



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Guatemala

Country Brief

September 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, stunting in children aged 6-59 months is 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 smallholder farmers to help them 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**

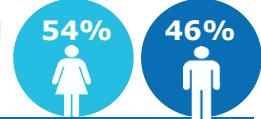
Chronic malnutrition: **46.5% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

USD 690,710.92 in cash transfers
(January-September 2020)

USD 27.6 m six months net funding requirements

24,085 people assisted
(cash transfers)
January-September 2020



Operational Updates

- WFP assisted 7,290 people with CBTs for 60 days to help meet their basic needs. The selection of the food-insecure households was supported by local government authorities from Chiquimula and Huehuetenango. Additional to CBTs, households received protective masks, hand sanitizers, nutrition pamphlets, cooking recipes, and WFP's technical team shared best practices with beneficiaries on how to administer cash transfers for the purchase of nutritious foods.
- On 30 September, the Government, WFP and ECLAC launched, in a digital forum, *The Cost of the double burden of malnutrition: Economic and social impact in Guatemala*. The study analyses the negative impact of malnutrition and estimates its cost in 2018 at USD 12,000 million or 16 percent of the GDP (2/3 related to stunting and 1/3 to overweight and obesity). The study was co-authored by WFP and ECLAC and can be accessed [here](#).
- As part of the EU-funded resilience-building activities in the Dry Corridor, WFP is establishing alliances with key partners for implementation and strategic coordination. The implementation of Seasonal Livelihood Programming activities in targeted municipalities has begun, using a revised methodology due to COVID-19 restrictions, as well as innovative components related to gender, nutrition, microfinance, technology and communication. WFP conducted a field mission to 4 municipalities in Alta Verapaz to present resilience-building activities starting in 2020 which will be implemented for the next 5 years.
- WFP continued its support to women's microenterprises in the Polochic Valley. In the community *Corazón de Maíz*, WFP helped providing a bigger corn shelling machine and training women in its use to support others in their community to generate more income. Solar photovoltaic equipment was installed in the Municipality of Tukurú in the Polochic Valley to approx. 20 households.

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
163.8 m	131 m	27.6

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 8: 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 UN Socio-Economic Response Plan (SERP) to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 was finalized. The ongoing interventions are monitored quarterly and expected to end December 2021. SERP will be updated as the Country Team adjusts interventions according to the evolving crisis.
- In coordination with the Ministry of Health and local authorities, WFP continued to support nutritional surveillance through joint brigades in the departments of San Marcos, Retalhuleu, Chimaltenango and Sololá. 1,756 children aged 0-23 months and 2,864 children aged 24-59 months were screened using MUAC measurement. MUAC revealed that 40 girls were acutely malnourished compared to 19 boys. This reflects household food distribution practices in Guatemala that perpetrate gender inequalities, as they often discriminate against women and girls, resulting in inadequate dietary intake for women and girls.
- The Ministry of Health provided treatment to acutely malnourished children in addition to micronutrient supplementation, nutritional counselling and case follow-up by health service personnel. Apart from WFP, nutritional surveillance is also supported by UNICEF, WHO, OXFAM, World Vision and Action Against Hunger.

Monitoring

- WFP, in coordination with the national Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition (SESAN) and partners producing the Food Security Outlook, initiated an Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis for the next six-months using WFP remote monitoring data collected before and during the pandemic. The results will be released in October 2020.

Challenges

- The Government partially lifted movement restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic including the opening of the airport. WFP operations in the field are gradually resuming, taking into consideration prevailing measures in every department and municipality. WFP emergency assistance is provided to targeted population and communities following biosecurity protocols and social distancing requirements. The re-opening of the economy could potentially heighten the risk of spreading the virus, causing another wave of infections.

Donors

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