



WFP Guatemala

Country Brief

July 2023

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



Her Royal Highness Princess Sarah Zeid of Jordan visit to 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 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 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 with 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**

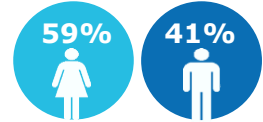
Chronic malnutrition: **46.5% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

USD 1,075,883 cash-based transfers made*

USD 8.6 m six months (August 2023 – January 2024) net funding requirements, representing 21 percent of total

44,958 people assisted* in JULY 2023



*Preliminary figures

Operational Updates

- In July, WFP delivered emergency assistance to 32,020 beneficiaries affected by sudden and slow-onset emergencies (52 percent women and girls) through unconditional cash-based transfers.
- WFP assisted 9,210 people (78 percent women and girls) in departments of Alta Verapaz, El Progreso, and Zacapa. Of those, 4,106 (54 percent of the households participating in resilience interventions) were assisted by WFP's eight nutrition brigades and 5,104 (46 percent of the households participating in resilience interventions) received capacity-strengthening sessions on nutrition.
- In the framework of WFP's school feeding, 1,594 beneficiaries (51 percent women and girls), benefitted from capacity-strengthening sessions on the school feeding programme, nutrition and family agriculture in Chimaltenango, El Progreso and Guatemala City.
- As part of its integrated resilience activities, focusing on topics including asset rehabilitation, market linkages, and women's empowerment, 3,835 people (93 percent women and girls) in the departments of Chiquimula, El Progreso, Zacapa, and Quiché participated in capacity-strengthening sessions, as part of the Food for Assets interventions.
- Also, 353 people (69 percent women and girls) participating in a joint programme with FAO and OHCHR, received capacity-strengthening sessions on peace and conflict resolution in Izabal and Alta Verapaz.

Country Strategic Plan (2021-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD) as of June 2023	Allocated Contributions (in USD) as of June 2023	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
240 m	189.6 m	8.6 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.

- From 10 to 14 July, Her Royal Highness (H.R.H.) Princess Sarah Zeid of Jordan, WFP special advisor on Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition, visited Guatemala to promote advocacy and investments in food security and nutrition and engage with partners on the ongoing work and opportunities to advance gender equality and women's empowerment, mainly towards Indigenous people.

- From 17 to 21 July, WFP supported the World Bank in conducting an impact evaluation of the school feeding programme application in Guatemala. This assessment aimed to analyse its effects comprehensively, allowing for a thorough understanding of its effectiveness and areas for improvement.

Monitoring

- From 19 to 28 July, WFP carried out food security training for its field partners. 25 enumerators and coordinators attended training who will implement the baseline survey to 2,400 households in Huehuetenango department for the resilience programme Qánil.

Challenges

- Guatemala ongoing struggle with the effects of the El Niño phenomenon underscored the pressing need for preparedness and coordinated actions. As communities nationwide experienced irregular rainfall patterns, prolonged droughts, and heightened risks of crop failures, acute malnutrition cases increased to 17,195 in children under 5, an increase of 2,973 cases in July.
- Furthermore, an increase in child mortality rates has been observed with 26 confirmed cases in children under 5. The departments of Alta Verapaz (8), Huehuetenango (4), as well as Suchitepéquez and Escuintla (3) are the most affected.

Donors

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

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