

Acute food insecurity forecast, 2022

 **0.9M people**

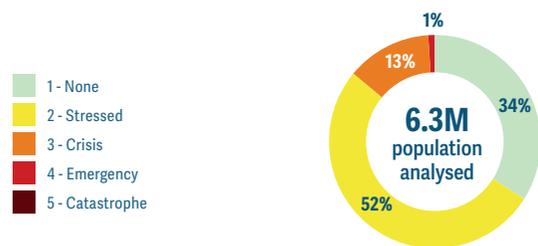
were forecast to be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in March–May 2022

 **0.84M people**
in Crisis
(IPC Phase 3)

 **0.06M people**
in Emergency
(IPC Phase 4)

 Food security levels in 2022 are expected to stabilise in comparison to the 2021 figures, with the population in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) projected to decline by roughly half.

14% of the population analysed was forecast to be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above)



 **3.29M people** were forecast to be in Stressed (IPC Phase 2)

 The analysis covers **100%** of the country's total population of **6.3 million** people.

Source: IPC, September 2021.

MAP 3.22

IPC acute food insecurity situation, March–May 2022

The departments of Ahuachapán in the west and Morazán in the east are projected to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) conditions while the remaining departments are expected to be Stressed (IPC Phase 2).



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Source: El Salvador IPC Technical Working Group, September 2021.

The number of people facing Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) is projected to be nearly 907 000 during the March to May 2022 lean season, with nearly 61 000 people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4), due to low household purchasing power.

Economic shocks, including COVID-19

Spill-over effects from the COVID-19 pandemic will continue to erode household purchasing power in 2022, particularly for rural and very poor urban households. Although the economy is slowly recovering from the effects of COVID-19 containment measures, growth in 2021 was insufficient to compensate for the formal and informal jobs lost during the pandemic. Consequently, in 2022, many households, particularly those that rely on the informal sector for their livelihoods, are expected to face continued unemployment or underemployment amidst a lack of job opportunities (ECLAC, 2021).

The overall decreased demand for labour combined with the seasonal reduction for unskilled labour will generate a decrease in income during the lean season. The departments of Ahuachapán and Morazán are expected to be the most affected by this and will be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) (IPC, September 2021).

Inflation, driven by the increased cost of fuel, gas and utilities, is another concern as it is expected to negatively influence the cost of staple foods through May 2022. Households will therefore not only have to allocate a larger portion of their budget to non-food necessities but also to staple foods. A higher flow of remittances in 2022 is expected to help balance out these rising prices for some households, especially for middle and better-off households (FEWS-NET, October 2021).