Currently, over 3.9 million people out of the 17.4 million people analyzed have experienced high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) in Guatemala. Between March and May 2022, more than 3.9 million people have experienced high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) and require urgent actions.

The population in the worst conditions is made up mainly of small subsistence/subsistence farmers, whose reserves have been depleted and have also seen their ability to invest for the next harvest diminished by the high cost of several inputs and fuel; small informal merchants have had difficulty selling their products due to the increase in fuel prices. This has led to an increase in the prices of food and raw materials and reduced sources of employment, so that many households have had difficulty selling their products due to the increase in fuel prices. This has led to an increase in the prices of food and raw materials and reduced sources of employment, so that many households have had difficulty selling their products due to the increase in fuel prices. According to the Food Security Survey (FSS) of the World Food Program (WFP), 28% of the population reports limited and poor food consumption, likewise, regarding the use of livelihood coping strategies, 19% of households report using stress strategies, 30% crisis strategies and 14% emergency strategies during the current period.

However, due to the crisis generated by the conflict between Ukraine and Russia, a sustained increase in the prices of food and fuel as well as some inputs is expected. Therefore, between June and September 2022, households will likely face greater difficulties in terms of food availability and access, and their food insecurity situation could deteriorate during this period. Between October 2022 and February 2023, an increase in employment sources derived from coffee and sugar cane crops is expected; there could be greater marketing opportunities, so the food insecurity situation could improve for a good part of the country’s departments.

Key Drivers
- **High food prices**: The increase in food prices and in particular in basic grains, which have been the highest in the last 15 years, is expected to continue throughout 2022, in a context of rising inflation and the cost of the basic food basket (increased from 3% in March last year to 6% in the same month of 2022), which would be affecting access to food consumption mainly for the population that depends on the purchase of food, and who already report limitations of access to the market due to lack of money.
- **Conflict between Russia and Ukraine**: This conflict has caused the price of fertilizers and agricultural inputs to rise by 2.7% in March 2022, adding to last year’s 41% increase in SICA countries, and therefore in food prices, since both countries are among the largest producers worldwide. SICA member countries are importers of fertilizers from Russia and Belarus, so the reduction in supply has led to increased prices in those countries.

Depletion of basic grain reserves
- The limited availability and depletion of basic grain reserves, both in the current and projected periods, in a context of seasonal hunger, is associated with food gaps in disadvantaged communities that already had unsatisfied basic needs, especially in those departments with greater dependence on subsistence agriculture.

Loss of jobs and income
- The loss of jobs and decrease in income, which has intensified internal and external migration in search of jobs, will likely affect food insecurity in the projected periods more, as they could further limit household purchasing power and access to food. However, by 2023, a slight increase in the labor force is likely and better employment opportunities could be expected.

COVID-19 pandemic
- In Guatemala, the COVID-19 pandemic is still present, although mobility restrictions have practically disappeared. However, vaccination coverage with a complete vaccination schedule reaches about 58%. The flexibility of measures and the possible appearance of new variants could provoke outbreaks and/or an increase in cases for the entire period of analysis, which could generate work incapacities and certain limitations to the economic impulse, for which reason the return to restrictive measures would depend on the increase and effectiveness of vaccination strategies in those departments defined as being on orange or red alert.

Acute Food Insecurity Trends 2020 - 2023

**Key for the Map**
- IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification
- (mapped Phase represents highest severity affecting at least 20% of the population)

**Key Figures**

**Overview**
In the latest IPC Acute Food Insecurity analysis, the 17.4 million inhabitants of all 22 departments of Guatemala were analysed. Between March and May 2022, more than 3.9 million people have experienced high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) and require urgent actions. This figure is expected to increase to 4.6 million people in the period of June to September 2022, during which the lean season falls, and to decrease to 3.2 million people for the period of October 2022 to February 2023, the harvest season.

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