



WFP Guatemala Country Brief June 2024

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



Photo: WFP Guatemala

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 for 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:
17.6 million

2021 Human Development Index:
135 out of 191

Income Level:
Middle

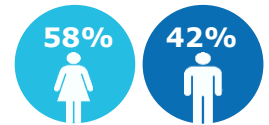
Chronic malnutrition:
46.5% of children between 6-59

In Numbers

USD 519,092 in cash-based transfers and commodity vouchers

USD 16.2 m six months (July 2024 to December 2024) net funding requirements, representing 40 percent of total needs

29,668 people assisted
in June 2024



Operational Updates

- Concerning malnutrition prevention activities, 3,803 individuals were engaged in capacity strengthening sessions (94% were Integrated Resilience Programme beneficiaries). Additionally, 1,682 individuals were monitored through WFP-supported Nutrition Brigades in Huehuetenango and Izabal as part of a Resilience Programme and Crisis response activities respectively. In total, 90% of all beneficiaries were women and girls.
- Under school feeding support activities, WFP organized three fairs in Huehuetenango to link local family farmers with the School Feeding Program, involving about 222 participants (60% of those participants were women). Fairs also served as a platform to promoting the School Feeding Law among key local actors, including Parents Organizations, Local School Feeding Committees, and Ministry of Education personnel. Additionally, 73 individuals participated in capacity strengthening sessions on school feeding activities and soil conservations practices.
- In the framework of Integrated Resilience activities, 28,436 individuals received assistance through conditional cash-based transfers and capacity strengthening sessions in departments of Alta Verapaz, Huehuetenango, and Quiché (57% of beneficiaries who received assistance were women).
- As part of the "Strengthen food security and nutrition for households and communities of smallholders producers in the dry corridor of Guatemala" programme, WFP coordinated the official visit of the Norwegian Minister of Cooperation in Chiquimula to inaugurate irrigation systems and water harvesting installations which aim to enhance the resilience capacities of vulnerable households against climate challenges.

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Country Strategic Plan (2021-2025)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
438.2 m	207 m	16.2 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.

Research, Assessment and Monitoring

- From May 29 to June 21, WFP conducted the final monitoring for the "Integral approach to build resilience in communities vulnerable to food insecurity and climatic shocks, especially droughts in Guatemala" involving 319 interviews distributed in the departments of Chiquimula, Zacapa, and El Progreso.
- In June, WFP's National Food Security Survey 2024 (ESA2024) reached 78% completion rate, with 5,164 households' face-to-face interviews across all 22 departments. Preliminary findings indicate a 2% rise in food-insecure households in Guatemala, probably linked to higher food prices, poor harvests, and reduced income caused by the climate crisis.

Challenges

- The humanitarian crisis in Guatemala is intensifying as a result of the impact of La Niña phenomenon, including heavy rainfall, landslides and floods. The situation is particularly critical in Alta Verapaz, Chiquimula, Huehuetenango, Sacatepéquez, and Sololá, where 30-45% of the population requires food assistance. This situation is expected to escalate in the upcoming months due to persistent climate-related challenges.
- Increased food insecurity resulting from climate-related impacts is likely to aggravate Guatemala's already severe malnutrition situation. In terms of acute malnutrition rates for children under five years, Guatemala reported a cumulative record of 16,384 cases in the first semester of 2024. The challenge is aggravated by an average rise of 20% over the last two years, indicating a progressive consolidation of the phenomenon in the most vulnerable and food insecure communities. WFP is intensifying efforts to mobilize additional emergency funds to tackle this nutrition crisis.

Donors

Canada, European Union, France, Germany, Guatemala, Ireland, Korea (Republic of), Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United States of America, Howard G. Buffett Foundation, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and other private sector and multilateral donors.

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