



World Food Programme
Programme Alimentaire Mondial
Programa Mundial de Alimentos
برنامج الأغذية العالمي

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

New footage from WFP Shows Climate Change and Food Insecurity Driving Migration in El Salvador and Guatemala

Shot: 29July-7Aug 2019

Guatemala/El Salvador/Panama

TRT: 3:24

SHOTLIST:

:00-:19

Farmers cutting failed corn crop. It's the rainy season but, as in the previous 5 years, the rains in this area have not been sufficient so, the ruined crops are being used for animal feed.

Chiquimula, Guatemala

Shot: 1Aug2019

:19-:36

Dry river beds being used by people to collect sand.

Chiquimula, Guatemala

Shot: 31July2019

:36-1:11

Aerial/GV's Jose Cirilo's farm.

Jose, 26yr old farmer examines the dry crops on his farm. Four years ago, just married, he tried to migrate to the US but was caught crossing the Rio Bravo and sent back. He now has a 4 yr old son and his wife is expecting another son. One third of the population of El Salvador live in the US. Remittances account for 20% of the GDP.

San Gerardo, El Salvador

Shot: 29July2019

1:11-1:26

SOT Jose Cirilo (Spanish)

"Because of the situation we couldn't grow enough, the land didn't yield as much as before, so that forced me to migrate to the United States."

San Gerardo, El Salvador

Shot: 29July2019

1:26-1:40

Jose Cirilo on his farm

San Gerardo, El Salvador



Shot: 29July2019

1:40-1:57

SOT Jose Cirilo (Spanish)

“If it continues as it is today, I will have to leave again because there is no work here, one can’t survive in El Salvador”

San Gerardo, El Salvador

Shot: 29July2019

1:57-2:07

Market

Insecurity adds another element of risk to struggling farmers who migrate to urban areas where they may become susceptible to criminal gangs.

Usulután, El Salvador

Shot: 30July2019

2:07-2:34

SOT Miguel Baretto, Regional Director, WFP Latin America(English)

“Migration is not a solution. When a person migrates, those who are left behind are suffering the cause of the migration. It takes almost 5 years to economically recover when one person migrates. So the solution is to work all together on long term food security systems that promote that these farmers can be resilient and engaged to the markets.”

Panama

Shot: 7Aug2019

2:34-2:53

WFP community gardens produce a variety of vegetables, generate income for the families to cover other household expenses.

Usulután, El Salvador

Shot: 29July2019

2:51-3:05

SOT Andrew Stanhope Country Director WFP El Salvador(English)

“This includes the production of different fruits and vegetables and giving them access to markets and we have seen that the investment in these resilience activities has given them the ability to weather that storm of the continuous droughts.”

San Salvador, El Salvador

Shot: 30July2019



3:05-3:24

Zayra participates in WFP resilience projects enabling her to stay at home with her family.

Usulután, El Salvador

Shot: 29 July 2019

ENDS

Dry Corridor – Key facts

-For the fifth consecutive year, erratic weather patterns –prolonged dry spells and excessive rains—have decimated maize and bean crops in the Dry Corridor of Central America. This has affected the food security of subsistence farmers meaning that many struggle on a daily basis to feed their families.

-More than 2 million people in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua have been affected, and 1.4 million of them need urgent food assistance, according to a food security assessment carried out in late 2018 by the World Food Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization and government institutions.

-Up to 82 percent of the families sold their agricultural tools and animals, cut back or skipped meals and ate less nutritious foods to deal with their food insecurity. The assessment classifies these actions as emergency coping strategies.

-Subsistence farmers and their families in the Dry Corridor are highly vulnerable to food insecurity. When they lose their crops, farmers try to find jobs in local plantations and often have no income to buy food. Other farmers migrate to cities, neighboring countries, or further afield.

In Numbers (EFSA, 2018)

-2.2 million people are affected by the prolonged dry spell during the last harvest of 2018.

- 1.4 million need food assistance:

- Guatemala: about 500,000 in severe food insecurity
- El Salvador: 210,000 people
- Honduras: 500,000 people
- Nicaragua: 200,000 people and 85,000 school children

-8 out of 10 households resort to crisis and emergency coping strategies.



- Guatemala – 82% are adopting negative coping strategies
- Honduras – 25% of households are applying emergency coping strategies
- El Salvador – 7% of households have gone at least 1 day without food and 50% had to reduce food rations.
- Nicaragua – in 7 out of 10 families at least one member had to migrate in search for better employment opportunities.

-Over 25 percent of households do not have sufficient income to cover the cost of the basic food basket.

-8 percent of families indicated that they were going to resort to migration, which the assessment classifies as an extreme coping strategy.

-Given the current situation, WFP plans to provide food assistance to more than 700,000 people living in the Dry Corridor. We have assisted more than 160,000 vulnerable people this year. Our work focuses in their immediate needs as well as helping them adapt to climate change.

-WFP needs US\$72 million to assist these people with food distributions in the short-term, and with capacity strengthening interventions in the medium- and long-term to help them build resilience, adapt to climate change and enhance national social protection systems.

Guatemala

- Guatemala is among the ten countries in the world most vulnerable to climate change and most exposed to natural hazards in the region, WFP is supporting the national response to drought-affected subsistence farmers as to help them to cope with the lean season while restoring their livelihoods.
- Guatemala is facing a food security crisis following the 2018 drought. The 2018 Emergency Food Security Assessment indicates that 36 percent of the rural population is food insecure. An increase in acute malnutrition in children under 5 years of age was confirmed.
- 3 million people were moderately/severely food insecure having lost over 75 percent of their crops.
- The rainfall season already started, and the dry period known as 'canicula' is ongoing in July/August. However, the irregular pattern of rainfall in some regions may damage the crops.



El Salvador

- El Salvador's recurrent droughts limit progress in addressing poverty and food insecurity. This phenomenon is increasing over time and has disastrous consequences on the basic grain production (maize and beans) of subsistence smallholder farmers living in rural communities.
- The reduction in agricultural production causes a risk of the depletion of food stocks, decreasing dietary diversity, while increasing cases of malnutrition in children under five of the most vulnerable urban and rural population.

Background on the Dry Corridor

- The Dry Corridor of Central America is a geographical area made up of a tropical dry forest ecosystem that runs from Southern Mexico to Panama. The area is vulnerable to the El Niño phenomenon and erratic weather patterns, which delay rains and extend the dry spell.
- Families in the Dry Corridor grow and eat their own food. If crops fail, they will not have food to eat or even food reserves until the next crop cycle.
- Central America has two crop cycles every year: The Primera (first cycle) and the Postrera (second cycle). Planting of the Primera takes place between April and June and harvesting in August. Its production covers food needs until December. Planting of the Postrera occurs between September and November, while harvesting takes place in January. Its production covers food needs between February and June. Traditionally, Central America has a lean season (lack of food) that runs between June and August. The rainy season in Central America –and in the Dry Corridor—runs from May to November.
- Maize and beans, their main crops, are very fragile and grown on hillsides with poor soil. They are susceptible to adverse weather conditions, meaning that too little or too much rain can ruin an entire harvest.

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than 80 countries around the world, feeding people caught in conflict and disasters, and laying the foundations for a better future.

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