



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
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LIVES

WFP Guatemala Country Brief August 2022



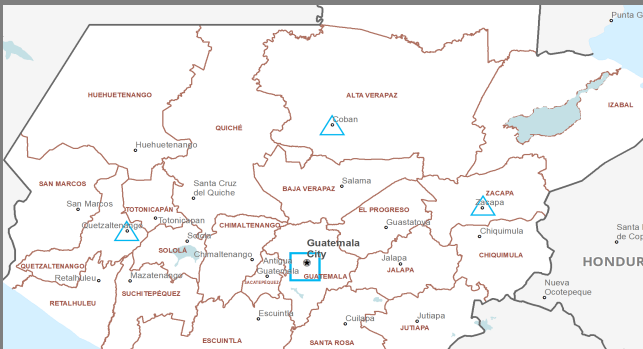
Operational Context

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 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 1974 and is currently in the process of opening three field offices in Quetzaltenango, Coban and Zacapa.



Population: **17.1 million**

2019 Human Development Index: **127 out of 189**

Income Level: **Middle**

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

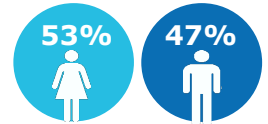
In Numbers

USD 1.1 m cash-based transfers made

USD 14.5 m six months (September 2022–February 2023) net funding requirements representing 52% of total

35,744 people assisted*
in August 2022

*Preliminary figures



Operational Updates

- WFP delivered emergency assistance in the form of unconditional cash-based transfer (CBT) to 31,000 beneficiaries, including 16,000 women and girls, in seven departments affected by the lean and hurricane seasons. WFP planned emergency activities which include early recovery actions in two departments, to begin in September.
- WFP trained 1,100 beneficiaries and government workers on healthy nutrition practices, and governance in food security and nutrition, across seven departments.
- WFP launched nutrition brigades in two departments, as part of the joint efforts with the Government of Guatemala under the National Crusade for Nutrition to reduce malnutrition rates, and two health centres in Zacapa and El Progreso received 100 anthropometric kits.
- WFP organized an awareness-raising workshop with local media in Solola on water, sanitation and malnutrition prevention, with the goal of disseminating information, and motivating media to share more educative messages on positive nutrition and health practices.
- As part of the school feeding programme, 210 beneficiary schools in six departments started to use the School Feeding Mobile Application, launched in July. WFP trained over 700 parents, small producers, school staff and government workers on its use.
- Under resilience activities, WFP delivered trainings in five departments on income diversification, climate resilience, entrepreneurship, and gender to 5,700 beneficiaries, of whom 2,700 received conditional CBT.
- WFP carried out the first training, out of four, on inclusive masculinity, targeting local cooperating partners. The trainings are part of WFP Guatemala's strategy to contribute to gender equality and Indigenous women's empowerment in the country.

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Country Strategic Plan (2021-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
206.8 m	113.3 m	14.5 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.
- Provide services and technical assistance to national institutions and other partners.
- Provide on-demand cash-based transfer services.

- As part of its Risk Financing initiatives, WFP carried out 19 meetings with departmental authorities, stakeholders and smallholder producers to plan Anticipatory Actions and Climate Services pilot projects and identify potential cooperating partners. WFP installed new 200 rain gauges for climate data gathering to support analysis and monitoring systems.

Monitoring

- WFP conducted the post-distribution monitoring of an integrated resilience project in Alta Verapaz. Through 433 interviews, WFP showed significant reductions on the percentage of population suffering from severe and moderate food insecurity. From an initial 38.3 percent reported during the baseline in March 2022 to 3.7 percent obtained in August 2022.
- Fifteen governmental and non-governmental organizations participated in a Cash Working Group workshop, co-organized by WFP, to socialize and promote the methodology to calculate the Minimum Expenditure Basket.

Challenges

- In August, the price of local basic food commodities remained high due to inflation and interruptions in communication routes caused by floods and landslides. This situation is challenging people's access to food and worsening malnutrition rates, thus increasing the number of people requiring assistance.
- Due to funding shortfalls, WFP has already exhausted most crisis response resources and is unable to scale up unconditional support or respond to any eventual emergency assistance requests from the Government. During the next six months (September 2022 to February 2023), WFP has a shortfall of 13.5 million to cover crisis response activities only.

Donors

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