



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Guatemala Country Brief March 2023



Operational Context

Guatemala is a multicultural country with 44 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 second 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 Latin America and the Caribbean 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 UN System and the Government's joint and national plans to attain progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

As Guatemala is among the countries most vulnerable to climate change and most exposed to natural hazards in the world, WFP supports the national response to drought and flood-affected smallholder farmers to help them cope with the lean and rainy seasons, while restoring and diversifying their livelihoods.

WFP has been present in Guatemala since 1974, and has three field offices in Quetzaltenango, Coban and Zacapa.



Population: **17.1 million**

2021 Human Development Index: **135 out of 191**

Income Level: **Middle**

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

In Numbers

USD 0.4 m cash-based transfers made

USD 15.7 m six months (April-September 2023) net funding requirements, representing **57** percent of total

29,102 people assisted in March 2023



Operational Updates

- WFP delivered humanitarian assistance through cash-based transfers to 11,000 beneficiaries (52 percent of women and girls). Of these, 8,018 in the departments of Alta Verapaz, Guatemala, Izabal, Jutiapa, Quiché and Solola received CBT conditional to their participation in early recovery activities, such as soil and water conservation, vegetable gardening, biofertilizer preparation, poultry farming and nutrition.
- WFP's 'nutrition brigades' provided nutritional assessments, counseling and micronutrient supplementation to 4,376 beneficiaries, including children under 5 (88 percent) in Alta Verapaz, El Progreso and Zacapa.
- In Alta Verapaz, Chimaltenango, Chiquimula, El Progreso, Escuintla, Guatemala, San Marcos and Quetzaltenango, 2,000 beneficiaries (54 percent women) received training on School Feeding Law implementation, pedagogical school gardens and the use of the School Feeding Mobile Application.
- Under its resilience activities, WFP launched a mobile application to promote access to climate risk parametric insurance (microinsurance) policies by supporting the identification and subscription of beneficiaries as part of the strategy to expand microinsurance for smallholder farmers.

Monitoring

- WFP presented the results of the baseline survey conducted from 3 to 10 February on 450 households in three municipalities of the Quiché department as part of the project "*Strengthening climate resilience in vulnerable rural communities.*" The results showed that 73 percent of beneficiary households are food insecure and 80 percent engage in emergency livelihood coping strategies.

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Country Strategic Plan (2021-2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
321.8 m	171.4 m	15.7 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome #1: Crisis-affected population 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 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 integrates social protection system by 2024.

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 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.

- On 30 and 31 March, WFP conducted food security and nutrition training for 60 enumerators and supervisors in preparation for the Joint National Food Security Assessment 2023 in collaboration with the Secretariat for Food and Nutrition Security. WFP plans to carry out field data collection between April and May 2023. Results will provide data for the upcoming Integrated Food Security Phase Classification analysis.
- WFP presented the results of the baseline survey conducted for the project "Vulnerable Youth in urban areas" in two municipalities of the Guatemala department from 23 to 30 January. The survey covered 175 households and showed that 84 percent of beneficiary households reported eating less preferred and/or expensive foods and 56 percent reduced health expenditures. In addition, the households reported that the main issues in the community include robbery and assault (52 percent) and access to jobs (46 percent).

Challenges

- WFP faces a funding shortfall of 13.4 million for crisis response from April to September 2023, which affects WFP's capacity to respond to acute malnutrition, including providing assistance to the cases among children under five in Alta Verapaz.

Donors

Canada, Cargill, European Union, France, Germany, Government of Guatemala, Howard G. Buffet Foundation, International Fund for Agricultural Development, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, United States of America, and other private sector and multilateral donors.

Additional support is provided by the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund and the United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS.