

International Food Security Assessment, 2024–34

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What Is the Issue?

Millions of people around the world lack access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food. Several factors affect the prevalence of food security including food availability (agricultural production and market conditions), access to food (economic and physical), stability (price and income shocks), and utilization (food safety and nutritional knowledge). Food security can be worsened by declining income levels, high food prices, and food supply shocks. Using a demand-driven model that integrates income, food prices, and food supply, the International Food Security Assessment (IFSA) analysis helps the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and its stakeholders assess the availability and access dimensions of food security for 83 countries in 5 regions: Asia, the Former Soviet Union, Latin American and the Caribbean, the Middle East and North Africa, and Sub-Saharan Africa. The 2024 report is based on observed country-level domestic commodity prices up to December 2023 and macroeconomic and international agricultural commodity price projections completed as of August 2023, to estimate and project the potential impact on present and future food insecurity levels.



What Did the Study Find?

The main findings for the 83 countries covered by this report are:

- Food security is estimated to improve in 2024 relative to 2023 for most of the 83 countries covered by the IFSA report due to an average of 3.4 percent growth in per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and easing of international and domestic food price levels for most commodities, including vegetable oils, wheat, sorghum, and corn. In 2024, an estimated 19.0 percent of the population included in IFSA, or 824.6 million people, may be unable to consume the 2,100¹ kilocalories (kcal) per day considered necessary for a healthy and active lifestyle. This represents a 27.5 percent decrease (313.0 million fewer people) from the estimated number of food-insecure people in 2023.

¹ The caloric threshold considered in the assessment is an average across sex, age, region, and activity level.

ERS is a primary source of economic research and analysis from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, providing timely information on economic and policy issues related to agriculture, food, the environment, and rural America.

- However, food security is estimated to worsen for nine countries: Syria, Iran, Laos, Egypt, Gambia, Moldova, Liberia, Bangladesh, and Haiti due to elevated consumer price inflation in certain countries in the Middle East and North Africa region and high rice prices in some countries in the South Asia and West Africa subregions. Persistently high food insecurity in Haiti is associated with food and fuel shortages, rising inflation, weather-related shocks, and conflict.
- Food insecurity is projected to significantly decline by 2034 in IFSA countries, with 274.6 million people projected to be food insecure (a 66.7-percent reduction from the 2024 estimate). The share of the population that is unable to consume 2,100 kcal a day is projected to fall to 5.5 percent by 2034 (71.1 percent lower than the 2024 estimate). This decline is driven by projected improvements in per capita GDP, particularly in the Former Soviet Union region and the South and South East Asia subregions.
- Grain demand is projected to increase by 2.4 percent across the 83 IFSA countries in the next 10 years, mainly due to per capita income growth in Asia and population growth in Sub-Saharan Africa. However, grain production is only projected to increase an average of 1.7 percent annually through 2034, resulting in a significant shortfall in food and feed availability in both Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.

The 2024 food insecurity estimates are based on per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and international price projections completed in August 2023. These projections are influenced by the recovery from multiple global shocks, including the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and the enactment of tighter monetary policies that are associated with both lower price inflation and slower GDP growth.

How Was the Study Conducted?

The USDA, Economic Research Service (ERS) demand-driven IFSA model (described in appendix A) projects food demand and food gaps in 83 low- and middle-income countries. Food security is evaluated for each country by estimating the share of the population unable to reach a caloric threshold of 2,100 kcal per person per day. The intensity of food insecurity for those falling below the minimum caloric target is measured by the gap between projected food demand and this caloric threshold. Food demand is expressed in grain equivalents and is based on caloric content to allow aggregation across four separate food groups: the primary grain consumed in the country, other grains, roots and tubers, and all other food. Average per capita food consumption data are from the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Food Balance Sheets and FAO's Global Information Early Warning System's (GIEWS), Country Cereal Balance Sheet, January 2024 dataset. Observed domestic prices are from the FAO-GIEWS Food Price Monitoring and Analysis Tool. Tariff data are from the World Bank's World Integrated Trade Solution. Incomes, exchange rates, and Consumer Price Indexes are from the USDA, ERS International Macroeconomic Data Set (USDA, 2023). World prices are from the *USDA Agricultural Projections to 2033* report (USDA, 2024).