

WFP Guatemala

COUNTRY BRIEF
October 2026

- **184,817** people assisted in September (*52% women and girls*)
- **668,400** food rations (January-September) prepared and prepositioned
- **USD 7,980,000** cash transferred in September
- **USD 18.8M** required in the next twelve months (October 2026 – September 2027)

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- In September, WFP supported 184,817 people (52 percent women) through a combination of emergency assistance, food systems, and malnutrition prevention activities.
- In parallel, WFP prepared and prepositioned 668,400 food rations (January-September) to enable rapid, Government-led emergency responses.
- Climate-related shocks are increasing food security risks in Guatemala. In 2026, drought has already affected approximately 294,000 hectares of crops (78 percent of 377,000 hectares expected to be affected by El Niño), the highest level in the past decade, further undermining rural livelihoods and agricultural production.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

- On 11 September 2026, Guatemala declared a nationwide Orange Alert in response to prolonged drought, extreme heat, crop losses and rising food security and nutrition risks. The alert was subsequently escalated to Red Alert across municipalities in the Trifinio Region, within the country's Dry Corridor region.
- Drought has damaged approximately 294,000 hectares of crops, the largest affected area recorded over the past decade and around 110 percent more than in the aftermath of Eta and Iota in 2020. The simultaneous loss of subsistence crops and agricultural employment opportunities is reducing both food availability and the purchasing power of rural households.
- The climate shock is unfolding against an already critical humanitarian scenario. At the peak of the 2026 lean season (July-September), 3.2 million people faced Crisis or higher levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3+), including nearly 200,000 people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). At the same time, between January and September 2026, more than 16,500 cases of acute malnutrition among children under five were recorded, including 38 deaths, highlighting the cumulative pressure on the food security and nutrition of the most vulnerable populations.

Reporting Period: September 2026

Photo Caption & Credit: A WFP participant tends crops as part of efforts to strengthen sustainable livelihoods, food security and community resilience. @WFPGuatemala

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

Emergency Preparedness and Response

Cash-Based Transfer (CBT) Assistance

- As part of the life-saving response, WFP provided CBT to 180,858 people (51 percent women), in the departments of Alta Verapaz, Quiché, Jalapa, and Chiquimula to safeguard food security and nutrition amid drought conditions.

In-kind Food Assistance

- Between January and September, WFP prepared and prepositioned more than 668,400 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, 377 individuals (98 percent women) attended capacity-strengthening sessions focused on sustainable agricultural production and entrepreneurship in Alta Verapaz department.

Malnutrition Prevention Support

- In the framework of malnutrition prevention activities, 5,099 individuals (77 percent women and girls) received nutrition monitoring and counselling support from WFP's nutrition brigades, supporting the local health system in Quiché and Alta Verapaz departments.

SUPPORT WFP THROUGH SHARE THE MEAL

- Join WFP's efforts through **ShareTheMeal**, and help bring food and hope to schoolchildren. Every contribution makes a difference.



Click the image to learn more

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

WFP is assisting El Niño–affected families in Chiquimula, Alta Verapaz and Quiché to protect their food security and livelihoods, with support from the Guatemala Humanitarian Fund (GHF).

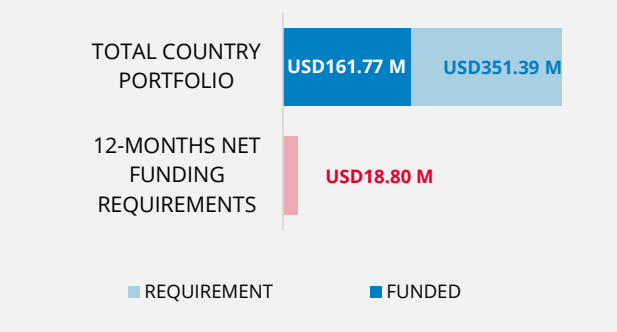
Scan the QR code to learn more

PARTNERSHIPS

- On 8 September, WFP Guatemala Country Director and Representative Andrew STANHOPE participated in the Central America Regional Food Systems Convening, organized by Partnership for the Americas (PFA) and the Rockefeller Foundation, where he shared WFP's perspective on school feeding ecosystems in Central America.
- On 21 September, WFP presented the results of four years of implementation of *B'anla Chiko'm*, a multi-year project funded by the Government of the Republic of Korea through KOICA, and implemented in close coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture. The initiative strengthened the livelihoods, resilience, food security and nutritional well-being of 3,000 households, or more than 15,000 people, in Quiché department.

FUNDING OVERVIEW

Country Strategic Plan (2026-2030)



Donors

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

FOLLOW US ON

@WFPGuatemala

@WFPGuatemala

Contact Info: aitor.serranobellart@wfp.org
Country Director: Andrew Stanhope