



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Guatemala

Country Brief

June 2022



Operational Context

Guatemala is a multicultural country with 40 percent of inhabitants being indigenous Mayan. Despite its middle-income status, two-thirds of its population lives on less than USD 2 per day, and among indigenous people, poverty averages 79 percent, with 40 percent living in extreme poverty, with the highest gender inequality index in the region. Highly correlated to poverty, stunting in children aged 6-59 months is among the highest in the world and the highest in the region.

WFP assistance in Guatemala aims at achieving a sustainable improvement in food security and nutrition of the most vulnerable people. It is aligned to the National Plan, "K'atun: Our Guatemala 2032", and the government's national plan to attain progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

As Guatemala is among the ten countries in the world most vulnerable to climate change and most exposed to natural hazards in the region, WFP supports the national response to drought-affected smallholder farmers to help them cope with the lean and hurricane seasons, while restoring their livelihoods.

WFP has been present in Guatemala since 1984, and is currently in the process of opening three field offices.



Population: **17.7 million**

2019 Human Development Index: **127 out of 189**

Income Level: **Middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **46.5% of children between 6-59 months**

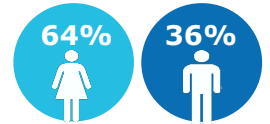
In Numbers

USD 600,445 cash-based transfers made

USD 14.1 m six months (July – December 2022) net funding requirements, representing 43% of total

28,025 people assisted* in June 2022

*Preliminary figures



Operational Updates

- To assist populations unable to recover from past crises, WFP carried out participatory planning sessions to design early recovery activities. As part of its immediate response to those affected by the lean season and recent flooding, WFP delivered cash-based transfers (CBT), to 8,000 beneficiaries (50 percent women and girls) in three departments.
- WFP trained 3,000 beneficiaries and government workers on healthy nutrition practices and governance in food security and nutrition across six departments.
- In support of the Government's social and behavioural change communication strategy, WFP conducted a nutrition fair with national and international organizations in Huehuetenango. To support the national communication strategy, WFP and UNICEF, trained staff from the Commissions for Food Security and Nutrition at the department and municipal levels on how to produce radio vignettes and donated recording equipment and megaphones. Furthermore, WFP trained 100 employees from the Ministry of Health on the use of Super Cereal Plus and supplied tools to obtain anthropometric measurements.
- As part of the Joint Programme linking family farming to the school feeding programme with the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the Food and Agriculture Organization, 89 students, school staff and parents' associations took part in nine workshops on nutrition and school gardens management.
- WFP will implement a new multi-year project (2022-2026) to contribute to strengthening adaptive capacity to climate change and enhancing livelihoods resilience for sustainable rural development in Quiché.
- Under resilience activities, WFP trained 5,000 beneficiaries in five departments on income diversification, savings and credit, and gender. To complement the internship programme targeting young Guatemalans, WFP trained 80 youth beneficiaries on gender and nutrition.

Contact info: Giulia Cardani (giulia.cardani@wfp.org)

Country Director: Tania Goossens

Further information: [WFP Guatemala](https://www.wfp.org/guatemala)

Country Strategic Plan (2021-2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
206.8 m	93.2 m	14.1 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome #1:

Crisis-affected populations 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.

- WFP also delivered conditional CBT to 12,000 beneficiaries (50 percent women and girls). Under Risk Financing, a workshop on forecast based financing was organized for national stakeholders including the Guatemalan Red Cross, National Institute for Seismology, Vulcanology, Meteorology and Hydrology, and the Ministry of Agriculture. Cooperating partners were trained on financial policies and climate services such as smart agriculture tools and remote sensing satellite weather data. In three departments, 200 pluviometers were installed, and beneficiaries were trained on automated data recording.
- Under emergency preparedness, WFP co-organized a workshop with the Logistics Working Group to identify synergies and improve coordination among national and international stakeholders working in emergency preparedness and response.

Monitoring

- Following the latest Integrated Context Analysis (ICA), WFP hosted a workshop with government institutions and international organizations to share ICA's methodology and the final report with the aim of promoting programme design based on contextualized data. The ICA identifies vulnerable territories where it is necessary to strengthen social safety net programmes, emergency preparedness and early warning mechanisms.
- WFP conducted a Post Distribution Monitoring analysis to identify the impact its programmes have had in terms of building resilience in communities vulnerable to food insecurity and climate shocks.

Challenges

- As a result of the food crisis and in the context of the hurricane season, WFP foresees a potential deviation of flexible resources currently being allocated to resilience activities to assist the growing number of food insecure populations.
- WFP is taking measures to mitigate the impact of delayed arrival of maritime cargo.
- Due to competing priorities, mobilizing resources with traditional donors have become more challenging. Thus, WFP is looking to engage with International Financial Institutions and the private sector.

Donors

Canada, European Union, Germany, Guatemala, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, Republic of Korea, Spain, Switzerland, United States of America, and private donors.

Additional support is provided by the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund.