The present analysis of acute food insecurity is an update of the projected analysis carried out in November 2019, which includes 13 of the 18 departments of Honduras: Choluteca, Comayagua, Copán, El Paraíso, Francisco Morazán (not including the Central District), Intibucá, La Paz, Lempira, Ocotepeque, Olancho, Santa Bárbara, Valle and Yoro, analysing a total of 5.1 million inhabitants, equivalent to 53% of the total population of Honduras.

### Key Drivers

**COVID-19**

The COVID-19 pandemic has led the Government of the Republic of Honduras to implement contingency measures such as: restriction in the mobilisation of people, products and transport, without directly affecting the agro-food chain, although indirectly with municipal and local measures, access to markets and cross-border trade has been limited; these have caused the loss of employment and low income in households in most of the departments analysed, both in the formal and informal sectors. In addition, families dependent on remittances, mainly from the United States and some European countries, have seen their family support decline as a result of job losses due to the pandemic.

**Limited reserves and rising food prices**

By this lean season, the reserves of locally produced basic grains have been or will be depleted before August 2020. The situation is aggravated by the socio-economic crisis generated by the COVID-19 pandemic and the corresponding prevention, containment and mitigation measures, causing a rise in the cost of the basic food basket, mainly in essential consumption products such as corn, beans and sorghum in some departments; which in turn has impacted the quantity and quality of the food consumed. Government and humanitarian food assistance April-May has helped to mitigate the limited access to food. However, the food assistance planned for the projected period cannot be considered significant in terms of beneficiaries and caloric contribution in any of the areas analysed.

**Loss of income**

Due to low farm household incomes and limited access to inputs, farming areas will generally be reduced and affected in terms of yield, although rainfall forecasts are positive. There will therefore be a reduction in demand for labour during this period, and therefore there will also be loss of income.
### CURRENT SITUATION MAP AND POPULATION TABLE (JUNE-AUGUST 2020)

**Key for the Map**
- **PC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification**
  - 1 - Minimal
  - 2 - Stress
  - 3 - Crisis
  - 4 - Emergency
  - 5 - Famine

**Department** | **Total population analysed** | **Phase 1** | **Phase 2** | **Phase 3** | **Phase 4** | **Phase 5** | **Area Phase** | **Phase 3+**
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
Choluteca | 469,848 | 117,462 | 140,954 | 164,447 | 46,985 | 000,000 | 00 | 3 | 211,432
Comayagua | 562,033 | 123,647 | 269,776 | 129,268 | 39,342 | 000,000 | 00 | 3 | 168,610
Copán | 406,965 | 122,090 | 162,786 | 101,741 | 20,348 | 000,000 | 00 | 3 | 122,089
El Paraíso | 448,119 | 156,838 | 134,436 | 112,030 | 44,812 | 000,000 | 00 | 3 | 171,469
Francisco Morazán | 389,704 | 81,838 | 136,939 | 136,939 | 55,073 | 000,000 | 00 | 3 | 156,842
Intibucá | 260,344 | 65,086 | 101,534 | 72,896 | 20,828 | 000,000 | 00 | 3 | 93,724
La Paz | 220,892 | 53,014 | 88,357 | 68,477 | 11,045 | 000,000 | 00 | 3 | 79,522
Lempira | 357,783 | 135,958 | 128,802 | 71,557 | 21,467 | 000,000 | 00 | 3 | 93,024
Ocotepeque | 162,638 | 48,791 | 65,055 | 40,680 | 8,132 | 000,000 | 00 | 3 | 48,792
Olancho | 570,847 | 171,254 | 256,881 | 114,169 | 28,852 | 000,000 | 00 | 3 | 142,711
Santa Bárbara | 462,774 | 185,110 | 138,832 | 115,694 | 23,139 | 000,000 | 00 | 3 | 138,833
Valle | 187,460 | 56,238 | 65,611 | 46,865 | 18,746 | 000,000 | 00 | 3 | 65,611
Yoro | 622,006 | 279,903 | 186,602 | 124,401 | 31,100 | 000,000 | 00 | 3 | 155,501
**Grand Total** | **5,121,413** | **1,597,232** | **1,876,023** | **1,298,600** | **349,559** | **000,000** | **00** | **1,648,159**
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

Priority responses

• Manage and articulate the different programmes and projects for an immediate response that contributes to reducing consumption gaps and improving livelihoods of populations in Crisis and Emergency.

• Prepare a proposal for a response, as immediate as possible for nutritional reasons, to reduce consumption gaps between populations in Crisis and those in Emergency situations, in order to reduce their graveness and save lives.

• Evaluate scenarios and measures implemented according to the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic, in the short and medium term, because it could worsen the threats and vulnerability in the analysed population.

• Present to SINAGER the need for a comprehensive medium-term strategy aimed at protecting the livelihoods of the population in Stress (Phase 2), Crisis (Phase 3) and Emergency (Phase 4), as a risk mitigation and prevention measure after the projected period when humanitarian assistance is significantly reduced.

• Monitor national and territorial plans for economic recovery 2020/2021 and include assessments of food and nutritional insecurity in vulnerable populations in urban, marginal urban and rural areas affected by the current pandemic, seeking opportunities for new projects and activities to generate work and income for the most vulnerable.

• UTSAN and the National Committee of the IPC prepares and presents to COTISAN and CONASAN, international organisations, local governments, associations and partners, the results of the analysis for their knowledge, and the respective decision making.

• Coordinate with the bodies established by the Government in the framework of the crisis (SINAGER and Special Tables), government institutions, civil society and humanitarian organisations, the monitoring of the situation of household income, food sources, activation of food assistance plans, climatic conditions, technical assistance and development of the first harvest, the health and nutrition situation, the evolution of COVID-19 and its effects in the areas of the most affected departments.

• Continue to strengthen the Food and Nutrition Security Information System (SISESAN), in order to make information available, prioritising indicators of food consumption, changes in livelihoods and nutritional status by September 2020, in order to support a forthcoming analysis.

Risk factors to monitor

Diseases:

• With the rainy season, cases of respiratory and diarrheal diseases (ARIs and EDA) may increase, as well as other vector-borne diseases (Dengue, Zika, etc.) and their possible impact and co-infection with COVID-19.

• Confinement is also a factor in the increase of: diseases such as TB, depression and domestic violence, all of which have an impact on Food and Nutritional Security.

Employment and income:

• Monitor the flow of remittances in households with the aim of reducing them.

• Monitor the measures for economic reactivation and possible reinforcement of social protection and confinement, as as well as the temporary suspension of work, income generation, price evolution and physical access to food.

Climatic conditions:

• Hurricanes and depressions or tropical storms that could occur during the hurricane season, from early June to late November, according to forecasts by the Central American Climate Forum and recommendations by the FNS Applications Forum.
PROCESS AND METHODOLOGY

The analysis was carried out using the IPC approach, virtually, following a four-stage process: planning, preparation, analysis and summary. This modality allowed compliance with the IPC protocols (four functions) and ensured that the parameters of the analysis were applied throughout the process.

Acute Food Insecurity Phase name and description

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase 1 None/Minimal</th>
<th>Phase 2 Stress</th>
<th>Phase 3 Crisis</th>
<th>Phase 4 Emergency</th>
<th>Phase 5 Catastrophe/ Famine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Households are able to meet essential food and non-food needs without engaging in atypical and unsustainable strategies to access food and income.</td>
<td>Households have minimally adequate food consumption but are unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures without engaging in stress-coping strategies.</td>
<td>Households either: • have food consumption gaps that are reflected by high or above-usual acute malnutrition; or • are marginally able to meet minimum food needs but only by depleting essential livelihood assets or through crisis-coping strategies.</td>
<td>Households either: • have large food consumption gaps that are reflected in very high acute malnutrition and excess mortality; or • are able to mitigate large food consumption gaps but only by employing emergency livelihood strategies, and asset liquidation.</td>
<td>Households have an extreme lack of food and/or other basic needs even after full employment of coping strategies. Starvation, death, destitution and extremely critical acute malnutrition levels are evident. For famine classification, area needs to have extreme critical levels of acute malnutrition and mortality.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Analysis partners and support organisations:

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.

Contact for further Information

Roberto Cáceres
National Coordinator of the IPC and UTSAN
rocabril@gmail.com
IPC Global Support Unit
www.ipcinfo.org
PROGRESAN-SICA
www.sica.int/san

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