



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Guatemala Country Brief October 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 between 6-59

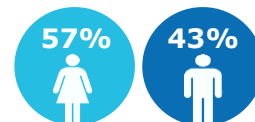
In Numbers

USD 537,179 in cash-based transfers and commodity vouchers

687,950 food rations (January–October 2025) prepared and pre-positioned nationwide to ensure timely emergency assistance

USD 4.1m net funding requirements for the next six months (November 2025 to April 2026), representing 15 percent of total needs

23,976 people directly assisted
October 2025



Operational Updates

- Since January 2025, as part of a **joint pilot program implemented with the Government and IOM, 203 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.
- Between January and October 2025, **WFP prepared and pre-positioned 687,950 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 and school feeding activities, **724 individuals (94% women) participated in capacity-strengthening sessions** in Huehuetenango, Quiché, and Alta Verapaz departments. Of these, 67% were part of multiyear Integrated Resilience Programmes, while 33% were involved in school feeding activities.
- As part of resilience activities, **a total of 22,017 individuals (54% women) received conditional CBT in Huehuetenango and Chiquimula departments**, for their participation in livelihoods and value chains activities, and as Anticipatory Actions (AA) participants.
- Furthermore, **1,736 individuals (93% women) attended capacity-strengthening sessions focused on sustainable agricultural production and entrepreneurship** in Huehuetenango, Quiché, Jalapa, Santa Rosa, and Chiquimula departments.

Research, Assessment, and Monitoring

- From October 1st to 24th, **WFP's Research, Assessment, and Monitoring (RAM) Unit conducted midline and final monitoring for the Integrated Resilience Programmes** across Chiquimula, Jalapa, Santa Rosa, Jutiapa, and Huehuetenango.
- Results in Huehuetenango show a particularly notable improvement in women's dietary diversity (ages 15–49), which increased from 54% at baseline to 75% at midline**, while households classified as **food secure rose by 19 percentage points**, from 6% to 25%.
- Additionally, between October 9th and 31st, the **RAM Unit carried out monitoring activities for nutrition activities in Alta Verapaz**, engaging 352 households. **Results showed a 100% satisfaction with Nutrition Brigades and 99% noting improved eating habits.**

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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	308.2 m	4.1 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

- From October 13th to 15th, **WFP Guatemala participated in the International Conference on Inclusive Insurance (ICII) 2025** jointly with the Ministry of Agriculture (MAGA) in Quito, Ecuador, sharing its experience as a recognized regional reference and highlighting the role of parametric microinsurance in enabling smallholder producers to mitigate losses arising from commercial disruptions caused by drought and excessive rainfall.
- On October 23rd, **WFP Guatemala presented the results of the 2025 National Food Security Assessment (ESA)** jointly with the Food Security and Nutrition Secretariat (SESAN) and national stakeholders, to guide targeted interventions and address prevailing gaps in food insecurity and malnutrition nationwide. Concurrently, during the same event, **WFP presented the findings of the Fill the Nutrient Gap (FNG) analysis**. These results provide evidence to inform strategic actions aimed at strengthening national food security and nutrition policies.

Stories from the Field

- WFP's efforts continued focusing on strengthening the resilience of rural communities in Guatemala. **The following story from Huehuetenango describes WFP's contributions to promoting sustainable community development in this department:**



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**BETTER NUTRITION
MEANS BETTER LIVES**

SHERLA RIVAS,
PARTICIPANT FROM CHANTLA, HUEHUETENANGO

Challenges

- According to the **September 2025–January 2026 IPC projections**, **2.6 million Guatemalans (14 percent of the population) are experiencing acute food insecurity** at Crisis or worse levels, including over 185,000 in Emergency.
- In this sense, according to the **2025 ESA findings**, **23% households nationwide are experiencing chronic food insecurity, rising to 32% in rural areas and reaching 47% among the Q'eqchi' population**. Notably, this prevalence has remained stable over the past four years, fluctuating between 24% and 26% since 2022. Similarly, **WFP's 2025 FNG analysis**, reveals that **40% of the population cannot afford a nutritious diet**.
- At the same time, **more than 19,800 cases of acute malnutrition** (17% severe) were recorded between January and October 2025, **resulting in 46 child fatalities**.
- With a **79% funding shortfall** in its twelve-month crisis response requirements (November 2025 to October 2026), **WFP Guatemala urgently requires additional funds** to mitigate the escalating food security and nutrition needs in Guatemala.

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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