



WFP Guatemala Country Brief January 2025

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



Operational Context

Guatemala is a multicultural country with over 40 percent of inhabitants self-identifying as indigenous Mayan. Despite its middle-income status, one-sixth of its population live on less than USD 2 per day. Additionally, Guatemala has the third highest gender inequality index in the region. 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 with 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

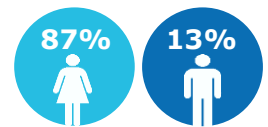
Income Level:
Middle

Chronic malnutrition:
46.5% of children between 6-59

In Numbers

USD 14.2 m six months (February to July 2025) net funding requirements, representing 35 percent of total needs

5,667 people assisted
in January 2025



Operational Updates

- In Izabal department, **205 individuals participated in capacity-strengthening sessions for early recovery activities**, with women representing 34% of the participants.
- As part of malnutrition prevention activities, **3,726 individuals participated in capacity-strengthening sessions** in Huehuetenango, Retalhuleu, and Izabal departments. Of these, 95% were part of Integrated Resilience Programmes, while 5% were involved in emergency response interventions. **Additionally, 1,420 individuals received nutritional monitoring and counseling through five WFP-supported Nutrition Brigades** in Huehuetenango and Izabal departments. Across all these nutrition-specific activities, 88% of beneficiaries were women and girls.
- In the framework of resilience activities, a total of **884 individuals attended capacity-strengthening sessions focused on sustainable agricultural production** in Huehuetenango and Quiché departments. Notably, women comprised 98% of the participants across these interventions.

Research, Assessment and Monitoring

- From January 6th to 10th, the Research Assessment and Monitoring (RAM) Unit conducted a monitoring exercise in five WFP warehouses located in the departments of Guatemala, Quetzaltenango, and Zacapa. **These facilities stored prepositioned in-kind food commodities intended for rapid distribution in the event of emergencies.**
- The results showed that, on average, **the warehouses achieved a compliance rate of 75% across 64 assessed criteria** – covering administrative, technical and infrastructure-related areas –, **underscoring a high level of preparedness to ensure that WFP can effectively respond to sudden-onset emergencies** nationwide.

Partnerships

- On January 23th, the UN Resident Coordinator, and the WFP Guatemala Country Director and Deputy Country Director **held a courtesy meeting with the President of Guatemala**. This meeting aimed at **strengthening the coordination between WFP's strategic objectives and programmes, and the Government's national development priorities and frameworks** to address food security and nutrition challenges.
- Additionally, on January 9th, the **Vice President of Guatemala visited the WFP Country Office** to garner firsthand insights from staff into its operations and programmes, as well as to further advance joint efforts with the Vice-President's Office to address malnutrition-related 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	275.4 m	14.2 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.

Stories from the Field

- As part of WFP's operations and programmes, efforts in January 2025 continued focusing on strengthening the resilience of rural communities in Guatemala. **The following story from Alta Verapaz describes WFP's contributions to promoting sustainable and long-term community development in this department:**



“Previously, women rarely engaged in dialogue with one another; today, we collaborate in unity to ensure that no one is left behind”

- Diana Caal, 29
Member, Savings and Loans Group
Municipality of Fray Bartolomé, Alta Verapaz department

Scan the QR code to find out more about Diana's story

Challenges

- From September 2024 to February 2025, projections from the [Integrated Food Security Phase Classification \(IPC\)](#) indicate approximately **2.7 million people in Guatemala are estimated to be experiencing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels of food insecurity.** Of these, around 302,915 individuals are classified in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency), underscoring the **urgent need for scaled-up humanitarian interventions.**
- Moreover, acute malnutrition levels among children under five continue to be concerning. **In the first four weeks of January 2025 alone, 2,084 new cases were reported – nearly 30% of them classified as severe** – marking a 10.5% increase from the same period in 2024. In 2024, the country recorded 29,000 acute malnutrition cases and 83 child fatalities, 16% more than in the previous year.
- **WFP urgently requires additional resources to address critical operational gaps.** Net funding requirements for crisis response operations stand at USD 6.3 million for the period from February to July 2025. **Without sufficient financial support, WFP will be forced to reduce or suspend crisis response activities, thereby jeopardizing vital emergency food assistance for the country's most vulnerable populations in IPC Phase 4.**

Donors CSP 2021-2025

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