



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Guatemala Country Brief August 2019

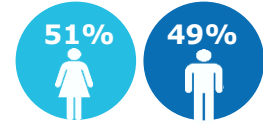


In Numbers

USD 1.3 m in cash transfers (Feb-August 2019)

USD 5.9 m six months net funding requirements

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



Operational Updates

- WFP provided a final round of Food Assistance for Assets for 1,550 food-insecure households in Chimaltenango. Women actively engaged in establishing vegetable gardens and tree nurseries while men rehabilitated feeder roads and water systems.
- Following CERF approval, field teams were deployed to seven municipalities of the Alta Verapaz province to identify up to 5,500 food insecure households for assistance. CERF is implemented jointly with UNICEF, PAHO and FAO.
- On 19 August, WFP joined the commemoration of the World Humanitarian Day focused on Humanitarian Women. In partnership with UN Women, OCHA, the National Coordination Committee for Disaster Risk Reduction—CONRED and others, WFP conducted sensitization activities, advocating for gender equality at all levels of humanitarian action.
- The III National School Feeding Congress held in Chiquimula, 22-23 August, gathered male and female smallholder farmers selling their production of fresh foods to feed school children as stipulated in the School Feeding Law. WFP was invited to share the results of the cost-benefit analysis carried out in July that revealed that each dollar invested in school meals represents a return of 3,1 dollars for each child.
- The Ministry of Education, with WFP support, launched a learning programme on the implementation of the School Feeding Law. The 4-month training will strengthen the capacity of the MINEDUC staff at all levels. It will be conducted by the Panamerican University (UPANA), and the target is to graduate 60 participants by the end of 2019.
- WFP produced a video of the vulnerable communities in the Dry Corridor. Beyond emergency assistance, WFP aims to build resilience to climate change implementing the humanitarian-development nexus approach.

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**
Income Level: **Middle**

2018 Human Development Index: **127**
out of 189

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

2017 Gender Inequality Index (2018
HD Report): **120 out of 160**

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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	5.9 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: WFP/Alejandro Arriola

Caption: World Humanitarian Day commemoration in Guatemala City.

Vulnerability Analysis

- As a result of the prolonged dry spells in 2018, households of subsistence farmers have depleted food reserves and are facing food insecurity.
- Following the 'canicula' period of July/August, an irregular rainfall pattern continues. Market prices of staple grains may still increase until the next harvest in September/October. Cold fronts have already affected crops and are expected to continue until the end of the hurricane season in October.
- WFP and partners, governmental and non-governmental, will join efforts to undertake a follow-up food security monitoring exercise after the harvest season to assess crop losses and coping strategies of vulnerable households.

Monitoring

- 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.

Challenges

- As a new Administration will be in place by January 2020, WFP is approaching the transition teams of relevant ministries in addition to meetings with the elected Vice-president for continuity of ongoing operations and identification of new opportunities of cooperation.
- 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.