



WFP Guatemala Country Brief March 2022

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



© WFP Photo: Alejandro Arriola / Students showing their pedagogical gardens.

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**

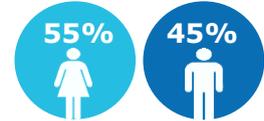
Chronic malnutrition: **46.5% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

USD 173,147 cash-based transfers made

USD 5.5 m six months (April – September 2022) net funding requirements representing 70% of total

19,935 people assisted
in MARCH 2022



Operational Updates

- Under the emergency response, in March 2022 WFP carried out cash-based transfers (CBT) in the departments of Alta Verapaz and Totonicapán, reaching 580 beneficiaries (149 households). So far, implementing partners and counterparts received trainings on beneficiary targeting and cross-cutting issues (nutrition, gender, protection, communication). This pilot provides a training model that can be replicated in future interventions. Also, a national expression of interest was launched to identify new potential partners using the United Nations Partners Portal to carry out emergency-related activities in the following months.
- In March, under the activities for the promotion of healthy diets and good nutrition throughout the lifecycle, WFP initiated activities with UNICEF in support of the joint initiative to certify hospitals as baby friendly. WFP also continued its collaboration with the National Secretary of Food Security and Nutrition (SESAN, for its Spanish acronym) through the development of a Support Plan to design and implement a communication strategy for social and behavioural change for nutrition and healthy diets.
- As part of the Joint Programme with IFAD and FAO, which links family farming to the School-Feeding Programme, WFP continued implementing activities in Alta Verapaz, San Marcos, and Chiquimula. In March, basic cooking courses were carried out with mothers, fathers and staff of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (50 participants in San Marcos and 30 in Alta Verapaz). Diplomas on "School Feeding and Nutritional Food Education" were delivered in coordination with the Ministry of Health in San Marcos and Chiquimula (60 people). In Alta Verapaz and San Marcos, 300 parents and students participated in workshops for the implementation of school gardens. Visits have been made to six educational centres in Chiquimula to identify priorities for the refurbishment of kitchens.

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Country Strategic Plan (2021-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
166.4 m	57.6 m	5.5 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 resilience activities, WFP carried out Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) and CBT in the departments of Alta Verapaz and Huehuetenango reaching 4,066 beneficiaries (1,010 households). A coordination meeting was held with all PRO-Resilience implementing partners and the WFP sub-office to coordinate synergies and opportunities for upcoming year. In March, under Risk Financing, WFP began the insurance subscription process, with 4,000 people in Camotán, Chiquimula already registered.
- WFP continued its support to the Ministry of Social Development in the design of the Social Inclusion and Gender Policy. Training on gender was provided to 30 staff members.

Monitoring

- The baseline for the "Support to Indigenous Women's Economic Empowerment and Food Security in Guatemala" project was carried out. The analysis of the Household Food Security Index showed that 62 percent of households are food secure, while 38 percent are moderately or severely food insecure.
- The Minimum Expenditure Basket proposal was edited based on sectoral analysis to be presented to the national cash working group.
- The selection and targeting criteria of beneficiaries was updated and automated.
- Publication of the first Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping report on food prices for the month of February.

Challenges

- Smallholder farmers, informal merchants, and agricultural day labourers are affected by the global price crisis and impacts of the COVID-19, these will be compounded by the forthcoming lean season. Consequently, they are forced to use crisis and emergency coping strategies, such as selling assets and using their savings, to bridge their food gaps. According to the [Integrated Food Security Phase Classification](#), in the departments most vulnerable to food insecurity— the Dry Corridor and the Western Highlands— there is a deficiency of food stocks and difficulties in accessing food due to households' low purchasing power. At least one in five households uses crisis coping strategies to feed themselves and their households on a regular basis.

Donors

Canada, European Union, United States of America, Spain, Switzerland, Germany, and private donors.