



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Guatemala Country Brief August 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 currently operates four Field Offices in Huehuetenango, Cobán, Nebaj, and Chiquimula



Population:
18 million

2023 Human Development Index:
137 out of 193

Income Level:
Middle

Chronic malnutrition:
46.5% of children under five

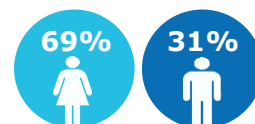
In Numbers

USD 175,620 in cash-based transfers and commodity vouchers

380,831 food rations (January – August) prepared and pre-positioned nationwide to ensure timely emergency assistance

USD 7.6 m net funding requirements for the next six months (September 2025 to February 2026), representing 28 percent of total needs)

10,282 people assisted
August 2025



Operational Updates

- In Chiquimula department, **a total of 5,777 individuals received unconditional anticipatory cash-based transfers (CBT) to mitigate the forecasted impacts of drought during the Postrera season**, enabling them to prevent loss of life and livelihoods before climatic shocks materialize.
- Since January 2025, as part of **a joint pilot program implemented with the Government and IOM, 215 vulnerable Guatemalan migrants (72% women) who returned from the United States** received unconditional CBT to cover their immediate basic food and transport needs.
- Between January and August 2025, **WFP prepared and pre-positioned 380,831 food rations for the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Food (MAGA)**, ensuring readiness to deliver timely emergency assistance to the most vulnerable populations.
- In the framework of malnutrition prevention activities, **1,664 individuals participated in capacity-strengthening sessions** in Huehuetenango, Santa Rosa, and Alta Verapaz departments. Additionally, **900 individuals received nutritional monitoring and counselling through five WFP-supported Nutrition Brigades** in Huehuetenango and Alta Verapaz departments. Across all these nutrition-specific activities, 85% of beneficiaries were women and girls.
- Under school feeding activities, **416 individuals (95% women) participated in capacity-strengthening sessions aimed at enhancing community capacities** for the implementation of the School Feeding Programme (SFP) in Alta Verapaz department.
- As part of WFP's resilience activities, **2,247 individuals (93% women) attended capacity-strengthening sessions focused on sustainable agricultural production and entrepreneurship** in Huehuetenango, Quiché, and Chiquimula departments.

Research, Assessment, and Monitoring

- Between August 9th and September 5th, **WFP's Research, Assessment and Monitoring (RAM) Unit led an extensive and rapid operational and beneficiary targeting exercise in the Dry Corridor**, under the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) Anticipatory Action window, activated to mitigate the forecasted impacts of drought.
- The targeting exercise surveyed over 7,800 households across 20 climate-vulnerable communities in the Chiquimula department.** Preliminary findings indicate that 82 percent of targeted households had been affected by drought over the past three months, while 79 percent reported losing more than half of their crops during the current agricultural season.

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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)
447.4 m	301.2 m	7.6 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 August 5th and 20th, [WFP Guatemala's new Country Director held courtesy meetings with the Minister of MAGA and the Secretary of the Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition \(SESAN\), respectively](#), to reinforce institutional collaboration and advance joint actions for food security and nutrition in Guatemala.
- On August 21st, [WFP Guatemala celebrated an event to hand over more than 270 essential supplies and anthropometric equipment to the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance \(MSPAS\)](#), in order to [equip over 400 health centres in the most vulnerable communities](#) of Alta Verapaz, Zacapa, El Progreso, Quetzaltenango, Sololá, Huehuetenango, Quiché, and Izabal departments, reinforcing coordinated efforts to strengthen nutritional monitoring and primary health service capacity.

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 Alta Verapaz department, where the organization fosters community engagement, promotes local food procurement, and forges strategic partnerships to ensure children receive daily nutritious meals.**

SCAN THE QR CODE TO WATCH THE VIDEO



TODAY, OUR GREATEST HOPE IS TO BE ABLE TO FEED OUR CHILDREN

GLORIA ESPERANZA PARTICIPANT IN ALTA VERAPAZ

Challenges and Needs

- According to the recently published [2025 IPC Integrated Food Security Phase Classification \(IPC\) analysis](#), estimates 3.4 million of Guatemalans—19 percent of the country's total population—were experiencing acute food insecurity at Crisis or worse levels (IPC 3+) from May to August 2025, including over 330,000 in Emergency (IPC 4). Moreover, [more than 17,000 cases of acute child malnutrition](#) (17 percent severe) were recorded between January and September 2025, including 32 child fatalities.
- Since the onset of the rainy season in May 2025, heavy rains, floods, and cold fronts have already impacted several departments. As of September 2025, the [National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction \(CONRED\) reported over 15,400 people affected and 28 fatalities](#). Additionally, more than 430 roads have been damaged or destroyed, mainly due to landslides and slope failures, further complicating the delivery of life-saving assistance.
- With an **96% funding shortfall** in its six-month crisis response requirements (September 2025 to February 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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