



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Guatemala Country Brief

June 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, transitioned its assistance in 2018 to the Country Strategic Plan (CSP). The CSP 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 government's national plan to attain progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

As 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 to help them cope with the lean season while restoring their livelihoods.



Population: **16.9 million**

2018 Human Development Index: **126 out of 189**

Income Level: **Middle**

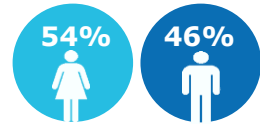
Chronic malnutrition: **46.5% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

USD 49,489.73 in cash transfers (Jan-June 2020)

USD 28.3 m six months net funding requirements

1,980 people assisted
(cash transfers)
Jan-June 2020



Operational Updates

- WFP signed agreements with the Ministry of Agriculture (MAGA) and the Ministry of Social Development (MIDES) to provide food procurement and transport services for the Government's in-kind distribution programme, which will assist approx. 1 million households. WFP signed another agreement with the Ministry of Health (MSPAS) and the Secretariat of Food Security and Nutrition (SESAN) to provide procurement services of complementary food, which intend to reach over 200,000 children under the age of 2. WFP will provide food procurement and transport services for a total amount of USD 110 million.
- Under the Peacebuilding Fund initiative, "Realizing the transformational effect of the Sepur Zarco reparation sentence to break the continuum of violence against women," WFP adjusted its assistance as implementing agency and provided cash transfers to 300 women to help them meet their food security needs. WFP's assistance reached 1,500 people to help meet their basic needs for the next 60 days.
- Under an agreement with the Secretariat of Social Welfare (SBS), the WFP also provided cash transfers to 100 adolescents in conflict with criminal law as part of a countrywide, reintegration programme. WFP's assistance has been planned for 60 days and will continue through July.
- In response to the COVID-19 crisis, WFP provides emergency assistance to a highly vulnerable population of 80 families living with HIV in the departments of Retalhuleu and Quetzaltenango. The intervention will provide personal protective equipment and technical assistance to undertake poultry activities along with nutrition education components.
- In coordination with MAGA, WFP provided more than 20 varieties of vegetable seeds to 19 farmer organizations, benefitting 1,500 smallholder farmers directly.
- In the coming weeks, WFP will continue to make operational arrangements with local partners to provide food assistance to 22,000 households in Chiquimula, Huehuetenango and San Marcos. Targeted beneficiaries are currently being registered in WFP's SCOPE platform. WFP will identify and assist households in which children are suffering, or at risk of suffering, acute malnutrition. CBTs will be provided to food-insecure households once government COVID-19 response programmes conclude in July/August.

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Further information: 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)
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180.5 m**117.1 m****28.3 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: A woman in Santo Tomás La Unión, Suchitepequez, is awaiting her neighbors to transport food in kind rations given by WFP, a program that is jointly implemented with the Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

Vulnerability Analysis

- With 2.3 million people in food insecurity nation-wide (EFSA, November 2019), and an additional 2.3 million people directly affected by the COVID-19 crisis, it is estimated that in the next 4 months, 800,000 people will be in severe food insecurity and need of food assistance.
- As the tropical storm Amanda reached Guatemala, WFP field staff remotely monitored the storm's effects in WFP's intervention areas. This exercise was conducted in coordination with the local government and other stakeholders. Based on these reports, over 300,000 were impacted by the storm, and approximately 11,000 people lost their crops due to the heavy rains.
- WFP implemented remote monitoring to assess how COVID-19 disease affects the food security of people in Guatemala and other countries in the LAC region.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- The WFP Executive Director endorsed the second-generation Country Strategic Plan (CSP), and the Informal Consultation will be held in July. The CSP will be submitted for approval to the Executive Board in November.
- WFP is revising and updating the participatory planning tools, including Seasonal Livelihood Programming, Community-Based Participatory Planning and a community gender diagnosis tool to include innovative resilience-building components containing climate change, microfinance, and employment models. WFP also prepared virtual training sessions for key implementing partners and colleagues of RBP, HQ, and its Guatemalan field and programme staff to align approaches to participatory planning initiatives that encompass resilience building.

Challenges

- There are about 800,000 people in need of funding with a resource gap of approx. USD 125,000. Funding gaps will impact nutrition, smallholder farmers, and resilience building activities and the needs will only increase once the COVID-19 crisis has ended.

Donors

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