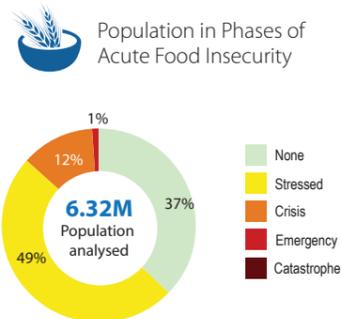


Current Acute Food Insecurity | July - August 2021

841 000

Around 841,000 people in El Salvador (13% of the analysed population) faced high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) during the current period (July -August 2021), with the most affected being in Ahuachapán and Morazán departments.



Overview

More than 800,000 people in El Salvador (13% of the analysed population) experienced high levels of acute food insecurity, classified in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) from July to August 2021, due to the combined impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, high food prices, and low household income. From July to August 2021, the departments classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) were Ahuachapán and Morazán, while the rest of El Salvador was classified in Stressed (IPC Phase 2). The number of people experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity will likely decrease to around 600,000 (10% of the analysed population) from September 2021 to February 2022 and increase to around 900,000 (14% of the analysed population) between March and May 2022.

For the months of September 2021 to February 2022, despite the expected increase in economic activity in different areas, mainly the sale of agricultural labor, the increase in the minimum wage in the formal sector, the upward trend in the flow of remittances and the postrera harvest of basic grains such as corn and beans, contribute to improve household incomes and ensure food reserves. However, the high probability of the occurrence of the La Niña phenomenon (65%) may negatively affect the postrera harvest and, therefore, compromise the availability of food reserves, the main source of food for subsistence farming families.

For the period of March to May 2022, Ahuachapán and Morazán are expected to be in Crisis (Phase 3), as a result of the seasonal reduction in the sale of agricultural labor during the dry season, generating a decrease in income during this period of the year. In addition, it is estimated, that the slow economic recovery due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic will continue to affect different sectors of the population in the labor market, especially the informal sector dependent on precarious incomes. However, at the national level, actions continue to be taken to mitigate the impact on households, so that the second projected figure for next year could decrease.

Key Drivers

COVID-19
The COVID-19 pandemic is still present in the national territory, and with the emergence of four new variants, the socio-economic effects of the pandemic still represent a latent risk to food security in both the current and projected periods.

Loss of income
Long periods of confinement have led to the loss or change of income opportunities in many households, contributing to the reduction of their income, negatively affecting their food security.

Increased food prices
The progressive increase in the cost of fuel has had a ripple effect on the price of food items. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) has increased since the beginning of 2021, with a variation of 2.95% in June this year compared to the last.

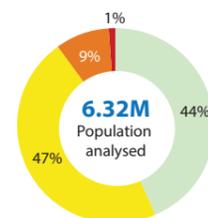
Current Acute Food Insecurity | July - August 2021



Projected Acute Food Insecurity | September 2021 - February 2022

593,000

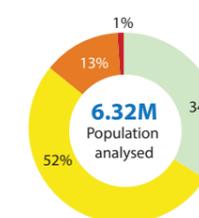
About 593,000 people (10% of the analysed population) in El Salvador are likely to face high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) during the first projection period (September 2021-February 2022).



Projected Acute Food Insecurity | March - May 2022

907,000

The number of people likely to face high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) between March and May 2022 will likely increase to around 907,000 (14% of the analysed population) during the second projection period (March-May 2022), which coincides with the hunger season.



KEY FOR THE MAP
IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification

- 1 - Minimal
- 2 - Stressed
- 3 - Crisis
- 4 - Emergency
- 5 - Famine

Publication date: September 2021 | *IPC population data is based on El Salvador's Department of Statistics and Census estimates. | Feedback: IPC@FAO.org | Disclaimer: The information shown on this map does not imply official recognition or endorsement of any physical and political boundaries.