



WFP Guatemala Country Brief April 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 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.



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 9.150 of cash-based transfers made*

USD 7.3 m six months (May – October 2022) net funding requirements representing 73% of total

11,801 people assisted* in April 2022



*Preliminary numbers

Operational Updates

- Under the emergency response, WFP through the United Nations Partners Portal identified new cooperating partners finalizing the call of expression of interest. WFP will be carrying out emergency-related activities with partners that have a presence in USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance project intervention areas. Furthermore, ahead of the project implementation, meetings were held at the local level and cross-unit visits were organized to targeted communities.
- To promote healthy diets and good nutrition, WFP trained 1,800 students, parents and government workers in Alta Verapaz, Chimaltenango, Sololá, Zacapa, and Chiquimula on healthy nutrition practices and governance in food and nutrition security. Specific training was also provided on the nutritional needs of infants and lactating and pregnant women and girls. The trainings held in Sololá are a component of the Government's social and behavioural change communication strategy. Furthermore, WFP conducted nutrition fairs with health authorities in Chimaltenango.
- As part of the Joint Programme with the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, which links family farming to the school feeding programme, students, school staff, parents and caregivers' associations participated in workshops on nutrition and food education, the creation and management of school gardens, and the adequate equipment and management of school kitchens in Alta Verapaz, San Marcos, and Chiquimula.
- Under its resilience activities, WFP reached 2,851 beneficiaries in Alta Verapaz, Chiquimula, El Progreso, and Zacapa with training on soil conservation and reforestation. Under risk financing, WFP started the process to insure 1,500 people in Alta Verapaz. While in Jocotán, the intervention benefitted 350 beneficiaries.

Contact info: [Giulia Cardani \(giulia.cardani@wfp.org\)](mailto:giulia.cardani@wfp.org)

Country Director: Tania Goossens

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/Guatemala

Country Strategic Plan (2021-2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
82.6 m	88.4 m	7.3 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

- The evaluation of Farmers' Organization Readiness and Maturity Assessment was carried out with 60 organizations distributed across six departments. The results show a generalized weak management and product marketing capacity which will require further programmatic support to smallholder farmers on these topics.
- WFP participated in the analysis for the definition of the Integrated Classification of Acute Food Security in the 22 departments of Guatemala. The data comes from the National Assessment led by WFP jointly with governmental institutions, non-governmental organizations, and United Nations agencies. Results are expected to be published towards the end of May.
- WFP conducted price monitoring to calculate the Alert for Price Spikes indicator and map price changes.

Challenges

- The impact of COVID-19, climate change and the increasing food basket value continue to hamper food security.
- In April, a local rural movement (the committee for rural development) took over several roads at the national level as part of a demonstration against, among others, the high cost of the basic food basket and fuel that impact Guatemalan families. Some planned missions to the field had to be postponed, but WFP was able to continue activities without any major obstacles.

Donors

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