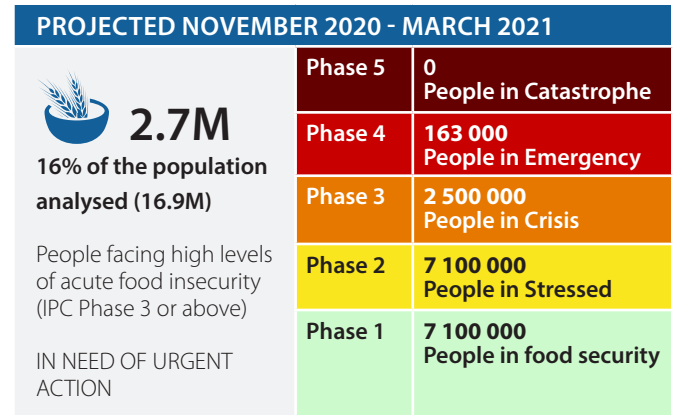
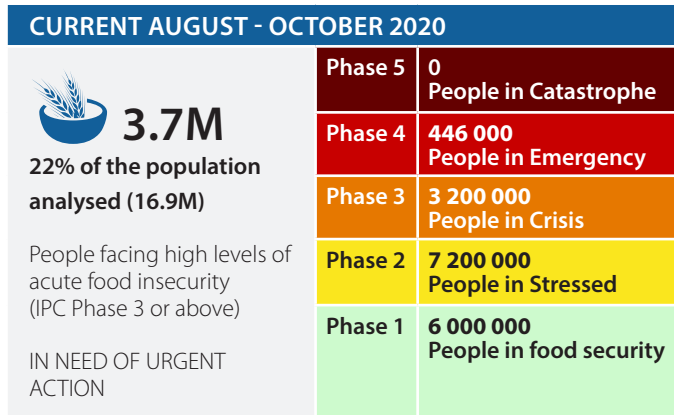


GUATEMALA

3.7 MILLION PEOPLE IN HIGH LEVELS OF ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY (IPC PHASE 3 OR ABOVE)

IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY ANALYSIS

AUGUST 2020 - MARCH 2021
ISSUED IN NOVEMBER 2020



Overview

From August to October 2020, about 3.7 million people were facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above), and therefore, required urgent action. This figure will likely decrease to 2.7 million people between November 2020 and March 2021. Until October 2020, the departments classified as being in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) were: Alta Verapaz, Baja Verapaz, Chimaltenango, Chiquimula, El Progreso, Huehuetenango, Jalapa, Jutiapa, Quetzaltenango, Quiché, San Marcos, Santa Rosa, Sololá, Suchitepéquez, Totonicapán and Zacapa. The economic effects of the COVID-19 mitigation measures have been counteracted by state and private humanitarian aid, preventing a greater severity of acute food insecurity in most departments.

From November 2020 to March 2021, the departments of Chiquimula, Huehuetenango, Quiché and Totonicapán are expected to remain in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis). The population most affected is composed mainly of subsistence farmers who have suffered losses of income due to mobility and transport restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, and small informal traders who are forced to use Crisis or Emergency coping strategies to reduce their food gaps, such as selling productive assets.

Key drivers



COVID-19

Government-mandated confinement measures due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in the region and in Guatemala have led to restrictions on mobility, which means a decrease in transport to access markets, workplaces, and basic services.



Food prices

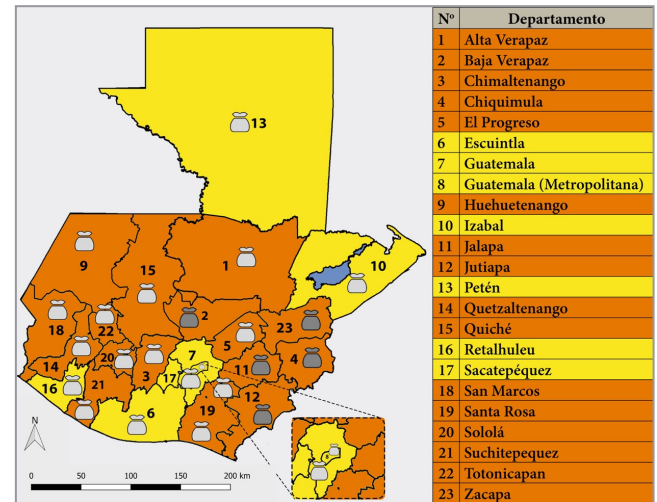
Despite market support, speculation and uncertainty have been reflected in rising prices of basic grains, affecting food access for the majority of the population that depends on the purchase of these foods.



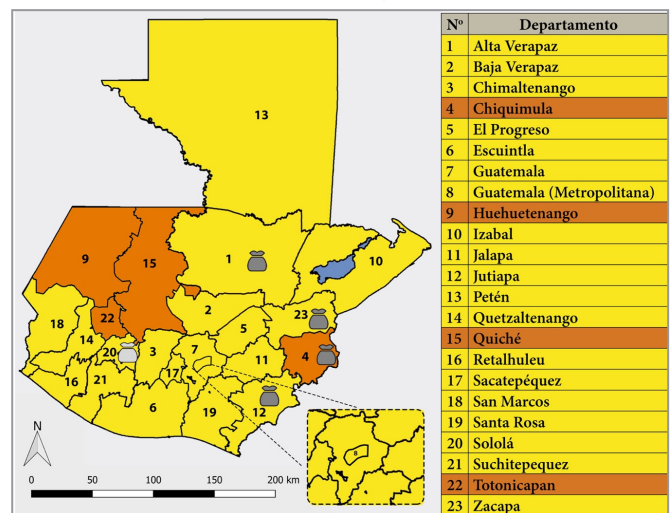
Loss of income

Sources of income have been reduced, either because they are related to informal trade, or because sources of employment have been closed. As a result, people have been experiencing great difficulties in accessing food, and are forced to resort to Crisis coping strategies.

Current Acute Food Insecurity August - October 2020



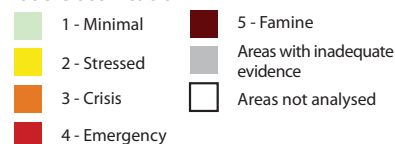
Projected Acute Food Insecurity Nov 2020 - Mar 2021



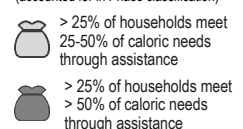
Key for the Map

IPC Acute Food Insecurity

Phase Classification



Area receives significant humanitarian food assistance (accounted for in Phase classification)



CURRENT SITUATION OVERVIEW (AUGUST - OCTOBER 2020)

22 departments in Guatemala were analysed and a differentiated analysis was included for Guatemala City, totalling 16.9 million people. The context for this analysis takes into account the COVID-19 pandemic that has been affecting the country since March 2020, the variability and increase in prices of basic grains and other foods, the beginning of the rainy season with a 55% probability of the La Niña phenomenon, being in a period of seasonal hunger, multidimensional poverty and with mobility and transport restrictions that have limited the coverage of social protection programs and projects. Likewise, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Chronic Food Insecurity Analysis, conducted in 2018, indicated that about 5 million people from the population analysed were in conditions of Moderate or Severe Chronic Food Insecurity (Level 3 or 4).

For the current period, the analysis classified 16 departments in Crisis (IPC Phase 3): Alta Verapaz, Baja Verapaz, Chimaltenango, Chiquimula, El Progreso, Huehuetenango, Jalapa, Jutiapa, Quetzaltenango, Quiché, San Marcos, Santa Rosa, Sololá, Suchitepéquez, Totonicapán and Zacapa. The departments of Escuintla, Guatemala, Izabal, Petén, Retalhuleu, Sacatepéquez and Guatemala City are classified in Stressed (IPC Phase 2). The total number of people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) was around 446,000 (3% of the population analysed). The total number of people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) was around 3.2 million, (19% of the population analysed). This adds up to a total of around 3.7 million people facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) who required urgent action.

The area with the highest percentage of its population facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) was Huehuetenango, with 32% of the population, followed by Quiché and Sololá, both with 30%. Meanwhile, the areas with the highest number of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) were Huehuetenango, with about 439,000 people affected, followed by Guatemala (392,000 people), San Marcos (351,000 people) and Quiché (319,000 people).

The analysis shows that more than one-fifth of households (22%) had gaps in the food consumption required to meet their daily caloric needs. In terms of the Food Consumption Score (FCS), 21.4% of the households had a borderline or poor FCS, with Huehuetenango, San Marcos, Quiché and Totonicapán having the highest percentages of poor food consumption (between 10.3% and 11.8%).

Based on the current analysis, these households were barely able to meet their needs or avoid major deficits, and could only do so by depleting their assets and resorting to Crisis or Emergency coping strategies. Regarding the use of strategies to access food, during the current period, 42% used Crisis or Emergency coping strategies on a regular basis, which is indicative of an acute food insecurity situation of Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Emergency (IPC Phase 4).

According to available information, the prevalence of acute malnutrition is less than 5% and mortality in children under five years of age associated with acute food insecurity is minimal.

Job losses, mainly in tourism, manufacturing and fishing, reduced household stocks of basic grains, the trend towards higher prices for basic grains, and limited mobility and transport have greatly reduced population movements between departments. This also limited the availability of work and informal trade, conditions largely associated with the restrictions and measures taken to address the COVID-19 pandemic at the national level. Other underlying factors of the food insecurity situation were untreated water and increased seasonal hunger in many of the departments analysed. In the departments classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), food access and utilization was considered a major limiting factor, and food availability a minor limiting factor.

In the departments classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), there were also households in Emergency (IPC Phase 4), where food access and utilization were considered major limiting factors, and food availability a minor limiting factor.

Households in Crisis or Emergency (IPC Phase 3 or 4) generate their income mainly through casual labour, informal trade and tourism, or are subsistence farmers. These groups generally spend a greater proportion of their income on food and are among the extreme poor in rural areas, with higher percentages of unmet basic needs. The urban-rural gap in coverage of basic services for water, sanitation, rubbish collection and electricity, as a whole at the national level, is 48%.

With regards to humanitarian food aid, promoted by the State and Non-Governmental Organisations, it has been very important to link it to the delivery of food aid and family vouchers. The State programme of assistance to families in response to COVID-19, Bono Familia, consists of cash assistance in three deliveries of Q.1000 each: the first was made in June (not included in this analysis), the second between August and September, and the third is a smaller amount that was scheduled for October. The Q. 1000 delivery covers at least 50% of the costs of a household's daily caloric needs. According to the World Food Programme (WFP) survey, 24% of households have received some form of humanitarian assistance.

Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

A warning system has been set up at municipal level with four levels assigned according to the incidence of cases and the percentage of tests that are positive.

The measures planned for the high and very high alert levels include limitations on transport capacity and capacity in commercial spaces, offices and factories. These measures can restrict access to employment and reduce the income of companies, compromising their economic viability. Wage dependent households and small formal and informal businesses are most affected by these measures.

City of Guatemala

In the current period, the metropolitan area of the department of Guatemala has been classified in Stressed (IPC Phase 2). However, 10% of the households are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and 2% in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). The measures adopted to control the pandemic have had a negative impact on both formal and informal economic activity. Thus, in July and August, more than 75 percent of households reported income losses, with market purchases being the main source of food in the area.

The food assistance provided by the Bono Familia, the municipality and the MINIEDUC has benefited 59% of households, and has been key in avoiding higher levels of acute food insecurity.

PROJECTED SITUATION OVERVIEW (NOVEMBER 2020 - MARCH 2021)

In the projected period, a scenario of stabilisation in the trend of basic grain prices is expected. Starting with the primera harvest, there will be greater availability of food in the markets, therefore, prices of basic grains may be maintained or may decrease in this period. With the Postrera and Altiplano harvest, food availability is expected to improve at the market and household levels. The measures to reactivate the economy could favour transport and gradually increase the mobility of people, stimulating the economy and increasing the demand for labour, informal trade and the recovery of jobs, therefore, favouring casual labourers and small producers. According to the seasonal calendar, November marks the start of the high labour demand season for various commercial crops: coffee, sugar cane, and cardamom, in particular. During the projected period, it is expected that household income will improve due to the increased employment generated by agricultural and agro-industrial activity. Employment in the tourism and commerce sector, which is traditional for the end-of-year period, is not expected to reach the level of previous years due to the COVID-19 restrictions still being in place, but it will be an important source of income. In general, at the national level, remittances could prevent a further deterioration of the food insecurity situation for the projected period, particularly in Jutiapa, Huehuetenango, Petén, Retalhuleu, Suchitepéquez and Baja Verapaz.

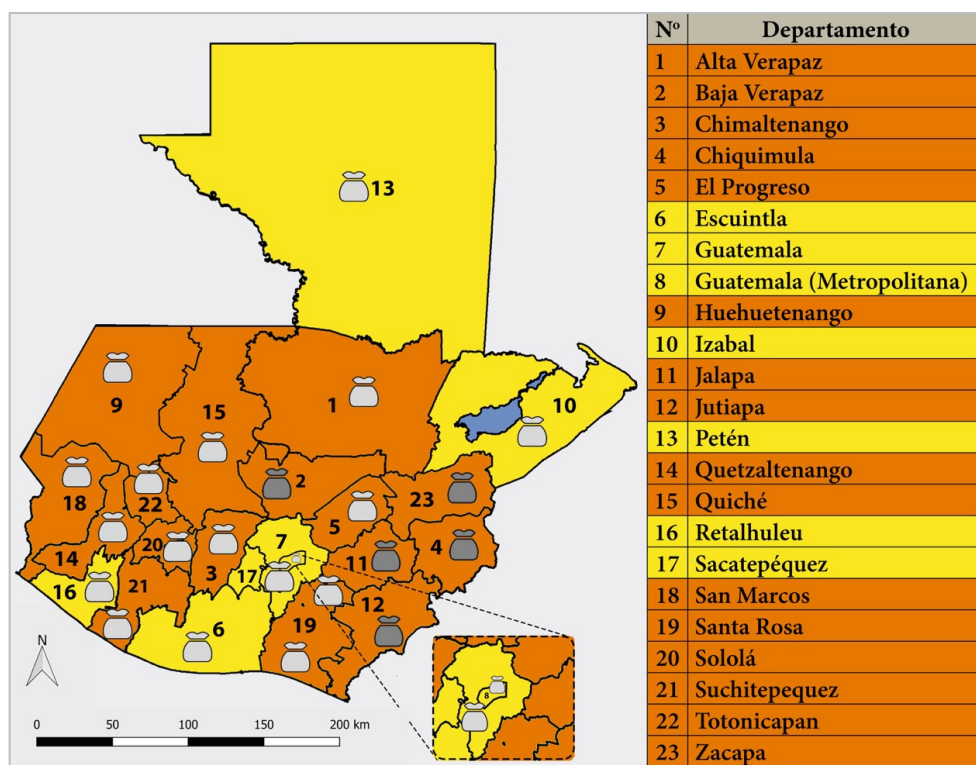
For the projected situation between November 2020 and March 2021, the departments of Chiquimula, Huehuetenango, Quiché and Totonicapán are expected to remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), while the rest of the country will likely be in Stressed (IPC Phase 2). Nationally, about 163,000 people (1%) are in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and 2.5 million people (15%) are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). In total, around 2.7 million people require urgent support with response interventions focused on saving lives and livelihoods, and a response plan that includes food aid, monetary assistance and asset redistribution, according to the key and limiting factors identified.

The departments that will likely have the greatest percentage of people facing high acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) are Quiché (25%), Chiquimula (24%), Huehuetenango (23%) and Totonicapán (22%). The departments with the highest number of people in high acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) will likely be Guatemala, with around 347,000 people, Huehuetenango with 315,000 people and Quiché with 266,000 people.

ANALYSIS ASSUMPTIONS

- Stabilisation of basic grain prices.
- Commercial and tourist activity will remain below the average of previous years, especially in municipalities where the incidence of COVID-19 measures places restrictions on mobility and capacity.
- Increase in the cost of transport.
- Normal seasonal increase in the supply of casual labour in the agricultural sector.
- Maintenance of remittances as a positive factor in the household economy.
- Food assistance programmes will be targeted and will not reach 25% of the household population in the departments.

CURRENT SITUATION MAP AND POPULATION TABLE (AUGUST - OCTOBER 2020)



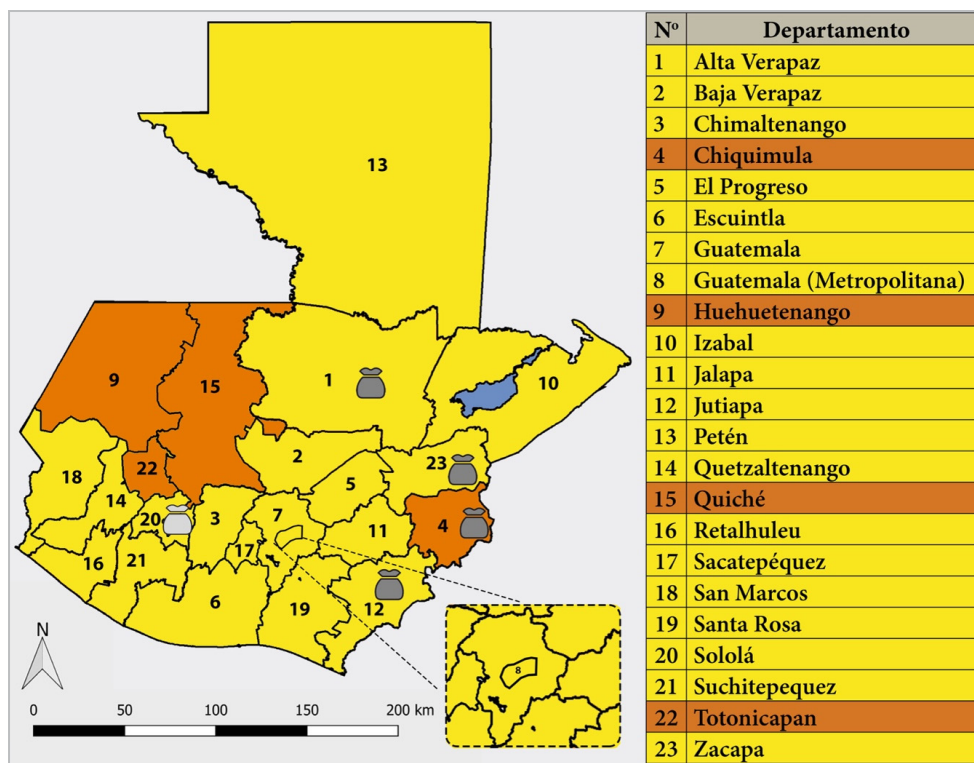
Key for the Map IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification

- 1 - Minimal
- 2 - Stressed
- 3 - Crisis
- 4 - Emergency
- 5 - Famine
- Areas with inadequate evidence
- Areas not analysed
- Area receives significant humanitarian food assistance (accounted for in Phase classification)
 - > 25% of households meet 25-50% of caloric needs through assistance
 - > 25% of households meet > 50% of caloric needs through assistance

Departments	Population Total	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	332 167	25	730 767	55	239 160	18	26 573	2	0	0	3	265 733	20
Baja Verapaz	327 886	114 760	35	147 549	45	59 019	18	6 558	2	0	0	3	65 577	20
Chimaltenango	733 338	220 001	30	330 002	45	146 668	20	36 667	5	0	0	3	183 335	25
Chiquimula	441 579	163 384	37	150 137	34	114 811	26	13 247	3	0	0	3	128 058	29
El Progreso	193 069	67 574	35	86 881	45	38 614	20	0	0	0	0	3	38 614	20
Escuintla	791 639	356 238	45	300 823	38	118 746	15	15 833	2	0	0	2	134 579	17
Guatemala	2 310 107	762 335	33	1 155 054	50	346 516	15	46 202	2	0	0	2	392 718	17
Guatemala (metropolitana)	1 205 668	578 721	48	482 267	40	120 567	10	24 113	2	0	0	2	144 680	12
Huehuetenango	1 371 676	342 919	25	589 821	43	411 503	30	27 434	2	0	0	3	438 937	32
Izabal	440 495	132 149	30	264 297	60	39 645	9	4 405	1	0	0	2	44 050	10
Jalapa	394 234	165 578	42	126 155	32	86 731	22	15 769	4	0	0	3	102 500	26
Jutiapa	546 005	229 322	42	207 482	38	98 281	18	10 920	2	0	0	3	109 201	20
Petén	613 475	184 043	30	368 085	60	55 213	9	6 135	1	0	0	2	61 348	10
Quetzaltenango	896 402	403 381	45	313 741	35	161 352	18	17 928	2	0	0	3	179 280	20
Quiché	1 062 897	265 724	25	478 304	45	297 611	28	21 258	2	0	0	3	318 869	30
Retalhuleu	371 072	163 272	44	141 007	38	55 661	15	11 132	3	0	0	2	66 793	18
Sacatepéquez	389 911	128 671	33	194 956	50	58 487	15	7 798	2	0	0	2	66 285	17
San Marcos	1 172 210	468 884	40	351 663	30	293 053	25	58 611	5	0	0	3	351 664	30
Santa Rosa	441 032	198 464	45	132 310	30	88 206	20	22 052	5	0	0	3	110 258	25
Sololá	467 266	186 906	40	140 180	30	112 144	24	28 036	6	0	0	3	140 180	30
Suchitepéquez	605 299	242 120	40	211 855	35	121 060	20	30 265	5	0	0	3	151 325	25
Totonicapán	486 687	136 272	28	219 009	45	121 672	25	9 734	2	0	0	3	131 406	27
Zacapa	267 718	120 473	45	91 024	34	50 866	19	5 354	2	0	0	3	56 220	21
Grand Total	16 858 333	5 963 358	35	7 213 367	43	3 235 585	19	446 024	3	0	0		3 681 608	22

Note: The figures in the population table might not match those in the summary table because of rounding. The population data has been obtained based on the official projections of the Population Census of 2018. The evidence level for most of the areas analysed is High (***) and for the rest it is Medium (**).

PROJECTED SITUATION MAP AND POPULATION TABLE (NOVEMBER 2020 - MARCH 2021)



Key for the Map IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification

- 1 - Minimal
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Area receives significant humanitarian food assistance (accounted for in Phase classification)

- > 25% of households meet 25-50% of caloric needs through assistance
- > 25% of households meet > 50% of caloric needs through assistance

Departments	Population Total	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	531 467	40	597 901	45	199 300	15	0	0	0	0	2	199 300	15
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	176 632	40	158 968	36	97 147	22	8 832	2	0	0	3	105 979	24
El Progreso	193 069	77 228	40	86 881	45	28 960	15	0	0	0	0	2	28 960	15
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	370 353	27	685 838	50	315 485	23	0	0	0	0	3	315 485	23
Izabal	440 495	198 223	45	220 248	50	22 025	5	0	0	0	0	2	22 025	5
Jalapa	394 234	197 117	50	137 982	35	55 193	14	3 942	1	0	0	2	59 135	15
Jutiapa	546 005	273 003	50	218 402	40	49 140	9	5 460	1	0	0	2	54 600	10
Petén	613 475	306 738	50	276 064	45	30 674	5	0	0	0	0	2	30 674	5
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	265 724	25	531 449	50	265 724	25	0	0	0	0	3	265 724	25
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	198 464	45	167 592	38	74 975	17	0	0	0	0	2	74 975	17
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	125 827	47	99 056	37	37 481	14	5 354	2	0	0	2	42 835	16
Grand Total	16 858 333	7 125 367	42	7 096 904	42	2 473 267	15	162 795	1	0	0		2 636 062	16

Note: The figures in the population table might not match those in the summary table because of rounding. The population data has been obtained based on the official projections of the Population Census of 2018. The evidence level for most of the areas analysed is High (***) and for the rest it is Medium (**).

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

Response Priorities

Populations and municipalities where a greater proportion of households have depleted their stocks and are employing Crisis or Emergency coping strategies should be identified and prioritised. Interventions should be carried out and strategic humanitarian actions and other actions defined in Government Action Plans should be intensified, in coordination with national and international actors and institutions. Priority response objectives should be directed towards protecting livelihoods and reducing household food consumption gaps, especially for populations classified in IPC Phases 3 or 4. Actions to reduce risks and protect livelihoods should continue. Specific response actions will be defined with local, municipal and commonwealth actors; through short-term programmes and projects.

Situation Monitoring and Update

Present the report to bodies such as: the Secretariat of Food and Nutritional Security - SESAN and later to the National Council of Food and Nutritional Security - CONASAN. It will be presented to cooperation entities and other entities linked to the response to address the acute food insecurity situation in Guatemala.

The efforts of WFP, SESAN and others in collecting data in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic are appreciated, especially given the restrictions and measures in place to help control the pandemic. However, it is recommended that data collection of indicators of livelihood change outcomes, as well as those of nutritional status and mortality in circumstances of limited access, be encouraged, in order to have more up-to-date data. Likewise, it is recommended to continue from SESAN with the monitoring of nutritional food security indicators by strengthening SIINSAN (<http://www.siinsan.gob.gt/siinsan/>) as the main national repository of sources and evidence. This should be supported by other documents such as: the Crop Monitoring Bulletin (MAGA), the epidemiological situation room of acute malnutrition of MSPAS, municipal situation rooms of food and nutritional security, the reports of the Food and Nutrition Security Forecast and the various studies and surveys of food and nutritional security that are promoted by WFP, FAO and other IPC global partners present in Guatemala. This should be done to help support future IPC analyses according to the information needs and the corresponding seasonal calendar, and to support the management of greater coverage, updating and availability of indicators that allow for the closing of data quality gaps and other gaps found during the analysis.

It is recommended that a new analysis is be conducted after the first quarter of 2021 that includes the period of seasonal hunger. It is also desirable that a minimum of six coping strategies showing different levels of severity, as well as more evidence of food consumption, be included in the collection of new evidence.

Finally, analysis of the impact and relevance of food assistance would greatly benefit from the development of a unified table with all the information on interventions made that may impact the periods of analysis. This table would have to indicate at least: the dates of distribution, the number of beneficiary households, the percentage of household caloric requirements covered in the distribution period, and indications of any incidence that occurred during the distribution.

Risk factors to monitor

It is necessary to monitor key risk factors, including: the climate outlook, price trends, disease trends mainly COVID-19 and containment and control measures, demand for agricultural and non-agricultural employment, both temporary and permanent, and compliance with programmed humanitarian aid. The evolution and behaviour of these factors could generate the need for a further analysis, after the first quarter of 2021.

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Classification of food insecurity was conducted using the IPC protocols, which are developed and implemented worldwide by the IPC Global Partnership - Action Against Hunger, CARE, CILSS, EC-JRC, FAO, FEWSNET, Global Food Security Cluster, Global Nutrition Cluster, IGAD, Oxfam, PROGRESAN-SICA, SADC, Save the Children, UNICEF and WFP.

IPC Analysis Partners:

