

GUATEMALA, EL SALVADOR AND HONDURAS

TRI-NATIONAL BORDER FEDERATION OF RÍO LEMPA
(MTFRL)

IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY ANALYSIS
PROJECTION UPDATE (JUNE-AUGUST 2021)

Published in June 2021

PROJECTION UPDATE JUNE - AUGUST 2021



160,000

33% of the population
analysed

People in high levels of
acute food insecurity (IPC
Phase 3 or above)

IN NEED OF URGENT
ACTION

Phase 5	0 People in Catastrophe
Phase 4	17,000 People in Emergency
Phase 3	143,000 People in Crisis
Phase 2	166,000 People in Stress
Phase 1	159,000 People in Food Security

Overview

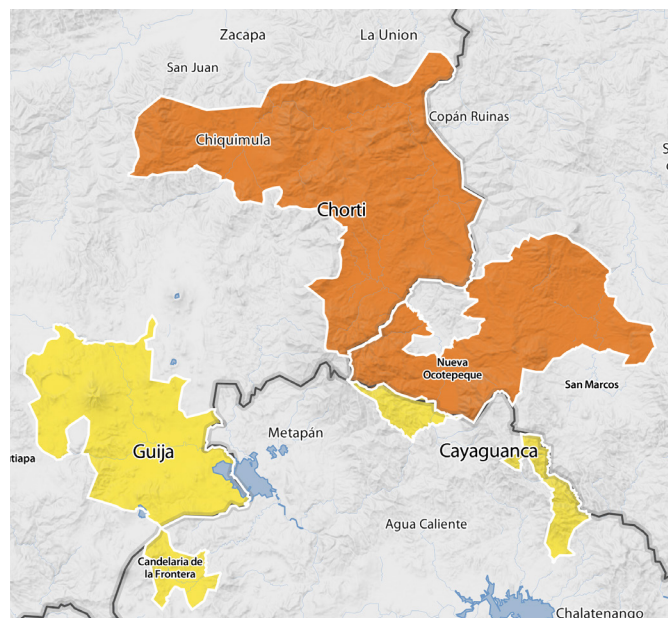
This acute food insecurity analysis was an update of the projection period of June - August 2021, that corresponds to the lean season, and includes four micro-regions of the Trifinio Region: Cayaguanca, Ch'orti', Güija and Ocotepeque, with a total analysed population of 486,000 people.

The update has resulted in changes to the population estimates, but the classifications have remained the same. The proportion of people in high acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) in Cayaguanca and Ch'orti' increased, while that in Güija decreased, with Ocotepeque showing no change with what was expected for this period in the analysis conducted in November 2020.

Overall, 33% of the population is in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or above. This analysis took place in a context where COVID-19 cases and mortality have increased at departmental levels and continue to be a key driver in the slow economic recovery and migration constraints that restrict the local cross-border economy. In the Ch'orti' micro-region, which is the most affected, the lean season started early, due to the damage caused by the passage of hurricanes ETA and IOTA.

Throughout the territory, sources of income have been reduced due to the end of the coffee and grain harvesting period, and the late onset of the rainy season, which also impacts agricultural activity for *Primera* planting, forcing small producers to use savings or reduce planting areas. Other employment options are constrained by high public transport costs due to biosecurity measures put in place by governments around the COVID-19 pandemic. Food stocks are depleted or stretched to the limit, leaving households dependent on purchasing from local markets, where prices have increased, especially for processed products such as oil and butter, possibly due to rising fuel prices, restricting access, consumption and dietary diversity. No humanitarian assistance is planned for this region in this period that has the capacity to change the severity of the acute food insecurity.

PROJECTED SITUATION (JUNE-AUGUST 2021)



Key for the Map

IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification

1 - Minimal	3 - Crisis	5 - Famine	Evidence Level
2 - Stress	4 - Emergency		**Medium

Key Drivers



COVID-19

Containment measures for the mitigation of the COVID-19 pandemic have been reduced; however, people's mobility remains constrained by high transport costs to access markets, workplaces, and basic services, and the local economy has yet to recover. Government biosecurity requirements at border crossings affect the movement of workers and traders in the Trifinio region. The number of cases continues to increase and vaccination coverage is low in Guatemala and Honduras.



Loss of income

Households have reduced incomes, mainly due to loss of employment, wages, and low profitability in informal trade-related activities; this limits access to basic services and food, and increases the use of household livelihood coping strategies.



Depletion of food stocks

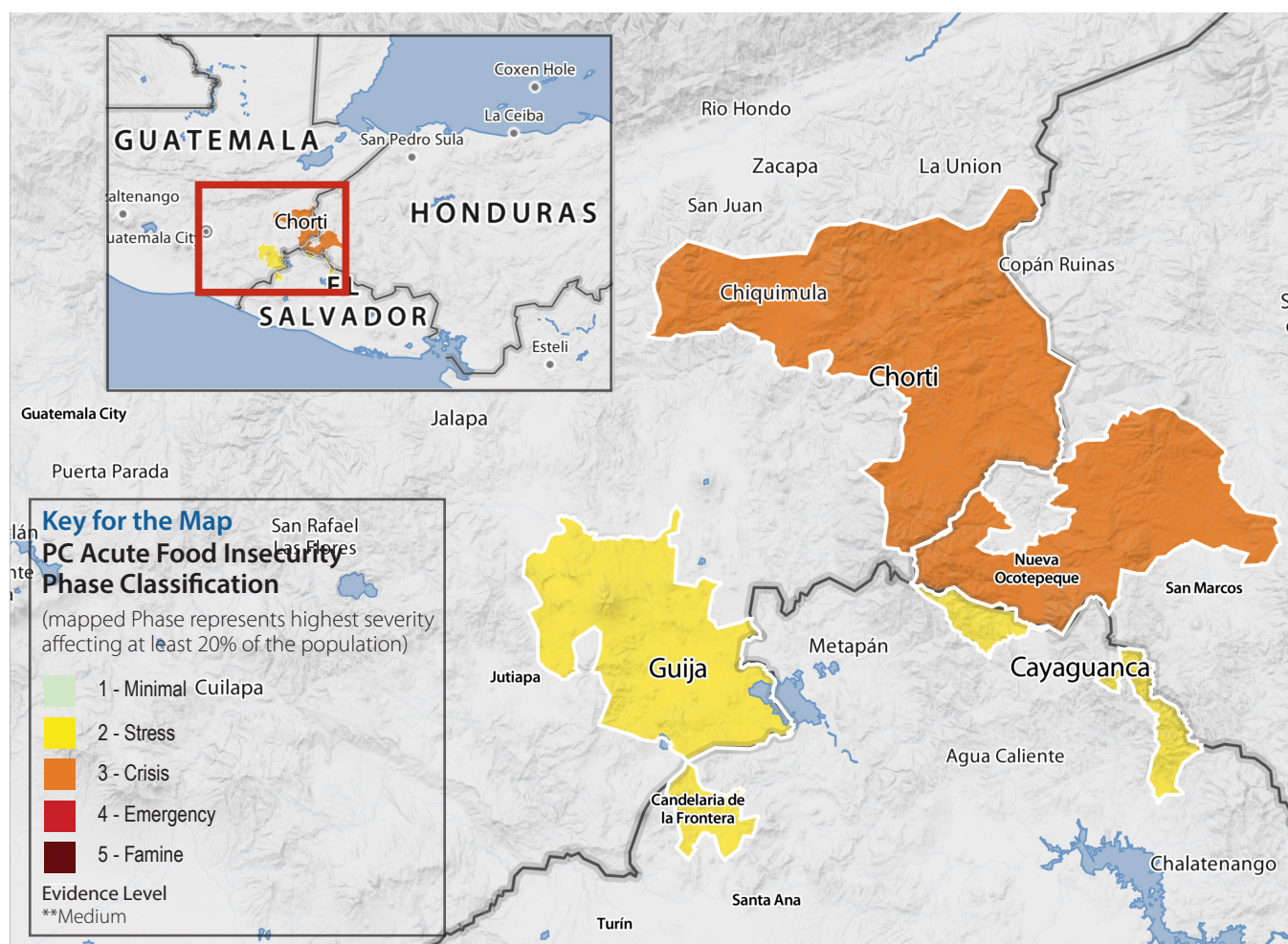
During this period, stocks of locally produced staple grains are depleted or will be depleted by August 2021. The situation is exacerbated by the slow recovery of the economy weakened by the crisis generated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the damage caused by hurricanes ETA and IOTA to the staple grain harvest in 2020, and the rising prices of the food that makes up the Trifinio Region's food basket.



Delayed onset of rainy season

Rainfall has been irregular in the region, with the rainy season starting late in the Güija micro-region and in part of Ch'orti' not yet started; in these areas, the absence of rainfall for prolonged periods has had an impact on the start of *Primera* planting and puts agricultural activity at risk.

PROJECTED SITUATION MAP AND POPULATION TABLE (JUNE-AUGUST 2021)



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	%
Cayaguanca	12,053	7,834	65	2,772	23	1,446	12	0	0	0	0	2	1,446	12
Chorti	220,002	33,000	15	70,401	32	103,401	47	13,200	6	0	0	3	116,601	53
Guija	172,027	77,412	45	68,811	40	24,084	14	1,720	1	0	0	2	25,804	15
Ocoatepeque	81,444	40,722	50	24,433	30	13,845	17	2,443	3	0	0	3	16,288	20
Total	485,526	158,969	33	166,417	34	142,777	29	17,364	4	0	0		160,141	33

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

Response Priorities

- Manage social protection support to reduce consumption gaps in populations in Emergency (Phase 4).
- Coordinate response support with local partners to reduce consumption gaps in populations in Crisis or Emergency (Phase 3 or 4), in order to save lives.
- Monitor the actions generated to mitigate further damage, protect and recover the livelihoods of the population in Stressed, Crisis or Emergency situations (Phases 2, 3 or 4), as a risk prevention measure.
- Submit to the MTFRL Board of Directors, regional bodies, international agencies, national FNS governing bodies, local governments and partners, the analysis update report, accompanied by an immediate response proposal for their information, validation and implementation.
- Monitor the situation of prices, household incomes and food sources, as well as that of COVID-19 and its effects on the MTFRL region as elements for future analysis.
- Give continuity to the Tri-national Food and Nutrition Surveillance System -SITVAN- in the MTFRL, ensuring the availability of information, prioritising indicators of food consumption, changes in livelihoods, nutritional status and mortality, in order to support a next analysis with new periods of validity at the end of 2021.
- In the short term, evaluate scenarios and measures implemented according to the evolution of COVID-19, in order to identify possible threats and vulnerability in the population

Risk Factors to Monitor

- Prices of basic food basket items, essential agricultural inputs and public transport.
- Livelihood conditions, considering agricultural and non-agricultural employment demand, and remittance flows.
- Incidence of COVID-19 and respiratory diseases, and other vector-borne diseases, due to their possible impact and co-infection, which could generate health alerts.
- Extreme weather conditions in the MTFRL region, drought, increased rainfall, landslide and flooding, which could affect agricultural production, and limit transport and mobility of people.
- Performance of crops in the Trifinio Region's agricultural cycle, mainly maize and beans.

PROCESS AND METHODOLOGY

The analysis was conducted virtually on 15-16 June 2020, with the participation of 15 MTFRL partner institutions, following the IPC approach in a four-step process: planning, preparation, analysis and summary. This modality allowed compliance with the IPC Version 3.0 protocols and ensured that the parameters of the analysis were applied throughout the process.

Four analysis groups were formed, one for each micro-region analysed. Information on contributing factors associated with the assumptions, including rainfall, food and fuel prices, and COVID-19 mortality incidence and vaccination coverage, as well as results on under-five nutritional status, were made available, all of which were necessary to carry out the update based on IPC evidence requirements for analysis updates.

Acute Food Insecurity Phase name and description

Phase 1 None/Minimal	Phase 2 Stress	Phase 3 Crisis	Phase 4 Emergency	Phase 5 Catastrophe/ 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: • 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.	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	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.)

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

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