



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Guatemala

COUNTRY BRIEF

May 2026



12,862 people assisted in April 2026 (57% women)



284,323 food rations (January-April 2026) prepared and prepositioned



USD 369,821 cash transferred in April 2026



USD 14.7M required in the next six months (May – October 2026)

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- In April, WFP provided assistance to 12,862 people (57 percent women) through a combination of emergency assistance, capacity strengthening, and malnutrition prevention activities.
- In parallel, WFP prepared and prepositioned over 284,323 food rations (January-April) to enable a rapid, Government-led emergency response.
- Guatemala faces a convergence of acute food insecurity, seasonal stress and heightened climate risk, making early action critical to protect livelihoods, safeguard food consumption and prevent further deterioration in nutrition outcomes.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

- Food insecurity remains a critical concern in 2026. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) projections for February–April 2026 indicate that up to 3 million people in Guatemala —approximately 16 percent of the population— are expected to face acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above), including nearly 250,000 people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4).
- These acute needs coincide with the onset of the May–August lean season, a period during which household food reserves are typically depleted, seasonal employment opportunities decline, and vulnerable families become increasingly reliant on markets to meet their basic food needs.
- The food security outlook is further compounded by elevated climate risks. **Official forecasts indicate a probability exceeding 80 percent that Guatemala will transition to El Niño conditions from May 2026 onwards**, with projections pointing to a pronounced dry spell and a significant, protracted water deficit.
- The Ministry of Agriculture has warned that 2026 could resemble the conditions observed in 2014, when intensified *canícula* peaks, crop losses, and deteriorating food security and nutrition outcomes were recorded. This context underscores the urgency of early action to protect livelihoods, safeguard food consumption, and prevent further deterioration in nutrition outcomes.

Reporting Period: April 2026

Photo Caption & Credit: A community participant demonstrates post-harvest practices supported by WFP. WFP/Nelson Pacheco

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

Emergency Preparedness and Response

Cash-Based Transfer (CBT) Assistance

- In Alta Verapaz and Jalapa departments, 10,897 individuals (2,430 households; 53 percent women) affected by acute food insecurity and malnutrition, received emergency food assistance through unconditional CBT.

In-kind Food Assistance

- Between January and April, WFP prepared and prepositioned more than 284,300 food rations in support of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Food (MAGA), ensuring readiness to deliver timely emergency assistance to the most vulnerable populations.

Sustainable Food Systems

Resilience and Livelihood Support

- As part of WFP's resilient livelihood activities, 1,965 individuals (83 percent women and girls) attended capacity-strengthening sessions focused on sustainable agricultural production and entrepreneurship in Huehuetenango, Jalapa, Quiché, and Santa Rosa departments.

Malnutrition Prevention Support

- In the framework of malnutrition prevention activities, 523 individuals (54 percent women and girls) received nutrition monitoring and counselling support through from WFP's field health and nutrition staff, supporting the local health system in Huehuetenango department.

LEARN MORE ABOUT WFP'S WORK

- Following the March 2026 activation of the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) drought anticipatory action window, WFP led and completed the inter-agency targeting phase, identifying nearly 7,000 households in need of assistance or meeting the criteria across targeted communities in Jalapa department. Building on this progress, WFP plans to deliver around 15,000 anticipatory cash transfers during the first weeks of May, demonstrating a rapid transition from planning to early action delivery.

- WFP Guatemala is increasingly recognized as a country-level innovation leader, transforming Dry Corridor experience into scalable solutions for anticipatory action, disaster risk finance and climate resilience. Its Forecast Index Insurance (FI) for Anticipatory Action was selected as a finalist for the WFP Innovation Awards, reinforcing the Country Office's global visibility in forecast-based financing and early action.

STORIES FROM THE FIELD



Click on the image to learn more

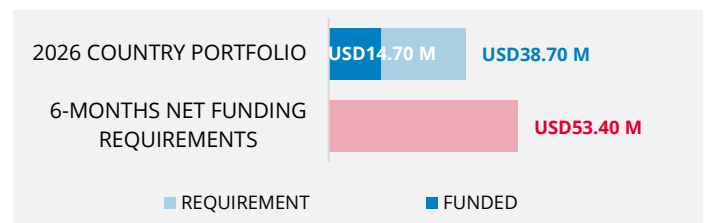
In communities in Alta Verapaz department, **WFP is supporting women strengthen their confidence, capacities and leadership** through participatory trainings and community-based spaces that promote empowerment, inclusion and more active decision-making.

PARTNERSHIPS

- On 13 April, WFP presented key findings from the 2025 National Food Security Evaluation (ESA 2025) and the Fill the Nutrient Gap (FNG) analysis at the Congress of the Republic of Guatemala, supporting evidence-based policy action to combat food insecurity and malnutrition.

FUNDING OVERVIEW

Country Strategic Plan (2026-2030)



Donors:

Canada, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, European Union, Germany, Guatemala (Government of), Japan, Korea (Republic of), Luxembourg, Norway, United States of America, and other government and private sector donors. Additional support has been provided by IFAD, the Joint SDG Fund, CERF, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), among other multilateral donors and funding partners.

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