



# Anticipatory Action Activation

## Guatemala



### WFP activates Anticipatory Action to support communities ahead of the impacts of drought in the Dry Corridor, Guatemala

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) together with the Government and partners, has activated its Anticipatory Action programme in the Dry Corridor of Guatemala to support 6,000 people from 12 communities of Chiquimula to avoid livelihood losses and mitigate the impacts of the predicted moderate drought during the 2023 rainfall season.

In Guatemala, during the 2023 lean season, up to 4.3 million people are estimated to suffer from acute food insecurity and in need of emergency food and nutrition assistance, coupled with 1 in 2 children estimated to be chronically malnourished, according to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC in 2022-2023). In Chiquimula 22 percent of the population are in acute food insecurity and mostly are small-holder farmers depending on rain for their crops. WFP and the national meteorological agency of the Government of Guatemala (INSIVUMEH) have been monitoring the forecasts since January and have activated the programme based on the decreased rainfall forecasted for the upcoming crop season in July/August.

Under the Anticipatory Action project, with support from the European Union and internal funding, WFP Guatemala, in collaboration with the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) and the Agroclimatic Technical Groups (MTA, Mesas Técnicas Agroclimáticas), disseminated early warning messages regarding an impending drought. These messages aimed at mitigating the impacts of the drought, reached 10,000 individuals through SMS, and were conveyed to agroclimatic

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### Key facts

Location: 12 communities from Chiquimiula Department—Guatemala	
Number of people supported with Early Warning messages	10,000
Number of people supported with Anticipatory cash transfer	5,095
Number of people supported with drought resistant seeds, fertilizers and community training (ongoing)	6,000

technical groups at the district level. In addition, WFP provided support to 5,095 people through anticipatory cash transfers, enabling them to address their basic food needs proactively. Furthermore, in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, municipalities, and various cooperating partners, WFP distributed drought-resistant seeds and fertilizers and provided community training sessions to 6,000 individuals. Additionally, silos and seed banks to prevent post-harvest losses were provided, a network of local climate monitors were trained and deployed, and water reservoirs were rehabilitated. These comprehensive efforts empower communities to protect against and mitigate the impacts of a below-average rainfall season predicted for the 2023 agricultural season in Chiquimula, Guatemala., while fostering sustainable solutions at the community level.

This would not have been possible without multi-year investments and co-financing in anticipatory action systems and readiness capacity from the Federal Foreign Office of the Government of Germany, the Government of Ireland, the European Union and, GIZ. WFP, the Government of Guatemala, and partners keep monitoring the forecast to see if further actions will need to occur in the following weeks or months, such as food stocks and more community training to adapt crops and planting techniques to protect against the upcoming drought.

**"We don't know how much this drought will affect us but we are already prepared with good and resistant seeds"**  
**José Luis López - Comunidad de Agua Zarca, municipio de San Jacinto Chiquimula**



Photo page 1: WFP/Bernardo Diaz