



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Guatemala

Country Brief

October 2024



Photo: @WFPGuatemala

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

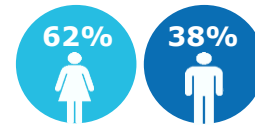
In Numbers

USD 343,964 in cash-based transfers and commodity vouchers

USD 4.7 m six months (November 2024 to April 2025) net funding requirements, representing 24 percent of total needs

18,283 people assisted

in October 2024



Operational Updates

- In terms of malnutrition prevention activities, 1,346 individuals (88% women and girls) were engaged in capacity strengthening sessions in the departments of Quiché, Alta Verapaz, Chiquimula, Huehuetenango and Sololá. Additionally, 1,261 people (77% women and girls) received nutritional monitoring and counseling through WFP-supported Nutrition Brigades in Huehuetenango, as part of an Integrated Resilience Programme.
- As part of WFP's school feeding activities, a total of 75 beneficiaries (100% women), engaged in capacity-building sessions in Quiché under the "*Acompañame a Crecer*" Programme, implemented through the 15 Community Centres for Integral Child Development (CECODII) supported by WFP in this department, and focused on early stimulation and nutrition for children aged 0 to 4 years, as well as pregnant and breastfeeding women.
- 13,839 individuals (53% women and girls) received assistance through conditional CBT in Huehuetenango, Alta Verapaz and Quiché departments, as part of their participation in asset creation and rehabilitation activities. In addition, over 3,258 people benefitted from capacity strengthening sessions within the same departments and communities.
- On October 4th, WFP Guatemala's Country Director, jointly with other UN representatives, held a courtesy call with the newly appointed Ambassador of Sweden to Guatemala.
- On October 7th, WFP Guatemala's Country Director, jointly with other UN representatives, [met with leaders of the Coordinating Committee of Agricultural, Commercial, Industrial, and Financial Associations \(CACIF\)](#), to explore synergies and highlight the private sector's role in supporting development strategies and initiatives.
- On October 9th, accompanied by the Vice-President of Guatemala and the UN Resident Coordinator, [WFP Guatemala presented the results of the 2024 National Food Security Evaluation \(ESA\)](#), offering comprehensive insights into the country's food security situation.
- On October 10th, WFP's Country Director, alongside with the Deputy Regional Director, [participated in the Regional Consultative Forum for the Central American Policy on Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management](#), organized by the Coordination Centre for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (CEPREDENAC).
- On October 16th and 17th, the Country Office hosted a Monitoring Mission from the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) in Guatemala, including the newly appointed Central America Director.

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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	245.8 m	4.7 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

- From October 7th to 26th, a distribution and Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) exercises were carried out as part of conditional CBT distributions, in the framework of the Integrated Resilience Programme in Quiché department. The exercises included interviews with 259 and 329 households, respectively, with 98% of respondents expressing high satisfaction with the assistance and distribution process. The analysis of PDM results is currently in progress and is expected to provide in-depth insights into programme effectiveness and identify potential areas for enhancement.
- Between October 14th to 18th, as part of the Emergency, Preparedness, and Response interventions, WFP Guatemala's Research Assessment and Monitoring (RAM) Unit conducted a targeting exercise in 43 communities in Izabal department. The assessment revealed that 28 of these communities had lost over 80% of their maize, bean and cardamom crops due to drought conditions.

Challenges

- According to [ESA 2024 findings](#), 25% of households nationwide are experiencing food insecurity, with approximately one in three indigenous households affected. Among these, the Mayan Q'eqchi' community stands out as the most vulnerable group, with 45% of its population classified as food insecure.
- Moreover, as of October 26th, Guatemala has reported over 26,300 cases of acute malnutrition (a 20% increase compared to the same period last year) and 52 deaths, according to data from [Acute Malnutrition Epidemiological Situation Room](#). Out of the country's 340 municipalities, 335 have reported cases.
- To meet needs on this scale, WFP Guatemala urgently requires additional funding for emergency response, malnutrition prevention and disaster risk finance activities, especially considering the humanitarian funding pipeline is completely empty for the next twelve months.

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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