WFP Guatemala
Country Brief
October 2022

In Numbers

USD 1.3 m cash-based transfers made

USD 15.8 m six months (November 2022–April 2023) net funding requirements representing 55 percent of total

43,655 people assisted in October 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. 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 to achieve 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, WFP supports the national response to drought and flood-affected smallholder farmers to help them cope with the lean and rainy 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.

Operational Updates

- WFP delivered cash-based transfers to 7,900 beneficiaries, including 4,000 women and girls, in six departments affected by the lean and rainy seasons. Of the beneficiaries, 1,400 were targeted for early recovery activities.

- WFP trained 5,300 beneficiaries in five departments on income diversification, climate resilience, entrepreneurship and gender equality. Under Climate Financing Activities, from May to October 2022, WFP insured 9,400 smallholder farmers against climate risks in seven departments. Due to excessive rainfall, WFP’s parametric microinsurance has been activated for 7,000 beneficiaries, who will receive a payout to compensate for their crop losses.

- In four departments, 200 beneficiaries received training on school feeding law implementation, pedagogical school gardens, as well as the use of the School Feeding Mobile Application. WFP is supporting the Ministry of Education in the 2022 nutrition survey of school-age children. The national survey will assess the nutritional status of 21,700 children from urban and rural areas in the 22 departments of the country. To ensure the safety of children, in October, WFP delivered 30,000 diversified biosafety supplies including facemasks and face protectors. The Ministry of Education also received tools and inputs for the implementation of 100 educational school gardens in the department of Izabal.

- WFP provided logistics support to its cooperating partners and the Government to mobilize 500 mt of emergency food assistance for the communities affected by the tropical storm Julia in Izabal and Huehuetenango departments.
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>
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<tr>
<td>206.8 m</td>
<td>136.2 m</td>
<td>15.8 m</td>
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**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.

**Monitoring**

- To prepare the 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview, the Food Security Cluster, led by WFP estimated the population in need jointly with 16 governmental and non-governmental organizations.

**Challenges**

- While Guatemala tries to recover from the damages caused by Tropical Storm Julia, it is at risk of getting struck again by additional tropical storms or hurricanes. The prolonged crisis does not allow affected people to recover before the next emergency, as well as the saturated soils to be restored and absorb rainwater, thus increasing the probability of further damages and increased food insecurity.

- WFP has already exhausted most of its resources and is unable to scale up emergency and early recovery activities, or to respond to any additional assistance requests from the Government. From November 2022 to April 2023, WFP has a shortfall of USD 15.8 million, including USD 14.7 million to carry out crisis response operations.

**Capacity Strengthening**

- WFP participated in the workshop to strengthen inter-institutional coordination with the ministries of Health, Development, and the Secretariat of Food Security and Nutrition. The workshop addressed the impact of complementary school feeding programmes on the nutritional status of children.

- In October 2022, WFP continued training 1,100 beneficiaries and government workers on healthy nutrition practices and governance across nine departments. WFP’s nutrition brigades in Quetzaltenango, Zacapa and El Progreso departments reached 1,500 beneficiaries.

- As part of the capacity strengthening on health and nutrition at the community level, 1,200 aspiring community counsellors finalized their trainings.

**Donors**

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

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