



## Anticipatory Action to mitigate the impact of drought in Guatemala

In July 2025, the World Food Programme (WFP), in collaboration with the Government of Guatemala, started to implement an anticipatory action (AA) activation to mitigate the predicted effects of drought on the lives and livelihoods of highly vulnerable people in the Dry Corridor.

This AA activation is guided by the [United Nations Central Emergency Relief Fund \(CERF\) framework for drought](#) for the Central America Dry Corridor (El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala). The AA Framework enables UN agencies, government partners, and at-risk communities to collectively act ahead of a prolonged drought or dry spell (canícula), aiming to reduce its anticipated impacts on food security and nutrition (supported by WFP, FAO, and UNICEF), as well as health and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), supported by Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and UNICEF.

On 24 July 2025, the AA CERF framework for the Central America Dry Corridor was triggered in Guatemala. The national rainfall forecast for the 2025 Postrera season (September–November) indicates levels below the 1-in-4-year drought threshold. Trigger status and thresholds are based on the official forecast issued by INSIVUMEH (Instituto Nacional de Sismología, Vulcanología, Meteorología e Hidrología), which are in turn based on official national historical forecasts from the 1981–2022 period.

As part of this coordinated effort, WFP is implementing the following anticipatory actions:

- 1) **Dissemination of Early Warning Messages:** Early warning messages and recommendations are being disseminated via SMS to communities and local government staff/stakeholders, enabling them to anticipate and prepare for the predicted drought. These messages promote behaviour change to improve food

## Key facts

**Location:** Chiquimula Department, municipalities of Jocotán and Camotán, Dry Corridor of Guatemala

Number of people supported with early warning messages	33,885 people
Number of people supported with anticipatory cash transfers	33,885 people
Number of people benefiting from the establishment of grain reserves	3,400 people (170 full silos, equivalent to 138,798 kg of basic grains)
Number of community climate monitors trained	76 people

security and nutrition, and agroclimatic productive practices, share early warning messages, and include protection advisories concerning WFP's Community Feedback Mechanisms (CFM). A total of 21,000 messages will be sent between August and September.

- 2) **Distribution of anticipatory cash transfers:** Anticipatory cash assistance is being distributed throughout August and September to help households meet essential needs arising from the anticipated drought. These transfers support the advanced purchase of nutritious food and preservation of productive assets.
- 3) **Training of smallholder producers:** Training sessions are being delivered to smallholder producers on gathering and interpreting local climate and weather data through WFP's local monitoring/sensor network (linked to INSIVUMEH's databases) to become certified community-based climate monitors.

These actions build on lessons learned from the [2023 Anticipatory Action pilot](#) jointly implemented by WFP and FAO in the Dry Corridor.

The anticipatory actions aim to: 1) enable households to make timely and informed decisions ahead of the drought; 2) safeguard livelihoods, income, assets, and vulnerable family members, including pregnant and breastfeeding women, children and persons with disabilities; 3) empower communities to meet their food and nutrition needs before and after the crisis.

This activation is made possible through USD 1.6 million in funding from the UN CERF AA funding window, providing critical support to protect the most vulnerable from the harmful impacts of the predicted drought.

