



WFP Guatemala

Country Brief

January 2022

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**

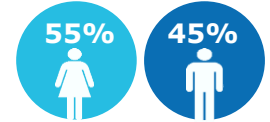
Chronic malnutrition: **46.5% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

USD 859,437 cash-based transfers made

USD 8.9 m six months (February – July 2022) net funding requirements representing 46% of total

27,716 people assisted in JANUARY 2022



Operational Updates

- WFP continued the distribution of unconditional cash-based transfers (CBT) in seven departments across the country. In January 2022, 27,716 beneficiaries (5,685 households) received assistance under emergency response activities. Assistance was provided to 28 communities in Izabal affected by the flooding caused by heavy rains. Under the emergency response, unconditional CBT assistance was provided to 226 vulnerable households in Izabal.
- As part of the Joint Programme Linking family farming to the "School-Feeding Programme" with IFAD and FAO, WFP coordinated with the local partners the annual plan and continued implementing activities in Alta Verapaz, San Marcos, and Chiquimula. In San Marcos and Alta Verapaz over 150 people, among parents and caregivers, were trained on healthy nutrition at school and at home participating in awareness-raising meetings with local farmers on the importance to buy smallholders farmers' local products.
- Under the Pro-Resilience programme with the European Union, WFP established the annual work plan with partners and the technical team. Also, WFP trained the partner AGEXPORT and two local implementing partners (ADAP and ASEDECHI) on technical reporting, registration of participants, and cross-cutting themes (gender and nutrition).
- As part of the social protection activities, WFP jointly with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and FAO is designing the annual plan for the implementation of the Peace Building Fund (PBF) which aims to promote the management of the social, political and institutional environment to contribute to reducing the conflict in the Polochic Valley.

Country Strategic Plan (2021-2022)

| Total Requirement (in USD) | Allocated Contributions (in USD) | Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 166.5 m | 48.1 m | 8.9 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

A post distribution monitoring (PDM) for emergency activities have been carried out in Puerto Barrios. Also, the tools for the PDM study in microinsurance were designed and tested. Data gathering and evidence generation will be done in February 2022. The study aims to measure the impact of microinsurance in the flood context in the department of Alta Verapaz.

- The country office gives continuous support to the government in the analysis of data from the Great Crusade Against Malnutrition. Consolidated Approach for Reporting Indicators of Food Security (CARI) indicators have been used.
- A capacity building plan has been convened with the Secretary of Food Security and Nutrition, starting in February 2022.

Challenges

- The long-term impact of COVID-19 continues affecting the economic recovery of Guatemalan families. The month of January reported increasing inflation during 2021 which is likely to impact the basic food basket and household food consumption. Consumer prices during the last year rose to 8 percent at national level, with peaks up to 16 percent in six departments where WFP have operations (resiliency and emergency). Prices are expected to keep high during 2022, mostly because of fuel and energy. Thus, impacting in all commodities and staple food markets. In addition, people's food security is threatened by the beginning of the lean season, which usually starts in March and it is recently registered at the end of February.
- Guatemala emergency response activities are only 24 percent funded. The country office only has funds to implement emergency response activities until March 2022. WFP is concerned about this situation, as projections estimate that in 2022 2.5 million people will continue to be food insecure.

Donors

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