



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Guatemala Country Brief April 2020

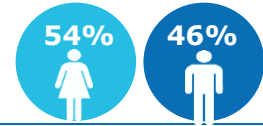


## In Numbers

USD 251,712 in cash transfers (Jan-April 2020)

USD 11.6 m six months net funding requirements

6,188 people assisted  
(cash transfers)  
Jan-Apr 2020



## Operational Updates

- In support of the *National Response Plan to the Lean Season*, WFP already procured 2,700 metric tons of five food commodities for the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA) with funds transferred equivalent to USD4.8 million. A second transfer of funds under this agreement is expected in June. The CO is negotiating agreements for approx. USD 90 million for procurement of food for the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Social Development to assist the most vulnerable population affected by COVID-19 during 2020
- In addition, the Presidency has requested WFP to procure specialized nutritious food on the nutritional status of 200,000 children aged 6-59 months until 2024, for a total value of USD 31 million. Negotiations are ongoing to sign an agreement with the Ministry of Health and Food Security and Nutrition Secretariat for this service.
- Amidst movement restrictions, WFP is remotely making operational arrangements with local partners to assist 25,000 households in San Marcos, Chiquimula, and Huehuetenango affected by food insecurity. WFP technical team is working alongside government authorities to identify households with children affected by acute malnutrition. Coordination and operational arrangements with other UN-agencies are ongoing to prevent overlapping and to ensure the maximum outreach to vulnerable communities and households.
- Following the suspension of classes due to the COVID-19 emergency, WFP supported the Ministry of Education in producing audio-visual materials for national diffusion in support of the food-distributions, carried out by the Ministry. These materials aim to raise awareness of proper feeding and nutrition practices and provide appropriate hygiene guidelines.
- As a result of the containment measures imposed by the Government in response to the COVID-19 emergency, WFP field staff is remotely monitoring market prices of basic and staple foods. This exercise is conducted in coordination with the governmental and non-governmental organizations of the food security cluster with field presence.

## 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 and 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 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 supports 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: 126 out of 189

Income Level: Middle

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

Contact info: Giovanna Maselli (Giovanna.maselli@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)
<b>78.9 m</b>	<b>23 m</b>	<b>11.6 m</b>

**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: WFP-supported women's group of the Polochic Valley using fuel-efficient stoves to increase their economic productivity and generate incomes.

**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 in November 2019. Findings confirmed crop losses in the *Postrera* cycle. The final report was presented to the National Committee of Food Security and Nutrition (CONASAN) and informed the *National Response Plan* to assist the food-insecure people during the lean season.
- With a caseload of 2.3 million people in food insecurity nationwide and 2.3 million people (or 461,000 households) directly affected by COVID-19, ECLAC estimates that in the next six months, 4 million people will be affected by the economic impacts of the COVID-19 emergency.
- WFP, as the lead agency of the Food Security Cluster, has convened regular meetings with the government and international NGOs to map all food security interventions nationwide and assess the funding gap. This analysis provides inputs for a coordinated national response. Joint efforts aim to support the most vulnerable households during the lean season and until the next harvesting season in August/September.

**Monitoring and Evaluation**

- The second-generation CSP for Guatemala is under preparation for submission to the Executive Board in November 2020. The preparation process has included consultations with diverse stakeholders, including the Government, the international donor community, and other relevant partners from the private sector and civil society. The draft CSP will integrate strategic observations raised in the strategic programme review process (PRP) meeting held on 6 May 2020.

**Challenges**

- As the COVID-19 emergency unfolds, confinement and mobility restrictions continue hampering WFP operations, mainly CBT distributions.
- WFP will double its efforts to mobilize resources to expand food assistance interventions that aim to respond to the increase of needs and food insecurity. Subject to new contributions, the CSP Activity for crisis response could be scaled beyond the planned outreach.

**Donors**

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