Haiti stands out as the country where the impact of weather events and natural disasters have had the strongest impact on food security in the three previous years. El-Niño induced rainfall deficits contributed to a 12 percent fall in 2019/2020 aggregate cereal production since the previous year (IPC, October 2019).

Displacement

Since the start of the crisis in 2015, in Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) some 4.8 million Venezuelans (15 percent of the total population) have fled the country as refugees and migrants, making it the second largest displacement crisis in the world after the Syrian Arab Republic. By the end of 2019, 3.9 million were in Latin America and the Caribbean, including 1.6 million in Colombia, 862 000 in Peru and 385 000 in Ecuador (IOM, December 2019; UNHCR, December 2019).

The majority of Venezuelan migrants and refugees have poor or limited access to food, forcing them to adopt coping strategies to deal with a lack of food. Additional visa restrictions have also adversely affected migrants’ revenue-generating capacities.

A combination of sociopolitical unrest, food insecurity, increasing poverty, a lack of economic opportunities and widespread human rights violations perpetrated by criminal gangs spurred the number of refugees and asylum-seekers from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras to reach around 387 000 in 2019. Many have been displaced more than once within their own countries or have been deported back home, often into dangerous situations.

Political turmoil in Nicaragua since April 2018 also compelled thousands of people to flee violence and human rights violations in 2019, the majority into neighbouring Costa Rica (UNHCR, accessed 17 February 2020).