



World Food Programme

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LIVES

# WFP Guatemala

## Country Brief

February 2024

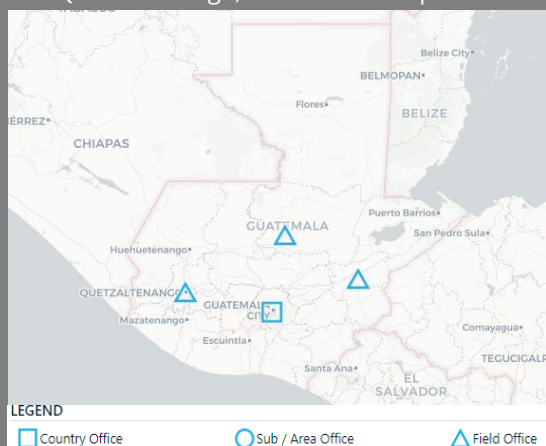


### Operational Context

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 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 in Guatemala since 1974 and has three field offices in Quetzaltenango, Coban and Chiquimula.



LEGEND

Country Office

Sub / Area Office

Field Office

Population: 17.6 million

2021 Human Development Index: 135 out of 191

Income Level: Middle

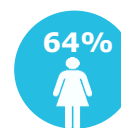
Chronic malnutrition: 46.5% of children between 6-59 months

## In Numbers

USD 851,337 cash-based transfers made\*

USD 18.5 m six months (March 2024-August 2024) net funding requirements, representing 49 percent of total needs

41,199 people assisted\*  
in February 2024



\*Preliminary figures

### Operational Updates

- In February, 28,590 individuals (55 percent women and girls) received unconditional cash-based transfers in Huehuetenango to respond to slow and sudden-onset emergencies. Additionally, 750 people benefitted from capacity-strengthening sessions under early recovery activities in Jalapa and Santa Rosa.
- Concerning malnutrition prevention activities, 5,230 people were engaged in capacity-strengthening sessions (99 percent also part of the Integrated Resilience Programme). Additionally, 3,593 individuals were monitored through WFP-supported [Nutrition Brigades](#) in Quiché and Huehuetenango (75 percent also part of the Integrated Resilience Programmes), and 224 individuals in the department of Izabal (100 percent are part of crisis response activities). In total, 86 percent were women and girls.
- For school feeding activities, WFP-supported progress in 4 Technical Field Schools: 100 percent infrastructure completion in Chiantla, Huehuetenango; first 40-person cohort training near end in Cantel, Quetzaltenango; 40 graduates in Nebaj, Quiché; and 90 percent infrastructure completion in Cotzal, Quiché. Additionally, 84 educators were trained in early childhood development in 15 community centers in Quiché.
- As part of the Integrated Resilience Programmes, 399 people received conditional cash-based transfers in Quiché. Additionally, 7,015 individuals received capacity-strengthening assistance (on nutrition, agriculture best practices, and gender equality, among others) in Alta Verapaz, Chiquimula, El Progreso, Zacapa, Huehuetenango, and Quiché (94 percent women and girls).
- The WFP country director participated in the [International Development Week \(IDW\) 2024](#) in Canada to discuss WFP Guatemala's Integrated Resilience Programmes and highlighted the achievements of the country's social protection and nutrition programmes.

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

## Country Strategic Plan (2021-2025)

| Total Requirement (in USD) | Allocated Contributions (in USD) | Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| <b>438.2 m</b>             | <b>216 m</b>                     | <b>18.5 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

- Training sessions were conducted in February for Field Office employees and enumerators on the use of community poverty, vulnerability assessments, and household targeting questionnaires for projects focused on indigenous women's economic empowerment in Alta Verapaz and improving food and nutrition security in Izabal.
- In February, the Market Functionality Index study was processed, analyzed and presented to the WFP Cash Working Group. The findings will inform WFP's decisions on transfer modalities and risk mitigation strategies for cash-based interventions in Guatemala.
- Technical and validation meetings were held concerning the design of the National Food Security Assessment, with data collection scheduled to begin in April 2024. Additionally, an intermediate monitoring survey was carried out from 29 January to 15 February in Quiché, involving 373 interviews in the framework of the Integrated Resilience Programme in this region.

## Challenges

- The 2024 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) highlights that around 5.3 million people require humanitarian assistance this year, upwards of 5 million in 2023 and 2022. WFP does not have sufficient flexible and humanitarian funding to support any Government responses, whereas the El Niño phenomenon and its impacts persist.
- Funding shortfalls mean that in 2024 over 105,000 people (195,000 targeted) will not receive any emergency food and nutrition assistance unless support is urgently mobilized. Furthermore, 32,500 individuals, mainly Indigenous women and children under five, will not be able to benefit from Integrated Resilience Programmes, including 15,000 smallholder producers, whom Disaster Risk Insurance will not protect during the May 2024-May 2025 agricultural season.

## Donors

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