

## **Brazil faces the risk of food insecurity**

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This is the first time that food insecurity in Latin America's largest food producer has been higher than the world average since tracking data began in 2006.

Difficult people queue to receive food relief from an NGO in the context of the COVID-19 epidemic raging in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on April 7, 2020. Documentary photo: AFP/VNA

Brazilians are facing a serious problem even though the country is one of the world's leading agricultural producers. Economist Marcelo Neri, director of FGV's Center for Social Policy and an author of the study, said food prices rose sharply after Russia launched a special operation in Ukraine.

Statistics show that the rate of food insecurity among the poorest 20% of people in Brazil during the COVID-19 pandemic has increased to 75% in 2021, from 53% in 2019, close to the rate in Zimbabwe, where the highest level of food insecurity in the world (80%).

In addition, the study also shows that the gender gap in food insecurity in 2021 in Brazil is six times larger than the global average.

Brazil's civil status administration (CadÚnico) said the number of households in extreme poverty in this South American country between May 2021 and the end of April 2022 increased from 14.6 million households to 18.2 million households, or 52% of the total 35 million households included in CadÚnico's statistical base.

By population, 47 million of the more than 83.3 million people covered by CadÚnico are living in extreme poverty, 55% of the time.

Tra My (VNA)