



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Guatemala Country Brief March 2019

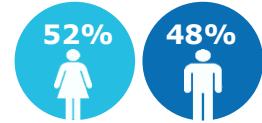


## In Numbers

USD 702,756 in cash transfers

USD 10.0 m six months net funding requirements

24,400 people assisted  
(cash transfers)  
February-March 2019



## Operational Context

Guatemala is a multicultural country with 40 percent of inhabitants being indigenous Mayan. Despite its middle-income status, two thirds of its population live on less than USD2 per day, and among indigenous people, poverty averages 79 percent, with 40 percent living in extreme poverty. Highly correlated to poverty is stunting in children aged 6-59, among the highest in the world and the highest in the region.

WFP, present in Guatemala since 1974, transitioned its assistance to the Country Strategic Plan (CSP) in 2018. Its goal is to achieve a sustainable improvement in food security and nutrition of the most vulnerable people. It is aligned to the National Development Plan, "K'atun: Our Guatemala 2032", and the national priorities to make progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

Because 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.



Population: 16.9 million

2018 Human Development Index: 127 out of 189

Income Level: Middle

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

## Operational Updates

- Under CSP Strategic Outcome 5, WFP provided cash transfers to 4,880 subsistence farmers who lost their crops of staple foods in Moyuta, Jutiapa. Cash transfers covered 60 days of assistance and continued support is planned until the next harvest in August.
- Director of the German Cooperation in Guatemala, Michael Grewe, and the WFP Representative visited Moyuta and met assisted women collecting cash transfers to increase their food security, with a value equivalent to USD 0.50 per day for each family member.
- Under CSP Strategic Outcome 1, WFP further strengthened the counsellors' network for the implementation of behaviour change communication. In March, 645 counsellors graduated, who will train mother-to-mother support groups in 44 communities in Solola and Chimaltenango, focusing on malnutrition prevention.
- Under CSP Strategic Outcome 4 (Joint programme of WFP/FAO/IFAD/UN "Women on Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women"), WFP provided technical assistance for women to strengthen their business skills for managing income-generating activities and increasing access to value chains and associative marketing in the Polochic Valley.
- With IFAD funding, WFP and FAO embarked on a new initiative for the full implementation of the school feeding law over a two-year period. The pilot project will test a model for linking family farming to the home-grown school feeding programme. Twenty-four schools of Alta Verapaz are being targeted in the first year of the pilot.

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## Country Strategic Plan (2018-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
67.2 m	11.3 m	10.0 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.

**Focus area:** Crisis response

## Activities:

- Unconditional or conditional food assistance
- Enhanced national capacity for conducting emergency food security assessments
- South-South cooperation and technical assistance on data collection, standardization and analysis for emergency response

## Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

**Strategic Outcome #1:** Children aged 6-23 months in prioritized areas with elevated malnutrition rates have reduced prevalence of malnutrition.

**Focus area:** Root causes

## Activities:

- Community-based behavioural change communication
- Gender-sensitive capacity strengthening on malnutrition prevention

## 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.

**Focus area:** Resilience building

## Activities:

- Food assistance for assets creation and livelihood support
- Enhanced resilience in disaster-affected communities

## 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.

**Focus area:** Resilience building

## Activities:

- Technical assistance to smallholder farmers for improved production and commercialization

## 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.

**Focus area:** Resilience building

## Activities:

- South-South cooperation on gender and nutrition
- Technical assistance for emergency preparedness and response
- Policy framework on food security and climate change
- National capacity to purchase from smallholder farmers

## Main Photo:

Credit: WFP Library

Caption: Women redeem the cash transfer in BANRURAL, Jutiapa.

## Vulnerability Analysis

- Erratic rainfall patterns, including extreme rainfall over a short period of time with flooding and landslides, affected 36 percent of the rural population who depend on family farming or daily wages. (Emergency Food Security Assessment led by WFP in October 2018)
- The Food Security and Nutrition Secretariat (SESAN) and members of the Food Security Perspective Bulletin estimated that about 3 million people were moderately or severely food insecure having lost over 75 percent of their crops. SESAN is coordinating the national response to which WFP contributes.

## Monitoring

- WFP monitors its activities in line with the Corporate Results Framework 2018-2021. WFP web-based platforms, namely the country office monitoring and evaluation tool (COMET), the Logistics Execution Support System (LESS) and the Beneficiary and Transfer Management System (SCOPE) are essential in tracking and registering cash transfers, food and non-food items, and disaggregating beneficiary data by sex and age. A set of corporate strategic output and outcome indicators facilitates monitoring and reporting on achievements.

## Evaluation

- In 2018, two evaluations were conducted by independent consultants. As one of the nine countries chosen for the centralized strategic evaluation of WFP's support for Enhanced Resilience, Guatemala reported on a partnership good practice for sustainability. Likewise, the decentralized evaluation of the regional project "El Niño Response in the Dry Corridor of Central America" generated evidence on the achievements in resilience building and the nexus between emergency assistance and development in the Dry Corridor.

## Challenges

- The 2019 Guatemalan electoral process is increasing operational risks.
- Underfunding, particularly for CSP SO 1, is hampering WFP abilities to achieve its goals for Guatemala.

## Donors

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