



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Guatemala Country Brief May 2025



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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, particularly 2 and 17.

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

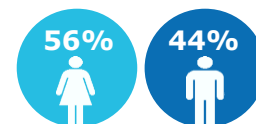
Chronic malnutrition:
46.5% of children between 6-59

In Numbers

USD 1,200,524 in cash-based transfers and microinsurance premiums

USD 21.5 m net funding requirements for the next six months (June to November 2025), representing 50 percent of total needs

48,743 people assisted
in May 2025



Operational Updates

- In Alta Verapaz and Izabal departments, **8,652 individuals affected by flooding and food insecurity received emergency food assistance through unconditional cash-based transfers (CBT) via direct cash (60%) and Rescue Cards (40%)**. Among them, 54% were women and girls.
- Additionally, under a **joint program implemented with the Government and IOM, 20 vulnerable Guatemalan migrants returned from the United States** received unconditional CBT to cover both their transportation and food needs, thereby facilitating their safe return and reintegration into their communities of origin.
- In the framework of malnutrition prevention activities, **2,888 individuals**, enrolled in multiyear Integrated Resilience Programmes, **participated in capacity-strengthening sessions** in the departments of Huehuetenango and Quiché.
- Furthermore, **4,533 individuals received nutritional monitoring and counselling through five WFP-supported Nutrition Brigades** in Huehuetenango and Alta Verapaz departments. Across these nutrition-specific activities, 83% of beneficiaries were women and girls.
- Under WFP's school feeding activities in Alta Verapaz, **516 individuals (87% women) participated in capacity-building sessions on school feeding practices**.
- A total of 34,603 individuals (54% women) received conditional CBT** in Huehuetenango and Quiché departments for their participation in livelihoods and value chains activities. Of these, **3,364 individuals took part in capacity-strengthening sessions on sustainable agricultural production** in the same departments.

Research, Assessment and Monitoring

- From May 15th to 23rd, the RAM Unit conducted three **Distribution Monitoring (DM) exercises for un-/conditional CBT, comprising 613 face-to-face household interviews** under the Integrated Resilience Programmes in Huehuetenango and Alta Verapaz, and the emergency response operation in Izabal.
- Results showed that 99% of respondents were "very satisfied" or "satisfied" with the distribution process, and 100% reported no discrimination or impediments in receiving the transfer**. Furthermore, all respondents under emergency interventions confirmed no difficulties in accessing distribution sites or during the transfer process.

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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	286.8 m	21.5 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 May 29th, [Mr. Andrew Stanhope formally assumed his duties as WFP Representative and Country Director in Guatemala](#), reaffirming the organization's commitment to supporting national food security and nutrition strategies.
- On May 13th, WFP's Nutrition and Social Protection Officer participated in a [national TV interview](#) to promote WFP's "[Generación Chispuda](#)" Social and Behaviour Change (SBC) campaign, to strengthen nutrition good practices countrywide.
- On May 26th, WFP participated in a [national showground and high-level meeting organized by the National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction \(CONRED\)](#) to highlight the positive impact of WFP's emergency preparedness operations, on the occasion of the official visit to Guatemala of [Ms. Andrea Koulaimah, Director for LAC at the European Commission's DG ECHO](#).
- On May 27th and 28th, WFP attended the [Motagua Investment Forum](#)—organized by the European Union and inaugurated by Vice President Karin Herrera—, reaffirming its alignment and support to Guatemala's national agenda on environmental transformation and sustainable rural development, in line with WFP's climate resilience and adaptation efforts.

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 Alta Verapaz highlights WFP Guatemala's efforts to promote improved child nutrition and locally-led behavioural change through community nutrition counsellors:**



SCAN THE QR CODE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE COMMUNITY NUTRITION COUNSELLORS

Challenges

- [Forecasts for May-July 2025 indicate above-average rainfall across the Franja Transversal del Norte, Caribbean, Bocacosta and Southern Altiplano regions](#), raising the likelihood of localized flooding, landslides and crop losses during a critical period for agricultural livelihoods. Moreover, [projections for the Pacific and Atlantic hurricane seasons \(May-November\) point to a hyperactive 2025 cycle](#), marked by 17 tropical storms, 9 minor and 4 major hurricanes anticipated—well above seasonal averages.
- Rising climate risks coincide with critical funding shortfalls for **WFP Guatemala, which currently faces a 100% gap in crisis response and 39% in resilience operations from June to November 2025**. Without urgent additional funding, life-saving assistance for the most food-insecure populations will be compromised.

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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