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# Global Food Crisis Deepens: Hunger and Malnutrition at Critical Levels

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The Global Report on Food Crises 2026, released by the Global Network Against Food Crises along with agencies like the World Food Programme and UNICEF, highlights that acute food insecurity and malnutrition remain alarmingly high globally. The report indicates that hunger has nearly doubled since 2016, reflecting deepening global crises driven by conflict, climate shocks, and economic instability.

## **Concentration of Food Insecurity (Countries in Focus)**

The report reveals that food insecurity is highly concentrated, with 10 countries accounting for nearly two-thirds of people facing acute hunger:

Afghanistan

Bangladesh

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Myanmar

Nigeria

Pakistan

South Sudan

Sudan

Syrian Arab Republic

Yemen

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Among these, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Sudan, and Yemen recorded the largest food crises, both in terms of proportion and absolute numbers of affected populations.

### **Famine and Extreme Hunger (IPC Phase 5)**

#### **At the most severe level, famine was identified in:**

Gaza Governorate

Parts of Sudan

This assessment was made using the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification framework. Notably, 2025 marked the first time since GRFC reporting began that famine was confirmed in two separate regions in the same year, indicating a sharp escalation in extreme hunger driven by conflict and restricted humanitarian access.

### **Scale and Severity of Hunger**

In 2025, approximately 266 million people across 47 countries/territories faced high levels of acute food insecurity, representing about 23% of the analysed population. This is:

Slightly higher than 2024 levels

Nearly double the share recorded in 2016

The number of people facing catastrophic hunger (IPC Phase 5) is now nine times higher than in 2016, making it one of the most severe global hunger situations in recent decades.

### **Malnutrition Crisis**

Acute malnutrition continues to rise, especially among children:

35.5 million children suffered from acute malnutrition in 2025

Nearly 10 million faced severe acute malnutrition

#### **Severe conditions were observed in:**

Gaza Strip

Myanmar

South Sudan

Sudan

These crises are aggravated by poor diets, disease burden, and breakdown of essential health services, increasing mortality risks.

### **Role of Forced Displacement**

#### **Forced displacement is a major contributing factor:**

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Over 85 million people were forcibly displaced in food-crisis regions in 2025

Includes:

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

Refugees

Asylum seekers

Displaced populations consistently face higher levels of hunger than host communities, due to loss of livelihoods and limited access to aid.

### **Major Drivers of Food Insecurity**

#### **The report identifies key drivers:**

Conflict and violence (primary cause in Sudan, Yemen, Syria)

Climate change impacts (droughts, floods)

Economic shocks and inflation

Restricted humanitarian access

Forced displacement and migration

#### **Additional Key Facts:**

GRFC uses the IPC classification:

Phase 1: Minimal

Phase 2: Stressed

Phase 3: Crisis

Phase 4: Emergency

Phase 5: Famine

Linked to United Nations goal:

SDG 2 – Zero Hunger

Global hunger hotspots are concentrated in:

Sub-Saharan Africa

Middle East conflict zones