



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Guatemala

Country Brief

November 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**

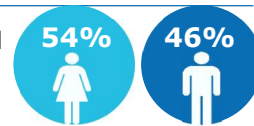
Chronic malnutrition: **46.5% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

USD 3,465,265 in cash transfers (January-November 2020)

USD 21 six months net funding requirements

117,495 people assisted (cash transfers) January-November 2020



Operational Updates

- In November, in coordination with NGO partners, *World Central Kitchen* and *Litchutam*, WFP helped mobilise resources to approx. 3,000 families displaced by hurricane Eta and Iota which hit the country on November 4th and November 19th. WFP provided dry goods to meet the daily food ration requirements for family members of five. Assistance was provided to 175 communities in Raxruhá, San Cristóbal Verapaz, Panzós, Cobán, Chisec, San Pedro Carchá and Chisec municipalities. In addition, hot meals were provided to 5,000 families for a 14-day period in the department of Izabal. According to a preliminary damage assessment, seven departments were categorized as moderate and high risk, with over 2.9 million people endangered.
- In November, WFP assisted 10,904 food insecure households (or 54,520 people) with Cash Based Transfers (CBT) in the departments Chiquimula, Huehuetenango, San Marcos, Sololá and Suchitepéquez, to help meet beneficiary needs for the next 60 days. Household selection was coordinated with local authorities, the Secretariat of Food Security and Nutrition (SESAN) and the Ministry of Agriculture (MAGA).
- Despite the logistical challenges imposed by hurricanes Eta and Iota, WFP and the Ministry of Health (MSPAS) and nutritional surveillance teams continued screening acute malnutrition cases in children, targeting municipalities in San Marcos, Zacapa y Quetzaltenango. Screening reached 1389 girls and boys aged 0-23 months, 2779 girls and boys aged 24-59 months, and 3,653 children aged 5-11 years old. Of all the children screened, 24 acute malnutrition cases were diagnosed, with 65 percent of them being girls.
- In coordination with the MSPAS, the Defense of Indigenous Women (DEMI), and the NGO, *Educando*, WFP continued its local advocacy and educational activities in 72 communities in the departments of Chimaltenango and Sololá. WFP targeted differentiated gender groups in 119 workshops focused on financial training, baskets and artisan hygiene production, nutrition-sensitive messaging and COVID-19 prevention.

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Operational Updates continued

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
180.5 m	50.9 m	35.7 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 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.

- A field mission was sent to the Department of San Marcos to validate the prototype of the digital mobile application to monitor smallholder farmer products purchased for school feeding, and to document the user experience of the tool.
- In coordination with FAO and IFAD, a field mission to the Department of San Marcos reviewed activities that were carried out under the pilot programme, "Linking Family Farming to School Feeding".
- WFP and MAGA continued Smallholder Agricultural Market Support to increase food supply. The distribution of seeds reached a total of 7,535 smallholder farmers, and 2,445 farming families partook in the best agricultural practice sessions.
- In coordination with the Technical Training Institute (INTECAP), WFP organized training workshops on baking methods and management in support of indigenous women's small business entrepreneurs. A total of 15 women participated in the trainings which were held in the municipality of Santa Catarina la Tinta, in the department of Alta Verapaz.
- WFP continued the implementation of service delivery activities, under which over 90,000 mt of assorted foods are being procured and transported on behalf of the government. In November, the effects of Eta and Iota deeply affected capacity of WFP suppliers to deliver goods, prompting new negotiation terms with the government concerning the final delivery date.

Monitoring

- As a result of Eta and Iota, the National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction (CONRED) reported the amount of people needing shelter in November has more than doubled. In addition, WFP field staff monitored the food security situation and the need of humanitarian assistance in hurricane affected areas which were targeted for WFP assistance. According to CONRED, approx. 1.8 million people were reported to be food insecure and 175,000 were estimated to be experiencing severe food insecurity.

Challenges

- In mid-November, thousands of citizens demonstrated against an approval of a congressional budget, resulting in violent protests and fires instigated against a legislative building.

Donors

Canada, EU, Germany, Rep. of Korea and Sweden. Additional funds were provided by UN CERF.