

Contemporary Famines and Near-Famines

Cases considered by IPC Famine Review Committee, 2011-2024

Date of FRC analysis	Country/territory	Main location of crisis	FRC designation	# IPC4	% IPC4	# IPC5	% IPC5	Aggregate mortality estimate
July 2011-February 2012	Somalia	South central	Famine	1,815,000	24%	490,000	7%	258,000 (2010-12)
January 2017		Central	Projection	439,000	4%	0	0%	44,700 (2014-18)
April & November 2022		Southwest	Risk of Famine	1,523,500	9%	214,000	1%	43,000 (2022)
February 2016	South Sudan	Unity	Risk of Famine	455,000	16%	0	0%	193,000 (2014-18)
May 2016		Unity	Population in P5	1,100,000	9%	0	0%	
February-May 2017		Central Unity (Leer and Mayendit)	Famine	700,000	6%	80,000	1%	
May 2017		Ayod	Risk of Famine	1,495,000	12%	20,000	<1%	
December 2017		Greater Baggari	Projection	1,520,000	14%	20,000	<1%	
December 2020		Pibor	Famine with reasonable evidence	2,039,000	17%	92,000	1%	
November 2016	Nigeria	Northeast	Famine (retrospective)	1,800,000	0.95%	55,000	0.03%	340,000 (2016-19)
November 2017	Yemen	Multiple	Population in P5	6,780,000	24%	0	0%	223,000 (2016-21)
March 2022		Hajjah/ Hodeida	Population in P5	5,620,000	17%	31,000	<1%	Not known
December 2017	Ethiopia	Southeast	Population in P5	19,130	2%	0	0%	Not known
July 2011-February 2012	Madagascar	Grand Sud	Risk of Famine	392,000	15%	14,000	1%	Not known
July 2021	Ethiopia	Tigray	Risk of Famine	2,078,000	1.72%	353,000	0.29%	336,000 (2020-22)
December 2023	Gaza	All Gaza	Risk of Famine	938,600	42%	377,800	17%	Not known
March 2024		Northern	Projection ('imminent famine')	875,618	39%	676,636	30%	
June 2024		All Gaza	Risk of Famine	642,864	29%	342,719	15%	
July 2024	Sudan	Darfur	Famine with reasonable evidence	8,500,000	18%	755,000	1.60%	Not known

Sources for IPC figures

IPC Population Tracking Tool, <https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/population-tracking-tool/en/>

Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit – Somalia, 'FSNAU Technical Series Report No VI. 46: Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Post Gu 2011,' <https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/fsnau-technical-series-report-no-vi-46-food-security-and-nutrition-analysis-post-gu>

Note that the IPC FRC also conducted a 'Review of the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) IPC-Compatible Analysis for the Northern Governorates of the Gaza' in May 2024, which found that 'The FRC does not find the FEWS NET analysis plausible given the uncertainty and lack of convergence of the supporting evidence employed in the analysis. Therefore, the FRC is unable to make a determination as to whether or not famine thresholds have been passed.' The IPC May data became available in June, resulting in the 'risk of famine' finding.

Sources for aggregate mortality estimates:

Somalia 2011

Checchi, Francesco, and W. Courtland, 'Study Report: Mortality among populations of southern and central Somalia affected by severe food insecurity and famine during 2010-2012.' Rome, FAO, 2013. <https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/mortality-among-populations-southern-and-central-somalia-affected-severe-food>

Somalia 2016-2017

Warsame, A., S. Frison, and F. Checchi, 'Drought, armed conflict and population mortality in Somalia, 2014–2018: A statistical analysis.' *PLOS Global Public Health* 3.4 (2023): e0001136.

Somalia 2022

Watson, O., and F. Checchi, et al., "Mortality patterns in Somalia: retrospective estimates and scenario-based forecasting." London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, February 2023.

South Sudan 2014-2018

Checchi, F., A. Testa, A. Warsame, L. Quach and R. Burns, 'Estimates of crisis-attributable mortality in South Sudan, December 2013-April 2018: A statistical analysis,' London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, 2019.

Nigeria 2016-2018

Checchi, F, et al. 'Mortality among populations affected by armed conflict in northeast Nigeria, 2016 to 2019,' *PNAS*, July 2023, 120 (30) e2217601120
<https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2217601120>

Yemen 2015-2021

Hanna, T., D. Bohl and J. Moyer, 'Assessing the Impact of War in Yemen: Pathways for Recovery,' UNDP, 23 November 2021.
<https://www.undp.org/publications/assessing-impact-war-yemen-pathways-recovery>

Tigray, Ethiopia, 2020-2022

Jan Nyssen et al., 'Documenting the civilian victims of the Tigray war.' London, Royal Holloway Centre for International Security and Every Casualty Counts, Webinar 19 January 2023.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J48EHrbcBw>