



WFP Guatemala

Country Brief

December 2023

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



Operational Context

Guatemala is a multicultural country with 41 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 Chiquimula.



Population: **17.4 million**

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

Income Level: **Middle**

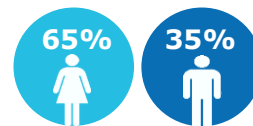
Chronic malnutrition: **46.5% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

USD 491,138 cash-based transfers made*

USD 21.3 m six months (January 2024-June 2024) net funding requirements, representing 68 percent of total needs

19,620 people assisted* in DECEMBER 2023



*Preliminary figures

Operational Updates

- WFP delivered emergency food assistance to 209 people through unconditional cash-based transfers, belonging to households affected by slow-onset emergencies. Additionally, 646 people received assistance through capacity strengthening for early recovery projects (75 percent women and girls).
- In terms of malnutrition prevention activities, 4,215 individuals were engaged in capacity-strengthening sessions (85 percent are integrated resilience programme beneficiaries). Additionally, 1,237 individuals received attention from [Nutrition Brigades](#) in Quiché and Huehuetenango, of which 77 percent are part of an integrated resilience programme (90 percent women and girls).
- Regarding school feeding activities, progress was made in five WFP-supported Field Technical Schools (ETCAE). Infrastructure, including greenhouses and irrigation systems, among other activities, reached 75 percent completion in Nebaj and 50 percent in San Juan Cotzal, Quiché. Chiantla's ETCAE in Huehuetenango secured a municipal agreement and began land preparation. Cantel's ETCAE in Quetzaltenango completed all productive infrastructure.
- Also, 12,541 people received assistance through conditional cash-based transfers as part of Integrated Resilience Programmes in Quiché and Huehuetenango, of which 3,850 people received assistance through capacity strengthening (62 percent women and girls). Additionally, for the microinsurance programme, compensation for damages was paid to 1,200 beneficiaries for drought activation in Alta Verapaz and Chiquimula.
- WFP is working with Guatemala's new authorities to develop a strategic roadmap for national food security and nutrition. In December, WFP met with key representatives from the Ministries of Education, Social Development, and Health and Public Assistance, reinforcing its role as a key strategy partner with the new authorities.

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Country Strategic Plan (2021-2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
438.1 m	207 m	21.3 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.

Monitoring

- From 12 to 13 December, a field visit to Huehuetenango was conducted to train enumerators for household targeting related to the El Niño emergency response.
- From 22 to 23 November, WFP trained CID Gallup staff for the Market Functionality Study in 124 key municipalities, including field exercises. Data collection, closely overseen by WFP, started on November 25 and finished in December 15.
- A post-distribution monitoring (PDM) of the micro-insurance programme took place from 5 to 30 November in Alta Verapaz, Quiché and Chiquimula, involving 282 household interviews. Results indicated an increase in the Climate Capacity Score of households from 12 percent at baseline to 41 percent at PDM.

Challenges

- The 2023 IPC analysis estimates that between September 2023 and February 2024, 3.1 million people (18 percent of the total population) in Guatemala will be acutely food insecure (IPC 3-4) and in urgent need of emergency food assistance. The 2024 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) further highlights that around 5.3 million people require humanitarian assistance this year, an escalation from 5 million in 2023 and 2022, and 3.8 million in 2021. WFP does not count with sufficient flexible and humanitarian funding to support any Government responses.
- Moreover, in 2023, there was a significant rise in cases of acute malnutrition in children under five, affecting over 25,000, with 54 confirmed mortalities. This marks almost a 30 percent increase compared to the cases registered in 2022. In parallel, Guatemala continues to be the most affected by chronic malnutrition across the region, impacting 1 in 2 children.

Donors

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

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