

# GUATEMALA, EL SALVADOR AND HONDURAS

TRI-NATIONAL BORDER FEDERATION OF RÍO LEMPA (MTFRL)

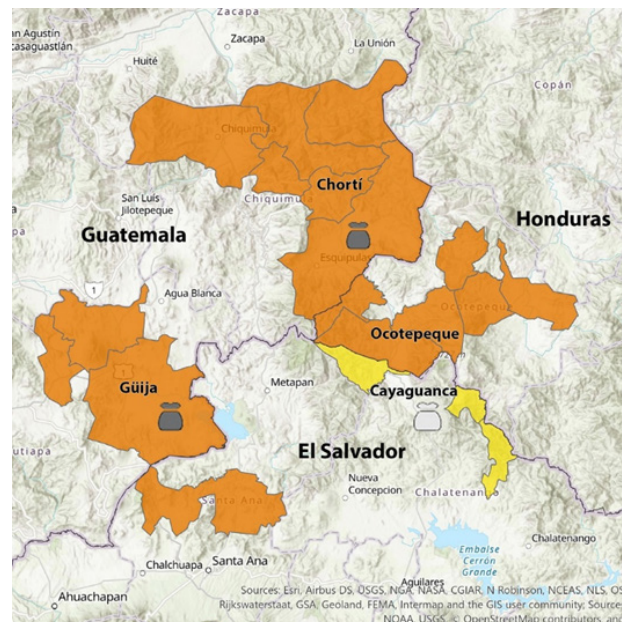
IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY ANALYSIS  
PROJECTION UPDATE (JUNE-AUGUST 2020)

Published in June 2020

## PROJECTION UPDATE JUNE - AUGUST 2020

|  |                |   |
|--|----------------|---|
| <p><b>139,100</b><br/>29% of the population analysed</p> <p>People in Crisis Acute Food Insecurity (IPC Phase 3) and worse</p> <p>IN NEED OF URGENT ACTION</p> | <b>Phase 5</b> | <b>000,000</b><br>People in Catastrophe   |
|  | <b>Phase 4</b> | <b>19,500</b><br>People in Emergency      |
|  | <b>Phase 3</b> | <b>119,600</b><br>People in Crisis        |
|  | <b>Phase 2</b> | <b>166,600</b><br>People in Stress        |
|  | <b>Phase 1</b> | <b>168,784</b><br>People in Food Security |

## PROJECTED SITUATION (JUNE-AUGUST 2020)



### Key for the Map

#### IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification

- 1 - Minimal
- 2 - Stress
- 3 - Crisis
- 4 - Emergency
- 5 - Famine
- > 25% of households meet 25-50% of caloric needs through assistance
- > 25% of households meet > 50% of caloric needs through assistance

### Overview

From June to August 2020, the period corresponding to the rainy and first planting season and considered as the peak of acute food insecurity within the agricultural cycle, 139,100 (29% of the analysed population) are in high acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3+). Of these, 119,600 are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and 19,500 in Emergency (IPC Phase 4).

### Key Drivers



#### COVID-19

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has led governments to implement contingency measures such as restriction of movement of people, goods and transport, limited market access and cross-border trade. These measures have resulted in the loss of employment and lower household incomes in both the formal and non-formal sectors in the MTFRL territory. In addition, remittances mainly from the United States, Spain and Italy have decreased due to the loss of employment of family members as a result of the pandemic.



#### High food prices

In this period, food availability has declined dramatically because locally produced basic grain stocks have already been depleted in some households or will be depleted by August 2020 in others, with 99% of households dependent on purchases. Access to food has been reduced due to the increase in the price of the basic food basket by up to 17% in the municipalities of El Salvador, as well as in other areas of the MTFRL territory with price increases in corn, beans, and eggs. The impact on the quantity and quality of consumption is due to food shortages and the socioeconomic crisis generated by the pandemic. The records of the incidence of acute malnutrition in children under five in the municipalities of Guatemala show an increase of 100% with respect to previous years, associated with the low availability and access to food, in addition to the limitations on access to health services.



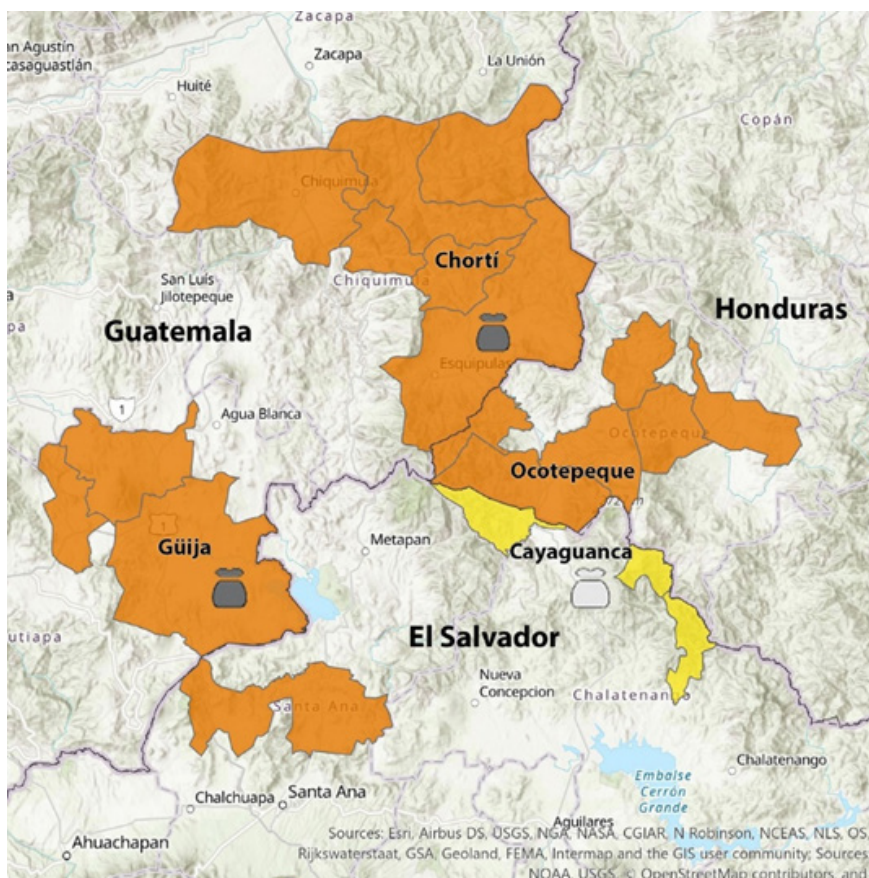
#### Loss of income

Due to low farm household incomes and limited access to inputs, farming areas in general will be diminished and affected in terms of yield, which for this period means reduced demand for labour, and in future periods the low availability of basic grains from the Primera harvest. 47% of households are resorting to the use of livelihood coping strategies, 20% of which are crisis or emergency, leading to a gradual deterioration of their livelihoods. The economic revival of the Tri-national region will extend beyond the projected period.

In the Chortí, Güija and Ocatepeque micro-regions, households are marginally able to meet their food needs, achieving this through the depletion of essential livelihood assets and resorting to crisis and emergency coping strategies, placing them in Crisis (Phase 3). The micro-region of Cayagua, the smallest in population, despite doubling the number of people in Crisis, remains under Stress (Phase 2). In the Tri-national region, the municipalities of the Chortí micro-region will maintain significant humanitarian aid, both from the government and from cooperation, which will improve access to food. In Güija and Cayagua they will be receiving support in smaller proportions from government programs, while in Ocatepeque it is not certain that they will receive any assistance.



## CURRENT SITUATION MAP AND POPULATION TABLE (JUNE-AUGUST 2020)



### Key for the Map

#### PC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification

(mapped Phase represents highest severity affecting at least 20% of the population)

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

#### 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

| Micro-region | Total population analysed | Phase 1        |           | Phase 2        |           | Phase 3        |           | Phase 4       |          | Phase 5  |          | Area Phase | Phase 3 +      |           |
|--------------|---------------------------|----------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|---------------|----------|----------|----------|------------|----------------|-----------|
|              |                           | #people        | %         | #people        | %         | #people        | %         | #people       | %        | #people  | %        |            | #people        | %         |
| Cayaguanga   | 12 003                    | 8 402          | 70        | 2 401          | 20        | 1 200          | 10        | 0             | 0        | 0        | 0        | 2          | 1 200          | 10        |
| Chorti       | 221 282                   | 55 321         | 25        | 81 874         | 37        | 70 810         | 32        | 13 277        | 6        | 0        | 0        | 3          | 84 087         | 38        |
| Guija        | 172 027                   | 77 412         | 45        | 60 209         | 35        | 30 965         | 18        | 3 441         | 2        | 0        | 0        | 3          | 34 406         | 20        |
| Ocatepeque   | 69 124                    | 27 650         | 40        | 22 120         | 32        | 16 590         | 24        | 2 765         | 4        | 0        | 0        | 3          | 19 355         | 28        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>474 436</b>            | <b>168 784</b> | <b>35</b> | <b>166 604</b> | <b>35</b> | <b>119 565</b> | <b>25</b> | <b>19 482</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> |            | <b>139 048</b> | <b>29</b> |

Note: A population in Phase 3+ does not necessarily reflect the full population in need of urgent action. This is because some households may be in Phase 2 or even 1 but only because of receipt of assistance, and thus, they may be in need of continued action.



## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

### Response Priorities

- Activate immediate response for social protection and to reduce consumption gaps in populations in Emergency (Phase 4).
- Prepare a proposal for immediate response, within the next 15 days, to reduce consumption gaps in populations in Crisis or Emergency (Phase 3 or 4), in order to save lives.
- Evaluate scenarios according to the evolution of COVID-19 in the short and medium term, whose effects could worsen the threats in the projected conditions for the population of the Tri-national Region under analysis.
- Prepare a medium-term work proposal aimed at protecting the livelihoods of the population in a situation of Stress, Crisis or Emergency (Phases 2, 3 or 4), as a risk mitigation and prevention measure after the projection period when humanitarian assistance is significantly reduced.
- Evaluate national and territorial economic recovery plans of 2020-2021, where the populations affected (temporary and informal labourers) by the current pandemic could find opportunities for new projects.
- Submit this analysis report to the Tri-national Region Board of Directors, regional bodies, international organizations, national FNS governing bodies, local governments and partners, accompanied by a proposal for immediate and medium-term response for their information, validation and implementation.
- To evaluate mechanisms for monitoring the household income situation, food sources, activation of food assistance plans, health-nutrition information, development of COVID-19 and its effects on the Tri-National region for the projection period.
- Give continuity to the Tri-national Food and Nutrition Surveillance System -SITVAN- in the region, ensuring the availability of information, prioritising indicators of food consumption, changes in livelihoods, nutritional status and mortality, by August 2020, in order to support a next analysis with new periods of validity 2020-2021.

### Risk Factors to Monitor

- Rising prices of products in the basic food basket and basic inputs, influenced by speculation and provisions restricting the mobility of small producers and local markets, adopted by governments in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Livelihood conditions, considering demand for agricultural and non-agricultural employment, and flow of remittances.
- Use of livelihood coping strategies by the population in response to the effects of COVID-19 contingency measures.
- Elevation of the incidence of COVID-19 and respiratory and other vector-borne diseases, due to their possible impact and co-infection.
- Presence of extreme weather conditions in the Trin-national region, especially rainfall and landslide and flooding areas, which could limit the transport and mobility of people.
- Evolution of crop losses and productive assets generated by Tropical Storms Amanda and Cristobal, which will impact the availability of basic grains in the next analysis period.
- Compliance with the humanitarian assistance plans considered in this analysis, since if these plans are not complied with, the state of food insecurity of the population could be aggravated.



## PROCESS AND METHODOLOGY

The analysis has included four micro-regions of the Tri-national Border Federation of Río Lempa -MTFRL-, part of the Central American Dry Corridor, which are Chortí, Güija, Ocotepeque and Cayaguanca, totalling 474,436 inhabitants. According to the livelihood zones, most of these micro-regions belong to the basic grains and livestock zone, as well as subsistence, remittances and coffee cultivation. This analysis considers the period from June 1 to August 31, 2020. It is an update of the projected analysis made in October 2019 for the period from February 1 to May 31, 2020.

### 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

#### Sagastume, Dina

Coordinator of Local Cross-Border Public Policy Zero Hunger

Tri-national Border Federation of Río Lempa

dinasagastume4@gmail.com  
mancomunidad\_rio\_lempa@hotmail.com

IPC Global Support Unit  
www.ipcinfo.org

This analysis has been developed under the direction of the Tri-national Border Federation of Río Lempa - MTFRL (Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras). It has been made possible through the technical and financial support of the IPC Global Support Unit and the Information Systems for Resilience in Food and Nutrition Security in the SICA Regional Programme - PROGRESAN-SICA.

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, FAO, FEWSNET, Global Food Security Cluster, Global Nutrition Cluster, IGAD, Oxfam, PROGRESAN-SICA, SADC, Save the Children, UNICEF and WFP.

### Acute Food Insecurity Phase name and description

| Phase 1<br>None/Minimal  | Phase 2<br>Stress   | Phase 3<br>Crisis  | Phase 4<br>Emergency   | Phase 5<br>Catastrophe/<br>Famine  |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| Households are able to meet essential food and non-food needs without engaging in atypical and unsustainable strategies to access food and income. | Households have minimally adequate food consumption but are unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures without engaging in stress-coping strategies. | Households either:<br>• have food consumption gaps that are reflected by high or above-usual acute malnutrition;<br><b>or</b><br>• are marginally able to meet minimum food needs but only by depleting essential livelihood assets or through crisis-coping strategies. | Households either:<br>• have large food consumption gaps that are reflected in very high acute malnutrition and excess mortality;<br><b>or</b><br>• are able to mitigate large food consumption gaps but only by employing emergency livelihood strategies and asset liquidation | 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.<br><br>For famine classification, area needs to have extreme critical levels of acute malnutrition and mortality) |

### Analysis partners and support organisations:

