



World Food Programme

SAVING
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WFP Guatemala Country Brief April 2023



Operational Context

Guatemala is a multicultural country with 44 percent of inhabitants self-identifying as 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 drought and flood-affected smallholder farmers to help them cope with the lean and rainy seasons, while restoring, building 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 240,000 cash-based transfers made

USD 5.5 m six months (May-October 2023) net funding requirements, representing 16 percent of total*

19,582 people assisted in April 2023

64%



36%



*Budget Revision #05 is under review

Operational Updates

- WFP assisted 8,057 beneficiaries (54 percent women and girls) through cash-based transfers (CBT) and capacity strengthening initiatives to implement early recovery activities. Among the beneficiaries of the CBT, 3,900 individuals were affected by the lean season. Meanwhile, 3,995 received support as part of their participation in early recovery projects.
- WFP's 'nutrition brigades' (eight teams) provided nutritional assessments, counseling and nutritional supplementation to 4,484 beneficiaries. Of these, 53 percent are from households participating in integrated resilience programming. Additionally, 340 beneficiaries, predominantly from integrated resilience interventions, benefited from capacity strengthening sessions focused on nutrition.
- In the departments of Chimaltenango, El Progreso, Guatemala, San Marcos, and Quetzaltenango, 2,600 beneficiaries (53 percent women), received training focused on School Feeding Law implementation, pedagogical school gardens and the use of the School Feeding Mobile Application.
- As part of the integrated resilience activities, in the departments of Chiquimula, El Progreso, Zacapa and Alta Verapaz, WFP provided capacity strengthening sessions on topics such as nutrition, women empowerment, climate services and financial literacy training to 4,279 beneficiaries.
- The Country Director of WFP Guatemala engaged in a strategic planning and advocacy workshop organized by the School Meals Coalition. Held in Washington D.C. on 17 and 18 April, the assembly focused on deliberating the coalition's strategic priorities and forthcoming events for the 2023-2024 period.
- A bi-national workshop was jointly organized by WFP Guatemala, WFP Honduras, the National Coordinating Agency for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Global Logistics Cluster. Spanning from 17 to 20 April, the workshop aimed to identify potential improvements in logistics processes and advocate for the effective use of resources in post-disaster emergencies.

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Country Strategic Plan (2021-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
206.8 m	171.4 m	5.5 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.

Monitoring

- WFP carried out the process and post distribution monitoring (PDM) surveys for the project titled "*Peace-building and reduction of agrarian conflict in the Polochic Valley.*" Results showed that 99 percent of the beneficiary households encountered no issues while receiving their CBT assistance, and did not experience security concerns at the distribution sites. Results from the PDM indicated a 63 percent improvement in beneficiary households' food security (rising from a 37 percent baseline to 100 percent at the PDM stage).
- In response to the malnutrition emergency in Alta Verapaz, WFP conducted a household targeting exercise in the three municipalities of Panzós, La Tinta and Senahú in March and April, to identify the most vulnerable households in need of emergency food assistance. Upon completion, the exercise identified 3,100 eligible households slated to receive CBT assistance in May and July.
- From March to April, WFP carried out a diagnostic survey as part of the pilot project titled "*Strengthening School Feeding Programme in Guatemala – NOJ.*" This survey involved data collection from 48 schools and 30 agricultural associations and individual farmers in Chimaltenango, Quetzaltenango, El Progreso and Guatemala. The results showed that 56 percent of schools purchase food supplies from registered family farmers.

Challenges

- Funding shortfalls are affecting emergency responses to effectively respond to potential floods and prolonged droughts associated with the El Niño phenomenon. Only 115,000 out of 195,000 beneficiaries planned in 2023 can be assisted with available funds. From June onwards, the lack of funds will force WFP to reduce rations by 50 percent and be unable to respond to any request for emergency response support from the Government.
- The acute malnutrition crisis in Alta Verapaz also demonstrates the need for additional funds to expand nutrition and integrated resilience programming to prevent these crises from spreading across the country to other departments.

Donors

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