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 USD 2 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 distributing unconditional cash-based transfers in six departments across the country. In February, 9,491 beneficiaries (1,862 households) received assistance under emergency response activities. WFP received funding approval from USAID’s Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance to support crisis response activities in Solola, Jalapa, Jutiapa, Izabal, and Santa Rosa.

- As part of the Joint Programme linking family farming to the school-feeding programme with the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, WFP continued implementing activities in Alta Verapaz, San Marcos, and Chiquimula. In February, basic cooking courses for parents, caregivers, and municipal authorities were carried out in the three departments and 160 people received a diploma on school feeding and nutritional food education in San Marcos. Participants were trained on healthy eating at home and at school to strengthen communities' capacities to improve the quality of school meals. In Alta Verapaz, 110 parents and caregivers were sensitized on the importance of local food consumption and its link to family farming. Activities were also carried out to promote school gardens and improve hygiene and cooking skills through a cooking workshop for mothers in charge of school feeding. In Chiquimula, school commissions in charge of school feeding were trained on technical procedural aspects, such as procurement and accountability.

- Under the resilience activities, in Huehuetenango, 40 people completed their training as community promoters under the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and WFP project Resilience for food security and nutrition. Participants were trained to become part of the nutrition and gender counselling network on different topics such as gender-sensitive nutrition, healthy nutrition for new-borns, and entrepreneurship (production of oyster mushrooms, food production, packaging, production of medicinal ointments). WFP will continue to support these activities with other funding sources.

### In Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>USD 281,646</th>
<th>cash-based transfers made</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USD 10 m</td>
<td>six months (March – August 2022) net funding requirements representing 47% of total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13,483 people</td>
<td>assisted in February 2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Population: 16.9 million
Income Level: Middle
2018 Human Development Index: 126 out of 189
Chronic malnutrition: 46.5% of children between 6-59 months

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Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/Guatemala](http://www.wfp.org/countries/Guatemala)
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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>166.5 m</td>
<td>49.4 m</td>
<td>10 m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 began the "Urban poverty study with a focus on vulnerable youth" to understand how climate change and economic crisis contribute to urban poverty affecting the youth in Guatemala City and Quetzaltenango. In partnership with the Ministry of Social Development, WFP continues assisting various lines of work such as gender, youth, and data collection. In addition, WFP has started to support the White Seal initiative (Sello Blanco) with formal productive groups that already have a certain type of commercialization.

**Monitoring**

- A study to measure microinsurance for small farmers (mostly women) in Alta Verapaz Department was completed, the report will be delivered in March.

- The final assessment of the KOICA financed project was conducted and will be shared in March with stakeholders and the donor.

- The primary data collection phase in the field of the Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis and Integrated Context Analysis study with Secretariat of Food and Nutritional Security started. It will be conducted at the national level (22 departments) and will support several analyses, including the official Integrated Food Security Phase Classification with the Government. The primary findings are expected to be shared in April.

**Challenges**

- The long-term impact of COVID-19 continues to affect the economic recovery of Guatemalan families. Poor households in the Dry Corridor and the areas affected by storms Eta and Iota held no savings and atypical debts at the start of 2022. As the lean season approaches, these households are less likely to produce sufficient food to meet their needs and will have to rely on purchasing food in the market. Due to increasing prices, they will face reduced purchasing power. To meet their food needs, households with lower-than-normal incomes, debts, and high costs of food will adjust the quality and quantity of household food intensifying the use of negative coping strategies.

- The registered high costs of agricultural inputs are causing a reduction in their use and in sowing areas, negatively affecting yields and agricultural activities. Fuel prices also remain above average and will impact the cost of food.

**Donors**

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