



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Guatemala Country Brief October 2019

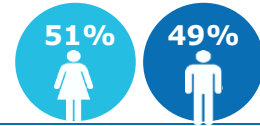


In Numbers

USD 1.6 m in cash transfers (Feb-October 2019)

USD 4.7 m six months net funding requirements

47,470 people assisted
(cash transfers)
February-October 2019



Operational Updates

- In October, WFP provided cash transfers to more than 15,000 people to help them meet their basic needs. Food insecure households in Chiquimula (1,888) and Alta Verapaz (1,186) are entitled to 90 days of assistance from October to December.
- In Alta Verapaz, WFP also provides technical assistance to enhance the quality of the National School Feeding Programme. In partnership with local NGO EcoFiltro, 24 schools received 144 water filters, providing access to safe water to about 5,500 school children. In partnership with the academia, volunteers of Universidad Del Valle implemented the PhotoVoice technique, capturing the perception of 100 school children on the logic chain of the school meals. The whole process documented with 300 pictures will support adjustments to the programme.
- WFP's support to smallholder farmers is coordinated with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA) through the Directorate for the Strengthening of the Productive Organization and Commercialization (DIFOPROCO). On 10 October, 13 WFP-assisted organizations from Alta Verapaz, Chiquimula and Solola participated in the MAGA-TRADE farmers' fair held in Solola, where farmers sold and exchanged their products.
- WFP Guatemala hosted the first regional workshop on Microinsurance and Climate Services from 7 to 11 October. Guatemala's pilot initiative aims at designing a microinsurance product with the potential to become a sustainable national programme with a resilience-building objective. Community leaders invited to the workshop contributed to the need assessment exercise.
- The elected President and Vice-president of Guatemala due to take office in January 2020 engaged in the design of a national strategy to improve nutrition being called *The National Crusade for Nutrition 2020-2023*. A top priority of the strategy is stunting prevention, and the whole of society will be invited to contribute. In October, WFP and other UN sister agencies, as well as international cooperation agencies, produced a draft document being further developed for launching early 2020.

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 months, 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

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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	19.5 m	4.7 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 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: Women entrepreneurs exhibiting their products for sale at the “MAGA-TRADE” farmers’ fair in Solola.

- As the irregular rainfall pattern caused crop damages in the *Primera* cycle in some areas of the country, the Food Security and Nutrition Secretariat—SESAN requested WFP a follow-up emergency food security assessment. In partnership with NGOs working on the Food Security Outlook, WFP planned the assessment in November with preliminary findings to be analyzed the first week of December, during the last meeting of the National Committee of Food Security and Nutrition (CONASAN)
- The EFSA will inform on negative coping strategies that the poorest and most vulnerable households recurrently exposed to climate hazards might be adopting as they do not undertake agricultural activities in the *Postretera* cycle.
- 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 overcome delays in CERF implementation, additional security measures were adopted. Although operations progressively resumed in October, cash transfers have been slower than expected, due to restrictions to large gatherings. The initial 30-day period of the state of siege has been extended until the end of November.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- 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. A set of corporate strategic output and outcome indicators facilitates monitoring and reporting on achievements.
- WFP fully participates in the design of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (CF) 2020-2024. Following the Common Country Assessment phase, collective outcomes were identified with a long-term vision. In October, the consultation phase started, and workshops were held with different actors to validate the 2030 vision and the theories of change of the CF.

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 Malnutrition Prevention and Smallholders Agricultural Market Support activities is hampering WFP abilities to achieve its goals.

Donors

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