



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Guatemala Country Brief July 2025



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 the sixth highest in the world and the highest in Latin America and the Caribbean.

WFP's presence and 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 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:
18 million

2023 Human Development Index:
137 out of 193

Income Level:
Middle

Chronic malnutrition:
46.5% of children between 6-59

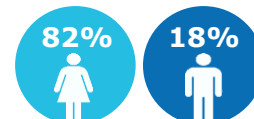
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In Numbers

USD 12,773 in cash-based transfers and commodity vouchers

USD 14.7 m net funding requirements for the next six months (August 2025 to January 2026), representing 45 percent of total needs

9,994 people assisted
in July 2025



Operational Updates

- Since January 2025, as part of a **joint pilot program implemented with the Government and IOM**, **192 vulnerable Guatemalan migrants (72% women) who returned from the United States** received unconditional Cash-Based Transfers (CBT) to cover their immediate basic food and transport needs.
- In the framework of malnutrition prevention and school feeding activities, **4,289 individuals participated in capacity-strengthening sessions** in Huehuetenango, Quiché, and Alta Verapaz departments. Of these, 79% were part of multiyear Integrated Resilience Programmes, while 21% were involved in school feeding activities.
- Additionally, **2,552 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 resilience activities, a total of 622 individuals (58% women) received conditional CBT in Huehuetenango and Quiché departments, for their participation in livelihoods and value chains. Furthermore, **3,993 individuals (92% women) attended capacity-strengthening sessions focused on sustainable agricultural production and entrepreneurship** in Huehuetenango, Quiché, and Chiquimula departments.

Research, Assessment, and Monitoring

- NEW PUBLICATION** On 15th July, WFP published **"More than a meal"** in collaboration with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). The report, based on the Fill the Nutrient Gap (FNG) methodology, delves into School Feeding Programs (SFPs) in Guatemala and Peru, highlighting their potential to **substantially reduce the cost of a nutritious diet for households, improve overall dietary quality, reinforce the resilience of local food systems, and generate measurable benefits for child development, academic performance, and public health.**
- From July 16th to 20th, WFP's **Research, Assessment and Monitoring (RAM) Unit conducted an operational monitoring exercise** under the Integrated Resilience Programme in Quiché department. The exercise evaluated the **implementation effectiveness, contextual relevance, and beneficiary satisfaction** concerning 11 types of community assets and capacity-strengthening interventions. Findings revealed that **91% of participants feel capable of independently replicating the asset creation process without further support from WFP, and 95% intend to continue scaling up the assets built.**
- Between July 28th and 29th, **a warehouse monitoring assessment was carried out by the RAM Unit across four WFP-managed warehouses in Guatemala, Quetzaltenango, and Zacapa.** The assessment covered 65 criteria related to administrative procedures, technical operations, and overall facility conditions. Findings revealed a strong overall performance, with the **warehouses achieving an average compliance rate of 92%.**

Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2021-2025

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
447.4 m	291.2 m	14.7 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 July 3rd, **WFP Guatemala participated in the forum "Climate Change, Gender, Inclusion, Agriculture, and Environment – Local Voices and Experiences in National and Regional Adaptation Policies"** organized by the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), to share insights and best practices on strengthening the climate resilience of women and communities.
- Between July 15th and 17th, **WFP joined the XI Regional School Feeding Forum for the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC)** held in Honduras to advocate for sustainable SFPs and promote regional cooperation to address food insecurity and malnutrition, while strengthening social protection systems.
- On July 23rd, **WFP participated in the Annual Assembly of the Latin American and Caribbean Climate Action Platform in Agriculture (PLACA) at the National Palace**, focused on strengthening regional cooperation to address climate change in the agricultural sector as a pathway to food security and nutrition.
- Between July 27th and 29th, **WFP jointly with the Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition (SESAN) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Food (MAGA), attended the Global School Meals Coalition at the UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) 2025 held in Ethiopia**. The event highlighted Guatemala as one of four success stories within LAC region for its SFP model.

Stories from the Field

- One of WFP's main commitments is to strengthen the SFP in Guatemala—the largest social protection program. **The following video showcases WFP's efforts in the country, where one in two children under five suffers from chronic malnutrition**—the highest rate in LAC and 6th globally.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO
WATCH THE VIDEO

**SCHOOL FEEDING IS
MORE THAN JUST
A MEAL**

MERCEDES MATEO-BERGANZA
CHIEF OF THE EDUCATION DIVISION, IDB



Challenges

- According to the **March-May 2025 IPC projections**, **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 15,450 cases of acute malnutrition** (16 percent severe) were recorded between January and August 2025, **resulting in 23 child fatalities**.
- With an **80% funding shortfall** in its six-month crisis response requirements (August 2025 to January 2026), **WFP Guatemala urgently requires additional funds** to address the ongoing surge in humanitarian food security and nutrition 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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