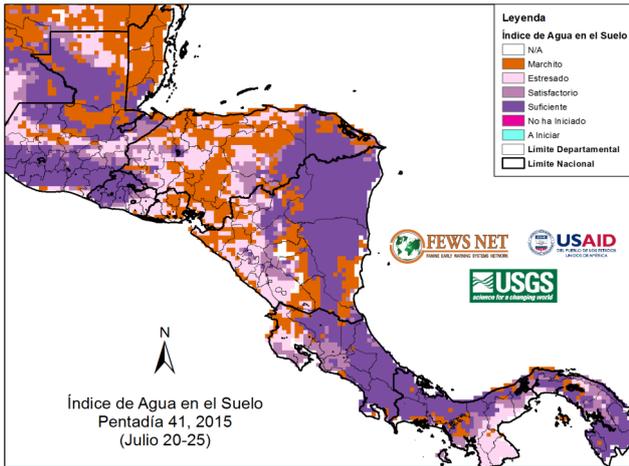




World Food Programme

Central America Drought:

Restoring Food Security and Livelihoods Through Assistance for Vulnerable Groups Affected by Recurrent Shocks.



Central America PRRO: Restoring Food Security and Livelihoods Through Assistance for Vulnerable Groups Affected by Recurrent Shocks in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua

In numbers



3 Countries: El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

4.2 million: estimated population affected by the on-going drought.

2.3 million: estimated to be moderately or severely food insecure.

550,000: WFP planned beneficiaries Nov 2015 — Aug 2016 (El Salvador 76,000 Guatemala 227,000 and Honduras 253,000).

10 months: of assistance required.

US\$75 million: current shortfall.

200490: The Regional PRRO responding to the drought.

1.2 million: Total number of beneficiaries WFP has reached since the start of the drought.

Highlights

- For the second consecutive year, weather patterns have affected the food security of the most vulnerable households living in the Dry Corridor of Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras.
- Initial analysis conducted by WFP and partners indicates that more than 4.2 million people in Central America have been affected by the prolonged drought and 2.3 million people are suffering severe or moderate food insecurity. Households depending on crop production and agricultural day labor for their livelihoods are the most vulnerable
- Drier than average weather conditions coupled with a stronger El Niño phenomenon are leading to higher temperatures in most of Central America.
- WFP estimates that these populations will need assistance through the 2016 primera season, recognizing that food security will improve temporarily in areas that benefit from a positive postrera.

Situation Update

- More than 65% of households had no food stocks left by the start of the 2015 harvest season.
- In Guatemala and Honduras, food expenditures in over 70% of affected households account for over 65% of total household expenditures, reflecting extremely high levels of economic vulnerability. In order to maintain adequate food consumption, households resort to negative coping strategies. These strategies often impair households' ability to cope with further shocks, such as the protracted drought or increased food prices.
- The drought has led to a reduction in dietary diversity and overall food consumption: over 40% of the affected households have low to medium dietary diversity, over 30% reported an insufficient consumption of iron-rich foods, and 15% lack adequate intake of proteins and vitamin A.

- The latest FEWSNET report of October highlights “light and below-average rain was recorded throughout the interior of Central America, which increased 30-day moisture deficits further over east-central Guatemala and parts of eastern Honduras. Since the beginning of August, these dry portions of Central America have received only between 50 and 80 percent of their average rain.”

Ongoing WFP Response

- The Regional PRRO is being used to support national relief responses and recovery efforts from the effects of the on-going drought. The PRRO provides immediate support to food-insecure populations affected by the drought and facilitates recovery through asset creation with a view to laying the foundation for a transition to resilience-building through ongoing Country Programmes and capacity development activities at the regional and country levels.
- In 2015, thus far WFP has provided assistance in all 3 countries primarily through cash based transfers. Below an overview of Outcome/Outputs in the 3 countries:

In Guatemala:

- WFP assisted 341,000 people through— training and asset creation activities including soil conservation, terrace farming, credit, water filtration and family gardens. Furthermore training was provided for the sensitization to cash and vouchers usage.
- Outcome/Outputs— 2,700 mt of food and USD 1.8 million in form of cash and USD 5.3 million worth of vouchers distributed. 50,000 ha of cultivated land treated and conserved with physical soil and water conservation measures; 446,000 tree seedlings were produced and 823 communities improved their physical infrastructure to mitigate the impact of shocks.

In Honduras:

- WFP assisted 204,000 people through asset creation activities including: water reservoir constructions, soil and water conservation practices, and household and community infrastructure improvements and maintenance.
- Outcome/Outputs— 660 mt of food and USD 4.8 million in form of cash and USD 338,000 worth of vouchers distributed.

In El Salvador:

- WFP assisted 51,000 people. Trainings and hands-on workshops were conducted on topics such as good dietary and hygiene practices, and soil conservation.

- The majority of the families worked on growing household or community gardens, soil conservation works, and community access roads cleaning.
- Outcome/Outputs—USD 1.5 million worth of vouchers distributed. 520 ha of degraded land rehabilitated, 70 km of feeder roads built, 400 farmers adopted fertility management measures, 163,000 tree seedlings were produced and 1,300 new nurseries established.

Assistance Required

- WFP plans to assist the worst affected households through asset creation activities, with a caseload of 550,000 from Nov 2015— Aug 2016 at a total cost of US\$75 million.
 - El Salvador: 76,000 beneficiaries, valued at US\$8 million
 - Guatemala: 227,000 beneficiaries valued at US\$32 million
 - Honduras: 253,000 beneficiaries, valued at US\$35 million.

Partnerships

- FAO/WFP released a joint declaration of the continued drought in Central America.
- WFP is coordinating with government counterparts to jointly implement responses.
- WFP is coordinating joint actions, including assessments, through the United Nations Country Teams and other mechanisms.

Resourcing Update

- WFP has no resources to respond to the drought and urgently needs US\$75 million.
- WFP is grateful for the critical support provided by the Government of Guatemala, Multilateral funds, United States of America, Canada, Germany, Japan, EU, Republic of Korea, the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), Brazil, Chile, Mexico, DFID and Switzerland.

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