HAITI | MAJOR FOOD CRISSES IN 2019

Map 25
Haiti, IPC Acute food insecurity situation, March–June 2019


The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

year earlier, including an increase of more than 106,000 in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). The low areas of Nord-Ouest remained in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and the very poor districts of Cité Soleil were classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). Four rural areas (in Artibonite, Nippes and Grande Anse) had 45–50 percent of their population in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above). Four urban areas had up to 40 percent in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) (IPC, October 2019).

The situation was already precarious at the beginning of the year when around 2.26 million people were in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above). It deteriorated to 2.63 million people during the lean season in March–June 2019 (IPC, December 2018).

FACTORS DRIVING ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY

Economic shocks

The Haitian Gourde depreciated by 35 percent against the US dollar between October 2018 and 2019 (FAO, December 2019), which triggered high inflation (23 percent year-on-year in October). Direct foreign investments, which fell by 78 percent in 2018, continued falling following the February civil strife (FEWS NET, June 2019). The lack of government compounded the situation with financing from international organizations blocked (FEWS NET, September 2019). Between 2018 and 2019, the national growth rate was reportedly the lowest since 2010, the year of the earthquake, prompting a rise in urban unemployment (IPC, October 2019).

In October, rice prices – mostly sourced from the international market – were at record or near-record highs despite sustained imports in the third quarter of 2019. Prices of local maize meal were on average about 50 percent higher than their year-earlier levels, and in the capital Port-au-Prince, they almost doubled compared to the October 2018 levels (FAO, December 2019).

In rural areas the most vulnerable households lacked agricultural work opportunities – because of high labour costs and limited resources of farmers (FEWS NET, April 2019) – and faced high food prices. They resorted to negative coping strategies and alternative sources of income such as migration, petty trade or selling charcoal (FEWS NET, March 2019).

Weather extremes

The El Niño phenomenon, which resulted in rainfall deficits and dryness in 2018, continued until mid-2019, affecting the main agricultural season for the second season running, particularly in the main producing areas in Ouest, Sud and Sud-Est (FAO, July 2019).

Combined with high production costs resulting from currency depreciation and high inflation, the 2019/2020 prospects for