Global Report on Food Crises 2025

For Prelims: Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAFC), Food Security Information Network (FSIN), Global Report on Food Crises (GRFC), Malnutrition, Acute Food Insecurity, El Nino, United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

For Mains: Status of severity of acute food insecurity and nutrition crisis (malnutrition) worldwide, Causes and way forward for tackling acute food insecurity and nutrition crisis (malnutrition).

Source: DTE

Why in News?

The Global Report on Food Crises (GRFC) **2025** has revealed that more than **295 million** people across **53 countries** experienced acute hunger, an **increase of 13.7 million** compared to **2023**.

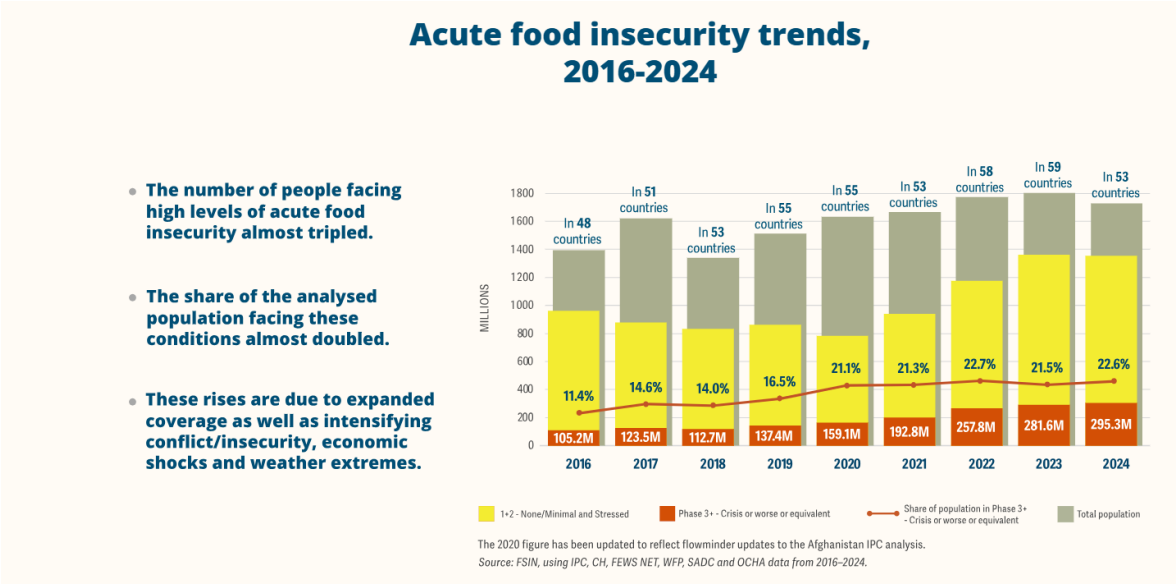
- The report highlights a **deepening global food insecurity crisis** fueled by ongoing **conflicts,** severe **climate events**, **economic disruptions**, and **forced displacement**.

Global Report on Food Crises (GRFC)

- The **Global Report on Food Crises (GRFC), 2025** has been published by the Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAFC) in collaboration with the Food Security Information Network (FSIN) .
- The GRFC is an annual publication that provides a comprehensive analysis of acute food insecurity and nutrition crisis (malnutrition) worldwide.
    - **Acute food insecurity** occurs when disruptions in **food availability, access, utilization,** or **stability** threaten **lives** or **livelihoods**.
    - A **nutrition crisis** arises when factors like **food scarcity, disease, conflict,** and **poor healthcare** lead to high **acute malnutrition** in children aged **6–59 months.**

What are the Key Drivers of Food Insecurity as per GRFC 2025 Report?

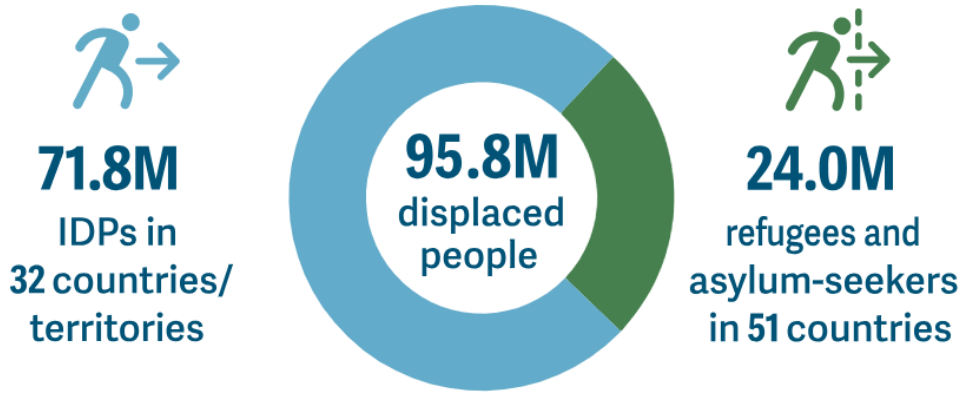
- **Conflict & Displacement:** Conflict drives food insecurity in 20 countries, affecting 139.8 million people and causing most Catastrophe **(Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)-5 i.e., starvation, death, or severe malnutrition)** cases, especially in Nigeria, Sudan, and Myanmar.
    - Additionally, global acute malnutrition cases in the **top 10 affected countries** rose from 26.9 million in 2023 to **30.4 million in 2024**, with the worst crises in **Sudan,** and **Gaza.**



- **Extreme Weather Event & Displacement: Rising temperatures, floods,** and **El Nino** caused **crop failures**, damaging food supply and increasing malnutrition risks.
    - It has fueled **food insecurity** in **18 countries**, affecting **96.1 million people**, while in **2024**, **95.8 million displaced individuals—75% internally displaced**—resided in the **53 food-crisis countries.**

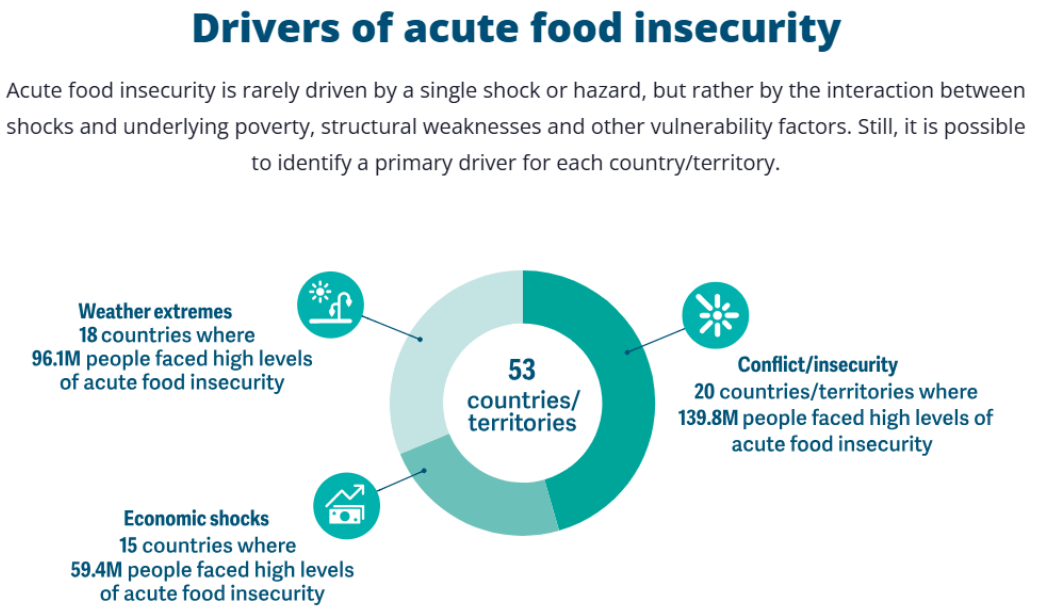
Displacement

This section provides an overview of forced displacement in the countries/territories with food crises in 2024, and provides data, where available, on the acute food insecurity status of displaced people.



- **Economic Shocks:** It drives food insecurity in **15 countries (e.g., South Sudan), affecting 59.4 million people** by disrupting **incomes, jobs**, and **food supply chains**, leading to **higher food prices**, **lower purchasing power**, and reduced access to **nutritious food**.
- **Funding Cuts:** The abrupt end of **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)** funding in 2025 has hit humanitarian efforts risking severe malnutrition and death for **14 million children** in Afghanistan, DRC, Ethiopia, Haiti etc.
- **Weak Governance:** Food insecurity drivers worsen existing vulnerabilities like **weak health systems, fragile economies**, and **political instability,** while poor data limits effective response

and monitoring.



What are the Socio-Economic Implications of Food Crises on Global Development?

- **Poverty Intensification:** Food crises **disrupt local agro-economies**, especially where agriculture dominates, and **rising food prices fuel inflation, reducing low-income purchasing power**.
- **Human Capital Loss:** Food crises **severely impact nutritional outcomes**, especially among children and pregnant women, with over **735 million** people **chronically undernourished** globally as per **Global Hunger Index** 2023.
    - Nutrition-related factors contribute to about **45% of deaths in children under 5 years of age.**
- **Social Instability:** Food shortages often trigger **civil unrest** and contribute to **forced migratio**n. The **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)** reports **23.5 million climate-displaced individuals**, many of whom flee due to crop failure and food insecurity.
- **Gender Inequality:** Food crises **disproportionately affect women**, who are often responsible for household nutrition but have **less access to land, credit, and aid.**
    - As per **UN Women**, it is estimated that **60% of chronically hungry people** are **women** and **girls**.
- **Impairment of Educational Systems:** Children affected by food crises often experience **higher dropout rates** due to hunger or the need to **support household incomes**.
    - While the global number of out-of-school children **fell by 9 million** from **2015-2021**, it has **increased by 6 million** since then, due to **stagnation worldwide** in food supply.

How can Food Insecurity and Nutrition Crises be Addressed?

- **Nutrition Information Systems:** Strong **early warning systems** allow needs of vulnerable groups to be **anticipated** and **addressed** before they become severe and widespread.
    - For instance, strong early warning systems contributed to **preventing famine (IPC Phase 5) in Somalia in 2022–2023**.
- **Integrated Food Security:** Develop **comprehensive food security and nutrition systems** at country and regional levels, using combined **agricultural and livelihood data** to identify **vulnerable groups**, understand shocks, and tailor assistance.
    - Increase **emergency agricultural aid**, which receives only **3%** of humanitarian food funding (2016-2024).

- **Climate Resilience:** Improving **agricultural productivity, building conflict-resilient supply chains**, and adopting **climate-smart farming** together reduce vulnerability and support economic recovery amid shocks.
    - Link **food security with peacebuilding**, protect farmers and markets in conflict zones, and rebuild rural economies to reduce hunger from displacement.
- **Agrifood Systems Transformation:** Investing in agriculture can improve **diet affordability, food production, and supply chains**, crucial for **severely food insecure countries** with protracted food crises where most people depend on farming.
    - Improve nutrition by expanding **therapeutic feeding, fortifying staples, and promoting dietary diversity**.

Conclusion

The **GRFC 2024 report** highlights a worsening global hunger crisis, driven by **conflict, climate shocks, and economic instability**. With **295 million facing acute food insecurity** and funding cuts threatening aid, urgent action is needed—**scaling climate-resilient agriculture, strengthening nutrition programs, and boosting humanitarian support**—to break the cycle of hunger and malnutrition.

Drishti Mains Question:

What are the key drivers of acute food insecurity globally, and how do conflict and climate change exacerbate this crisis? Discuss with examples.

UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims

Q. With reference to the provisions made under the National Food Security Act, 2013, consider the following statements: (2018)

1. The families coming under the category of 'below poverty line (BPL)' only are eligible to receive subsidised food grains.
2. The eldest woman in a household, of age 18 years or above, shall be the head of the household for the purpose of issuance of a ration card.
3. Pregnant women and lactating mothers are entitled to a 'take-home ration' of 1600 calories per day during pregnancy and for six months thereafter.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 3 only

Ans: (b)

Q. The FAO accords the status of 'Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System (GIAHS)' to traditional agricultural systems. What is the overall goal of this initiative? (2016)

1. To provide modern technology, training in modern farming methods and financial support to local communities of identified GIAHS so as to greatly enhance their agricultural productivity.
2. To identify and safeguard eco-friendly traditional farm practices and their associated landscapes,

agricultural biodiversity and knowledge systems of the local communities.
3. To provide Geographical Indication status to all the varieties of agricultural produce in such identified GIAHS.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 3 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (b)

Mains

Q. How far is the Integrated Farming System (IFS) helpful in sustaining agricultural production? (2019)