

KEY FIGURES

13.7%

INCREASE IN ACUTE MALNUTRITION IN CHILDREN IN GUATEMALA

Sources:

- Guatemala's Food and Nutritional Security Secretariat (SESAN)

GUATEMALA: FOOD SECURITY

According to Guatemala's Food and Nutritional Security Secretariat (SESAN), acute malnutrition in children continues to grow. The more than 20,000 cases recorded this year as of 15 August represent a 13.7 per cent increase compared to the same period in 2020, a year that ended with nearly twice as many acutely malnourished children compared to the average during previous

years. Alta Verapaz remains the most affected department, followed by Jutiapa and Chimaltenango. Per SESAN, there were about 3.5 million people in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) food insecurity during the lean season between May and August, a number they expect to drop to about 2.5 million for the period September 2021-January 2022.

KEY FIGURES

845K

UNIQUE MIGRANT ENCOUNTERS AT US SOUTHWEST BORDER AS OF JULY 2021

Sources:

- Guatemala's National Migration Institute (IGM)
- US Customs and Border Protection (CBP)
- Government of Mexico

CENTRAL AMERICA & MEXICO: MIGRATION

A migrant caravan set off from the southern Mexican city of Tapachula for the United States on 4 September, just a couple of days after security and migration officials dispersed another large group of migrants.

The formation of these caravans was prompted by protests spearheaded by migrants stranded in Tapachula near Mexico's south-eastern border with Guatemala over slow immigration procedures.

Migrant flows through Central America have picked up during 2021. Per the US Customs and Border Protection, 845,307 unique migrants were encountered

between January and July 2021 at the southwest border, compared to 796,400 during the same period in 2019.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala, the deportations that Mexico carries out through El Ceibo and El Carmen border posts will be done through the Reception Center for Returnees in Tecún Umán (San Marco Department) and the Guatemalan Air Force. The National Migration Institute (IGM) will continue to provide assistance at the El Ceibo post, as admissions through that post are expected to continue over the next 30 days.

CUBA: HURRICANE IDA

On 27 August, Hurricane Ida affected western Cuba as a Category 1 storm, mainly affecting Pinar del Río and Isla de la Juventud, and to a lesser extent Artemisa, Mayabeque and Havana.

Per the UN System in Cuba, the greatest damages caused by Hurricane Ida are concentrated in agriculture, housing, as well as electrical and telephone grids due to fallen poles. More than 1,900 hectares of crops were lost or damaged in Pinar

del Río and Isla de la Juventud. A total of 370 homes were affected, including 38 collapsed roofs. Infrastructure in both the health and education sectors also suffered varying degrees of damage.

Ida's impact in Pinar del Río is sparking concerns among national authorities, as Pinar del Río remains one of the epicentres of the country's current COVID-19 surge.

Sources:

- UN Cuba

KEY FIGURES

Cases, deaths & vaccines administered (5 Sep)

Cases	43,905,012	+1.0% from 29 Aug
Deaths	1,453,768	+1.0% from 29 Aug
Vaccines	516,996,019	+5.3% from 29 Aug



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LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN: COVID-19

HONDURAS

Per the Ministry of Health, at least 75 pregnant women have died due to COVID-19 complications so far in 2021, prompting officials to reassure pregnant women that the COVID-19 vaccines does not pose any risk to them or their fetuses. Health officials at the Social Security Centre in San Pedro Sula indicate that at least 50 per cent of pregnant women have decided not to get vaccinated due to fears of its effects on their pregnancies. Officials are alarmed by reports that 60 per cent of pregnant women attending routine prenatal check-ups are testing positive for COVID-19. At present, of the 150,000 women currently pregnant, only 18,000 have been vaccinated despite the Government allocating a reserve of Pfizer vaccines specifically for pregnant women.

BOLIVIA

The Ministry of Health reports that Bolivia's week-to-week COVID-19 case totals have dropped for an eleventh consecutive week after the 7-day case count between 21 and 28 August saw a 20 per cent decline compared to the previous week. Daily cases have been steadily declining since the mid-June peak of Bolivia's third wave of infections that saw a record 3,800 single-day case count, with daily cases falling below 1,000 every day since the beginning of August. Active cases are also steadily dropping from a mid-June peak of more than 70,000 down to 36,700. Ministry officials say they are nevertheless preparing for the possibility of a fourth wave of COVID-19 infections.

Bolivia has managed to administer at least one COVID-19 vaccine to just over 4 million people, or about a third of the country's population.

CARIBBEAN

Several Caribbean countries and territories with low vaccination rates are witnessing a significant surge in COVID-19 cases, propelled in many cases by the circulation of new variants, including the highly contagious Delta variant. Over the last two weeks, Jamaica, The Bahamas, Grenada and French Guiana all recorded their highest single-day COVID-19 case counts for the pandemic, while Barbados and Suriname registered their highest number of cases over 24 hours in months. All of these countries and territories have very low rates of vaccination against COVID-19, with Barbados having fully vaccinated just under 33 per cent of its population while in Jamaica that number stands at less than 5 per cent. This recent surge in COVID-19 places further strain on already weak health systems struggling to cope with the pandemic, as the circulation of new variants contribute to increased hospitalizations. With the peak of the hurricane season just around the corner, the recent spike in COVID-19 cases in islands within the hurricane belt is raising serious concerns about a major storm impact amid a new wave of COVID-19.

Sources:

- COVID-19 Data Explorer - <https://bit.ly/3vsHRP9>
- Government of Honduras
- Government of Bolivia
- National COVID-19 case data - <https://bit.ly/2WRzNef>