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# AFRICA REGION | HUNGER CRISIS CALL FOR ACTION

**49.9M**  
FUNDING  
NEEDS

**2021/22**

About one in five people in Africa were facing hunger<sup>2</sup> in 2020. Of the total number of undernourished people globally, more than one-third live in Africa – 282 million people. This is 46 million more people affected by hunger compared to 2019. The rise in the prevalence of food insecurity in 2020 is equal to the five preceding years combined. Sub-Saharan Africa accounted for almost one-third of the global total, or 724 million people facing moderate or severe food insecurity<sup>3</sup>, which is equivalent to 66% of the Sub-Saharan African population with some form of food insecurity<sup>4</sup>, double the percentage as compared to 2014.

In 2020, 37% of the world's stunted children lived in Sub-Saharan Africa, making it the only region in the world where the absolute number of stunted children has increased since 2000. The impact of COVID-19, conflict, insecurity and social unrest, recurrent climate crisis and other shocks continue to put immense pressure on vulnerable and food-insecure households. The situation affects women disproportionately, with the gender gap in the prevalence of moderate and severe food insecurity being 10% higher among women than men in 2020 (compared to 6% in 2019). The impact of COVID-19 has affected the projections to end hunger by 2030. Although recovery is possible in most world regions starting from 2022, the same won't be a reality in Africa if the current trend is not reversed.

Considering this critical situation, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has embarked on an ambitious Pan-African initiative aimed at assisting by 2030 up to 25%<sup>5</sup> of Sub-Saharan Africa's food insecure population in **leading safe, healthy and dignified lives, free of hunger and poverty and with opportunities to thrive**. This initiative contributes to the inter-agency regional efforts to eradicate hunger in Africa, forging strategic alliances with key players. Stable availability of, and access to nutritious food, steady and resilient production, and climate-smart livelihood opportunities, especially in the face of these shocks, are urgently needed. This will ensure acute needs are met in the most affected countries and long-term food security ensured across the continent.

**This regional call for action aims to help Africa National Societies respond to acute hunger crises across the Africa Region** through Emergency Appeals, and Country Office Operational Plans designed to deliver integrated programmes to fight hunger. As of July 2021, a total of **49.9 million Swiss francs** is requested to support ten African National Societies humanitarian responses. This is expected to increase during the year as response modalities are agreed to support other critical situations. The IFRC and African National Societies aim to involve all Red Cross Red Crescent interested partners and actively collaborate with all key stakeholders and governments to address the hunger issues in Africa assertively and effectively.

<sup>1</sup> Data provided in this section is extracted from The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021 report.

<sup>2</sup> According to the UN's Hunger Report, hunger is the term used to define periods when populations are experiencing severe food insecurity—meaning that they go for entire days without eating due to lack of money, lack of access to food, or other resources.

<sup>3</sup> The state of being without reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food.

<sup>4</sup> The number of severe food insecure populations in Africa is 347 million people, which corresponds to 37% of the global total, while the Africa population accounts for 16.7% of the world's population.

<sup>5</sup> 25% would be equivalent to supporting 181 million food insecure people in Africa leading to 2030



## Africa Key Hunger Drivers

The Africa region has experienced food insecurity for an extended time, with the main driving factors outlined below. However, acute food insecurity in Africa has increased by over 60% in the past year, with the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 becoming wider and deeper, and exacerbating other drivers. This will have long-lasting effects across the continent, particularly for those living in poverty.



**Recurrent climatic crises (droughts, floods, deforestation, locusts):** cycles of extreme weather events and climate change induced variations in weather patterns, from floods to droughts, which prevent the recovery of natural resources and therefore affect livelihoods of people in affected areas, and overall country food production.



The worst **locust** outbreak in decades has affected several Eastern and Southern African countries, destroying large areas of vegetation and crops, thus threatening food security and livelihoods for thousands of people. The infestation of crops by fall armyworms in some parts of West Africa is also a significant contributor to the food insecurity crises in that region.



**Conflict, insecurity, social unrest and political instability** continue to be the primary drivers of acute food crises in Africa. Conflict destroys the livelihoods of the population and increases population displacement. It strongly disrupts trade, adversely affecting availability and access to food, leading to poorer food utilisation and sustainability.



**Socio-economic instability and high food prices:** Both local and international markets are impacted due to a decrease in mobility and food production, leading to stock retention and reduced availability of essential commodities in the markets. This, in turn, has led to an increase in the price of staple foods. Some contexts are marked by hyperinflation, reducing people's purchasing power and access to food and essential items.

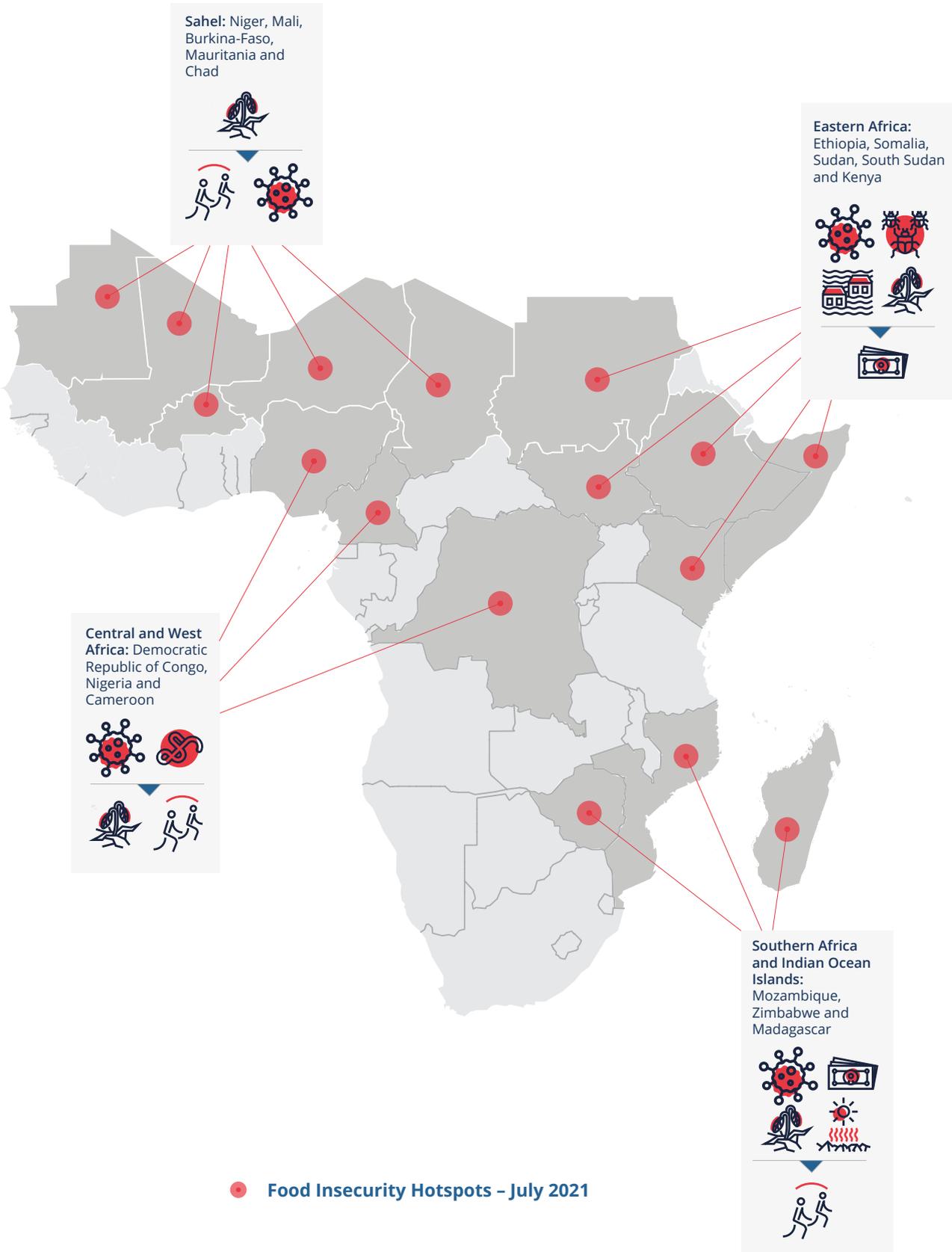


**Health:** The frequency and impact of outbreaks, including zoonotic diseases—infectious diseases transmitted from animals to humans—beyond COVID-19, such as Avian Influenza, SARS, MERS, and Ebola, have increased in the past two decades. Lack of access to safe water, exacerbate water-borne diseases, which have a direct negative impact on nutrition outcomes.



**COVID-19 restrictive measures:** Massive income and remittance losses have reduced urban and rural households' ability to purchase food. Supply disruptions linked to movement restrictions that impede food trade, the closing of 'wet markets', lower availability of labour, lack of liquidity (particularly for large food traders), the closure of fragile informal and micro, small and medium enterprises, and limited access to agricultural inputs for the next season's production. As a result of these supply disruptions, food price inflation in some countries has risen significantly faster than overall inflation, mainly affecting the price of perishable and more nutritious foods relative to grains.

# Food Insecurity Current and Evolving Hotspots



# THE OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

**25%**  
**OF PEOPLE**  
**FREE OF**  
**HUNGER**

This Call for Action serves to harness complimentary support to address the acute hunger crisis in the twelve most-affected countries in 2021, which will allow African National Societies to stall further deterioration of very critical, life-endangering situations. It reflects the state of affairs regarding hunger hotspots and the strategy to address it as of August 2021, acknowledging this will evolve and requires constant monitoring. The critical interventions proposed in these countries are detailed in the below Strategic Priorities framework.

However, food insecurity and hunger in Africa are humanitarian and developmental challenges. While there are urgent and life-saving acute needs to be addressed, doing so alone will be insufficient to generate the resilience needed in the face of the systemic drivers. Therefore, addressing hunger will require a holistic strategy, overlapping humanitarian response. It needs longer-term programming that will focus on addressing immediate needs, building resilience (including climate adaptation), and providing people and their communities with resources and tools to help cope with the impact of seasonal and multiple concurrent shocks.

In this light, the recently launched IFRC Zero Hunger Pan-African Initiative is broader in scope and time, allowing to tackle the urgent acute situations (referred to in this document) and enabling an approach to the root causes from a resilience building point of view, tackle urgent acute situations and enable responses to approach the root causes from a resilience building, climate adapted lens for the long term. To lift people from poverty and eradicate dependence on food assistance will help protect, recover and diversify livelihoods, scale-up safety nets, invest in food production, ensure appropriate access to and availability of nutritious foods, and foster household economic security, especially for women and youth.

**GOAL:** up to 25% of people vulnerable to food insecurity in Africa lead safe, healthy, and dignified lives, free of hunger and poverty, and have opportunities to thrive

**2030**  
**Outcomes**

**Intermediate Objective:** To enhance the resilience for and self-reliance in food security of vulnerable people affected by disasters and crisis in Africa, including women and young people

**1**

**Poor households** are able to effectively protect, recover, and grow their livelihoods through timely and scalable safety nets

**2**

**Food consumption** and nutrition standards of urban and rural households, vulnerable to food insecurity are met and enhanced

**3**

**Economically disadvantaged** HHs have diversified and resilient on/off-farm, and non-agricultural LLH strategies, with an emphasis on women's and young people's economic inclusion

In conclusion, the IFRC Zero Hunger Pan-African Initiative, will address the hunger and food security issues holistically, linking emergency interventions for rapid nutrition, IFRC will undertake a holistic approach to food security, associating specific interventions for rapid nutrition, food security and livelihood support for acute food-insecure households and communities, with a long-term strategy working towards zero hunger and more sustainable development. Furthermore, the strategy integrates other sectoral DRR and climate adaptation, to WaSH, Protection, Gender and Inclusion, Migration and Identity and Urban & Shelter, which will enhance the program's impact. The proposed approach thus supports overlapping phases of intervention, from life-saving humanitarian response to promoting resilience against the recurring phenomenon of the acute and chronic food crisis, through both:



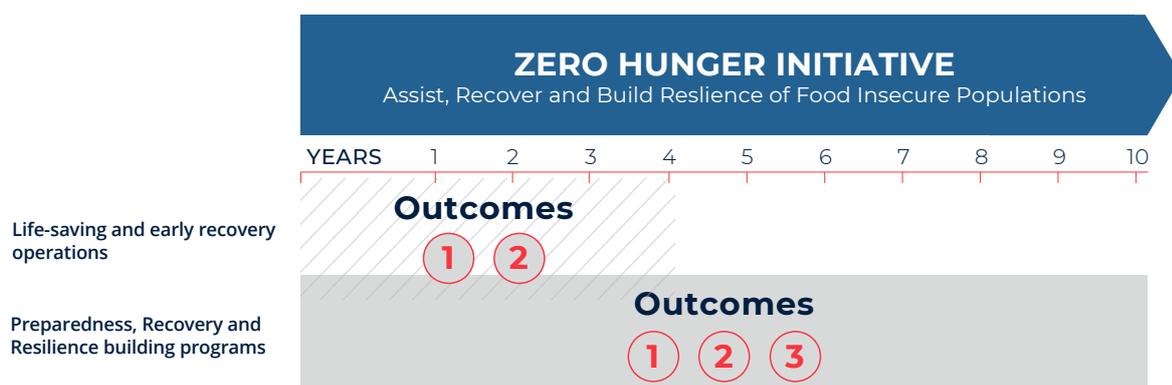
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### Life-saving and early recovery operations

- Averting famine through a combination of food and nutritional assistance and awareness (preferably through cash modalities) and emergency livelihoods protection and recovery.
- Eligible: countries or regions in IPC4 or above - emergency level, or IPC3 with prospects of severe deterioration and high rates of malnutrition.
- Operation Modalities: DREF or Emergency Appeal (single or multi-country) or Call for Actions.
- Timeline: 6 months to 2 years.
- Current funding required: 49.9 million Swiss Francs.

### Preparedness, recovery and resilience programmes

- Medium-term food security and livelihood programs aim to increase preparedness, sustain recovery, and strengthen resilience in post-emergency and chronic food insecurity settings.
- Eligible: all countries with IPC3 and above, chronic food insecurity, malnutrition and facing multiple crises.
- Operation Modalities: Preparedness, Recovery and Resilience components in long-term EAs, and Operational Plans incorporating Zero Hunger Initiative; specific proposals.
- Timeline: 3 to 5-year plans.
- Current funding required: to be determined.



## Targeting and Needs Assessments

A priority reference for targeting hunger crisis hotspots is the [Integrated Food Security Phase Classification](#) (IPC). Operations will respond in identified hunger hotspot regions by targeting activities categorised as Integrated Phase Classification Level 3 and above (IPC3+) to help prevent further deterioration of the food security status. These three levels of focus are defined as:

- **PHASE 3 Crisis** - Households either have food consumption gaps reflected by high or above-usual acute malnutrition or are marginally able to meet minimum food needs but only by depleting essential livelihood assets or through crisis-coping strategies.
- **PHASE 4 Emergency** - Households either have significant food consumption gaps reflected in very high acute malnutrition and excess mortality or can mitigate substantial food consumption gaps but only by employing emergency livelihood strategies and asset liquidation.
- **PHASE 5 Famine** - Households have an extreme lack of food and/or other basic needs even after full employment of coping strategies. Starvation, death, destitution, and highly critical acute malnutrition levels are evident.

The IFRC Africa teams have recently developed a specific assessment tool that would allow harmonization of the primary data collected - Regional Food Security and Livelihoods Needs Assessment tool and guidance. Data gathered will focus on both qualitative and quantitative data collection and will engage stakeholders from the national, district and community level and affected populations directly. This will allow the Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies to understand further and analyse the evolving food security situation in targeted contexts.

## Red Cross Red Crescent responses to date

Based on the mapping carried out by the IFRC Regional Office, 26 African National Societies (ANS) implemented food security and livelihood (FSL) projects and programs during the 5 years leading to 2020. According to the information gathered, investment in FSL programs was 81.14 million Swiss Francs implemented across more than 77 projects supported by 17 different partners (Movement and non-Movement). Currently, 40% of African National Societies have an FSL team with over 5 years of experience, an FSL department and focal point, and over 250 staff are involved in FSL interventions. The Livelihood Resource Centre has played a major role in strengthening the African National Society's capacity by providing technical assistance, trainings and creating and sharing tools to allow National Societies to design, plan and implement holistic programs. As of 2020, over 648 practitioners from 40 African National Societies, ICRC, IFRC and Partner National Societies (PNS) practitioners working in the Africa region have been trained by the Livelihoods Resource Centre.

## Addressing the Hunger Crisis in 2021

The IFRC is currently supporting 7 African National Societies to address acute hunger, through Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) and/or Emergency Appeals. An additional 5 are planned in the short term. These operations were either launched to respond directly to the Hunger Crisis (e.g., Somalia, Nigeria, Madagascar) or have integrated response to food insecurity as a consequence of a related disaster or complex crisis (e.g., Ethiopia and Sudan complex emergency, Mount Nyiragongo Eruption Emergency, Niger Complex Emergency). In addition, there are several National Societies addressing food insecurity through the IFRC COVID-19 appeal, pillar 2, focusing on household economic recovery. This means that whether operations are sector-specific or multi-sectoral, once there is a contribution to nutrition and food security outcomes, they will be harmonised with and accounted for through the Pan-Africa Zero Hunger Initiative.

Some National Societies may engage simultaneously in life-saving humanitarian responses to longer-term Pan Africa Zero hunger Initiatives depending on the severity level, geographic areas, and the type of crisis (acute or chronic). Madagascar Red Cross is an excellent example of the overlapping promoted by the Zero Hunger initiative: despite starting as an emergency DREF operation, the National Society has fundraised and quickly moved to longer-term programs under the Country Operational Plan. The current National Society funding requirements for all ongoing Emergency Operations in 12 hotspot countries is 49.9 million Swiss francs, to reach 2.40 million people.

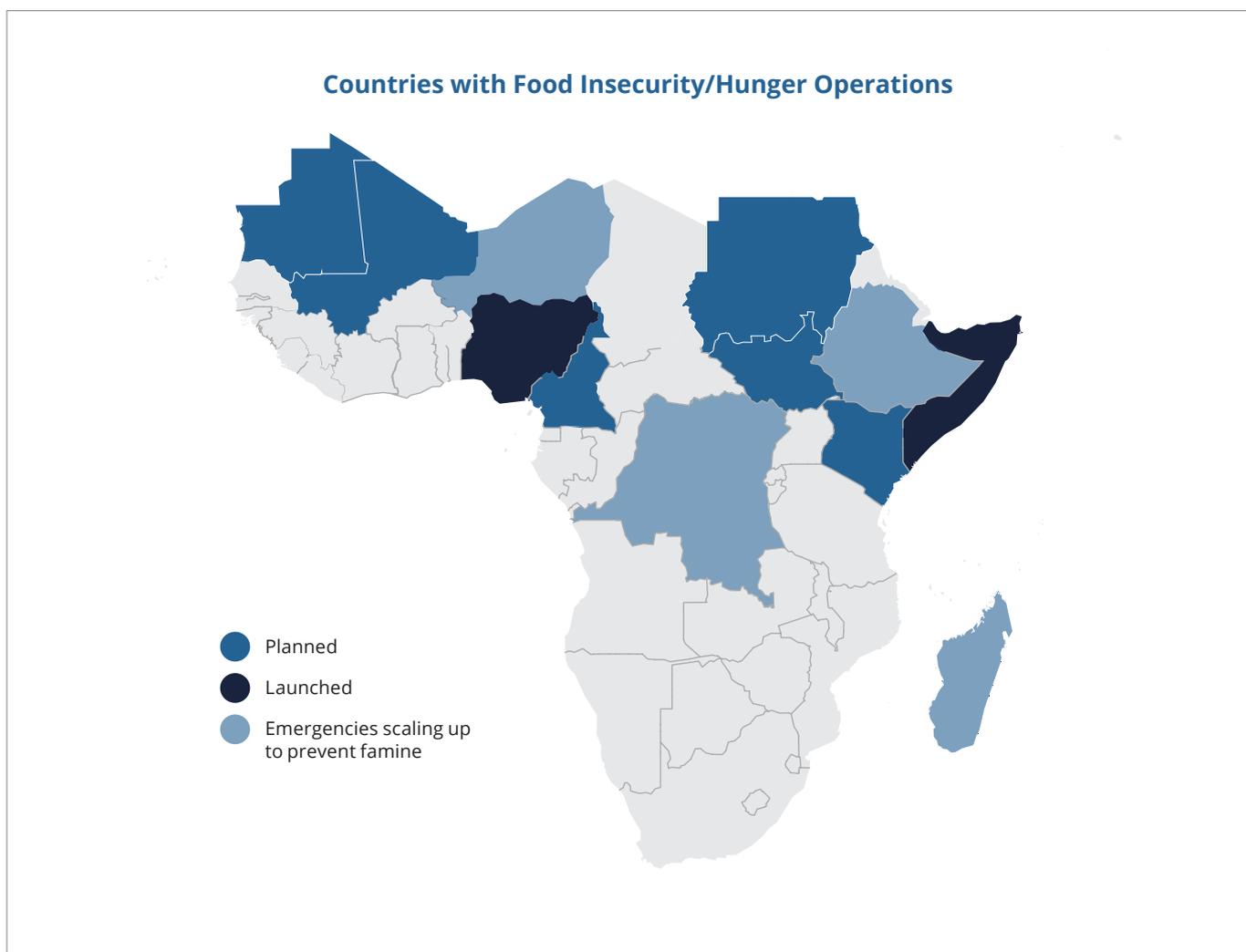
## COUNTRIES WITH FOOD INSECURITY/HUNGER OPERATIONS

Countries	Operational Modality	Phase (launched/ planned/scale-up)	Targeted population
Somalia	Emergency Appeal	Launched	563,808
Sudan	Regular Programme	Planned	60,000
South Sudan	Emergency Appeal	Planned	500,000
Ethiopia	Emergency Appeal	Scale-Up	66,667
Kenya	Emergency Appeal	Planned	500,000
Nigeria	Emergency Appeal	Launched	200,000
DR Congo	Emergency Appeal	Scale-Up	220,000
Niger	Emergency Appeal	Scale-Up	90,000
Madagascar	Regular Programme	Scale-Up	100,000
Mali	Emergency Appeal	Planned	12,000
Cameroon	Regular Programme	Planned	80,000
Mauritania	TBD	Planned	15,000
Regional Coordination	Regular Programme	NA	NA

**Total**

**2,407,475**

Note: 28 National Societies have expressed interest in engaging in the Zero Hunger Initiative through County Operational Plans



# Coordination

## Federation-wide Coordination

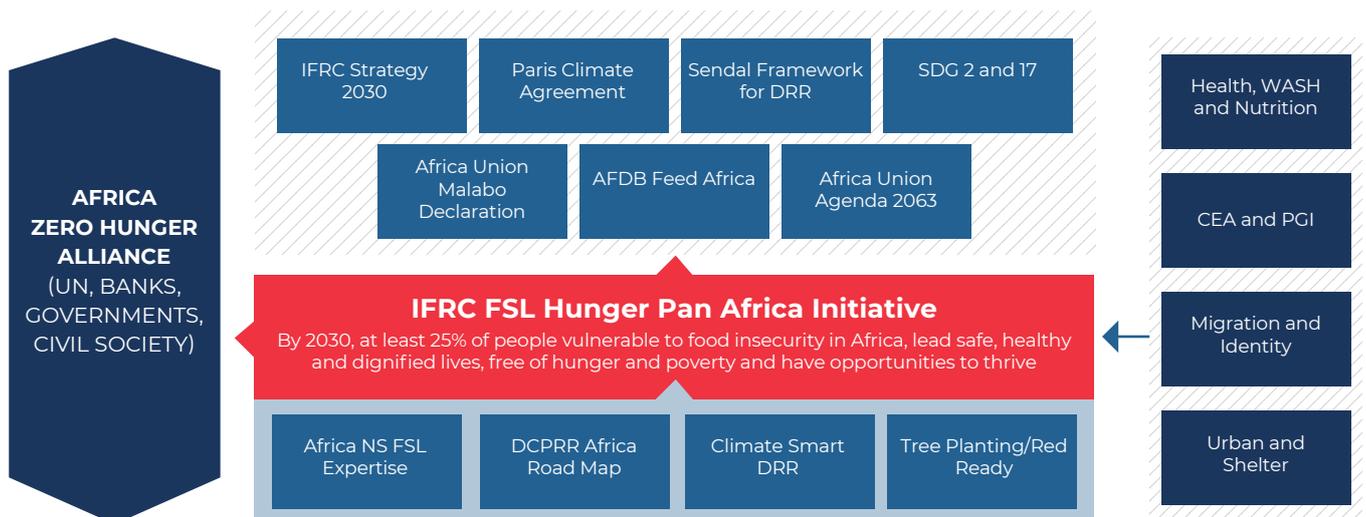
This call is part of a Federation-wide approach, based on the response priorities of the affected National Societies and in consultation with all Federation members contributing to targeted regions. The operational strategy to addressing the hunger crisis in each hotspot will ensure linkages between all response activities (including bilateral activities and activities funded domestically) and assist in leveraging the capacities of all members of the Federation in each hotspot in maximising the collective humanitarian impact. Movement wide coordination is seen as a priority to our actions, more efficient through rapid attribution of coordination responsibilities and ensuring complementary action.

The IFRC Secretariat will ensure that the response to the food crises in Africa is effectively managed and coordinated beyond the country level, focusing on key objectives: Provide strategic oversight, enhanced leadership at the regional level and ensure support to operations; Promote approaches which increase resilience and build sustainable solutions to food insecurity; Facilitate and encourage regional learning and peer-to-peer support; Support the collection, consolidation and effective use of monitoring and data and information; Strengthen and scale up community engagement and accountability approaches and activities.

## Coordination with non-Red Cross Red Crescent actors' actions

IFRC's Zero Hunger Pan-African Initiative is interconnected with other regional plans. It will contribute to delivering against wider global and regional commitments specific to Food Security (SDG2, AU Malabo Declaration, Feed Africa) and related frameworks that will have a determinant impact on Food Security outcomes.

The IFRC and African National Societies are actively working in collaboration with all key stakeholders and Governments to address the hunger issues in Africa. We are coordinating with a range of key external actors in all contexts of response. As auxiliaries to the Governments in the countries where the Red Cross Red Crescent operates, we will always engage with the relevant Ministries, Agencies, and authorities at all levels as appropriate as a standard integrated part of our approach to operations. We also coordinate with other stakeholders relevant to our response activities, including a range of UN agencies, International and National NGOs and local and community groups where present and appropriate.



# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES





# FOOD SECURITY, LIVELIHOODS, AND BASIC NEEDS

The proposed interventions under the Food Security, Livelihoods and Basic Needs Sector are aligned with the Zero Hunger Initiative Framework and apply to all countries and engaged National societies. These interventions are designed to suit every response stage, preferably overlapping to fasten recovery and generate resilience and growth.

**Life-saving and early recovery operations** – to avert acute food insecurity through a combination of nutritional support and awareness, food assistance and short-term safety nets (in-kind, vouchers or restricted/unrestricted cash), food production and emergency livelihood protection and recovery (multipurpose cash, conditional cash, in-kind).

**Preparedness recovery and resilience programming** – to recover from and build resilience towards increased food security in post-emergency or chronic settings – that will grow and expand livelihoods, diversify food production and nutritional intake, and generate opportunities for resilient on/off-farm and non-agricultural livelihoods strategies, with an emphasis on women's and young people's economic inclusion.

## Examples of interventions to address acute food insecurity and promote resilience:

### Assistance and Protection of Livelihoods

- Nutritional support, supplements, detection, and referrals, awareness raising.
- Scaling-up of multipurpose cash for both food and livelihoods.
- Accelerate household/community food production through vegetable gardens and livestock management.
- Support small-scale farmers: seeds, water solutions, tools, household, and community warehousing and enhancing their technical capacities.
- Support local governments capacities on anticipation of food insecurity crisis that may impact people's livelihoods, localisation.

### Anticipatory Actions

- Establish safety nets through multipurpose cash designed around seasonality and provided either longer-term or several times to cover lean periods.
- Linkages to national social protection systems where relevant and feasible.
- Invest in Smallholder Farmers, through anticipatory climate-smart action, including complimentary technical support.
- Access to safety nets, financial services (saving groups and financial inclusion e.g. bank or mobile money accounts) and access to micro insurances.
- Reinforce local cooperatives capacities.
- Diversification of food and income sources (support for "non-dependent" climate income-generating activities).
- Strengthen marketing skills and improving links with market stakeholders.

### Reducing community tensions to avoid displacement

- Training in small business management for economically disadvantaged households.
- Basic life and employment skills training.
- Provision of basic start-up grants (conditional cash), targeting affected individuals and aimed at the recovery of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in the communities.
- Support in establishing Business Continuity plan.
- Local Red Cross as convener with government-led social-protection systems.
- Dissemination of Red Cross Red Crescent principles and values.
- Facilitation of community dialogue to increase access to farming land.
- Ensure wide targeting of affected communities including minorities, IDPs, Refugees and others as relevant.
- Establish relevant and appropriate community engagement and accountability structures.

### Partnerships and alliances

- At the community level, national and regional level with Government, other like-minded organisations and private sector.



## HEALTH AND NUTRITION

These activities will complement food security and livelihoods by supporting an immediate and sustainable reduction of health and nutrition risks for targeted communities.

### **Key interventions to address famine and increase hunger resilience:**

- Community-based disease control and health promotion is provided to the target population.
- Less severe cases of disease or malnutrition are treated in the community, with referral pathways for severe cases established.
- The psychosocial impacts of the crisis are lessened, and psychosocial support is provided to the target population and volunteers and staff.
- Risk communication messaging on COVID-19.



## WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

These activities will complement food security and livelihoods by supporting a sustainable reduction in the risk of waterborne and water-related diseases in the targeted communities. One of the biggest challenges that the communities face is access to safe and clean water for household consumption. Hence it is crucial to ensure the water points are rehabilitated and protected.

### **Key interventions to address food insecurity and hunger resilience:**

- A support community to manage their water sources giving access to safe water, is provided to the target population and livestock.
- Support improved access to and use of adequate sanitation by the target population.
- Provide hygiene promotion activities to the entire affected population.



## PROTECTION, GENDER AND INCLUSION

These activities will complement the food security and livelihoods activities by supporting communities to become more peaceful, safe, and inclusive by helping to meet the needs and rights of the most vulnerable.

### Key interventions to address famine and increase hunger resilience:

- Programmes and operations ensure safe and equitable provision of basic services, considering different needs based on gender and other diversity factors.
- Programmes and operations prevent and mitigate the risk of gender based violence, child abuse and neglect.
- Programmes and operations protect children from child labour.



## DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

These activities will complement the food security and livelihood activities for targeted communities by supporting them in adopting climate risk-informed and environmentally responsible values and practices.

### Critical interventions to address famine and increase hunger resilience:

- Contributions to climate change mitigation are made by implementing green solutions.
- Community awareness-raising programmes on climate change risks and environmentally responsible practices are conducted in target communities.

## ENABLER – STRENGTHENING NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The emergency operations to acute hunger must also support the National Societies to address some self-assessed gaps with the view of further leveraging its mandate and capabilities as a partner of choice for emergency response and disaster preparedness. National Societies will be supported to enhance financial management capacity of its branches in the target areas, strengthen its supply chain management capacity, enhance its Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER) capacity at national and branch levels, especially important in disaster preparedness and risk management.

The National Societies will be supported in enhancing their operational leadership in Disaster Response Management and building of Change to National Disaster Response Teams (NDRT) and Branch Disaster Response Teams (BDRT) teams, recognizing Branch Development as a strategic requirement for transforming institutional cultures that directly and positively impacts the Red Cross Red Crescent operational capacity to deliver on our humanitarian mission through staff and volunteers:

### **Training of Branch staff and volunteers to:**

- Conduct assessments in the communities to determine the needs of the population.
- Promote partnerships and train communities in disaster and crisis affected areas.
- Adopt climate risk informed, and environmentally responsible values and practices.
- Support communities to develop capacities in various livelihood programmes so that they can become self-reliance and achieve sustainability.
- Support Branches with necessary ICT facilities for effective programme monitoring and reporting.
- Training of Trainers to cascade down to farmers and school children. Some may include:
  - » Training farmers on crop diversification.
  - » Training farmers on Nature based practices on how to protect crops from hazards.
  - » Training school children and farmers on fruit planting (identifying fruits that survive in respective geographical locations).
  - » Training farmers on food processing and food preservation.

National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure the necessary ethical, policies and financial foundations, systems and structures, competences, and capacities to plan, perform and carry out operations with minimum support.



# FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

2021

## AFRICA HUNGER CRISIS

### Funding requirements summary

Country	Needs in CHF
Somalia	8,700,000
Sudan	2,000,000
South Sudan	7,000,000
Ethiopia	5,100,000
Kenya	8,000,000
Nigeria	4,100,000
DRC	5,000,000
Niger	800,000
Madagascar	3,000,000
Mali	1,200,000
Cameroon	3,000,000
Mauritania	500,000
Regional Coordination	1,500,000

**TOTAL** EMERGENCY FUNDING AS OF 07/2021

**49,900,000**



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## For further information, specifically related to this operation, please contact:

### In the IFRC

IFRC Regional Office for Africa: Adesh Tripathee, Head of Disaster, Climate and Crisis - Response and Recovery, [adesh.tripathee@ifrc.org](mailto:adesh.tripathee@ifrc.org)

IFRC Regional Office for Africa: Marko Korhonen, Regional DRM Coordinator, [marko.korhonen@ifrc.org](mailto:marko.korhonen@ifrc.org)  
Rui Oliveira, Operations Manager, [rui.oliveira@ifrc.org](mailto:rui.oliveira@ifrc.org)

### For IFRC Resource Mobilization and Pledges support:

IFRC Regional Office for Africa: Louise Daintrey, Head of Partnership, Resource and Development, [louise.daintrey@ifrc.org](mailto:louise.daintrey@ifrc.org)

### For In-Kind donations and Mobilisation table support:

Logistics Coordinator: Rishi Ramrakha - Head of Logistics, [rishi.ramrakha@ifrc.org](mailto:rishi.ramrakha@ifrc.org)

### For Performance and Accountability

Support (planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting enquiries): Philip Komo Kahuho, Head of PMER, [philip.kahuho@ifrc.org](mailto:philip.kahuho@ifrc.org)

## How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, **encourage, facilitate, and promote all forms of humanitarian activities** by National Societies to prevent and alleviate human suffering and contribute to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.