Additional countries of concern

Four countries/populations groups selected for inclusion in the GRFC 2024 had data not meeting GRFC technical requirements in the region.

**Plurinational State of Bolivia**

The Plurinational State of Bolivia has been selected for inclusion in the GRFC three times prior to this edition (2017, 2020 and 2021) due to requests for external assistance but the data have not met GRFC technical requirements. In 2023, the country was struck by weather extremes caused by a strong El Niño event, which affected 83 percent of the country’s municipalities in seven of the nine departments. A state of emergency or disaster was declared by September (OCHA, September 2023). Acute drought conditions, record-breaking high temperatures and water shortages impacted agricultural production and led to the spread of forest fires (NASA, October 2023). The most-affected populations were indigenous and rural communities, particularly in the Cochabamba, Potosí and Santa Cruz departments. Almost 2 million people experienced livelihood losses (IFRC, October 2023) with more than 23,000 hectares of crops affected and the July–September planting season not completed. Over 500,000 head of livestock had restricted pasture and more than 500 died due to lack of water resources (IFRC, October 2023). Water shortages led to poor sanitation and hygiene practices, an increase in diarrhoeal infections in children, anaemia, and malnutrition (IFRC, October 2023).

**Ecuador (residents)**

Ecuador has been selected for inclusion in the GRFC in 2022 and 2023, as it requested external assistance for weather extremes linked to El Niño. The data available do not meet the GRFC technical requirements.

Weather shocks, escalating violence and continued economic pressures led to deteriorating food insecurity (WFP, December 2023). Heavy rains caused the overflow of seven rivers in Esmeraldas province, damaging infrastructure and livelihoods (ECHO, June 2023). By August 2023, the Early Action Protocol for Floods related to the El Niño phenomenon was initiated, with peak rainfall anticipated between late February and early March 2024 (IFRC, January 2024), threatening infrastructure and livelihoods in flood-prone regions (IRC, February 2024). Ecuador’s oil-reliant economy has been affected by falling prices and exacerbated by the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19. Average annual inflation remained relatively stable, reaching 3.5 percent in 2022 and easing to 1.35 percent in 2023 (IMF, October 2023). In 2024, the convergence of violence, climate change and escalating poverty risks driving displacement: as of October 2023, over 50,000 Ecuadorians were registered in Panama after crossing the perilous Darien Gap on the northern migration route (US Customs and Border Protection, February 2024).

**Peru (residents)**

Peru has been selected for inclusion in the latest two editions of the GRFC, as external assistance has been provided to both residents and migrants and refugees for weather extremes linked to El Niño. However, the data available on acute food insecurity do not meet the GRFC technical requirements.

The impact on the agricultural and fishing sectors of El Niño-related heavy rains and floods in northern and southern parts of the country was a determining factor in the contraction of the Peruvian economy in 2023 (BCRP, December 2023). Agricultural production declined by 4.1 percent – the worst since 1992 (IFE, February 2024). The rise in food prices, especially agricultural products, constrained poor households’ purchasing power. The floods triggered an unprecedented dengue epidemic and reaching the highest per capita dengue fever rate in the Americas, with a historical record of more than 172,000 dengue cases and 287 deaths as of 3 July 2023 (CBI, July 2023). In 2023, Peru’s economy started to slowly recover from the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic, which included surging prices of essential commodities such as oil, pulses and cereals. The economic downturn exacerbated gender disparities, particularly affecting rural women, and hindered progress in poverty reduction efforts, exposing Peru’s enduring structural inequalities (WFP, April 2023).

The country had 674 declarations of drought emergencies between 2019 and 2022 (Save the Children, September 2023). Increasing weather extremes not only impacted the economy but also social stability, with disasters, particularly floods, forcing almost 700,000 people to relocate between 2008 and 2022 (IDMC, December 2022).

**Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela**

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has been identified as a country of concern in all editions of the GRFC. Except for the 2020 edition, the data available did not meet the GRFC technical requirements. In 2023, there was above-average domestic production of cereals. Economic growth increased somewhat, facilitated by the easing of some international sanctions and an increase in oil and gas exports (FAO-GIEWS, February 2024). During much of 2023, year-on-year food inflation was above 200 percent although it eased significantly to 59 percent in March 2024 (Trading Economics). However, the price of a basic basket remains almost four times higher than the monthly salary (OCHA, April 2024).