



WFP Guatemala Country Brief February 2025

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



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, one-sixth of its population lives 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 affected by 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 1973, 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

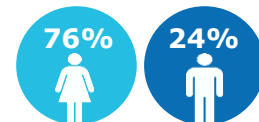
In Numbers

USD 111,256 in cash-based transfers and commodity vouchers

USD 22.2 m net funding requirements for the next six months (March to August 2025), representing 51 percent of total needs

8,784 people assisted

in February 2025



Operational Updates

- In Izabal department, **2,305 individuals received unconditional cash-based transfers (CBT) in response to drought**, while **444 individuals benefited from conditional CBT through their participation in early recovery activities**. Additionally, **123 individuals participated in capacity-strengthening sessions for early recovery initiatives**. Women represented 50% of total participants.
- As part of a **joint pilot program implemented with the Government and IOM, 21 vulnerable Guatemalan migrants returned from the United States** received unconditional CBT to cover their basic food and transport needs.
- As part of malnutrition prevention activities, **2,366 individuals participated in capacity-strengthening sessions** in Huehuetenango, Quiché and Izabal departments. Of these, 99% were part of multiyear Integrated Resilience Programmes, while 1% were involved in early recovery projects.
- Additionally, 2,477 individuals received nutritional monitoring and counselling through five WFP-supported Nutrition Brigades** in Huehuetenango and Izabal departments. Across all these nutrition-specific activities, 87% of beneficiaries were women and girls.
- In the framework of resilient livelihood activities, **203 individuals received conditional CBT** in the department of Huehuetenango. Additionally, a total of **1,493 individuals attended capacity-strengthening sessions focused on sustainable agricultural production** in Huehuetenango and Quiché departments. Notably, smallholder women producers comprised 93% of participants across these interventions.

Research, Assessment, and Monitoring

- From February 16th to 28th, the Research, Assessment and Monitoring (RAM) Unit, identified **482 vulnerable households affected by seasonal hunger in 10 communities of the municipality of Santa Eulalia, Huehuetenango department**. These households will be prioritized to receive unconditional CBT in the coming weeks for the purchase of locally available nutritious foods, in order to prevent acute food insecurity and malnutrition.
- From February 3rd to 26th, as part of planned school feeding support and malnutrition prevention interventions, a baseline survey was conducted in **18 communities of Alta Verapaz department**. The findings revealed **one in two targeted households is currently experiencing acute food insecurity and malnutrition**. Additionally, **11 schools in these communities were found to already use the WFP-developed and Government-managed mobile app "My Purchases" for the School Feeding Programme (SFP)**, yet only 3 schools count with an educational vegetable garden.

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Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2021-2025

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
438.2 m	275.3 m	22.2 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.

Partnerships

- In February 2025, WFP organized a series of community-based events to **mark the conclusion of the PRO-Resilience Program, funded by the European Union** from 2020 to 2025. **Held across 9 municipalities in Chiquimula, El Progreso and Zacapa departments**, these events brought together local authorities, community leaders and participants, and other key stakeholders. The sessions officially **closed the program’s activities and facilitated the handover and appropriation of local sustainability plans.**
- From February 17th to 19th, the **WFP Deputy Country Director & OIC participated in a UNCT strategic workshop with other agency and program representatives** to review and select priority areas for the **new UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2026-2030** and its associated roadmap for Guatemala.
- As part of the support provided to the Government of Guatemala through the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Food (MAGA), **three cooperation agreements were signed in February 2025** for the procurement, storage, and distribution of 924,000 food rations, consisting of nine different food products, with a total value of GTQ 226 million (equivalent to USD 29.3 million).

Stories from the Field

- As part of WFP’s operations, efforts in February 2025 continued focusing on implementing Integrated Resilience Programmes in rural communities of Guatemala. **The following story from Huehuetenango describes WFP’s contributions to promoting sustainable and long-term community development in this department:**



“Now, I sell my potatoes directly to schools for children’s meals and earn what I truly deserve, without relying on intermediaries.”

- Juan Abraham Ramos, 33
Farmer from Sanguijuela, Huehuetenango

Challenges

- WFP urgently requires additional resources to address critical operational gaps.** Net funding requirements for crisis response operations only stand at USD 10.8 million for the period from March to August 2025, representing an 86% funding shortfall. **Without sufficient financial support, WFP will be forced to reduce or suspend crisis response activities by May 2025, thereby jeopardizing vital emergency food assistance in IPC Phase 4 areas.**

Donors CSP 2021-2025

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

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