

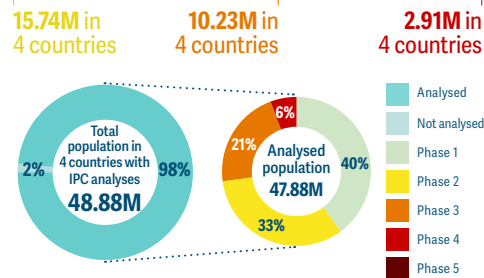
Latin America and the Caribbean

Dominican Republic | El Salvador | Guatemala | Haiti | Honduras | Nicaragua

A slight regional decline in populations facing high levels of acute food insecurity since 2022 though Haiti has persistently high numbers


 Up to **13.63M** people or **22%** of the analysed population in IPC Phase 3 or above in 2023 in six countries

13.13M of them are in **four** countries with IPC analyses




Source: IPC TWGs, 2022 and 2023.

0.2–0.5M of them are in **two** countries with FEWS NET analyses

 **Nicaragua and El Salvador** (each **0.1–0.25M**)

Source: FEWS NET, 2023.

No populations in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) in mid-2023

 In **Haiti**, while about 19 200 people were in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) in September 2022–February 2023, none were in this phase during the March–June 2023 peak period.

Catastrophic conditions were projected in early 2023 in the Cité Soleil commune of the capital Port-au-Prince, following three successive years of deteriorating acute food insecurity conditions. Gang violence and associated insecurity constrained access to essential services, including markets, lowered supplies of food and fuel and reduced income-generating activities, which have constrained food access and availability.

The shift of populations from Catastrophe (IPC/CH Phase 5) to lower phases reflects improved security conditions and sustained humanitarian assistance that have enhanced food access and availability (IPC, March 2023).

Acute food insecurity overview

The number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in Latin America and the Caribbean was projected to decline overall in 2023, with a marginal increase in Haiti and a decrease in Guatemala and Honduras.

According to data available by early August 2023, up to 13.6 million people are estimated to be in IPC Phase 3 or above in 2023 in the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras and Nicaragua. All except

MAP 2.4

Numbers of people in IPC Phase 3 or above, 2023

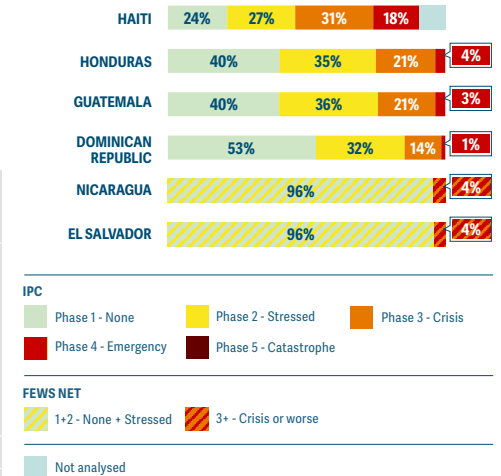


The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on these maps do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Source: IPC TWGs, FEWS NET (Nicaragua and El Salvador).

FIGURE 2.9

Share of analysed population by phase of acute food insecurity, 2023



This chart ranks countries from highest prevalence of analysed population in IPC Phase 3 or above to lowest.

Source: IPC TWGs, FEWS NET (Nicaragua and El Salvador).

Since the release of the GRFC 2023 in May, new data for 2023 became available for **Guatemala** (IPC) and in **El Salvador**, the data source changed from IPC to a FEWS NET remote estimate. In the other four countries – the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Honduras and Nicaragua – the data included in this Mid-Year Update are estimates and projections that were included in the GRFC 2023.

In **Haiti**, the number of people projected to be in IPC Phase 3 or above increased to 4.9 million in March–June

2023, 4 percent more than the 2022 peak (September 2022–February 2023). The percentage of the analysed population in these phases increased marginally from 48 percent to 49 percent. The peak estimate for 2023 includes 1.8 million in Emergency (IPC Phase 4), or 18 percent of the analysed population, reflecting persisting insecurity and gang violence, coupled with high food prices, poor economic activity and reduced agricultural production underpinned by the impact of weather extremes (IPC, March 2023). Despite the increase in the magnitude of the food crisis, populations in Port-au-Prince are no longer in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) (IPC, March 2023).

The population in IPC Phase 3 or above was projected to decline in **Honduras** from 2.6 million people during the peak of 2022 to 2.4 million during June–August 2023, with the prevalence declining from 28 percent to 25 percent (IPC, March 2023). The decline mainly reflects slight improvements in economic activities in the tourism, textile and agricultural sectors.

In the **Dominican Republic**, the acute food insecurity projection straddled 2022 and 2023 and thus was the same for both years (IPC, January 2023), with the number of people in IPC Phase 3 or above estimated at 1.6 million (15 percent of the analysed population), including 142 500 people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) (1 percent). This figure was projected to decrease to 1.2 million (11 percent of the analysed population) in March–June 2023, as a result of increased seasonal farm labour opportunities and recoveries in the tourism and agricultural sectors.

In **Nicaragua**, between 100 000 and 250 000 people were projected to face high levels of acute food insecurity from June–August 2023, reflecting persistent economic difficulties and the lingering effects of weather shocks (FEWS NET, January 2023). In 2022, about 200 000 people were estimated to face high levels of acute food insecurity according to a FEWS NET analysis.

Two countries with new 2023 analyses (since March 2023)

Guatemala

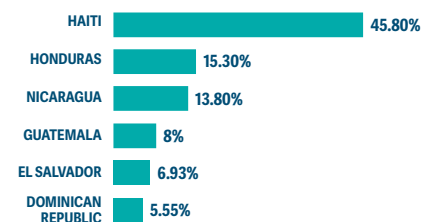
The new IPC analysis for Guatemala indicates a peak of acute food insecurity during the June–August 2023 period, which covers the last months of the country's lean season. According to this analysis, about 4.3 million people or 24 percent of the analysed population were estimated to be in IPC Phase 3 or above, representing a slight decline from 4.6 million people or 26 percent of the analysed population estimated in June–September 2022. In spite of this moderate improvement, the levels of acute food insecurity are high, mostly reflecting high food prices and poor income-earning opportunities for agricultural wage earners, which are compounding the seasonal effects of dwindling household food stocks (IPC, June 2023).

El Salvador

In El Salvador, the number of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity in June–December 2023, based on a remote FEWS NET estimate was projected to be between 100 000 and 250 000 (FEWS NET, June 2023). These estimates are not comparable to 2022 due to the change in data source and are significantly lower.

FIGURE 2.10

Annual food inflation, June 2023



Data for Haiti refer to May 2023; all other data refer to June 2023.

Source: WFP Economic Explorer, 2023.

Drivers



Economic shocks were the primary driver of acute food insecurity in the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua where low-income households that rely on the informal sector and daily wages continued to be negatively impacted by the lingering economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, high uncertainty on global food commodity markets and severe weather hazards.

They were also a contributory factor to acute food insecurity in Haiti where reduced income opportunities have eroded households' purchasing power amid increasing macroeconomic challenges and significant disruptions to economic activity related to insecurity.

According to the latest available data, annual food inflation was particularly high in Haiti, estimated at 45.8 percent in May 2023, while in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua it ranged between 7 and 15 percent in June 2023, limiting economic access to food. In the Dominican Republic, food inflation was the lowest at 5.5 percent in June 2023, reflecting sustained declines in food prices since the beginning of 2023. High reliance on imports of food, fertilizers and fuel combined with sustained currency depreciation, mainly in Haiti, have added further upward pressure on food prices.



Conflict/insecurity was the main driver of acute food insecurity in Haiti. Increasing political instability, economic hardship, reduced agricultural production and social tensions continue to constrain food access and availability and led to heightened unrest and conflict. In 2022, gang violence reached extremely high levels especially in urban areas, disrupting markets and the movement of people and goods and severely hindering economic activity. This situation has continued through 2023 and has resulted in poor market supplies and shortages of essential commodities, including fuel, which also contributed to sharp increases in food prices (IPC, March 2023).



Weather extremes Cereal production in 2023 is expected to be average or below-average in several countries of the region, including Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Haiti. This is due to constrained access and availability of agricultural inputs and hot and dry conditions between March and June 2023, which are foreseen to result in both low plantings and yields (FEWS NET, June 2023).

According to weather forecasts, below-average precipitation associated with the El Niño event are likely to persist in the third quarter of 2023 over northern Guatemala, eastern Honduras and most of Nicaragua.

The dry conditions, particularly in areas of the Dry Corridor in El Salvador and Honduras, are expected to extend the lean season by up to one month and lead to localized production shortfalls, thus reducing household food stocks (FEWS NET, June 2023).

In Haiti, torrential rains in early June triggered flooding and landslides across the country affecting about 450 000 households (OCHA, June 2023). For the July–September period, rainfall forecasts indicate average to above-average precipitation, which could cause further flooding and disrupt livelihoods in Haiti (JRC ASAP, July 2023).

The 2023 Atlantic hurricane season is forecast to be near average, with high probabilities of one to four major hurricanes (above category 3) developing between June and November (FAO-GIEWS, July 2023).

Nutrition overview

Lack of data continues to impede a comprehensive assessment of nutrition in the region amid growing concerns about increasing cases of wasted children – mostly among refugees and migrants.

Migrant populations face elevated levels of acute food insecurity, challenges caring for young children, and limited access to health services, all of which contribute to child wasting.