

## The year of crises: Food shortages and famine

During this year, it is expected that more than 265 million people in the world will suffer due to food shortages and famine

Congregación Mariana Trinitaria contributes to develop a route to the new normal so, it makes its programs aimed at renewing and boosting social development more accessible to people.

**C**ivil conflicts, droughts and adverse climatic conditions, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, might cause that by the end of the year more than 265 million people suffer due to food shortages and they might even be on the verge of famine. That number is double compared to last year's, when 135 million people had those problems according to reports made by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

Lockdown, loss of incomes, and massive layoffs; are some of the causes of this crisis that affects the most to low and middle classes, and farmers too. Besides, informal commerce and sectors in charge of providing services will become vulnerable to poverty and hunger. It is also expected that a global recession will cause a severe impact during 2021, and it will seriously affect food supply chains.

Predictions do not look very optimistic... Are we prepared for the food crisis that is coming? Will we have the capacity to face those big challenges? What we know for sure is that the COVID-19 pandemic will cause serious health problems, and also many people will be in the balance.

### Data

- About **265 million people in low- and middle-income countries will face food insecurity by the end of 2020**, unless measures are implemented as soon as possible
- The 10 countries that suffered the worst food crises in 2019 were: **Yemen, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Afghanistan, Venezuela, Ethiopia, Southern Sudan, Syria, Sudan, Nigeria, and Haiti**

### COVID-19 in Latin America

According to the United Nations World Food Program, the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic in this region may leave about 14 million people in vulnerable conditions to hunger only in this year.

Estimates predict that another 10 million people may be condemned to poverty and hunger in 11 countries in this region, including the Small Island Developing States in the Caribbean.

Some projections show that hunger will affect the most to the following countries in Latin America and the Caribbean: Bolivia, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Peru, Dominican Republic, and the small island developing states in the Caribbean.

In Haiti alone, 76% of the population live below the poverty line, and it is estimated that the amount of people in food insecurity conditions might increase from 700 thousand to 1.6 million.

### CMT actions to face health and economy crisis



- A network to provide and guarantee the delivery of supplies
- Savings and financial inclusion for productive purposes
- Zero-interest financing for micro productive sectors in the countryside and the city
- Financing to support basic infrastructure in municipalities
- Educative online platforms and distance healthcare
- Professional and responsible spread on media about the different ways to prevent more infections



Most of the people who faced extreme food insecurity in 2019, lived in countries affected by conflicts, climate change, and economic crisis

### Message CMT

In every crisis, children, elderly people, women, and vulnerable groups always become the most affected ones. For this reason, it is important that people in the government around the world and civil societies strengthen their social protection systems regarding nutrition by developing programs that guarantee the access to safe and nutritious food.

In addition, it is important to reinforce food assistance programs in the most vulnerable groups by providing more support to local markets, and also by meeting liquidity needs of small producers and rural companies.

This pandemic left us an important message: It is necessary to invest more in our future in order to create a more inclusive and sustainable world. Food systems need to provide better attention to meet the needs of producers and workers; and as a consequence, the access to healthy and nutritious food will be fair and it will be possible to eradicate hunger.

Congregación Mariana Trinitaria (CMT) is developing a new route to the new normal so, it makes its programs more accessible to people so as to renovate and foster social development. Those programs to face COVID-19 were designed to reduce the impact of the world economy shock as they lead the way to recovery.

This way, a contribution is made to guarantee the supply and delivery of food for vulnerable families. By implementing them permanently in a sustainable way, they may guarantee their access to food through programs like "liquid milk and formula".

Moreover, to reactivate the community economy, financing and subsidies are also provided to groups, committees and organizations of small producers to boost local consumption. As a consequence, they may feel more confident by having this kind of support.

Through public investment it was possible to develop social impact actions like improving the conditions of public spaces or public lighting; and it was also possible for people to get sustainable assets by saving on their monthly payments.