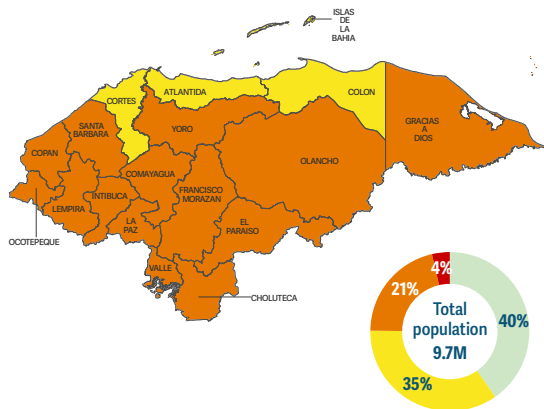


ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY | High levels of acute food insecurity persist albeit at lower levels than 2022.

PEAK 2023 (JUNE–AUGUST)

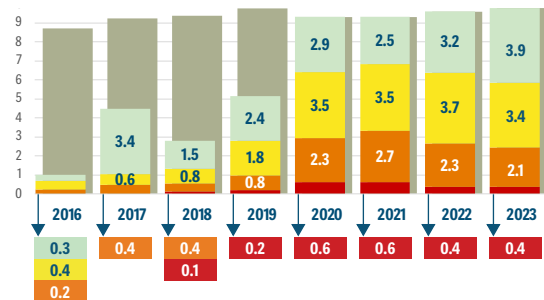
2.4M people or 25% of the total population faced high levels of acute food insecurity during the lean season. Of them, 0.4M were in Emergency (IPC Phase 4).

The reduction of 0.23 million people since the 2022 lean season reflects slightly increased economic activities in sectors such as tourism and agriculture. But adverse weather, reduced income opportunities, and high food and fuel prices adversely affected poor households.



Source: Honduras IPC TWG, May 2023.

Peak numbers of people (in millions) by phase of acute food insecurity, 2016–2023



Source: Honduras IPC TWG.

1 - None/Minimal 2 - Stressed 3 - Crisis 4 - Emergency 5 - Catastrophe/Famine 1+2 - None/Minimal and Stressed 3+ - Crisis or worse Total population

DRIVERS OF THE CRISIS 2023–2024

Weather extremes Rainfall deficits and above-average temperatures associated with El Niño mainly affected northern areas and to a lesser extent the Dry Corridor during the Primera crop cycle. The Postrera cycle benefited from normal rainfall conditions in most cropping areas (FAO, June & November 2023; JRC, November 2023). Although El Niño was forecast to persist up to March–May 2024, weather forecasts pointed to favourable precipitation in the first half of 2024 (C3S, March 2024).

Economic shocks Subdued economic performance following COVID-19 persisted in sectors such as construction and manufacturing, reducing incomes. Increased fuel and fertilizer costs reduced planting and incomes for rural households. Despite a decline in food inflation to single digits by mid-2023, fluctuating food prices restricted access to adequate diets for poorer households (FEWS NET, October 2023).

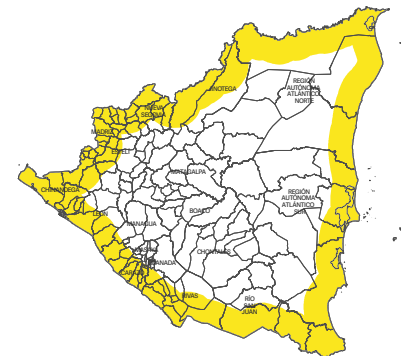
A protracted food crisis A lower-middle-income country, Honduras has been in all editions of the GRFC and a major food crisis since 2018. Between 2016 and 2019, analyses focused on drought-affected central, southern and Dry Corridor areas. Since 2020, the IPC analyses have been national, with the hurricanes of 2020 and 2022 major drivers. The highest figure of 3.3 million people in IPC Phase 3 or above in 2021 was due to COVID-19-related economic shocks.

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY | El Niño conditions and high food prices kept levels similar to 2022.

PEAK 2023 (JULY–AUGUST)

0.2M people or 3% of the total population faced high levels of acute food insecurity during the lean season.

This is similar to the levels in 2022, when 0.2 million people were estimated to face high levels of acute food insecurity during the lean season. Households experienced seasonal improvements in food availability and access from the Postrera harvest in December and increased incomes from higher labour demand in the agricultural, trade and tourism sectors.



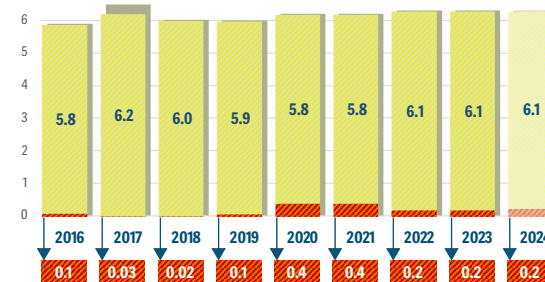
Source: FEWS NET, June 2023.

DRIVERS OF THE CRISIS 2023–2024

Weather extremes In localized areas of the Dry Corridor, low precipitation and above-average temperatures – typically associated with El Niño – led to below-average yields during the first agricultural cycle (FAO, November 2023). The temporary increase in rainfall in October–November improved agricultural conditions, boosting food reserves (FEWS NET, November 2023).

Economic shocks The poorest agricultural households experienced deteriorating livelihoods, income losses and low food reserves due to successive climatic shocks. Food inflation was 16 percent in January, declining to 7 percent by December (WFP, 2023), further hindering their access to food. Prices of maize and beans started to decline in November. By January 2024, they were lower than year-earlier levels (FPMA, February 2024).

Peak numbers of people (in millions) by phase of acute food insecurity, 2016–2024



Source: FEWS NET.

A protracted food crisis Nicaragua has been included as a food crisis in all editions of the GRFC, initially as part of Central America's Dry Corridor crisis and recently on its own. Recurrent extreme weather events, especially consecutive episodes of drought and hurricanes, have exacerbated food insecurity among the most vulnerable groups, particularly during the 2020–2022 period, which saw the occurrence of hurricanes Eta, Iota and Julia.