



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Guatemala

Country Brief

August 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 third 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 development 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:
17.8 million

2021 Human Development Index:
136 out of 191

Income Level:
Middle

Chronic malnutrition:
46.5% of children between 6-59

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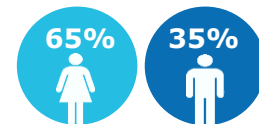
In Numbers

USD 360,511 in cash-based transfers and commodity vouchers

USD 10.2 m six months (September 2024 to February 2025) net funding requirements, representing 32 percent of total needs

19,389 people assisted

in August 2024



Operational Updates

- WFP provided emergency assistance to 1,172 beneficiaries (50% women) in Sololá and Huehuetenango departments through unconditional Cash-Based Transfers (CBT) to address acute food insecurity and malnutrition needs.
- In terms of malnutrition prevention activities, 2,996 people (93% of women) were engaged in capacity strengthening sessions in the departments of Quiché, Alta Verapaz, and Sololá. Additionally, 1,835 people (90% women and girls) received monitoring, counseling, and assistance with nutritional supplementation through WFP-supported Nutrition Brigades in Huehuetenango. These activities were part of an Integrated Resilience Programme.
- As part of the WFP's school feeding activities, a total of 98 beneficiaries, 91% of whom were women, engaged in capacity-building sessions that addressed key areas of school feeding, nutrition, and sustainable agricultural practices in the department of Quiché.
- 11,979 people (67% women) received assistance through conditional CBT in Alta Verapaz and Huehuetenango departments, as part of their participation in associative entrepreneurs and complementary nutrition counselling sessions. In addition, 4,324 people benefitted from capacity-strengthening sessions on entrepreneurial skills, soil and forest conservation, climate adaptation services, and sustainable agricultural production in the departments of Alta Verapaz, Quiché, and Huehuetenango.
- WFP Guatemala held field visits with the [Ambassador of Spain to Guatemala and the Head of AECID to Sololá](#) on August 1st and 2nd, and with the [European Union, Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition \(SESAN\) and Ministry of Agriculture to Oriente](#) on August 22nd and 23rd.
- On August 21st, WFP Guatemala's Country Director participated, jointly with the SESAN and FAO, [in the launch of the 2024 Integrated Food Security Phase Classification \(IPC\) results](#). She also accompanied the Ministers of Agriculture and Education during the [10th Regional School Meals Forum for LAC in México](#), from August 27th to 29th, and the [Volcano Summit](#) on August 31st.

Country Strategic Plan (2021-2025)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
438.2 m	242.5 m	10.2 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 August 19th to 27th, WFP conducted a post-distribution monitoring exercise in the Alta Verapaz department as part of an Integrated Resilience Programme in this region, involving a total of 391 face-to-face household interviews.
- From August 19th to 31st, WFP carried out a targeting exercise involving 668 households across 17 communities in the departments of Jutiapa, Santa Rosa, Jalapa and Chiquimula, with the aim of identifying smallholder producer households that will benefit from the implementation of its new “Improve food security and nutrition of smallholder producers and their families in coffee-growing communities in Guatemala” project.

Challenges

- [According to the 2024 IPC results](#), nearly 3 million people in Guatemala (17% of the population) are facing Acute Food Insecurity, with 2.6 million classified in Phase 3-Crisis and 386,000 in Phase 4-Emergency. Furthermore, in terms of acute malnutrition rates for children under five years of age, [Guatemala reported a cumulative record of over 22,000 cases and 45 deaths from January to September 2024](#), representing an average increase of 18% compared to the same period last year. The annual lean season, spanning from May to August, is marked by a reduction of grain reserves, dwindling employment opportunities, and increased agricultural input prices, all exacerbated by the transition from *El Niño* to, and inception of *La Niña* phenomena.
- Heavy rains linked to tropical storms and hurricanes could further exacerbate food security and nutrition needs in the coming months. Indeed, [according to NOAA's hurricane season forecast](#), for the remaining season in the North Atlantic Basin, 14 to 22 Named Storms are expected, of which 7 to 12 could become hurricanes, and 3 to 6 may reach major hurricane status. In the Pacific Basin, 13 to 16 named storms are also expected, of which 7 to 9 could become hurricanes, and 3 to 4 could reach major hurricane status. Such conditions may lead to unforeseen emergency situations. WFP Guatemala is intensifying its efforts to mobilize additional emergency and nutrition funding to respond at scale.

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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