Overview

About 4.35 million in Haiti are experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity, latest analyses indicate. In the current period of August 2023 to February 2024, 4.35 million people or 44 percent of the population in Haiti need urgent action. Around 1.4 million people are classified in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) and around 2.95 million people are in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis). No humanitarian food assistance has been confirmed for the projected period of March to June 2024, therefore, it is estimated that the number of people in Phase 3 will likely increase to 3.03 million (31 percent of the population) – bringing the total population in need of urgent action to 45 percent.

In the current period, five of the 32 areas analysed are classified in Phase 4, including the Grand-Anse department (Grand-Anse HT07 and 08, with the exception of the town of Jérémie), poor districts of Port-au-Prince, Cité Soleil, and the west livelihood zone HT07, comprising the communes to the north of Port-au-Prince and the Palmes area.

Gang violence continues to have a detrimental effect on Haiti’s food security situation, with an increase in kidnappings, armed attacks, robberies and sexual violence. This has forced the country’s human resources to emigrate and major internal displacement to take place – particularly in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area and the Artibonite valley (Analysis zone Artibonite HT04). Insecurity also continues to disrupt access to markets and the movement of people and goods including agricultural products.

Compared to the September 2022 analysis, the situation has improved slightly in some areas with the total population in IPC Phase 3 or above decreasing from 47 to 44 percent. The September 2022 analysis was also conducted during a period of socio-political unrest and economic instability – which drove up the fuel prices and caused a sharp increase in the dollar. Inflation reached high levels since the embargo of the 1990s.

However, environmental changes and climatic shocks continue to impact Haiti’s food security situation. The delay of the rainy season and rainfall deficits and drought have been affecting Haiti since 2013, in addition to the periodical impact of natural disasters and drought, food insecurity has continued to increase, putting the most vulnerable households at risk. Livelihood assistance should focus on facilitating agriculture production, providing financial assistance (rural loans), and restoring livelihoods (income-generation activities and livestock).

Recommended Actions

Livelihood support
With increased climate-related shocks including drought and natural disasters, food insecurity has continued to increase; putting the most vulnerable households at risk. Livelihood assistance should focus on facilitating agriculture production, providing financial assistance (rural loans), and restoring livelihoods (income-generation activities and livestock).

Humanitarian assistance
Programmes need to be set into place to assist the most vulnerable. With over 31 percent of the population classified as IPC Phase 3 or above (Crisis or worse), humanitarian assistance needs to be provided to assist the most vulnerable households.

Emergency development
Intervention strategies and emergency development programs need to be reassessed. Factors and risks such as agricultural development, accessibility, governance and climate-resilience need to be accounted for.