FACTORS DRIVING ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY

Weather extremes

In August, the government declared a national state of emergency over drought, and the particular need to provide support to communities in approximately 100 municipalities in the central, eastern and southern parts of the country (FEWS NET, October 2019).

Rainfall amounts during June–August were more than 25 percent lower than the 29-year average in several maize-producing departments (FAO-GIEWS, October 2019). The low, sporadic rainfall resulted in 70–100 percent losses of the August–September Primera (main) maize harvest in eastern and southern parts. In the areas where subsistence agriculture is dominant losses were above 85 percent.

Nationally the losses were estimated at around 50 percent for maize, 25 percent for beans and 27 percent for rice with the greatest losses concentrated in the main-producing municipalities of Olancho and El Paraíso as well as Valle, the northern part of Choluteca, the south-western part of Francisco Morazán and the southern part of La Paz (FEWS NET, October 2019).

Rainfall amounts increased from mid-September, reducing soil moisture deficits and easing planting operations, so the minor season maize harvest in December was likely to be...