



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

# WFP Guatemala Country Brief June 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 sixth 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

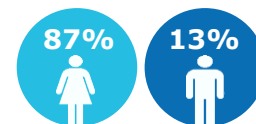
Chronic malnutrition:  
46.5% of children between 6-59

## In Numbers

USD 1,980 in cash-based transfers and microinsurance premiums

USD 17.4 m net funding requirements for the next six months (July to December 2025), representing 46 percent of total needs

8,345 people assisted  
in June 2025



## Operational Updates

- As part of WFP's broader emergency response in the departments of Izabal and Guatemala, **31 individuals received unconditional cash-based transfers (CBT)** to address its immediate food security and nutrition needs.
- since January 2025, as part of a **joint pilot program implemented with the Government and IOM, 160 vulnerable Guatemalan migrants who returned (40% women) from the United States** received unconditional CBT to cover their immediate basic food and transport needs.
- In the framework of malnutrition prevention activities, **4,897 individuals participated in capacity-strengthening sessions** in Huehuetenango, Quiché and Alta Verapaz departments. Of these, 88% were part of multiyear Integrated Resilience Programmes, while 12% were involved in School Feeding activities.
- Additionally, **2,531 individuals received nutritional monitoring and counselling through five WFP-supported Nutrition Brigades** in Huehuetenango and Alta Verapaz departments. Across these nutrition-specific activities, 70% of beneficiaries were women and girls.
- As part of resilient livelihood activities, **3,444 individuals (97% women) attended capacity-strengthening sessions focused on sustainable agricultural production** in Huehuetenango and Quiché departments.

## Research, Assessment, and Monitoring

- Between May 19<sup>th</sup> and June 11<sup>th</sup>, the **WFP Research, Assessment and Monitoring (RAM) Unit, carried out the field-level data collection phase for the 2025 National Food Security Survey (ESA)**, during which 6,700 household interviews were completed in 699 communities across all 22 departments.
- The survey's findings, which are **representative at national and departmental levels, as well as in rural and urban areas and among both Indigenous groups (Mayan and Xinka) and non-Indigenous populations**, will inform Government and stakeholders' evidence-based decisions and interventions aimed at reducing food insecurity and strengthening livelihoods in country.
- This year's survey incorporated innovative modules on **ultra-processed food consumption, community-based organizations, and perceptions of migration patterns**, while also reinforcing quality assurance protocols.

## Partnerships

- Between June 1<sup>st</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, **Mr. Andrew Stanhope, the new WFP Country Director and representative, held courtesy meetings with the Vice Presidency of the Republic and the Ministries of Agriculture and Social Development**, among other government institutions, to support the coordination of national food security and nutrition strategies and programs.

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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)
437.8 m	286.8 m	17.4 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.

- From June 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>, **WFP Guatemala coordinated an in-person South-South exchange forum between the Ministries of Education of Guatemala and Belize** to share best practices on school feeding. This dialogue and field visit helped established a bilateral cooperation framework aimed at optimizing the sustainability of these national programs.
- From June 24<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>, **WFP Guatemala participated in the XI Central American and Caribbean Microfinance Conference** in Costa Rica to exchange microfinance experiences around climate insurance and services for innovation.
- On June 18<sup>th</sup>, **WFP Guatemala participated in the accountability meeting organized by UN Guatemala alongside Ambassadors and Heads of Cooperation.** This forum facilitated the harmonization of priorities and the strengthening of joint efforts toward sustainable and inclusive development, aligned with national strategic objectives.

## Stories from the Field

- As part of WFP's operations, efforts continued to focus on implementing Integrated Resilience Programmes in rural communities across Guatemala. **The following story from Huehuetenango highlights WFP's commitment to strengthening climate resilience in one of the country's most vulnerable regions.**



## Challenges

- Since May 2025, **Guatemala has experienced an unusually intense rainy season that has unleashed torrential rains, landslides and widespread flooding.** More than **9,000 people have been affected, 19 fatalities, and critical infrastructure**—including over 300 roads and 16 bridges—severely damaged, disrupting food and relief supply routes.
- Amid these pressures, **March–May 2025 IPC projections** estimate that **2.8 million Guatemalans—15 percent of the population—are experiencing acute food insecurity** at Crisis level or worse, including over 340,000 in Emergency. At the same time, **more than 13,000 cases of acute malnutrition** (17 percent severe) were recorded between January and June, **resulting in 14 fatalities.**
- With a 77% funding shortfall in its six-month crisis response requirements (July to December 2025), **WFP Guatemala urgently requires additional funds** to address the ongoing and expected surge in humanitarian food security needs.

## 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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