CENTRAL AMERICA: DROUGHT - FOOD INSECURITY

According to a special report from the Global Agricultural Monitoring, issued in collaboration with FAO, WFP, FEWS Net and the European Union, final crop yields in Central America were reduced due to irregular weather conditions during the start of the season, including high temperatures, irregular and below-average rainfall and protracted dry spells. Subsistence farmers, as well as some larger-scale farming operations in the Dry Corridor experienced crop losses as high 50-75 per cent. This low crop yield is sparking concerns of increased food insecurity for subsistence farmers, as it is the second consecutive year of poor first season harvests (commonly referred to as Primera) in the Dry Corridor following the severe drought of 2018 that led to the loss of 280,000 hectares of bean and maize in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua and affected food security for more than two million people. The second maize season (Postrera) was delayed in some regions due to rain shortages in August, as well.

The significant Primera crop losses stand to severely affect food security and food access and increase the risk of malnutrition.

MEXICO: MIGRANTS

Migrants are using more dangerous sea routes to reach the US. Four migrants from African countries drowned as a ship sank, travelling through an alternative migrant route along the southern Pacific coast. This route is growing in popularity following the deployment of the National Guard along the southern border with Guatemala. Authorities estimate that some 3,000 people from countries of Angola, Cameroon, Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Ghana are currently stranded in the southern border state of Chiapas awaiting regularization of their migration status.

HONDURAS: DENGUE UPDATE

Ministry of Health officials report that the ongoing dengue outbreak has now claimed 151 lives so far in 2019, with a death rate of 60 per cent in minors ages 15 and under. The outbreak is the worst in Honduras’ history. The department with the most confirmed deaths is Cortés with 49, followed by Yoro with 28. The total caseload including severe and regular dengue currently stands at 89,310, with severe dengue making up to 24 per cent of the caseload. Although the week-to-week cases are declining, authorities continue to urge residents to identify and eliminate mosquito breeding sites as a vector control measure.
According to the Risk and Disaster Management Unit (UNGRD), from 16 September to date, some 118 events (gales, floods, landslides) have occurred in 97 municipalities and 25 of the 32 departments, with the Caribbean region being the most affected.

**BRAZIL: OIL SPILL AMID PROTESTS**

On 21 October, amid growing dissatisfaction and frustration with the Government’s failure to contain the vast oil spills in the northwest of Brazil, Vice-president Hamilton Mourao announced a deployment of 5,000 additional troops to assist with cleanup efforts, adding that about 600 tons of crude had been recovered since the spills were first detected nearly two months ago. However, the Government continues to receive backlash from environmental groups claiming that it has not done enough in response to the oil spills, echoing in criticism to adequately respond the wildfires which scorched vast areas of the Brazilian Amazon. On 23 October, activists from Greenpeace Brazil staged a protest in Brasilia, the national capital, denouncing the environmental policies of President Jair Bolsonaro and the Government’s failure to respond to environmental crises. Military police detained 19 activists during the protests, which comes days after locals in the state of Bahia worked to remove oil and tar from beaches, claiming they were moved to action by the government’s failure to do the same.

**COLOMBIA: UPDATE ON RAINY SEASON**

According to the Risk and Disaster Management Unit (UNGRD), from 16 September to date, some 118 events (gales, floods, landslides) have occurred in 97 municipalities and 25 of the 32 departments, with the Caribbean region being the most affected.

The second rainy season began on 16 September, leaving 16 deads and 4,700 families affected.

**KEY FACT**

600 TONS OF CRUDE RECOVERED SINCE THE SPILLS WERE FIRST DETECTED

19 ACTIVISTS DETAINED DURING THE PROTESTS

**KEY FIGURES**

4.7K FAMILIES AFFECTED

25 DEPARTMENTS AFFECTED

Sources:
Colombia National Disaster Risk Management Unit

Sources:
Brazilian Institute of the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (Brazil), Estadao - State of Sao Paulo Portal

Sources:
Colombia National Disaster Risk Management Unit

The numbers presented are for orientation and not conclusive. Sources are reports from national authorities from public websites.

Creation date: 28 October 2019 Sources: Reliefweb Feedback: ocha-rolac@un.org | www.unocha.org/rolac | www.reliefweb.int