



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Guatemala Country Brief March 2025



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

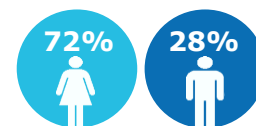
Chronic malnutrition:
46.5% of children between 6-59

In Numbers

USD 744,818 in cash-based transfers and microinsurance premiums

USD 22.6 m net funding requirements for the next six months (April to September 2025), representing 50 percent of total needs

12,585 people assisted
in March 2025



Operational Updates

- In Izabal department, **3,159 individuals affected by drought received unconditional cash-based transfers (CBT) through rescue cards** as part of emergency and early recovery efforts. Among them, **165 participants also engaged in capacity-strengthening sessions** to support their recovery activities. Moreover, in Huehuetenango department, **2,371 individuals affected by seasonal hunger received CBT** to prevent acute food insecurity and malnutrition.
- WFP covered the insurance premiums for 9,311 microinsurance policies** in the departments of Chiquimula and Zacapa for the upcoming productive cycle (May 2025 – May 2026). **These policies will provide approximately 46,400 individuals with financial protection** against climate-related risks, particularly drought and excessive rainfall.
- As part of a **joint pilot program implemented with the Government and IOM, 33 vulnerable Guatemalan migrants returned from the United States** received unconditional CBT through rescue cards to cover their basic food and transport needs.
- In the framework of malnutrition prevention activities, **3,793 individuals participated in capacity-strengthening sessions** in Huehuetenango, Quiché, Alta Verapaz, and Izabal departments. Of these, 98% were part of multiyear Integrated Resilience Programmes, while 2% were involved in School Feeding activities.
- Additionally, **1,815 individuals received nutritional monitoring and counselling through five WFP-supported Nutrition Brigades** in Huehuetenango and Alta Verapaz departments. Across all these nutrition-specific activities, 88% of beneficiaries were women and girls.
- As part of resilient livelihood activities, **3,107 individuals attended capacity-strengthening sessions focused on sustainable agricultural production** in Huehuetenango and Quiché departments.

Research, Assessment, and Monitoring

- Between 10th and 21st March, the Research, Assessment and Monitoring (RAM) unit carried out a Distribution and Post-Distribution Monitoring (DM/PDM) in 10 communities of Santa Eulalia, Huehuetenango, where 483 households received CBT as part of emergency response interventions. **The findings revealed 100% satisfaction with the distribution process and an 11-percentage point improvement in the Consolidated Approach to Reporting Indicators of Food Security indicator (CARI), with food secure households increasing from 2% at baseline to 13% post-assistance.**
- From 10th to 14th March, WFP conducted a PDM exercise among 102 households that received unconditional CBT under the Emergency Preparedness and Response Programme in the department of Izabal. **Findings showed a 70-percentage point increase in CARI indicator, rising from 16% to 86%, underscoring improved food access and dietary diversity.**

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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	276.3 m	22.6 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

- On 4th March, [WFP presented the final results of its five-year Pro-Resilience Programme](#), funded by the European Union and implemented in partnership with the Government of Guatemala, municipalities, civil society, and international cooperation partners. **The programme contributed to strengthening food security and resilience of 30,000 vulnerable households across the Dry Corridors region.**
- On 24th March, the **WFP's Deputy Country Director & OIC met with the Minister of Finance** to discuss potential collaboration and explore innovative financing mechanisms to strengthen national efforts in improving food security and nutrition in Guatemala.
- From 13th to 28th March, as part of ongoing engagement with other international partners, **WFP held meetings with the Embassies of Japan, France, and Canada** to strengthen partnerships and identify opportunities for collaboration in support of national food security and nutrition priorities.

Stories from the Field

- As part of WFP's operations, efforts continued focusing on implementing Integrated Resilience Programmes in rural communities of Guatemala. **The following story from the Dry Corridor highlights WFP's efforts to promote the sustainable management of water resources in one of the country's most climate-vulnerable regions:**



SCAN THE QR CODE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS SUCCESS STORY ON COMMUNITY-LED WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT FOR IMPROVED FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION.

Challenges

- Guatemala faces a compounded food security and nutrition crisis**, with [2.8 million people projected in IPC Phases 3 and 4 \(March-May 2025\)](#). [Acute malnutrition in children under five increased by 10 percent year-on-year, with 20 percent of cases classified as severe](#), amid widespread drought impacts, rising vulnerabilities, and the onset of the lean season (May – August).
- Against this challenging backdrop, **an 83 percent funding shortfall severely limits WFP's capacity to scale up life-saving assistance ahead of the lean season**. Urgent fundings is required to sustain crisis response efforts and prevent further reductions in assistance for the most vulnerable populations.

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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