



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Guatemala

Country Brief

June 2021



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 45,262,55 in cash transfers
January-June 2021

USD 6.9 million six-month net funding requirements

142,017 people assisted
(cash transfers)
January-June 2021

52%



48%



Operational Updates

- WFP has upscaled its emergency response operation to 2 new departments, currently covering 7 departments of the country, and reaching over 76,000 people.
- As part of a nutrition programme in Sololá, the first round of savings for the savings and loans groups ended with a membership of over 690 women. To the date, these groups have saved up to USD 1,700.
- In June, WFP and the Ministry of Education started the delivery of school-kitchen items aimed to support 500 schools countrywide. Delivery to schools will continue until August and will support the preparation of school-meals for over 91,000 children.
- Together with the Secretary of Social Welfare, WFP is working on a pilot resilience building project to support 50 youth in conflict with criminal law participating in a reintegration programme to return to their communities. In June, the capacity strengthening phase of the project finished with an analysis of the seasonal livelihood programming exercise.
- On Jun 22nd, WFP and New Sun Road launched a project for the creation of a technological centre in Tukurú, Alta Verapaz. This project will empower women through digital literacy.
- On June 18th, WFP launched a micro-insurance product that will cover over 1,300 smallholders in the Dry Corridor of Guatemala, of which 69 percent are women.
- On June 3rd, WFP and the Ministry of Environment signed a cooperation agreement that will catalyse opportunities for joint work on climate change adaptation.
- In June, WFP wrapped up the COVID-19 procurement and transport operation for the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Social Development, this operation amounted to a total of USD 90 million.

Contact info: Giovanna Maselli (Giovanna.maselli@wfp.org)

Country Director: Laura Melo

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/Guatemala

Country Strategic Plan (2021-2024)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
157.6 million	41.2 million	6.9 million

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome #1: Crisis-affected populations in Guatemala are able to meet their essential needs during and in the aftermath of crises.
Focus area: Crisis response

- Activities:**
- Provide direct nutrition and gender responsive assistance to crisis-affected populations

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome #2: Vulnerable populations in targeted areas have access to comprehensive services and programmes that promote healthy diets by 2024.
Focus area: Resilience building

- Activities:**
- Strengthen national and local capacities in nutrition and healthy diets promotion for vulnerable population

Strategic Result 4: Food Systems are sustainable

Strategic Outcome #3: Rural vulnerable populations and local institutions engage in nutrition and gender-sensitive, sustainable and climate-resilient food systems throughout the year.
Focus area: Resilience building

- Activities:**
- Strengthen capacities of institutions responsible for school feeding, school communities and smallholder farmers
 - Provide training, equipment, cash-based transfers and technical assistance to vulnerable smallholder farmers, communities, cooperatives and local institutions

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

Strategic Outcome #4: National institutions have strengthened capacities and improve their coordination to manage an integrated social protection system by 2024.
Focus area: Resilience building

- Activities:**
- Provide technical assistance at policy and operational level to social protection institutions
 - Provide technical assistance to national and subnational institutions of the emergency preparedness and response system.

Strategic Result 8: Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology strengthen global partnership support to country efforts to achieve the SDGs

Strategic Outcome #5: National partners have access to efficient services and technical assistance throughout the year.
Focus area: Resilience building

- Activities:**
- Provide food procurement services to national institutions and other partners

Monitoring

- In June, WFP carried out two monitoring visits with the BHA DART team to the Dry Corridor. These visits covered household registration, and cash-based transfer deliveries.
- WFP prepared to conduct a baseline for emergency response and resilience building programmes, which included expanding its monitoring and evaluation team.

Challenges

- As a result of rainy season, floods, landslides and damages to country's road work pose a challenge for personnel mobilization to project areas.
- COVID-19 contagion in selected areas continues to be a risk during emergency response activity implementation. Mitigation measures include negotiation with the financial service provider (BANRURAL) to establish distribution calendars that comply with government recommendations on the capacity of people in bank agencies.

Donors

Canada, European Union, Germany, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, and United States.