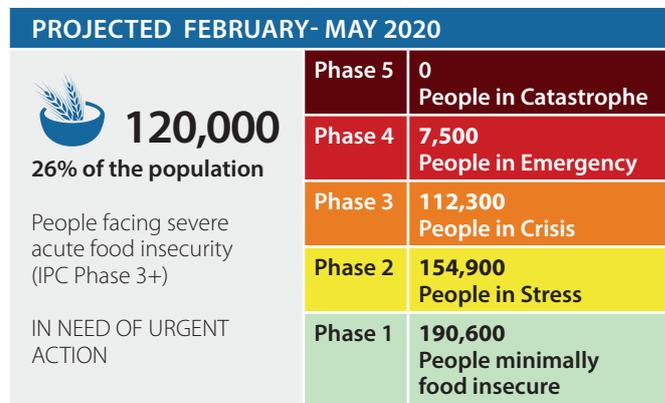
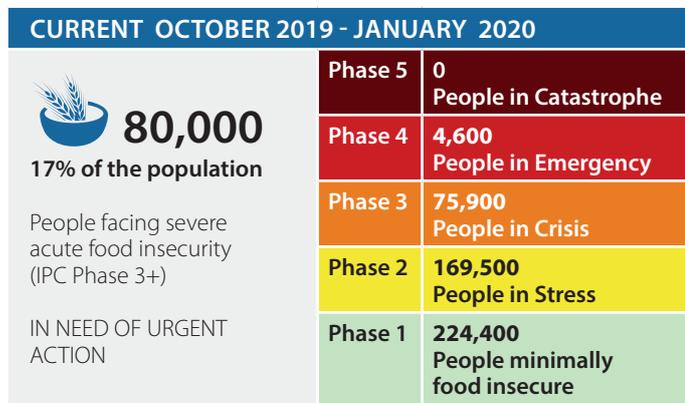


GUATEMALA, EL SALVADOR AND HONDURAS

THE RIO LEMPA TRI-NATIONAL BORDER ASSOCIATION (MTFRL)

IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY ANALYSIS

October 2019 – May 2020
Issued in December 2019



Overview

How serious, how many and when: 17% of the population of the Tri-National Region is in severe acute food insecurity (Phases 3 and 4 of the IPC), representing 80,000 people in food Crisis or Emergency, for the period October 2019 to January 2020, which is the harvest period for basic grains and coffee. The proportion of the population in severe acute food insecurity is likely to increase to 26%, which represents 120,000 people in food Crisis or Emergency, for the projected period from February to May 2020, when agricultural activity drops due to the cessation of rains.

Where and who: The most affected populations, in Phase 3 and 4, are: for the current period, it is the Chortí Microregion with 62,000 people (28%). In the projected period, the Chortí micro-region increases to 89,000 people (40%), and the Ocotepeque micro-region in Honduras will likely increase to 14,000 people (20%) in these phases. These people are mainly indigenous people of the Chortí ethnic group, subsistence farmers and jornaleros or small producers of coffee and vegetables.

Key Drivers



Drought

In the most affected areas, the prolonged drought has caused losses in the first crop of maize and beans affecting the grain reserve in households and access to purchase other foods.



Coffee Prices

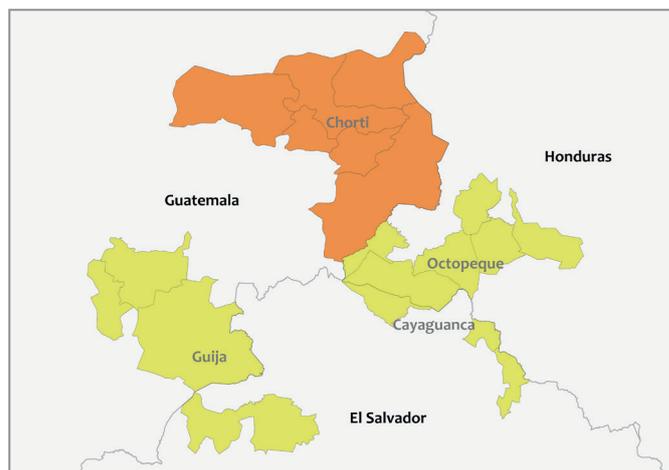
The decline in prices affects the income of coffee growers and consequently the families of coffee cutters who are paid by day as it forces the growers to lower the price of work or to do without it.



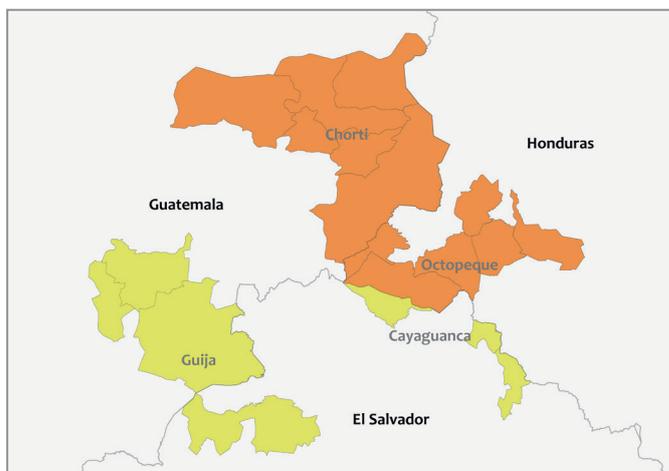
Other Factors

Other factors include rising prices of basic grains, migration and expected low bean yields in the post-harvest cycle that may remain affected by cold fronts.

Current Situation October 2019 - January 2020



Projected Situation February - May 2020



Key for the Map

IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification

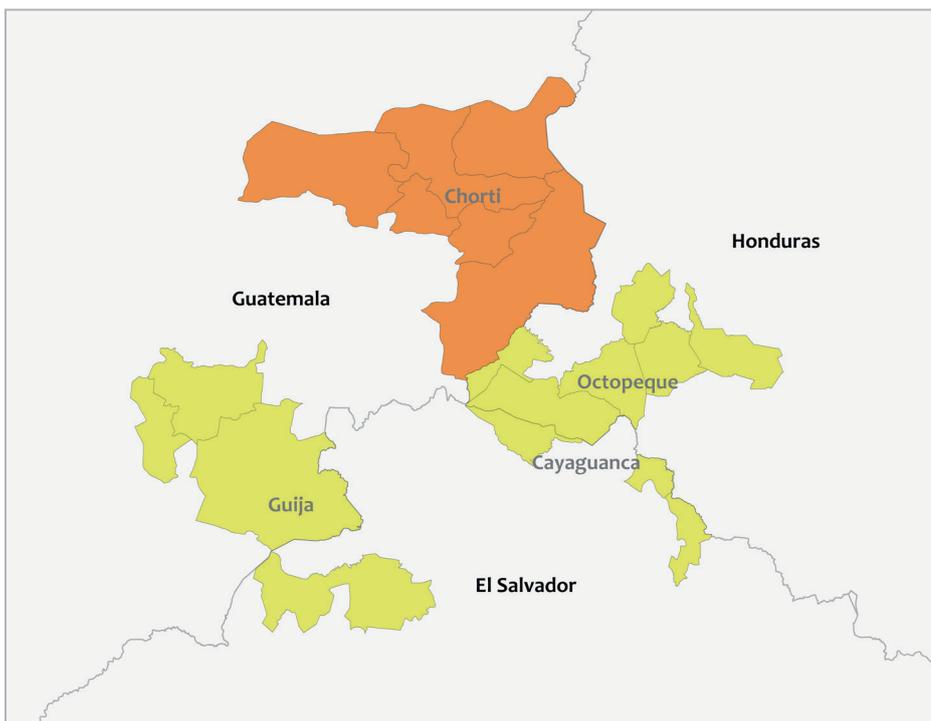


CURRENT SITUATION OVERVIEW (October 2019 – January 2020)

The analysis has included four micro-regions of the Rio Lempa Tri-national Border Community, which are part of the Central American Dry Corridor, which are Chorti, Güija, Ocotepeque and Cayaguanca, totaling 474,436 inhabitants. According to the livelihood zones, most of these micro-regions belong to the area of basic grains and livestock, as well as subsistence, remittances and coffee.

The production cycles of Primera and Postrera have had lower than normal yields due to decreased and irregular rainfall in the months of June and August, and excess humidity in the month of October, mainly in the micro-regions of Guija and Chorti. Producers in the dry corridor region report damage to maize and bean crops, mainly in the areas of production in the Primera cycle in the Chorti and Güija micro-regions (Guatemala). At the end of this period, the season of demand for coffee labour begins, which will be limited by the reduction in production volumes due to lack of investment in management.

Low yields in basic grains and limited job supply in the months of the second half of 2019 are very likely to lead to food stocks depletion at the household level towards the end of the year, and some households will therefore have been forced to adopt Crisis or Emergency coping strategies. Under normal conditions, the coffee harvest is a major source of day labour from November onwards in some of the departments analysed, but the fall in international coffee prices could reduce demand for day labour significantly, which could aggravate the food insecurity of coffee-dependent households. As for the behaviour of food prices in the micro-regions analysed, there is an increase in prices of basic grains, mainly white corn, compared to the five year average and 2018, and fuel prices in general have had a slight downward trend, but up in relation to the last 5 years, which could be maintained for the period of the current situation.



Key for the Map IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification

- 1 - Minimal
- 2 - Stress
- 3 - Crisis
- 4 - Emergency
- 5 - Famine
- Areas with inadequate evidence
- Areas not analysed (inaccessible)

Population table for the current period: October 2019 – January 2020

Department	Population total	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Area Phase	Phase 3 +	
		#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%		#people	%
Cayaguanca	12,003	9,602	80	1,800	15	600	5	0	0	0	0	2	600	5
Chorti	221,282	55,320	25	104,002	47	59,746	27	2,212	1	0	0	3	61,958	28
Guija	172,027	111,817	65	49,887	29	8,601	5	1,720	1	0	0	2	10,321	6
Ocotepeque	69,124	47,695	69	13,824	20	6,912	10	691	1	0	0	2	7,603	11
Grand Total	474,436	224,434	47	169,513	36	75,859	16	4,623	1	0	0		80,482	17

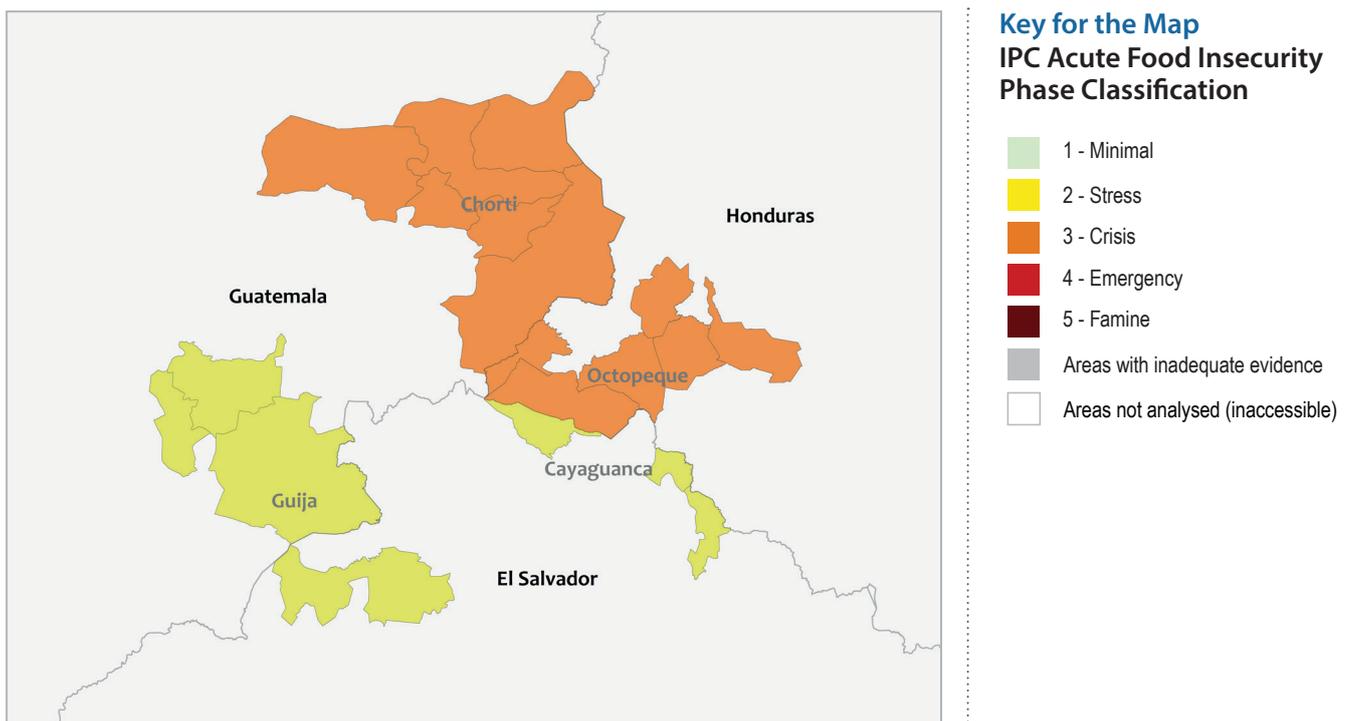
PROJECTED SITUATION OVERVIEW (February – May 2020)

The population of the areas analysed for the projected situation is 474,436 inhabitants. In the period between February and May 2020, it is assumed that the family reserves of basic grains will be depleted by the low production in the aftermath of 2019.

With the onset of the dry season, prices of basic grains are expected to rise. The end of the coffee harvest will substantially reduce household income options, and international coffee prices will continue to fall, affecting mainly small producers. Also, in some micro-regions, increased rainfall in late October will lead to significant losses in fruit, vegetable, coffee and basic grain crops, exacerbating the employment shortages that are characteristic of the second half of this period. This will consequently limit access to food that must be purchased, as reserves will not be optimal to meet food needs as in normal times.

The variables considered in food utilisation will have a similar behaviour to the current one in most micro-regions.

In the Cayaguanca micro-region an improvement is expected, both in the availability and access to food, however, in the Chorti, Güija and Ocotepaque micro-regions a deterioration is expected. The production cycles of the First and Last Regions have had lower than normal yields due to the decrease and irregularity of rainfall in the months of June to August, mainly in Guatemala, and due to excess humidity in the month of October in all micro-regions. It is very likely that the low yields of basic grains and limited supply of jobs in the months of the second half of 2019 will impact the availability and access to food during this projected period (February to May 2020). The drop in the international price of coffee could reduce the demand for labour and the value of wages significantly, which would imply an increase in food insecurity for these households. As for the behaviour of food and fuel prices, in the micro-regions analysed, they would present a slight increase for the period analysed, and in general would maintain a behaviour similar to the trends observed in previous years for this projected period.



Population table for the projected period: February – May 2020

Department	Population total	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Area Phase	Phase 3 +	
		#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%		#people	%
Cayaguanca	12,003	9,602	80	2,040	17	360	3	0	0	0	0	2	360	3
Chorti	221,282	55,320	25	77,448	35	84,087	38	4,425	2	0	0	3	88,512	40
Guija	172,027	94,614	55	60,209	35	15,482	9	1,720	1	0	0	2	17,202	10
Ocotepaque	69,124	40,091	58	15,207	22	12,442	18	1,382	2	0	0	3	13,824	20
Grand Total	474,436	199,627	41	154,904	33	112,371	24	7,527	2	0	0		119,898	26



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

1. Prepare the proposal for immediate response to reduce consumption gaps for populations in Phases 3 and 4, in order to save lives.
2. Prepare a proposal for medium-term work aimed at protecting the livelihoods of the population in Phases 2, 3 and 4, as a risk mitigation and prevention measure from prolonging the food crisis.
3. To present to the Rio Lempa Tri-national Border Community Board of Directors, national Food and Nutrition Security governing bodies, local governments and partners, the analysis template and proposals for immediate and medium-term response for their knowledge, validation and implementation.
4. For future analyses, seek the participation of other global partners of the IPC, such as FAO, UNICEF, Save the Children, WFP, OXFAM; as well as the governing bodies of the three countries, in order to seek their involvement in the actions arising from the presentation of the analysis.
5. Continue with the monitoring and follow-up of the Tri-national Food and Nutrition Surveillance System -SITVAN- at the Rio Lempa Tri-national Border Community, ensuring the availability of recent information by May 2020, the adjustment and calibration of the indicators of change in livelihoods and the monitoring of the assumptions used for the projected classification.

What is the IPC and IPC Acute Food Insecurity?

The IPC is a set of tools and procedures to classify the severity and characteristics of acute food and nutrition crises as well as chronic food insecurity based on international standards. The IPC consists of four mutually reinforcing functions, each with a set of specific protocols (tools and procedures). The core IPC parameters include consensus building, convergence of evidence, accountability, transparency and comparability. The IPC analysis aims at informing emergency response as well as medium and long-term food security policy and programming.

For the IPC, Acute Food Insecurity is defined as any manifestation of food insecurity found in a specified area at a specific point in time of a severity that threatens lives or livelihoods, or both, regardless of the causes, context or duration. It is highly susceptible to change and can occur and manifest in a population within a short amount of time, as a result of sudden changes or shocks that negatively impact on the determinants of food insecurity.

Contact for further Information

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PROGRESAN-SICA
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This analysis has been conducted under the patronage of the Rio Lempa Tri-national Border Community (Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras). It has benefited from the technical and financial support of the IPC Global Support Unit and PROGRESAN-SICA.

Classification of food insecurity and malnutrition was conducted using the IPC protocols, which are developed and implemented worldwide by the IPC Global Partnership - Action Against Hunger, CARE, CILSS, EC-JRC, FAO, FEWSNET, Global Food Security Cluster, Global Nutrition Cluster, IGAD, Oxfam, PROGRESAN-SICA, SADC, Save the Children, UNICEF and WFP.

IPC Analysis Partners:

