

FEWS NET Food Security Data

FEWS NET sub-national food security analysis is published in country-level FEWS NET Food Security Outlook reports. Prior to 2016, Outlook reports were published four times per year (in January, April, July, and October) and included data for the current situation (the month in which the data is published) plus projections for two three-month periods. Outlooks are now published three times per year (in February, June, and October) and include the current situation plus two four-month projections. Sub-national classification data from the Outlooks is consolidated into regional shapefiles and maps for public distribution via the FEWS NET Data Center.

Since February 2019, FEWS NET has used the [Integrated Food Security Phase Classification \(IPC\)](#) Version 3.0 scale. Between March 2011 and February 2019, an earlier version of the IPC scale (version 2.0) was used. Prior to March 2011, FEWS NET utilized the FEWS NET Food Insecurity Severity Scale, a scale similar to the IPC, but with differing classification criteria.

The data center includes food security information for FEWS NET Presence countries, dating back to June 2009. Presence refers to countries where we have in-country staff and publish sub-national maps. Remote Monitoring countries, which are depicted in maps using a colored border that corresponds to the IPC scale, are not included in the data center. Our presence country coverage has also evolved over time based on needs and priorities.

Each food security dataset includes the option to download PNGs for the three analytical periods. GIS shapefiles are also available in a single zipped folder that contains three shapefiles. The shapefiles use the following naming format:

XXYYYYZZ_CS

XXYYYYZZ_ML1

XXYYYYZZ_ML2

XX refers to the region, while YYYY refers to the four-digit year, and ZZ to the month. The CS file refers to the current situation; ML1 is the near-term projection; and ML2 is the medium-term projection. A file named WA201602_CS would include the February 2016 current situation data for West Africa. WA201602_ML1 and WA201602_ML2 would be the projection data for the near-term and medium-term, respectively.

Within the shapefiles, the CS/ML1/ML2 fields contain the phase classification for the period. For IPC data, the five phases are: 1: Minimal, 2: Stressed, 3: Crisis, 4: Emergency, and 5: Famine. Three additional values may also be included: 66 = water, 88 = parks, forests, reserves, 99 = No Data or Missing Data.

Beginning in March 2012, FEWS NET began implementing the IPC humanitarian assistance protocol in maps and data. In our shapefiles this is captured in the HA column (labelled HA0/HA1/HA2 for the current situation, near-term projection, and medium-term projection, respectively). If HA = 1, then the phase classification would likely be at least one phase worse without current or programmed humanitarian assistance. In FEWS NET and IPC maps, this is represented by an exclamation mark (!). If HA = 0, this indicates that current (or programmed) humanitarian assistance is likely not significant enough to change the phase level.

The zipped folder also includes a layer file named IPC_Legend.lyr file. This contains the official IPC color scheme. Data after March 2012 includes an additional layer file with the standard symbology used for humanitarian assistance. Data from before March 2011 will include a layer file with the symbology for the FEWS NET Food Insecurity Severity Scale.