

HungerMap^{LIVE}: Western Africa insights and key trends

By the World Food Programme (WFP) | February 15, 2024 | Regions defined by WFP classification

REGIONAL FOOD INSECURITY AT A GLANCE

In 2021:

57.2
MILLION

were chronically hungry
(undernourished) regionally¹



32.2
MILLION

experienced acute hunger
(IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) in 16
countries²

Chronic hunger

means that people are not able to meet food consumption requirements in the long-term (also known as undernourishment)

Acute hunger

means that people are not able to meet food consumption requirements in the short-term, often due to sporadic crises

Countries ranked by the prevalence of undernourishment in 2021

Central African Republic
Liberia
Chad
Sierra Leone
Togo
Côte d'Ivoire
Nigeria
Burkina Faso
Gambia
Sao Tome and Principe

Countries ranked by food crisis in 2021

Nigeria
Burkina Faso
Cameroon
Niger
Central African Republic
Chad
Sierra Leone
Mali

In 2024:

The HungerMap^{LIVE} tracks core indicators of acute hunger in near real-time.

Acute hunger is measured by key indicators such as household food consumption, livelihoods, child nutritional status, mortality, access to clean water and other contextual factors. The HungerMap^{LIVE} primarily tracks trends on household food consumption, and while this is only one dimension of acute food insecurity, household food consumption can provide an indication of how overall trends are likely to shift.

As of today, 15 February

206 MILLION

people do not have sufficient food consumption across 19 countries³,

according to the HungerMap^{LIVE} estimates, including:

- 190 million 'ACTUAL' in 12 countries;
- 16 million 'PREDICTED' in 7 countries.

Methodology Note: The HungerMap^{LIVE} includes data from two sources: (1) WFP's continuous, near real-time monitoring systems, which remotely collect thousands of data daily through live calls conducted by call centres around the world; and (2) machine learning-based predictive models. Therefore, to note this differentiation, this report indicates whether a country's data is based on WFP's near real-time monitoring systems (marked 'ACTUAL') or predictive models (marked 'PREDICTED').

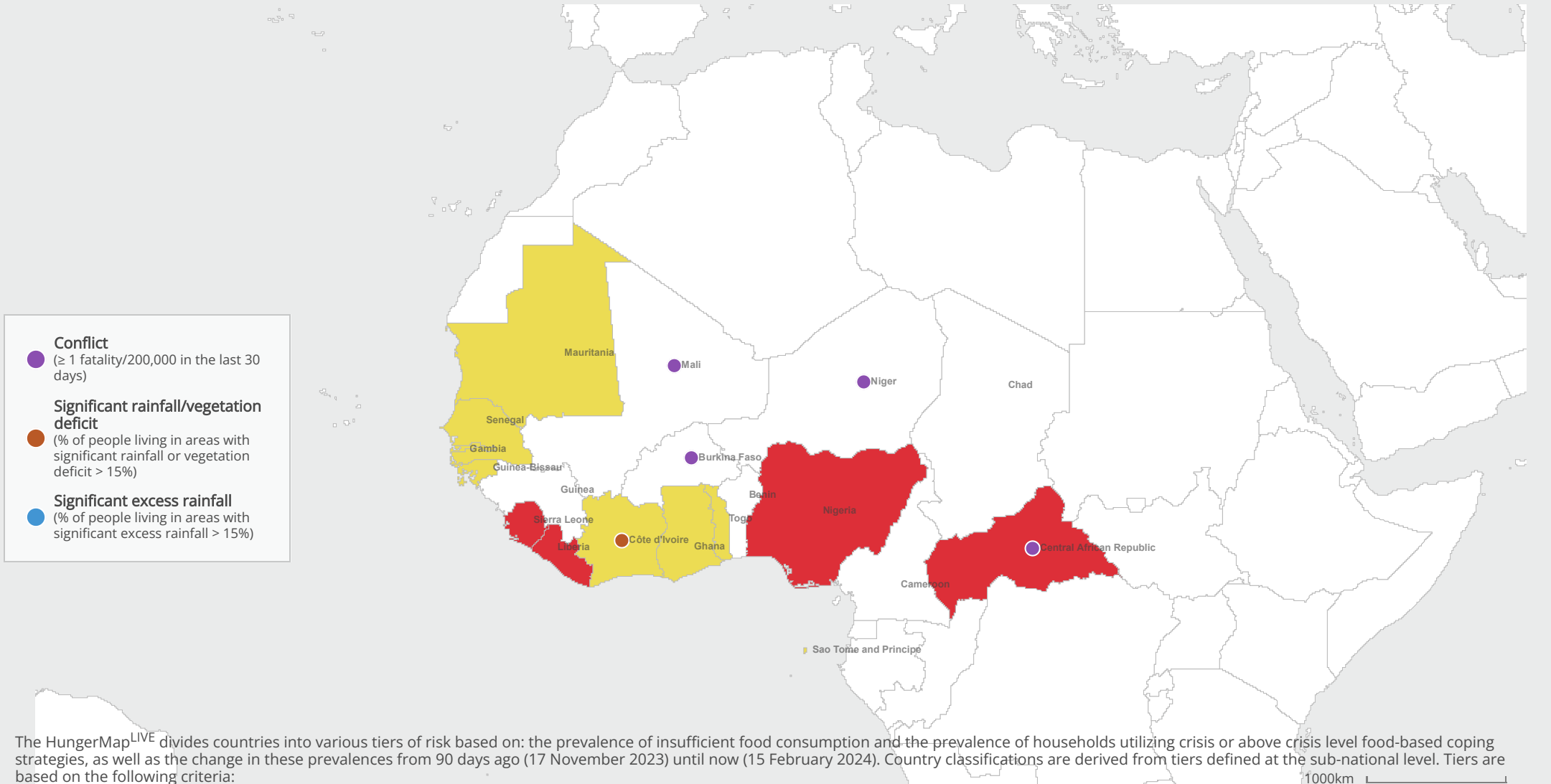
¹ Source: FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. 2021. The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021.

² Source: FSIN. 2022. Global Report on Food Crises 2022.

³ Note: The following countries are not included in the Regional Insights and Key Trends: Cape Verde.

Current food security outlook

There are 4 countries considered High Risk or Moderate Risk and Deteriorating in Western Africa



The HungerMap^{LIVE} divides countries into various tiers of risk based on: the prevalence of insufficient food consumption and the prevalence of households utilizing crisis or above crisis level food-based coping strategies, as well as the change in these prevalences from 90 days ago (17 November 2023) until now (15 February 2024). Country classifications are derived from tiers defined at the sub-national level. Tiers are based on the following criteria:

Tier 1: High Risk and Deteriorating. Sub-national regions with more than 40% prevalence for the average of the above two indicators AND significant deterioration observed for the average of both indicators from 90 days ago.

Countries are classified as Tier 1 if at least 10% of the population is in Tier 1.

Tier 2: High Risk and Stable. Sub-national regions with more than 40% prevalence for the average of the above two indicators AND no significant deterioration observed for the average of both indicators from 90 days ago.

Countries are classified as Tier 2 if they don't meet the criteria for Tier 1 AND the combined population in Tier 1 and Tier 2 is at least 10%.

Tier 3: Moderate Risk and Deteriorating. Sub-national regions with less than 40% prevalence for the average of the above two indicators AND significant deterioration observed for the average of both indicators from 90 days ago.

Countries are classified as Tier 3 if they don't meet the criteria for Tier 2 or Tier 1 AND at least 10% of the population is in Tier 3.

Tier 4: Moderate Risk and Stable. Sub-national regions with less than 40% prevalence for the average of the above two indicators AND no significant deterioration observed for the average of both indicators from 90 days ago.

All countries that don't fulfill the criteria for Tier 1, Tier 2, or Tier 3 are classified as Tier 4.

Countries marked for deterioration for these metrics must satisfy one of the following conditions: (1) >40% prevalence: 15% increase, (2) 20-40% prevalence: 20% increase; (3) <20% prevalence: 25% increase.

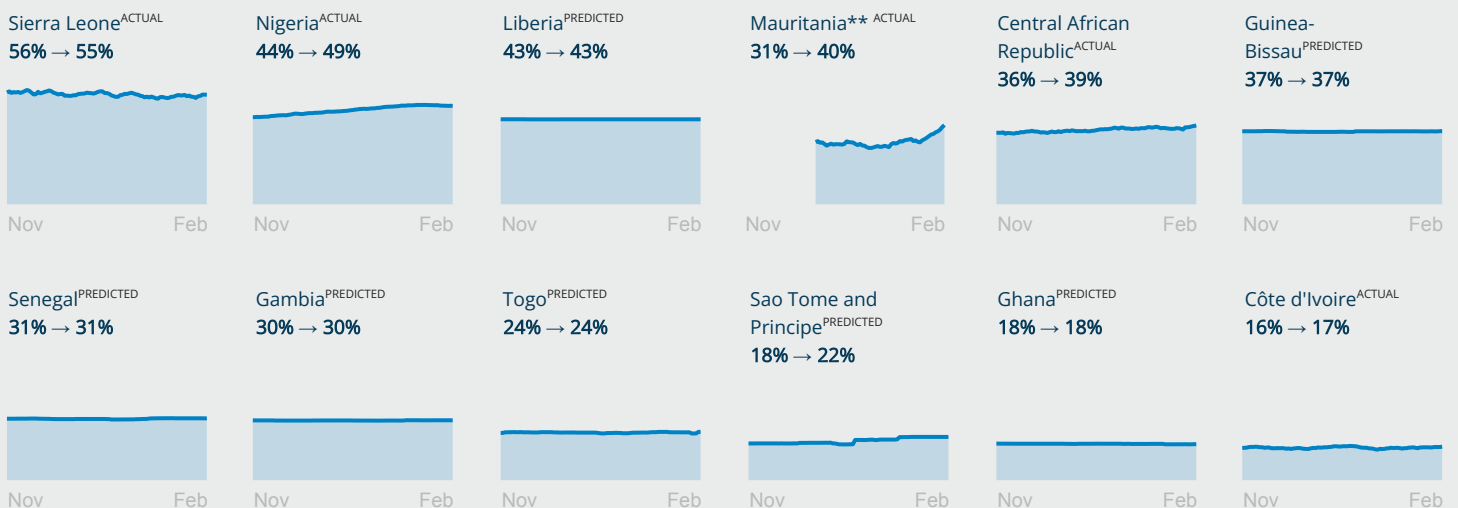
Countries with the highest prevalence of insufficient food consumption

Currently, the countries with the highest prevalence of insufficient food consumption, in order of severity, are: Sierra Leone^{ACTUAL}, Nigeria^{ACTUAL}, Liberia^{PREDICTED}, Mauritania^{ACTUAL}, Central African Republic^{ACTUAL}, Guinea-Bissau^{PREDICTED}, Senegal^{PREDICTED}, Gambia^{PREDICTED}, Togo^{PREDICTED}, Sao Tome and Principe^{PREDICTED}, Ghana^{PREDICTED}, Côte d'Ivoire^{ACTUAL}.

	PREVALENCE OF INSUFFICIENT FOOD CONSUMPTION (HIGH→LOW)	TOTAL POPULATION (MILLIONS)	NO. AFFECTED (MILLIONS)
Sierra Leone ^{ACTUAL}	55%	8.2	4.5
Nigeria ^{ACTUAL}	49%	202.8	99.8
Liberia ^{PREDICTED}	43%	4.6	1.9
Mauritania ^{ACTUAL}	40%	4.4	1.7
Central African Republic ^{ACTUAL}	39%	4.7	1.8
Guinea-Bissau ^{PREDICTED}	37%	1.9	0.7
Senegal ^{PREDICTED}	31%	15.9	4.9
Gambia ^{PREDICTED}	30%	2.3	0.7
Togo ^{PREDICTED}	24%	7.9	1.9
Sao Tome and Principe ^{PREDICTED}	22%	0.2	0.05
Ghana ^{PREDICTED}	18%	29.8	5.4
Côte d'Ivoire ^{ACTUAL}	17%	29.4	4.9

Trends of the prevalence of insufficient food consumption over the past 90 days

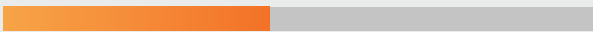
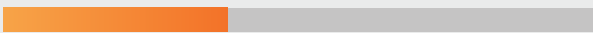
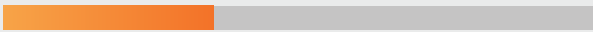
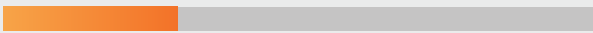
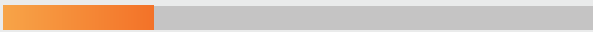
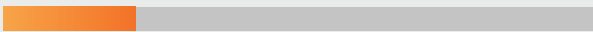
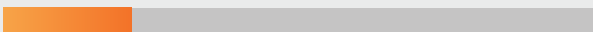
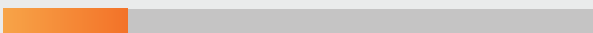
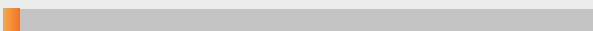
These graphs, all on a scale from 0% to 100%, show the trend in the prevalence of insufficient food consumption over the past 90 days (17 November 2023 - 15 February 2024). The percentages detailed below the country name indicate the change in the prevalence of insufficient food consumption from 90 days ago to today, with countries sorted by the prevalence of insufficient food consumption.



**Trend includes all data for the respective country, but collected data does not cover the full 90-day period.

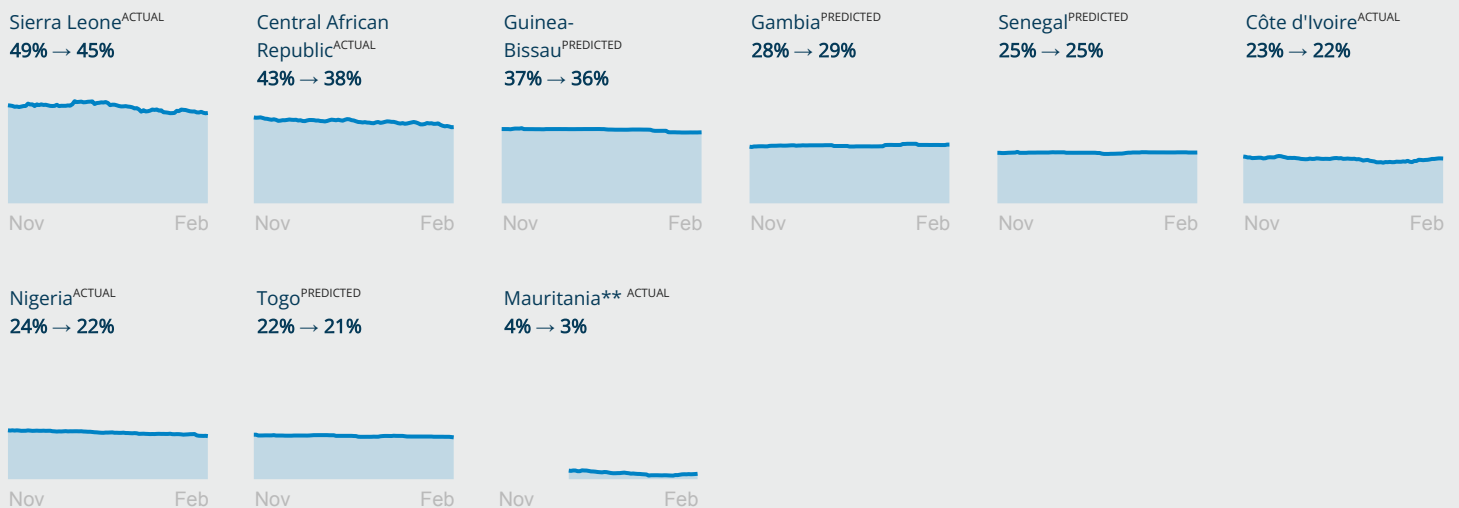
Countries with the highest prevalence of crisis or above crisis level food-based coping strategies

Currently, the countries with the highest prevalence of crisis or above crisis level food-based coping strategies, in order of severity, are: Sierra Leone^{ACTUAL}, Central African Republic^{ACTUAL}, Guinea-Bissau^{PREDICTED}, Gambia^{PREDICTED}, Senegal^{PREDICTED}, Côte d'Ivoire^{ACTUAL}, Nigeria^{ACTUAL}, Togo^{PREDICTED}, Mauritania^{ACTUAL}.

	PREVALENCE OF CRISIS OR ABOVE CRISIS LEVEL FOOD-BASED COPING STRATEGIES (HIGH→LOW)	TOTAL POPULATION (MILLIONS)	NO. AFFECTED (MILLIONS)
Sierra Leone ^{ACTUAL}	45% 	8.2	3.7
Central African Republic ^{ACTUAL}	38% 	4.7	1.8
Guinea-Bissau ^{PREDICTED}	36% 	1.9	0.7
Gambia ^{PREDICTED}	29% 	2.3	0.7
Senegal ^{PREDICTED}	25% 	15.9	4.0
Côte d'Ivoire ^{ACTUAL}	22% 	29.4	6.6
Nigeria ^{ACTUAL}	22% 	202.8	43.7
Togo ^{PREDICTED}	21% 	7.9	1.7
Mauritania ^{ACTUAL}	3% 	4.4	0.1

Trends of the prevalence of crisis or above crisis level food-based coping strategies over the past 90 days

These graphs, all on a scale from 0% to 100%, show the trend in the prevalence of crisis or above crisis level food-based coping strategies over the past 90 days (17 November 2023 - 15 February 2024). The percentages detailed below the country name indicate the change in the prevalence of crisis or above crisis level food-based coping strategies from 90 days ago to today, with countries sorted by the prevalence of crisis or above crisis level food-based coping strategies.



**Trend includes all data for the respective country, but collected data does not cover the full 90-day period.

Countries with the highest prevalence of crisis or emergency livelihood coping strategies

To support the global COVID-19 response, WFP has expanded its near real-time remote monitoring systems to assess the livelihoods situation in 1 country in Western Africa. The table below shows the top five livelihood coping strategies observed across countries in the region.

Note: Only selected countries with active near real-time food security monitoring systems ('actual' data) for this indicator are included in this section (i.e Nigeria).

Top 5 crisis or emergency livelihood coping strategies observed

	17 December 2023	16 January 2024	15 February 2024
Purchase food on credit or borrowed food	74%	73%	73%
Spend savings	57%	57%	56%
Borrow money	54%	54%	54%
Reduce expenses on health	38%	39%	39%
Consume seed stocks that were to be saved	30%	30%	31%

Trends of the prevalence of crisis or emergency livelihood coping strategies over the past 90 days

These graphs, all on a scale from 0% to 100%, show the trend in the prevalence of crisis or emergency livelihood coping strategies over the past 90 days (17 November 2023 - 15 February 2024). The percentages detailed below the country name indicate the change in the prevalence of crisis or emergency livelihood coping strategies from 90 days ago to today, with countries sorted by the prevalence of crisis or emergency livelihood coping strategies.


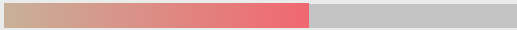

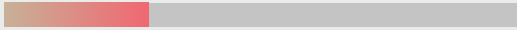
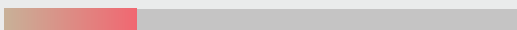
Nigeria^{ACTUAL}
28% → 27%



Countries with the highest prevalence of challenges accessing markets¹

To support the global COVID-19 response, WFP has expanded its near real-time remote monitoring systems to assess the prevalence of households reporting challenges accessing markets or grocery stores in 5 countries in Western Africa. The table below shows the current situation in countries with the highest prevalence of challenges accessing markets (highest to lowest).

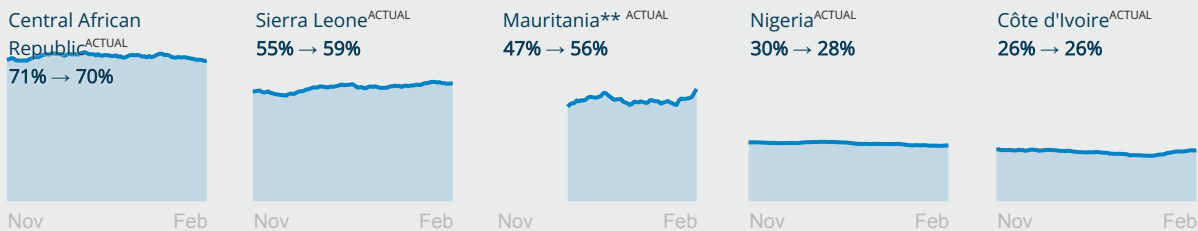
Note: Only selected countries with active near real-time food security monitoring systems ('actual' data) for this indicator are included in this section (i.e Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Mauritania, Nigeria, Sierra Leone).

	PREVALENCE OF CHALLENGES ACCESSING MARKETS (HIGH→LOW)	TOTAL POPULATION (MILLIONS)	NO. AFFECTED (MILLIONS)
Central African Republic ^{ACTUAL}	70% 	3.5*	2.4
Sierra Leone ^{ACTUAL}	59% 	8.2	4.9
Mauritania ^{ACTUAL}	56% 	4.4	2.5
Nigeria ^{ACTUAL}	28% 	160.1*	44.9
Côte d'Ivoire ^{ACTUAL}	26% 	29.4	7.5

*The total population displayed here is less than the national population. This may be attributed to the following factors: (1) not every region is covered by near real-time food security monitoring systems, or (2) populations that are not relevant to market access have been excluded.

Trends of the prevalence of challenges accessing markets over the past 90 days

These graphs, all on a scale from 0% to 100%, show the trend in the prevalence of challenges accessing markets over the past 90 days (17 November 2023 - 15 February 2024). The percentages detailed below the country name indicate the change in the prevalence of challenges accessing markets from 90 days ago to today.



¹ Challenges include both physical and financial constraints.

**Trend includes all data for the respective country, but collected data does not cover the full 90-day period.

Annex: Summary of food security and related metrics by country, 15 February 2024

	TOTAL POPULATION OF REFERENCE (MILLIONS)	PEOPLE WITH INSUFFICIENT FOOD CONSUMPTION (MILLIONS)	PEOPLE USING CRISIS OR ABOVE CRISIS LEVEL FOOD-BASED COPING STRATEGIES (MILLIONS)	PEOPLE USING CRISIS OR EMERGENCY LIVELIHOOD COPING STRATEGIES (MILLIONS)	PEOPLE REPORTING CHALLENGES ACCESSING MARKETS (MILLIONS)	CONFLICT RELATED FATALITIES PER 100,000
Benin ^{ACTUAL}	11.5	4.9	3.1	2.2	8.4	0.078
Burkina Faso ^{ACTUAL}	19.8	11.2	2.7	3.3	4.4	2.466
Cameroon ^{ACTUAL}	25.2	10.6	9.2	14.6	14.9	0.178
Central African Republic ^{ACTUAL}	4.7	1.8	1.8	—	2.4**	0.364
Chad ^{ACTUAL}	15.9	9.3	3.2	9.7	7.4	0.044
Côte d'Ivoire ^{ACTUAL}	29.4	4.9	6.6	—	7.5	0.003
Gambia ^{PREDICTED}	2.3	0.7	0.7	—	—	0.000
Ghana ^{PREDICTED}	29.8	5.4	—	—	—	0.040
Guinea ^{ACTUAL}	12.4	7.0	4.1	6.3	6.1	0.024
Guinea- Bissau ^{PREDICTED}	1.9	0.7	0.7	—	—	0.000
Liberia ^{PREDICTED}	4.6	1.9	—	—	—	0.000
Mali ^{ACTUAL}	19.1	13.2	4.8	5.4	4.9	1.431
Mauritania ^{ACTUAL}	4.4	1.7	0.1	—	2.5	0.000
Niger ^{ACTUAL}	25.9	21.4	3.7	9.1	—	0.935
Nigeria ^{ACTUAL}	202.8	99.8	43.7	85.2**	44.9**	0.302
Sao Tome and Principe ^{PREDICTED}	0.2	0.05	—	—	—	0.000
Senegal ^{PREDICTED}	15.9	4.9	4.0	—	—	0.025
Sierra Leone ^{ACTUAL}	8.2	4.5	3.7	—	4.9	0.000
Togo ^{PREDICTED}	7.9	1.9	1.7	—	—	0.025

*Not every region is covered by the near real-time food security monitoring systems, therefore the total population displayed here is less than the national population.

**The number of people for this metric is based on a subset of the national population, therefore prevalence for this metric is calculated with a total population that is less than the national population.

DEEP DIVE

Country insights

Click the relevant country to access the latest data and analysis. Insights are available for select 'ACTUAL' data countries only.

[Central African Republic](#)

[Côte d'Ivoire](#)

[Nigeria](#)

[Sierra Leone](#)

Key drivers

Click the icons to explore the relationship between hunger and the selected key driver

 [CONFLICT](#)

 [CLIMATE](#)