WFP Guatemala
Country Brief
May 2022

Operational Context

Guatemala is a multicultural country, with 40 per cent of its inhabitants being indigenous Mayan. Despite its middle-income status, two-thirds of its population lives on less than USD2 per day. Among indigenous people, poverty averages 79 per cent, with 40 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 with the National Plan, “K’atun: Our Guatemala 2032”, and the government’s national plan to attain progress toward 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.

In Numbers

**USD 883,600** cash-based transfers made*

**USD 12.7 m** six months (June – November 2022) net funding requirements representing 51% of total

**37,500 people assisted**

in May 2022

*Preliminary figures

Operational Updates

- In May, WFP assisted through cash-based transfers 1,000 households (4,500 beneficiaries, 2,500 of whom were women) affected by the lean season and recent flooding. Local cooperating partners were trained on gender equity, communication, protection and beneficiaries’ registration methods.

- To promote healthy diets and good nutrition, WFP trained 1,800 beneficiaries and government workers on healthy nutrition practices and governance in food security and nutrition across six departments. In support of the government’s social and behavioural change communication strategy, WFP conducted nutrition fairs with health authorities and held workshops on Super Cereal Plus for 120 health staff of the Ministry of Health. At the request of the ministry, WFP is supporting the Government efforts by developing a joint action plan to address the rising rates of acute malnutrition in the country.

- WFP signed a Memorandum of Understanding with UNICEF to build on synergies to improve national nutrition and food security through resilience activities.

- As part of the Joint Programme with the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the Food and Agriculture Organization, which links family farming to the school feeding programme, 324 students, school staff, parents and parents and caregivers’ associations participated in nutrition education workshops and in the creation and management of school gardens. A delegation of the Government of Panama and the Minister of Education and Vice-minister of Agriculture of Guatemala visited targeted schools, spoke with beneficiaries and participated in trainings on food preparation, hygiene and sanitation.

- WFP reached 5,500 beneficiaries in five departments with trainings on income diversification, hygiene and sanitation, saving and credit, soil conservation, and gender.

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**

Contact info: Giulia Cardani (giulia.cardani@wfp.org)

Country Director: Tania Goossens

Further information: 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>17.8 m</td>
<td>12.7 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 3: 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 4: Food Systems are sustainable**

**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 5: Countries have strengthened capacity to implement 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

- During May, WFP delivered conditional cash-based transfers to 21,000 beneficiaries (10,900 women) and provided microinsurance to 9,437 smallholders farmer.

- WFP convened the Steering Committee for the European Union-funded Pro-Resilience project implemented in the Dry Corridor. Discussions on project progress, community-led initiatives, gender inclusion and decent employment were held among key stakeholders such as the Minister of Agriculture, the Secretary of Food Security and Nutrition, the Ministry of Health, as well as representatives of the European Union, UNICEF, the Pan American Health Organization and local community leaders.

- The White Seal initiative, a joint effort of WFP, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Population Fund and the Government of Guatemala, certified the first group of 28 small and medium enterprises.

**Monitoring**

- As the hurricane season approaches (June to November), WFP developed and tested a methodology to target and prioritize populations most in need in case of an emergency.

- WFP conducted a price monitoring and context analysis to estimate the impact of the Ukraine crisis on Guatemala and WFP operations. On average, a family spends 62 percent of its income on food purchases. However, considering price increases at the international level, the share of income Guatemalans spend on food is expected to increase.

**Challenges**

- According to the last Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis (March – May 2022), 3.9 million people in the country are facing food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above). As the situation worsens in the following months, this figure is expected to increase to 4.6 million.

- The country has the highest food basket price in the region, which is also expected to rise. With the increasing inflation rate, households’ access to food consumption will continue to be severely affected.

- In case of a new emergency, WFP anticipates that it will have to redirect available resources and leave previous activities underfunded.

**Donors**

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