



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Guatemala Country Brief September 2019



## In Numbers

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

USD 6.2 m six months net funding requirements

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



## Operational Updates

- WFP targeted 2,000 households (about 10,000 people) in Chiquimula, and 3,800 households (about 19,000 people) in Alta Verapaz for cash transfers, to meet their basic needs. WFP strengthened the capacities of local staff of national institutions designated to roll-out awareness-raising sessions on nutrition and hygiene among the people receiving cash transfers to increase food expenditure according to the needs of family members.
- On 19 September, WFP and GOAL International led a workshop with members of the Cash Working Group, with the representation of the Humanitarian Country Team, government institutions, NGOs and UN agencies. Lessons learnt and best practices will reinforce the implementation of cash transfers as a mechanism for emergency response in humanitarian settings. Next steps include an assessment to compile the pros and cons of the existing platforms and support recommendations.
- On 2 September, Country Directors of four Central American countries, the Regional Director, WFP Executive Management and technical staff held a strategic workshop at WFP headquarters to identify viable and fundable solutions to improve the dire situation in the Dry Corridor. WFP strives to develop solutions that address food insecurity as the root cause of migration combined with the lack of employment opportunities and vulnerability to climate change.
- On 12 September, the Guatemala Country Team of the UN Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) received the 2018 RBA Award of Excellence for increasing synergies, efficiency and effectiveness within the Joint Programme “Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women” (JP-RWEE). Through this programme, WFP supported women farmers to organize themselves into producer organizations to be able to increase their surplus through access to sustainable production techniques and markets. WFP also led awareness-raising campaigns to increase men and boys’ participation in household chores, including the preparation of nutritious food, and to prevent gender-based violence.
- With WFP’s support, women of a community of Retalhuleu with high-prevalence of HIV established orchards for diet diversification among their families. Women learned how to cultivate a variety of vegetables and also benefitted from occupational therapy.

## 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 region.

WFP, present in Guatemala since 1974, provides its assistance through the Country Strategic Plan (CSP) since 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. Guatemala is among the ten countries in the world most vulnerable to climate change and one of the most exposed to natural hazards in the region. Hence, WFP is supporting the national response to drought-affected subsistence farmers to help them 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

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

Country Director: Laura Melo

Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/Guatemala](http://www.wfp.org/countries/Guatemala)

## 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 regular 'canicula' period of July/August, an irregular rainfall pattern continues. Market prices of staple grains might still increase until the next harvest in October. Cold fronts have already affected crops and will continue until the end of the hurricane season.
- WFP operations in Alta Verapaz were interrupted by the state of siege declared by the President of Guatemala on 4 September and ratified by the Congress on 7 September. To resume operations, the UN Department of Safety and Security, together with WFP, conducted a security risk assessment and recommended additional security measures to overcome delays in CERF implementation. The initial 30-day period of the state of siege is expected to be extended as conflict prevails in five northern, eastern provinces of the country.
- At the request of the Food Security and Nutrition Secretariat—SESAN, WFP in partnership with NGOs working on the Food Security Outlook, will join efforts to undertake a follow-up food security assessment to determine coping strategies due to crop losses among vulnerable households recurrently exposed to climate hazards.

## 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.
- In September, a team of 10 enumerators collected data for the baseline of WFP intervention in Chiquimula using the Mobile Data Collection & Analytics (MDCA) platform. Food security indicators will be monitored and outcomes measured at the end of the assistance cycle.

## Challenges

- As a new Government will be in place by January 2020, WFP is approaching the transition teams of relevant ministries in addition to meetings with the designated ministers for continuity of ongoing operations and identification of new opportunities of cooperation.
- Underfunding, particularly for the CSP Malnutrition Prevention Activity 1 and Smallholders Agricultural Market Support Activity 4, is hampering WFP abilities to achieve its goals.

## Donors

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

### 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	6.2 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 Library

Caption: HIV positive women cultivating vegetables to improve their food security and nutrition.