Honduras
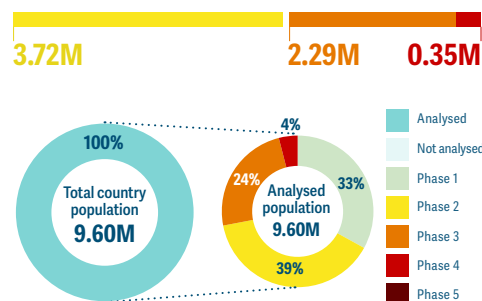
ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY PEAK 2022

2.64M people or **28%** of the analysed population in IPC Phase 3 or above, June–August 2022

| 3.72M | 2.29M | 0.35M |

100%
Total country population
9.60M

Analysed population
9.60M
33%
39%
24%
4%

- Analysed
- Not analysed
- Phase 1
- Phase 2
- Phase 3
- Phase 4
- Phase 5

IPC acute food insecurity situation, June–August 2022

- 1 - Minimal
- 2 - Stressed
- 3 - Crisis
- 4 - Emergency
- 5 - Famine

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on these maps do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
Source: Honduras IPC TWG, January 2022.

Food crisis overview

About 2.64 million people were in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) during the June–August 2022 lean season, corresponding to 28 percent of the country population. This included 353 000 in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) (IPC, January 2022).

This situation represents an improvement compared with 3.3 million people in IPC Phase 3 or above in July–September 2021 (IPC, February 2021), but does not take into account any economic ripple effects of the war in Ukraine.

The large number of people still facing high levels of acute food insecurity were mostly associated with high food prices, together with persistent economic difficulties and lingering effects of weather shocks in 2020 and 2021. From June–August 2022, out of the country's 18 departments, 17 were classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), except for Islas de la Bahía, which was classified in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) (IPC, January 2022).

The share of the population in IPC Phase 3 or above was highest in the departments of El Paraíso, Gracias a Dios, Intibucá, La Paz, Lempira, Santa Bárbara and Yoro, at more than one-third. In terms of magnitude, six out of 18 departments – Cortés, El Paraíso, Francisco Morazán, Olancho, Santa Bárbara and Yoro – accounted for about 60 percent of the people in IPC Phase 3 or above at the national level.

Further improvement projected for 2023

Between June and August 2023, the number of people projected to be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) was projected at 2.42 million people or 25 percent of the total population. Reduced household purchasing power amid increasing prices of food and lower income-generating opportunities are factors expected to underpin the high levels of acute food insecurity during the 2023 lean season period.

Drivers of the crisis, 2022–23

Economic shocks The economic slowdown in 2022 reflects subdued investment in post-hurricane reconstruction, low private consumption underpinned by high inflation, and a contraction in the agricultural sector due to the persisting negative effects of weather shocks.

An increase in remittances, mostly from the United States of America (IMF, 2022), prevented further erosion of household purchasing power, enhancing access to food and partly supporting the improvement in food security.
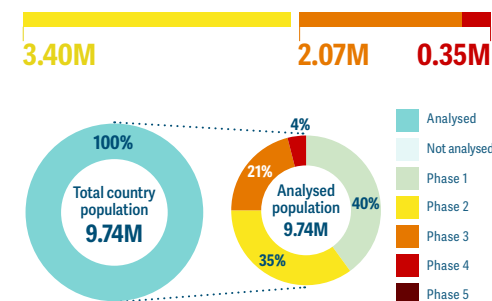
During the June–August lean season period, annual food inflation reached 15–17 percent as prices of staple foods increased amid seasonally low availability. Increased cost of production, transport and imports contributed to the rise, particularly as Honduras relies significantly on food imports, the prices of which were exacerbated by the economic effects of the war in Ukraine on international markets. As of August 2022, the year-on-year price increases for red beans were about 45 percent, over 60 percent for maize and 25 percent for rice (FPMA tool, FAO-GIEWS, February 2023).

In 2023, economic growth is expected to remain subdued, underpinned by the weaking of the global economy which will result in lower exports and remittances. High inflation is expected to continue eroding household purchasing power. In the first two months of 2023, annual food inflation remained high at 17 percent. In January and February 2023, prices of staple red beans and maize resumed an increasing trend, following short-lived declines associated with the harvests in the last quarter of 2022, putting additional pressure on household budgets (FAO-GIEWS, March 2023).
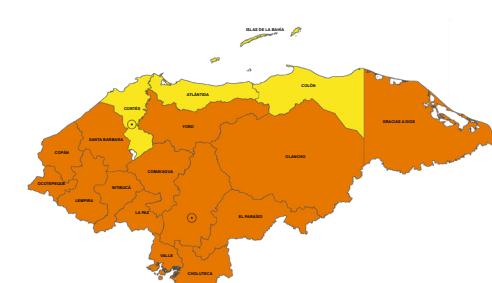
Weather extremes Weather extremes have usually been a driver of acute food insecurity as the country is prone to hurricanes and drought. A slow recovery of the agricultural sector from the impacts of the 2020 hurricanes Eta and Iota and

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY PROJECTION 2023

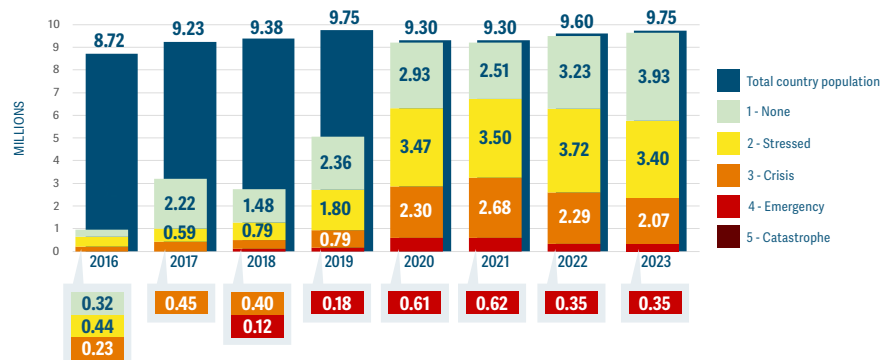**2.42M** people or **25%** of the analysed population in IPC Phase 3 or above, June–August 2023

| 3.40M | 2.07M | 0.35M |

100%
Total country population
9.74M

Analysed population
9.74M
40%
35%
21%
4%

- Analysed
- Not analysed
- Phase 1
- Phase 2
- Phase 3
- Phase 4
- Phase 5

Projected IPC acute food insecurity situation, June–August 2023

- 1 - Minimal
- 2 - Stressed
- 3 - Crisis
- 4 - Emergency
- 5 - Famine
- ⊙ Urban settlement classification

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Source: Honduras IPC TWG, March 2023.

Numbers of people by phase of acute food insecurity, 2016–2023

Source: Honduras IPC TWG.

unfavourable weather conditions during the 2021 cropping season affected rural livelihoods and limited food availability in 2022 (IPC, 2022).

While production in the livestock, agroforestry and fishery sectors experienced modest growth in 2021, crop production contracted, particularly that of maize and red beans (Banco Central de Honduras, December 2022).

The reduced outputs of these staple crops also led to the decline of rural household incomes and food stocks, driving acute food insecurity during the 2022 lean season (IPC, January 2022).

In 2022, heavy rains in September and October associated with La Niña and the landfall of hurricane Julia in early October caused localized damage to standing crops and agricultural infrastructure, particularly affecting southern and western areas (GEOGLAM, October 2022). About 188 000 people were estimated to be affected by the heavy rains due to damage to livelihoods, including crop and livestock losses (FAO, 2023).

If the climate phenomenon El Niño materializes during the second half of 2023, it could have a major impact on agricultural livelihoods and food security in many regions of the country, especially affecting households in IPC Phase 3 or above.

Acute food insecurity since 2016

Honduras has been included in the GRFC for seven consecutive years and has been defined as a major food crisis since 2018. Between 2016 and 2019, the IPC analyses focused on central, southern and eastern areas, the latter of which are in the Dry Corridor of Central America. During this period, acute food insecurity was mostly driven by weather extremes, particularly drought events and erratic rainfall, which led to shortfalls in crop production, curbing food availability and access. Low prices of coffee, a key cash crop and high food prices were other contributory factors to acute food insecurity.

Since late 2020, the geographical coverage of IPC analyses expanded to the whole country, revealing levels of acute food insecurity that reached a record high of 3.3 million people during the 2021 peak. The high levels of food insecurity were underpinned by the economic downturn associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and an active hurricane season in 2020. The combined impact of both shocks continued to severely affect food security in 2022.