



World Food Programme

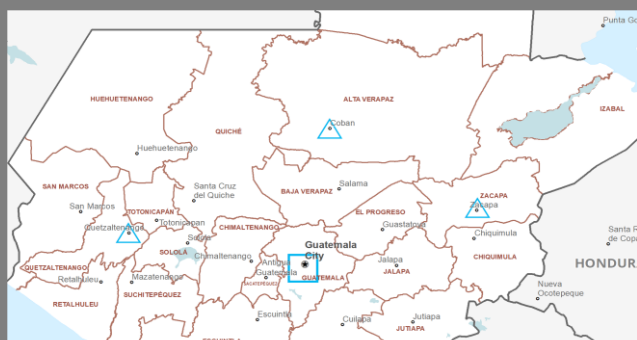
SAVING  
LIVES  
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# WFP Guatemala Country Brief August 2023



## 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 peoples, 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, 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, and has three field offices in Quetzaltenango, Coban and Zacapa.



Population: **17.4 million**

2021 Human Development Index: **135 out of 191**

Income Level: **Middle**

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

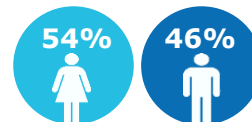
## In Numbers

**USD 1.1 m** cash-based transfers made\*

**USD 9.4 m** six months (August-January 2024) net funding requirements, representing 22 percent of total needs

**51,085 people assisted\***

in AUGUST 2023



\*Preliminary numbers

## Operational Updates

- WFP delivered emergency food assistance to 5,307 beneficiaries affected by the lean season slow-onset emergency, compounded by El Niño phenomenon, through unconditional cash-based transfers. Moreover, 1,922 people benefitted from capacity strengthening for early recovery projects (61 percent women and girls).
- In terms of nutrition support activities, 1,425 people were engaged in capacity-strengthening sessions (96 percent women and girls). Of them, 95 percent are Integrated Resilience Programmes beneficiaries.
- In the framework of WFP's school feeding activities, 1,641 people underwent capacity-strengthening sessions, 291 focused on school feeding initiatives and 1,350 on family farming practices (47 percent women and girls).
- Also, 40,441 individuals received conditional cash-based transfers as part of their participation in asset-creation activities within the Integrated Resilience Programmes in the Dry Corridor and Alta Verapaz. Among the, 3,815 also benefitted from capacity-strengthening sessions (55 percent women and girls).
- Moreover, 434 people in Alta Verapaz and Izabal participated in capacity-strengthening peace and conflict resolution sessions, in the framework of WFP's United Nations Peacebuilding Fund Programme, implemented with FAO and OHCHR.
- From 29 to 31 August, WFP Guatemala's Country Director participated in the "Power of Multi-sector Approaches for Human Capital Development" event, organized by WFP and the Inter-American Development Bank in Brasilia, Brazil. The event was attended by education ministers from more than 20 countries, International Financial Institutions and United Nations agencies. It focused on multi-sector approaches linking education, food security and nutrition for human capital development. It served to prepare the October School Meals Coalition meeting in Paris, France.

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Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/Guatemala](http://www.wfp.org/countries/Guatemala)

## Country Strategic Plan (2021-2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>321.8 m</b>	<b>194.1 m</b>	<b>9.4 m</b>

## 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 7 to 10 August, WFP Deputy Director for Nutrition and Deputy Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean visited Guatemala to meet with various government and nutrition sector representatives and booster WFP's positioning. Additionally, they visited the Integrated Resilience Programme in Alta Verapaz.

## Monitoring

- From 7 to 10 August, WFP implemented post-distribution monitoring for 299 households of the Integrated Resilience Programme in Alta Verapaz. The results showed a 69 percent improvement in food security and 95 percent satisfaction with the cash delivery process.
- Between May and August 2023, WFP conducted baseline and post-distribution monitoring for 1,062 households benefiting from the Anticipatory Actions project in the Dry Corridor. The findings showed climate capacity indicators rising from an initial 8.6 percent at baseline to 89.3 percent after distributions of anticipatory seeds and cash.

## Challenges

- Amid rising acute malnutrition cases nationwide, especially in Alta Verapaz and a 43 percent increase from last year's figures, funding is urgently needed to support nutrition initiatives. WFP Guatemala is prioritizing resource mobilization for nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific activities.
- Without additional resources, WFP Guatemala cannot address the ongoing acute food insecurity and malnutrition crises, exacerbated by the El Niño phenomenon, or support preventive measures through integrated resilience programming. Only 120,000 of the targeted 195,000 crisis response beneficiaries can be covered, while 32,000 additional beneficiaries cannot be included in resilience projects due to funding shortfalls.

## Donors

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