



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Guatemala Country Brief November 2023



WFP Executive Board field visit mission to Guatemala.  
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 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 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**

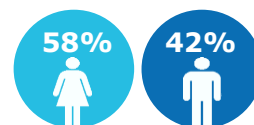
Chronic malnutrition: **46.5% of children between 6-59 months**

## In Numbers

**USD 1.95 m** cash-based transfers made\*

**USD 16.3 m** six months (December 2023-May 2024) net funding requirements, representing **39** percent of total needs

**50,621 people assisted\***  
in November 2023



\*Preliminary figures

## Operational Updates

- In November, WFP delivered emergency food assistance through unconditional cash-based transfers to 17,990 people affected by slow-onset emergencies. Some 3,887 of these people also benefited from early recovery capacity-strengthening sessions in Santa Rosa and Jalapa.
- Concerning nutrition activities, 3,787 individuals engaged in capacity-strengthening sessions, of which 93 percent are beneficiaries of Integrated Resilience Programmes. Also, 3,105 individuals received assistance from [Nutrition Brigades](#) in the departments of Quiché and Huehuetenango, of which 82 percent are also part of Integrated Resilience Programmes.
- WFP provided 807 individuals with assistance through capacity-strengthening sessions on school feeding-related topics, and 116 individuals on family agriculture (55 percent were women and girls).
- Also, 25,157 people received assistance through conditional cash-based transfers as part of WFP's Integrated Resilience Programmes. Some 4,903 people also benefitted from capacity-strengthening sessions on nutrition, gender, savings, loans, gender, resilience, and the use of technology in the departments of Quiché and Huehuetenango (61 percent women and girls).
- From 25 to 30 November, the WFP Executive Board chose Guatemala as their annual field visit mission to meet partners and beneficiaries, particularly in the Dry Corridor, to see WFP Integrated Resilience Programme, with a focus on Disaster Risk Finance innovations and nutrition, as well as Service Provision to the Government.

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## Country Strategic Plan (2021-2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>438.1 m</b>	<b>206.8 m</b>	<b>16.3 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.

## Monitoring

- From 13 to 29 November, WFP conducted a Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) for the Integrated Resilience Programme in Quiché, funded by the Howard G. Buffett Foundation, in the Huehuetenango department. This assessment showed that 67 percent of the population receiving WFP assistance improved its food security.
- On 15 November, WFP finalized a PDM in 48 schools in Guatemala, El Progreso, Chimaltenango, and Quetzaltenango, with the support of Cargill, to assess school staff's increase in knowledge and use of nutritional and safety practices in food preparation. As a result, 50 percent of school principals and parents increased their knowledge of these topics, helping to make school meals safer for children.
- From 28 November to 1 December, WFP held a field visit to Huehuetenango, in which it was validated the effectiveness and accuracy of the poverty and vulnerability assessment questionnaire and survey used for community targeting in the framework of the emergency interventions to respond to the El Niño phenomenon and its impacts.

## Challenges

- By February 2024, 3.1 million individuals (18 percent of the population) are expected to be acutely food insecure (IPC 3-4) and in need of emergency food assistance, according to the 2023 IPC analysis. However, WFP does not count with sufficient flexible and humanitarian funding to support any Government response.
- Guatemala continues to experience spiking acute malnutrition levels in children, with 30 percent more cases registered compared to last year. WFP is scaling up resource mobilization efforts for additional funding to respond.

## Donors

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