

# LATIN AMERICA

REGIONAL NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2022

## CENTRAL AMERICA

Hurricane Julia has aggravated the food insecurity situation of families living in the affected areas.

## COLOMBIA

The government calls on humanitarian actors to respond to the damage caused by the winter wave.

## PERU

The 2023 budget foresees a reduction in public investment in maternal and newborn health and disaster risk management.



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**ACTION  
AGAINST  
HUNGER**



# GUATEMALA

In the first week of October, Hurricane Julia affected an estimated 1.4 million people. These are in addition to the 5 million people affected by a rainy season that has been more intense than in previous years. **The hurricane caused flooding and landslides that damaged homes, schools, health centers, and road infrastructure. More than 10,000 people had to be accommodated in temporary shelters,** mainly in the northern departments of the country. According to information provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, crop losses were estimated at USD 120 million. This will have an impact on the deterioration of food and nutrition security of families who were already struggling to access food due

to the rise in prices, which stood at 9.7% in October 2022.

October was also marked by an increase in the transit of migrants of different origins to North America on Guatemalan routes. Specifically, Venezuelans have been affected by a regulatory change preventing those arriving overland without a visa from entering the United States, meaning thousands of migrants are stranded in Honduras, Guatemala, and Mexico. So far in 2022, Guatemala has expelled more than 13,000 irregular migrants, 77% of whom are from Venezuela.



## SURVEYS/ STUDIES

### SURVEY TO MEASURE THE IMPACT OF ECONOMIC TRANSFERS ON THE FOOD SECURITY OF FAMILIES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HUEHUETENANGO



341 persons surveyed



19 communities in the municipalities of **Cuilco** and **San Idelfonso Ixtahuacán**, in the department of Huehuetenango.



Within the framework of the **ALCANCES II** project, financed by USAID-BHA, periodic monitoring of the situation of the supported population has been carried out to assess the changes in their food indicators as a result of receiving support from the project.



A first multipurpose cash transfer was made in September of this year



after which a household survey was carried out to identify changes in the diet and in coping strategies.



The survey was carried out mainly among women, **40%** of whom consider themselves to be the head of the household.



The selection of beneficiaries gave priority to families with children under 5 years of age and with a family member with a disability or chronic illness.

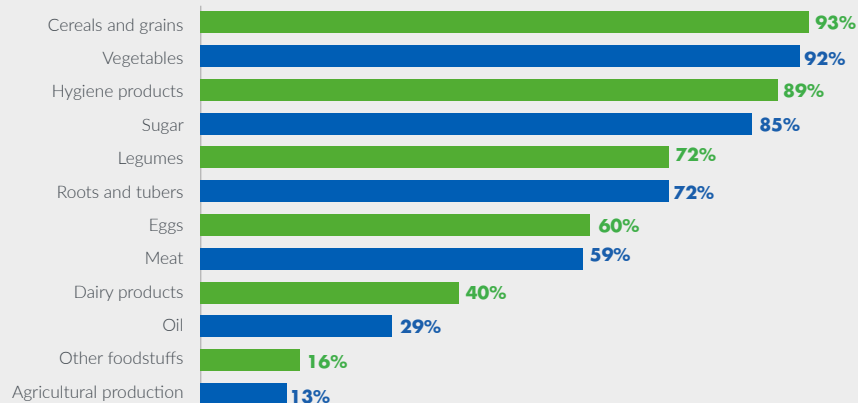


**25%** of respondents felt that without the cash transfer, they would not have been able to cover most of their basic needs.

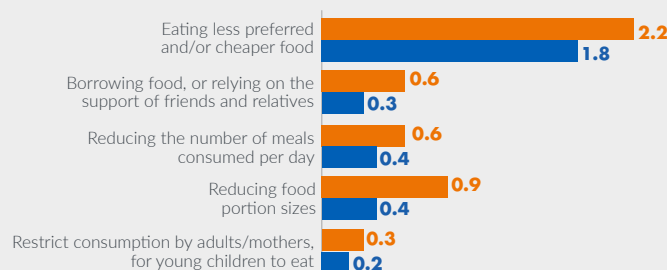


According to the results, families invested money in the purchase of cereals and grains (maize, rice, flour), as well as vegetables and hygiene products.

#### EXPENDITURE OF THE CASH TRANSFER BY PRODUCT



#### FREQUENCY OF IMPLEMENTATION OF COPING STRATEGIES BEFORE AND AFTER CASH TRANSFER



■ Baseline ■ Post monetary distribution

Investment in staple foods has had a positive impact on reducing the implementation of coping strategies related to food consumption.

The graph below shows how households have used fewer strategies such as eating less preferred or cheaper foods, and reducing portion sizes, or number of meals per day.

## TESTIMONIALS



*[...] Hatred towards the LGTBIQ community makes it difficult to work, they didn't give me the opportunity."*

ALISON  
Guatemala



Alison López was born in El Progreso, Honduras, where she grew up with two brothers. She is the daughter of a single mother who has always worked in the business of preparing and selling food to support her family.

Alison graduated as a business expert and public accountant, but she has never been able to work in this field due to the discrimination she has suffered as a transgender woman. *"Hatred towards the LGTBIQ community makes it difficult to work, they*

*didn't give me the opportunity."* Since 2021, after spending time in Mexico trying unsuccessfully to cross to the United States, she lives in Guatemala.

As part of an Action Against Hunger and UNHCR project to promote the socio-economic inclusion of migrants, Alison was able to undergo business management training to develop a business plan and receive support to open a shop where she sells clothing and Honduran food.

## URGENT NEEDS



Assistance needs persist for communities located in the Dry Corridor, affected by **chronic malnutrition** and the effects of the cyclonic season. Also of concern is the worsening food insecurity situation among the population in the departments where there was a loss of crops due to Hurricane Julia.



# NICARAGUA



On 8 October, Hurricane Julia made landfall in Nicaragua as a Category 1. According to the damage assessment carried out by the municipality of Waspam, in the Autonomous Region of the North Caribbean Coast, an area still recovering from Hurricanes Eta & Iota, more than **4,000 small subsistence farmers in the Wangki Maya indigenous territory lost all or part of their basic grain crops**. The Government of Nicaragua estimates losses of nearly 400 million of

USD in damages throughout the country, based on data provided by the Commission for Assessment, Quantification of Damages and Losses.

The impact of Hurricane Julia aggravated the food security situation of the Waspam population, which is among the worst in the country. **The situation has been exacerbated in recent months due to the increase of food and fuel prices**, essential for the

boat transport required to reach the most isolated areas of this municipality in the aforementioned Wangki Maya territory.

It is estimated that the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) of 53 products in Nicaragua costs the equivalent of 516 USD, 13% more than in the same period last year, according to data reported by the National Institute of Development Information (Instituto Nacional de Información de Desarrollo).

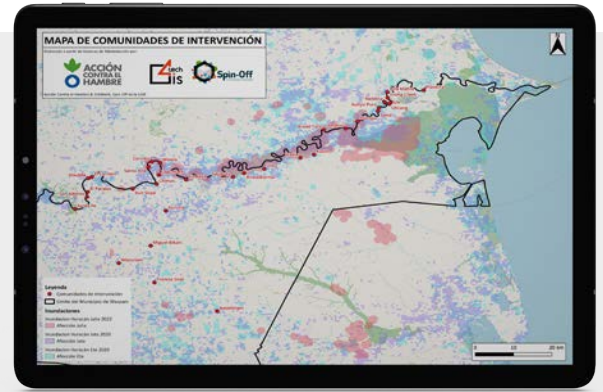
# SURVEYS/ STUDIES

1

## MAP OF THE COMMUNITIES ON THE BANKS OF THE COCO RIVER AFFECTED BY FLOODING AFTER HURRICANE JULIA



In the framework of the partnership that Action Against Hunger has with GIS4Tech, just two days after the passage of Hurricane Julia, a map has been drawn up showing the communities on the banks of the Río Coco affected by flooding, also marking the areas that have been affected in 2020 by hurricanes Eta and Iota, with the aim of focusing the response on those places that have suffered the greatest impact.



2

## BASELINE AND ENDLINE OF YOUTH FOR THE SDGS PROJECT ACTIVITIES IN RACCN



960 persons surveyed



Municipalities of **Puerto Cabezas and Waspam** in the Autonomous Region of the Northern Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua.

### TOTAL NUMBER OF SURVEYS



493 baseline  
411 endline



In 2022, we worked with nearly **2,000** young people in the municipalities of Puerto Cabezas and Waspam on the Northern Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua. With the aim of **improving their cross-sectoral skills, leadership and capacity to mobilize to advance the Sustainable Development Goals in the region.**



With this purpose, training sessions were held under the name of **SDG Schools**, to encourage young participants to **initiate entrepreneurial processes** in their communities, supported by Action Against Hunger.

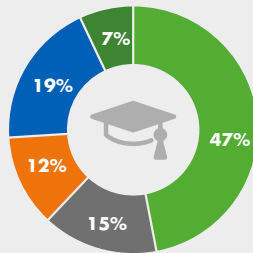


Most of the participants were female (**78%**) with an average of 19 years.



**53%** of the young people have a migrant family member.

### MAIN OCCUPATION OF THE YOUNG PARTICIPANTS IN THE ODS SCHOOLS



- They only study
- Study and work
- Perform unpaid domestic work
- Neither study nor work
- Only work



- At the beginning of the intervention, **16%** of the young people were found to have the intention to migrate in the future.
- Most of them are students, but there is a large group of people who are also working.

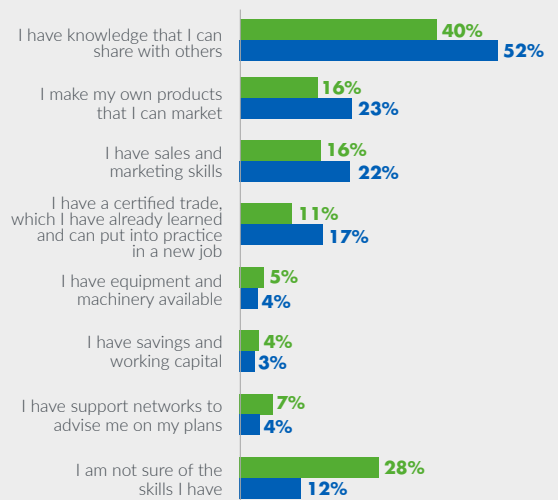
### PRIORITIES OF YOUNG PEOPLE BEFORE AND AFTER PARTICIPATION IN SDG SCHOOLS



■ baseline ■ endline

- When asked about the young people's interest and expectations for the future at the beginning of the project, **18%** of the respondents had not yet thought about it.
- At the end of the intervention, the percentage decreased to 13%, and more concrete expectations and future projects can be observed: almost a third of the young people consider starting their own business in the country, and a smaller percentage of the population considers the option of migrating to work or study among their priorities.

### PERCEPTION OF YOUNG PEOPLE'S PERSONAL SKILLS BEFORE AND AFTER PARTICIPATION IN SDG SCHOOLS



■ baseline ■ endline

- At the beginning of the project, more than a quarter of the young people were not sure about the skills they had. After the completion of the training process this percentage decreased to 12%, considerably increasing the perception of the skills and qualities that the young people consider they have.

In terms of **leadership**, more than two thirds of the young people did not feel that they were involved as an active part of citizen participation processes. At the end of the training process, this percentage decreased to 45%.



## TESTIMONIALS



*"I was very excited about the idea as there are not many projects coming into the community aimed at young people and especially at women"*

JANESCA  
Wangki Maya Twi



Janesca Walter Santiago is a young woman from the Bilwaskarma community, in the Wangki Maya Twi territory, who has had the opportunity to be part of the SDG School, an initiative of Action Against Hunger to promote the creation of training schools for micro-enterprises among the young Nicaraguan population.

"The aim of the bookshop is to help all these students who often need photocopying, printing, gluing and many other services that are required by the young people of the community and by the teachers and need to travel to Waspam to get them, which generates more expenses," says Janesca.

"I was very excited about the idea as there are not many projects coming into the community aimed at young people and especially at women," says Janesca, who started the training in August of this year. Together with their colleagues, they created a business idea, to open the INGIKA RAYA BOOKSTORE, to provide a service to the community that did not exist until then:

This young woman is confident in her potential and the skills she has acquired so that in a short time her business can grow in a way that it can generate employment opportunities for more people in her community.

## URGENT NEEDS



The impact of Hurricane Julia on the livelihoods of communities in the Wangki Maya territory, in addition to the crisis left by the hurricanes of 2020 and the pre-existing rise in the cost of living, has led to an increase in demand for humanitarian assistance among affected populations in Nicaragua's northern Caribbean to avoid the exacerbation of the food security situation.



## HONDURAS



2022 Humanitarian Needs Analysis (HNO) has identified 3.2 million Hondurans in need in the country, which represents an increase of 11% compared to 2.8 million in 2021. The humanitarian situation has been aggravated by new climate shocks, rising prices, increased violence and population displacement.

**The entry of migrants in transit into Honduran territory continues unabated, maintaining the need to provide humanitarian assistance to this group of different nationalities.** Between January 1 and October 31, 2022, the National Migration Institute (INM) of Honduras reports the irregular entry of 141,200 migrants, a daily average of 464 people. Of these, 35% come from Venezuela (49,404)<sup>1</sup> Of the total number of irregular entries, 63,851 were registered

through Danlí, 40,697 through Trojes and 33,347 through Choluteca on the border with Nicaragua.

The new U.S. immigration regulations have eliminated the ease of entry of the Venezuelan population into the country. These new rules have left hundreds of Venezuelan migrants without the possibility of achieving their goal. Migrants have found themselves in a difficult situation in Honduras in the absence of a support network, and the needs that national institutions and humanitarian organizations must address. On the other hand, the bill extending the amnesty on the payment of the fine for irregular entry into the country until June 2023, has been approved by the National Congress on November 24.

<sup>1</sup> <http://inm.gob.hn/estadisticas.html>



This year has also seen an increase in the number of returnees, reaching a total of 79,958 people as of 28 September, 35% of whom are in need of protection and assistance.

During the 2022 cyclone season, which runs until the end of November, the government has declared a state of national emergency on 24 September. Heavy rains and floods caused 16 deaths and more than 80,000 people (19,500 families) affected, of whom

17,000 had to be evacuated. Following this declaration of National Emergency, the country was affected in October by Hurricane Julia, which aggravated the situation of saturation and flooding in different parts of the country, with considerable damage and additional affectations reported in 15 of the 18 departments.

Assistance continues to be needed to meet the basic needs of the population still accommodated in temporary centers,

as well as for recovery and reconstruction following the damage in many municipalities and communities. In addition, the rains have significantly affected crops in the north and west, which, together with inflation and rising food prices, could increase the number of people in food crisis situation (IPC Phase 3 and above), a situation that in 2022 affected already 2.6 million people (IPC's Analysis of Acute Food Insecurity)<sup>2</sup>

## SURVEYS/ STUDIES

### MONITORING THE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION OF THE MIGRANT POPULATION

Period of coverage

MONTHLY MONITORING  
FROM 21 SEPTEMBER  
TO 31 OCTOBER

**721**  
persons surveyed



Shelters, Temporary Rest Centers and their surroundings in the municipalities of **Danlí and Trojes**, in the department of El Paraíso, Honduras.

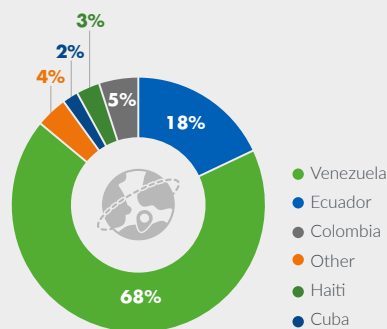


The survey was conducted mainly among women (**81%**) who lead family groups (93%) made up of three people: two minors and an accompanying person, and whose **main destination is the US (98%)**

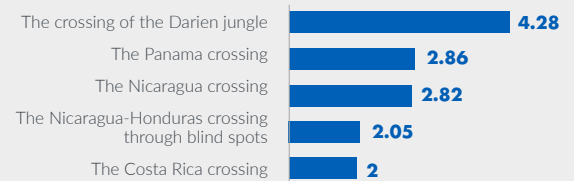


On average, **they have been travelling for three months** and have just entered Honduras, where they do not intend to stay for more than two days.

#### NATIONALITY OF RESPONDENT



#### MAIN DIFFICULTIES DURING THE CROSSING



1 not difficult at all and 5 very difficult



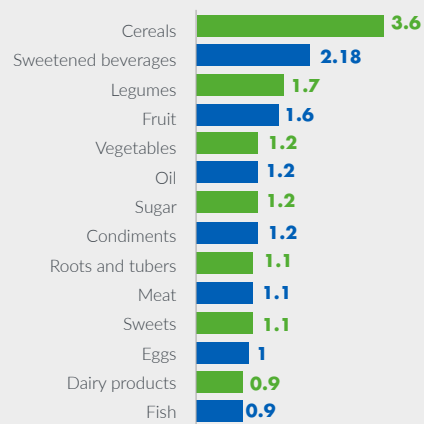
**88%** of the population surveyed considered the journey to have been dangerous or very dangerous, mainly the crossing of the Darien Gap between Colombia and Panama.

In addition to this point, respondents also considered the transit through Panama and Nicaragua to be difficult.



More than a third of respondents have experienced violence on the road, mainly discrimination by the population or abuse by other migrants or authorities of countries of transit.

#### FREQUENCY OF CONSUMPTION OF FOOD GROUPS DURING THE VOYAGE, ON A WEEKLY BASIS

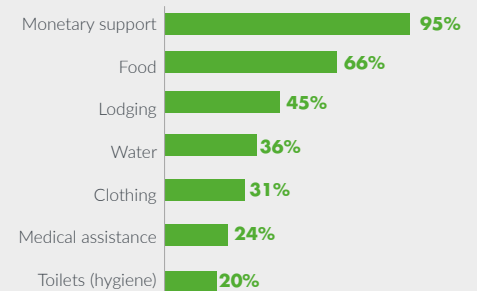


Days that the food has been consumed

Most respondents (**92%**) became ill in the last days of travel. They arrived at the Honduran border in a state of severe food insecurity, considering that they have all been hungry along the way.

The diet reported in the last seven days shows that **the main foods consumed were bread or tortillas (cereals) and sugary drinks, such as juices or soft drinks.**

#### MAIN NEEDS OF THE MIGRANT POPULATION ON THE SOUTHERN BORDER OF HONDURAS



They see the **main need as monetary support to be able to continue their journey**, and primary care such as we are providing as part of the UNICEF-funded Southern Border Response Project in Honduras (LIFE-Honduras Consortium)



## TESTIMONIALS



*"I left as an immigrant, because I was left with nothing. I had to move on [...]"*

IRIS  
Cortés, HONDURAS



Iris Suyapa Pavón resides in the community of Dos Caminos, municipality of Villanueva in the department of Cortés, Honduras. She is a Honduran who had to readapt after being sent back in her attempt to reach the United States. Given the lack of employment options, she recognizes that she intends to venture north for the second time.

*"I left as an immigrant, because I was left with nothing. I had to move*

*on, as I did not go to the other side"; narrates Iris Suyapa, 38 years old and mother of three small children and a 17-year-old teenager.*

Iris, who participates in our INTEGRA-Honduras programme, supported by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), has now her own business selling sweets: *"I was going to leave again, but now I have a new opportunity"*

## URGENT NEEDS

Among the main vulnerable groups with urgent humanitarian needs are displaced people and/or those at risk of displacement, migrants in transit and people affected by disasters. Women and children are among all these groups and are at heightened risk. The main gaps identified include:

- Coverage of the basic needs of migrants, returnees and people in transit.
- Improvement of reception conditions for migrants upon arrival in Honduras and multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance: shelter, health care, nutrition, WASH, psychosocial support and protection services.
- Humanitarian assistance to meet the basic needs of the evacuated population affected by disasters during the cyclone season.
- Access to safe water, adequate sanitation and hygiene services in communities affected by recurrent flooding.
- Food assistance to an estimated 2.6 M people (27% of the population) in Crisis or Emergency (IPC Phases 3 and 4) in the first half of 2022, whose situation has been aggravated by the rise in food and transport prices, as well as the loss of crops due to floods in September and October 2022.



# COLOMBIA



The national government declared during the last week of October the "National Disaster Situation" throughout the country, due to the impacts of **the winter wave that has left 416,000 people affected in 289 municipalities of 26 departments**. The most affected areas include Magdalena, Atlántico, La Guajira, Bolívar, Sucre, northern Córdoba, Chocó, the Andean region and the plains and Amazonian foothills.<sup>3</sup>

The impacts of the heavy rains include the loss of crops, and livelihoods, the destruction of tertiary and rural roads, in addition to the serious food crisis due to the inflationary process that continues in the country. In the month of October, annual inflation reached 12.22%,<sup>4</sup> the highest value recorded in more than 20 years. This caused an **increase for Colombians' cost of living, impacting**

**refugees and migrants and affecting the purchasing power of the most vulnerable households to access basic products**. This increase continues to be associated with the increase in the price of agricultural inputs, fuel, imported food, and the devaluation of the Colombian peso against the dollar, which has reached 24,8%.<sup>5</sup>

On the other hand, the main consequences of armed conflict, displacement emergencies, and restrictions on human mobility continue to affect food security and access to livelihoods of the most vulnerable communities. So far in 2022, a total of **66,922 victims of mass and individual displacement** have been reported, and in September alone, 2,345 people were affected by four confinements in the Pacific region.<sup>6</sup>

Regarding the refugee and migrant population coming from Venezuela, the national government has launched the "Implementation of the integration strategy for the Venezuelan migrant population as a development factor for the country" (CONPES 4,100), seeking to adapt the institutional response to the new needs in terms of social, economic and cultural integration of this population. It will be of great relevance that, in the regional binding dialogues, which are the spaces of participation for the construction of the new development plan, priorities, actions and budgets will be defined to allow the implementation of this strategy in search of a better quality of life for the refugee and migrant population in the country and thus guarantee their integration.<sup>7</sup>

## IMMERSION FOR INCLUSION

Action Against Hunger and the Mayor's Office of Bucaramanga led a positioning campaign for socioeconomic inclusion in Santander. This campaign seeks to strengthen the institutional articulation for the stabilization and socioeconomic integration of the refugee and migrant population with a vocation of permanence and thus reduce unsatisfied basic needs and strengthen the local economy.

**Immersion for Inclusion** allowed the 20 participating institutions, such as ANDI (the country's largest National Association of Entrepreneurs), Chamber of Commerce, the Secretariat of Social Development, the Municipal Institute of Business Development, among others, to strengthen their empathy and sensitivity through the simulation of a person's path from the moment of migration to the consolidation of them enterprise in the host country.

Participants faced the same challenges of more

than 1,200 entrepreneurs, both Venezuelan refugee/migrant population and vulnerable host population, supported by Action Against Hunger in Colombia: lack of support network, xenophobia and limited economic resources.

*"With this campaign, we managed to put the representatives of the institutions in the shoes of the people who migrate, but with their own dreams [...] this makes them see everything from a new perspective".* Leonilde Meléndez, Head of entrepreneurship and employability at Action Against Hunger.

Some of the commitments that were consolidated were: **a) alliances with the media** to make visible the successful ventures of the Venezuelan refugee/migrant population that are employing Colombians to mitigate xenophobia; **b) the integration of academia** through the research workshops, and; **c) the invitation to create links** with the business sector through its supplier channel.



<sup>3</sup> Unidad Nacional para la Gestión del Riesgo de Desastres, Boletín informativo N°126, 2022

<sup>4</sup> Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística, Índice de Precios del Consumidor, 2022.

<sup>5</sup> La República, La devaluación de la TRM durante 2022.

<sup>6</sup> Oficina de Coordinación de Asuntos Humanitarios, Tendencias e Impacto Humanitario en Colombia, 2022.

<sup>7</sup> Departamento Nacional de Planeación (DNP), CONPES 4.100, 2022



## SURVEYS/STUDIES

Period of coverage

**FROM AUGUST TO SEPTEMBER 2022**



**252** households (1,068 people) with indigenous ethnicity, from the **Awá, Ticuna, Cocama and Yagua** peoples.



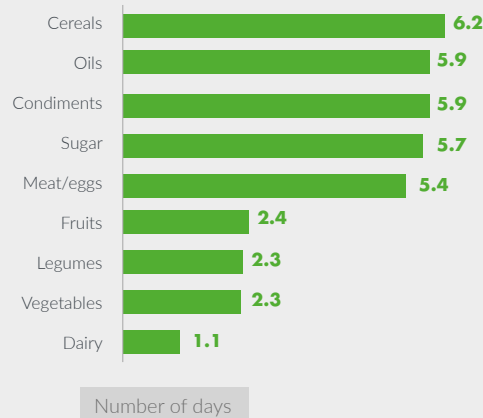
Municipalities of **San Andrés de Tumaco** (Nariño) and **Amazonas** (Puerto Nariño).



### MAIN OBJECTIVE

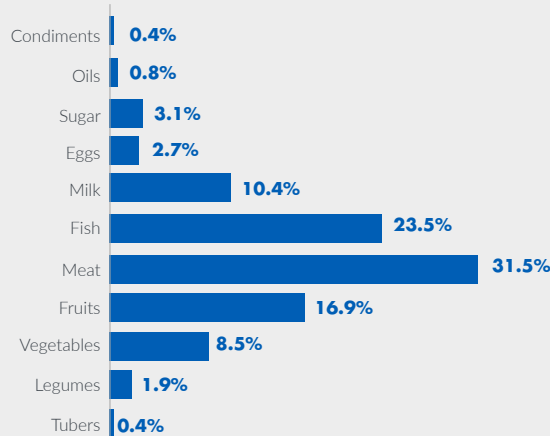
To determine the humanitarian needs in food security and access to food and livelihoods of indigenous communities Awá, Ticuna, Cocama and Yagua.

### FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE



According to the dietary diversity and frequency of food consumption of the population surveyed in Nariño and Amazonas, about **77%** of the households surveyed reported a higher frequency of consumption of cereals, oils and sugars, as well as a very low consumption of food groups with higher nutritional intake of vitamin A, C and calcium, such as dairy products, vegetables, legumes and fruits, essential for an adequate diet and to prevent micronutrient deficiency or "hidden hunger".

### DIETARY DIVERSITY INDEX



Less than **40%** of households have access to a diversified diet. Consequently, 60% of the families surveyed are food insecure and do not have access to a diverse diet that meets their nutritional requirements, which may lead to a possible increase in acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies in the child population. To cope with food insecurity conditions, families use coping strategies such as reducing portions and/or amounts of daily intakes, and/or borrowing money from family and friends; which exacerbates their vulnerability.



The impact on food systems and the slowdown in economic activities, due to the COVID-19 pandemic,<sup>8</sup> the increase in confinements and displacements due to the armed conflict and violence,<sup>9</sup> generate limitations for the development of agricultural activities and are determining factors in the lack of food, restricted access to livelihoods and the low purchasing power of households.<sup>10</sup> By 2023, Colombia is projected to have 7.1 million people with food and nutritional security needs; therefore, it is vital to continue with the response, both from institutions and the international community, to expand the coverage of basic needs.

## URGENT NEEDS



The Disaster Risk Management Unit has called on the Humanitarian Country Team (EHP) and the donor table to support at the national level in the **emergency response to the winter wave**, complementing the institutional response provided for in the emergency response plan, where access capacity has been limited.



Among the main needs identified are **early recovery due to the loss of crops and other livelihoods**, assistance with food packages and income alternatives. For the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene sector, there is a need to ensure access to drinking water, rehabilitate community infrastructure that has been affected and cover immediate needs for hygiene supplies, as well as prevention and attention to water-borne and vector-borne diseases due to stagnant water.



<sup>8</sup> Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, Los efectos de la COVID-19 en la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición, 2020.

<sup>9</sup> Comité Internacional de la Cruz Roja, Actualización sobre la situación humanitaria en Colombia, 2022.

<sup>10</sup> Oficina de Coordinación de Asuntos Humanitarios, Panorama de Necesidades Humanitarias, 2022.

# PERU



In Peru, **political instability continues and grows, in addition to the social conflicts** that affect the mining sector and influence growth prospects with a high local inflation of around 8.3% in annualized terms. In October Peru requested the Organization of American States (OAS) to activate and apply the Inter-American Democratic Charter "to defend democracy in the face of what it considered a plot against its government" and to ensure that the regional organization contributes to promoting a consultation process between political and social groups and the powers of the State, to avoid a serious affectation to the democratic order of the country

Meanwhile, in the economy, the agencies S&P Ratings and Fitch Ratings reviewed the credit rating, which withdrew PetroPeru's investment grade for having an inadequate

financial situation and problems with its corporate governance. This has led to the restriction of credit lines to the state-owned company. In this context, credit could become more expensive, reducing the public sector's capacity to invest in roads or to pay the salaries of teachers and police officers, for example. In addition, it could generate a decrease in business dynamism, reducing the generation of employment.

The government's budget for 2023 is currently being prepared. Despite the **setbacks observed in recent years in nutritional indicators such as child malnutrition**, anemia in children under 3 years of age, and breastfeeding, the budget shows a reduction in funds for maternal and newborn health (-2%). Moreover, Peru is a country with high seismic risk and is vulnerable to the effects of climate

change such as floods, the budget saw a reduction in funds dedicated to vulnerability reduction and emergency response in the event of disasters (-38%). Although during the pandemic they had been identified as a critical area of work, the activities "Community access to water for human consumption" and "Population informed about childcare and healthy practices for the prevention of anemia and chronic child malnutrition" will no longer be continued. It should be noted that the latter included the actions of municipalities to promote adequate nutrition and the prevention and reduction of anaemia, which included the participation of community workers and developers, within the framework of the "Incentive Programme for the Improvement of Municipal Management".

## SURVEYS/STUDIES

### EFFECT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON ECONOMIC INCOME AND FOOD SECURITY AMONG VENEZUELAN REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN LIMA, PERU

PERIOD

JULY 2020 - MARCH 2022

Lima Metropolitana

374 persons surveyed

#### MAIN OBJECTIVE

To understand the socioeconomic situation of Venezuelan refugees and migrants residing in Metropolitan Lima and Callao (Peru) in the context of the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### MAIN RESULTS



families are composed of between 1 and 9 people



**59%** live in overcrowded conditions



Monthly family income is **S/ 1,067.3 (€ 246.6)**



Monthly food expenditure is **S/ 470.9 (€ 108.80)**



The percentage of food insecure families is **70.5%**



**32.2%** are severely food insecure and employment is mainly informal.



Comparing the results with the pre-pandemic situation, we see that the **COVID-19 pandemic has had a negative impact on the population:**



the housing in which people live is more precarious



their economic incomes have decreased



worsening their coping strategies.



In this context, **interventions aimed at improving employment, access to safe housing, and access to and consumption of food are necessary**, especially for the most vulnerable age groups.

Find this study in **JOURNAL 17 - Interdisciplinary Research for the Sustainable Development Goals**, page 165.

[FULL JOURNAL, HERE](#)



## COMMUNITY KITCHENS, PILLARS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER



*[...] People who come here don't feel like they're just looking for food, they feel a warmth,"*

CARMEN  
Comas, Perú



Carmen Elizabeth Castillo has made of the community kitchen Casa de la Esperanza in Comas a home for dozens of Venezuelans and Peruvians. She works as a coordinator and cooker with her husband and sister from Monday to Friday, to deliver 65 daily food rations to the most vulnerable people. The reality of Venezuelan families is not foreign to her. She arrived from Venezuela with her partner and two children, and she instantly connects with the situations of her compatriots and remembers when she listens to their stories. Her commitment is great. "People who come here don't feel like they're just looking for food, they feel a warmth," she explains.

It is the people in the community - Peruvians and Venezuelans - who are hungry, the first to receive food. Eighty percent of the canteen's beneficiaries are informal workers, many of whom work in the streets with their children. They live from day to day, uncertain whether they will be able to pay their rent or the food

for the day. Carmen says that food situation is quite extreme: many families must decide whether they will have breakfast, lunch or dinner that day. "That puts them in a state of anxiety," she says. At the Casa de la Esperanza dining hall, they are sure that lunch will be served. From six in the morning when they enter the dining room until three in the afternoon, everything is a continuous hustle and bustle.

Her work in the dining room began during the COVID-19 state of emergency, and since then we have been collaborating with this initiative: "At the Casa de la Esperanza shelter we had the infrastructure for the dining room, but not the staff, so I decided to take on the responsibility of coordinating it. The sheltered families themselves helped me. We started cooking for 30 people and today we serve almost 100," she recalls.

FULL STORY [HERE](#) ✨

## URGENT NEEDS



The situation of food insecurity persists and needs to be addressed not only through short-term responses, but also by working with the agricultural sector. The sector is suffering from the consequences of urea shortages and the effects of climate change, which is affecting harvests with drought and **putting at risk the availability of food and the livelihoods of thousands of families.**



In addition, there is an urgent need to address **the problem of gender-based violence** in the country, where 117 women have been murdered this year and 38.6% of women report having been victims of physical violence by their partner at least once (#2 among Latin American countries).

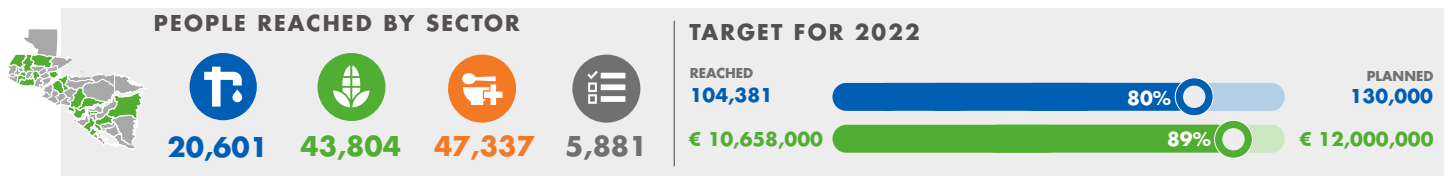




# REGIONAL RESPONSE - NOVEMBER 2022



## CENTRAL AMERICA



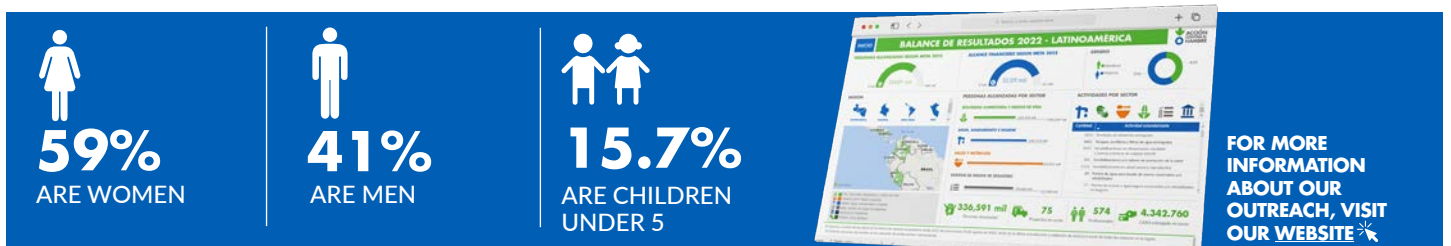
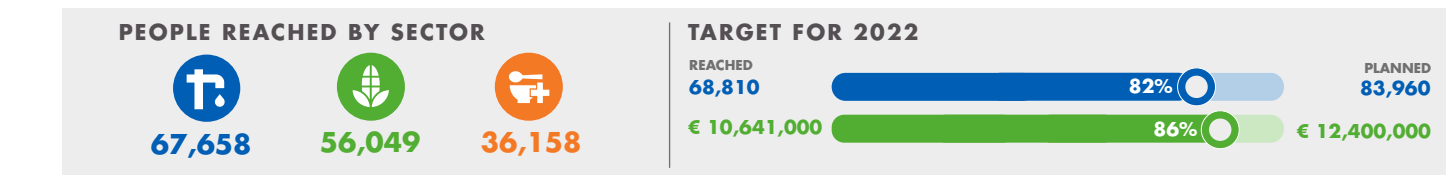
## COLOMBIA



## PERU



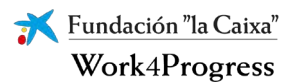
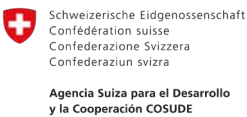
## OTHER COUNTRIES





# FOR ACTION AGAINST HUNGER.

## STRATEGIC ALLIES



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