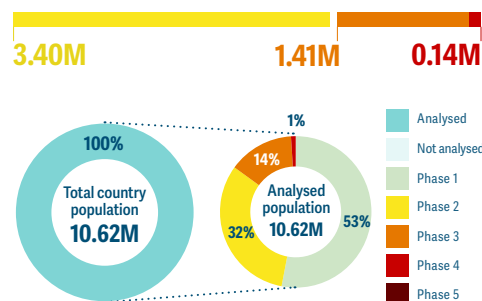


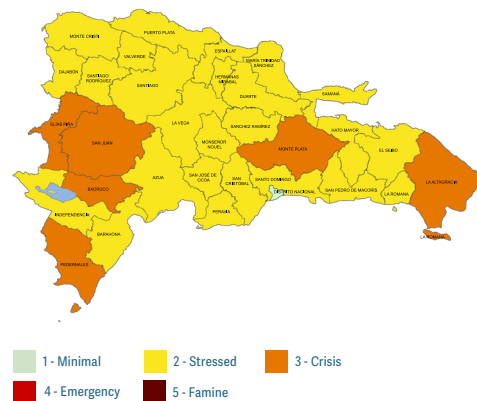
Dominican Republic

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY PEAK 2022/23

 **1.55M** people or **15%** of the analysed population in IPC Phase 3 or above, **October 2022–February 2023**



IPC acute food insecurity situation, October 2022–February 2023



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on these maps do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
Source: Dominican Republic IPC TWG, January 2023.


Food crisis overview

 The first IPC analysis for Dominican Republic – which is an upper middle income country – was carried out in 2022, triggered by the upsurge of prices in 2021 and 2022 that negatively impacted real incomes and purchasing power of vulnerable households, constraining their access to food (IMF, September 2022).

From October 2022 to February 2023, corresponding to the lean season, an estimated 1.4 million people were in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), and 142 000 in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). Most of the provinces were classified in Stressed (IPC Phase 2), but the Baoruco, Elías Piña, La Altagracia, Monte Plata, Pedernales and San Juan provinces were classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3).


Between March and June 2023, the number in IPC Phase 3 or above is projected to decline by over 300 000, with the expectation of seasonal employment at the start of the production season (IPC, January 2023).

Drivers of the crisis, 2022–23

 **Economic shocks** Acute food insecurity in Dominican Republic is primarily driven by households' reduced access to food. COVID-19 containment measures and the economic downturn limited income opportunities, especially for those in the informal economy (EUROSociAL, September 2021). The impact of these dynamics was compounded by the war in Ukraine and the subsequent rise in fertilizer, food and fuel prices, which reduced vulnerable households' purchasing power (IPC, January 2023).

The higher prices for agricultural inputs, as well as imports, were reflected in above-average prices for most food commodities, with the annual food inflation rate at 9.8 percent in November 2022. For example, retail maize prices were 30 percent higher than the previous year, and black beans prices 6 percent higher in December 2022 (FAO-GIEWS, January 2023). Rice prices were only slightly up from a year earlier, reflecting no major shock to

agricultural production in recent years (FAO, September 2022). In an effort to contain the impact of these commodity price shocks, the government implemented or continued subsidy programmes for fertilizers and fuel (IMF, July 2022). Fertilizer prices were fixed in September 2021 under a subsidy programme of USD 92 million, while the prices of gasoline and diesel were fixed in March 2022 (FAO-GIEWS, January 2023).

 **Weather extremes** In September 2022, the eastern part of the country was hit by the Category 1 hurricane Fiona. Strong winds and heavy rainfall caused extensive damage to infrastructure and houses in the eastern part of the country, especially in La Altagracia, La Romana, El Seibo, Samána, Hato Mayor, María Trinidad Sánchez, Duarte and Monte Plata provinces (OCHA, September 2022). An estimated 43 000 people were displaced (UNICEF, September 2022). This negatively impacted livelihood opportunities in the affected areas, and the government disbursed direct subsidies to help mitigate these impacts (FAO-GIEWS, January 2023).

The peak projection period for acute food insecurity for 2023 is early in the year and is the same as the 2022 peak. No displacement or nutrition data were available for 2022.