



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES CHANGING LIVES

WFP Guatemala

Country Brief

September 2024



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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

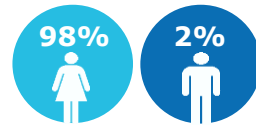
Chronic malnutrition: 46.5% of children between 6-59

In Numbers

USD 3,244 in cash-based transfers and commodity vouchers

USD 7.1 m six months (October 2024 to March 2025) net funding requirements, representing 25 percent of total needs

5,209 people assisted in September 2024



Operational Updates

- WFP provided emergency assistance to 43 beneficiaries (58% women and girls) through unconditional Cash-Based Transfers (CBT) in Sololá department.
- In terms of malnutrition prevention activities, 1,714 individuals (94% women and girls) were engaged in capacity strengthening sessions in the departments of Quiché, Alta Verapaz, Chiquimula, Huehuetenango and Sololá. Additionally, 146 people (99% women and girls) received nutritional monitoring and counseling through WFP-supported Nutrition Brigades in Huehuetenango, as part of an Integrated Resilience Programme.
- Under WFP's school feeding activities, a total of 79 beneficiaries (100% women and girls), engaged in capacity building sessions that addressed key areas of school feeding, nutrition and sustainable agricultural practices in school, in the department of Quiché.
- 32 individuals (98% women and girls) received assistance through conditional CBT in Huehuetenango department, as part of their participation in associative entrepreneurs and complementary nutrition counselling networks. In addition, over 4,000 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.
- On September 17th, WFP Guatemala in coordination with the Food Security and Nutrition Secretariat (SESAN) and other government entities,¹ presented the preliminary results of the [Fill the Nutrient Gap](#). This tool is essential for designing key nutrition-sensitive interventions in Guatemala to enhance nutrient intake, supporting multisectoral decision-making by examining barriers to adequate nutrient consumption throughout the lifecycle.
- On September 25th, WFP Guatemala's Country Director held a formal courtesy call with the newly appointed Ambassador of Germany to Guatemala to strengthen relations and discuss shared objectives for addressing food security and nutrition challenges in Guatemala.

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¹Ministry Of Public Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS), Ministry of Social Development (MIDES), Ministry of Economy (MINECO), Ministry of Public Finance (MINFIN), and National Institute of Statistics (INE).

Country Strategic Plan (2021-2025)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
438.2 m	242.7 m	7.1 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 September 16th to 24th, WFP conducted a post-distribution monitoring exercise in the Sololá department as part of emergency assistance and nutrition interventions in this region, involving a total of 270 face-to-face household interviews. The results reveal an 8.5% increase in the number of households classified as food secure compared to the baseline.
- At the end of September, the final evaluation of the Integrated Resilience Programme in Alta Verapaz department was conducted. The results indicated that 49% of women aged 15 to 49 achieved a Minimum Dietary Diversity (MDD), representing a 21% improvement over the previous post-distribution monitoring results from 2023.

Challenges

- Since the onset of rainy season (from June to September), heavy rains and flash floods have caused significant impact in several departments of Guatemala. As of September 27th, the National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction (CONRED) [reported](#) over 9,900 people directly impacted, almost 26,300 people evacuated to temporary shelters and 29 casualties. The floods have also severely disrupted access routes, with 692 roads and 64 bridges damaged or destroyed. This situation could hamper efforts to deliver life-saving assistance and result in increased staple food prices, potentially leading to long-term implications for food security and nutrition.
- In terms of acute malnutrition rates among children under five years of age, Guatemala [reported](#) a total of nearly 24,400 cases and 50 casualties from January to October 2024, reflecting an average increase of 18% compared to the same period last year. WFP is scaling up resource mobilization efforts and including malnutrition prevention activities in all its interventions to address this crisis.

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.

Additional support is provided by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).