



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Guatemala Country Brief July 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 assistance in Guatemala aims at achieving 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 to 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 as to help them to cope with the lean season while restoring their livelihoods.

WFP has been present in Guatemala since 1984.



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**

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In Numbers

USD 91,070 in cash transfers (Jan-July 2020)

USD 26.9 m six months net funding requirements

3,125 people assisted (cash transfers)
Jan-July 2020

54%



46%



Operational Updates

- In July, WFP provided cash transfers to 324 households (1,620 people) to help meet their basic needs for the next 30 to 60 days. A second distribution of cash transfers was also provided to 95 households (475 people) as part of the national, youth reintegration programme. In coordination with the Ministry of Health and local authorities, WFP cash transfers also reached 229 households (1,145 people) in Chiquimula and Huehuetenango, prioritizing those with acutely malnourished children.
- Nutritional surveillance is ongoing with joint teams of WFP's nutrition specialists and local partners in San Marcos, Retalhuleu, Quetzaltenango, Chimaltenango, Sololá and Zacapa. A nutritious ready-to-eat therapeutic food will be provided to acutely malnourished children in addition to vitamin A and Zinc supplements. Counselling on good hygiene practices will also be provided to COVID-19 impacted households.
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, WFP designed and co-sponsored an educational [video](#) focused on hygiene and nutrition protocols targeting school children and parents.
- An interinstitutional technical committee with the Ministries of Agriculture, Education and WFP was established to oversee and follow up on the development of WFP's innovative mobile application which links the demand of parent-teacher associations with the supply of smallholder farmers.
- In support of the Government's response to COVID-19, WFP helped with the customs clearance of the Canadian Armed Forces airlifting WHO's donation of 31 tonnes of equipment and medical supplies to national hospitals.
- In coordination with the UN Country Team, WFP participated in designing a [framework](#) to respond to the socio-economic needs of the most vulnerable people impacted by COVID-19.
- WFP's food procurement services are provided to the Ministries of Agriculture and Social Development for the implementation of their social protection programmes targeting rural households affected by COVID-19. Both Ministries also requested WFP's expertise in beneficiary registration methods and the use of the transfer management platform (SCOPE).

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
180.5 m	117.1 m	26.9 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: Nutritional and Health technician measuring the Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) of a child in Chimaltengango.

Vulnerability Analysis

- WFP carried out an evaluation to assess the economic impact of COVID-19 on indigenous women's microenterprises in Alta Verapaz. The evaluation found that their enterprises have successfully continued to operate at a 90% capacity, saving funds and selling goods, while their investments have fallen by 30% as a result of the national economic downturn.
- WFP and the Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition are planning a food security assessment through remote data collection. The assessment tool is under revision to capture the impact of COVID-19 on food consumption patterns, coping strategies and livelihoods among rural and urban households.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- The second-generation CSP was successfully presented to the Executive Board Secretariat in the informal consultations held on 24 June. WFP received positive feedback from member states.
- WFP completed the review of tools for the seasonal livelihood programming and community-based participatory planning exercises to be conducted as soon as the lockdown and movement restrictions are lifted. WFP resilience-building intervention will be sustained by a consultative process that integrates a gender-sensitive and transformative component.

Challenges

- Due to the COVID-19 nationwide lockdown, fieldwork has been largely reduced. As a result, WFP's team has resorted to telecommunication measures to communicate with its volunteer corps. However, some WFP staff have continued critical in-person home visits to rural communities to assist mothers, who recently gave birth, with breastfeeding counselling that follows WHO guidelines.

Donors

Canada, European Union, Germany, Sweden. Additional support has been provided by the UN CERF and SRAC multilateral.