



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Guatemala Country Brief July 2019



In Numbers

USD 1.1 m in cash transfers (Feb-July 2019)

USD 7 m six months net funding requirements

32,100 people assisted
(cash transfers)
February-July 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 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**

Operational Updates

- WFP food assistance for assets under CSP Strategic Outcome 5 reached 1,500 households in Chimaltenango with the second round of cash transfers for a period of 50 days. Through WFP and FAO support, households have diversified their livelihoods after the Fuego Volcano eruption in 2018. Food assistance will continue throughout the lean season until the next harvest in September.
- WFP will also assist food-insecure households in Alta Verapaz during the lean season with a contribution of USD 0.7 million, that was recently confirmed by the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). Preparatory arrangements are ongoing in coordination with UNICEF to target households with acutely malnourished children, and FAO for livelihoods diversification.
- WFP and its partner MasterCard are conducting a cost-benefit analysis of the Guatemalan school meals programme. The analysis already reveals that each dollar invested in school meals presents a return of 3,1 dollars for each child. In addition, a SODEXO expert also visited the country to develop a tool intended to help parent-teacher associations in planning the demand of products for the preparation of school meals.
- WFP, in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture and local partners, is supporting the agroclimatic technical committee in El Progreso province, in the Dry Corridor. The committee meets once a month to analyze the weather forecast and produces an agroclimatic bulletin with recommendations for farmers.
- Aiming at strengthening national capacities of the countries in the region and to improve nutrition, WFP participated in a 5-day workshop held by the National Institute of Public Health (INSP) in Mexico
- WFP is involved in the preparation of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2020-2024, exploring inter-agency collaboration supporting the government towards SDG achievements.

Contact info: Priscila Molina (Priscila.Molina@wfp.org)

Country Director: Laura Melo

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/Guatemala

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

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 support 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: WFP/Hector Roca

Caption: Maize crops in El Quiche lost due to irregular pattern of rainfall.

Vulnerability Analysis

- Guatemala is facing a food security crisis following the 2018 drought. The 2018 Emergency Food Security Assessment indicated that 36 percent of the rural population is food insecure. Acute malnutrition in children under 5 years of age is on the rise. The Food Security and Nutrition Secretariat and members of the Food Security Perspective Bulletin estimated that 3 million people were moderately or severely food insecure, having lost over 75 percent of their crops.
- The rainfall season started in May, and the dry period known as 'canicula' is ongoing until July/August. However, the irregular pattern of rainfall in some regions has already damaged crops of staple grains.

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.

Challenges

- The 2019 Guatemalan presidential election process is increasing operational risks due to political instability.
- 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.