affected: DRC, Nigeria, Sudan, Ethiopia

Source: 2023 Global Report on Food Security

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: Affordability and diversity of women and young children's diets, by country and region



Source: Based on data from the Food Systems Dashboard, accessed December 6, 2023. www.foodsystemsdashboard.org/

Note: Central Africa: BDI = Burundi, CMR = Cameroon, CAF = Central African Republic, TCD = Chad, COG = Congo, COD = Democratic Republic of the Congo, GNQ = Equatorial Guinea, GAB = Gabon, STP = Sao Tome and Principe; Eastern Africa: COM = Comoros, DJI = Djibouti, ERI = Eritrea, ETH = Ethiopia, KEN = Kenya, MDG = Madagascar, MUS = Mauritius, RWA = Rwanda, SYC = Seychelles, SOM = Somalia, SSD = South Sudan, SDN = Sudan, UGA = Uganda, TZA = United Republic of Tanzania; Northern Africa: DZA = Algeria, EGY = Egypt, LBY = Libya, MRT = Mauritania, MAR = Morocco, TUN = Tunisia; Southern Africa: AGO = Angola, BWA = Botswana, SWZ = Eswatini, LSO = Lesotho, MWI = Malawi, MOZ = Mozambique, NAM = Namibia, ZAF = South Africa, ZMB = Zambia, ZWE = Zimbabwe; Western Africa: BEN = Benin, BFA = Burkina Faso, CPV = Cabo Verde, CIV = Côte d'Ivoire, GMB = Gambia, GHA = Ghana, GIN = Guinea, GNB = Guinea-Bissau, LBR = Liberia, MLI = Mali, NER = Niger, NGA = Nigeria, SEN = Senegal, SLE = Sierra Leone, TGO = Togo.

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

