



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Guatemala

Country Brief

October 2023



Photo: 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 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 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 in the world, 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**

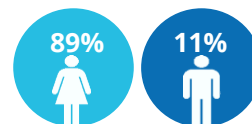
Income Level: **Middle**

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

In Numbers

USD 11.6 million six months (November 2023-April 2024) net funding requirements, representing **32 percent** of total needs

10,469 people assisted*
in October 2023



*Preliminary Figures

Operational Updates

- Throughout October, Guatemala experienced heightened political and social unrest, leading to roadblocks and large-scale protests for 21 days. WFP was compelled to halt distributions, capacity strengthening and other field activities to ensure the safety of beneficiaries, cooperating partners and staff. WFP resumed activities on 24 October.
- The road blockades and protests disrupted mobility across the country, causing shortages and raising inflation to 5 percent and up to 9 percent in the Western Highlands. This impacted the already delicate food security situation of vulnerable populations.
- WFP assisted 1,687 people who benefitted from capacity strengthening for early recovery projects in the departments of Jalapa and Santa Rosa (88 percent women and girls).
- Through nutrition activities, 3,441 individuals were engaged in capacity-strengthening sessions (91 percent are Integrated Resilience Programmes (IRP) beneficiaries). Of those, 1,603 people received attention from the [Nutrition Brigades](#) in the departments of Quiché and Huehuetenango, of which 72 percent are part of IRP.
- Some 605 individuals received assistance through capacity-strengthening sessions on school feeding-related topics. Another 316 individuals were training on topics related to family agriculture (64 percent women and girls).
- 5,432 people received assistance through capacity-building sessions as part of IRP in Quiché and Huehuetenango (96 percent women and girls).
- On 23 October, WFP [met the Vice President-elect, Karin Herrera](#), and members of the transition team to identify areas of technical assistance and collaboration and presented WFP's strategic plan to address food security and malnutrition in the country.

Country Strategic Plan (2021-2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
438.1 m	202.6 m	11.6 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.

Monitoring

- WFP's Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) took place from 9 to 20 October in the Jalapa and Santa Rosa departments. A significant increase in food security among the 270 surveyed households was a vital positive outcome (from 53.2 percent at baseline to 78.3 percent).
- On 18 October, within the "Strengthening Climate Resilience" Programme in Quiché, WFP completed an initial assessment for the Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) strategy focusing on nutrition for children under two years. Results revealed that 30 percent of people surveyed were unaware of the appropriate age to introduce solid or semi-solid foods to their children. This indicates a vital entry point for targeted nutrition interventions.
- On 24 October, seven field technicians from Quetzaltenango were trained to conduct poverty and vulnerability assessment questionnaires. This exercise is a vital part of WFP's El Niño response project, focusing on community targeting in Santa Cruz Barillas, Huehuetenango, scheduled for November 2023.

Challenges

- According to the latest IPC, some 3.1 million individuals (18 percent of the population) are expected to be acutely food insecure (IPC 3-4) and need emergency food assistance between September 2023 and February 2024. WFP does not count on sufficient flexible funding to support the response to sudden-onset emergencies during the ongoing rainy and upcoming hurricane seasons.
- Guatemala is experiencing a spike in child acute malnutrition, with 45 percent more cases registered this year compared to the same period last year; another 46 deaths recorded in Alta Verapaz, Escuintla, Huehuetenango and Suchitepequez being the most affected departments. In this context, WFP is scaling up resource mobilization efforts to fund additional integrated resilience and nutrition support to address this crisis.

Donors

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

Additional support is provided by the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund and the United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS.