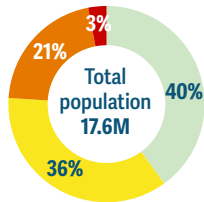
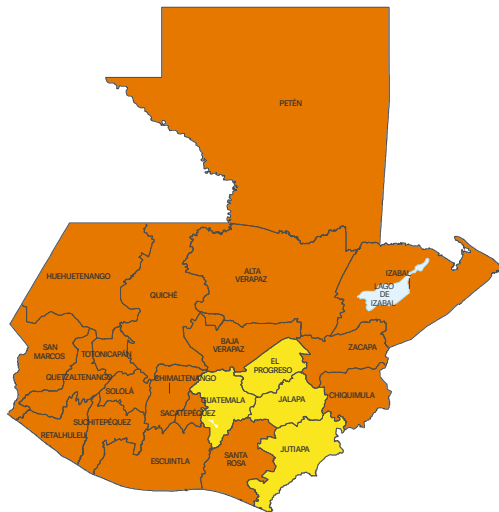


**ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY | Improvements in 2023, but the number of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity remain near the high of 2022, mostly due to escalating food prices and low rural incomes.**

**PEAK 2023 (JUNE–AUGUST)**

**4.3M** people or **24%** of the total population faced high levels of acute food insecurity during the peak of the lean season. Of them, 0.6M people were in Emergency (IPC Phase 4).

Despite a moderate decrease of 0.3 million people since the 2022 peak, high levels of acute food insecurity persist, reflecting elevated food prices, low labour demand due to a seasonal reduction of agricultural activities aggravated by the occurrence of El Niño, and depletion of household food stocks.

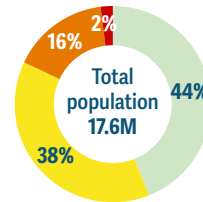
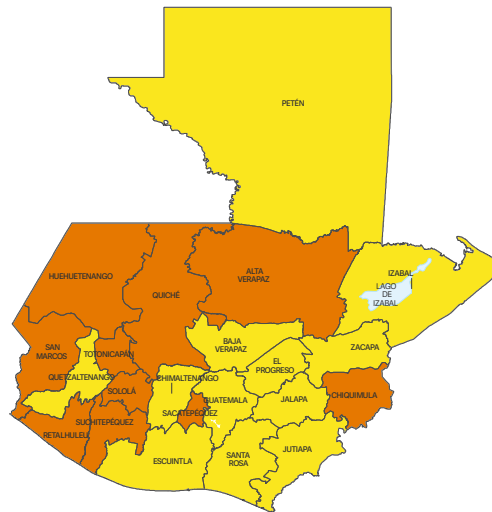


Source: Guatemala IPC TWG, June 2023.

**PROJECTION 2024 (SEPTEMBER 2023–FEBRUARY 2024)**

**3.1M** people or **18%** of the total population are projected to face high levels of acute food insecurity.

This seasonal decrease assumes improved food availability, a high demand for casual agricultural labour and a seasonal reduction in staple food prices – although still higher than before the COVID-19 pandemic. However, in localized areas, dry conditions and torrential rains adversely affected crop production. The projection includes over 0.3 million people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4).



Source: Guatemala IPC TWG, June 2023.

**DRIVERS OF THE CRISIS 2023–2024**

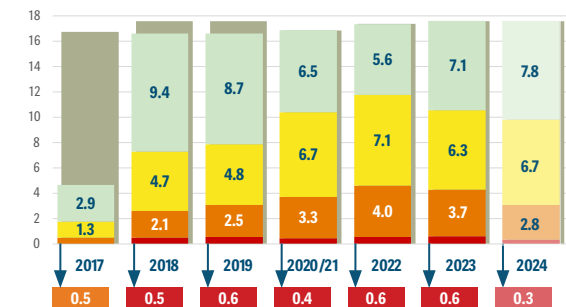
**Economic shocks** High food prices and limited income opportunities for daily wage earners significantly impacted household purchasing power. This curtailed food access when smallholder households' grain reserves ran out during the June–August 2023 lean season (IPC, June 2023).

Prices of staple foods, mainly beans and maize, declined during the last two months of 2023 from their previously elevated levels. As of December, the price of beans remained more than 20 percent higher year-on-year, while the price of maize was below year-earlier levels (FAO, January 2024). Food inflation

stood at 8.5 percent (WFP Economic Explorer, 2023).

**Weather extremes** The El Niño phenomenon was linked to below-average rainfall and higher temperatures, especially in northern regions, impacting crop production in the Primera cycle, particularly for subsistence farmers (FEWS NET, September 2023). About 6.5 percent of the total maize-planted area was affected as of mid-October 2023 (FAO, November 2023). Despite the localized impact, 2023 maize production is expected to increase year-on-year (Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Alimentación, December 2023).

**Peak numbers of people (in millions) by phase of acute food insecurity, 2017–2024**



Note: The projection for 2024 does not refer to the expected peak period.  
Source: Guatemala IPC TWG.

**A protracted food crisis** An upper-middle-income country, Guatemala has been included in all GRFC editions and classified as a major food crisis since 2018. Levels of acute food insecurity increased from 2018, reaching their highest in June–September 2022 due to weather-related shocks, notably drought, and hurricanes Eta and Iota in 2020, as well as the economic impacts of COVID-19 and persisting inflation sustained by high global commodity prices.