



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Guatemala Country Brief October 2021



©WFP Photo: Alejandro Arriola / Cash transfer in Alta Verapaz

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**

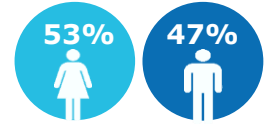
Chronic malnutrition: **46.5% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

USD 1.2 m cash-based transfers made

USD 8 m six months (November 2021-April 2022) net funding requirements, representing 57% of total

44,632 people assisted
in OCTOBER 2021



Operational Updates

- As part of its emergency response, WFP continued the distribution of unconditional cash-based transfers (CBT) in 12 departments across the country. In October, 44,632 beneficiaries (9,054 households) received assistance.
- Progress has been made in the implementation of activities in Zacapa, Retalhuleu, and Huehuetenango in support of people living with HIV. This program is implemented by WFP and funded by UNAIDS.
- As part of the *Joint Programme Linking family farming to the School-Feeding Programme with IFAD and FAO*, WFP started capacity strengthening for local partners in San Marcos and Zacapa and continued in Alta Verapaz.
- WFP delivered COVID-19 protective equipment kits (250 surgical masks and 250 face protection masks) to the Ministry of Education which will support continuity of monitoring of the Government's School Feeding Program.
- Under the *Joint Programme, Rural Women Economic Empowerment* in Alta Verapaz with IFAD, FAO and UNWOMEN, and in coordination with the Presidential Secretariat for Women (SEPREM), WFP provided technical assistance to the process of developing municipal policies for the participation and empowerment of women.
- As part of its resilience building activities, WFP and its partners in the field continued the distribution of biofortified seeds to smallholder farmers in the Dry Corridor. These nutrient seeds aim to support smallholders' domestic consumption.
- WFP and its partners are delivering conditional CBT to 2,099 beneficiaries in Chiquimula, Zacapa, El Progreso for the creation of assets, mainly orchards, fertilizers, and soil conservation solutions.
- WFP is initiating an urban poverty study focused on vulnerable youth and their experience of food insecurity compounded by the economic impact of COVID-19 and climate change. This study will create evidence for the implementation of social programmes for the young urban population.

Contact info: Giulia Cardani (giulia.cardani@wfp.org)

Country Director: Laura Melo

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

Country Strategic Plan (2021-2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
166.5 m	45.6 m	8 m

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

- As part of its emergency food assistance in Chimaltenango, WFP trained several local partners and government counterparts in the use of the mobile application (MODA) for the identification and registration of households.
- Post-distribution monitoring was implemented in seven departments (370 surveys) as part of USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA)-funded interventions. The results show that severe food insecurity was reduced by 8.6 percent (from 9.5 percent to 0.83 percent); 98 percent have acceptable food consumption and households with poor consumption decreased by 16.9 percent to zero. The use of survival strategies decreased by 73.11 percent (from 99.6 percent to 26.49 percent). Corporate indicators related to safety, accountability, and gender have an average positive performance between 95 percent and 99 percent.
- WFP finalized baseline data at the household level for the Pro-Resilience project financed by the European Union. In October, WFP and European Union held a joint monitoring visit to this project.

Challenges

- In October, protests in downtown Guatemala City took place against the Government.
- Since 04 October, local indigenous organizations have been staging peaceful demonstrations against a nickel mine in El Estor in the department of Izabal. On 23 October, the Guatemalan Government declared a 30 day-long [state of siege](#) in El Estor. There has been no impact on WFP operations. The Country Office in coordination with UNDSS is closely monitoring the situation and taking all necessary security measures.

Donors

Canada, European Union (EU), Rep. of Korea, Spain, United States, and private donors.