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World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

Guatemala

Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery

In Guatemala, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) plays a crucial role in **emergency** preparedness, response, and recovery, while also implementing long-term solutions to **strengthen food systems and address the root causes of food insecurity**.

WFP **responds to a range of interconnected** crises that contribute to hunger and malnutrition. The country is confronted with extreme climate events, such as prolonged droughts and intense rainfall, as well as protracted crises, including the slow recovery from the pandemic, rising food, fuel, and fertilizer prices, and a developing social protection system. **These crises have profound consequences for vulnerable populations, who face significant challenges in accessing nutritionally adequate food** and meeting other basic needs, often resorting to migration both within and outside the country.

In 2024, the transition from the El Niño climate phenomenon to La Niña resulted in prolonged droughts during the first half of the year, coinciding with the lean season, followed by intense rainfall in the latter half. According to WFP's annual National Food Security Assessment, half of all households experienced damage to their livelihoods due to these events, which severely impacted their income-generating capacity. As a result, **nearly 3 million individuals (17% of the population) experienced acute food insecurity**, as classified under the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC phase 3+) during the lean season. This situation is projected to persist at similar levels into 2025.

March 2025



WFP plans to deliver emergency assistance to those most in need, within the constraints of available funding, primarily through cash transfers and the distribution of food kits. Furthermore, **WFP will continue collaborating with various government institutions to purchase and preposition food supplies**.

WHAT WE DO IN GUATEMALA

In alignment with the **Country Strategic Plan**, WFP collaborates with the government and communities to mitigate the impact of crises on the most vulnerable populations. Emergency preparedness, Anticipatory Action (AA), emergency response, and early recovery are systematically integrated into WFP's policies and operational frameworks.

✓✓✓ PREPAREDNESS

Enhancing early warning systems, conducting comprehensive risk analysis, providing climate information services (including rain gauges and agro-climatic sensors), and **prepositioning food reserves** are critical for anticipating potential crises and ensuring timely, effective emergency responses. Additionally, reinforcing the national social protection policy is pivotal in establishing more robust support mechanisms for vulnerable populations. WFP collaborates with **national and municipal government authorities** to bolster emergency preparedness by facilitating the development of contingency and response plans, as well as providing training for relevant officials. In 2024, WFP procured and prepositioned 35,000 food kits for the National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction (CONRED), thereby guaranteeing rapid response capabilities within the first 72 hours of an emergency.

👨👩👧👦 ANTICIPATORY ACTION

Anticipatory Action (AA) encompasses preemptive measures implemented prior to the onset of a crisis or disaster, informed by predefined thresholds derived from forecast data. The objective is to mitigate the potential impact of climate-induced shocks on lives and livelihoods.

Core components:

Forecasts and risk analysis guide the decision to implement AA.

AA involves establishing a clear link between specific forecast-based triggers and predefined actions in Anticipatory Action Plans.

AA systematically employs early warning systems to anticipate and reduce the detrimental effects of shocks on vulnerable groups.

🚚 EMERGENCY RESPONSE

WFP **implements life-saving food distributions and unconditional cash transfers**, enabling affected populations to maintain dignity and exercise flexibility in addressing their food and essential needs during emergencies. In 2024, WFP directly assisted 86,000 individuals through the provision of food kits, cash transfers, vouchers, and debit cards, facilitating the coverage of their necessities.

🌱 EARLY RECOVERY

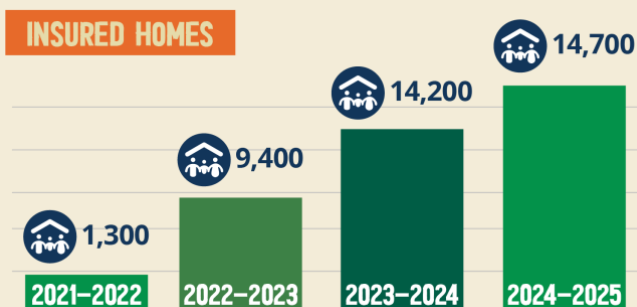
After crises such as the pandemic, hurricanes, floods, or droughts, **WFP helps communities restore their assets**

and rebuild their livelihoods. In Izabal, 300 households affected by the 2024 artisanal fishing ban received support through the construction of fish farming ponds. Additionally, **social and behavior change initiatives** played a key role in strengthening food security and nutrition.



Carmelina Caal lives in a rural area of Izabal, where limited resources and healthcare services have led to malnutrition and food insecurity in her community. In response, WFP and local partners distributed emergency food kits in May 2024, and Nutrition Brigades treated cases of malnutrition.

Since 2021, WFP has implemented a **Disaster Risk Financing** strategy in Guatemala. One of the most innovative initiatives has been providing parametric microinsurance to small-scale producers affected by prolonged droughts and excessive rainfall. During the May 2023 – May 2024 production cycle, **over USD 600,000 was paid out to 5,600 affected households, out of a total of 14,200 households covered** by these insurance plans during the period.



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