



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Guatemala Country Brief June 2019

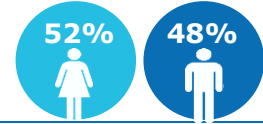


In Numbers

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

USD 5 m six months net funding requirements

32,100 people assisted
(cash transfers)
February-June 2019



Operational Updates

- Under the CSP capacity strengthening activity, WFP sponsored the participation of national staff in the regional workshop on unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) held in El Salvador, 11-20 June 2019. The National Coordination Committee for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Ministry of Agriculture explored the use of drones and software to better prepare for disasters. The DRONE Immediate Response Team (DRONE-Dynamic Remotely Operated Navigation Equipment) conducted the hands-on training.
- WFP community-based nutrition education strategy will be further enhanced with the feedback provided by the mother-counselors participating in its implementation in 2018 and 2019. The new format will be agreed with the Ministry of Health staff in the provinces of Chimaltenango and Solola.
- Within the Joint Programme WFP/FAO/IFAD and UN Women on Economic Empowerment of Rural Women, IFAD shared the GALS (Gender Action Learning System) methodology, which is being replicated at the community level for generating enhanced gender-transformative results.
- The Director of the Italian Cooperation Agency for Development—AICS and two specialists traveled to Chiquimula in the Dry Corridor on 26-27 June 2019. WFP organized community visits and facilitated focus group discussions to assess the food security situation of drought-affected households. A resilience-building project in border areas of the Northern Triangle countries will be prepared for AICS to consider its support.

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 lives 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 area.

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**

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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 | 19 m | 5 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 the 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 a 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: MAGA/Bernardo Romero

Caption: CONRED and WFP staff fly drones in El Salvador.

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 rainfall season already started, and the dry period known as 'canicula' is ongoing in July/August. However, the irregular pattern of rainfall in some regions may damage the crops.

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 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 presidential election process is increasing operational risks. The second round will be held between the top two candidates on 11 August 2019.
- Underfunding, particularly for the CSP Malnutrition Prevention Activity, is hampering WFP abilities to achieve its goals.

Donors

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