HAITI Food Security Outlook — October 2019 to May 2020

Conditions indicate likely deterioration of food security in Haiti

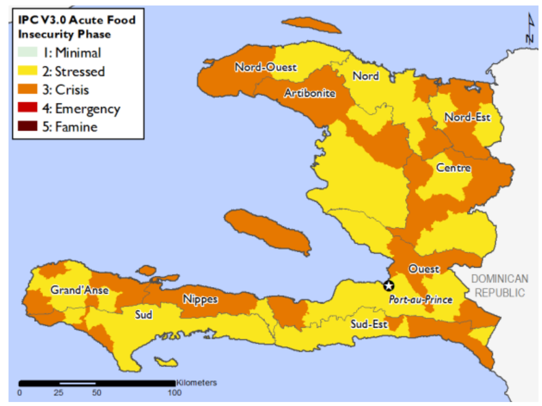
KEY MESSAGES

- Since the beginning of September, the supply of basic food commodities on markets has decreased due to the deterioration of the socio-political situation, which is characterized by barricades along main roads, fuel scarcity, inflation, and broad insecurity.

- Despite favorable rainfall, which has led to normal harvests, many rural traders are unable to reach main cities to stock and sell food commodities. Income-generating activities among poor households, which typically include urban migration and petty trade, are negatively impacted by the ongoing events. It is anticipated that household purchasing power will continue to deteriorate throughout the projection period, as a result of expected rises in food prices and depreciation of the Haitian gourde.

- Constraints to typical livelihood activities are expected to persist throughout the outlook period. Poor households are likely to continue selling seed stocks and intensifying the sale of charcoal to help meet their basic food needs. Stressed (IPC Phase 2) and Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are expected across the country, with an increasing number of households in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) during the atypically long February/March to May lean season.

Current food security outcomes, October 2019



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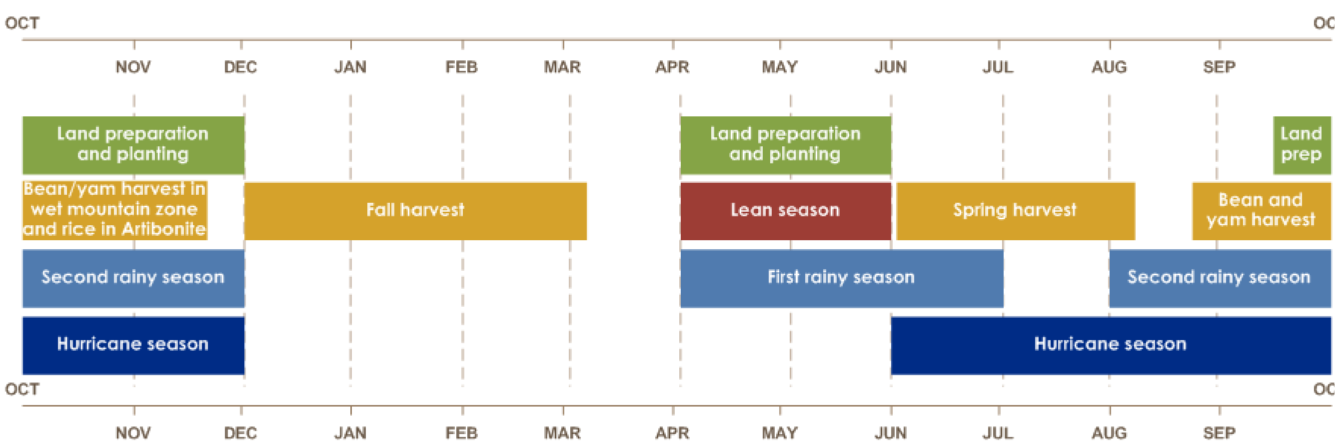
SEASONAL CALENDAR FOR A TYPICAL YEAR



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NATIONAL OVERVIEW

Current Situation

Impact of socio-political disruptions: The deterioration of the socio-political situation has intensified since the first half of September in the Haitian capital and in large cities throughout the country. The unrest is characterized by insecurity, depreciation of the gourde, inflation - which now exceeds 20 percent compared to 17.6 percent last June - disruption of main trade routes and looting and closing of some businesses. All regions in the country have been affected. The situation is particularly concerning in the metropolitan region of Port-au-Prince, Gonaïves, Cap-Haïtien, Jacmel, and Cayes, where the economic sector is stagnated at about 90 percent.

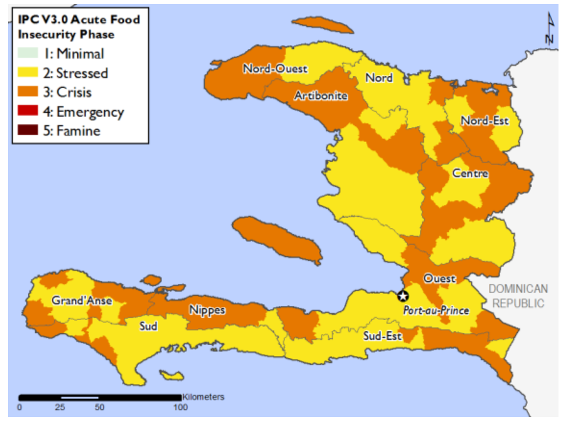
There are no signs of the situation calming down, which would likely restore confidence of investors and traders in the revival of the economy. In the meantime, food security conditions, notably the availability of food as well as physical and economic access to food, continue to deteriorate across the country.

Markets: Markets in urban areas are poorly stocked with both local and imported goods, however, some supplies remain available. Major markets, such as Croix-des-Bossales are barely functioning, though, and secondary markets (Croix des Bouquets, Salomon, etc.) are slowing down. Some food markets are closing in city centers. Furthermore, it is difficult for farmers to access urban or regional markets to sell their products, most of which are perishable, due to disruptions along trade routes.

Sources of income: Sources of income for many households are largely disrupted by the socio-political unrest, due to the difficulty associated with moving and transporting goods. Moreover, some business owners have announced the closing of their businesses or downsizing of personnel in response to the economic crisis. This suggests an increase in the rate of unemployment in the country. Others reportedly intend to lower the wages of their employees because of the low profitability of their investments. The hotel sector has been hit hard, with many hotels practically empty since the outbreak of hostilities across the country. Those who depend on a properly functioning market for their income are experiencing difficulties tied to access to markets.

Impact on food security: Markets are less supplied than normal, and sources of income are disrupted due to difficulties in movement and disruptions to the general economy. The poorest urban households, notably those that do not have access to remittances, are engaging in negative consumption-based coping strategies such as decreasing the size or number of meals. It is anticipated that the number of households in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) is increasing. Similarly, in rural areas, the poorest households are turning to negative coping strategies due to the increase in food prices and the decrease in sources of income including that from urban migration. However, rural areas that benefitted from good rainfall are in the process of harvesting and have some increased food available from harvests.

Projected food security outcomes, October 2019 to January 2020



Source: *FEWS NET*

Projected food security outcomes, February 2020 to May 2020

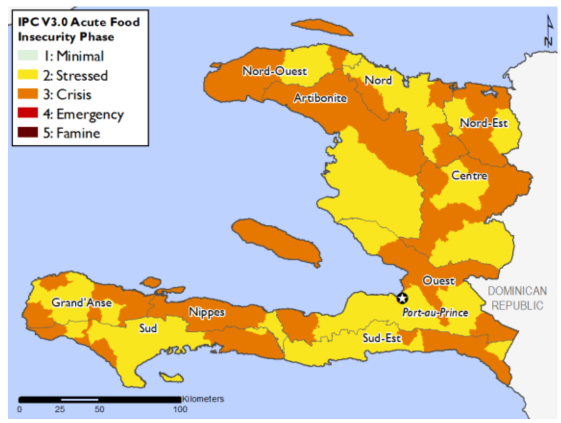


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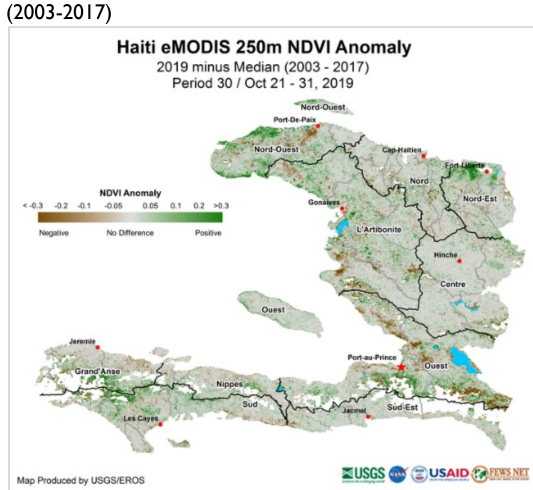
Figure 1a. Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) anomaly from October 21-31, 2019, compared to average (2003-2017)



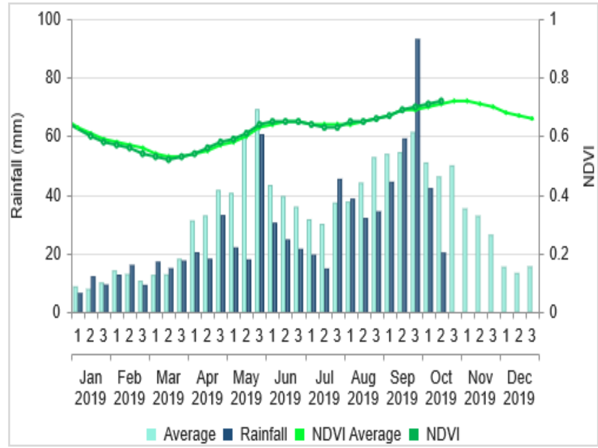
Source: *USGS/FEWS NET*

Climatic conditions and outlook: After a considerable rainfall deficit during the spring season, average rainfall was observed throughout the country starting in September. The exception to this was in certain zones, particularly in the Ouest and Sud-Est that received slightly below average rainfall.

Impact on seasonal crop production: Despite flooding in certain areas, rainfall from August to October proved to be favorable to the normal development of fall crops, with the exception of certain departments in the Ouest, Sud-Est, and Nord.

In addition, maize and black bean harvests are ongoing throughout the country. Starting in November, the harvest of pigeon peas (green) is expected to be an important source of food and income for some poor households. However, in certain areas, agroclimatic conditions proved less favorable and vegetation conditions are below normal.

Figure 1b. Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) anomaly from January 1 to October 10, 2019, compared to average (2007-2015)



Source: *WFP-VAM CHIRPS/MODIS*

The sociopolitical climate has not had a significant impact on crop production. Cereal crops and other non-perishable items are currently providing increased food availability in most regions.

Food availability: Local food availability consists mostly of beans and maize, which are currently being harvested, and gathered foods such as bananas, roots and tubers, and breadfruit (particularly in Grand'Anse and Sud). However, many markets are poorly supplied because of the socio-political unrest. The supply of imported goods, which typically make up the primary source of food for very poor households, has also been negatively affected by disruptions in trade flows within the country.

The current crisis is particularly concerning in the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince and the cities of Gonaïves, Cap-Haïtien, and Cayes, which have recently been experiencing riots. Markets are not functioning normally in terms of both supply and demand, as they are physically less accessible and less stocked.

Price trends: Staple food prices in October remain high compared to the month of September, especially for local maize and imported rice. Prices for other goods (cooking oil, beans, pasta, etc.) are on the rise, exacerbated by political turbulence and uncertainty regarding eventual peace and the restarting of normal economic activities.

In the month of September, the price of a 6 lb. (*marmite*) of local maize grain compared to August decreased by nearly 4 percent on average, dropping from 136 to 131 gourdes. Consecutive declines were observed in three out of ten markets: Fonds-des- Nègres (over 8%), Hinche (about 34%) and Jacmel (25%) following harvests reported in Plateau Central, in certain areas of Sud-Est, Nippes, and Grand'Anse. However, the price of grain maize is above that of last year and the five-year average by about 50 percent.

For the same period, the price of black beans rose by more than 6 percent on average, with a 6 lb. (*marmite*) rising from 402 gourdes in September compared to 378 gourdes in August. The price of black beans is 30 percent more expensive in September 2019 compared to September of 2018 but remains close to the five-year average.

Between September 2018 and September 2019, and compared to the five-year average, the price of imported rice has significantly increased by 20 percent and 58 percent, respectively.

Animal Production: The livestock situation, particularly of cattle and goats, has recently improved as a result of the latest rains, which have made fodder and water less scarce. However, certain species, particularly pigs, continue to face instances of Teschen disease, commonly referred to as "broken kidney" by pastoralists.

Supply and demand for agricultural labor: Currently, agricultural activities are mainly focused on the summer harvest and weeding for the fall crops in areas where rainfall conditions were favorable. However, there has been a slowdown of activities in various areas. Losses sustained during the spring 2019 season lowered farmers' capacity to invest in the current growing seasons. Because of this, demand for labor has declined. At the same time, considering the decline in typical sources of income due to socio-political instability, supply of labor is increasing to higher than normal levels.

Other sources of income: Poor households also rely on petty trade, including the sale of charcoal; however, these activities have been disrupted by the ongoing sociopolitical unrest. In border areas, migration toward the Dominican Republic is also limited by the challenges to movement along the main access routes.

Assumptions

The most likely scenario for October 2019 to May 2020 is based on the following national-level assumptions:

- **Socio-political unrest:** The socio-political crisis is expected to continue at currently observed levels.

- **ENSO conditions and weather forecasts:** According to USGS and NOAA forecasts, average rainfall is expected from October to December. Average rainfall is also expected during the first three months of 2020.

- **Agricultural production and harvesting:** Forecasts for an average rainfall season are favorable to winter harvests (beans from irrigated fields, maize, pigeon pea); however, the winter harvest only represents about 15 percent of national agricultural production, and its impact on total food availability is likely to be minimal (MARNDR, 2016). The spring 2020 season is expected to be average.

- **Food availability:** The supply of markets will likely continue to be impacted by civil insecurity and sociopolitical instability, which is expected to reduce imports and limit supplies coming from rural areas. However, local products from the summer, fall, and winter harvests are expected to remain available at the household level during the first few months of the projection period. In the second half of the projection period, especially starting in March 2020, availability of these goods is expected to decline as stocks from the previous harvest are depleted.

- **Agricultural labor:** The summer and fall harvests and the beginning of the winter season are expected to provide a new surge of demand for agricultural labor, but at rates below average due to the economic difficulties farmers are facing to pay laborers (due to losses during the spring 2019 season). The beginning of the spring season is anticipated to also provide agricultural labor opportunities.

- **Labor supply** will likely be limited due to the propensity of workers to migrate, attracted by work abroad, particularly in the Dominican Republic. However, because of sociopolitical unrest that is particularly affecting migration to cities, the supply of labor in rural areas is expected to increase

- **The sale of charcoal:** Engagement in this activity will likely increase throughout the scenario period. Firstly, during the winter season, which brings about the dry season, agricultural activities are expected to slow down until the next agricultural season, except in the irrigated plains. Secondly, the lean season begins in March 2020 during which time food expenditures tend to increase. These factors as well as increased engagement to earn additional income due to high staple food prices are expected to drive increased engagement in the sale of charcoal.

- **General price trends:** Prices of staple foods are expected to rise, due in part to political turmoil, including the decline in fuel subsidies which are likely to rise the cost of transportation, and the depreciation of the gourde. Price fluctuations typically follow the performance of the harvests and the availability of imported goods; overall, prices are expected to be above the five-year average, though.

- **Remittances:** As many households face potential losses in income due to sociopolitical unrest, remittances from the Haitian diaspora are expected to increase during the outlook period, especially in December (during end of the year festivities).

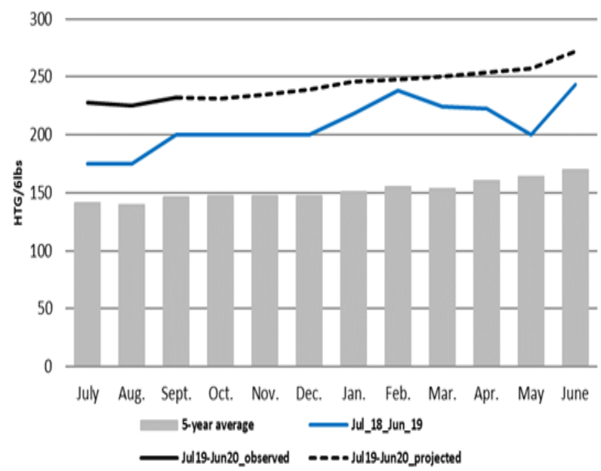
- **Trends in the exchange rate:** The gourde will likely continue to depreciate against the United States dollar and the Dominican peso. Depreciation is expected to continue as the sociopolitical climate remains poor. Political instability and the lack of confidence in the gourde are all determining factors in the expected depreciation of the gourde.

Most likely food security outcomes

From October to January, some food will be available from the summer, fall, and winter harvests, though these are typically not seasons that generate large harvests. Beans, maize, pigeon peas, and other crops such as tubers, bananas, breadfruit, and vegetables will provide the majority of food availability during the harvesting season.

Otherwise, with the ongoing crises, major income sources are expected to remain disrupted. Purchasing power during the outlook period is anticipated to decrease due to the high prices of staple foods and the depreciation of the local currency. This will reduce very poor households' access to staple foods. It is expected that they will resort to negative coping strategies such as borrowing on credit or donations to satisfy their food needs. In some cases, once these strategies are exhausted, some very poor households may reduce their food consumption and face food consumption gaps.

Figure 2. Retail Price of Imported Rice (4% Broken) (HTG/6lbs), Port-au-Prince



Source: *FEWS NET*

Regions that are the most vulnerable to food insecurity include those that face chronic issues (high poverty rates, low access to markets) or which received insufficient rainfall and suffered crop losses during the fall harvest. In the latter case, poor households have reduced availability of own-produced foods and, as a result, are relying heavily on markets, but face decreasing purchasing power due to high staple food prices. These areas are expected to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). For these populations, humanitarian food assistance is needed urgently. Furthermore, interventions to protect livelihoods are needed for households experiencing Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes.

The second half of the outlook period (February-May) coincides with the peak of the winter harvest, which is not a large harvest - consisting mainly of beans from irrigated fields and humid mountainous areas, as well as pigeon peas, roots and tubers, and bananas. This time period also coincides with the beginning of the spring 2020 season and the lean season, which is characterized by a decrease in the consumption of local commodities by poor households. Poor households typically rely more heavily on markets during this time period. Stocks from the fall harvest will be exhausted. The sale of labor for the beginning of the spring season and other sources of income should allow poor households to access some food from markets but will remain limited due to high prices of staple foods. The persistence of the current crises will likely continue to negatively impact typical livelihood activities. It is anticipated that an increasing number of poor households will deteriorate to Crisis (IPC Phase 3) during this time.

Events that might change the outlook

Possible events over the next six months that could change the most likely scenario

Area	Event	Impact on Food Security Conditions
National	Increased socio-political unrest	The escalation of violence would likely disrupt the already poor functioning of the economy and markets. This would force even more households to adopt negative coping strategies. Facing the exhaustion of certain coping strategies, food consumption deficits could grow, and some poor households could face Emergency (Phase 4) outcomes.
National	End to the ongoing socio-political unrest	An end to the current unrest should stabilize trade flows and food supply to most markets. Sources of income should also return to normal. This should lead to a decrease in the number of households facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes.

Area	Event	Impact on Food Security Conditions
Areas of agricultural production	Early end to rains	An abrupt end to the rainy season at a critical phase of development for the fall crops (rice, maize, beans) and at the beginning of the spring season could lead to significant crop losses and damage to households' livelihoods, especially for very poor households.

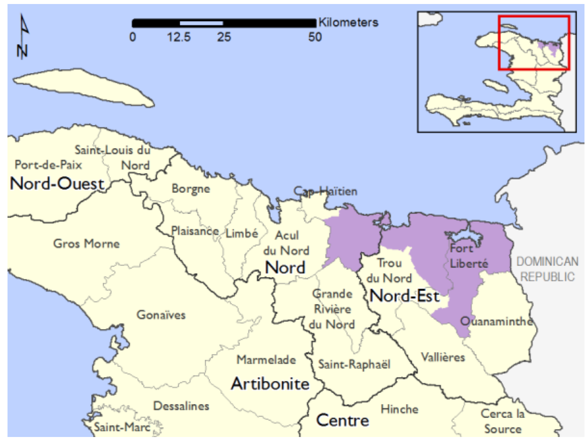
AREAS OF CONCERN

HT-02 (Nord et Nord-Est)

Current situation

Seasonal progress: Throughout July and August, rainfall was relatively normal. This favored the normal development of crops that are currently in fields and the beginning of the summer and fall harvesting seasons, except for a few departments in the Nord, notably Quartier Morin and Limonade that faced large rainfall deficits. Otherwise, average vegetation and above-average rainfall were observed from the end of May through October (Figure 3).

Area of concern reference map: HT02 – Nord et Nord-Est



Source: *FEWS NET*

Agricultural activities are focused on the fall harvest; however, they are somewhat limited by the decreased capacity of farmers to finance their land preparation activities and buy seeds due to the poor performance of the spring 2019 season. In almost all departments, maize crops are at different stages of maturation: vegetative phase, reproductive phase, development phase, and maturation of grains.

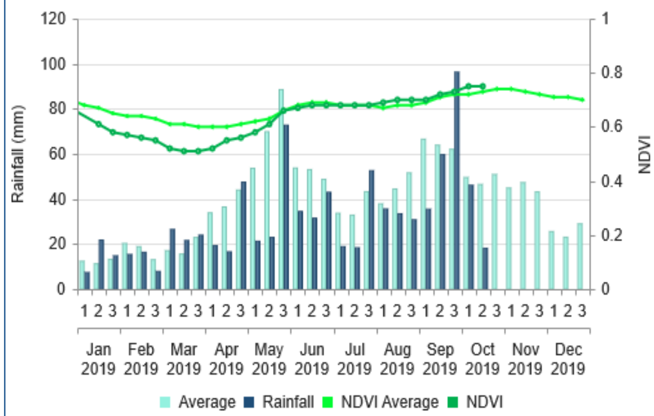
Food availability and consumption: Food typically comes from three sources: the market, stocks, and the fields. The markets are poorly supplied with both local and imported goods due to sociopolitical unrest. There remain some stocks of maize from the August and September harvests. In the fields, the harvest of green maize is ongoing and dried maize is awaiting collection in the fields. Bananas and tubers are also available. Rice is also available in rice-growing areas, particularly the Plaine de Maribahoux, the Plaine du Nord, and Limbé.

Very poor households only eat one meal per day and their consumption is limited to foods of poor nutritional value, with low dietary diversity, and made up of mostly broken rice, maize, banana, tubers, and - rarely - meat and vegetables. Results from the *Enquête nationale d'urgence pour la sécurité alimentaire et nutrition* ENUSAN study indicate a Borderline Food Consumption Score in this area. A multitude of indicators point to a convergence toward Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes. This situation is exacerbated by the low supply to markets, which are the main source of food for poor households. Though some very poor households still access a certain amount of food via in-kind payment or donation from better-off households.

Livestock situation: In contrast to the previous year, livestock feed is readily available as a result of the latest rains, which have made fodder and water less scarce. As such, animal body conditions are normal. However, it should be noted that the poor rarely own animals, even less so large livestock. Rather, poor households generally own a few goats that they acquired from better-off households as payment for herding livestock, which are regularly sold to meet food needs.

Price and market developments: Markets are supplied with products from the area, the Dominican Republic, and abroad; however, supplies are limited due to disruptions to the main access routes. Adding to this, the high prices make food access difficult, especially for very poor households. Prices of main staple goods, especially rice, maize, and beans are above last year and the five-year average.

Figure 3. Evolution of rainfall (mm) and NDVI in Nord-Est



Source : *WFP-VAM CHIRPS/MODIS*

Sources of income: Currently, main sources of income for poor and very poor households include crop production (maize, banana, yam), the selling of labor (mainly important for those near the Haitian-Dominican border), and the production of charcoal and wood. However, these sources of income are limited due to the sociopolitical turmoil. Agricultural activities are focused on land preparation and seeding for the fall season, though activities are limited due to the poor spring 2019 season which reduced farmers' capacities to hire at increased labor costs.

Humanitarian Assistance: About 3,836 households throughout six departments in the Nord-Est began receiving food vouchers of up to 50 USD per month through a program financed by USAID and executed by World Vision and *Centre de promotion pour l'allaitement maternel (*CEPAM). This program, which spans ten to twelve months, is already in its fifth month of programming. With their coupons, beneficiaries are able to buy rice, oil, flour, beans, maize, and spaghetti from pre-selected vendors. Compared to the population of each respective department, the number of beneficiaries of the program is relatively small. However, the program covers roughly 60 percent of basic food needs for beneficiaries receiving assistance.

Table 1. Food Aid in the Nord-Est

Departments	Estimated 2019 Population	Population Receiving Assistance	Population Receiving Assistance (%)
Ferrier	15 358	1200	7.81
Fort-Liberté	36 117	300	0.83
Carice	14 280	252	1.76
Vallières	24 686	520	2.11

Source: *CEPAM*

Assumptions

In addition to the above national-level assumptions, the most likely scenario for HT-02 (Nord et Nord-Est) is based on the following assumptions:

- According to NOAA, cyclone activity should be relatively average to slightly below average through the end of the season.

- Current crops (pigeon pea, yam, cassava, banana, maize) and the fall harvest (August to November 2019) indicate average food availability from harvests is likely, except in a few departments in the Nord that received poor rainfall, particularly Quartier Morin and Limonade. Starting in November, the harvest of pigeon peas (green) will be slightly above average and will be an important source of food for poor households. It is expected that the sociopolitical unrest will have little impact on agricultural activities.

- Fruits, especially mangos, will be available at normal levels in May and will constitute an important source of food and income for very poor households.

- The sale of charcoal and wood will intensify during the lean season (March to May) and is expected to be above average, particularly to counteract the loss of other sources of income due to socio-political instability.

- In the border areas, households will likely have reduced access to the border due to disruptions to roads. As a result, income from agricultural opportunities in the Dominican Republic is likely to be lower than normal.

- The NMME (North American Multi-Model-Ensemble) forecasts above average rainfall in the last trimester of 2019 and average rainfall for the beginning of 2020.

- The supply of markets is likely to continue to be affected by socio-political instability, as well as access to markets, including cross-border markets.

- The gourde is anticipated to continue to depreciate against the US Dollar and the Dominican peso, accentuated by the deterioration of the socio-political climate.

Most likely food security outcomes

Between October 2019 and May 2020, average harvests during the first four months of the outlook period will increase consumption among poor households, particularly of maize, beans, and pigeon peas. This may offset the decline in market purchases that are due to markets being under-supplied. Despite having stocks from the fall harvest- which are typically small- and near average income, purchasing power will be low for very poor households due to the high prices of staple food items. As a result, some poor households will be unable to meet their basic food needs through January 2020. However, some poor households will decrease the number and size of meals, and in some cases, seek donations or borrow to meet their basic food needs. Overall, Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are expected during the first half of the projection period.

Between February and May 2020, the lean season will occur. There are typically very few harvests during this time. To meet their consumption needs, poor households will depend on markets more heavily, and prices for food products will be increasing. Poor households that have exhausted initial coping strategies mentioned above will face consumption deficits, as the income from agricultural labor and the sale of charcoal will not be enough to cover food expenditures due to the high prices. As such, the area will remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3).

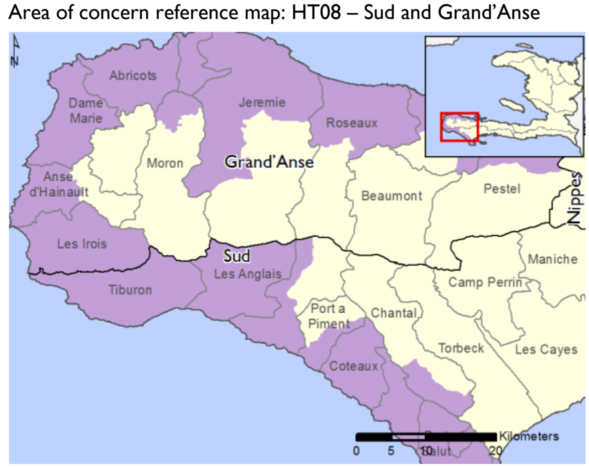
HT08 SUD ET GRAND'ANSE

Current situation

Seasonal progress (Spring): Between July and October, rainfall was average throughout the region of Grand'Anse, except in the departments of Bonbon, Abricots (particularly in the lowlands), Pestel, and Coral. The southern coastal area (from Saint Jean du Sud up to Tiburon) will continue to suffer from drought, where the rains are less regular and below average, except for Les Anglais where there are some small irrigated plots of land.

Rainfall was greatest in September, especially throughout the last dekad of the month, in contrast to previous months. However, rainfall still remains below average. In addition, rainfall was greater in the region of Grand'Anse than in Sud. The vegetation index is slightly below average in both departments, though most significantly below average in Sud.

Area of concern reference map: HT08 – Sud and Grand'Anse



Source: *FEWS NET*

Grand'Anse: Precipitation in the past two months was normally distributed over space and time and prompted farmers in the region to begin the summer and fall planting in August. Crops from the summer and fall developed normally, thanks to the recent rains. Harvesting of maize and beans is underway; however, yields are lower than those of last year. Cacao is increasingly becoming the main cash crop area of the region, particularly in Anse d'Hainault, Dame Marie, and Abricots. Meanwhile, departments such as Bonbon, Abricots, Pestel, and Coral did not benefit from sufficient rainfall and have a limited fall production.

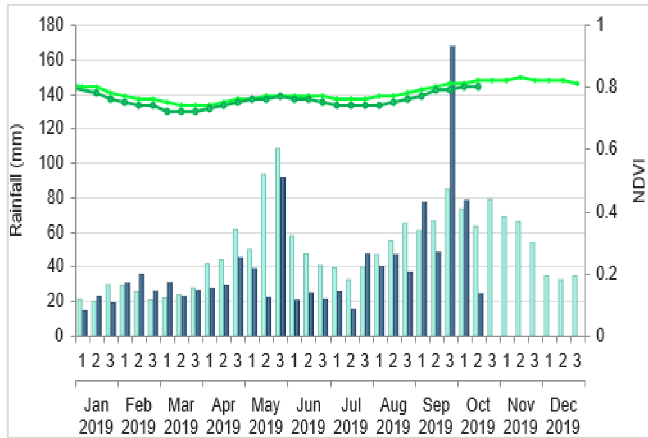
Sud: The situation is quite different along the southern coast, where the delay and irregularity of rains hampered crop growth, except in the departments of Les Anglais that has some irrigation systems. Maize and bean crops from July, as well as bananas and pigeon peas, suffered from drought. As a result, the crops were stunted, and yields seem to be compromised. Peanuts are the only crop that is developing normally in the region.

Food availability and consumption: Qualitative information collected by key informants in the region indicate a decrease in the availability of food at the household level, brought on by the current and previous poor harvests. However, gathered foods (banana, breadfruit, etc.) remain available. Departments that did not receive sufficient rainfall have less food availability due to poorer harvests. Only better-off households are able to afford at least two meals a day. Most poor and very poor households are consuming only one meal of reduced diversity. This observation is supported by preliminary results from the last food security and nutrition survey conducted in August by ENUSAN (*Coordination nationale pour la sécurité alimentaire* - CNSA, August 2019).

Price and market developments: As a result of the ongoing crisis, markets are less stocked than normal with both local and imported goods. This greatly influences prices, which remain well above last year and the five-year average, for example beans (Figure 5).

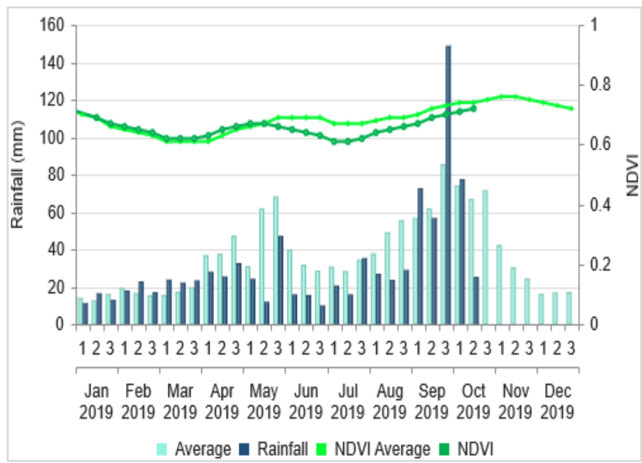
It should be noted that market functioning in the region continues to deteriorate, especially in Cayes, in both supply and demand. This is due to increased levels of insecurity and the increasing scarcity of fuel.

Figure 4a. Evolution of rainfall (mm) and NDVI in Grand'Anse



Source: *WFP-VAM CHIRPS/MODIS*

Figure 4b. Evolution of rainfall (mm) and NDVI in Sud



Source: *WFP-VAM CHIRPS/MODIS*

Sources of income: Agriculture is the primary source of income in the region, both in Grand'Anse and along the coast of Sud. In Grand'Anse, the production of cacao generates most of the income among farmers. Cacao is considered the most dynamic source of income, especially in Anse d'Hainault, Dame Marie, and Abricots. Along the coast in Sud, banana and beans remain the most important crops. However, the difficulty accessing markets is limiting income earned overall.

Petty trade and demand for agricultural labor has slowed down due to current disruptions, despite the ongoing summer and fall seasons, as farmers are unable to employ laborers. The production of charcoal and wood are only small sources of income in the region of Grand'Anse. However, in departments such as Tiburon, Dame Marie, Roseaux, Anse d'Hainault, it is an important source of income for very poor households.

Livestock situation: In Grand'Anse, livestock are in good physical conditions, with fodder readily available following recent rainfall. There remain some reported cases of livestock diseases such as Teschen and New Castle that affect pigs and poultry. Deaths were observed in both of these species in each community. Despite the support of certain international organizations (Solidarités, AVSF, etc.) that have been distributing other species (mainly goats), the size of herds remains well below herd sizes before Hurricane Matthew.

Along the coast in Sud, the livestock situation is more dire, considering the persistent drought conditions that reduce fodder and water for livestock. As such, livestock's' physical condition is deteriorating on top of cases of disease. Regarding herd sizes, the situation is similar to that observed in Grand'Anse: the size is considerably lower compared to the reference year.

Emergency Humanitarian Assistance: Currently, the zone HT08 receives very little humanitarian assistance. A few NGOs provide substantial assistance to the most vulnerable. In Anse d'Hainault, Solidarités International continues to support households affected by malnutrition by distributing food vouchers of up to 4,500 gourdes to households that have a child with signs of acute malnutrition. Most of these households live in mountainous areas, which are difficult to access. Along the coast of Sud, Heifer International is supporting pastoralists by distributing goats and poultry.

Assumptions

In addition to the above national-level assumptions, the most likely scenario for HT-02 (Nord et Nord-Est) is based on the following assumptions:

- According to USGS and NOAA, normal rainfall conditions are expected from October to December. These same conditions are expected to persist through the first three months of 2020.

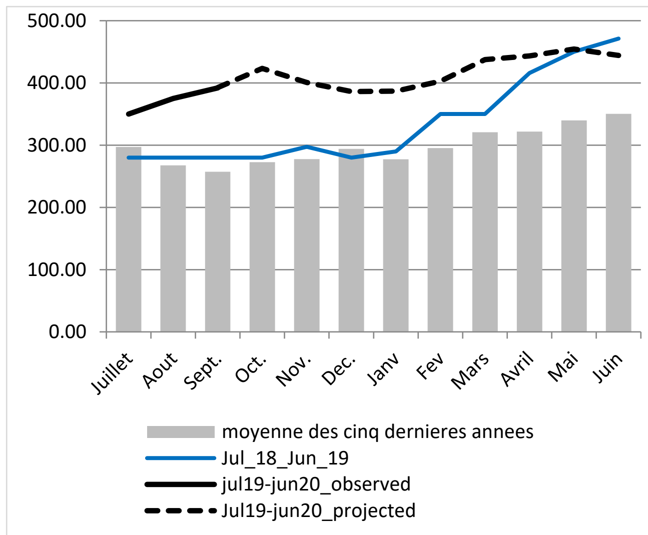
- Rainfall from January to May 2020 will likely be favorable for the launch of the spring 2020 season.

- Along with favorable climatic conditions, average harvests of banana, yam, cassava, breadfruit, seeding and fruit-bearing trees are expected. Harvests from the fall and winter seasons are expected to be about average.

- Between March and May, mangos (all varieties included) will be available and the harvest should be average. This represents an additional source of food for households, particularly the poor and very poor.

- The depreciation of the gourde will continue to negatively impact the price of imported and local staple foods.

Figure 5. Les Cayes: Retail Price of local black peas (HTG/6lbs)



Source: *FEWS NET*

- The price of foods will remain high, particularly for goods such as rice, vegetable oils, wheat flour, and maize.

- The low levels of supply of labor, due to migration, could further increase the cost of agricultural labor for farmers already struggling from losses this past spring. In addition, the high cost of agricultural inputs is expected to lead to a decline in demand for agricultural labor for the summer and fall harvests or the winter season.

- Socio-political unrest is likely to limit access to markets and continue to raise prices.

- The supply of markets will likely continue to be affected by the socio-political instability.

Most likely food security outcomes

Between October 2019 and February 2020, harvests from the current period are small and typically do not contribute much toward total food availability. Meanwhile, markets that are disturbed as a result of the ongoing crisis are likely to remain less supplied. As such, the current harvests are the main sources of food through February. This will likely cause an increase in prices of staple food items, limiting access for the poor and very poor. While significant consumption deficits are not likely, the decrease in purchasing power and the low levels of income generated over the period will lead to a reduction in the quality and quantity of food consumed. As a result, poor households are likely to engage in some unsustainable and negative copings strategies.

In departments that received below average rainfall, harvest activities for the summer and fall seasons are reduced. In order to purchase food on the markets, poor households will turn to non-agricultural sources of income (sale of wood and charcoal, petty trade, etc.), though these opportunities have also been disrupted by the sociopolitical unrest. Some poor households will ultimately resort to limiting the number or size of meals or turn to credit or donations to access food. It is expected this population will be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3).

Between February and May 2020, the exhaustion of food stocks and the absence of harvests during the season (apart from foods gathering) will cause a decrease in the availability of local foods. Poor households will have to buy staple foods almost exclusively from markets, despite higher prices. In addition, there is no sign of the riots across the country letting up. As such, free circulation of goods and people will likely remain disrupted. Markets will likely remain under-supplied. The decrease in purchasing power of poor households will likely persist. Food consumption will remain limited and poor households will likely continue engaging in negative coping strategies.

Activities tied to the spring season will generate substantial income. This will allow households to buy seeds for their fields or to buy food. However, purchasing power will remain weak, considering the increased prices and ongoing sociopolitical instability. The area will remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), with more households facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes through the lean season.

ABOUT SCENARIO DEVELOPMENT

To project food security outcomes, FEWS NET develops a set of assumptions about likely events, their effects, and the probable responses of various actors. FEWS NET analyzes these assumptions in the context of current conditions and local livelihoods to arrive at a most likely scenario for the coming eight months. Learn more here.