



WFP Guatemala Country Brief

June 2018

Operational Context

National stunting in Guatemala in children aged 6-59 is the fourth highest in the world and the highest in the region. At 46.5 percent nationwide, the stunting rate climbs up to 70 percent in some departments, with peaks as high as 90 percent in the hardest hit municipalities.

Guatemala is among the ten most vulnerable countries to climate change worldwide, and is the fourth most exposed to natural disasters in the region. Climate shocks have a critical impact on food security.

Poverty and extreme poverty rates (59% and 23% respectively) increased between 2006 and 2014.

WFP has been present in Guatemala since 1974. WFP strategic priorities are aligned with the National Development Plan and United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).



Population: **16.58 million**

2016 Human Development Index:
128 out of 188

Income Level: **Middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **46.5% of children between 6-59 months**

Main Photo

Credit: WFP/Irina Ruano.
Caption: First beneficiary to receive the Cash Based Transfer from WFP response to Fuego Volcano eruption.

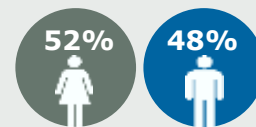
In Numbers: 2017

2,753 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$7.0 m cash based transfers made

US\$ 4.9 m six months (July-December 2018) net funding requirements

237,665 people assisted (Jan.-Dec. 2017)



Operational Updates

- After the Fuego volcano eruption on 3 June, WFP closely coordinated with the Humanitarian Country Team to respond to the needs of the most affected populations. WFP led a multi-sector evaluation in affected communities in collaboration with the Government, NGOs, UN agencies and other partners. Key findings on food security, damages, agriculture, food consumption and market prices informed the relief intervention.
- WFP provided first response through cash-based transfers (CBT) to families affected by the Fuego volcano eruption. Two thousand households from communities of Escuintla and Chimaltenango departments, which were severely affected by the eruption, were targeted to receive unconditional CBT during an initial 3-month period of USD 77 per household per month. WFP assistance could be extended depending on how the situation evolves.
- WFP's expertise on logistics will help the municipality of Alotenango, Sacatepequez department, to broaden its storage capacity and empty the schools that were established as collection centres. WFP will provide technical assistance to local actors to improve supply chain capacity.
- WFP is coordinating with the Food Security and Agriculture cluster, the preparation of an action plan to assist thousands of subsistence farmers whose crops were damaged or completely lost due to the dispersion of volcanic ash. FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA) estimate more than 16,900 affected households.
- WFP continues to support smallholder farmers and their connection to markets. Through the Farmers' Market organized by the restaurant chain "Saúl", four farmers' organizations could offer their organic and nutritious products, and network with potential clients.

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Further information: <http://www1.wfp.org/countries/guatemala>

WFP Country Strategy		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
Country Strategic Plan (2018-2021)		
67.16 m	8.05 m	4.9 m
Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food		
Strategic Outcome 5: Populations in areas affected by shocks can satisfy their basic food and nutrition requirements. <i>Focus area: Crisis response</i>		
24.43 m	1.16 m	4.43 m
Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition		
Strategic Outcome 1: Children aged 6-23 months in prioritized areas with elevated stunting rates have reduced prevalence of stunting. <i>Focus area: Root causes</i>		
8.14 m	1.02 m	1.05 m
Strategic Result 3: Smallholders have improved food security and nutrition		
Strategic Outcome 3: Food-insecure communities and individuals address the impact of climate-related shocks on their food security and nutrition, adapt to climate change and build resilience. <i>Focus area: Resilience building</i>		
16.28 m	3.05 m	0.05 m
Strategic Result 4: Food systems are sustainable		
Strategic Outcome 4: Smallholder farmers in areas with potential surplus for nutritious food production have greater access to markets. <i>Focus area: Resilience building</i>		
2.85 m	0.45 m	0.36 m
Strategic Result 5: Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs		
Strategic Outcome 2: National institutions and programmes are enabled to reduce food insecurity and malnutrition in all its forms. <i>Focus area: Resilience building</i>		
3.26 m	0.31 m	0.25 m

WFP Country Activities

- SO 1** In partnership with the Ministry of Health, WFP provides specialized nutritious food to children aged 6–23 months and behavioural change communication to women and men in areas with elevated stunting rates to ensure that their diet provides adequate nutrients.
- SO 2** WFP supports the government in reducing and preventing all forms of malnutrition, tackling gender inequality, and strengthening emergency preparedness and response, policy planning, and social protection programmes to enhance food security and nutrition.
- SO 3** In partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, WFP provides food assistance for assets to strengthen resilience to climate change and other shocks among food-insecure communities and individuals in areas affected by climate-related shocks.
- SO 4** WFP strengthens the capacities of smallholder farmers in the production of nutritious foods to access a wider range of markets. WFP empowers women to enter value chains with improved capacities in production and commercialization.
- SO 5** With a focus on crisis response, WFP provides food assistance to vulnerable populations in areas affected by socio-economic or natural shocks so that they can satisfy their basic food and nutrition requirements during emergencies.

Resilience

- WFP is supporting households in the Dry Corridor through the PRO-ACT funding from the European Union. Livelihoods are being diversified by introducing beekeeping, poultry and fish farming as identified by participants of the project. These productive activities are innovative and unique in the area.
- To reduce the use of firewood for cooking, avoid deforestation, and ensure soil conservation, wood-saving stoves were provided to households assisted by the PRO-ACT project. These items will also reduce the risk of fire and exposure to respiratory diseases.

Smallholder Farmers

- The new law of school feeding in Guatemala requires that 50% of the ingredients purchased to elaborate the meals come from smallholder farmers and family agriculture. WFP will develop a plan to strengthen farmers' organizations to be eligible as providers to the National School Feeding Programme in their communities and/or municipalities. A mission from WFP Headquarters in Rome and the Regional Bureau in Panama will evaluate the opportunities to strengthen farmers' organizations and connect them as providers.
- A pilot project is developed in Alta Verapaz department in 10 schools with more than 1,000 children. The aim of this project is to support local farmers to sell their products to public schools. Additionally, WFP supports to ensure nutritional quality and to enhance nutritional education for students. WFP is supporting government institutions, local authorities and farmers' organizations to comply with the purchase processes of the new school feeding law.

Challenges

- WFP seeks to strengthen the relationship with the private sector. Through a potential partnership, WFP will continue to develop a commodity voucher redeemable in local shops for specialized nutritious food for children aged 6-23 months.
- WFP aims to assist subsistence and smallholder farmers that suffered crop losses due to volcanic ash dispersion. Recovery and resilience-building activities are part of a response plan drafted by the Food Security and Agriculture cluster. These activities need further funding.

Donors

Canada, European Union, SRAC multilateral, Sweden and CERF.