Acute food insecurity forecast, 2022

2.64M people were forecast to be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in June–August 2022

Compared to the 2021 lean season, the number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) is expected to decline in June–August 2022, as the population recovers from the effects of Hurricanes Eta and Iota.

28% of the population analysed was forecast to be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above)

The analysis covers 100% of the country’s total population of 9.6 million people.

2.29M people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3)
0.35M people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4)

The number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) is expected to decline by roughly 700 000 people between the 2021 and 2022 lean season. However, localized low crop production due to poor rains in 2021 coupled with low employment, and rising food and fuel prices, are expected to result in a difficult lean season for Honduras in 2022.

Weather extremes
The poor 2021 primera harvest is expected to leave households with low food reserves, prompting an early start to the 2022 lean season, especially for subsistence farmers who lost the majority of their 2021 harvest (IPC, January 2022). Rainfall deficits incurred during the postrera planting in September and October 2021 are also expected to adversely impact production outcomes in early 2022, particularly in Olancho, El Paraíso, Yoro, Cortes, Comayagua, Santa Barbara and Intibucá (JRC-ASAP, October and November 2021).

Economic shocks, including COVID-19
Although GDP and remittances are forecast to improve in 2022, job losses stemming from previous COVID-19 restrictions have not been fully recovered, and will continue adversely impacting food security and nutrition (World Bank, November 2021; IPC, January 2022). Projections for rising food and fuel prices are expected to be aggravated by international supply chain disruptions (IPC, January 2022).

Expectations of a difficult 2022 lean season will likely lead households to resort to Crisis and Emergency coping strategies, further undermining their productive assets (IPC, January 2022). A reduced demand for agricultural labour is expected to persist in coffee-producing areas, negatively affecting dependent households, who will continue to accumulate debt. This situation is also expected to slow the recovery of livelihoods from previous shocks and reduce purchasing power during the 2022 lean season (FEWS NET August 2021).

Humanitarian assistance in 2021 helped to reduce the number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) between the 2021 peak period and the 2022 forecast (IPC, January 2022).