



EL NIÑO 2026

RISKS, RESILIENCE AND COLLECTIVE ACTION IN LATIN AMERICA

THEMATIC NEWSLETTER



**ACTION
AGAINST
HUNGER**

SEPTEMBER 2026

PUBLICATION DATE: 30/09/2026



1. CONTEXT AND REGIONAL OVERVIEW

Latin America and the Caribbean are increasingly exposed to the effects of climate change, whether through extreme events or through variability that is losing its historical patterns and becoming less predictable and more amplified. In 2026, climate forecasts confirm the occurrence of a new episode of the El Niño Phenomenon (ENSO), whose effects could extend into 2027 and vary significantly across territories.

El Niño does not have the same impacts across the region. In the Central American Dry Corridor, the Caribbean, and areas of northern South America, rainfall deficits and water stress affect agricultural production, access to water, and livelihoods. In the Andes and along the Pacific coast of South America, by contrast, increased rainfall can lead to flooding, landslides, and damage to infrastructure and productive activities. These risks are compounded by heatwaves, wildfires, and changes in the distribution and patterns of climate-sensitive diseases.^{1 2}

The intensity of these impacts also depends on pre-existing social and economic conditions. Poverty and social inequality, food and nutrition insecurity, gaps in access to safe water and sanitation, environmental degradation, territorial inequalities, and displacement can heighten communities' exposure and vulnerability and limit their capacity to recover. These risks affect rural populations, Indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples, women, girls, boys, and adolescents, and other groups facing greater barriers to accessing services and resources, in differentiated ways.

In this context, anticipating climate impacts is essential. Anticipatory action makes it possible to use risk and forecast information to trigger measures before losses occur, protecting livelihoods and reducing subsequent humanitarian needs.^{2 3}

This publication presents up-to-date evidence on the risks associated with ENSO, its impacts, and existing preparedness capacities in communities in Guatemala, Honduras, Peru, and Colombia, complemented in Venezuela with secondary sources and qualitative evidence. The study incorporates communities' perceptions and experiences to identify not only where risks are concentrated, but also what capacities, knowledge, and solutions already exist in the territories.

Building on this evidence, we seek to help strengthen coordination among communities, governments, humanitarian and development organizations, international cooperation, and other actors, promoting prevention, mitigation, anticipation, and response measures tailored to the realities of each territory.



2. REGIONAL RESULTS AND KEY STUDY FINDINGS

To understand how communities are preparing for the El Niño Phenomenon, we carried out a regional exercise aimed at identifying risks, vulnerabilities, and anticipatory capacities, combining quantitative and qualitative information with the knowledge of local organizations and authorities.

Between June 24 and August 6, 2026, we conducted fieldwork in Guatemala, Honduras, Peru, and Colombia, which included 764 community perception surveys, 5 focus groups, and 33 interviews.⁴ The study covered both rural and urban communities and made it possible to analyze common patterns as well as differences between territories.

4

COUNTRIES

Guatemala, Honduras,
Peru, and Colombia

15

DEPARTMENTS /
STATES

7 in Central America, 4 in
Peru, and 4 in Colombia

220

COMMUNITIES
REACHED

villages, neighborhoods,
and hamlets

764

PEOPLE
SURVEYED

households across
the 4 countries

33
5

INTERVIEWS
FOCUS
GROUPS

community, technical,
and institutional actors

69.5%

OF RESPONDENTS
ARE WOMEN

72.3%

IN RURAL AREAS

47.7%

SELF-IDENTIFY AS
INDIGENOUS

¹ Joint Anticipatory Action Appeal. FAO–WFP 2026–2027

² América Latina y el Caribe: El Niño. OCHA 2026–2027, (pp. 2–4)

³ State of the Climate in Latin America and the Caribbean. WMO 2025

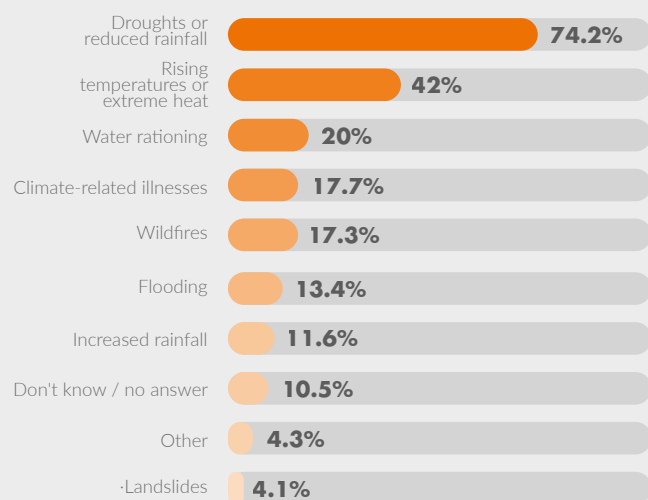
⁴ In Central America, 278 surveys were conducted (197 in Guatemala and 81 in Honduras), and 24 interviews were conducted with institutional and community stakeholders in Lempira (Honduras), Sololá, Petén, and Chiquimula (Guatemala). In Peru, 67 surveys were administered in Amazonas, Cusco, San Martín, and Ucayali, supplemented by 3 interviews and 2 focus groups in Ocongate (Cusco) and Ucayali. In Colombia, 419 surveys were administered in Norte de Santander, La Guajira, Amazonas, and Caquetá, supplemented by 6 interviews and 3 focus groups in Amazonas, La Guajira, and Norte de Santander.



EL NIÑO IS EXPERIENCED DIFFERENTLY DEPENDING ON THE TERRITORY

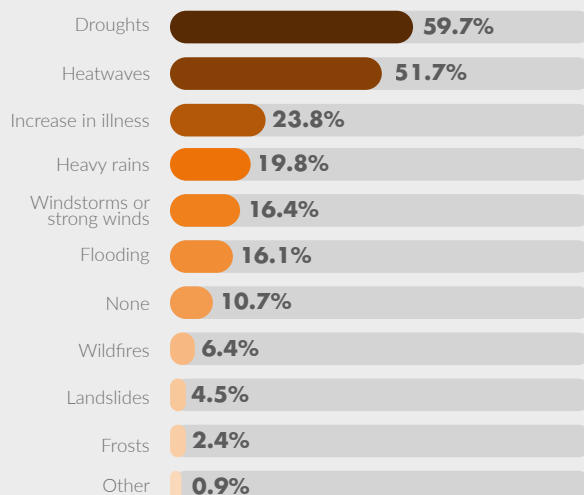
CLIMATE EVENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE EL NIÑO PHENOMENON

What situations or effects do you associate with the El Niño phenomenon?



CLIMATE EVENTS EXPERIENCED IN THE PAST 2 MONTHS

In the past 2 months, has your community experienced any of these natural events?



Communities primarily associate ENSO with droughts, heat, water scarcity, heavy rains, and flooding. However, testimonies show that there is no single experience of the phenomenon. In some areas, water deficits and agricultural losses predominate; in others, heavy rains and flooding affect crops, homes, and services. This territorial diversity is fundamental to designing anticipatory measures. As one participant in Ucayali, Peru, explained:

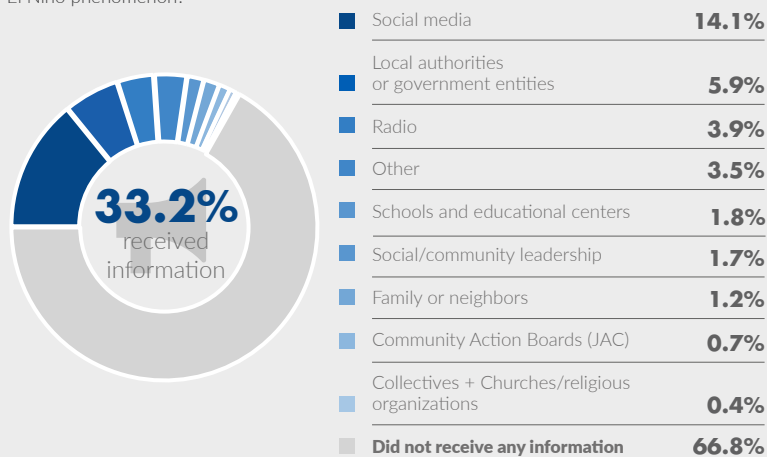
"That also depends on each region... Each region is going to see impacts... different reactions."

The data confirms these differences. In Central America, 87.1% of respondents associate ENSO with droughts, compared with 70.1% in Colombia. In Peru, perceptions are more evenly split between droughts (47.8%) and flooding (44.8%).

INFORMATION STILL FAILS TO ARRIVE IN TIME

MAIN SOURCE OF INFORMATION ON THE EL NIÑO PHENOMENON

What is the main source through which you have received information about the El Niño phenomenon?



Social media is the main source of information on ENSO and climate events, while access to information from institutions is more limited. Honduras shows greater involvement of local authorities as an information source, but significant gaps persist even there.

The lack of communication and timely alerts limits communities' ability to act before impact strikes. As one participant in Ucayali noted:

"Another problem may be that there wasn't much information reaching people about this phenomenon – there wasn't much communication, and no alerts either."

Beyond simply having information available, it is important that it arrives in advance, through accessible channels, and in a format that enables decision-making.



WATER CONNECTS A LARGE SHARE OF THE IMPACTS

The results reveal a chain of effects in which extreme or prolonged climate variability disrupts access to water or, conversely, brings excess rainfall, and in either case has knock-on effects that compromise production, health, energy, and food security.

Communities describe both situations of water scarcity and problems stemming from flooding and contamination of water sources. Access to water can worsen because more time has to be spent collecting it, or because of the destruction of drinking water and irrigation systems, among other possibilities; but its effects are also reflected in disruptions to productive and educational activities, an increase in diseases related to water quality or availability, loss of livelihoods, power outages, and other effects.



CLIMATE VARIABILITY MANIFESTS ITSELF IN:



DROUGHT (water scarcity)

Less rainfall, prolonged dry spell (canícula), wildfires, loss of pastures and crops, and drastic temperature swings (intense cold or extreme heat).



FLOODING (water excess)

Overflows and flooding, heavy rains, landslides, waterlogged crops, and animal deaths.

IT AFFECTS VARIOUS SECTORS:



WATER

Drought: Reduced water availability, rationing, and greater difficulty accessing safe water.

Flooding: Contamination and overflow of water sources, leading to a greater need for treatment.



ENERGY

Drought: Reduced power generation and prolonged power outages, with higher fuel costs.

Flooding: Power outages, damage to infrastructure, and difficulties with access and cooling.



HEALTH

Drought: Increased risk of heatstroke and vector-borne, gastrointestinal, and respiratory diseases.

Flooding: Increased risk of gastrointestinal, vector-borne, and skin diseases.



FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

Drought: Loss of crops, agricultural jobs, and livestock, affecting income and access to food.

Flooding: Loss of crops and jobs, damage to access roads, and population displacement.

IMPACT ON HOUSEHOLDS AND COMMUNITIES:



Lower agricultural and livestock output



Loss of income



Increased illness



Greater workload for women due to water scarcity



Emotional and mental health effects



Impact on biodiversity



ALL OF THIS CONTRIBUTES TO FOOD AND NUTRITIONAL INSECURITY

MAIN EFFECTS:

- Rising food prices
- Fewer meals per day
- Reduced dietary variety
- Lower food availability
- Delayed cognitive development from malnutrition and childhood anemia



AND THE CONSEQUENCES ARE MORE SEVERE IN:



Children



Older adults



Women



Indigenous peoples



Small-scale producers



Isolated rural communities



IMPACTS ON LIVELIHOODS END UP AFFECTING FOOD

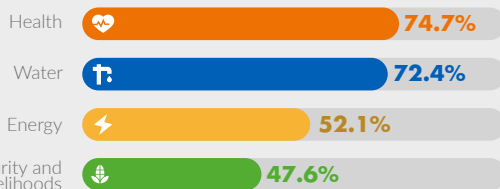
The decline in production (53.1%), crop losses (52.8%), and rising prices (72.8%) reduce households' ability to access sufficient and diverse food. The effects are especially significant for families that depend on agriculture, livestock, fishing, or informal activities, and that have fewer alternatives to offset a loss of income.

In the territories studied, coping strategies include eating less-preferred foods, reducing portion sizes, or modifying productive activities. These responses help households cope in the short term but can increase vulnerability if sustained over time.

IMPACTS ACCUMULATE AND AFFECT DIMENSIONS THAT GO BEYOND THE ECONOMY

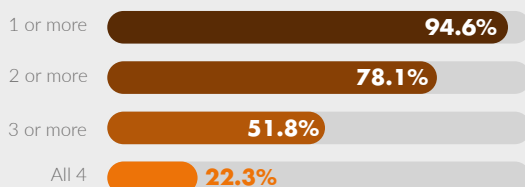
PEOPLE AFFECTED BY SECTOR

Due to climate variability • % of total respondents



SIMULTANEOUS IMPACT ACROSS MULTIPLE SECTORS

People with 1 or more affected areas at the same time



78.1% of the population analyzed reported simultaneous impacts in at least two of four dimensions: water, energy, health, and livelihoods.

Health, nutrition, educational continuity, protection, and psychosocial well-being can all be affected when families face production losses, displacement, service disruptions, or difficulties accessing water and food. These effects are not distributed evenly: women and girls may take on a heavier burden of care and domestic work, while children and adolescents may face educational disruptions and greater nutritional and protection risks.



CROSS-CUTTING FINDINGS



MENTAL HEALTH

It did not emerge among the survey's top-reported impacts, but it surfaced across several focus groups without being asked about directly.

Recent rise and escalation of depression and suicide cases among young people, compounded by climate-related economic stress.



HONDURAS

Stress, anxiety, frustration, and fear over the loss of livelihoods and homes to flooding and rising waters.



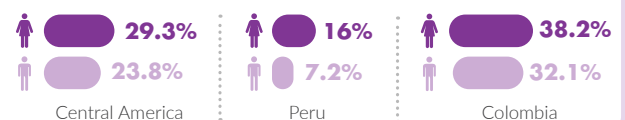
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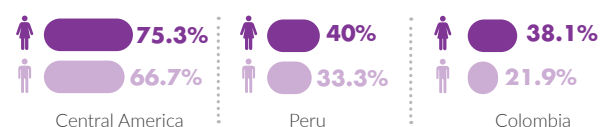
GENDER

Access to safe water is perceived and shouldered unevenly: the burden of care falls on women.

FREQUENT CONCERN ABOUT WATER SHORTAGES



TREAT WATER FOR CONSUMPTION



It has increased what counts as women's work... women have to go fetch water... they have to travel farther to wash clothes when the nearby streams dry up."

Pedro Jesús Mercado • CAFEG, Erandique, Honduras



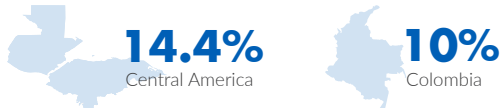
AGE



CHILDREN

Exposure to illness and the effects of malnutrition and anemia on their physical and cognitive development; schools unprepared for extreme temperature shifts.

HOUSEHOLDS THAT REDUCED ADULT CONSUMPTION SO CHILDREN COULD EAT



Malnutrition will affect retention and learning for life."

Focus group • Ucayali, Peru



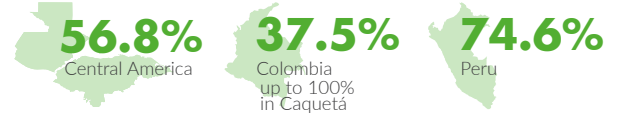
OLDER ADULTS

Respiratory and gastrointestinal illness, complications from pre-existing conditions, and barriers to care as travel becomes more costly.



ETHNIC IDENTITY

INDIGENOUS RESPONDENTS



47.6% of all respondents

Impacts are compounded by structural inequalities specific to each territory and by high vulnerability to climate variability. At the same time, communities have tools and organizational structures in place and are calling for greater participation in coordination spaces for response and preparedness.

Indigenous communities in the Colombian Amazon use the Manguaré, a percussion instrument made from two logs, to send important messages, such as warnings about weather events, among other things. Its sound and the message can travel more than 20 km.



COMMUNITY CAPACITIES EXIST, BUT HAVE NOT YET BEEN SYSTEMATICALLY TRANSLATED INTO ANTICIPATION

Perceived risk is high. A significant proportion of respondents consider it likely that in the coming months there will be droughts or major reductions in access to water or, conversely, heavy rain and flooding, which would worsen impacts that are already being felt. However, many communities report that they still lack sufficient measures to address the impacts already identified or to anticipate those yet to come.

The main gaps identified are the lack of information and alerts, insufficient institutional support, and limited community organization. At the same time, where local capacities exist, they take the form of agreements to manage water, community reserves, support networks, and productive knowledge that can provide a solid foundation for anticipatory action.

The main challenge, therefore, is not solely to build new capacities, but to connect **existing capacities with information, resources, and institutional mechanisms that make it possible to activate them before the impact occurs.**





CENTRAL AMERICA



The drought is simultaneously affecting water supplies, crops, and the incomes of rural families in Guatemala and Honduras.

Guatemala and Honduras are among the most exposed countries in Central America to the impacts of climate variability, particularly in the Dry Corridor, a region characterized by erratic rainfall, recurrent droughts, and extreme weather events. The effects associated with the El Niño Phenomenon increase the risk of crop losses, water scarcity, and deteriorating food security, especially among rural households that depend on subsistence farming.

In **GUATEMALA**, 252 municipalities show high or very high vulnerability to drought, of which 123 have very high vulnerability.⁵ As of August 2026, 138 municipalities across the 22 departments had recorded crop losses linked to drought, prolonged canícula (mid-summer dry spell), and rainfall shortages, affecting 236,447 families.⁶ Given the worsening situation, a red alert was declared in 15 municipalities of Chiquimula and Jutiapa, in the Trifinio region. Compounding this, food security pressures are mounting: 3.2 million people could be in Phase 3 or above of acute food insecurity between July and September 2026.⁷

In **HONDURAS**, meteorological drought associated with the El Niño Phenomenon has intensified rainfall deficits and pressure on water availability and agricultural production. Executive Decree PCM-016-2026, published on August 19, declared a state of emergency in 75 municipalities of Choluteca, Comayagua, El Paraíso, Francisco Morazan, La Paz, and Valle, where an estimated 147,658 households are potentially affected. COPECO (the Honduran State Secretariat for Risk Management and National Contingencies) subsequently expanded the Red Alert to 103 municipalities, while others remain under Yellow or Green Alert. The accumulated rainfall deficit, which reaches between 100 and 200 mm in the hardest-hit areas, is affecting water availability for consumption and production, as well as crops and rural livelihoods. The decline in maize and bean harvests simultaneously affects food availability and family income, increasing the risks of migration, debt, and the adoption of negative coping strategies. Prolonged droughts also put pressure on water sources, increasing the risk of water-related illnesses. At the same time, older children's school attendance and performance are often affected when families are forced to assign them the task of fetching water and other basic resources for subsistence.

The most vulnerable populations include subsistence farming families, Indigenous communities, female-headed households, children under five, pregnant and breastfeeding women, and people living in poverty and exclusion. Women and girls face differentiated risks, including a heavier burden of domestic and care work, as well as greater exposure to gender-based violence during periods of crisis, including a rise in adolescent pregnancies. The combination of climate hazards, structural poverty, and limited adaptive capacity makes these communities highly vulnerable to the recurring impacts of the El Niño Phenomenon.

The rapid assessment on the impact of the 2026 El Niño, carried out by Action Against Hunger under the ECHO-funded project and in collaboration with OXFAM⁸, identified four of the most affected departments in Central America: El Paraíso and Choluteca in Honduras, and Jalapa and Chiquimula in Guatemala. In these territories, 95% of households reported losses in their maize crops, seriously compromising food availability and the livelihoods of rural families. Among households that still have their own maize reserves, these are estimated to be sufficient for less than three weeks. The situation is particularly critical in Chiquimula and Baja Verapaz, where food reserves are nearly exhausted and last three weeks or less.



95%

Households in the hardest-hit areas reported losses in their corn crops. **Reserves will last for less than three weeks.**

⁵ Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Food (MAGA). Farming families and strategic crops to receive support against drought risk in 2026, June 18, 2026.

⁶ CONRED/MAGA, seventh CONASAN meeting, August 28, 2026.

⁷ SESAN. Food insecurity forecast for the 2026–2027 period and response actions, IPC analysis, August 7, 2026.

⁸ Oxfam. Drought, Crops, and the Central American Dry Corridor: Evidence of an Evolving Crisis in Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador from the Impact of El Niño (2026)



The assessment also shows differentiated impacts on women and girls through two main mechanisms:

- **Greater burden of water management.** In rural households, collecting and managing water for domestic use falls mainly to women and girls. Water scarcity increases the time spent traveling and waiting to access water, significantly increasing the burden of unpaid work.
- **Loss of productive assets.** Poultry, one of the main livestock assets managed by women and a key source of both household protein and emergency income, are among the assets most affected. Their loss reduces households' resilience and limits women's economic autonomy.



VOICES AND EVIDENCE FROM THE FIELD

The assessment carried out under the ECHO-funded project on the El Niño Phenomenon in the Dry Corridor has a broad sample and provides information on impacts, needs, and assistance gaps. In addition, the study we conducted in 5 departments of Guatemala (Alta Verapaz, Chiquimula, Huehuetenango, Petén, and Sololá) and 2 departments in Honduras (Choluteca and Lempira) complements this analysis by providing information on the effects and coping and response strategies of households in sectors such as water, energy, health, food security, and livelihoods. This study also incorporates the voices of key community actors regarding community actions to prepare droughts and floods, and regarding possible or desirable strategies and initiatives for anticipating the risks associated with climate variability.

During the months of July and August, 278 surveys were conducted (197 in Guatemala and 81 in Honduras), complemented by 24 interviews (5 in Honduras and 19 in Guatemala) with local authorities, community leaders, and organization representatives. The profile of the sample is as follows:

35-44

Predominant age range (30.2%), followed by 25–34 years (25.9%).

39.2%

Female head of household, 60.4% male, 0.4% other.

56.8%

self-identify as Indigenous.

87.8%

rural area

12.2%

urbana area

77.3%

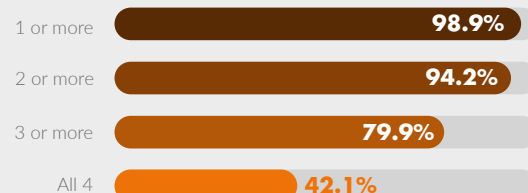
Of the people surveyed are women • 22.7% men

COUNTRY	SURVEYS	INTERVIEWS	FEMALE-HEADED	MALE-HEADED	OTHER-HEADED	SELF-IDENTIFIES AS INDIGENOUS	RURAL AREA	URBANA AREA
Guatemala	197	19	42.1%	57.4%	0.5%	76.1%	83.2%	16.8%
Honduras	81	5	32.1%	67.9%	0%	9.9%	98.8%	1.2%

IMPACT BY SECTOR DUE TO CLIMATE VARIABILITY

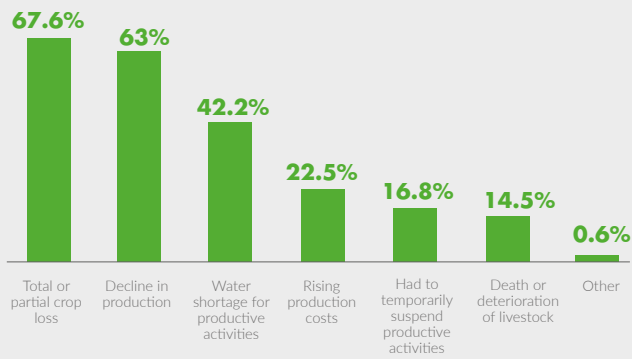


PEOPLE WITH SIMULTANEOUS IMPACTS ACROSS MULTIPLE SECTORS





IMPACTS ON AGRICULTURAL AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION



Both in Honduras and Guatemala, the events experienced between May and August of this year were mainly droughts, extreme heat, an increase in climate-related illnesses, and water rationing. Interviews conducted in the Dry Corridor areas highlight the uncertainty generated by recent climate behavior, which has undermined the usefulness of the traditional agricultural calendar, resulting in crop losses affecting subsistence and income generation for communities.

“We are upset with the phenomenon — you know that the maize and bean crops are at 0%. There's no harvest. In that case, our families are going to face some malnutrition. Next year we're going to face a shortage of resources, sometimes there won't be work because it isn't raining, there's no work, all of us as parents are left without work”

Interview with community leader, Chiquimula, Guatemala.



Added to the lack of rain are the drying up of traditional wells, contamination of water sources, insecurity around stored water for consumption, and growing difficulties obtaining or buying safe water. In the region, only 47.1% named a piped water system as their main source of water supply, revealing the structural gaps that persist in guaranteeing adequate access to safe, quality water.

In territories such as Petén and Sololá, where Action Against Hunger also maintains a presence, the effects of climate variability are beginning to be felt in sectors such as tourism and textile and agricultural production, although with less intensity. The effects are interrelated: water scarcity, worsened by power outages, has knock-on effects on production and income, while crop losses, rising prices, increased disease, and reduced availability and variety of food increase the pressure on households and their spending to cover basic needs.

“Because of the drought, families have to spend more on buying water for irrigation or consumption, on new seeds due to crop losses, and on fertilizers and inputs to restore production”

Interview with local authority, Sololá, Guatemala

THE DRY CORRIDOR: MULTIPLE IMPACTS WITH SEVERE CONSEQUENCES



GUATEMALA: CHIQUMULA AND HUEHUETENANGO

In some areas, maize and bean crop losses have been total; extreme heat and water scarcity mean there are no alternative crops that can be grown and animals are falling ill. In addition, those who rely on day labor (“jornales”) face a double exposure: they lose their own production and, at the same time, the opportunity to find work on other people's land.

“There's no work because if it doesn't rain there's nowhere to get it from; if there were at least a day's work available, people always look for daily labor, but if there's no water there's no daily labor... The same goes for the animals and birds — we can't say we're going to sell animals because it has affected the animals too; a lot of illness comes with the heat”

Interview, community leader,
El Sauce, Chiquimula, Guatemala



HONDURAS: CHOLUTECA AND LEMPIRA

Uncertainty stemming from recent climate patterns is evident: the last three years have had very different rainfall patterns (2024 with rain and pests, 2025 with torrential rains, and 2026 with almost no rain). In some areas such as Candelaria and Choluteca maize losses of up to 90% have been reported, and the few families with access to irrigation systems see the value of their harvests increase, affecting others who have seen their incomes decline.

“In the case of maize, we have plots that are completely ruined. Now, even if it rains, it's already impossible to recover them. Even if we apply the right fertilizer, we still can't recover them because of the lack of water”

Interview with local authority,
Candelaria, Honduras.

Livestock farming is not yielding the same production; the cost of hauling water has risen, along with a shortage of pasture for cattle raising, and poultry have seen an increase in avian influenza outbreaks.



GUATEMALA: CHIQUIMULA AND HUEHUETENANGO

Concern about hunger and malnutrition, particularly among children, is central. Drought begins in the fields, but its effects ultimately reach the family table, in diet quality, in child growth, and in the health of communities.

"What we want is to avoid child malnutrition, because that would be very hard; this year we're going to have more difficulties – there will be families who only have enough to feed the children"

Interview, community leader, El Sauce, Chiquimula, Guatemala

IMPACT BY SECTOR DUE TO CLIMATE VARIABILITY



8 in 10 people have reported impacts in 3 or more sectors simultaneously



Droughts (93.1%), heatwaves (59.8%), and increased illness (46%)

HONDURAS: CHOLUTECA AND LEMPIRA

There is also a risk to alternative crops such as coffee, due to changes in rainfall periods and pests. Combined with rising prices for food, inputs, and fuel, these factors have generated a worrying chain of impacts.

"If that crop is ruined and you can't get anything out of it, you have to buy food... and if you don't have the money, you have to sell your cow to buy a few loads of maize. It's a chain."

Interview with local authority, Candelaria, Honduras

IMPACT BY SECTOR DUE TO CLIMATE VARIABILITY



8 in 10 people have reported impacts in 3 or more sectors simultaneously



Droughts (97.5%), heatwaves (95.1%), and increased illness (54.3%)

WATER

23% of people rated their usual access to water as very poor (52.6% in Chiquimula) and 42.5% as fair. 59.8% of households reported a recent increase in the time devoted to collecting water, while 25.3% expressed ongoing concern about not having enough water to meet their needs in the past month. As a coping strategy, 63.2% store water in containers or tanks and 45.2% reduced their consumption.

55.6% rated their usual access to water as fair. 58% of households reported disruptions in the water supply, and 45.7% an increase in the time spent collecting it. Likewise, 25.9% reported occasional concern and 16% frequent concern about not having enough water in the past month. As a coping strategy, 66.7% store water in containers or tanks and 34.6% reduced their consumption.

ENERGY

60.9% of households reported disruptions to the electricity supply, and 39.7% described their usual supply as intermittent. 43.7% are not implementing any strategy in response to these effects, while 32.2% reduced their energy consumption.



83.9% of households reported disruptions to the electricity supply, and 75.9% rated the supply as intermittent. In addition, 40.7% reported an increase in fuel costs and 37.04% reported limitations in preserving food due to lack of power. As a coping strategy, 38.3% use alternative sources of lighting or energy, although 49.4% do not implement any.

HEALTH

64.4% of households reported diarrhea or gastrointestinal illness, and 42.5% of heatstroke or heat exhaustion. As a coping strategy, 66.7% seek care at health centers or brigades and 62% use home remedies or traditional medicine.



48.1% of households reported heatstroke or heat exhaustion, and 32.1% diarrheal or gastrointestinal illness; 23.5% also reported respiratory effects. As a coping strategy, 76.8% use home remedies or traditional medicine and 50% seek care at health centers or brigades. However, 49.4% of respondents reported difficulties accessing medical care.

FOOD ACCESS

97.7% of households reported an increase in food prices, and 21.8% reported reduced availability in shops, markets, or the community. In response, 62.1% reported eating less-preferred or cheaper foods, 33.3% reduced portion sizes, and 29.9% reduced the number of meals eaten per day.



97.5% of households reported an increase in food prices, and 17.3% reported reduced availability in shops, markets, or the community. In response, 51.9% had to eat less-preferred or cheaper foods, 51.9% reduced meal portion sizes, and 25.9% reduced the number of meals eaten per day.



LIVELIHOODS

93.8% of farming households reported having suffered economic losses in the past month due to climate variability. The main effects are a decline in production (61.7%) and total or partial crop loss (60.5%). As a coping strategy, 49.4% reduced the area under cultivation and 28.4% temporarily suspended their productive activity.

Among those who depend on other sources of income, 91.3% also reported being affected by climate in the past month. 52.2% reported that this income comes from day labor or occasional work.

96.3% of farming households reported having suffered economic losses in the past month due to climate variability. The main effects are total or partial crop loss (88.9%), a decline in production (83.3%), and water shortages for productive activities (64.8%). As a coping strategy, 40.7% temporarily suspended their productive activity, 35.2% changed planting dates or cycles, and 29.6% reduced the area under cultivation.

Among those who depend on other sources of income, 66.7% also reported being affected by climate in the past month. 42.9% reported that their income comes from commercial activities.

PERCEIVED THREATS AND PREPAREDNESS

39.1% of respondents consider a severe drought or a major reduction in access to water very likely in the next 6 months, compared with just 4.6% who consider flooding very likely (50.6% consider it unlikely). Identified community actions were limited; however, the most frequently mentioned were water-source clean-up days and the prohibition or monitoring of burning.



40.7% of respondents consider a severe drought very likely in the next 6 months, compared with 3.7% who consider flooding very likely (67.9% consider it unlikely). Identified community actions were limited; however, the most frequently mentioned were communication with authorities, firefighters, or risk-management bodies, and community agreements on water use or rationing.



BARRIERS TO ANTICIPATION

The lack of information and early-warning systems is the main perceived difficulty for community anticipation (51.8%), followed by insufficient institutional support (47.1%). The findings also point to institutional fragmentation, seen both in dependence on short-term projects and in limited coordination among institutions, organizations, and communities. Interviews also flagged gaps in technical training and time lags between when information is issued by institutions and when impacts occur, which limits communities' ability to anticipate and respond in a timely way.

“The briefing arrived after the fact... once the loss had already happened”

Interview with local authority, Erandique, Honduras

“Information doesn't always arrive in a timely way... especially for the most remote rural communities”

Interview with local authority, Sololá, Guatemala



STRATEGIES, SOLUTIONS, AND THE WAY FORWARD

Interviews highlight initiatives that have helped address the impacts, including farmer field schools already operating and geared toward climate adaptation, preventive measures against vector-borne diseases, and requests for support from agencies for crop and livestock farming.

Testimonies also highlighted the demand for institutional commitments that are sustained over time and coordinated with one another, that stem from actively listening to community needs, and that promote joint work in designing and implementing responses.

“That institutions invest in long-term projects, such as mechanical wells and irrigation systems, also taking into account partnership with the municipality and community leaders to be better prepared for any crisis that may come, create water catchment systems, train people in climate-adapted agriculture, create a community emergency plan, and always take into account community leaders, since they are the ones who live closest to the crisis in the community”

Interview with a member of the community of Tisipe, Camotán, Chiquimula



PRIORITIES

It is time to strengthen preparedness and get ahead of the most severe climate impacts. Governments, with the support of international cooperation, must prioritize funding now for anticipatory action mechanisms that can reduce the effects of the coming dry season, especially in the most vulnerable communities of the expanded Dry Corridor.

Priority actions include rehabilitating and maintaining water systems that communities have identified as non-functional, strengthening water governance and sustainable management, and promoting livelihoods that are resilient to climate variability. It is also essential to protect the food and nutrition security of the most vulnerable households through early interventions that prevent agricultural losses from turning into food and nutrition crises, and that prevent families from adopting negative coping strategies with long-term consequences.

These measures should be complemented by actions on nutrition, social protection, and child protection, ensuring responses that account for the differentiated impacts on women, girls, boys, and adolescents, including the added burden of care work, risks of gender-based violence, school disruption, and other factors that can deepen inequalities during crises.



For these actions to be sustainable, it is essential to strengthen the leadership and capacities of communities and local actors, incorporating gender, child protection, and mental health approaches into crisis preparedness and response. Likewise, private-sector participation as a strategic partner can help mobilize innovation, investment, and sustainable solutions for climate risk management and for building more resilient communities that are better prepared to face future extreme events.



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COLOMBIA



558

of the 1,013 municipalities,
some could face water
shortages

3.3 M

jobs depend directly on the
agricultural sector

70%

of the country's food comes
from small-scale, family-run, and
community-based agriculture

40,000 ha

affected by 19 active
wildfires (UNGRD, Sept. 20)

Colombia has a high level of exposure to the impacts of the El Niño Phenomenon during 2026, with effects expected to continue into 2027, and extreme climate events anticipated to be among the most intense in recent decades, prompting a declaration of a National Disaster. However, the expected effects will not be uniform across the country; while large areas of the Caribbean region will experience heatwaves and drought conditions, the Amazon, Orinoquía, and Pacific regions will continue to face alerts tied to heavy rainfall, with rising river levels and riverine flooding.

The main impacts are concentrated on access to water, agricultural production, energy supply, and ecosystem sustainability. Nearly half of Colombia's municipalities (558 of 1,013) could face water shortages during the El Niño Phenomenon⁹, particularly affecting the rural and dispersed population, where the largest gaps in access to improved water sources are concentrated (31%)¹⁰.

Among the most exposed sectors is agriculture, on which 3.3 million jobs depend directly¹¹ and which supports more than 2 million producers¹². The situation is especially critical for smallholders, families, and community farming, which accounts for nearly 70% of the food consumed in the country. The recent

experience of the 2023–2024 El Niño Phenomenon demonstrated this vulnerability, with more than 62,000 hectares of crops and 467,000 hectares of pastureland affected by droughts, frosts, and fires¹³.

Preparedness for the El Niño Phenomenon is occurring in a context of high institutional pressure, marked by the start of a new administration and a simultaneous response to large-scale emergencies, such as the earthquake of August 10, orange and red alerts for extreme heat, and record electricity demand, and the rise in forest fires,¹⁴ which have led to precautionary evacuations. In fact, as of 20 September, the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGRD) reported 19 active fires in seven departments and more than 40,000 hectares affected, particularly in Boyacá, Huila and Tolima, where the emergency has been ongoing for 52 days. The fires have affected more than 6,800 hectares in National Natural Parks and water reserve areas, compromising ecosystems that are strategic for water regulation and the water supply to rural communities. This scenario calls for strengthened coordination, continuity of institutional action, and prioritized resources in the most vulnerable territories.

⁹ Ministry of Housing, 30 July 2026.

¹⁰ National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE). Multidimensional Poverty Index, 2025.

¹¹ Rural Agricultural Planning Unit (UPRA),

¹² National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE). National Agricultural Survey (ENA) 2023.

¹³ Ministry of Agriculture. Assessment of El Niño-related damage, 8 March 2024.

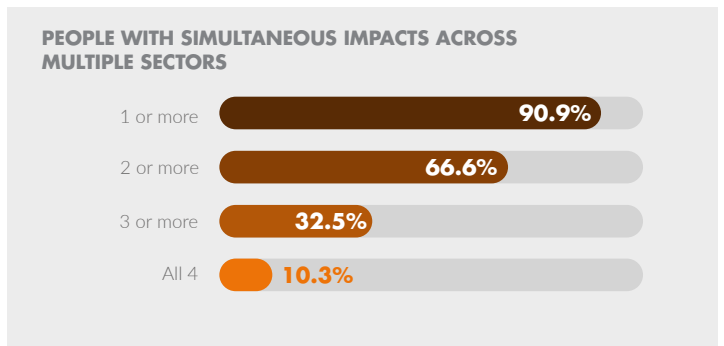
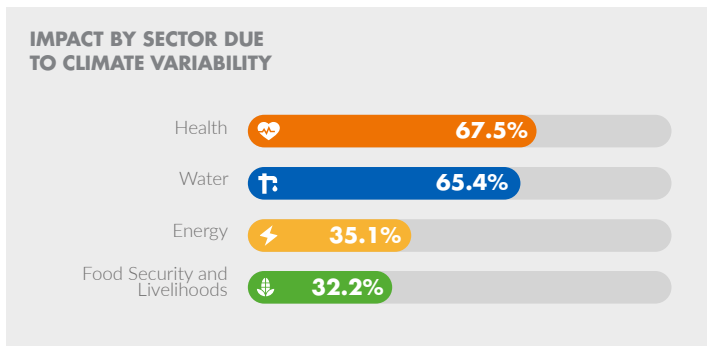
¹⁴ Between June and August 2026, 438 wildfires were recorded in 191 municipalities across 19 departments, UNGRD. <https://portal.gestiondelriesgo.gov.co/>



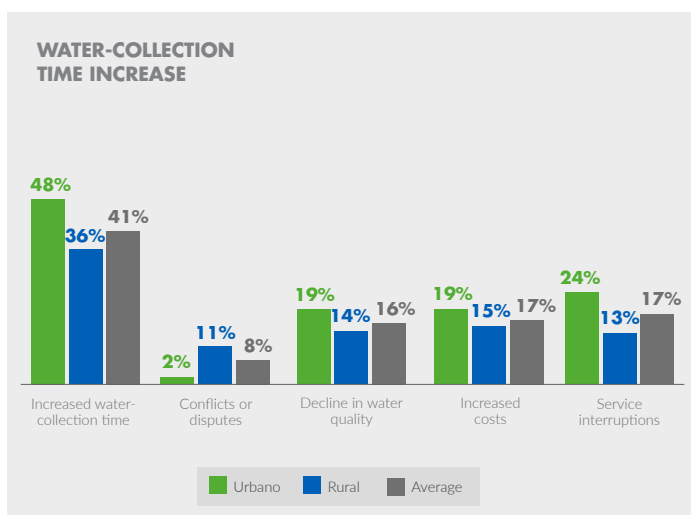
VOICES AND EVIDENCE FROM THE FIELD

The results of the survey show that the effects associated with climate variability are already being felt in the territories analyzed. During the past two months (June–July), 82.9% of respondents reported having experienced some climate variability event: 51.8% mentioned droughts, 47.3% heatwaves, and, to a lesser extent, 15.2% heavy rains.

During the months of July and August, 419 surveys were conducted in 4 departments, complemented by 4 interviews with local authorities in La Guajira and Amazonas, 3 focus groups with communities in those departments, and 2 interviews with members of the community of San Pablo, Norte de Santander. The profile of the sample is as follows:



Even at an early stage of ENSO, access to water is under strain: before the recent climate effects, 41.3% rated their access as fair and 11.9% as very poor. On top of these pre-existing gaps, 28.3% reported frequent concern about not having enough water in the past month, and 65.6% reported climate-related effects. In rural areas, although most effects are reported at a lower rate, 11.6% reported conflicts or disputes over access to the resource, compared with just 1.8% in urban areas.



Among the effects on agricultural and livestock livelihoods (60.5%) and rising food prices (57.5%), there is an increased risk of households resorting to strategies such as consuming less-preferred foods or reducing portion sizes. The impact can be especially significant for the Indigenous population, which already reported lower vegetable consumption and more limited access to fruit, with direct effects on their dietary diversity.



Access barriers amplify health risks: 43.7% consider it difficult to access health services, and nearly a quarter require more than an hour of travel to reach a health center. Among the earliest warning signs are conditions caused by extreme heat (28%) and diarrhea or gastrointestinal illnesses (26.8%). In response to these events, 40.4% initially turn to home remedies or traditional medicine, underscoring the importance of linking these practices with preventive information and timely care.

“Yes, we've seen a lot of illness: there's a lot of dengue going around, and the children keep running fevers.”

Interview with a member of the community of San Pablo, Norte de Santander.

The study highlights how the effects of El Niño vary across the regions analyzed: on one hand, the droughts affecting the Caribbean region, including La Guajira and Norte de Santander, and on the other, the flooding affecting the Amazon region to a greater extent, including the departments of Amazonas and Caquetá. Below, we present the different effects and strategies found for each sector.



FLOODING: AMAZONAS AND CAQUETÁ

In the department of **Amazonas**, the phenomenon is mainly associated with flooding (48.7%), and 59% reported recently experiencing this climate event; heavy rains were also reported (53.9%). In the department of **Caquetá** the phenomenon is mainly associated with drought (56.2%); however, the most frequently experienced climate events were heavy rains (62.5%), followed by flooding (43.8%).

These events have had especially severe impacts on subsistence crops and have created the need to move some planting areas to higher ground in response to rising river levels.

"The rising river has affected us. We haven't been able to bring in the harvest, and now we must plant further inland, where the water doesn't reach as forcefully. What we produce is mainly for family consumption and, occasionally, for sale."

Interview with local authority,
Resguardo de Monochoa, Amazonas



DROUGHT: LA GUAJIRA AND NORTE DE SANTANDER

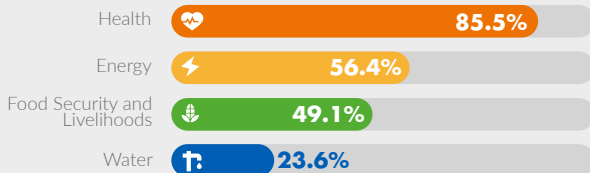
In **La Guajira**, 79.5% associate the El Niño Phenomenon with droughts and 83.76% reported experiencing it in the past two months; 31.6% with rising temperatures, and 26.5% mention water rationing directly. In **Norte de Santander**, on the border with Venezuela, in addition to these effects, 25.5% of respondents associate the phenomenon with wildfires (25.5%). In this department, the most frequently experienced climate events were heatwaves (50.61%) and droughts (46.2%).

In both regions, access to water is the main effect: climate-related disruptions to the water service, combined with a lack of infrastructure, have particularly affected the agricultural sector and its crops.

"[They are] desperate because they can't find a way to water their plants. Around here, farmers generally have had to rely on piped water from Guamal to cope with the drought. They've set up dispensers to water their crops as best they can, because with the current rationing there's little water available for irrigation."

Interview with a member of the community
of San Pablo – Norte de Santander

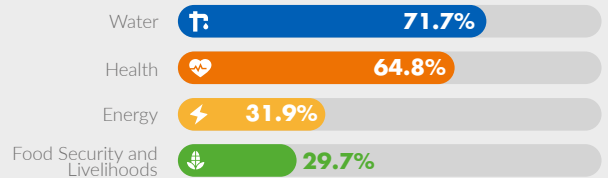
IMPACT BY SECTOR DUE TO CLIMATE VARIABILITY



7 in 10 people
have reported impacts
in 2 or more sectors
simultaneously



IMPACT BY SECTOR DUE TO CLIMATE VARIABILITY



6 in 10 people
have reported impacts
in 2 or more sectors
simultaneously



Water impacts were considerably smaller than in the area affected by drought. In **Amazonas**, only 15.4% reported a deterioration in water quality for human consumption and 12.8% faced supply interruptions; only 12.8% were frequently concerned (3 to 20 times a month) about water availability. As a strategy, 25.6% sought water from other sources (rain, rivers, streams).



In **La Guajira**, the main water sources are wells (without pumps, 30.7%, and with pumps, 26.5%), and 81% cannot rate their access to water as good, which highlights a structural problem. This situation, worsened in recent months by drought, is reflected in the survey, as 76.9% have recently worried about not having enough water (3 to more than 20 times a month). Among the main impacts, the cost of accessing water rose (33.3%), as did the time spent collecting it (55.6%). 60.7% of respondents reported storing water in containers or tanks and 41% have reduced their consumption as a coping strategy.

In **Norte de Santander**, 41.7% increased the time spent collecting water and 18.2% faced supply interruptions; 59.9% were frequently concerned (3 to more than 20 times a month) about not having enough water. As a strategy, 49.4% stored water in containers or tanks and 19.8% reduced their consumption. 58.7% of respondents cannot rate their access to water as good; however, 52.2% have a piped aqueduct as their main water source.



FLOODING: AMAZONAS AND CAQUETÁ

ENERGY

In **Amazonas**, 66.7% of households rely on solar panels as their main energy source, and 56.4% describe the supply as intermittent. Due to heavy rains, 61.5% faced power outages. As a strategy, 30.8% reduced their energy consumption and 28.2% used alternative lighting sources.



In **Caquetá**, 75% described the supply as intermittent, although only 6.2% reported explicit outages and 18.8% noted limitations in preserving food due to lack of power. 12.5% preserved food without refrigeration as a strategy.

HEALTH

In both departments, structural deficiencies in the sector are evident and point to a worrying scenario as health conditions worsen due to the El Niño Phenomenon. In **Amazonas**, 74.4% have the nearest health center more than 2 hours away, and 66.7% described accessing medical care as very difficult. In **Caquetá**, 56.3% have the nearest health center more than 2 hours away and 43.7% described accessing medical care as very difficult.

In response to recent effects, in **Amazonas**, 61.5% experienced diarrheal or gastrointestinal illnesses and 46.2% reported an increase in outbreaks of dengue, Zika, malaria, or Chagas disease; 28.2% experienced skin conditions or outbreaks. In **Caquetá**, 50% experienced diarrheal or gastrointestinal illnesses and 25% skin conditions or outbreaks.

Regarding response strategies in Amazonas, 74.4% of households reported using home remedies or traditional medicine and 41% sought care at health centers or brigades. In Caquetá, however, 62.5% reported no strategy at all in response to these effects, and only 12.5% used home remedies or traditional medicine.

DROUGHT: LA GUAJIRA AND NORTE DE SANTANDER

In **La Guajira**, only 36.7% of households have access to the public grid, 30.7% have solar panels, and the same percentage reported having no service at all. 41.9% faced power outages caused by weather and 33.3% described the supply as intermittent. As a strategy, 23.9% used alternative sources of lighting or energy and 23.1% reduced their consumption.



In **Norte de Santander**, 15% faced power outages and only 9.7% described the supply as intermittent. 10.1% reduced their energy consumption, although a similar proportion (10.1%) reported using no strategy at all.

In **La Guajira**, 49.6% reported access to medical care as very difficult, despite 59.8% stating that the nearest health center was less than 30 minutes away. Regarding recent effects, 53% experienced heatstroke or exhaustion from high temperatures and 41% skin conditions or outbreaks; 31.6% experienced diarrhea or gastrointestinal illnesses. As a strategy, 53.8% used home remedies or traditional medicine and 31.6% modified their daily activities.



In **Norte de Santander**, 44.2% reported access to medical care as difficult, despite 54.7% stating that the nearest health center was less than 30 minutes away. Regarding recent effects, 20.6% experienced skin conditions or outbreaks and 19% heatstroke or exhaustion from high temperatures; 17% experienced diarrhea or gastrointestinal illnesses. 30% used home remedies or traditional medicine as a strategy.

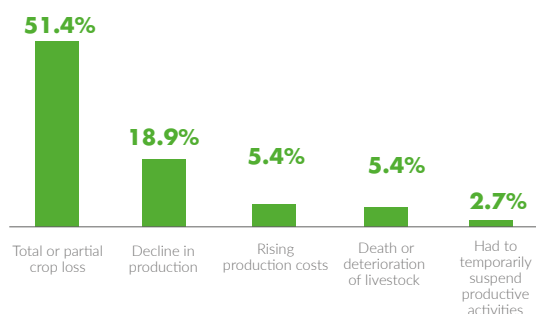
FLOODING: AMAZONAS AND CAQUETÁ

In **Amazonas**, 28.2% reported an increase in food prices, and 17.9% noted reduced availability in stores, markets, or the community. 43.6% reduced portion sizes and 30.8% had to borrow food or receive help from relatives, neighbors, or friends. 60.9% of agricultural and livestock households and 63.6% of those with other income sources reported an impact on income.

In **Caquetá**, only 6.2% reported an increase in food prices, although 25% noted reduced availability in stores, markets, or the community. 31.2% had to borrow food or receive help from relatives, neighbors, or friends. 42.9% of agricultural and livestock households reported an impact on income.



EFFECTS ON AGRICULTURAL AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION IN AMAZONAS + CAQUETÁ



The main effects on people who subsist on or earn income from crops and livestock in the region were, in practice, crop loss and declining production.

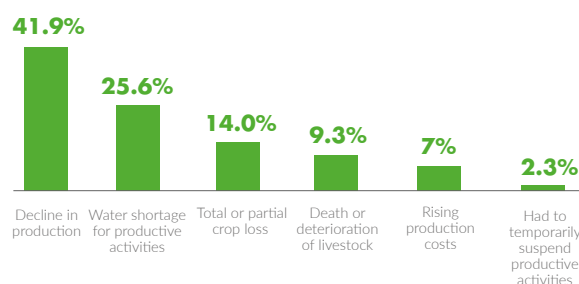
DROUGHT: LA GUAJIRA AND NORTE DE SANTANDER

In **La Guajira**, 62.4% reported an increase in food prices and 27.4% noted reduced availability in stores, markets, and the community. Regarding coping strategies, 52.1% consumed less-preferred or cheaper foods and 44.4% reduced portion sizes.

Regarding climate-related effects on livelihoods in this department, 60% of farming households reported effects on their income and 46.7% reported a decline in production. Among those who depended on other sources of income, 60.8% reported the same effect.

In **Norte de Santander**, 62.8% reported an increase in food prices and 13% noted reduced availability in stores, markets, and the community. 44.5% had to consume less-preferred or cheaper foods. 67.9% of agricultural and livestock households reported an impact on income, compared with only 24.5% of those dependent on other income sources.

EFFECTS ON AGRICULTURAL AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION IN LA GUAJIRA + NORTE DE SANTANDER

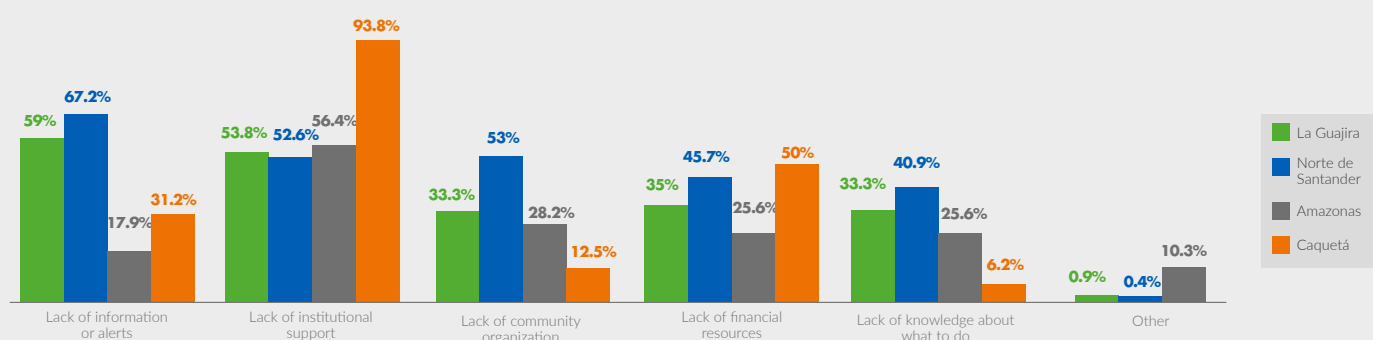


The main drought-related effects on households that subsist on or earn income from crops or livestock were declining production, water shortages for productive activities, and crop loss.

PERCEIVED THREATS, PREPAREDNESS AND BARRIERS TO ANTICIPATION

44.4% of respondents in La Guajira consider further severe droughts very likely in the next six months, and only 6% consider them not at all likely. In Norte de Santander, which has also been affected by the same event, only 26.72% considered further severe droughts very likely. In these two affected departments, few people identified community actions or agreements for response or anticipation; however, the most frequently mentioned were community agreements on water use and rationing (9.3%) and community storage or reserves (6.6%).

BARRIERS TO ANTICIPATION BY DEPARTMENT



Regarding the main difficulties in preparing for climate disasters, the picture varied considerably among the four departments assessed in Colombia. The areas affected by flooding in the Amazon region markedly highlighted a lack of institutional support (93.8% of households in Caquetá and 56.4% in Amazonas). In Caquetá, a lack of financial resources was also reported (50%), and in Amazonas, a lack of community organization (28.2%).

In Norte de Santander, the main limitation was a lack of timely information or alerts (67.2%), along with a lack of community organization (53%) and a lack of financial resources (45.7%). La Guajira showed a similar pattern regarding a lack of information (59%), although with a lower incidence of a lack of financial resources (35%) and equivalent levels of lack of community organization and lack of knowledge about what to do (33.3% each).



PRIORITIES

According to the Ombudsman's Office (Defensoría del Pueblo), around 85% of the events causing disasters in Colombia are associated with climate¹⁵ factors. This confirms the need to strengthen the country's anticipatory capacity in the face of these impacts, through greater investment in preparedness, adaptation, and risk reduction, especially in the most exposed territories.

To anticipate and reduce its impact, it is urgent that public, private, and international cooperation actors mobilize resources and strengthen anticipatory action mechanisms, prioritizing safe access to water, early-warning systems, community health, livelihood protection, and the strengthening of local capacities. It is highly important to promote strategies to anticipate health risks associated with climate variability, through the community surveillance systems already in place in the territories, together with local health actors and institutions, to enable monitoring of the increase in vectors and diseases linked to high temperatures and heatstroke, thereby strengthening health governance from the ground up and building on local knowledge.

In the medium term, it is key to continue diversifying and strengthening households' sources of income, to make them more adaptable and resilient to climate shocks. In La Guajira, for example, this includes strengthening the goat-farming sector through genetic improvements, the use of more drought-resistant seed varieties, including traditional ones, coordination with private actors on solar energy solutions, and savings and financial planning processes that mitigate the economic impacts of climate variability.

In **water, sanitation, and hygiene, water sources need to be restored and diversified** through wells, treatment systems, and community supply infrastructure, thereby reducing dependence on single sources that are vulnerable to drought, such as shallow wells or jagüeyes (earthen ponds)¹⁶. This is complemented by strengthening water governance through committees and Community Water and Sanitation Service Organizations, so that communities can manage water resources over the medium and long term and reduce potential conflicts over their use.



Finally, it is essential to strengthen local capacities by recognizing the knowledge and territorial understanding of rural, Indigenous, and Afro-Colombian communities and linking them with technical approaches. This approach should guide adaptation and resilience decisions, incorporating the differentiated needs of women, girls, boys, and adolescents, and has been incorporated into the training plans of educational institutions through content on climate risks and the participatory design of community management measures.

At Action Against Hunger, we reaffirm our commitment to contribute to this effort to anticipate crises, protect livelihoods, and strengthen the resilience of communities in the face of the impacts of climate variability.



FIND OUT MORE:
www.accioncontraelhambre.co

¹⁵ Office of the Ombudsman of Colombia. Statement, 15 May 2026.

¹⁶ A surface reservoir, typically excavated and open-air, that collects and stores rain and runoff water for domestic, productive, and livestock use.



PERU



More than 50% of the Peruvian population is already facing moderate or severe food insecurity, increasing their vulnerability to the impacts of El Niño.

The El Niño Phenomenon, currently developing intensely in Peru, is expected to reach an extraordinary magnitude by late 2026¹⁷ and continue through April 2027. Effects are currently being recorded along the coast due to ocean warming and reduced fishing catches, with potential impacts on 122,000 jobs in industrial fishing and 5,000 in artisanal fishing. The agricultural sector is also affected by out-of-season rains, reducing food production by 50%, and affecting 9.6 million people¹⁸. In the southern and central Andean highlands and the northern and southern Amazon rainforest, water deficits and the threat of wildfires could affect 4.3 million people.¹⁹

For the coming months, extreme and diverse climate events are forecast across the country: torrential rains, flooding, and landslides in the coastal region and central rainforest, which could affect 1.2 million people²⁰; severe droughts and a critical reduction in aquifers and water bodies in the Andean highlands; as well as declining rainfall and river flows in navigable rivers — disrupting transport and trade — and wildfires in the Amazon.

In addition to the impact on roads and infrastructure, experience from previous episodes of the El Niño Phenomenon indicates that these events could negatively affect agricultural and fishing production and supply chains, reducing food availability and driving

up prices, with possible consequences for food security, nutrition, and health, especially among children, breastfeeding and pregnant women, and other vulnerable groups. This situation is highly concerning in a country where moderate or severe food insecurity already affects more than 50% of the population²¹.

According to the Ministry of Health²², the combination of heavy rains, high temperatures, flooding, and lack of water, hygiene, and sanitation could significantly increase epidemiological risks associated with vector-borne diseases, waterborne diseases, acute respiratory infections, heat-related conditions, wildfires, as well as displacement and limited access to essential services.

VOICES AND EVIDENCE FROM THE FIELD

In Peru, Action Against Hunger currently implements risk-management and value-chain actions in departments of the Amazon and the Southern Highlands, where we maintain a long-standing relationship of trust with communities and local institutions. This sustained presence has made it possible to gather first-hand information through direct dialogue with communities and local actors on the ground.

For this study, 67 surveys were conducted, complemented by 3 interviews, and 2 focus groups in the two areas described below. The profile of the sample is as follows:

35-44

Predominant age range (43%), followed by 45–59 years (31%).

28.4%

Female head of household, 71.6% male.

74.6%

self-identify as Indigenous.

79.1%

rural area

20.9%

urbana area

37.3%

Of the people surveyed are women • 62.7% male.

¹⁷ <https://www.gob.pe/institucion/imarpe/noticias/1420638-comunicado-oficial-enfen-n-13-2026-estado-de-sistema-de-alerta-alerta-de-el-nino-costero>

¹⁸ [Agenda de Emergencia para el Agro. Convención Nacional del Agro Peruano \(Conveagro\) 2026. \(p.4\).](#) Conveagro also indicates that among the most affected crops: olives 70.8%, strawberries 60.6%, maize 42.4%, and avocados 6.9%; and potatoes, rice, onions, and mangoes show severe damage at different stages of development

¹⁹ <https://republicasostenible.pe/cambio-climatico-peru/sequias-por-el-nino-43-millones-estan-en-riesgo-en-peru>

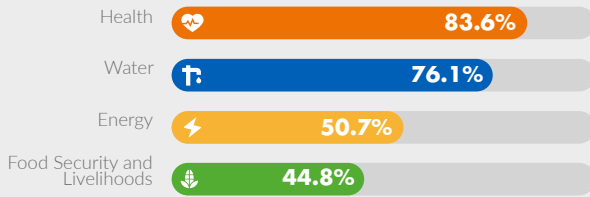
²⁰ <https://peru21.pe/politica/en-alerta-diez-regiones-serian-las-mas-golpeadas-por-el-fenomeno-de-el-nino/>

²¹ <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000173624/download/>

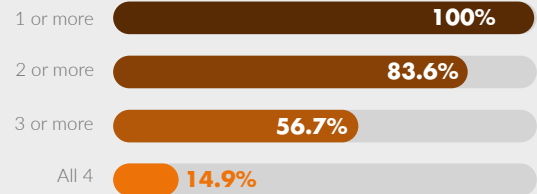
²² <https://www.infobae.com/peru/2026/08/26/minsa-alerta-por-el-nino-2026-estas-seis-enfermedades-podrian-aumentar-en-peru-por-las-lluvias-intensas-y-altas-temperaturas/>



IMPACT BY SECTOR DUE TO CLIMATE VARIABILITY

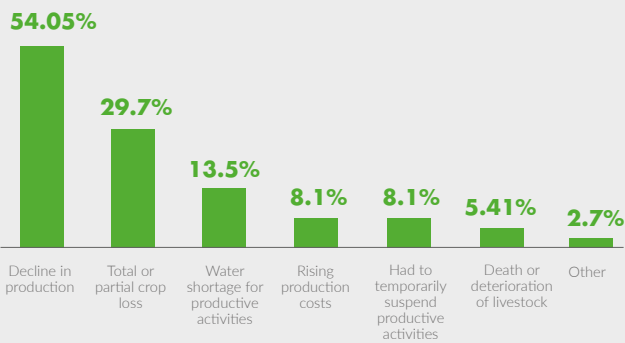


PEOPLE WITH SIMULTANEOUS IMPACTS ACROSS MULTIPLE SECTORS



6 IN 10
have reported disruptions in **3 or more sectors** simultaneously.

IMPACTS ON AGRICULTURAL AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION



ONE PHENOMENON, TWO CLIMATE PATHWAYS

According to participants, the most frequent climate events over the past two months were heavy rains followed by strong winds. For the rural and Indigenous communities we work with, most of which depend on subsistence family farming, the loss of predictable production cycles is as concerning as individual extreme events: either way, they represent significant losses in productivity and food insecurity.

“You can plant in summer and harvest in summer, but it also affected the crops. Why? Because we don't know exactly when summer starts or when winter starts. Sometimes we have a date and plant accordingly, but before the process is finished, the rain comes, the flooding comes, and it affects”

Focus group, Ucayali

The study identifies two territorial pathways with distinct climate manifestations but converging effects: the Amazon, where heavy rains and flooding predominate, and the southern highlands of Cusco, where drought, frost, and strong winds predominate.

RAINS AND FLOODING: AMAZON (AMAZONAS, SAN MARTÍN Y UCAYALI)

Climate impacts do not only compromise economic production and access to food but also disrupt family and community dynamics. In Ucayali, rising rivers have caused total and partial losses of riverside crops (plantain, rice, and other staple foods), as well as the death of livestock and damage to homes; at the same time, several participants described episodes of temporary or forced migration to urban centers when it became impossible to remain in communities that end up completely flooded.

In addition, rains, flooding, and contamination of water sources have contributed to a rise in gastrointestinal illness, respiratory effects, and skin conditions. Testimonies describe scenarios in which families consume water from bodies of water contaminated by decomposing organic matter and dead aquatic wildlife, increasing health risks. This also affects child nutrition, with greater risks of anemia, malnutrition, and developmental effects on children.



STRONG WINDS, DROUGHT, AND FROST: CUSCO

In the case of Ocongate (Cusco), prolonged rains affected potato and oat production, while frosts reduced the availability of pasture and, with it, milk production, fattening cattle, and alpaca farming; an increase was also reported in the incidence of animal disease and the loss of young livestock. Added to this is a progressive decline, already observed over several years, in water sources for consumption and production.

“This never used to happen; the climate didn't change like this before. Now it's quite variable.”

Interview with a community member, Ocongate

“This greatly affects the high Andean areas, resulting in low production of cultivated pastures and reduced water availability. This causes illness in animals, such as in dairy cattle and fattening bulls... For example, with alpacas, there are days when it's extremely cold and days when it can be extremely hot. This affects their bodies and they





RAINS AND FLOODING: AMAZON (AMAZONAS, SAN MARTÍN Y UCAYALI)

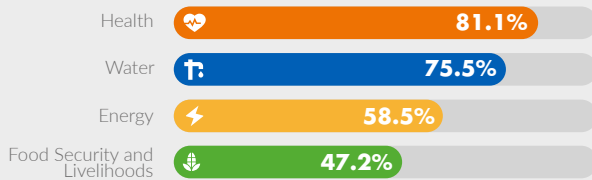
"I've seen that most people suffer more because of water. They also flood, and when the water recedes, everything dries up. Community members drink that same water, which is not fit for human consumption."

Focus group, Ucayali, Peru

"Malnutrition will affect a child's retention and learning for life. It's not that I feed them and it's fixed; it has already affected them for life."

Focus group, Ucayali, Peru

IMPACT BY SECTOR DUE TO CLIMATE VARIABILITY



6 in 10 people have reported impacts in 3 or more sectors simultaneously



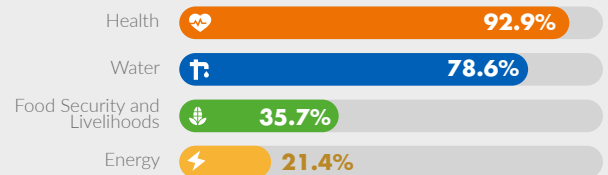
STRONG WINDS, DROUGHT, AND FROST: CUSCO

begin to get sick, with fever and later pneumonia from the cold, and the young begin to die."

Interview, Ocongate

This is compounded by health effects, especially respiratory illnesses stemming from frosts, which particularly affect children and older adults. The study identified a lack of health-care centers for the rural and dispersed communities near Ocongate, making it harder to address these climate-related effects.

IMPACT BY SECTOR DUE TO CLIMATE VARIABILITY



4 in 10 people have reported impacts in 3 or more sectors simultaneously



WATER

41.5% reported ongoing concern about not having enough water during the past month and 45.3% reported supply interruptions. 71.7% of respondents resorted to storing water in containers or tanks for consumption.

The time spent collecting water increased (28.57%) and disruptions in the water supply were reported (28.57%). 50% of people resorted to storing water in containers or tanks for consumption as a coping strategy.



ENERGY

56.6% of respondents reported service disruptions, and 63.6% reported that the supply was intermittent.

Unlike the Amazon region, in this region only 21.4% reported disruptions in a supply that is usually constant.



HEALTH

Diarrheal or gastrointestinal illness (45.3%) and increased outbreaks of dengue, Zika, malaria, and Chagas disease (39.6%) were the most frequently reported. As a coping strategy, people seek care at the nearest health center (56.6%) and use home remedies or traditional medicine (39.6%).



Respiratory effects (85.71%) and skin conditions or outbreaks (7.14%) have occurred. 78.6% use home remedies or traditional medicine as a coping strategy.



FOOD ACCESS

86.8% of people reported an increase in food prices, and 45.3% reported eating less-preferred or cheaper foods.



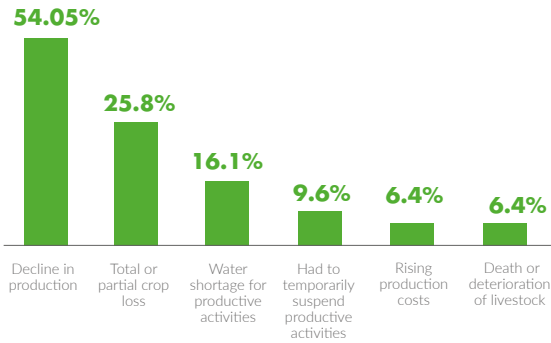
50% of people report an increase in food prices, and 42.9% reported eating less-preferred or cheaper foods.



RAINS AND FLOODING: AMAZON (AMAZONAS, SAN MARTÍN Y UCAYALI)

64.5% of people who depend on agricultural and livestock activities reported suffering economic losses during the past month due to climate variability, resulted from multiple impacts on crops and livestock.

IMPACTS ON AGRICULTURAL AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION



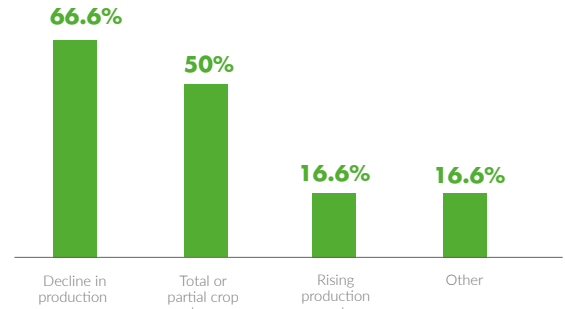
As a coping strategy, to a lesser extent people reported changing planting dates or cycles (16.1%) and suspending productive activity (16.1%)

55.56% of people with other sources of income reported being affected by climate in the past month. 61.1% of people identified day labor or occasional work linked to agricultural livelihoods as their source of income, which was directly affected by crop losses and flooding.

STRONG WINDS, DROUGHT, AND FROST: CUSCO

66.67% of people who depend on farming reported having suffered economic losses in the past month due to climate variability, caused by multiple impacts on crops and livestock.

IMPACTS ON AGRICULTURAL AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION



Only 16.7% reported changing planting dates or cycles as a strategy.



28.6% of people with other sources of income reported being affected by climate in the past month.

PERCEIVED THREATS AND PREPAREDNESS

67.9% of people consider drought very likely and 35.8% consider further flooding or landslides very likely in the next 6 months. In response, they identified communication with authorities, firefighters, or risk-management bodies (28.30%), community plans, evacuation routes and meeting points in emergencies (28.3%), and community identification of safe areas and temporary shelters (26.4%) as response and preparedness actions



35.7% of people consider further drought and water scarcity somewhat likely, and 57.1% consider flooding or landslides not at all likely in the next 6 months. They identified communication with authorities, firefighters, or risk-management bodies (28.57%), community agreements on water use or rationing (28.57%), and community risk-management agreements or committees (21.43%) as response and preparedness actions.





INSTITUTIONAL BARRIERS TO ANTICIPATION

Faced with this scenario, communities acknowledge institutional efforts, although they consider them insufficient. A lack of resources, limited continuity of projects, and weak coordination among authorities, Indigenous organizations, and communities hamper preparedness and response actions. In the jungle region, 73.6% identified a lack of institutional support as the main barrier to community anticipation, followed by a shortage of financial resources (69.8%). In Cusco, the main limitations are a lack of community organization and a lack of information or early-warning systems, both cited by 71.4% of the people consulted.

“There are times when we aren't always prepared. And honestly, I don't know right now if those climate changes are due to pollution or whatever, but we aren't always kept informed.”

Interview with a community member in Ocongate, Cusco

STRATEGIES, SOLUTIONS, AND THE WAY FORWARD

Data and testimonies point to the same priority: strengthening access to timely information for all actors and communities alike, as well as promoting adaptation strategies designed around local realities. Communities are calling for effective, sustainable, participatory community early-warning systems, mapping of critical areas, ongoing training processes, and tools adapted to their own livelihoods — from fishing and Amazonian oxbow lakes to high-Andean livestock farming — based on each community's own life plans.

“Each community has its own potential... we would need to look at each community's life plan.”

Focus group, Ucayali

This vision confirms that climate resilience depends both on the availability of resources, infrastructure, technology, and communication strategies, and on the capacity to listen to and incorporate the experience and potential of those who live with these challenges every day. Coordination among institutions, international and local organizations, Indigenous organizations, and communities is therefore key to accurately identifying effects and strategies.



PRIORITIES

Given Peru's growing exposure to climate and health risks, preparedness and anticipation action need to become an investment priority. Public and private actors should prioritize mobilizing resources to strengthen capacities that make it possible to anticipate emergencies, reduce their impact, and protect the most vulnerable populations.

This requires strengthening and equipping response teams in the Amazon, expanding community early-warning systems, and securing funding for contingency plans against droughts, wildfires, flooding, landslides (hualcos), and disease outbreaks.

It is also essential to expand financing and social protection mechanisms that make it possible to act before and during an emergency, including early cash transfers, and to strengthen community capacities in safe water, sanitation, health, and nutrition. Investing today in preparedness and resilience will reduce future needs, protect livelihoods, and strengthen community capacity.



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VENEZUELA



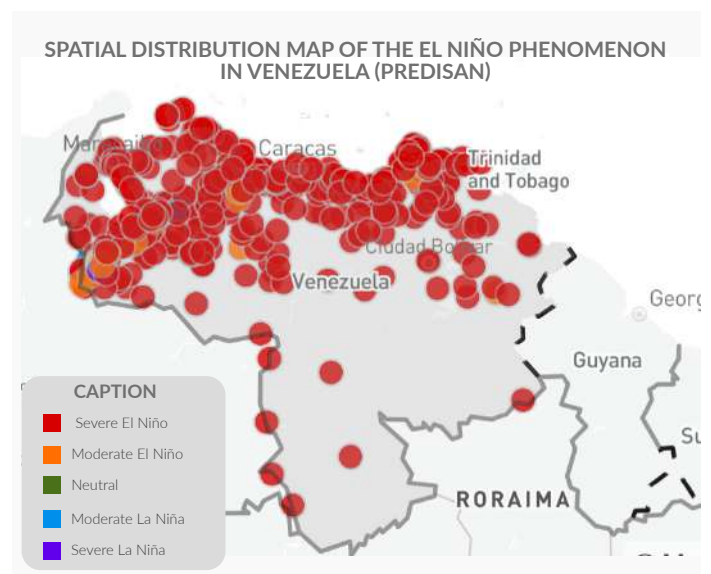

61,5% of households reported insufficient food availability or difficulty accessing food

Unlike Guatemala, Honduras, Peru, and Colombia, in Venezuela the harmonized community-perception survey underpinning the regional section of this document was not carried out, owing to the context of responding to the June earthquakes. Even so, a possible intensification of ENSO-related conditions during 2026 is anticipated, posing an additional threat to rural and peri-urban households with climate-dependent livelihoods, high dependence on markets, and limited capacity to absorb new shocks. Should these conditions materialize, their main effects could be seen between late 2026 and the first half of 2027, with significant impacts in a context already marked by the economic crisis, the loss of purchasing power, and the effects of the earthquakes of 24 June 2026, which caused damage to homes, losses on household income, and displacement.

According to data validated by the Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster (SAMV), around 40% of the population was experiencing moderate or severe food insecurity at the start of 2026. Similarly, Action Against Hunger assessments in earthquake-affected areas show that 61.5% of households reported insufficient food availability or difficulty accessing food; 70.5% were in a crisis according to the reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI); and 52.2% had reduced the quantity or quality of food consumed.

The occurrence of the El Niño Phenomenon could deepen these vulnerabilities through reduced water availability, effects on agricultural and livestock production, reduced rural employment and income opportunities, and greater pressure on food availability and prices. As a result, risks of food insecurity, malnutrition, disrupted education, internal displacement, insufficient access to safe water, and gender-based violence could increase.

According to PREDISAN, the monitoring and analysis platform we manage at Action Against Hunger, the areas with the greatest exposure to Severe El Niño scenarios include: Maracaibo and San Francisco (Zulia); Coro (Falcón); Barquisimeto (Lara); Acarigua-Araure (Portuguesa); Barinas; Valencia (Carabobo); Maracay (Aragua); A. Sucre and Chacao (Caracas); Baruta, El Hatillo, Guarenas, and Guatire (Miranda); Barcelona, Puerto La Cruz, and Lechería (Anzoátegui); Cumaná (Sucre); Maturín (Monagas); Tucupita (Delta Amacuro); and Ciudad Bolívar (Bolívar). This information makes it possible to identify priority populations and strengthen evidence-based preparedness and early response.



VOICES AND EVIDENCE FROM THE FIELD

WHEN WATER RUNS OUT, PLANTING STOPS

In the La Resistencia community, where agriculture is essential to families' subsistence, changes in rainfall and reduced water availability have limited their ability to grow crops: *"Yes, we have been greatly affected"*, says Tito, speaking about the impacts of the El Niño Phenomenon on planting. Today, the available water is no longer enough to sustain families' production:

"We only have a trickle of water, and it's not enough for even half a hectare of crops."

Faced with this situation, families have had to reduce their cultivated areas and prioritize the food needed to survive. Because even though the desire to farm remains, there isn't enough water:





"We know that everyone here wants to produce, even if it's just a little, everyone wants to plant. But we don't have the means to do it".

When the rains change, production changes too

For those who depend on farming, knowing when the rain will arrive is essential. When its timing shifts or its pattern changes, planting times and the chances of a good harvest change as well. *"It's not like it used to be when it rained. We're waiting for rain to plant, so that at least the plants won't need as much water and won't suffer as much".*

Beans, cassava, maize, watermelon, and melon are among the affected crops. The community recalls seasons when it managed to farm large areas, whereas today the available water is insufficient even to maintain a small plot.

A solution the community is trying to build

Faced with this reality, the families of La Resistencia are looking for new ways to secure water. One of their main proposals is to build a reservoir upstream and connect it to the existing system to expand access to water, both to supply families and for production. *"We want to build a reservoir up above... There would be more water for farming. It's very expensive, so we have to build it bit by bit."*

While they work toward this solution, the community is also organizing to look after every drop. When there's a problem with the shared system, families mobilize to fix it:

"When there's a problem with the shared hose, we call a community meeting to fix it".

In La Resistencia, anticipating the effects of El Niño also means protecting water, strengthening community organization, and finding solutions that make it possible to keep planting and sustaining livelihoods.



PRIORITIES

Work must continue to strengthen capacities and mobilize resources to anticipate and respond promptly to the impacts of ENSO.

It is a priority to keep strengthening food-security surveillance, early-warning systems, and the generation of information that can guide anticipatory decisions. This effort requires special attention to the territories where multiple vulnerabilities converge, such as Aragua, Carabobo, Miranda, La Guaira, Yaracuy, and the Caracas Metropolitan Area.

It is likewise essential to sustain investments that protect livelihoods against droughts and water shortages through the restoration of water sources and irrigation systems, the distribution of adapted seeds, livestock protection, and the promotion of resilient agroecological practices. These actions should incorporate the differentiated needs of women, girls, boys, and adolescents, as well as measures aimed at preventing protection risks, gender-based violence, and effects on mental health and psychosocial well-being.

Strengthening local capacities and promoting anticipatory risk management will help reduce vulnerabilities, protect livelihoods, and increase the resilience of the most exposed communities in the face of future crises.

For our part, we continue strengthening capacities and mobilizing resources to anticipate and respond promptly to the impacts of the El Niño Phenomenon. Within this framework, the Flying team of nutritionists implements a national strategy for monitoring acute malnutrition and, in coordination with multidisciplinary teams, uses the maps and areas of concern identified by PREDISAN to guide the monitoring schedule and prioritize areas of intervention.



The information generated makes it possible to coordinate health and nutrition interventions in advance, including food assistance, alongside actions to strengthen and protect livelihoods against droughts and water shortages. Alerts identified are also shared with the humanitarian architecture to enable an earlier, better-coordinated response.

At the same time, Action Against Hunger continues to strengthen its engagement with the Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster through the production and dissemination of evidence that helps guide prioritization and resource-allocation processes within the humanitarian response. This effort also seeks to influence financing mechanisms, including the Venezuela Humanitarian Fund, to expand resources devoted to protecting and restoring livelihoods. In this way, the response to ENSO can integrate monitoring, anticipation, assistance, and concrete measures that reduce production losses and mitigate the deterioration of food security among the most vulnerable populations.



3. WHAT WE ARE DOING

ANTICIPATING RISKS, REDUCING IMPACTS

Strengthening the capacity to anticipate the El Niño Phenomenon requires bringing timely information to communities, strengthening early warning systems, and turning forecasts and risk analysis into concrete decisions.

In **PERÚ**, for example, coverage of the multi-hazard Early Warning System is being expanded in Amazonas, San Martín, and Ucayali, supported by the Jempe mobile application, which facilitates the reporting of incidents from isolated Indigenous communities and enables preventive measures to be activated.

In **VENEZUELA**, the PREDISAN system incorporates climate, territorial, and socioeconomic information to identify areas of greatest exposure, monitor risks, and generate scenarios that guide preparedness and response.

In **COLOMBIA**, periodic monitoring of the potential impacts of the El Niño Phenomenon through surveys makes it possible to identify early warning signs, generate evidence, and guide decisions.

And in **GUATEMALA** and **HONDURAS** mechanisms are being strengthened so that agroclimatic information reaches communities through accessible channels and can be translated, together with local authorities and territorial organizations, into



decisions about planting, water management, and the protection of livelihoods.

This capacity for anticipation is complemented by actions tailored to the realities of each territory, such as the conservation and storage of water, seeds and food reserves, climate-adapted agriculture, soil conservation, livelihood diversification, and reduced post-harvest losses. Work is also carried out with community organizations, municipalities, water committees, and essential services to improve preparedness and response to periods of scarcity and other emergencies. In Colombia, for example, 43 water committees have been supported between 2025 and 2026; in Peru, brigades and community agents are being trained and agreements with health services and other local actors are being strengthened; and in Venezuela, community seed banks, food preservation technologies, and solutions that reduce women's workload help protect resources and strengthen household recovery.

The results of the surveys and focus groups show, however, that significant gaps persist in access to information, community organization, institutional support, and preparedness capacities. This confirms the need to sustain and expand these actions, adapting them to the particularities of each territory and prioritizing the gaps identified, so that communities, institutions, and local actors have better conditions to anticipate risks, act in a timely way, and reduce their impacts.



REGIONAL RESPONSE

PEOPLE REACHED BY SECTOR



CENTRAL AMERICA



PEOPLE REACHED BY SECTOR



37,945
PEOPLE REACHED

COLOMBIA



PEOPLE REACHED BY SECTOR



31,437
PEOPLE REACHED

PERU



PEOPLE REACHED BY SECTOR



3,302
PEOPLE REACHED

VENEZUELA



PEOPLE REACHED BY SECTOR



21,857
PEOPLE REACHED



94,541

TOTAL PEOPLE REACHED
JANUARY - JUNE 2026



57.6%
ARE WOMEN



42.4%
ARE MEN



16.5%
ARE CHILDREN
UNDER 5



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STRATEGIC ALLIES



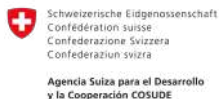
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FOR COMMUNITIES.
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