



UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

PROLONGED DRY SPELLS, FLOODING, AND HIGH FOOD PRICES DRIVE HIGH LEVELS OF ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY IN RURAL DISTRICTS

IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY ANALYSIS
FEBRUARY 2026 – JANUARY 2027

Published 27 April 2026

CURRENT SITUATION: FEBRUARY - MAY 2026		
 <p>1M 10% of the population analysed</p> <p>People facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above)</p> <p>IN NEED OF URGENT ACTION</p>	Phase 5	0 People in Catastrophe
	Phase 4	0 People in Emergency
	Phase 3	1,028,000 People in Crisis
	Phase 2	2,860,000 People Stressed
	Phase 1	6,041,000 People in food security

PROJECTED SITUATION: JUNE 2026 - JANUARY 2027		
 <p>507,000 5% of the population analysed</p> <p>People facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above)</p> <p>IN NEED OF URGENT ACTION</p>	Phase 5	0 People in Catastrophe
	Phase 4	0 People in Emergency
	Phase 3	507,000 People in Crisis
	Phase 2	2,308,000 People Stressed
	Phase 1	7,113,000 People in food security

Overview

Disclaimer: This analysis draws on data and contextual information available as of 2 March 2026. As a result, the analysis does not fully account for the potential impacts of the 2026 conflict in the Middle East given the uncertainty regarding its evolution at the time.

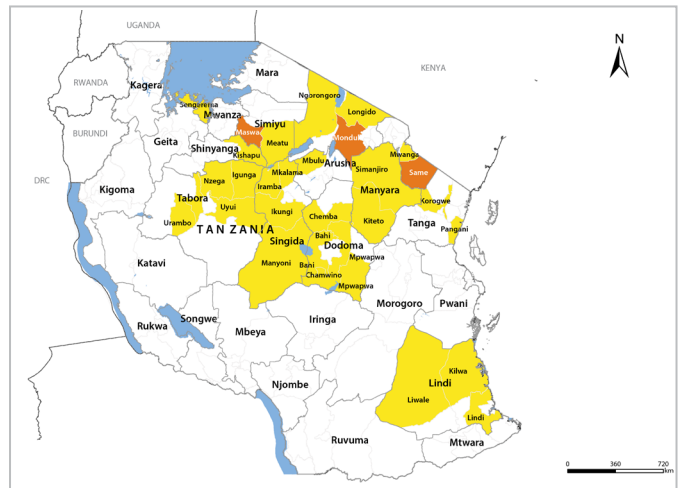
Prolonged dry spells, flooding, high staple food prices, reduced household purchasing power, and limited income (particularly among households dependent on agricultural labour, livestock, and crop production) are driving 10 percent of the analysed population in rural districts of mainland Tanzania into high levels of acute food insecurity, classified in IPC Phase 3 or above (Crisis or worse). During the current analysis period (February–May 2026), which coincides with the peak lean season in single-season (unimodal) agricultural districts, approximately one million people are experiencing IPC Phase 3 (Crisis), meaning they are unable to meet their essential food requirements and resort to unsustainable coping measures.

Reduced crop production during both the Masika and Msimu seasons has further constrained food availability and access. Nonetheless, hazards and shocks have primarily affected only a few segments of the rural population in unimodal areas, without causing extensive impacts on acute food insecurity.

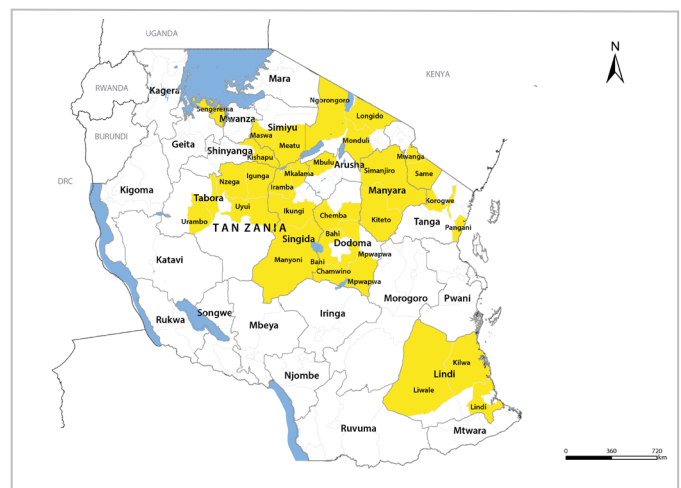
This IPC analysis for mainland Tanzania covered 30 vulnerable rural districts across 11 regions, comprising 20 districts with two agricultural seasons (bimodal) and 10 districts with one (unimodal). These districts have a combined population of 10 million people (around 15 percent of the national population) and face recurring shocks that consistently undermine food security and weaken purchasing power.

Compared to the previous IPC analysis, conducted in February 2025, the situation has deteriorated slightly, primarily due to the 2026 analysis covering a larger geographic area—from 16 districts previously analysed to 30 districts in the current analysis—and a population that has more than doubled since the previous analysis.

Current Acute Food Insecurity | February – May 2026



Projected Acute Food Insecurity | June 2026 – January 2027



Key for the Map IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification

(mapped Phase represents highest severity affecting at least 20% of the population)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 - Minimal | Areas with inadequate evidence |
| 2 - Stressed | Areas not analysed |
| 3 - Crisis | |
| 4 - Emergency | Evidence Level |
| 5 - Famine | ** Medium |

Proportionally, however, the situation remains comparable, with 10 percent of the population analysed in Phase 3 or above.

Of the 30 rural districts analysed in the current period, three (Maswa, Monduli, and Same) are classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis), while the remaining 27 are in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed). These three districts record the highest burden of acute food insecurity, with 19 percent of their population in Phase 3 or above.

During the projection period (June 2026 to January 2027), aligned with the Masika and Msimu harvests, the number of people in Phase 3 or above is expected to decrease significantly, to around 507,000 (5 percent of the analysed population)—marking a reduction of 50 percent, or 521,000 people. Although the projected figure is higher than the 242,000 people classified in Phase 3 or above in the same period last year, this increase is mainly due to expanded district coverage (30 districts in 2026 versus 16 in 2025). Proportionally, the share of the population in Phase 3 or above remains stable at around 5 percent, indicating no major deterioration in underlying food security conditions.

Key Drivers



Climatic shocks and seasonal constraints

Prolonged dry spells—combined with forecasted low and poorly distributed rainfall—and the impacts of flooding during the 2024/2025 farming seasons have significantly disrupted agricultural performance. These climatic shocks, along with drought and erratic rainfall, have reduced both crop and livestock production, reduced household incomes, and contributed to rising food prices.



High food prices

Food commodity prices remain high—both compared to last season and well above average. Households reported that the prices of their main staple foods were significantly higher than during the harvest period, further constraining their ability to access enough food.



Below average crop production

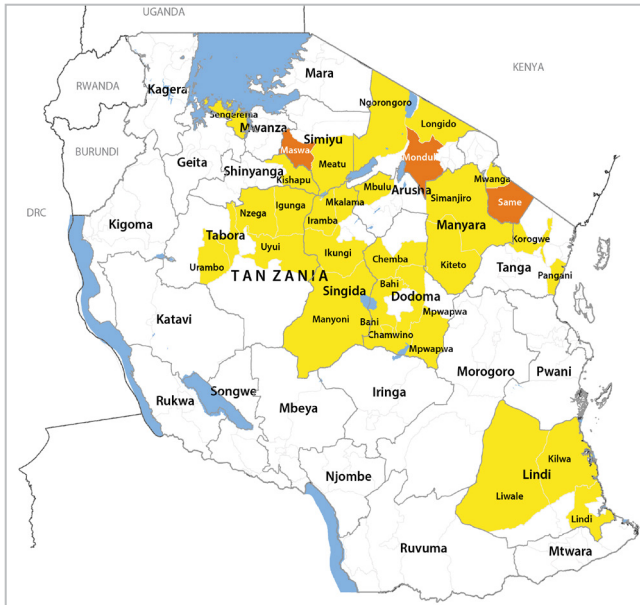
The overall performance of agricultural production was poor, with an estimated 81 percent of households reporting a deficit in food stocks; only 1 percent recorded a surplus, and 14 percent reported having enough food to last them through to the next harvest season.



Low purchasing power

Most households had exhausted their food stocks from the previous harvest by December 2025, forcing them to rely heavily on market purchases to meet their food needs. Household purchasing power is closely tied to agricultural production, livestock keeping, and small scale trade, which form the primary income sources for most people. In seasons with favourable rainfall, improved crop yields and better livestock productivity boost household income, thereby strengthening purchasing power and enabling access to food.

CURRENT SITUATION MAP AND POPULATION TABLE (FEBRUARY - MAY 2026)



Key for the Map IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification

(mapped Phase represents highest severity affecting at least 20% of the population)

- 1 - Minimal
 - 2 - Stressed
 - 3 - Crisis
 - 4 - Emergency
 - 5 - Famine
 - Areas with inadequate evidence
 - Areas not analysed
- Evidence Level**
** Medium

Population table for the current period: February – May 2026

Countries	Total population analysed	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Area Phase	Phase 3+	
		#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%		#people	%
Bahi	322,526	209,642	65	96,758	30	16,126	5	0	0	0	0	2	16,126	5
Chamwino	486,176	340,323	70	121,544	25	24,309	5	0	0	0	0	2	24,309	5
Chemba	339,333	203,600	60	84,833	25	50,900	15	0	0	0	0	2	50,900	15
Igunga	546,204	327,722	60	163,861	30	54,620	10	0	0	0	0	2	54,620	10
Ikungi	411,262	287,883	70	82,252	20	41,126	10	0	0	0	0	2	41,126	10
Iramba	328,912	213,793	65	98,674	30	16,446	5	0	0	0	0	2	16,446	5
Kilwa	328,912	197,347	60	98,674	30	32,891	10	0	0	0	0	2	32,891	10
Kishapu	335,483	234,838	70	83,871	25	16,774	5	0	0	0	0	2	16,774	5
Kiteto	352,305	264,229	75	52,846	15	35,231	10	0	0	0	0	2	35,231	10
Korogwe	425,415	255,249	60	127,625	30	42,542	10	0	0	0	0	2	42,542	10
Lindi	174,126	104,476	60	52,238	30	17,413	10	0	0	0	0	2	17,413	10
Liwale	425,415	212,708	50	170,166	40	42,542	10	0	0	0	0	2	42,542	10
Longido	175,915	105,549	60	52,775	30	17,592	10	0	0	0	0	2	17,592	10
Manyoni	279,069	195,348	70	55,814	20	27,907	10	0	0	0	0	2	27,907	10
Maswa	427,864	213,932	50	128,359	30	85,573	20	0	0	0	0	3	85,573	20
Mbulu	238,272	142,963	60	71,482	30	23,827	10	0	0	0	0	2	23,827	10
Meatu	366,941	220,165	60	110,082	30	36,694	10	0	0	0	0	2	36,694	10
Mkalama	255,514	166,084	65	63,879	25	25,551	10	0	0	0	0	2	25,551	10
Monduli	227,585	91,034	40	91,034	40	45,517	20	0	0	0	0	3	45,517	20
Mpwapwa	403,247	282,273	70	100,812	25	20,162	5	0	0	0	0	2	20,162	5
Mtama	166,493	124,870	75	33,299	20	8,325	5	0	0	0	0	2	8,325	5
Mwanga	148,763	96,696	65	37,191	25	14,876	10	0	0	0	0	2	14,876	10
Ngorongoro	273,549	164,129	60	82,065	30	27,355	10	0	0	0	0	2	27,355	10
Nzega	574,498	315,974	55	172,349	30	86,175	15	0	0	0	0	2	86,175	15
Pangani	75,642	52,949	70	18,911	25	3,782	5	0	0	0	0	2	3,782	5
Same	300,303	150,152	50	90,091	30	60,061	20	0	0	0	0	3	60,061	20
Sengerema	425,415	255,249	60	127,625	30	42,542	10	0	0	0	0	2	42,542	10
Simanjiro	291,169	174,701	60	87,351	30	29,117	10	0	0	0	0	2	29,117	10
Urambo	260,322	156,193	60	78,097	30	26,032	10	0	0	0	0	2	26,032	10
Uyui	562,588	281,294	50	225,035	40	56,259	10	0	0	0	0	2	56,259	10
Total	9,929,218	6,041,365	61%	2,859,593	29%	1,028,267	10%	0	0%	0	0%		1,028,267	10%

Note: A population in Phase 3+ does not necessarily reflect the full population in need of urgent action. This is because some households may be in Phase 2 or even 1 but only because of receipt of assistance, and thus, they may be in need of continued action. Marginal inconsistencies that may arise in the overall percentages of totals and grand totals are attributable to rounding.

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY CURRENT SITUATION OVERVIEW AND KEY DRIVERS (FEBRUARY - MAY 2026)

Rural districts in mainland Tanzania face challenges related to food and nutrition security, impacting the health and well-being of its population. Despite its vast agricultural potential, various factors such as climate change, limited access to resources, and inadequate productive and service-related infrastructure in remote areas affect communities' vulnerability and expose them to high levels of food insecurity and malnutrition as soon as shocks arise. Based on the Preliminary Assessment Report conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) on Food Crop Production for the 2024/2025 production year ending in June 2025 and food availability in the country for the Year 2025/2026, 30 district councils in 11 regions were identified to have signs of crop production shortages. This deficiency is due to various factors, including uneven distribution of rainfall and the presence of crop pests in the fields, and the lack of means to mitigate such elements.

In the current period of analysis (February 2026 to May 2026), coinciding with the the peak lean season in single season (unimodal) agricultural districts, it is estimated that about one million people (10 percent of the population analysed) from 30 districts are experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above). Of the 30 districts analysed, three—Monduli, Same and Maswa—are classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis). The remaining 27 districts are classified in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed) with most households minimally able to meet adequate food consumption and unable to afford some essential non-food items without engaging in stress coping strategies. The key drivers causing food insecurity are prolonged dry spells, floods, high food prices, low purchasing power at the household level, and below average crop production.

The Msimu season, which covers the unimodal rainfall areas in the southern and western parts of the country, was characterised by El Niño conditions that led to widespread flooding. Exacerbated by the outbreak of pests, including Fall Armyworm and Quelea Quelea birds, the resulting production yields were constrained. Similarly, the northern and central parts of the country faced prolonged dry spells in January and March 2025 which negatively affected the farming activities. In addition, The Vuli rainfall season (October to December 2025) was heavily influenced by low rainfall and limited moisture for crop growth. According to the climate outlook by Tanzania Meteorological Agency (TMA), 2025/2026 Msimu rains are expected to be normal to above normal in parts of the northern coast and Lake Victoria basin, and normal to above normal for most areas of the northeastern highlands and a few areas in the eastern part of Lake Victoria basin. Generally, good prospects for crop production are expected, however, excessive soil moisture might cause crop damage, impacting negatively on crop production if proper mitigation measures are not undertaken.

In the districts of Monduli, Same and Meatu, the dimensions of food security were affected by prolonged dry spells and erratic rain in the Masika season rains in the 2024/2025 production year and Vuli in 2024/2025. This led to inadequate pasture and water, consequently causing livestock to be in poor body conditions and fetching lower prices (Longido and Monduli) as well as crop stress and low harvest.

Food availability

According to the analysis results from the comprehensive food and nutrition security assessment conducted in March 2026, food crops and livestock production performance in the 2025/26 season indicates that 75 percent of councils experienced crop production at a deficit level. Monduli at 97.14 percent; Same at 93 percent; Chemba at 91.74 percent; Lindi at 90.97 percent; Chamwino at 85.47 percent; Bahi at 82.3 percent; and Nzega at 82.11 percent. More than 75 percent of the households in 30 districts analysed reported not having food stocks at their household level. This situation is observed in Monduli, Mtama, Longido, Meatu, Kiteto, Liwale, Simanjiro, and Bahi where below 20 percent of households have adequate food stocks. However, at least 26 percent of households in the analysed districts have enough food stocks.

Figure 1: Proportion of households with food stocks

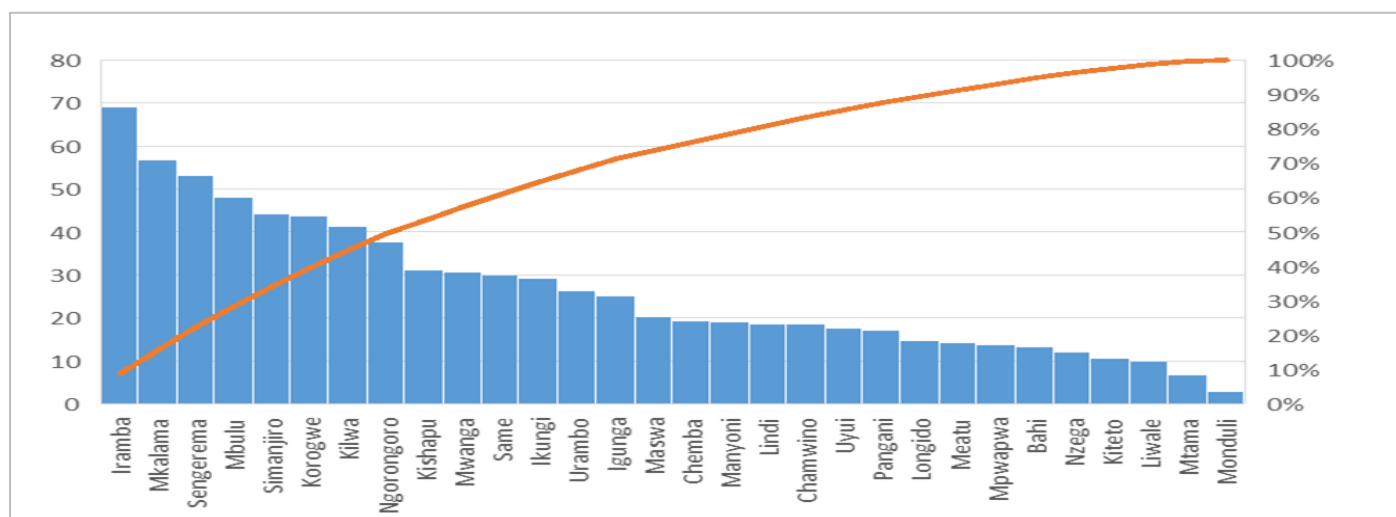
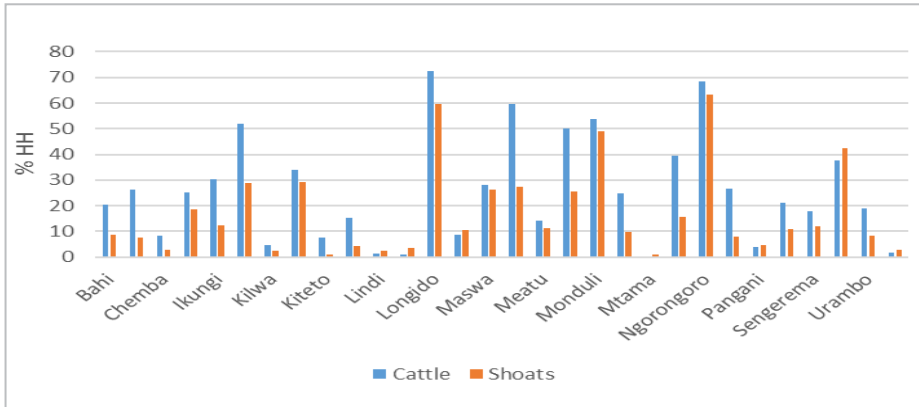


Figure 2: Proportions of households keeping animals



Almost 50 percent of households reported keeping chickens, 25 percent keep shoats and 24 percent keep cattle. These animal assets play a direct role in enhancing food availability by serving as a source of meat, milk, and other animal products. The ownership of livestock has a positive impact on economic stability for both individuals and communities, as it offers a means of income through the sale of animals or their products. This economic stability contributes to enhanced access to food resources.

According to the comprehensive assessment results, a large number of the households, about 77 percent in all 30 districts, reported using traditional storage mechanisms, meaning some stock would last for a shorter period of time. The majority of households, facing depleted food stocks through post-harvest loss and constrained purchasing power, are exposed to the risk of high food prices, despite the presence of food in local markets and shops in their localities.

Food Access

The majority of households (about 92 percent) reported availability and accessibility of the market at the household level and 67 percent reported increasing staple food crop prices for the months of November 2025 to February 2026. Staple food prices are worsening following the poor Vuli harvesting season, and they remain significantly higher than the five-year average following low production from Vuli harvest and high transport costs and limited supplies. High food prices affect food access for populations in the context of low purchasing power.

Maize prices in local markets across the regions declined between September 2025 and January 2026. However, following this period, prices began to increase. The upward trend is expected to continue through May 2026, ahead of the main harvest, when increased supply is likely to stabilise or reduce prices.

The trend in increasing staple food crop prices is affecting vulnerable households in Phase 3 or above by reducing their purchasing power to meet their food requirements. In addition, particular attention should be given to districts that rely heavily on livestock keeping as their primary livelihood, such as Longido, Monduli, and Simanjiro, as well as those with special groups like the Hadzabe in parts of Meatu, where, due to the rapidly rising prices of food commodities and falling livestock prices, the terms of trade for pastoralists and agro-pastoralists have deteriorated significantly. As a result, livestock keepers can now purchase much smaller amounts of grain than previously by selling a unit of livestock e.g., cattle or chicken.

Figure 3: Prices of rice from August 2025 – February 2026

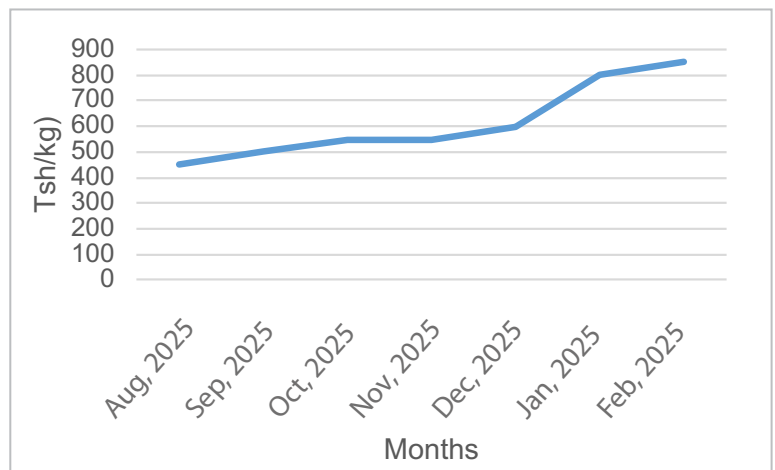
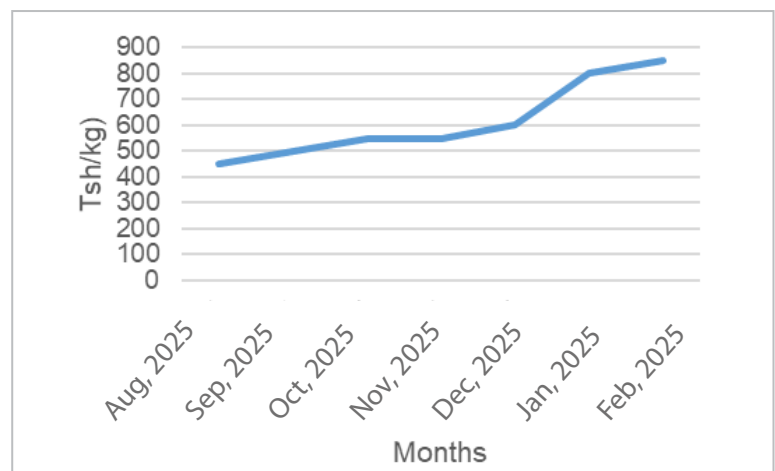


Figure 4: Prices of maize from August 2025 – February 2026





Food Utilisation

Food utilisation is expressed as the way through which the body maximises the nutritional benefits of the consumed food. Key factors influencing food utilisation and stability include, food preferences, preparation methods, feeding practices, storage, safety, and WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) practices. While many households show credible food preparation practices, such as washing dishes with soap, other critical aspects like feeding practices, storage, safety and WASH indicate suboptimal performance in terms of food security. Notably, more than 50 percent of interviewed households reported providing their children (under five) with only two meals per day. This trend was observed in households in Mpwapwa, Longido, Sengerema, Urambo and Uyui districts. The majority of households (over 60 percent) rely on traditional storage facilities which lead to food losses hence negatively impacting food security. Regarding WASH, around 80 percent of households have access to safe and clean water, often relying on safe sources such as tap water. However, only a few households (about 8 percent) reported practicing handwashing before feeding their children. This increases food contaminants including pathogens, hindering food utilisation. Additionally, the assessment results reveal that 50 percent of the households use non-improved toilet facilities, with pastoralist community (Monduli and Longido) having the highest percentage of households without such facilities at 61 percent and 38 percent, respectively. The prevalence of traditional storage methods and inadequate access to clean water in surveyed areas is likely to hinder food utilisation, potentially impacting the nutritional status and food security of individuals.

Overview of Outcome Data

Food Consumption Score (FCS): Food consumption patterns across the analysed districts show relatively similar trends, with approximately 70 percent of households reporting acceptable food consumption and 30 percent falling into the borderline category. Only a small proportion—typically below 10 percent—exhibit poor food consumption, indicating more severe dietary inadequacy.

When comparing seasonal differences, unimodal districts show slightly higher proportions of poor or borderline consumption than bimodal districts, reflecting their greater vulnerability to climatic variability and limited harvest cycles. These findings suggest that unimodal areas may face more prolonged food consumption gaps, especially during the lean season when market reliance increases.

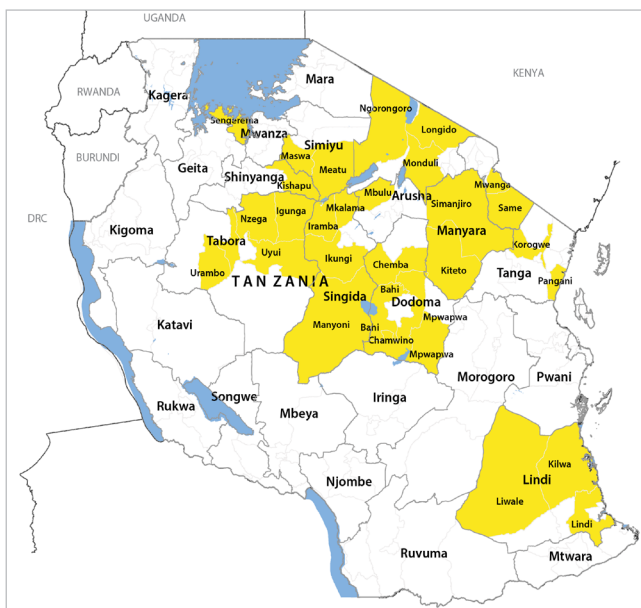
Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS): Dietary diversity is generally high across the surveyed districts. Overall, 87 percent of households consumed five or more food groups during the previous 24 hours, indicating high dietary diversity, while 13 percent consumed only three to four food groups, pointing to moderate dietary diversity. However, when HDDS is analysed by rainfall seasons (unimodal vs. bimodal), roughly half of the districts recorded levels of dietary diversity indicative of Crisis-like conditions during at least one season. This seasonal variation suggests that households in unimodal areas—where harvests occur once per year—experience greater fluctuations in dietary quality and rely more heavily on market purchases or seasonal labour to diversify their diets.

Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI): Overall coping capacity remains mixed across districts. About 50 percent of households employ low food based coping strategies (rCSI 0–3), indicating relatively stable access to food. Another 43 percent rely on medium coping strategies (rCSI 4–18), and 7 percent use high coping strategies (rCSI ≥19), signaling substantial stress on food access. Households with medium or high rCSI scores are likely experiencing food consumption gaps, prompting short term coping actions such as reducing meal frequency, limiting portion sizes, borrowing food, or prioritising food for children. These behaviors reflect increasing vulnerability and reduced resilience to shocks.

Household Hunger Scale (HHS): Findings from the Household Hunger Scale show that 87 percent of households experienced no hunger in the previous 30 days. About 13 percent reported slightly moderate hunger, with levels particularly higher in bimodal districts such as Kiteto, Mbulu, and Monduli. Severe hunger remained very limited, indicating that while overall hunger prevalence is low, localised pockets of moderate hunger persist. These findings highlight that while food availability and access remain adequate for most households, specific districts continue to face stress due to market reliance, seasonal income variability, unreliable food storage and localised production deficits.

The combined assessment using FCS, HDDS, HHS, and rCSI provides a comprehensive understanding of current food consumption patterns and associated vulnerabilities. Based on these indicators, 13 of the 30 district councils show clear signs of food consumption gaps, partly driven by seasonal depletion of food stocks, limited dietary diversity during lean periods, and increased dependence on stress and crisis coping strategies.

PROJECTED SITUATION MAP AND POPULATION TABLE (JUNE 2026 - JANUARY 2027)



Key for the Map
IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification
 (mapped Phase represents highest severity affecting at least 20% of the population)

- 1 - Minimal
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 - 4 - Emergency
 - 5 - Famine
 - Areas with inadequate evidence
 - Areas not analysed
- Evidence Level**
 ** Medium

Population table for the projection period: June 2026 – January 2027

Countries	Total population analysed	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Area Phase	Phase 3+	
		#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%		#people	%
Bahi	322,526	241,895	75	80,632	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Chamwino	486,176	388,941	80	97,235	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Chemba	339,333	237,533	70	67,867	20	33,933	10	0	0	0	0	2	33,933	10
Igunga	546,204	409,653	75	109,241	20	27,310	5	0	0	0	0	2	27,310	5
Ikungi	411,262	308,447	75	82,252	20	20,563	5	0	0	0	0	2	20,563	5
Iramba	328,912	246,684	75	82,228	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Kilwa	328,912	230,238	70	82,228	25	16,446	5	0	0	0	0	2	16,446	5
Kishapu	335,483	251,612	75	83,871	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Kiteto	352,305	281,844	80	70,461	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Korogwe	425,415	297,791	70	106,354	25	21,271	5	0	0	0	0	2	21,271	5
Lindi	174,126	130,595	75	34,825	20	8,706	5	0	0	0	0	2	8,706	5
Liwale	425,415	255,249	60	148,895	35	21,271	5	0	0	0	0	2	21,271	5
Longido	175,915	131,936	75	35,183	20	8,796	5	0	0	0	0	2	8,796	5
Manyoni	279,069	209,302	75	55,814	20	13,953	5	0	0	0	0	2	13,953	5
Maswa	427,864	256,718	60	106,966	25	64,180	15	0	0	0	0	2	64,180	15
Mbulu	238,272	142,963	60	83,395	35	11,914	5	0	0	0	0	2	11,914	5
Meatu	366,941	238,512	65	110,082	30	18,347	5	0	0	0	0	2	18,347	5
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Mpwapwa	403,247	322,598	80	80,649	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Mtama	166,493	133,194	80	24,974	15	8,325	5	0	0	0	0	2	8,325	5
Mwanga	148,763	111,572	75	29,753	20	7,438	5	0	0	0	0	2	7,438	5
Ngorongoro	273,549	205,162	75	54,710	20	13,677	5	0	0	0	0	2	13,677	5
Nzega	574,498	373,424	65	143,625	25	57,450	10	0	0	0	0	2	57,450	10
Pangani	75,642	56,732	75	18,911	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Same	300,303	240,242	80	30,030	10	30,030	10	0	0	0	0	2	30,030	10
Sengerema	425,415	297,791	70	106,354	25	21,271	5	0	0	0	0	2	21,271	5
Simanjiro	291,169	218,377	75	58,234	20	14,558	5	0	0	0	0	2	14,558	5
Urambo	260,322	195,242	75	52,064	20	13,016	5	0	0	0	0	2	13,016	5
Uyui	562,588	393,812	70	140,647	25	28,129	5	0	0	0	0	2	28,129	5
Total	9,929,218	7,113,488	72%	2,308,238	23%	507,498	5%	0	0%	0	0%		507,498	5%

Note: A population in Phase 3+ does not necessarily reflect the full population in need of urgent action. This is because some households may be in Phase 2 or even 1 but only because of receipt of assistance, and thus, they may be in need of continued action. Marginal inconsistencies that may arise in the overall percentages of totals and grand totals are attributable to rounding.

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY PROJECTION OVERVIEW AND KEY ASSUMPTIONS (JUNE 2026 – JANUARY 2027)

For the projected period (June 2026 to January 2027), the food security situation is expected to show modest improvement, with approximately 521,000 people projected to recover from seasonal shocks. This improvement is largely attributed to the availability of food from the main harvests (Msimu and Masika seasons), which are expected to enhance household food access and availability.

Favorable climatic conditions, particularly the forecast of normal to above normal rainfall in some districts during both the Masika and Msimu seasons, are likely to support agricultural production and improve pasture and water availability. As a result, these factors are anticipated to contribute to gradual stabilisation and improvement in food security outcomes during the projection period.

From May to October 2026, Tanzania will enter its typical wet season, characterised by cooler temperatures following the end of the Masika (long rains) in May and before the onset of the Vuli (short rains) in November.

During the projection period of June 2026 to January 2027, food security conditions are expected to improve, supported by increased food production. This improvement is linked to the normal to above normal rainfall received across many areas during the preceding Masika, Vuli, and Msimu seasons, which is anticipated to enhance crop yields and household food availability.

The implementation of good agricultural practices is expected to significantly enhance both production and productivity, supported by favourable soil moisture conditions that promote healthy crop growth. The government's expanded subsidy programme, which provides improved seeds and affordable fertilisers nationwide, is likely to further boost agricultural performance. By reducing input costs and increasing access to quality planting materials, the programme is expected to strengthen the entire food supply chain and contribute to higher crop yields during the 2025/2026 agricultural season. As production improves, food availability is expected to increase, which should help stabilise or lower food prices and increase food stock. At the same time, household purchasing power is anticipated to rise through improved income generating opportunities such as agricultural labour, crop and livestock sales, and petty trade.

Favourable pasture and water conditions are also expected to reduce seasonal tensions between farmers and livestock keepers, lowering the likelihood of resource based conflicts. As livelihoods strengthen, many households currently in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) are projected to improve to IPC Phase 2 (Stressed), and some to IPC Phase 1 (Minimal), supported by normal income earning opportunities tied to expected normal to above normal rainfall across many areas. Combined with better farming practices and effective use of government provided inputs, these conditions are likely to result in improved crop and livestock production prospects across all zones.

Key assumptions for projection period:

Rainfall: According to the MET weather outlook for 2025/2026 during the October to April and March to May seasonal rainfall performance in the country, rains are expected to be normal to above normal over many areas causing adequate soil moisture which will lead to favorable conditions to crop growth and pasture condition for livestock. This will have an overall positive effect on crop production and pasture availability

Crop Production: Due to normal to above and Normal to below normal rains with average favourable soil moisture, average harvests from farming seasons are expected to positive impact on some parts of the country and increase household food availability. The rainfall performance information from March to May will support the review the projection assumptions once actuals are available. Possibility of early green harvest will increase households' ability to manage their food needs

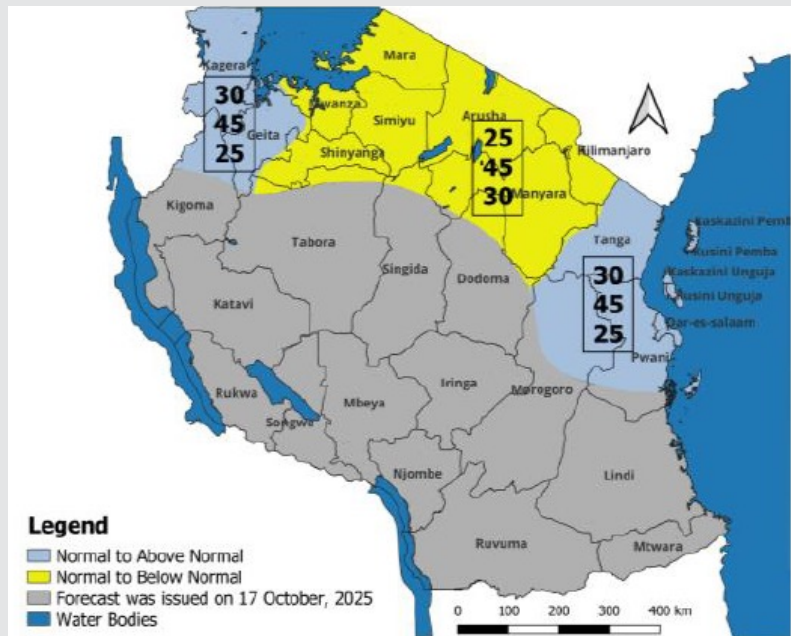
Prices: Current staple foods prices are showing a decline trend (Maize) compared to the last five months. With expected average 2025 harvests in April/May 2026, farm gates and wholesale crop prices for staples is expected to be moderately lower due to access to food supply at households and markets. Moreover, as Tanzania stands as a significant net producer of staple foods like Maize in the region, supplying to neighboring countries, the prices are poised to remain lower, due to a bumper harvest sufficient to cover supply to neighboring countries. Market provisioning is expected to be good and positive for food access.

Conflict: Expected decrease in resource-based conflicts between livestock keepers and farmers due to availability of pasture and water including non-competition by humans and animals at the watering points. Livestock Body condition is expected to be better and with improved milk production as well as better terms of trade.

Highlights for the Masika (March–May) 2026 Rainfall Season

This section outlines the evolution of key climate systems and provides the rainfall outlook for the Masika season (March–May 2026) across bimodal rainfall areas, including the Lake Victoria Basin, northeastern highlands, northern coast, and the northern parts of Kigoma region. Although most hotspot areas are expected to receive normal to below-normal rainfall, average seasonal performance is likely to be sufficient to support rangeland regeneration and some level of crop production.

In addition, advisories and early warning information have been disseminated to weather-sensitive sectors, including agriculture and food security, livestock and fisheries, natural resources, wildlife and tourism, energy and minerals, water, construction, transport (road, rail, marine, and aviation), local authorities, health, the private sector, and disaster management agencies.



Source: TMA

Rainfall Outlook for Bimodal Areas

Rainfall distribution: Normal to above normal rainfall is expected across most areas of the northern coast, the western Lake Victoria Basin (particularly Kagera and Geita regions), and northern Kigoma. In contrast, normal to below normal rainfall is anticipated over the northeastern highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha, and Manyara regions) and parts of the Lake Victoria Basin, including Mwanza, Shinyanga, Mara, and Simiyu regions.

The onset of rains is expected:

- During the fourth week of February to the first week of March 2026 in most parts of the Lake Victoria Basin.
- During the first to second weeks of March over the northern coast.
- During the second to third weeks of March 2026 in the northeastern highlands.

The cessation of rains is projected to occur between the fourth week of May and the first week of June 2026 across most bimodal areas.

Rainfall performance: Enhanced rainfall activity is anticipated during April 2026, which is expected to significantly influence seasonal performance.

Expected impacts

Agriculture: Periods of excessive moisture and localised flooding may occur in areas receiving normal to above normal rainfall, potentially affecting crop growth and yields.

Water resources: Reduced rainfall in areas expecting normal to below normal conditions may lead to declining reservoir levels and reduced river flows.

Health risks: There is an increased likelihood of disease outbreaks, particularly vector-borne and water-borne diseases, driven by water contamination and favourable conditions for disease transmission.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

To address Tanzania's food insecurity in the 30 districts analysed, the following are recommended interventions for the most vulnerable areas.

Response actions:

1. Provision of food grains at subsidised prices in food-insecure district councils from April 2026 to May 2026.
2. Strengthen timely dissemination and use of weather forecast information to all stakeholders.
3. Sensitise and facilitate access and the use of farm inputs (pesticides, fertilisers, early maturity seeds, drought tolerant seed varieties) to the most vulnerable households for Masika and Msimu season.
4. Strengthen the pest and livestock diseases surveillance in all areas which may lead to the appropriate provision of preventive and curative measures.
5. Sensitise horticultural production during off-season periods for good production and productivity to enhance dietary diversification.
6. Strengthen health education programs that focus on WASH practices and their direct link to nutrition, and use community outreach initiatives, and media campaigns to disseminate information on proper sanitation, hygiene, and their impact on nutritional outcomes.
7. Promote and enhance implementation of Climate Smart Agricultural practices in crops and livestock production in most affected areas.
8. Invest in improving water and sanitation infrastructure in communities, ensuring access to clean and safe water sources and proper sanitation facilities.

Food Insecurity Risk Factors to Monitor

The key factors to monitor over the next six months include:

- i. Flooding, heavy rains, storms, water logging (2024/25) in some areas.
- ii. High price of food commodities.
- iii. Prolonged dry spells and erratic rainfall: Prolonged dry spells in various districts have resulted in inadequate water for crops, reduced agricultural yields, and increased challenges for both livestock and local communities dependent on rain-fed agriculture.
- iv. Low purchasing power at HH levels: limited casual labour opportunities and low livestock prices contributed to reduced food access.
- v. Crop pest and diseases.
- vi. Livestock diseases: Seasonal livestock diseases.

PROCESS AND METHODOLOGY

The Tanzania Food Security and Nutrition Analysis System Team (MUCHALI) carried out an IPC Acute Food Insecurity analysis in early March to determine the situation across the 30 rural districts of mainland Tanzania. The analysis focused on the current period of February 2026 to May 2026 and the projection period of June 2026 to January 2027.

The data used for the analysis was collected in February 2026 in 30 districts based on sampling guided by the IPC Technical Manual Version 3.1. Prior to the analysis workshop, a two-day IPC Acute Food Insecurity Level 1 refresher training was conducted for members of the Tanzania Technical Working Group (TWG), comprising representatives from various agencies. Participants were drawn from MUCHALI members, including key government stakeholders such as the prime minister's office, the president's Office, the regional administration and local government authorities, the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), and the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries.

Additional participants included representatives from the Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA), the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA), the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), the Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre (TFNC), as well as non-governmental organisations such as World Vision Tanzania and the Tanzania Red Cross Society. Academic and international partners, including the University of Dodoma (UDOM) and United Nations agencies (FAO and WFP), also contributed to the analysis. The analysis workshop was co-facilitated by the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, FAO, and the IPC Global Support Unit (GSU).

Overall, the analysis adhered to IPC protocols in line with the IPC Technical Manual version 3.1. The IPC Acute Food Insecurity (analysis workshop was conducted using a hybrid approach, combining both virtual and in-person participation. Members of the Tanzania TWG processed the raw data and uploaded it to the IPC Analysis Platform in accordance with established protocols. The team triangulated available evidence, facilitating convergence and enabling consensus on the analysis outcomes. In line with IPC standards, the analysis was assigned a medium level of evidence (**).

Data Sources

- i. Tanzania meteorological authority: Climate Outlook for Masika Rainfall Season March – May 2026
- ii. Ministry of Agriculture – Food Crop production report, 2025
- iii. The comprehensive FSN assessment carried out in February 2026
- iv. National Bureau of Statistics and others, including secondary data sources from the district level

Limitations of the Analysis

The analysis encountered the following limitations:

- i. The analysis was much based on field assessment information as it was the only source of data for outcomes which limited the triangulation of evidence.
- ii. Inadequate resources leading to limited required human resources to ensure robust data collection and analysis.
- iii. Nutrition status was assessed and interpreted by MUAC data only with limited information on admission trends.
- iv. There was a limited secondary information from some key sectors to contribute to the analysis (price trends, livestock and fisheries, social protection, civil security).

What is the IPC and IPC Acute Food Insecurity?

The IPC is a set of tools and procedures to classify the severity and characteristics of food and nutrition crises based on international standards. The IPC consists of four mutually reinforcing functions, each with a set of specific protocols (tools and procedures). The core IPC parameters include consensus building, convergence of evidence, accountability, transparency and comparability. The IPC analysis aims at informing emergency response as well as medium and long-term food.

For the IPC, Acute Food Insecurity is defined as any manifestation of food insecurity found in a specified area at a specific point in time of a severity that threatens lives nor livelihoods, or both, regardless of the causes, context or duration. It is highly susceptible to change and can occur and manifest in a population within a short amount of time, as a result of sudden changes or shocks that negatively impact on the determinants of food insecurity.

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This analysis has been conducted under the patronage of the MUCHALI. It has benefited from the technical and financial support of Ministry of Agriculture, FAO and WFP.

Classification of food insecurity and malnutrition was conducted using the IPC protocols, which are developed and implemented worldwide by the IPC Global Partnership - Action Against Hunger, CARE, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), CILSS, EC-JRC, FAO, FEWSNET, Global Food Security Cluster, Global Nutrition Cluster, IFPRI, IGAD, IMPACT, Oxfam, SICA, SADC, Save the Children, UNDP, UNICEF, the World Bank, WFP and WHO.

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