



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Guatemala Country Brief May 2019



In Numbers

USD 896,300 in cash transfers (Feb-May 2019)

USD 8.7 m six months net funding requirements

32,100 people assisted

(cash transfers)

February-May 2019

52%



48%



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

- In support to the *National Plan to Respond to the 2019 Hunger Season*, WFP and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA) signed an agreement for the procurement of 2,450 metric tons of food commodities. Funds of USD 2.7 million were transferred to WFP. Black beans were purchased from WFP-assisted smallholder farmers' organizations.
- In May, WFP signed four field level agreements with local NGOs to provide individual capacity strengthening. Fundasistemas and ALDES will support smallholder farmers in the organizational process to access new markets such as the institutional demand of the national school feeding programme. ECO and Asociacion Educando Guatemala will further strengthen the network of community counsellors for the implementation of the social behavior change communication strategy to improve nutrition among the rural indigenous population.
- Under CSP Strategic Outcome 4, and within the Joint Programme "Economic Empowerment of Rural Women", WFP supported 306 women on better food handling and preparation standards. Two events were held at which 14 groups of women met with the parent-teacher associations of public schools to discuss the demands of the national school feeding programme and the potential supply of produce by women's groups in the Polochic region.
- WFP and partners conducted a study on Food Security and Nutrition of People Living with HIV and the findings were presented at six regional workshops held from March to May 2019. A total of 156 participants expressed the need for social protection programs and income-generating activities to improve the food security and nutrition of this vulnerable group.

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Country Strategic Plan (2018-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
69.9 m	18.3 m	8.7 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/José Hernandez

Caption: Rural women trained on food handling in the Polochic Valley.

Vulnerability Analysis

- Guatemala is facing a food security crisis following the 2018 drought. The 2018 Emergency Food Security Assessment, indicates that 36 percent of the rural population is food insecure. An increase in acute malnutrition in children under 5 years of age was confirmed. The Food Security and Nutrition Secretariat and members of the Food Security Perspective Bulletin estimated that 3 million people were moderately/severely food insecure having lost over 75 percent of their crops.
- The month of May corresponds to the rainy season while the dry period known as 'canicula' is expected between 10-20 July. However, below average rainfall in some regions may cause crop damages.

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.