



World Food Programme

SAVING
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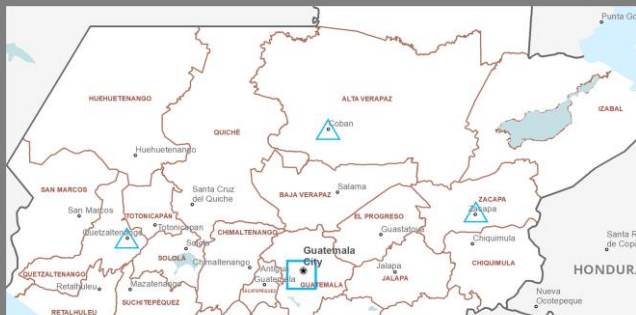
WFP Guatemala Country Brief June 2023



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 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 the highest in 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 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, 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**

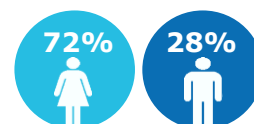
Chronic malnutrition: **46.5% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

USD 9,132 cash-based transfers made*

USD 12.3 m six months (July-December 2023) net funding requirements, representing 27 percent of total

14,450 people assisted*
in JUNE 2023



*Preliminary figures

Operational Updates

- In June, due to field activity delays caused by the national elections held at the end of the month, WFP could deliver emergency food assistance to 276 beneficiaries (56 percent of women) affected by the ongoing lean season through unconditional cash-based transfers. However, WFP was able to prioritize internal capacity-strengthening initiatives such as an integrated resilience nutrition workshop for WFP staff (13 to 16 June) and a budget & programming workshop (19 to 22 June).
- WFP distributed 124 mt drought-resistant bean and corn seeds to 10,916 beneficiaries (64 percent women and girls) in its service provision activities to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food.
- WFP assisted 6,990 people (74 percent women) in departments of Alta Verapaz, El Progreso and Zacapa. Of those, 4,220 (46 percent of the households participating in resilience interventions) were assisted by WFP's eight Integral Brigades and 2,770 (79 percent of the households participating in resilience interventions) received capacity-building sessions on nutrition.
- In the framework of WFP's school feeding activities, 1,724 beneficiaries (54 percent women), benefitted from capacity-building sessions on the school feeding programme, nutrition and family agriculture in Alta Verapaz, Chimaltenango, Chiquimula, El Progreso, Escuintla, Guatemala, Quetzaltenango and San Marcos.
- As part of WFP-integrated resilience activities in the departments of Chiquimula, El Progreso, Zacapa, Quiché and Alta Verapaz, 5,460 people received assistance through capacity building sessions on asset rehabilitation, market linkages, women's empowerment, as well as Anticipatory Actions and climate services.

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Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/Guatemala

Country Strategic Plan (2021-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
240.8 m	189.6 m	12.3 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.

- On 5 and 6 June, Tania Goossens, WFP Guatemala Representative, attended the EU-LAC Interregional Dialogue on food security, nutrition, and agrifood systems organized by the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECID) to share WFP experience and work.

Monitoring

- WFP Research, Assessment and Monitoring (RAM) unit launched an interactive dashboard for food security and market monitoring, providing monthly analyses on inflation, basic food basket, food security and nutrition. The dashboard is available at [WFP Guatemala DataViz website](#).
- WFP conducted food security training for 14 cooperating partners who will implement the baseline survey for the USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance annual crisis response contribution in Jalapa and Santa Rosa, targeting 402 households affected by the lean season.

Challenges

- Guatemala is expected to face extended periods without rainfall from mid-2023 to early 2024 due to the El Niño phenomenon. At the same time, 1.3 million people in the Dry Corridor are acutely food insecure ([IPC 3+, June-August 2023](#)). WFP will provide emergency preparedness and response support to the Government. However, given available resources, WFP can only directly assist 67,000 people while targeting 207,000.
- Moreover, Guatemala is experiencing a spike in acute child malnutrition, with 19 deaths and 44.5 percent more cases registered this year than in 2022. Alta Verapaz, Escuintla, Guatemala City and San Marcos are the most affected. WFP is scaling up resource mobilization efforts to confirm additional integrated resilience and nutrition support to prevent and address this nutrition crisis.

Donors

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

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