



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



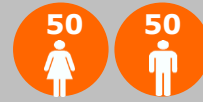
## WFP Guatemala Country Brief December 2019

## In Numbers

**US\$2.8 m** cash-based transfers made  
February-December 2019

**70,468 people** assisted  
February-December 2019

**Modality:**  
Food and cash transfers



**WFP  
SAYS  
NO to  
GENDER  
BASED  
VIOLENCE**

### 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**

### Operational Updates

- WFP continued providing food assistance to food-insecure households in Alta Verapaz and Chiquimula to help them meet their basic needs. During the December cycle, 4,641 households received cash transfers; a total of USD698,003 was distributed.
- WFP and a delegation of the Ministry of Education—MoE attended the Global Child Nutrition Forum held in Cambodia, from 2 to 6 December 2019. High-level representatives of more than 50 countries engaged in policy dialogue, partnership building and knowledge sharing on homegrown school meals that improve children's nutrition and stimulate family farming and rural economies. On behalf of the MoE, Mario Morales, Director of Community Strengthening, presented the National School Feeding Programme highlighting the role of the parent-teacher associations.
- The Ministry of Agriculture and WFP hosted activities to promote smallholder farmer access to markets. A farmers' market convened some 200 smallholders in Alta Verapaz, offering their products to the public. Simultaneously, a meeting for women entrepreneurs was also held in Alta Verapaz, which allowed for the sharing of success stories on women empowerment.
- As part of activities for the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence, WFP and the Ministry of Agriculture launched an exhibition of wall painting among organizations fostering rural development with gender equality. A judging committee comprised of WFP personnel, the Gender Unit of the Ministry and the Vice Minister of Agriculture, toured the exhibition and chose the winning mural.
- Country Director, Ms Laura Melo, attended COP 25 and presented about WFP's Risk Finance Strategy in the events on Climate Food Showcase and Finance for adaptation and its effective delivery in rural areas. This opportunity allowed for interviews with the media and bilateral meetings with potential partners and donors.

**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)

## Country Strategic Plan (2018-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
69.9 m	20 m	3.9 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/Library  
 Caption: Rural women present their products in a farmers' market hosted by WFP and the Ministry of Agriculture in Carchá, Alta Verapaz.

## Vulnerability Analysis

- At the request of the Food Security and Nutrition Secretariat—SESAN, WFP conducted an emergency food security assessment in partnership with NGOs working on Food Security. Preliminary findings confirm crop losses in the *Postretera* cycle. The final report will be presented to the National Committee of Food Security and Nutrition (CONASAN) early 2020.
- The EFSA informed that 2.3 million people or one-third of the rural population are facing food insecurity. Out of them, 481,000 people are severely food insecure, and more than two-thirds of the most vulnerable households are adopting negative coping strategies.
- WFP operations in Alta Verapaz resumed mid-November and continued in December as the state of siege came to its end. A 2-month no cost-extension of CERF intervention was approved to complete cash transfers until February 2020.

## 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. Following the consultation phase that started in October, a total of 8 workshops were completed in November with different actors to validate the 2030 vision and the theories of change of the CF. WFP participated in the December workshops that culminated the negotiation phase.

## Challenges

- Underfunding, particularly for Malnutrition Prevention and Smallholders Agricultural Market Support activities is hampering WFP abilities to achieve its goals. With a caseload of 26,000 food-insecure households, from those identified by the EFSA, WFP needs to mobilize USD 6.5M.
- A new government will take office on the 14 January. WFP has been establishing connections with all elected authorities and advocating for policies that need continuity in the next administration.

## Donors

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