



WFP Guatemala Country Brief January 2026

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



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

37,200 food rations (January 2026) prepared and pre-positioned nationwide for the **Government to ensure timely emergency assistance**

USD 18.1 m net funding requirements for the next six months (February to July 2026), representing 76 percent of total needs

3,030 unique individuals directly assisted
In January 2026



Operational Updates

- In January 2026, **WFP prepared and pre-positioned 37,200 food rations for the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA)**, ensuring readiness to deliver timely emergency food assistance to most vulnerable populations.
- In the framework of WFP's malnutrition prevention activities, **933 individuals (98% women) participated in capacity-strengthening sessions** in Quiché and Alta Verapaz departments. Of these, 100% were part of multi-year Integrated Resilience Programmes.
- Additionally, **521 individuals (60% women) received nutritional monitoring and counselling support through a WFP-supported Nutrition Brigade** in Alta Verapaz department. Across all nutrition-specific activities, 84% of beneficiaries were women and girls.
- As part of WFP's resilient livelihood activities, a total of **2,397 individuals (97% women) attended capacity-strengthening sessions focused on sustainable agricultural production and entrepreneurship** in Quiché department.

Research, Assessment, and Monitoring

- From January 16th to February 18th, **WFP's Research, Assessment and Monitoring (RAM) Unit is conducting a targeting exercise in Alta Verapaz to identify and prioritize more than 3,000 highly vulnerable households affected by climate-related shocks and acute food insecurity and malnutrition**, to guide emergency response planning and maximize the reach of assistance to those most in need.

Partnerships

- On January 29th, **Guatemala's Presidential Secretariat for Women (SEPREM) and WFP Guatemala signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** establishing a cooperation framework to strengthen women's economic empowerment countrywide.
- On January 30th, as part of WFP's support to strengthening national emergency preparedness and response capacities, **WFP Guatemala hosted representatives from the National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction (CONRED) and the Municipality of Guatemala to discuss the upcoming National Emergency Drill**, held in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Guatemala earthquake.

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Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2021-2026

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
447.4 m	314.5 m	18.1 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.

- From 15th to 16th, **WFP participated in the launch of the School Meals Accelerator in Berlin**. The initiative provides strategic, demand-driven technical assistance to help low- and lower-middle-income countries strengthen and scale up national school meal programmes. **WFP Guatemala represented Latin America and the Caribbean, sharing good practices and lessons learned to inform continued innovation in the national school feeding programme.**

Stories from the Field

- WFP's efforts continued focusing on supporting the national School Feeding Programme, the largest social protection net in Guatemala. The following story from Alta Verapaz highlights **WFP's contributions to nutritious meals and improved school kitchen infrastructure in one of the country's most vulnerable regions:**



SCAN THE QR CODE TO WATCH THE VIDEO



Challenges

- In 2026, acute food insecurity remains a critical concern in Guatemala. **IPC projections indicate that up to 3 million people (approximately 16 percent of the population) face acute food insecurity (IPC 3+)**, including almost 250,000 in Emergency IPC 4, between February and April 2026.
- Moreover, acute malnutrition levels among children under five continue to be concerning. **In the first four weeks of January 2026 alone, over 2,800 new cases were reported**, marking a 15% increase from the same period in 2025. In 2025, the country recorded over 22,000 acute malnutrition cases and 60 child fatalities.
- Given limited confirmed and forecasted contributions, **WFP's currently available resources would allow assistance for only about 32,000 out of the 330,000 targeted people in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) for 2026** — an approximate 98% gap.
- Facing a **92% funding shortfall** in its six-month crisis response requirements (February to July 2026), **WFP Guatemala urgently requires additional flexible and humanitarian funds** to address the upcoming surge in humanitarian needs.

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.

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