



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Guatemala Country Brief July 2022



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

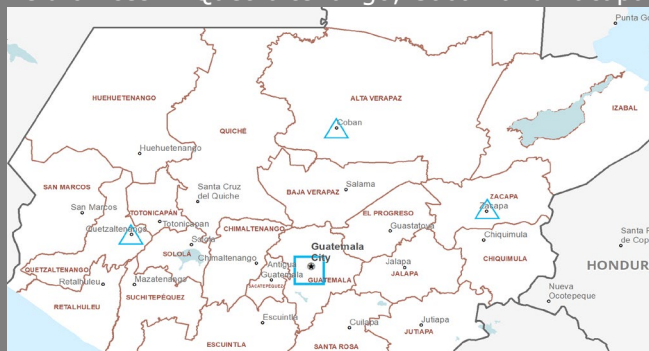
Operational Context

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 USD 2 per day, and among indigenous people, poverty averages 79 percent, with 40 percent living in extreme poverty. Guatemala has 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 and hurricane seasons, while restoring their livelihoods.

WFP has been present in Guatemala since 1984, and is currently in the process of opening three field offices in Quetzaltenango, Coban and Zacapa.



Population: 17.7 million

2019 Human Development Index: 127 out of 189

Income Level: Middle

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

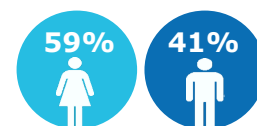
In Numbers

USD 1,460,046 delivered as cash-based transfers

USD 12.6 m six months (August 2022–January 2023) net funding requirements representing 44% of total

48,835 people assisted in July 2022

*Preliminary figures



Operational Updates

- To assist populations unable to recover from past crises, WFP continued carrying out participatory planning sessions to design early recovery activities. Furthermore, WFP delivered cash-based transfers (CBT) to 34,000 beneficiaries (18,000 women and girls) in six departments affected by the lean season and recent flooding to purchase healthy food.
- WFP carries out its climate shock response project as part of the resilience activities. As of July 2022, 9,400 persons participated in the project, and 1,600 smallholder producers contributed to ensuring their productions with USD 3.2 fees, while WFP contributed the rest of the cost.
- WFP continued training 3,500 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 met with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to develop synergies and explore the creation of common instruments and methodologies to evaluate the knowledge, attitudes, and practices linked to the Government's strategy.
- WFP and the Ministry of Education launched a school-feeding mobile application, with the support the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) and the World Bank. 200 parents, school staff, and local cooperating partners received the relevant training on its use. The mobile app aims to facilitate the implementation of the school feeding programme.
- Under its resilience activities, WFP delivered conditional CBT to 5,500 smallholder producers (3,000 women). Furthermore, 4,600 beneficiaries in five departments received training on income diversification, climate resilience, soil conservation, and gender.
- Under its capacity-strengthening initiative aimed at youth job inclusion, the first cohort of 80 young Guatemalans received training on gender and nutrition as part of their internship with Plan International and graduated in July.

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

Country Strategic Plan (2021-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
206.8 m	107.2 m	12.6 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.
- Provide services and technical assistance to national institutions and other partners.
- Provide on-demand cash-based transfer services.

- The United States of America ambassador to the Rome-based agencies, Cindy McCain, visited Guatemala and Honduras, including joint programmes with the Food and Agriculture Organization and IFAD on integrated resilience activities (emergency and early recovery and school feeding).
- As part of the Risk Financing initiatives, WFP participated in discussions to plan actions at the departmental level to run pilots for anticipatory actions and provision of climate services. In addition, WFP worked to support climate analysis and monitoring with the installation of climate data gathering network and tools, such as pluviometry.
- Under its social protection programming, WFP conducted 1,000 surveys as part of the Urban Poverty Study among young people in 5 municipalities across the country.

Monitoring

- In July, WFP carried out a post-distribution monitoring exercise to assess the impact of the resilience programme on food insecurity. The results from 400 household-level interviews reflected a 10.8 percent reduction in the number of households reporting severe food insecurity.
- WFP carried out a study on the insurance project for its climate shock response in Guatemala and the study highlighted the importance of microinsurance for the communities and identified the financial, climate information, and preparedness needs.

Challenges

- Inflation in July reached its peak since 2011 at 7.6 percent. This situation worsens people's access to food and may increase the number of cases of malnutrition due to price increases. WFP is reviewing the Minimum Expenditure Baskets and considering increasing the transfer value of CBT to mitigate the effects of inflation.
- With the funding currently available to the organisation, WFP would not be able to respond rapidly to sudden-onset crises and meet the government's requests for assistance and beneficiaries' needs.

Donors

Canada, European Union, Germany, Guatemala, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, Republic of Korea, Spain, Switzerland, United States of America, and private donors.

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