



**ECONOMIST  
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# **Country report: Nigeria**

**Global Food Security Index 2022**

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### About the Global Food Security Index 2022

The Global Food Security Index (GFSI), developed by Economist Impact and supported by Corteva Agriscience, considers food affordability, availability, quality and safety, and sustainability and adaptation across 113 countries. The index is a dynamic quantitative and qualitative benchmarking model constructed from 68 unique indicators that measure the drivers of food security across both developing and developed countries.

This edition of the GFSI incorporates 14 new indicators to reflect the global nature and interconnectedness of the food system and to highlight the importance of “first mile” and farm-level metrics in determining food security for populations.

This year, the Economist Impact team has adjusted the “Availability” category to start at food production, capturing more farmer-focused measures on access to agricultural inputs. This includes moving access to finance and financial products from the affordability pillar to the availability pillar, as these measures are farmer-related. Government commitment to innovative technologies and a new composite indicator for on-farm infrastructure have been added to this category to more accurately reflect what is happening on the fields as well as further along the supply chain.

Reflecting a global impetus to move to sustainable food systems and adapt to growing climate shocks, the GFSI’s fourth category, previously called “Natural resources and resilience,” has been renamed “Sustainability and adaptation.”

This report is based on research conducted by Economist Impact between April and July 2022. Economist Impact bears sole responsibility for the content of this report. The findings and views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the partners and experts.

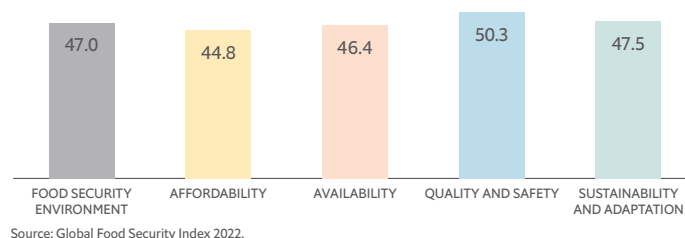
The GFSI 2022 model, the model user guide, the global research report and all 32 country reports are available online at [economistimpact.com/food-security-index](https://economistimpact.com/food-security-index). Please visit the website for more information on the global rankings, key findings and the 2022 methodology.

# Nigeria

## Sub-Saharan Africa—regional snapshot

Sub-Saharan Africa scores an average of 47 points on its overall food security environment in the 2022 GFSI, making it the least food-secure region globally. Out of the four pillars of the index, the region performs best in the Quality and Safety pillar (50.3) and weakest in the Affordability pillar (44.8). Concerns surrounding affordable food are paramount for the region: a high percentage of the population is under the global poverty line and food safety-net programmes are lacking. Although scores in the Quality and Safety pillar are relatively high compared to those for other pillars, a lack of relevant food safety legislation and access to drinking water in countries within the region present food safety challenges, suggesting that food security in the region needs to be improved across all four pillars.

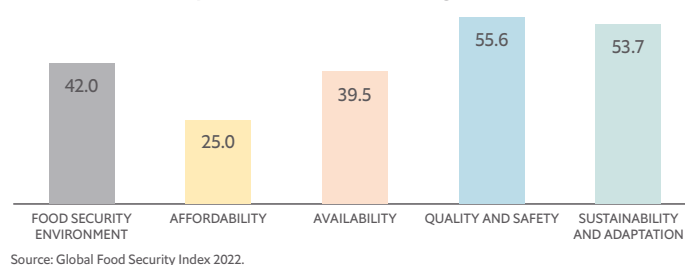
Global Food Security Index 2022: Average scores for Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)



## Nigeria—food security overview

Nigeria ranks 107th out of 113 countries in the index and 25th out of the 28 Sub-Saharan African countries, with an overall GFSI score of 42. Nutritional standards and micronutrient availability, contributing to a score of 55.6 (the country's highest across the four pillars of the index) in the Quality and Safety category. However, significant changes in food costs and a lack of food safety-net programmes create affordability challenges for the population, especially the high proportion of those under the poverty line, as reflected by the country achieving the lowest score (25) globally in the Affordability category. In addition to enhancing affordability drivers, Nigeria also needs to invest in its supply-chain infrastructure, improve protein quality, increase commitments to food security and access policy, and prioritise agricultural research and development.

Global Food Security Index 2022: Scores for Nigeria



## The four pillars for food security—analysis for 2022

- Affordability:** Nigeria ranks last (113th) in the index with a score of 25 points, highlighting major concerns surrounding affordability of food in the country.
  - The country's scores are "very weak" (0-39.9) in indicators 1.1) Change in average food costs, 1.2) Proportion of population under global poverty line and 1.5) Food safety-net programmes. A high proportion of the population lives under the poverty line, and there are insufficient controls to stabilise consumer prices and a lack of food safety-net programmes to provide support to the population.
- Availability:** Nigeria ranks 108th globally and 26th in the region in this category.
  - This weak performance can be attributed to "very weak" scores (0-39.9) in indicators 2.2) Agricultural research and development, 2.6) Supply-chain infrastructure, 2.7) Sufficiency of supply, 2.8) Political and social barriers to access, and 2.9) Food security and access policy commitments. Supply challenges present challenges, and insufficient policy commitments indicate weak political support.
- Quality and safety:** Nigeria ranks 79th overall and 7th in the region in the Quality and Safety category, achieving its highest scores in the process.
  - It falls in the "good" score category (70-79.9) category for indicators 3.2) Nutritional standards and 3.3) Micronutrient availability.
- Sustainability and adaptation:** In this category, Nigeria ranks joint 57th globally and 8th in the region with a score of 53.7 points.
  - Its scores fall in the "moderate" bracket (55-69.9) for indicators 4.1) Exposure and 4.5) Political commitment to adaptation. Nigeria has been able to maintain a low level of sea level rise and mitigate flooding risks, as well as implementing environmental-economic accounting, committing to managing exposure and increasing climate finance flows, indicating action to further commit to adaptation.

### Snapshot: Nigeria 2012-22 food security environment

While Nigeria's performance in most categories has improved over the 11-year GFSI reporting period, a decrease of -22.2 in its score in Affordability has led to a decline of 0.9 points in its overall score in the index.

Deteriorating affordability scores have been driven by 1.1) *Change in average food costs* and 1.5) *Food safety-net programmes*, which saw

major respective declines in scores of 49 and 53.7 points.

Indicators that have seen improvement, albeit at low levels, include a 47.6-point increase in 3.2) *Nutritional standards* (due to the implementation of a national nutrition plan and nutrition labelling), a 44.1-point increase in 2.3) *farm infrastructure*, and a 33-point increase in 4.5) *political commitment to adaptation*.

### Nigeria

The diagram below shows country performance in 2022 (latest available data). Scores are normalized 0-100, where 100=best conditions.

Δ = change in score, 2022 compared with 2012. ↑ = Score improved ↓ = Score deteriorated ↔ = no change in score

FOOD SECURITY ENVIRONMENT										Score	Δ				
										42.0	↓ -0.9				
			Score	Δ				Score	Δ				Score	Δ	
1	AFFORDABILITY	25.0	↓ -22.2	2	AVAILABILITY	39.5	↑ +7.9	3	QUALITY AND SAFETY	55.6	↑ +9.4	4	SUSTAINABILITY AND ADAPTATION	53.7	↑ +7.3
1.1	Change in average food costs	0.0	↓ -49.0	2.1	Access to agricultural inputs	41.8	↓ -12.1	3.1	Dietary diversity	43.1	↓ -2.7	4.1	Exposure	67.0	↔
1.2	Proportion of population under global poverty line	27.9	↑ +1.9	2.2	Agricultural research & development	30.7	↑ +16.9	3.2	Nutritional standards	77.4	↑ +47.6	4.2	Water	27.6	↔
1.3	Inequality-adjusted income index	42.3	↓ -1.1	2.3	Farm infrastructure	50.8	↑ +44.1	3.3	Micronutrient availability	73.2	↔	4.3	Land	52.0	↑ +0.1
1.4	Agricultural trade	65.0	↑ +2.2	2.4	Volatility of agricultural production	91.8	↑ +34.0	3.4	Protein quality	32.0	↓ -3.3	4.4	Oceans, rivers and lakes	50.9	↑ +6.8
1.5	Food safety net programmes	0.0	↓ -53.7	2.5	Food loss	64.6	↓ -0.3	3.5	Food safety	52.6	↑ +4.6	4.5	Political commitment to adaptation	68.9	↑ +33.0
				2.6	Supply chain infrastructure	23.9	↓ -3.7					4.6	Disaster risk management	52.9	↔
				2.7	Sufficiency of supply	25.5	↓ -5.8								
				2.8	Political and social barriers to access	31.6	↑ +5.7								
				2.9	Food security and access policy commitments	0.0	↔								

Very good  
(80–100)

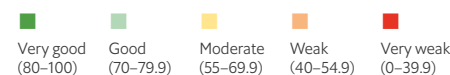
Good  
(70–79.9)

Moderate  
(55–69.9)

Weak  
(40–54.9)

Very weak  
(0–39.9)

Source: Global Food Security Index 2022.



Source: Global Food Security Index 2022.

### Strengths and opportunities for action

Nigeria's performance showcases its strengths in existing nutritional standards and micronutrient availability, highlighting strong nutritional value and safety of food. The country also does well to limit the volatility of agricultural production. On the other hand, Nigeria's performance in the index highlights that there remain multiple areas for action to enhance the food security environment in the country. Making food more affordable is a top priority given the weak index performance, and developing food safety-net programmes is an important task ahead. For the broader environment of food security, developing a food security policy and establishing a food security agency are important steps.

#### Strengths

**2.4) Volatility of agricultural production:** This is the country's best-performing indicator—Nigeria scores 91.8 and ranks joint 10th globally. Its score, which matches last year's, is its highest on this indicator across the 11 years of the GFSI. This indicates that production growth rates have been steady.

**3.2) Nutritional standards:** In this indicator, Nigeria ranks joint 37th globally with a score of 77.4 points. This is due to its perfect score of 100 in sub-indicators 3.2.2) *National nutritional plan or strategy*, 3.2.3) *Nutrition labelling*, and 3.2.4) *Nutrition monitoring and surveillance*. Nigeria's scores have improved constantly over the years.

**3.3) Micronutrient availability:** Nigeria ranks joint 43rd globally with a score of 73.2 points. This is due to a perfect score of 100 in sub-indicator 3.3.1) *Dietary availability of vitamin A*, reflecting a nutrient-rich national diet.

#### Areas for improvement

**1.1) Change in average food costs:** Nigeria scores 0 and ranks joint 105th in this indicator. This is a 20-point drop since last year and the country's lowest score across the 11 years of the GFSI. Consumer food prices have experienced a significant jump, particularly between 2021 and 2022.

**1.5) Food safety-net programmes:** In this indicator Nigeria scores 0 and ranks joint 111th globally. The country lacks robust food safety-net programmes and does not have sufficient funding for them.

**2.9) Food security and access policy commitments:** Nigeria scores 0 in this indicator and ranks 80th overall. The country's food security strategy ended this year, resulting in a dramatic score drop in 2022.