



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Guatemala

Country Brief

April 2019

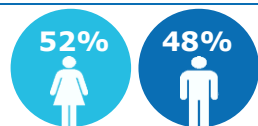


In Numbers

USD 896,256 in cash transfers (Feb-Apr 2019)

USD 10.0 m six months net funding requirements

32,140 people assisted
(cash transfers)
February-April 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, with the highest gender inequality index in the region. 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 continued its support to 1,500 households affected by the eruption of the Fuego Volcano in 2018. Following the immediate emergency response, WFP and FAO support asset creation and livelihoods through technical assistance and cash transfers. In April, WFP reached 7,700 people with cash transfers to cover their basic food needs for 50 days. Food assistance will cover the lean season until the next harvest in August.
- Prolonged dry spells during the second half of 2018 caused losses of staples. The UN system in consultation with the Government of Guatemala is preparing a CERF application following an inter-agency field mission and a food security cluster meeting held on 23-25 April. The high prevalence of acute malnutrition in children under 5 is triggering a humanitarian response.
- Under CSP Strategic Outcome 4, the joint WFP/FAO/IFAD/UN Women programme on Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women supported a literacy programme where 60 women completed the second level and received certificates on 10 April. In addition, 91 women participating in WFP market support activities in Tucuru municipality increased sales of produce to six primary schools. Women's groups supply fresh foods for the school meals.
- The Vice-minister of the Ministry of Social Development, Nineth Escobar Cabrera, attended the WFP-sponsored Regional Forum on *Strengthening Social Protection to Enhance Resilience to Disasters*, held in Peru, on 25-26 April. The Vice-minister Escobar took part in a panel on policies for effective adaptive social protection and shared experiences of Guatemala.

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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: Assets creation activity in Yepocapa.

Vulnerability Analysis

- In 2018, 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 assistance to food insecure populations during lean season, 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 good partnership practices to ensure 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.