

LATIN AMERICA

REGIONAL NEWSLETTER | 2021 - N° 1

COVERAGE TERM: JANUARY 1ST - FEBRUARY 28TH 2021

DATE: 16/03/2021

PERU

Encuesta en más de 200 hogares de Lima Metropolitana: los ingresos económicos familiares se han reducido en promedio en un **33%**.

CENTRAL AMERICA

De acuerdo a las predicciones del sistema de información sobre seguridad alimentaria en Centroamérica impulsado por Acción contra el Hambre, **2.9 millones** de personas están en una situación de muy alta de vulnerabilidad alimentaria en 81 municipios de Guatemala, Nicaragua y Honduras.

1. HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT

CENTRAL AMERICA

Intense climate-related disasters have been on the rise worldwide. In Central America, the 2020 season passed an unprecedented milestone to become **the most active hurricane season in recorded history, leaving more than 7 million of affected people behind after** (OCHA, 2020).

The damage from hurricanes ETA & IOTA was especially noticeable in Nicaragua, Guatemala and Honduras. In response to requests for international aid issued by the governments of the three countries, international organizations and NGOs such as Action Against Hunger have launched humanitarian response actions to provide temporary shelter, food assistance, clean water and adequate sanitation conditions.

As the floodwaters receded, Action Against Hunger and other humanitarian community institutions have accompanied the families in their return to their places of residence and homes, many of them devastated. Throughout the month of February, work has begun to rebuild damaged infrastructure, including water supply systems, while providing temporary support to the most vulnerable households through economic transfers that allow them to meet basic food needs.

THE SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, WHICH HAS INCREASED MIGRATORY INTENT, ESPECIALLY AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE FROM AFFECTED AREAS SUCH AS THE SULA VALLEY IN HONDURAS, IS ADDED TO THE DESTRUCTION CAUSED BY THE HURRICANES.

At the end of January, the international media reported on the clashes between Honduran migrants who were part of a caravan heading to the United States, and Guatemalan police forces that impeded their advance. Although caravans are no longer visible, it is not the attempt of thousands of Central Americans who each week begin their migratory journey to the North, exposing them to multiple risks and abuses. **Protecting the migrant community remains a top priority for humanitarian actors.**



COLOMBIA

According to estimates by Migración Colombia, **there are currently 1,729,537 Venezuelans in the country**, of which 762,823 are in a regular situation, and 966,714 are irregular (Migración Colombia, December 2020). The 51% of migrants from Venezuela are men, 49% are women; 23.4% are under 5 years old, 74% are between 18 and 59 years old, and 2.7% are 60 or over.

Although as of December 2020 only 44% of the Venezuelan migrant population in Colombia was considered to be in a regular situation, the announcement made by the Government of Colombia in February 2021 of the creation of a “Temporary Protection Statute for Venezuelan Migrants”, which has the potential to lift legal barriers to 56% of irregular migrants already in the country, as well as new arrivals, they can be integrated to the productive “life of the country” (Migración Colombia, February 2021. Press Release: In an unprecedented event, Colombia seeks to shake hands with more than two million Venezuelans). However, this important step needs to be accompanied by policies and programmes

that promote the inclusion of migrants and support for host territories.

IN ADDITION, THE HUMANITARIAN SCENARIO LINKED TO VIOLENCE AND CONFLICT IN THE COUNTRY HAS WORSENER COMPARED TO THE PREVIOUS YEAR, SO FAR IN 2021, THERE HAVE BEEN 16 MASSACRES IN RURAL AREAS IN 14 MUNICIPALITIES WITH A BALANCE OF 611 FATALITIES.



It follows from the confluence of multiple factors that make the security situation in the country critical.

- First, there is an **increase in illegal economies derived from the indiscriminate exploitation of natural resources** (wood, gold, etc.)
- Second, **there are areas in which multiple armed actors are presently called GAO (Organized Armed Groups)**, who dispute the control of the territory and the management of economies of illicit use and transport routes, thereby generating humanitarian effects on the civilian population (displacements, confinements, selective murders). Thus, generating humanitarian effects on the civil population in their wake, such as displacements, confinements, and selective assassinations.

PERU

There is a situation of uncertainty before April 11 general elections, and changes that may occur in relation to, for example, public budgets, which prioritized, among others, actions aimed at public health and health care within the framework of the containment of COVID-19, and actions aimed at alleviating poverty within the framework of the State of National Emergency.

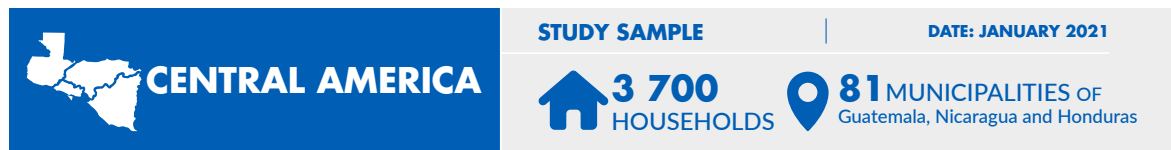
During this electoral period, numerous candidates are issuing **xenophobic attacks against the Venezuelan population**, making promises of massive expulsion. This generates **a potential risk for the protection situation of this population, and a potential setback in all the advances made by international cooperation and the Refugees and Migrants Working Group.**

In addition, various press media have replicated false information about the vaccines used in the Peruvian vaccination campaign against COVID-19, which is generating fear among the population, especially older adults, among whom the rejection of being vaccinated is growing. This could slow the advance of vaccination in the country, which has all its regions at high, very high or extreme alert levels. In addition to the COVID-19 emergency, Peru faces a state of emergency in 03 regions due to floods and earth movements.

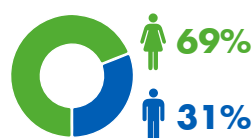




2. STUDIES / SURVEYS



FOOD SECURITY INFORMATION SYSTEM IN CENTRAL AMERICA



2.9 MILLION PEOPLE are in a situation of **very high food vulnerability**



1.2 OUT OF 10 HOUSEHOLDS have adequate food security, in the Central American Dry Corridor.

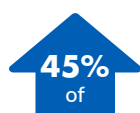
From the households surveyed:



THE PURCHASE OF FOOD TAKES THE of the economic income, which leaves these rural families with very little margin for other types of expenses such as the acquisition of hygiene products, water, electricity or services as important as medical care or education.



Some Central American governments have made an important effort to mitigate the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic with different types of aid.



households in El Salvador



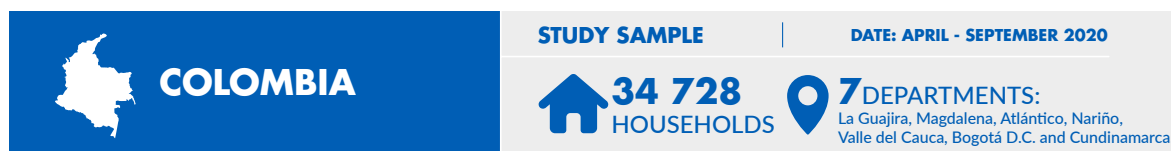
households in Guatemala



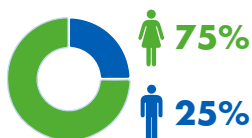
households in Honduras

said they had received some type of assistance.

THE FULL REPORT CAN BE FOUND [HERE](#)



Characteristics identified in the households which an eligibility survey was applied to evaluate their possible participation in the ADN Dignidad program, according to their level of vulnerability. ADN Dignidad provides humanitarian assistance through Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) so that vulnerable migrant, returnee and host households have access to basic goods and services.

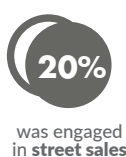


From the households surveyed:



Almost **90%** of the respondents were below the Colombian poverty line

The COVID-19 situation has led to increased unsatisfied needs for the families below the poverty line, who must make their living in the informal sector.



In the context of a pandemic, the migrant population is especially vulnerable.



of households declared that they lived in overcrowded shelters, with more than 2.5 people per room.



indicated that the situation was critical, with 5 people living per room.



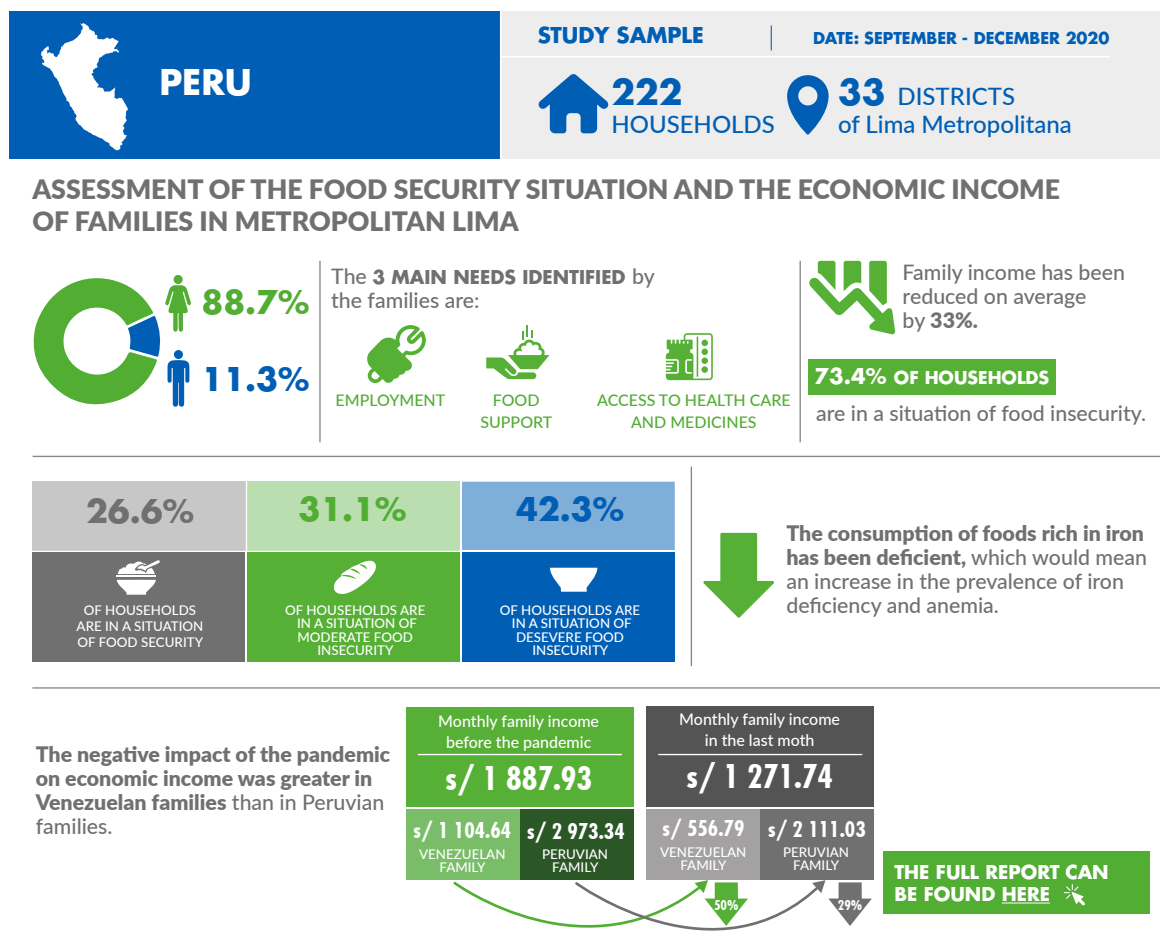
8 OUT OF 10 of the critically overcrowded households were headed by women.

The ADN Dignidad Program undertakes other surveys, such as the baseline, which is applied to a representative sample of the beneficiary population

- Only **2%** of the surveyed households claimed to be able to cover all their basic needs, **81.5%** declared to be able to satisfy some, **13%** the majority and **3.5%** none.
- Among the priorities identified by the households, **35%** prioritized food, **30%** shelter, **22%** other priorities, and **13%** hygiene items.

ASK FOR MORE INFORMATION:
astamatiadi@co.acfspain.org







3. INNOVATION

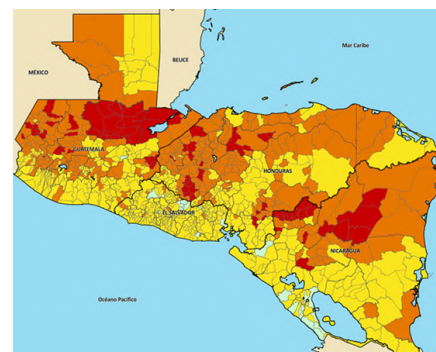
CENTRAL AMERICA

In January 2021, Action Against Hunger in alliance with GIS4TECH, a spin-off company of the University of Granada (Spain), presented the result of an initiative supported by ECHO. This system does a monthly prediction of the food security situation of 1053 municipalities distributed between Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua. Predictions are carried out using software and artificial intelligence algorithms that combine information from public organizations, household surveys carried out on a representative sample of rural communities in the Dry Corridor, and monthly agroclimatic analysis provided by satellite images. Results are periodically updated on an open-use web platform:

<https://bi.gis4tech.com/ECHO-BETA>

This system helps to identify those territories where there is a greater deterioration of food security, and therefore, facilitates the prioritization and targeting of resources from the humanitarian community.

PREDICTIONS MAP IN CENTRAL AMERICA



DECEMBER 2020

COLOMBIA

Regarding the implemented measures throughout the national territory, in order to reduce the spread of COVID-19, our teams adopted innovative methodologies linked to the digitization of processes to ensure care for the most vulnerable people. In the case of the department of Santander, for the implementation of a project focused on livelihoods with migrant population and host communities, a whole **structure based on digital platforms and tools was developed to ensure its proper development.**

For the initial phases of characterization and selection of production initiatives, virtual forms and dynamic dashboards were developed to speed up the analysis and processing of the information provided. This process made it possible to have reliable and updated information for decision-making regarding prioritization, progress and results obtained. Once the initiatives that would participate in the training workshops with the CANVAS methodology had been selected. A series of training videos were produced which were disseminated through the WhatsApp platform, in which a group was created with the participants. Reminders were sent periodically to review and internalize the contents. This strategy was complemented by questionnaires on the KOBO platform through the level of understanding of the proposed topics was evaluated.

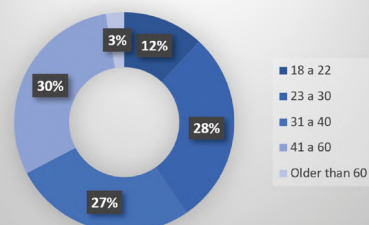
The initiatives that were successfully approved with the courses were able to access to the delivery of seed capital to strengthen their productive initiatives. This process was accompanied by technical advice from the professionals of the organization and the creation of an intermediation network with companies and the signing of private agreements to promote employment and entrepreneurship. Through these strategies, the execution of the project was ensured, preserving the health of our beneficiaries and staff.

DASHBOARD Colombia

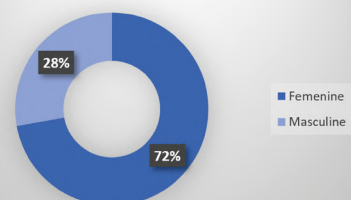
VIVES PROYECTO
ACCION CONTRA EL HAMBRE



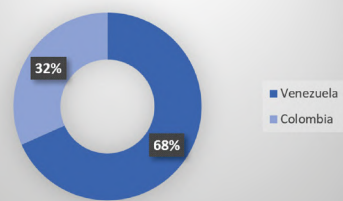
Average age of beneficiaries



Gender of beneficiaries



Country of origin



DASHBOARD from the digital platform developed in Santander, Colombia.



4. REGIONAL RESPONSE

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE



3 847	People trained on WASH
8	Sanitation facilities rehabilitated/constructed
42	Water filters, eco-filters and tanks delivered
2 201	Hygiene items and Kits delivered
22 881	People reached by water points rehabilitated/constructed
7	Handwashing facilities built / rehabilitated

50 911
PEOPLE
REACHED

FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS



111	People trained in food security and livelihoods
8 635	People receiving food aid
36	Agricultural supplies delivered
5 611	People assisted with Cash transfers or vouchers

14 393
PEOPLE
REACHED

HEALTH AND NUTRITION



808	People benefited with COVID-19 prevention actions
132	People provided with Technical advice on nutrition and health
2 004	Phsycosocial support consultations
3 692	People supported with outpatient consultations
4 134	People trained on Child care practices
161	People trained on prevention of COVID-19
527	Anemia screenings
3 771	People screened for malnutrition
36	Health supplies distributed
956	Children treated for deworming
3 438	Children treated for malnutrition
20	People monitored for malnutrition
2 828	People sensitized in Sexual and reproductive health
7 438	People provided with COVID 19 prevention material
222	Health workers, promotoros and volunteers trained
5 447	People assisted in Sexual and reproductive health

59 172
PEOPLE
REACHED



DISASTER AND RISK MANAGEMENT

5	Shelters strengthened with registrarion procedures
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71
PEOPLE
REACHED

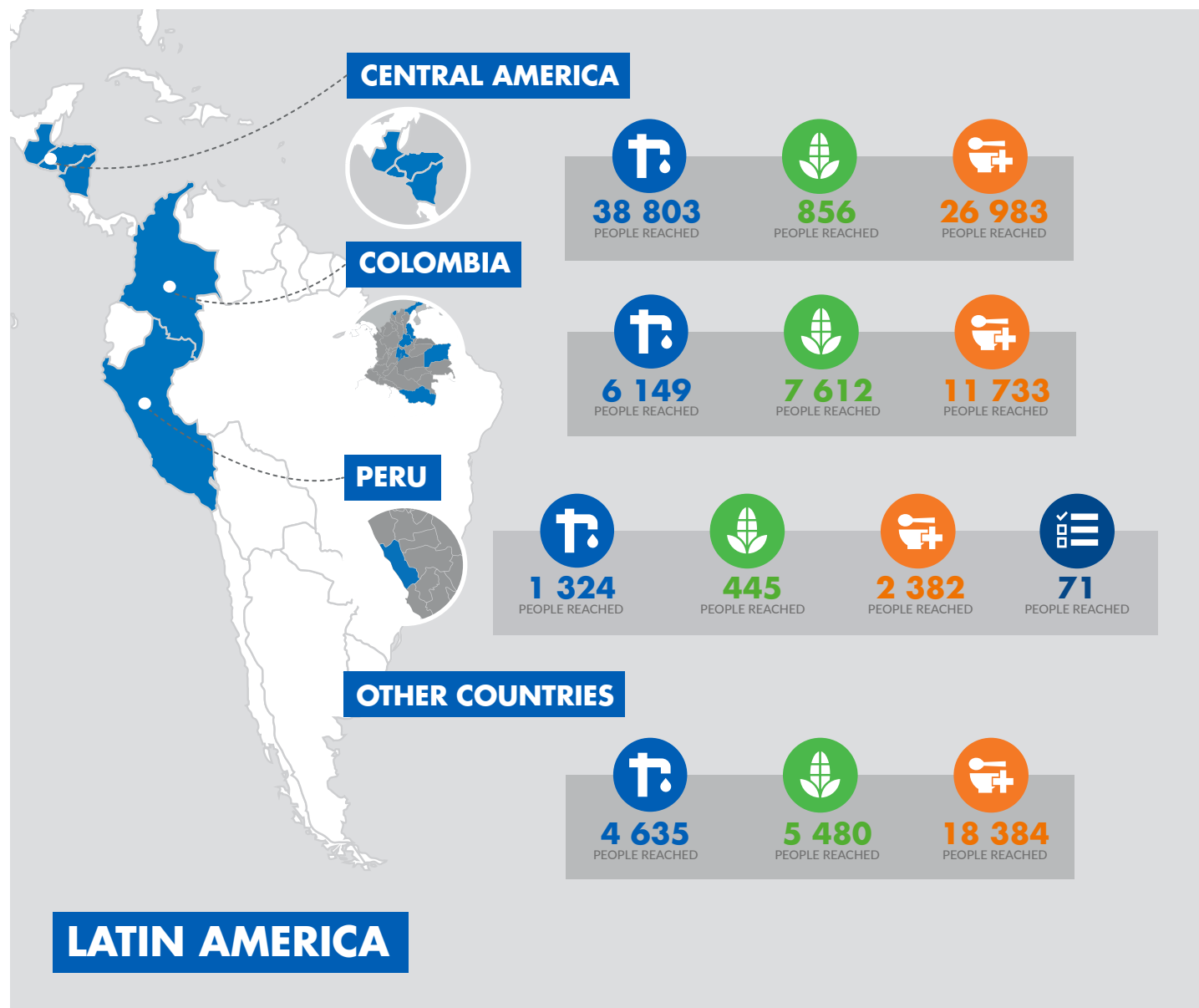
 **6**
COUNTRIES

 **82**
PROJECTS
UNDERWAY

 **444**
PROFESSIONALS



GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE



49.5%
ARE
WOMEN



41.6%
ARE
MEN



8.8%
ARE CHILDREN
UNDER 5 YEARS OLD



105 899 TOTAL PEOPLE REACHED



CENTRAL AMERICA

ACTION AREAS AND PEOPLE REACHED BY SECTOR



FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

- 56 People trained in food security and livelihoods
- 800 People received food aid



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

- 5 WASH training workshops
- 8 Sanitation facilities rehabilitated/constructed
- 22 Water supply filters, eco-filters and tanks delivered
- 1 802 Hygiene items and Kits delivered
- 17 869 People reached by water points rehabilitated/constructed
- 7 Handwashing facilities built / rehabilitated

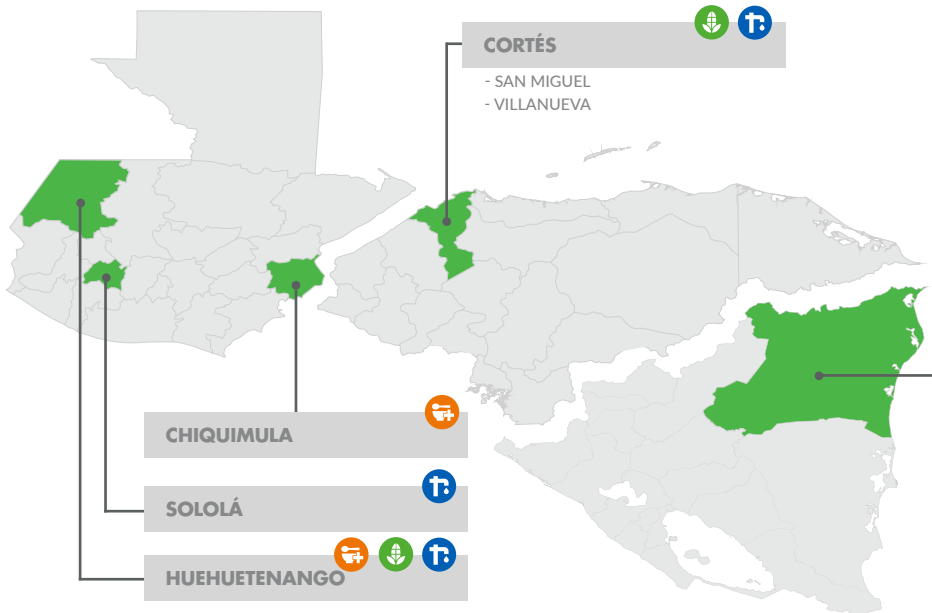


HEALTH AND NUTRITION

- 132 People provided with Technical advice on nutrition and health
- 395 People trained on Child care practices
- 111 Malnutrition screening
- 36 Health supplies distributed
- 1 720 Children treated for malnutrition
- 3 516 Malnutrition monitoring sessions
- 5 COVID-19 prevention supplies delivered
- 207 Health workers, promoters and volunteers trained

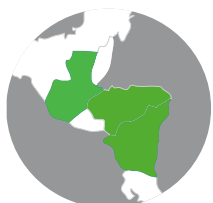
GUATEMALA

HONDURAS

**64 476**PEOPLE
REACHEDACTIONS IN
5 DEPARTAMENTOS**25**
PROJECTS
UNDERWAY**90**
PROFESSIONALS

OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

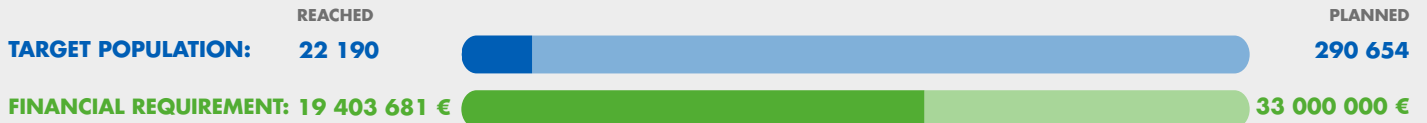
Action Against Hunger has identified that **there are great unmet needs related to the nutritional sector in Honduras**, and more efforts should be focused on this sector.





COLOMBIA

ACTION AREAS AND PEOPLE REACHED BY SECTOR



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

- 3 213 People trained on WASH
- 20 Water filters, eco-filters and tanks delivered
- 234 Hygiene items and Kits delivered
- 726 People reached by water points rehabilitated/constructed



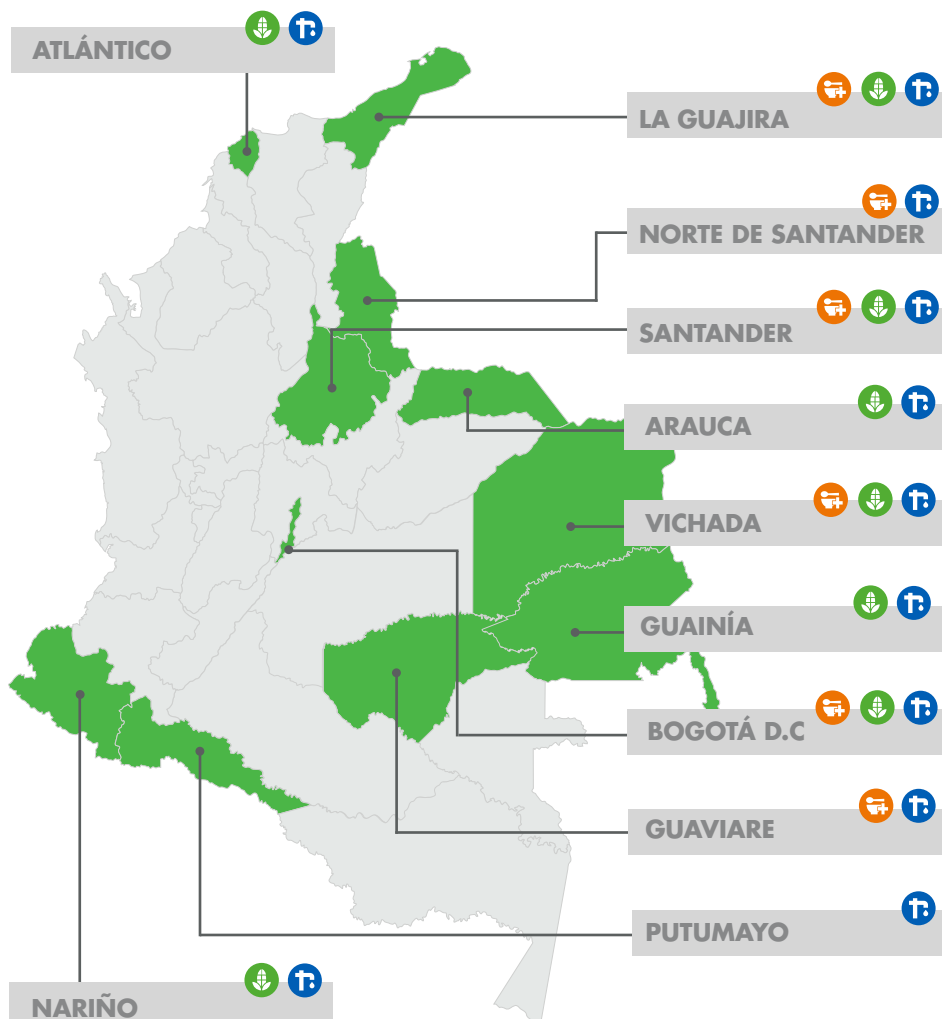
FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

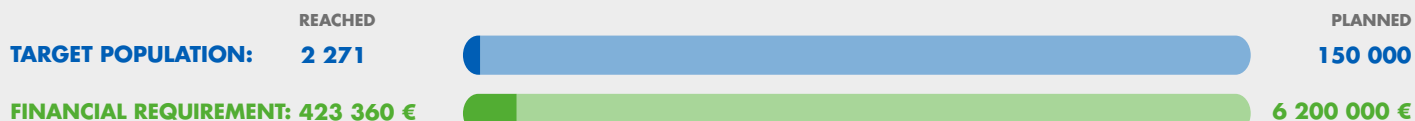
- 29 People trained in food security and livelihoods
- 263 Food aid delivered
- 36 Agricultural supplies delivered
- 5 598 People receiving Cash transfers or vouchers



HEALTH AND NUTRITION

- 708 People benefited with COVID-19 prevention actions
- 170 Psychosocial support consultations
- 2 599 People trained on Child care practices
- 2 663 Malnutrition screenings
- 1 590 Children treated for malnutrition
- 6 People monitored for malnutrition
- 2 044 People sensitized in Sexual and reproductive health
- 48 Sexual and reproductive health sessions
- 1 363 People provided with COVID-19 prevention material

**22 190**PEOPLE
REACHEDACTIONS IN
11 DEPARTAMENTOS**34**
PROJECTS
UNDERWAY**291**
PROFESSIONALS

**PERU****ACTION AREAS
AND PEOPLE REACHED BY SECTOR****WATER, SANITATION
AND HYGIENE**

- 615** People trained on WASH
- 165** Hygiene items and Kits delivered
- 3** Water points rehabilitated/constructed

**FOOD SECURITY
AND LIVELIHOODS**

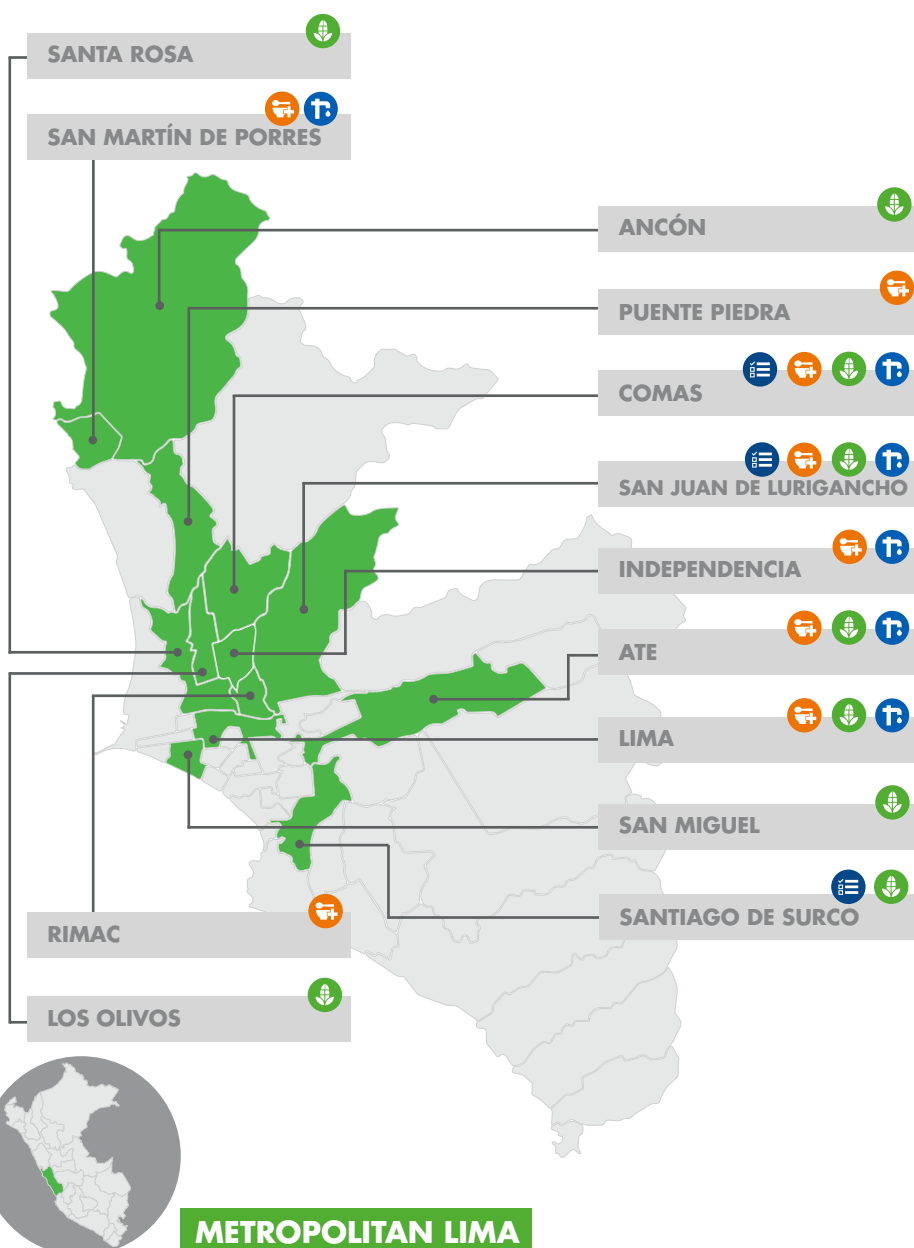
- 26** People trained in food security and livelihoods
- 15.3** Tons of food delivered
- 13** People receiving Cash transfers or vouchers

**NUTRICIÓN
Y SALUD**

- 100** People benefited with COVID-19 prevention actions
- 1 834** Phsycosocial support consultations
- 310** People trained on Child care practices
- 161** People trained on COVID-19 prevention practices
- 694** People sensitized in Sexual and reproductive health

**DISASTER AND
RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 5** Shelters strengthened with registrarion procedures



2 271
PEOPLE
REACHED

13
ACTIONS IN
DISTRICTS

13
PROJECTS
UNDERWAY

40
PROFESSIONALS

OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

There is an **urgent need to improve WASH and biosecurity situation of community kitchens and "ollas communes"** that are attending to the food needs of more and more families in Peru, not always with adequate hygiene and quality due to lack of access to water, hygiene and disinfection products, or PPE.



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Metropolitan Lima, Peru

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ACTION
AGAINST
HUNGER