

Brazil faces the risk of food insecurity

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According to a new study from Brazils Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV) education center, the percentage of people who cannot afford to buy food for themselves or their families at some point in the year has risen to a record 36% in the past year. 2021 compared to 30% in 2019.

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

Brazilians are facing a serious problem even though the country is one of the worlds leading agricultural producers. Economist Marcelo Neri, director of FGVs 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.

Brazils 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 CadÚnicos 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.