



World Food Programme

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WFP Guatemala

Country Brief

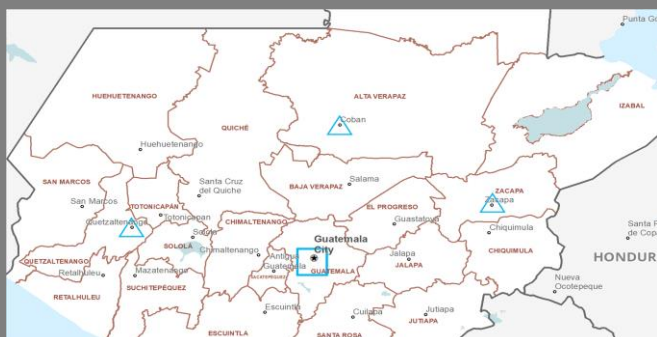
May 2023



@WFP Guatemala

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 the population live 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 Latin America and the Caribbean. 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 United Nations 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, WFP supports drought and flood-affected smallholder producers to help them cope with the lean, rainy and hurricane seasons while restoring, building, and diversifying their livelihoods. WFP has been present in Guatemala since 1974, with 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**

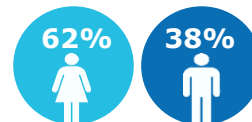
In Numbers

USD 371,119 cash-based transfers made*

USD 8.3 m six months (June-November 2023) net funding requirements, representing 20 percent of total

23,135 people assisted*
in May 2023

*Preliminary numbers



Operational Updates

- WFP delivered humanitarian assistance to 10,115 beneficiaries (52 percent women) through cash-based transfers and capacity strengthening to implement Early Recovery component. Most of them were affected by the anticipated lean season.
- In Chimaltenango, El Progreso, Guatemala, and Quetzaltenango, 2,391 beneficiaries (52 percent women), received assistance through capacity-building sessions on school feeding, nutrition, and family agriculture. In Chiquimula, El Progreso, Zacapa, Quiché, and Alta Verapaz, 3,862 people received assistance through capacity-building sessions on as nutrition, women's empowerment, climate services, savings and loans groups. In Chiquimula, WFP distributed seeds to 1,500 households as anticipatory actions triggered by the El Niño phenomenon's forecast.
- WFP's eight Nutrition Brigades provided nutritional assessments, counseling, and nutritional supplementation to 4,115 beneficiaries, of which 56 percent are part of the households participating in integrated resilience interventions.
- As a result of WFP Guatemala's contributions to the National School Feeding Programme (NSFP) and achievements in linking smallholder producers to the NSFP, the Ministers of Education from Nicaragua and Guatemala met to exchange of experiences. This collaboration involved WFP offices of both countries and the Regional Bureau, aiming to incorporate local purchases into their strategy. The Government of Nicaragua and WFP will visit Guatemala in the upcoming months to gain insights into the model.
- WFP participated in the International Conference of Cooperation organized by the Association of the Caribbean States (ACS) where different actors and partners presented the launch of new projects and programmes.

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Country Strategic Plan (2021-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
321.8 m	183.9 m	8.3 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 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.

- WFP Guatemala was invited to participate in the Resilience Evidence international experts' consultation in Rome to showcase the advancements made by the country office.

Monitoring

- On 25 May, WFP organized a closing workshop for the joint evaluation of the national Fortified Complementary Feeding Programme *Nutrininos*, with participation from the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Social Development, and the Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition (SESAN). Participants discussed the evaluation's findings and conclusions and co-designed its recommendations and response plan.
- From 22 to 26 May, WFP participated in the 2023 Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) workshop, hosted by SESAN. Participants presented and consolidated the analysis and projections for food security in the 22 departments of Guatemala. The event was attended by 13 institutions and organizations, including intergovernmental and governmental entities, United Nations agencies, national and international non-governmental organizations and academic institutions.
- WFP conducted a baseline survey in 393 households of three municipalities in Alta Verapaz affected by acute malnutrition. Results showed that 35 percent of surveyed households were moderately or severely food insecure, and almost 70 percent reported relying on help from friends and/or family due to lack of access to food.

Challenges

- The triggering of the Anticipatory Actions pilot in Chiquimula points to an expected critical situation regarding prolonged drought during this year's lean season, compounded by the El Niño phenomenon. WFP does not have sufficient crisis response funds to respond at scale.
- The acute malnutrition crisis in Alta Verapaz also shows the need for additional root causes support to expand nutrition and integrated resilience programming to prevent the spreading of these crises.

Donors

Canada, European Union, France, Germany, Guatemala, Korea, Switzerland, United States of America, private sector (Cargill and Howard G. Buffet Foundation) and multilateral donors.

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