



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Guatemala Country Brief August 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 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**

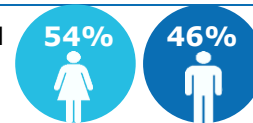
Chronic malnutrition: **46.5% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

USD 472,010 in cash transfers (January-August 2020)

USD 26.9 m six months net funding requirements

16,795 people assisted (cash transfers) January-August 2020



Operational Updates

- In August, WFP assisted 4,315 persons with cash transfers for 60 day in Chiquimula and Huehuetenango. The selection criteria included households with children 6 to 59 months old with acute malnutrition.
- In coordination with the Ministry of Health and local authorities, WFP helped screen 5,755 children aged 0-23 month old and 7,600 children aged 24-59 month in San Marcos, Retalhuleu, Chimaltenango and Sololá.
- In August, WFP and the Ministry of Education (MINEDUC) signed a cooperation agreement to strengthen the institutional framework of the national school feeding programme, improve the early childhood development community centres, and develop school protocols and guidelines for disaster and risk management.
- In coordination with Amazon, Inc., kitchen cookware and utensils to support 500 national schools were delivered in August, benefitting approximately 100,000 school children.
- At the request of MINEDUC and in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, WFP is developing a digital tool to monitor take-home food rations during the lockdown of schools. Currently, the tool is being tested. It will also be used for monitoring food purchases from smallholder farmers' organizations.
- With UNAIDS funding, WFP and the Ministry of Health targeted 80 households with people living with AIDS who have been critically affected by COVID-19. Households received hygiene supplies in addition to counselling services, food and nutrition education, as well as critical medicines.
- In preparation of resilience building plans that are starting in October, WFP worked with smallholder farmer organizations to conduct a comprehensive survey to define next year's parametric microinsurance, savings and credit pilot initiative. Smallholder farmer participants received technical assistance and initial training for the implementation of the microfinance strategy.

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
180.5 m	50 m	26.5 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome #5:

Populations in areas affected by socio-economic or natural shocks can satisfy their basic food and nutrition requirements during emergencies.

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Provide food assistance to vulnerable population in emergencies

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome #1: Children under 2 in prioritized areas with elevated stunting rates have reduced stunting prevalence by 2021 **Focus area:** Root causes

Activities:

- Provide SNFs to children aged 6–23 months and BCC to women and men to ensure that the diet of the targeted population provides adequate nutrients.

Strategic Result 3: Smallholders have improved food security and nutrition

Strategic Outcome #3: Food-insecure communities and individuals in areas affected by climate-related shocks are able to address the impacts of these events on their food security and nutrition, as well as adapt to climate change and build resilience by 2021 **Focus area:** Resilience building

Activities:

- Provide FFA to create assets that strengthen resilience to climate change and other shocks.

Strategic Result 4: Food systems are sustainable

Strategic Outcome #4: Smallholder farmers in areas with potential surpluses for diversified nutritious food production have greater access to markets by 2021 **Focus area:** Resilience building

Activities:

- Strengthen the capacities of smallholder organizations in improved production systems that enable smallholder farmers to reach a wider range of markets in an equitable and fair manner; purchase the production surpluses of smallholder farmers; and foster access to institutional markets related to public social programmes.
- Provide capacity-strengthening to farmer organizations and their members regarding the role of women in the value chain.

Strategic Result 5: Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs

Strategic Outcome #2: National institutions and programmes, including social protection systems, are enabled to reduce food insecurity and malnutrition in all its forms, including in post-crisis situations, by 2021 **Focus area:** Resilience building

Strategic Result 5: Sharing of Knowledge, Expertise and Technology

Strategic Outcome #6: Humanitarian and development partners are reliably supported by efficient and effective supply chain and other services and expertise **Focus area:** Crisis response

Activities:

- Provide on demand supply chain, targeting, beneficiary management, CBT delivery and other services to partners to promote effective field operations.

- The second-generation CSP will be submitted to the Executive Board in November and is subject to pending agreements between the UN and the Government, as established under the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework.

Monitoring

- During the month of August WFP followed up on the impact of the food assistance to young people in conflict with the law, provided in June and July in collaboration with the Secretariat of Social Welfare. The result and personal stories can be read [here](#).
- As a result of COVID-19 and the ensuing economic difficulties, food-insecure households are adopting negative coping strategies related to their food consumption. Using WFP remote monitoring data collected before and during the pandemic, WFP and the Secretariat of Food Security and Nutrition are conducting an Integrated Phase Classification analysis to determine the severity of acute food insecurity. Preliminary results will be available by the end of September.
- WFP and the national Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition will monitor food distributions to households hardest hit by the pandemic. Remote monitoring will be implemented, collecting data by phone of a random sample of beneficiaries of the social programmes of the government.
- As follow up to WFP's evaluation of the economic impact of COVID-19 in 3 municipalities in the Polochic Valley, WFP helped initiating the economic reactivation of indigenous women's microenterprises. WFP helped deliver livestock kits for poultry production together with 300 laying hens to women's cooperatives in Tukurú and Panzós. Funds also helped deliver livestock vaccines.

Challenges

- While the nationwide lockdown to contain COVID-19 has been partially lifted, fieldwork implementation remains limited. Government restrictions continue to affect emergency operations. WFP is unable to gather large groups of people at distribution points which impacts the needs of WFP beneficiaries.

Donors

Canada, European Union, Germany, Sweden.

Additional support has been provided by UN CERF.