



# GIEWS Update

## The Republic of Haiti

### Food insecurity severely deteriorating in southern parts of the country

#### Highlights

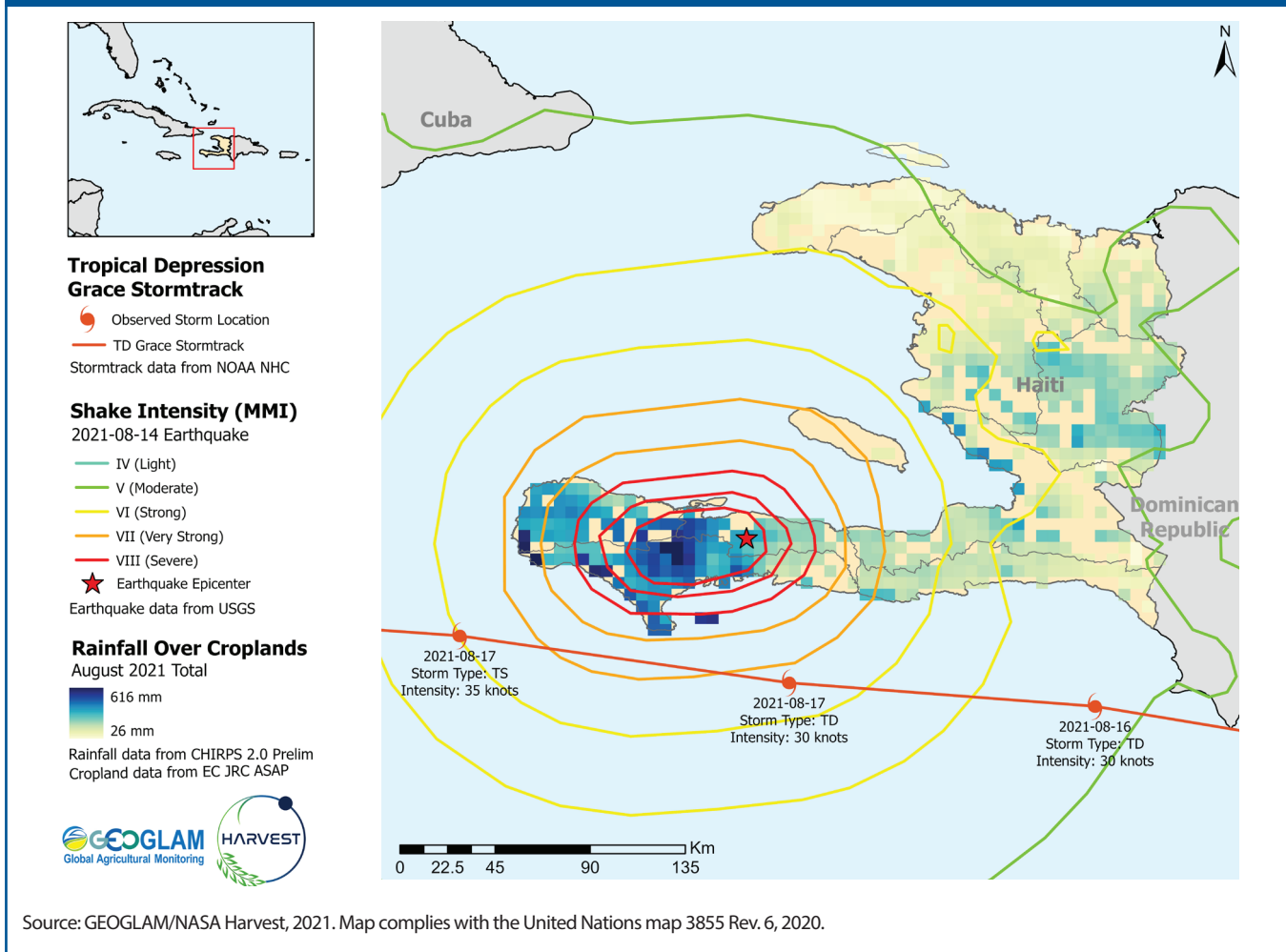
- A 7.2-magnitude earthquake and a tropical depression have caused losses of lives and severe damages to infrastructure in Sud, Grand'Anse, Nippes and Sud-Est departments.
- The food insecurity situation, which has been steadily worsening since 2018 amid the economic downturn and socio-political turmoil, has deteriorated significantly due to losses of livelihoods caused by the natural disasters.
- In the four affected departments, about 980 000 people are estimated to be severely food insecure between September 2021 and February 2022, about 45 percent of the local population.
- It is also likely that stored crops have been lost, while the 2021 second season maize and bean crops have been affected by flooding and landslides.

A 7.2-magnitude earthquake struck the southwestern region of the country on 14 August 2021, severely affecting the departments of Sud, Grand'Anse and Nippes. According to the latest official information, over 2 200 people died, more than 12 000 were injured and hundreds are still missing. The International Organization of Migration (IOM) estimates that about 8 300 people have been displaced in Sud and Nippes departments. Severe damage to housing and infrastructure, including an electricity power station in Sud department, agricultural storage and processing facilities,

irrigation canals, roads, hospitals and schools, was reported.

On 16 August 2021, the tropical depression Grace made landfall, bringing heavy rains (about 120 percent higher than average) and strong winds in Sud and Sud-Est departments. It triggered flooding and landslides affecting the 2021 second season maize and bean crops, especially in Cayes commune of Sud department and Jacmel and Marigot communes of Sud-Est department. A large number of domestic animals (mainly poultry and goats) died, diminishing livelihood opportunities of the affected households.

## Map 1: Haiti - Earthquake intensity and accumulated rainfall (August 2021)



### The already alarming food insecurity deteriorates further

According to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, about 980 000 people (45 percent of the local population) in the four affected departments are estimated to be severely food insecure, IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and above, between September 2021 and February 2022, up from 820 000 people between August 2020 and February 2021. Destruction of productive assets and infrastructure has severely affected livelihoods, aggravating an already alarming food insecurity situation. Food insecurity would further deteriorate without an adequate delivery of food assistance to the affected households as the current estimate is based on the expectation that at least 25 percent of the households would meet 25 to 50 percent of their caloric needs through humanitarian assistance between September 2021 and February 2022.

In the affected areas, food insecurity has been steadily deteriorating since 2018, mainly due to the declining availability of most staple food caused by unfavourable weather conditions and increasing production costs. In addition, access to food has been worsening as soaring inflation reduced households' purchasing power.

The negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the local economy, together with increasing violence, has contributed to the recent deterioration of the overall food insecurity situation in the country. According to a rapid assessment carried out in 2020 by the National Coordination for Food Security (CNSA), the increase in staple food prices was the most important factor that affected livelihoods (33 percent), followed by the increase in the costs of agricultural inputs (25 percent) and the

loss of income (11 percent). The increasing input prices have also lowered farmers' access to seeds, affecting planted area of cereals and beans during the 2020 main cropping season. In addition,

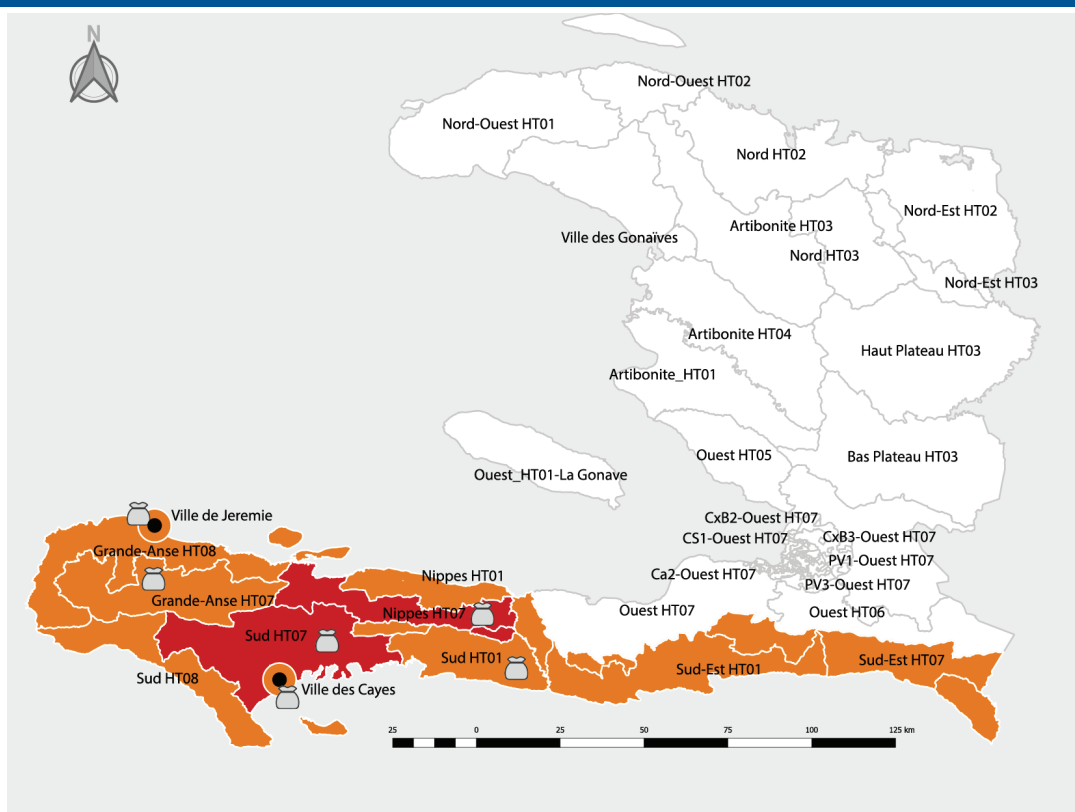
the worsening insecurity and socio-political unrest since early 2019 have caused disruptions to logistics and market activities, with negative impacts on access to food.

**Table 1: Haiti - Number of people classified in phases of acute food insecurity in the four affected departments**  
(September 2021–February 2022)

	Total	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Phase 5	Phase 3 (%)
Grand'Anse	463 892	99 137	127 246	160 234	69 584	0	50
Nippes	325 672	97 702	73 030	105 597	49 344	0	47
Sud	807 223	244 264	193 527	237 437	131 995	0	45
Sud-Est	583 787	182 954	175 136	156 633	69 065	0	39
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 180 574</b>	<b>624 056</b>	<b>568 939</b>	<b>659 909</b>	<b>319 988</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>45</b>

Source: Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), 2021.

**Map 2: Haiti - Acute food insecurity in the four affected departments**  
(September 2021–February 2022)



**MAP KEY**

**IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification**

(mapped Phase represents highest severity affecting at least 20% of the population)

- 1 - Minimal
- 2 - Stressed
- 3 - Crisis

- 4 - Emergency
- 5 - Famine
- Areas not analysed

Classification takes into account levels humanitarian food assistance provided

- At least 25% of households meet 25-50% of caloric needs from humanitarian food assistance
- At least 25% of households meet over 50% of caloric needs from humanitarian food assistance

Source: Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), 2021. Map complies with the United Nations map 3855 Rev. 6, 2020.

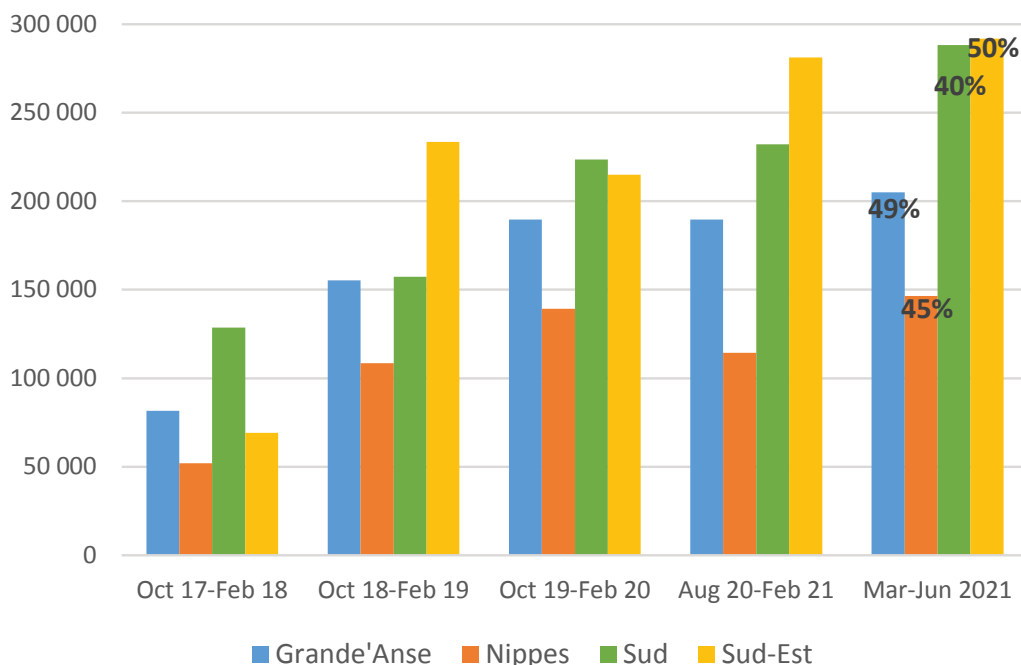
## The potential impact of recent disasters on agricultural production

A joint government and FAO assessment is currently underway and is expected to provide information on the impact of recent shocks on agriculture and food security. Before detailed information is available, this section aims to provide a general outlook of agricultural production following the devastation caused by the disasters.

According to official estimates, about 20 percent of the country's annual production of maize and beans were produced in the affected areas (mostly in Sud and Sud-Est departments) in 2019, with more than half of the annual output harvested in the "*printemps*" (spring) season (June and July). Given the important share of

crops gathered in the main season, losses of stored crops caused by the disasters could result in reduced availabilities of staple food. Flooding and landslides, resulted from heavy rains, are likely to have affected maize and bean crops in the current "*automne*" (autumn) season, which represents about 20 percent of the annual production. Similarly, in the key yam (*igname*) producing department of Grande'Anse, torrential rains and strong winds have likely affected standing yam crops. In Nippes department, where production of maize and beans is marginal, the adverse impact of the disasters threatens livelihoods of subsistence farmers, as the extent to which they rely on market purchases to access food has increased. Blocked roads and damaged market infrastructure have likely exerted an upward pressure on food prices, further constraining households' access to food.

**Figure 1: Haiti - Evolution of the number of severely food insecure people in the four affected departments (October 2017–June 2021)**



Source: Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), 2021.

Note: The percentages in the last columns refer to the share of population in acute food insecurity, IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and above.

## **FAO to provide assistance for agricultural production and rehabilitation**

FAO appealed for USD 30 million to restore agricultural production and livelihoods of about 160 000 affected households. The FAO Emergency Response Plan (August 2021–May 2022) includes the following targeted activities:

- Provision of agricultural inputs and technical assistance to 75 000 people at the beginning of the 2021 winter season in October 2021 and the 2022 main spring season in March.
- Restocking and protecting livestock by distributing small livestock to 50 000 people and operating mobile veterinary clinics.
- Rehabilitation of agricultural infrastructure, including markets, roads, irrigation canals, storage and processing facilities for 35 000 people.
- Provision of emergency cash transfers, equivalent to USD 200 (in Haitian gourde) to 25 000 affected households (125 000 people).
- Strengthening food security coordination, information and warning systems.

This report was prepared by the **Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS)** of the Markets and Trade Division of FAO. The updates focus on developing anomalous conditions aimed at providing early warnings, as well as latest and more elaborate information than other GIEWS regular reports on the food security situation of countries, at both national and sub-national levels. None of the information in this report should be regarded as statements of governmental views.

For more information visit the **GIEWS Website** at: <http://www.fao.org/giews/en/>

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