



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES CHANGING LIVES

WFP Guatemala Country Brief July 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**

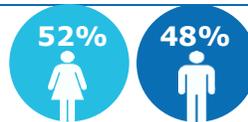
Chronic malnutrition: **46.5% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

USD 671,627 in cash transfers (January-July 2021)

USD 10 million six-month net funding requirements

173,411 people assisted (cash transfers) January-July 2021



Operational Updates

- As part of its emergency response operation, WFP continued the distribution of unconditional Cash-Based Transfers (CBT) in 7 departments across the country. In July, over 30,000 beneficiaries received the first round of assistance. This response aims to support households affected by seasonal hunger period (June-September).
- WFP and the Ministry of Education continued the delivery of school-kitchen items aimed to support 500 schools countrywide. In July, WFP reached 368 schools and 62,000 school children. The Minister of Education and the President of Guatemala and WFP DCD Irene del Río attended one of these distributions.
- In July, Guatemala joined the School Meals Coalition. The Minister of Education participated in the Panel Discussion "More than a Meal: School Meals as a transformational intervention for the entire food system". Guatemala's Minister of Agriculture and Secretary for Food Security and Nutrition were amongst the in-person delegations attending the Pre-Summit.
- As part of its resilience building programming in Huehuetenango, WFP delivered conditional CBT to 175 households. Conditionality was based on the creation of assets such as family gardens, soil, water, and forest conservation.
- As part of its risk-finance strategy, WFP is working on the scale-up of the microinsurance product currently being piloted. To this end, Country Office has convened workshops with local partners, private sector companies and GIZ, among others.
- WFP strengthened capacities of local cooperating partners and of government counterparts on the use of its corporate system MODA. To support the identification and registry of beneficiaries, WFP provided tablets to partners.

Country Strategic Plan (2021-2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
166.5 million	41.9 million	10 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 July, Country Office finished the identification and registration of beneficiary households participating in its emergency response operation.
- WFP and AECID conducted a monitoring visit to nutrition funded activities in Sololá. During the visit, WFP facilitated meetings with local authorities, cooperating partners, and women participating in WFP's community counseling strategy and savings and loans groups.

Challenges

- Protests to demand the resignation of President Giammattei and Attorney General Consuelo Porras took place for more than 10 consecutive days. Roadblocks impacted personnel mobilization from Guatemala City to certain areas, and several donor visits were cancelled.
- Movement restrictions to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 significantly decreased staff movement, and compromised livelihoods, daily and informal labour opportunities, reducing household purchasing power.
- WFP has adapted its activities to comply with the Government measures, limiting activities convening large groups of people.

Donors

Canada, European Union (EU), Republic of Korea, Switzerland, United States.