How many and when? According to the IPC analysis conducted in October 2019 at the national level, for the current period from October 2019 to February 2020, 10% of the population analysed (1,046,000 people) is in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) and 25% (2,627,000 people) is in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis), representing approximately 35% of the population analysed or 3.67 million in need of urgent action. For the projected period, from March to June 2020, 12% (1,203,000 people) of the analyzed population is in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) and 28% (2,898,000 people) is in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis), representing approximately 40% of the analyzed population or 4.1 million who will need urgent action. Whether in the current or projected period, the situation appears to be more deteriorated in rural areas with 38% and 42% of the population respectively in Phase 3 and above compared to 28% and 31% respectively in urban areas.

Where and who? Among the areas analysed, two are in Emergency (IPC Phase 4): the lower northwest in rural areas and the very poor districts of Cité Soleil in urban areas. With the exception of certain middle and better-off districts in the metropolitan area which are classified as Stress (IPC Phase 2), the rest of the areas analysed (32 out of 39) are classified as Crisis (IPC Phase 3). The area with the highest percentage of people in Crisis and Emergency situations (IPC Phase 3 and 4) is the poorest neighbourhoods of Cité Soleil with a proportion of 55% of households. Among the areas classified as Crisis (IPC Phase 3), for the rural areas Artibonite HT03 and Nippes HT07 (50%) and the two areas of Grand’Anse (45%) have the highest percentage of people in need of immediate assistance, while in the metropolitan area 35% of the populations of the moderately poor areas of Cité Soleil and the very poor districts of Croix des Bouquets are in need of urgent action.

Why? Rising staple food prices (annual inflation of about 22.6%), the depreciation of the gourde against the dollar by about 24% year-on-year (October 2018-2019), socio-political unrest and deteriorating security conditions have greatly reduced access to food for the poorest households. In rural areas, the 2018 drought, which lasted until the first half of 2019, caused agricultural production in many parts of the country to decline by about 12% compared to last year.
ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY OVERVIEW CURRENT AND PROJECTED

Key factors and results of current acute food insecurity

The persistence of the El Niño phenomenon during the first half of 2019 exacerbated the drought situation in many areas of the country during 2019. This has affected the production of the main crops, in particular cereals (maize, rice and sorghum) and beans/peas, resulting in a considerable drop in agricultural production (12.3% compared to last year).

This has resulted in significant income losses for households living directly or indirectly from agriculture. In addition, year-on-year inflation was 19.5%. The Haitian socio-economic context has weakened considerably since August 2018, with socio-political unrest paralysing all economic activities. For more than a year now, the country has seen foreign direct investment fall, causing unemployment among employees in the tourism sector, among others. Recently, economists estimated the 12-month growth rate of the Haitian economy at 0.1%, the lowest rate since 2010, the year of the earthquake.

This has reduced the ability of households, especially the poorest, to access food and has led to negative coping strategies that erode their livelihoods. It also results in a prevalence of acute food insecurity and high rates of Global Acute Malnutrition (brachial perimeter) in the areas analysed.

The socio-political unrest in Haiti in recent months has also had a negative impact on household food security by causing disruptions in distribution and rising prices for basic goods. Finally, the country’s level of structural vulnerability, with nearly 25% of people living below the poverty line, i.e. without the necessary resources to meet their basic needs, also explains that many households are extremely sensitive to shocks (climate hazards, price increases, crop losses, hurricanes, earthquakes, etc.) and are particularly vulnerable to acute and nutritional food insecurity.

If these factors are not adequately addressed, during the period of validity of the analysis, these households may face a much worse situation.

In the urban area of the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area, the situation is characterized by food insecurity that is similar to or even more degraded than in rural areas, particularly in the poor and very poor neighbourhoods of the metropolitan area (including nearly one million people in slum-type housing). Many households have no stable paid employment, with the majority of them in unskilled jobs. These households are directly impacted by the rise in food prices and the sharp depreciation of the gourd against the dollar for more than a year (August 2018). In addition, the high cost of rents in urban areas further reduces the purchasing power of the most vulnerable households. As a result, nearly a third of urban households are in urgent need of food assistance (855,937 people in Phases 3 and 4 in the current situation, and 967,603 people in the projected situation).

Key Results

- **Food consumption:** Indicators collected during the National Emergency Food and Nutrition Security Survey (ENUSAN 2019) show that about 20% of the population has a poor Food Consumption Score and 31% a limited Food Consumption Score.

- **Changes in Livelihoods:** Almost half of the population has used Crisis and Emergency coping strategies (47%).
Expected situation for the projected period March – June 2020

The consequences of the socio-political unrest that has been recurrent for more than a year, the persistence of high inflation and the depreciation of the gourd associated with the lean season, which generally corresponds to an increase in household food deficits, would lead to an acceleration in asset erosion. However, income diversification strategies (harvesting, coal, etc.), forecasts of fairly good rainfall and the availability of certain local products would make it possible to mitigate the effects and to have only a slight deterioration of the areas in Phase 3, which will therefore remain in this phase, with the exception of the coastal zone of the Grand’Anse and the West zone HT07, which will move to a higher phase (Phase 4). In doing so, the number of people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) should therefore increase from 35% to 40% of the population analysed, from 3,673,387 to 4,101,280 people: for rural areas, the proportion of people in Phase 3 and above should reach 42% (compared to 38% for the current phase) and 31% for urban areas.

Main affected areas

Two areas are classified in Phase 4 for the current period (the lower northwest and the very poor districts of Cité Soleil). For the projected period, in addition to these two zones already classified in Phase 4, there is also the coastal zone of Grand’Anse (Grand’Anse HT08) and the West Zone HT07. In addition to these areas, Artibonite HT03, the department of Nippes, the island of Gonave, and the very poor and poor districts of Delmas are in Crisis, but all have at least 15% of the population in Emergency for the current and projected periods. In addition, the mountainous area of Grand’Anse HT07, the department of Nord and the very poor districts of Carrefour will have more than 15% of their population in Emergency for the projected period. These areas deserve particular attention as households in IPC Phase 4 have suffered a significant loss of their livelihood assets, which will lead to significant food consumption in the short term, which may result in very high rates of Acute Malnutrition.

The North-East Department has a high rate of people in Crisis situations (IPC Phase 3): 35% of the population in this department are barely able to meet their minimum food needs by depleting livelihood assets resulting in higher than normal food deficit and acute malnutrition rates.

Comparison with previous IPC analyses

Compared to the previous analysis conducted in October 2018, the current analysis (October 2019) shows that the situation continues to worsen. The lower northwest, which is already in a situation of severe chronic food insecurity, has thus moved from a situation of Stress to an Emergency. This trend is mainly linked to a considerable deterioration in food consumption and diversity. The rice growing areas of Artibonite and South HT07 have also evolved from a Phase of Stress to a Phase of Crisis. In rural areas, the percentage of people in Phase 3 and above has risen from 33% to 38% in the current situation. This deterioration is due to the following key factors: drought, rising prices, socio-political instability, insecurity, and structural vulnerability.
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

Emergency response
Considering the severity of food insecurity in areas classified as IPC Phase 3 (Crisis), urgent action is required for the poorest and most affected households to enable them to better meet their immediate food needs and prevent the implementation of additional harmful strategies. Also, for areas with prevalences of Global Acute Malnutrition reaching the WHO alert threshold (5-10%), specific actions for the prevention and management of Global Acute Malnutrition will also have to be put in place. This type of intervention should be prioritized for areas with a large number of people in the Emergency phase (IPC Phase 4).

Livelihood support
Considering that vulnerable households have been affected by recurrent shocks in recent years (drought, cyclones, rising prices), there is an erosion of the livelihoods of affected populations who need support to rebuild and develop their livelihoods and assets. This assistance should take the form of ad hoc support (inputs, credits, equipment, etc.) for the implementation of the winter (2019) and spring (2020) harvests. These actions will be prioritized in areas with the highest percentages of the population using Emergency adaptation strategies.

Integration of emergency and development
Considering that structural factors (agricultural development, access to basic services, governance,...) have a strong influence on household acute food insecurity, it is important to better integrate emergency and development interventions and rethink intervention strategies in order to have more sustainable and structural effects on household food and nutrition security.

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.

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This analysis has been conducted under the patronage of the Coordination Nationale de la Sécurité Alimentaire (CNSA). It has benefited from the technical and financial support of the IPC Global Support Unit and the European Union.

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.

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