Regional forecast, 2022

10.66–10.8M people in 5 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean were forecast to be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in 2022

The aggregate forecast number includes a FEWS NET estimate for Nicaragua of 0.1–0.25 million. FEWS NET does not provide a breakdown by phase classification.

Source: FSIN, using IPC and FEWS NET data.

1.79M people in 4 countries were forecast to be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) in 2022

8.77M people in 4 countries were forecast to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) in 2022

17.65M people in 4 countries were forecast to be in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) in 2022

In the four countries of Central America, partial economic recovery from both the economic impact of COVID-19 and the damage caused by tropical storms Eta and Iota, and a positive outlook for the primera crop season, were expected to contribute to a decrease in the number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above). However, this will likely be tempered by high prices for agricultural inputs capping production and lowering demand for agricultural labour (FEWS NET, March 2022).

9.29M people in 4 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean were forecast to be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in 2022

In Guatemala, the population in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) was expected to decrease from 3.7 million in the first quarter of 2021 to 2.5 million in September 2021–January 2022 (IPC, June 2021). In Honduras, in the June–August 2022 lean season, the population in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) was expected to be roughly 700 000 fewer than the 2021 peak in July–September (IPC, January 2022). In El Salvador, the decrease was due in part to a 430 000 decrease in the population estimates used between the two rounds of analysis between March–May 2021 and 2022.

Haiti will face a slight increase in the numbers of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) as high staple food and transportation prices, reduced income and continued disruptions to livelihood activities curtail poor households’ access to food. The situation will be worst in gang violence-affected neighbourhoods in Port-au-Prince, areas suffering residual impacts of the 2021 earthquake, and in dry regions most vulnerable to weather and price shocks (FEWS NET, March 2022).

Impact of the Ukraine war

Higher international food and fuel prices resulting from the war in Ukraine will increase food prices in the net food importing countries of Central America and Haiti, compounding already above-average food prices linked to 2021 agricultural losses, and reducing household purchasing power. This is particularly serious for the poorest households in the Honduran and Guatemalan Dry Corridor – who suffered significant agricultural losses in 2021 – as well as poor households affected by hurricanes Eta and Iota – who have yet to recover their livelihoods and are heavily reliant on the market for food needs (FEWS NET, March 2022).