



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Guatemala Country Brief July 2024



Photo: WFP Guatemala

Operational Context

Guatemala is a multicultural country with over 40 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 almost 80 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's 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:
136 out of 191

Income Level:
Middle

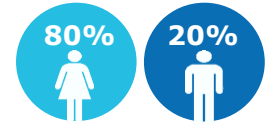
Chronic malnutrition:
46.5% of children between 6-59

In Numbers

USD 118,906 in cash-based transfers and commodity vouchers

USD 15.7 m six months (August 2024 to January 2025) net funding requirements, representing 46 percent of total needs

11,469 people assisted
in July 2024



Operational Updates

- WFP provided emergency assistance to 3,442 beneficiaries (54% of whom were women and girls) in Sololá department through unconditional Cash-Based Transfers (CBT) to address acute food insecurity and malnutrition needs.
- In terms of nutrition activities, 4,928 people participated in capacity strengthening sessions in the departments of Quiché, Alta Verapaz and Sololá. In addition, 1,726 people were monitored through WFP-supported Nutrition Brigades in Huehuetenango. All activities were conducted as part of Integrated Resilience Programmes, with 90% of beneficiaries being women and girls.
- 3,730 people (98% of whom were women and girls) received assistance through conditional CBT, of which 3,704 people also benefitted from capacity-strengthening sessions on nutrition, gender, saving and loans, and climate-resilient production in the departments of Alta Verapaz, Quiché and Huehuetenango.
- In July, WFP coordinated the field visit of the [Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints](#) in Alta Verapaz as part of the "Support to Indigenous Women's Economic Empowerment and Food Security" project. The visit provided an opportunity to familiarize the Salt Lake City and Central America representatives with interventions such as savings and loans groups, and malnutrition prevention activities, including Social Behaviour Change (SBC).
- The WFP Guatemala Country Office has recently renewed its Gender Equality Certification in recognition of its excellence in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment across all its operations and programmes, as well as its own workforce in the country. This award positions WFP Guatemala as a leading gender equality actor in Latin America and the Caribbean.

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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	253.1 m	15.7 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

- In July, WFP Guatemala completed the field data-gathering stage of the WFP's National Food Security Assessment 2024 (ESA, by its Spanish acronym), conducting a total of 6,874 household surveys collected across all 22 departments.
- The 2024 Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis workshop for Guatemala was held in early July and convened over 70 participants from key government institutions, UN Agencies and NGOs. The results and estimates concerning food insecurity levels for the next twelve months, defined out of the consensus reached by all stakeholders, will be published in late August 2024.

Challenges

- As a break during the 2024 rainy and hurricane seasons, the conditions brought about by the *canícula* period are intensifying Guatemala's emergency food and nutrition situation. According to the Ministry of Agriculture (MAGA, by its Spanish acronym), 22% of the country's municipalities are at risk of crop damage and loss of staple grains due to the rains and the sudden and localized droughts during *canícula*, expected from mid-July to mid-August 2024, after which a reprisal of rains is forecasted.
- In terms of acute malnutrition rates for children under five years of age, [Guatemala reported a cumulative record of over 19,400 cases and 29 deaths from January to July 2024](#), representing an average increase of 22% compared to the same period last year.

Donors

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

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