



World Food
Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Guatemala Country Brief

December 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.

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

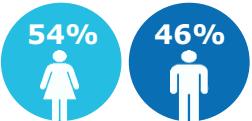
In Numbers

USD 292,217 in cash-based transfers, commodity vouchers and microinsurance premiums

769,607 food rations (January – December 2025) prepared and pre-positioned nationwide for the **Government to ensure timely emergency assistance**

USD 14.8 m net funding requirements for the next six months (January to June 2026), representing 56 percent of total needs

26,705 unique individuals directly assisted
In December 2025



Operational Updates

- In Alta Verapaz, Izabal, and Chiquimula departments, a total of **1,119 individuals (46% women)** affected by acute food insecurity received emergency food assistance through unconditional cash-based transfers (CBT).
- From January to December 2025, as part of a joint pilot program implemented with the Government and IOM, **274 vulnerable Guatemalan migrants (41% women)** returned from the United States have received unconditional CBT to cover their immediate basic food needs.
- WFP covered the insurance premiums for **5,484 smallholder producer households** in the departments of Alta Verapaz, Izabal, Quiché, and Zacapa. These policies have provided approximately **24,720 individuals** with a financial safety net against drought and excess rain during the ongoing (2025-2026) productive cycle.
- Between January and December, WFP prepared and pre-positioned **769,607 food rations** for the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA), ensuring readiness to deliver timely emergency assistance to most vulnerable populations.
- In the framework of malnutrition prevention and school feeding activities, **921 individuals participated in capacity-strengthening sessions** in Quiché, Jalapa, and Alta Verapaz departments. Of these, 98% were part of multi-year Integrated Resilience Programmes, while 2% were involved in school feeding activities.
- Additionally, **526 individuals received nutritional monitoring and counselling support** through a WFP-supported Nutrition Brigade in Alta Verapaz department. Across all nutrition-specific activities, 64% of beneficiaries were women and girls.
- As part of WFP's resilient livelihood activities, **78 individuals received conditional CBT in the departments of Quiché and Huehuetenango**. Moreover, a total of **6,433 individuals (96% women)** attended capacity-strengthening sessions focused on sustainable agricultural production and entrepreneurship in Quiché, Santa Rosa, and Jutiapa departments.

Research, Assessment, and Monitoring

- From December 2nd to 10th, WFP's Research, Assessment and Monitoring (RAM) Unit conducted two baseline assessments for Integrated Resilience Programmes in Alta Verapaz. Results indicated **44% of participating women had a minimum dietary diversity**, while **31% of participating households were food insecure at the commencement of WFP's intervention**.
- From November 26th to December 16th, WFP's RAM Unit conducted a Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) for disaster risk insurance interventions in Quiché, Alta Verapaz, and Izabal departments. **Findings showed a 19-percentage-point increase in food-secure households**, rising from 48% at baseline to 65% post-intervention.

Contact info: Aitor Serrano-Bellart (aitor.serranobellart@wfp.org)

Country Director: Andrew Stanhope

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/Guatemala

Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2021-2025

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
459.9 m	308.9 m	14.8 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 December 5th, [WFP Guatemala and the Governments of Guatemala and Japan formalized a strategic partnership to change lives in Alta Verapaz](#). Over the next three years, the initiative will support directly 1,500 smallholder households (around 7,500 people) by promoting sustainable agriculture and energy solutions, and supporting entrepreneurship and value chains, and local nutrition governance.
- Between 9th and 11th, [WFP Guatemala's Representative and Country Director visited Alta Verapaz together with the Ambassador of Canada to Guatemala](#). During the visit, the delegation observed innovative resilience and nutrition solutions implemented by WFP in the region, jointly with local authorities.
- On 9th, [WFP Guatemala signed the 2026-2030 United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework](#). Through this, WFP reaffirms its commitment to advancing food security, combating malnutrition, and building resilience in support of the Government and communities across Guatemala.
- On 22nd, [WFP Guatemala, together with FAO, held a meeting with the Minister of MAGA](#) to reinforce inter-institutional cooperation. The discussion focused on advancing coordinated efforts to enhance agricultural productivity, and support the Government's priorities, for a more resilient and inclusive food systems agenda.

Stories from the Field

- WFP's efforts continued focusing on strengthening the resilience of rural communities in Guatemala. The following story from the Guatemala's Dry Corridor describes [WFP's contributions to promoting resilience and sustainable community development in one of the country's most vulnerable regions](#):



SCANN THE QR CODE
TO WATCH THE VIDEO

NORA MENDEZ
PARTICIPANT SMALLHOLDER PRODUCER

Challenges

- In 2026, acute food insecurity will remain a critical concern in Guatemala. [IPC projections indicate that up to 3 million people \(approximately 16 percent of the population\) could face acute food insecurity](#) between February and April 2026.
- Given limited confirmed and forecasted contributions, [WFP's currently available resources would allow assistance for only about 4,750 out of the 195,000 targeted people in IPC Phase 4 \(Emergency\) for 2026](#) — an approximate 98% gap.
- Facing an [89% funding shortfall](#) in its six-month crisis response requirements (January-June 2026), [WFP Guatemala urgently requires additional flexible and humanitarian funds](#) to address the upcoming surge in humanitarian needs during the lean season.

Donors CSP 2021-2026

Canada, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Denmark, European Union, France, Finland, Germany, Guatemala (Government of), Howard G. Buffett Foundation, Ireland, Japan, Korea (Republic of), Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United States of America, United Kingdom, and other government and private sector donors.

Additional support has been provided by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), and the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), among other multilateral donors.