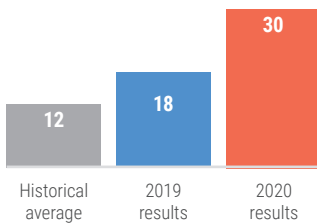


2020 ATLANTIC HURRICANE SEASON

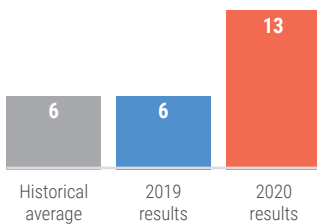
Tropical Storm Eta and Hurricane Iota struck Central America within nearly two weeks of each other in November, with windspeeds as high as 240 km/h and rainfall in excess of 600mm. The two storms left serious impacts in various parts of nine countries, with flooding and landslides damaging or destroying homes and driving thousands of people to shelter in south-eastern Mexico, parts of Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama, nearly all of Honduras and parts of northern Colombia; Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua alone report at least **7.3 million people affected** between them.

Atlantic hurricane season: Historical average | 2019 | 2020

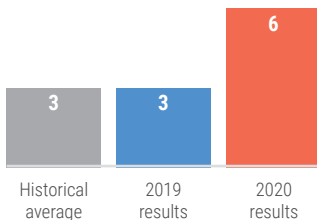
Named storms



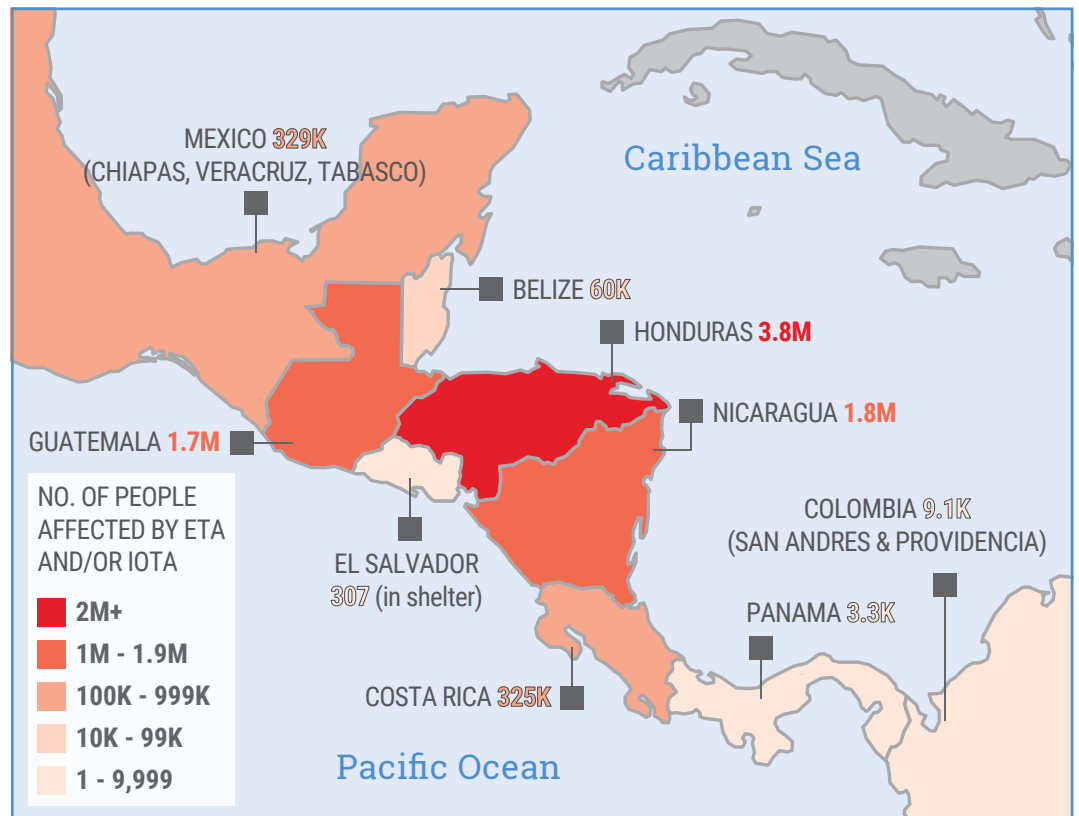
Hurricanes



Major hurricanes



TROPICAL STORM ETA & HURRICANE IOTA



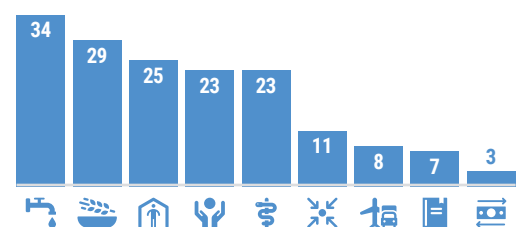
Sources: UNICEF (Belize), OCHA Colombia, CNE (Costa Rica), Government of El Salvador, CONRED (Guatemala), COPECO (Honduras), Civil Protection (Mexico), Government of Nicaragua, Government of Panama

Per the United States' National Hurricane Center (NHC), the 2020 Atlantic hurricane season, which officially ended on 30 November, ended as **the most active season ever recorded** with 30 named storms, surpassing 2005's record of 28 storms. November proved to be a highly active month in the Atlantic basin, with Eta and Iota becoming major hurricanes within weeks of each other, a rare feat given that major Atlantic storms in November only occur once every seven to eight years.

Source: NOAA (United States)



Response activity: Organizations by Sector



According to information from partners in Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua, there are **59 organizations** implementing more than **2,000 activities** across these countries in response to ever-increasing humanitarian needs.



Please scan QR code to access OCHA's regional 3W for Tropical Storm Eta/Hurricane Iota response in Central America or visit: <https://bit.ly/33mbW60>

COVID-19 CRISIS

Latin America and the Caribbean continues to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic, which has seen countries alternate between cycles of case increases and decreases. While countries are beginning to prepare for acquiring and distributing COVID-19 vaccine doses upon availability for 2021, the pandemic's effects beyond immediate health impacts are likely to persist for years to come. The continuing increase in hunger over the past five years, for instance, indicates that the impact of the pandemic will lead to a significant increase in food insecurity and malnutrition in coming years.

13.5M

CUMULATIVE COVID-19 CASES AS OF 6 DECEMBER

20.7k

CASES PER EVERY 1 MILLION PEOPLE AS OF 6 DECEMBER

Cases per 1M inhabitants (6 Dec)

Panama	40.9K
Argentina	32.2K
Brazil	30.9K
Peru	29.3K
Chile	29.2K
Costa Rica	28K
Colombia	26.8K
Belize	19.3K
Bahamas	19.1K
Dom. Republic	13.6K
Bolivia	12.3K
Paraguay	12.2K
Ecuador	11.1K
Honduras	11.1K
Mexico	9K
Suriname	9K
Guyana	7.1K
Guatemala	6.9K
El Salvador	6.1K
Trinidad & Tobago	4.8K
Jamaica	3.7K
Venezuela	3.6K
Uruguay	2K
Antigua & Barbuda	1.4K
St Lucia	1.4K
Dominica	1.1K
Barbados	998
Nicaragua	877
Haiti	817
Cuba	786
SVG*	783
St Kitts & Nevis	468
Grenada	381

Sources: Government case and population data compiled at <https://bit.ly/37VaJV1>

FOOD SECURITY



Per the Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition 2020, approximately **47.7 million people in Latin America and the Caribbean lived with hunger in 2019**, or about 7.4 per cent of the region's population. While determining the exact impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on food insecurity in the region as a whole still requires more data, the disproportionate impact on vulnerable populations and communities means there are more informal jobs and lower incomes, making food increasingly scarce for more and more people.

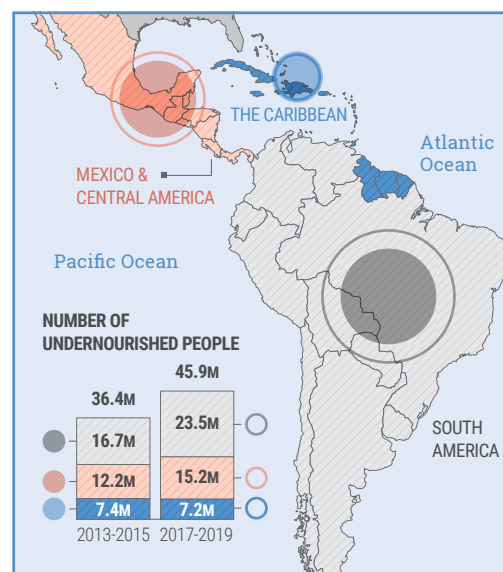
This impact comes amid a sustained increase in food insecurity since 2014, with the number of people in moderate to severe food insecurity growing from 129.9 million in 2014 to 191.7 million in 2019. Of this total, some 57.7 million were severely food insecure, approximately 10 per cent of the region's population. Without accounting for the impact of COVID-19, hunger stands to affect 67 million people in Latin America and the Caribbean by 2030.

HEALTH RESPONSE



Countries eligible for the COVAX Advance Market Commitment for securing COVID-19 vaccines

Source: PAHO, GAVI



Growth in number of undernourished people from 2013-2015 to 2017-2019 by sub-region

Source: Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition 2020



Several countries in Latin America and the Caribbean have committed to purchasing COVID-19 vaccines upon availability and are already planning vaccination campaigns for 2021. PAHO notes that delivery will be challenging and costly, citing projections for the region that say that **vaccinating 20 per cent of the population may cost more than US\$2 billion.**

PAHO is already supporting access to vaccines under the COVAX Mechanism, which offers 28 self-financing countries in the region with purchasing options via PAHO's Revolving Fund. Additionally, there are 10 countries in the region eligible for support via the COVAX Advance Market Commitment (AMC), a financing instrument seeking to support lower- and middle-income countries in securing vaccines and help cover part of the costs. The Inter-American Development Bank and the European Union, among other financial institutions and donors, are also helping lower-income countries secure funding.