



WFP Guatemala Country Brief November 2021

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



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**

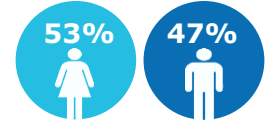
Chronic malnutrition: **46.5% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

USD 1.9 m cash-based transfers made

USD 13.2 m six months (December 2021-May 2022) net funding requirements representing 31% of total

69,110 people assisted
in NOVEMBER 2021



Operational Updates

- WFP continued the distribution of unconditional cash-based transfers (CBT) in 11 departments across the country. In November, 69,110 beneficiaries (13,822 households) received assistance: 70 percent for emergency response, and 30 percent for resilience building initiatives.
- Under the activities supporting people living with HIV, WFP distributed unconditional CBT in Huehuetenango and Quiché.
- As part of nutrition improvement, WFP delivered seed capital to 73 savings and loans groups in Sololá, Chimaltenango and Retalhuleu. These groups were created with support of local leaders, trained by WFP as community councillors. By November, in Sololá, the 39 savings groups composed by 720 women raised their saving capital up to Q 158,823.00 (USD 20,531).
- In November, WFP has signed an UN-to-UN agreement with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). This project will support the design and implementation of the White Seal government initiative through demographic and socio-economic analysis at the local level with a gender perspective, based on multidimensional criteria and indicators to support the targeting of the initiative in areas that would support women and youth.
- As part of the Joint Programme Linking family farming to the *School-Feeding Programme* with the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the Food and Agriculture Organization, WFP continued the capacity strengthening for local partners in San Marcos, Zacapa, and Alta Verapaz. Workshops directed to school parents' organizations, school food commissions, parents and teachers addressed topics such as school feeding, nutritional food education, procurement and accountability processes for local food purchase and management.

Country Strategic Plan (2021-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
166.4 m	46.4 m	13.2 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.

- Under the *Joint Programme, Rural Women Economic Empowerment* in Alta Verapaz, WFP with IFAD, FAO and UN Women visited beneficiaries’ communities to monitor activities. The technical assistance continues in coordination with the Presidential Secretariat for Women (SEPREM) to strengthen women’s economic entrepreneurship and provide follow-up to local savings and loans groups.
- Under the resilience building programme, WFP and its partners continued to deliver conditional CBT for assets creation, reaching 18,071 households’ beneficiaries in Chiquimula, Zacapa and El Progreso.

Monitoring

- Post-distribution monitoring was done in the eight departments (in the highlands and in areas affected by the Eta and Iota hurricanes). Findings show that food insecurity levels decreased significantly in the targeted departments, from 70 percent to 43 percent, with severe food insecurity reducing from 29 percent to 12 percent. However, food insecurity continues to be an issue: despite of the increase of the acceptable food consumption, the households still largely use crisis-category coping strategies linked to structural poverty, the erosion of the income during the pandemic, and seasonal hunger. Results point to a need for development-focused interventions
- WFP monitored the delivery and management of a donation of kitchen utensils to 500 schools in 10 departments. Additionally, WFP assessed the facilities for storage, preparing and cooking food. As a result, 92 percent of the schools have an area for cooking and 81 percent have the necessary infrastructure. The 24 percent of the schools cook with gas, 75 percent with firewood, 20 percent with improved stove and 55 percent with a stove. Findings are being used to make programmatic decisions in support to school kitchens, to improve the safe preparation of school meals.

Challenges

- In El Estor, Izabal a 15 day-long state of prevention that extended the previous state of siege has been declared. There has been, as of now, no impact on WFP operations. The Country Office, in coordination with the United Nations Department for Safety and Security, is closely monitoring the situation and taking all necessary security measures.

Donors

Canada, European Union, Republic of Korea, United States, Spain, and private donors.