GUATEMALA

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY SEPTEMBER 2020 ANALYSIS PROJECTION UPDATE

IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY ANALYSIS (NOVEMBER 2020 - MARCH 2021)

Published in January 2021

PROJECTION UPDATE NOVEMBER 2020 - MARCH 2021

3.73 M

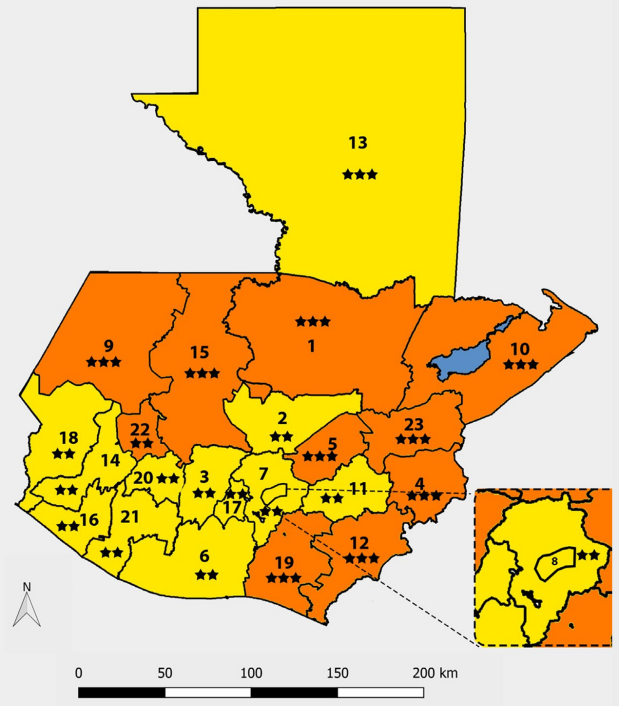
23% of the population analysed

People in high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above), equivalent to 820,000 households according to the 2018 Census.

IN NEED OF URGEN T ACTION

Phase 5	0 People in Catastrophe
Phase 4	428 000 People in Emergency
Phase 3	3 300 000 People in Crisis
Phase 2	6 669 000 People in Stressed
Phase 1	6 462 000 People in food security

PROJECTED SITUATION (NOV 2020 - MARCH 2021)



Key for the Map

IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification

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

Evidence Level

* Acceptable
** Medium
*** High
Scarce evidence due to limited or no humanitarian access

1. Alta Verapaz 2. Baja Verapaz 3. Chimaltenango 4. Chiquimula
5. El Progreso 6. Escuintla 7. Guatemala 8. Guatemala (metropolitana)
9. Huehuetenango 10. Izabal 11. Jalapa 12. Jutiapa 13. Petén
14. Quetzaltenango 15. Quiché 16. Retalhuleu 17. Sacatepéquez
18. San Marcos 19. Santa Rosa 20. Sololá 21. Suchitepéquez
22. Totonicapán 23. Zacapa

Overview

This acute food insecurity analysis is an update of the projection analysis of the period of November 2020 to March 2021, which has been carried out in ten departments that were included in the state of emergency decreed by the Government of Guatemala, due to the damage and impact caused by the Eta and Iota hurricanes during the month of November. The departments analysed are: Alta Verapaz, Chiquimula, El Progreso, Huehuetenango, Izabal, Jutiapa, Petén, Quiché, Santa Rosa and Zacapa, and the acute food insecurity situation of nearly 6.7 million inhabitants (40% of the total population) in Guatemala (16.9 million inhabitants - INE) is analysed.

Key Drivers

HURRICANES ETA AND IOTA

The hurricanes affected the livelihoods of people, both producers, labourers and consumers, damaging large areas of crops, mainly basic grains and vegetables. Damage was also reported to homes, roads and road and production infrastructure, which directly affected the agro-food chain, limiting the availability of and access to food, with effects on food consumption.

COVID-19

The restrictions initially imposed to prevent the spread of COVID-19 limited the movement of people, products and transport, directly affecting access to food, but now ,the measures have been relaxed, partially stimulating economic recovery. However, an increase in the number of cases is expected in the projection period, which could force a resumption of these measures, depending on how the situation evolves.

LIMITED STOCKS AND RISING FOOD PRICES

For this period, families were expected to have their stocks of locally produced basic grains until March 2021. However, the passage of the hurricanes caused many families to lose their reserves. In addition, during the period under review, food prices increased, and in the case of maize and beans, they were above average.

LOSS OF INCOME

Expectations and opportunities for work may be diminished due to the consequences of damage to agricultural land in areas affected by hurricanes, coupled with the late start of labour. Due to low farm household incomes and limited access to inputs, farming areas have generally been reduced and yields affected. Therefore, in this period, there would be a reduction in the demand for labour in the most affected areas.

This update covers the period of November 2020 to March 2021, which corresponds to the season of high labour demand. According to the livelihood zones, most of these departments belong to the area of basic subsistence and livestock grains; and coffee and cardamom cultivation, among others. Likewise, according to MAGA's report, these departments were the most impacted by the Eta and Iota hurricanes, with damage to basic grain crops, vegetables and agro-export crops and a damaged area of about 137,000 hectares, generally affecting 204,500 families (equivalent to over 930,000 people), and an economic loss of about Q 897 million. According to CONRED's accounts, about 1.8 million people were affected in the 10 departments analysed.

The population estimates presented correspond to the 22 departments of the country; however, only the situation in the ten departments most affected by the hurricanes was updated in this projection update.

Of the ten departments most affected by this natural phenomenon, eight were classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) for the period of August to October 2020; only Izabal and Petén were classified in Stressed (IPC Phase 2). In the projection from the September 2020 analysis, an improvement in the food insecurity situation was expected due to the government's actions and because of the boost to the economy and the high demand for labour at this time, with a reduction projected from 22% to 16% of populations facing high levels of acute food insecurity (Phase 3 or above). However, due to the impact and damage caused by the hurricanes, the population likely facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) increased from the 16% previously projected to 23 %, which implies an additional 7% of people in these conditions. Therefore, despite food aid, there are families who are not able to meet their food needs without exhausting essential assets of their livelihoods and implementing Crisis and Emergency coping strategies.

In contrast to what was originally projected during the October 2020 analysis, the departments of Alta Verapaz, El Progreso, Izabal, Jutiapa, Petén, Santa Rosa and Zacapa are expected to change to a higher phase of acute food insecurity, from Stressed (Phase 2) to Crisis (Phase 3), and the departments of Chiquimula, Huehuetenango and Quiche will likely remain in a situation of Crisis (Phase 3). The main factors that have contributed to the deterioration of the situation are the impact on livelihoods of hurricanes Eta and Iota, income losses due to COVID-19 restrictions, rising food prices and limited household food stocks.

Population table of the projected situation: November 2020 - March 2021

Departments	Total Population Analysed	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Area Phase	Phase 3 +	
		#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%		#people	%
Alta Verapaz	1 328 668	265 734	20	425 174	32	531 467	40	106 293	8	0	0	3	637 760	48
Baja Verapaz	327 886	131 154	40	147 549	45	49 183	15	0	0	0	0	2	49 183	15
Chimaltenango	733 338	293 335	40	315 335	43	110 001	15	14 667	2	0	0	2	124 668	17
Chiquimula	441 579	154 553	35	141 305	32	123 642	28	22 079	5	0	0	3	145 721	33
El Progreso	193 069	57 921	30	90 742	47	42 475	22	1 931	1	0	0	3	44 406	23
Escuintla	791 639	379 987	48	316 656	40	94 997	12	0	0	0	0	2	94 997	12
Guatemala	2 310 107	924 043	40	1 039 548	45	300 314	13	46 202	2	0	0	2	346 516	15
Guatemala (metropolitana)	1 205 668	663 117	55	421 984	35	96 453	8	24 113	2	0	0	2	120 566	10
Huehuetenango	1 371 676	274 335	20	617 254	45	438 936	32	41 150	3	0	0	3	480 086	35
Izabal	440 495	132 149	30	176 198	40	110 124	25	22 025	5	0	0	3	132 149	30
Jalapa	394 234	197 117	50	137 982	35	55 193	14	3 942	1	0	0	2	59 135	15
Jutiapa	546 005	207 482	38	174 722	32	136 501	25	27 300	5	0	0	3	163 801	30
Petén	613 475	263 794	43	276 064	45	67 482	11	6 135	1	0	0	2	73 617	12
Quetzaltenango	896 402	484 057	54	313 741	35	89 640	10	8 964	1	0	0	2	98 604	11
Quiché	1 062 897	212 579	20	478 304	45	340 127	32	31 887	3	0	0	3	372 014	35
Retalhuleu	371 072	166 982	45	148 429	40	55 661	15	0	0	0	0	2	55 661	15
Sacatepéquez	389 911	155 964	40	175 460	45	50 688	13	7 798	2	0	0	2	58 486	15
San Marcos	1 172 210	586 105	50	398 551	34	164 109	14	23 444	2	0	0	2	187 553	16
Santa Rosa	441 032	176 413	40	154 361	35	92 617	21	17 641	4	0	0	3	110 258	25
Sololá	467 266	219 615	47	163 543	35	70 090	15	14 018	3	0	0	2	84 108	18
Suchitepéquez	605 299	254 226	42	242 120	40	108 954	18	0	0	0	0	2	108 954	18
Totonicapán	486 687	146 006	30	233 610	48	107 071	22	0	0	0	0	3	107 071	22
Zacapa	267 718	115 119	43	80 315	30	64 252	24	8 032	3	0	0	3	72 284	27
Grand Total	**16 858 333**	**6 461 787**	**38**	**6 668 946**	**40**	**3 299 978**	**20**	**427 622**	**3**	**0**	**0**		**3 727 600**	**23**

Note: The figures in the population table do not match those in the summary table because of rounding. The population data is based on the official projections of the 2018 Population Census.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

Response priorities

1. To prioritize response and emergency food aid actions in the departments most affected by the hurricanes in order to mitigate the food consumption gaps and deterioration of the nutritional status of this population, mainly in subsistence and infra-subsistence producers, which constitute 90% of those reported by MAGA.
2. Manage and articulate the different programmes and projects for an immediate response that contributes to reducing consumption gaps and improving the livelihoods of populations in Crisis and Emergency situations.
3. Prepare a response proposal aimed at very short-term reconstruction of livelihoods to reduce consumption gaps between populations in Crisis and those in Emergency situations, in order to reduce their aggravation and to save lives.
4. Present the results of this analysis to CONASAN, international organisations, local governments, associations and partners for their information and decision making.

Risk factors to monitor

Diseases:

- With the cold season, cases of respiratory and diarrhoeal diseases (IRAs and EDA) may increase. Likewise, an increase of the COVID-19 or possible co-infections can be expected.

- The destruction of drinking water and basic sanitation systems, as well as the contamination of water sources, can be a direct cause of gastrointestinal diseases.

Employment and Income:

- Behaviour of the demand for agricultural and non-agricultural employment; temporary and permanent employment, loss of employment and reduction of wages should be monitored.

- The progress of the economic reactivation measures and possible return to social confinement measures according to the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic; likewise, its consequences in the Food and Nutritional Security derived from the temporary suspension of work, income generation, price evolution and physical access to food and other basic service should be monitored.

Basic food prices:

- The price of maize, beans and other foods should be monitored in the most affected departments, as they could increase due to storm damage or if the restrictions on mobilization due to the COVID-19 pandemic become strict again.

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 acute food and nutrition crises as well as chronic food insecurity 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 security policy and programming.

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 or 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 direction of the Secretariat of Food and Nutritional Security of the Government of Guatemala (SESAN). Technical and financial support was provided by the Programme of Information Systems for Resilience in Food and Nutritional Security of the SICA Region (PROGRESAN-SICA) and the Global Support Unit (IPC/GSU).

The analysis was carried out through a virtual IPC process following a four-stage approach: planning, preparation, analysis and summary. This approach did not affect compliance with the IPC protocols (four functions) and ensured that the parameters of the analysis were applied throughout the process.

The classification of acute food insecurity has been done using the IPC protocols, developed and implemented worldwide by its partners: Action Against Hunger, CARE, CILSS, EC-JRC, Global Food Security Cluster, Global Nutrition Cluster, FAO, FEWSNET, IGAD, OXFAM, WFP, SICA, SADC, Save the Children and UNICEF.

Analysis partners and support organisations: