WFP Guatemala
Country Brief
December 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.

Operational Updates

• WFP continued the distribution of unconditional cash-based transfers (CBT) in 9 departments across the country. In December, 23,859 beneficiaries (4,857 households) received assistance: 70% for emergency response and 30% for resilience building initiatives.

• Under the activities supporting people living with HIV (PLWH), WFP and its partners in the field implemented capacity building activities on nutrition and job creation for 250 people, among which 100 received unconditional CBT and 150 in-kind assistance.

• As part of nutrition improvement interventions, WFP consolidated 70 savings-and-loans groups in 84 communities. The groups generated a total capital of USD 30,000 during the 6-month saving cycle ending in December.

• In December, WFP has signed an agreement with the International Labour Organization (ILO). 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 IFAD and FAO, WFP continued implementing activities reaching 60 schools in Alta Verapaz, San Marcos, and Chiquimula. A total of 802 members of the educational community were sensitised on the school-feeding programme processes; 139 members of parent-teacher organizations were trained in accountability processes; and 60 mothers volunteering as school cooks participated in a nutrition campaign through simplified cooking courses.

In Numbers

USD 696,625 cash-based transfers made

USD 13.3 m six months (January – June 2022) net funding requirements representing 9% of total

23,859 people assisted in DECEMBER 2021

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

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WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2021-2022)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>166.5 m</td>
<td>47 m</td>
<td>13.3 m</td>
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**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.

- WFP together with IFAD, FAO, and UN Women, concluded the implementation of the Joint Programme, “Rural Women Economic Empowerment” in Alta Verapaz, where over 1,700 women have been trained on gender equality, women’s rights, and prevention of gender-based violence. The programme also supported the formation of 59 women-led micro-entrepreneurships linked to community-based savings-and-loans groups contributing to local economy.

- Under the resilience building programme, WFP and its partners continued to deliver conditional CBT for assets creation, reaching 560 households’ beneficiaries in Alta Verapaz, Chiquimula, Huehuetenango, and Zacapa.

- As part of activities to support the Government of Guatemala, WFP signed an agreement for the procurement of food commodities for USD 7.8 million.

**Monitoring**

- Post-distribution monitoring activities of conditional CBT were carried out in the departments of Alta Verapaz as part of the technical assistance for asset building and in Izabal in support of families affected by seasonal hunger. The results reflected a decrease of food insecurity, with poor food consumption passing from 46 to 1 percent, and limited consumption from 38 to 3 percent, while the “Emergency Livelihood Depletion Strategies Index” decreased from 16.5 to 5 percent. The results of the PDM showed that 100 percent of the beneficiaries knew about their rights and what they were entitled to. No security problem was reported.

- WFP carried on the baseline of the FENIX project, which aims to support the reintegration of young people in conflict with the law. Data will be processed and results to be presented in January 2022.

- WFP started the Minimum Expenditure Basket analysis (MEB), to support decision making on CBT, involving relevant actors from the humanitarian sphere.

**Challenges**

- Guatemala still struggles with the long-term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic amidst a polarized political situation. In this context, WFP’s emergency response will continue along with capacity strengthening effort to support government partners.

**Donors**
Canada, European Union, Republic of Korea (the), United States of America, Spain, and private donors.