

# HUMANITARIAN NEEDS OVERVIEW

GUATEMALA

HUMANITARIAN  
PROGRAMME CYCLE

2023

DECEMBER 2022



# About this Document

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This document is consolidated by OCHA on behalf of the Humanitarian Country Teams and partners. It provides a shared understanding of the crisis, including the most pressing humanitarian need and the estimated number of people who need assistance. It represents a consolidated evidence base and helps inform joint strategic response planning.

## PHOTO ON COVER

Photo: OCHA / Vincent Tremeau.

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# Summary of Humanitarian Needs and Key Findings


## Current figures

PEOPLE IN NEED	2020 – 2022 TREND	WOMEN	CHILDREN UNDER AGE 5	PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
5M		52%	26%	10%





## Current Severity of Needs Level

MINIMAL	STRESS	SEVERE	EXTREME	CATASTROPHIC
---	21%	70%	9%	---

### People with disabilities

POPULATION GROUP	PEOPLE IN NEED
People with disabilities	521k 

### By Age

AGE	PEOPLE IN NEED	% PIN
Children under age 5	1,327,702 	26.55%
Children and adolescents ages 5 to 17	824,548 	16.49%
Population ages 17 and 69	2,696,093 	53.92%
People above the age of 70	170,829 	3.41%



## Context, Shocks and the Impact of Crises

In 2022, the humanitarian needs of vulnerable people in Guatemala were influenced by the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and by the economic impacts of the war between Russia and Ukraine. Both factors have substantially impacted livelihoods throughout the country, with rising prices in food, fuel (including domestic propane gas) and fertilizers which are hampering full recovery.

Since the previous Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) in 2021, Guatemala has undergone changes in the political, legal, institutional, security and governance landscape. It also experienced new extreme weather events.

Guatemala is preparing for the upcoming 2023 elections for president, vice-president, congress and the Central American Parliament, mayors and municipal corporations. The call for general elections will be made in January. The first round will be held in June and the second round for the presidential election, if required, in August.

In the area of protection, progress has been made in consolidating the organizational structure and regulatory instruments within the Guatemalan Migration Institute (IGM for its acronym in Spanish). The new migration system consists of the National Migration Authority, headed by the Vice-President of the Republic. The Council for Protection and Care (CAP for its acronym in Spanish), chaired by the IGM and composed of 11 Ministries and Secretariats, has a Work Plan until 2023 and several regulations and ordinances have been ratified to facilitate operations within the migration authority.

Violence, in various forms, continues to impact the population, with women, girls and adolescents disproportionately affected. Cases of femicide and missing women have increased.

In 2022, the most relevant shocks that generated humanitarian needs were food and nutritional insecurity, human mobility and disasters resulting from hydro-meteorological events.

Food and nutrition needs are at a historical high: some 4.6 million people are food insecure and in need of immediate assistance - mainly subsistence and semi-subsistence agriculture households and households with minimal or no income. Some 1.9 million people have humanitarian needs related to acute malnutrition, including children under five, women of childbearing age and pregnant women, elderly people and people with disabilities.

One out of two children (46.5 per cent) suffer from chronic malnutrition. Guatemala ranks first in Latin America and sixth in the world in cases of child malnutrition.

Guatemala is also a country of origin, transit, destination and return of people, including refugees and asylum seekers, returnees and people in transit, many of them with specific protection needs. The number of Guatemalan returnees has doubled from 19,000 in the first five months of 2021 to 41,000 in the same period in 2022, increasing protection risks and needs.

During the preparation of this HNO, Tropical Storms Julia and Lisa impacted areas already affected by Hurricanes Eta and Iota in 2020. Statistics from the National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction (CONRED) for the 2022 rainy season show 6.1 million people affected, 67 people dead, 14,000 people in shelters and more than 25,000 houses damaged, as well as damages to roads, bridges, schools and health centres.

Furthermore, during emergencies, the availability of health services needs to be reinforced, as well as access to water, hygiene and sanitation in quality and quantity, safe spaces that provide food for the student population and support and care services for women, girls and adolescent victims of violence, among others.

## Scope of Analysis

The humanitarian needs analysis included the entire population (17.3 million people) living in Guatemala's 22 departments and 340 municipalities. The results indicate that 6.4 million people are vulnerable, and 5 million people have humanitarian needs (PiN).

The areas with the highest rates of acute malnutrition include the eastern region (Chiquimula, Santa Rosa, Santa Rosa and Jalapa), a strip of the western region (Alta Verapaz, Quiche, Huehuetenango and San Marcos) and a sector on the Pacific coast (Escuintla and Suchitepéquez), as well as Izabal (Caribbean) and the northern department of Peten. These regions have a large portion of indigenous and ethnic population - Xinca, Chorti, Maya and Garifuna - and coincide with the food insecurity belts with communities and families in Food Crisis or Food Emergency (Phases 3 and 4 of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification - IPC) in Izabal, Alta Verapaz, Quiche, Huehuetenango, Totonicapan and Peten.

Protection risks for populations in human mobility and for women, girls and adolescents, who suffer different types of violence, do not show such a marked trend

regarding geographic location. While there is a high concentration of these risks in municipalities in the northern zone (Izabal, Peten, Alta Verapaz, Quiche and Huehuetenango), there are also municipalities with high levels of severity in the rest of the country.

The principle of Do No Harm, in connection with the promotion of a Zero Tolerance Policy towards Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA)<sup>1</sup>, will be promoted in all sectors' planning and response stages. This is to ensure the mainstreaming of protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and the implementation of prevention and response actions against SEA, such as safe and accessible reporting mechanisms for communities, quality assistance to victims and survivors, accountability and investigations<sup>2</sup>.

## Humanitarian Conditions, Severity and People in Need

Guatemala is experiencing a complex humanitarian crisis generated by overlapping shocks and impacts - both sudden and slow-onset, short- and long-term - affecting almost a third of the population. The number of people with humanitarian needs in each of the sectors is the following:

BY SECTOR	PIN 2021	PIN 2022*	TREND
Food Security and Nutrition	3.4M	4.6M	▲
Protection, including GBV and Child Protection	1.7M	2.6M	▲
Nutrition	2.3M	1.7M	▼
Health	930K	735K	▼
WASH	1.1M	1M	▼
Temporary Shelter	254K	314K	▲
Emergency Education	178K	302K	▲
Early Recovery	1.1M	95K	▼

\*PIN estimation based on the intersectoral result of the JIAF (Joint Intersectoral Analysis Framework).

1 <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N06/673/50/PDF/N0667350.pdf?OpenElement>

2 <https://psea.interagencystandingcommittee.org/sites/default/files/2020-08/IASC-Plan-for-Accelerating-PSEA-in-Humanitarian-Response.pdf>

## Anticipated Developments in 2023

The number of people in humanitarian need increased from 3.8 million in 2021 to 5 million in 2022. The most dramatic increases were in the Food Security and Protection sectors. It is expected that the conditions negatively affecting food security will not improve significantly, and the needs will remain the same over the next year. Regarding the human mobility crisis, data shows that the number of returnees from Mexico and the United States is increasing compared to previous years and this trend is expected to continue. National and international protection needs should also increase.



GUARAQUICHE, DEPARTMENT OF CHIQUIMULA, GUATEMALA

Photo: OCHA/Vincent Treméau



# Estimated number of people in need

## TOTAL POPULATION

17.3M



## PEOPLE IN NEED

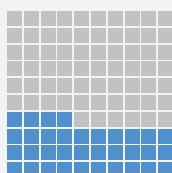
5M



### BY SECTOR

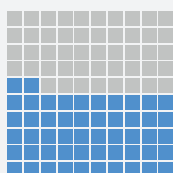
#### NUTRITION

1.7M



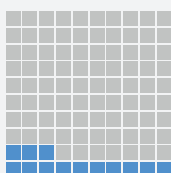
#### PROTECTION

2.6M



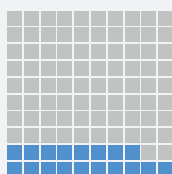
#### CHILD PROTECTION

643.6K



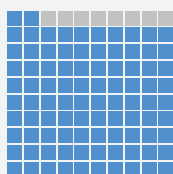
#### GBV

887.2K



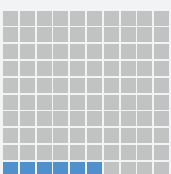
#### FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

4.6M



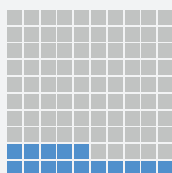
#### TEMPORARY SHELTER

314K



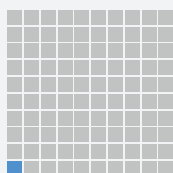
#### HEALTH

735K



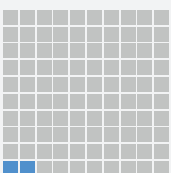
#### SRH

31.13K



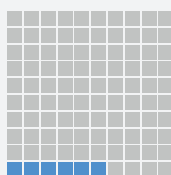
#### EARLY RECOVERY

95K



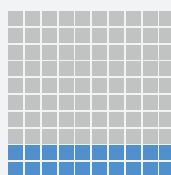
#### EMERGENCY EDUCATION

302K



#### WASH

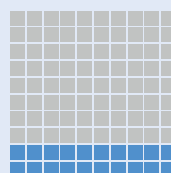
1M



### BY AGE AND GENDER

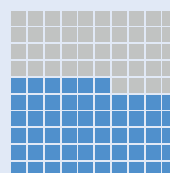
#### CHILDREN 0-17 YEARS

1.98M



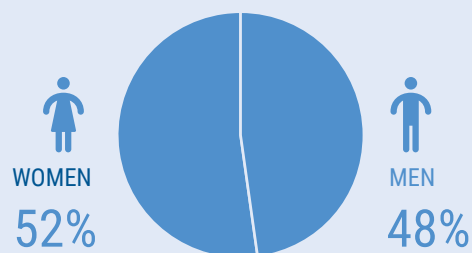
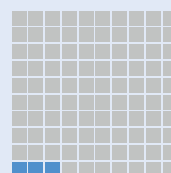
#### ADULTS (18-59 YEARS)

2.8M

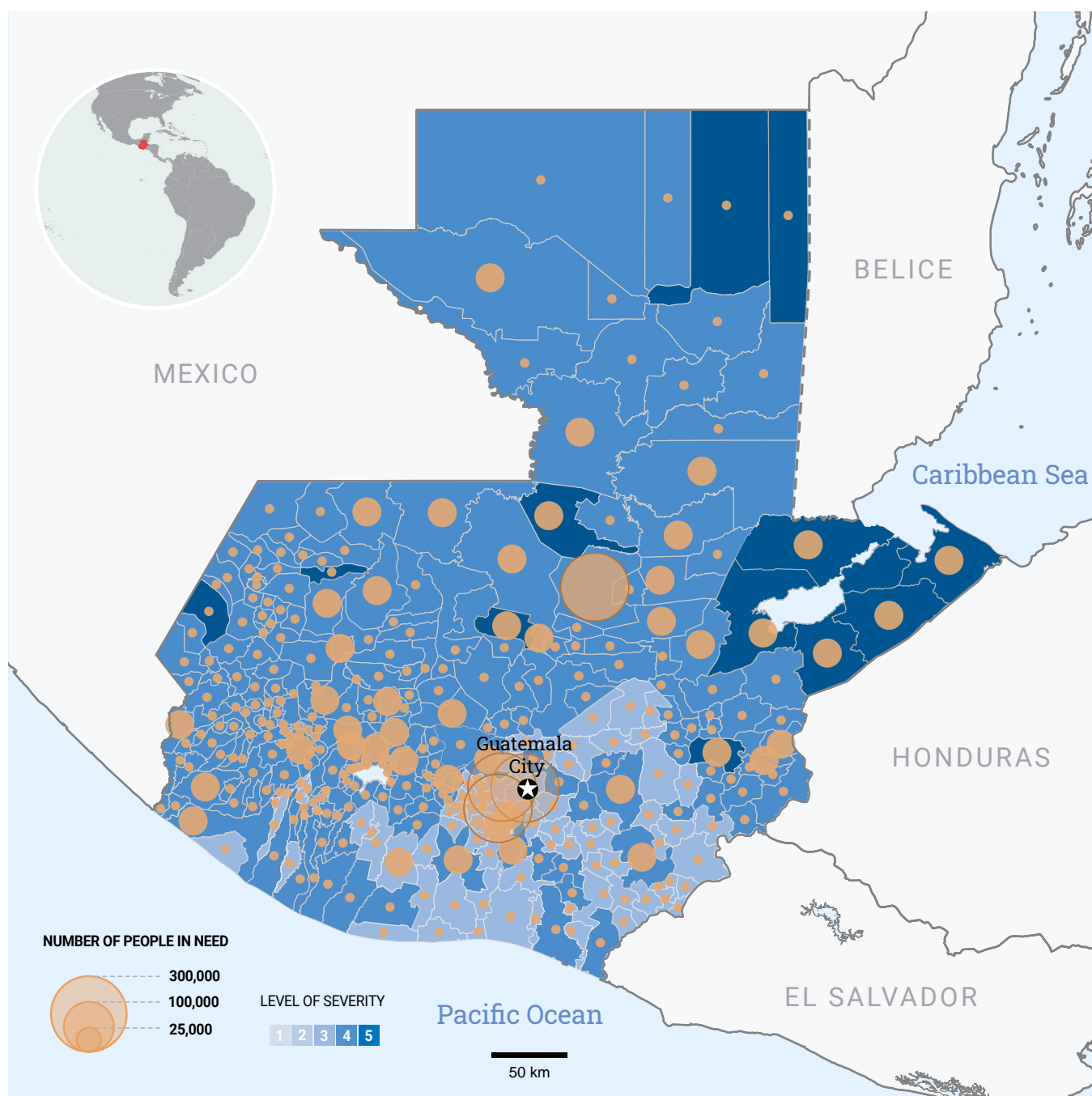


#### ELDERLY MEN AND WOMEN (>60 YEARS)

171K



## Severity of Humanitarian Conditions and Number of People in Need



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## Severity of Humanitarian Conditions and Number of People in Need

### Food Security And Nutrition

PEOPLE IN NEED	4,6M				
SEVERITY	SEV 1	SEV 2	SEV 3	SEV 4	SEV 5
	0	2.051.337	2.549.651	0	0
NUMBER BY AGE AND GENDER	MEN	WOMEN	BOYS UNDER 5 YEARS OF AGE	GIRLS UNDER 5 YEARS OF AGE	
	2.2M	2.4M	892K	854K	
	48%	52%	19%	19%	

### Protection, including GBV and Child Protection

PEOPLE IN NEED	2,6M				
SEVERITY	SEV 1	SEV 2	SEV 3	SEV 4	SEV 5
	1.154	120.871	1.271.428	1.163.445	29.320
NUMBER BY AGE AND GENDER	MEN	WOMEN	BOYS UNDER 5 YEARS OF AGE	GIRLS UNDER 5 YEARS OF AGE	
	1.2M	1.4M	511K	492K	
	48%	52%	19%	19%	

### Nutrition

PEOPLE IN NEED	1,7M				
SEVERITY	SEV 1	SEV 2	SEV 3	SEV 4	SEV 5
	348.361	851.893	301.209	154.307	26.120
NUMBER BY AGE AND GENDER	MEN	WOMEN	BOYS UNDER 5 YEARS OF AGE	GIRLS UNDER 5 YEARS OF AGE	
	816K	884K	816K	884K	
	48%	52%	48%	52%	

### WASH

PEOPLE IN NEED	1M				
SEVERITY	SEV 1	SEV 2	SEV 3	SEV 4	SEV 5
	0	131.739	108.610	128.096	722.812
NUMBER BY AGE AND GENDER	MEN	WOMEN	BOYS UNDER 5 YEARS OF AGE	GIRLS UNDER 5 YEARS OF AGE	
	524K	567 K	226K	217K	
	48%	52%	23%	22%	

### Health

PEOPLE IN NEED	735k				
SEVERITY	SEV 1	SEV 2	SEV 3	SEV 4	SEV 5
	4.567	137.215	593.754	0	0
NUMBER BY AGE AND GENDER	MEN	WOMEN	CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS	CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS	
	353K	382K	148K	143K	
	48%	52%	20%	18%	



## Temporary Shelter

PEOPLE IN NEED	314K				
SEVERITY	SEV 1	SEV 2	SEV 3	SEV 4	SEV 5
	7.365	21.276	57.817	79.972	147.616
NUMBER BY AGE AND GENDER	MEN	WOMEN	BOYS UNDER 5 YEARS OF AGE	GIRLS UNDER 5 YEARS OF AGE	
	151M	163K	59K	57k	
	48%	52%	19%	18%	

## Emergency Education

PEOPLE IN NEED	302K				
SEVERITY	SEV 1	SEV 2	SEV 3	SEV 4	SEV 5
	0	123.881	169.732	8.938	0
NUMBER BY AGE AND GENDER	BOYS AND ADOLESCENTS	GIRLS AND ADOLESCENTS			
	145k	157k			
	48%	52%			

## Early Recovery

PEOPLE IN NEED	95K				
SEVERITY	SEV 1	SEV 2	SEV 3	SEV 4	SEV 5
	0	0	95k	0	0
NUMBER BY AGE AND GENDER	MEN	WOMEN	BOYS UNDER 5 YEARS OF AGE	GIRLS UNDER 5 YEARS OF AGE	
	46k	49k	16k	15K	
	48%	52%	17%	16%	

Part 1:

# Impact of the Crisis and Humanitarian Conditions

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GUARAQUICHE, DEPARTMENT OF CHIQUIMULA, GUATEMALA

Photo: OCHA/Vincent Tremeau



## 1.1

## Context of the Crises

### Political Scenario

In 2022, a pre-election year ahead of the general elections in June 2023, important public officials were appointed in Guatemala (new Attorney General, Human Rights Ombudsman, the Rector of the San Carlos University and Comptroller General of Accounts), which affected the country's political context, increasingly permeated by pre-electoral dynamics. Past experiences show that electoral dynamics exacerbate historical conflicts in the country. This political environment requires a change in dynamics when working with institutions, communities, local authorities and civil society.

Food and nutrition security is a critical issue in Guatemala. The Government's General Policy 2020-2024<sup>3</sup> seeks to promote food and nutrition security and food production for self-consumption and subsistence in priority areas such as the Dry Corridor. In addition, the Great National Crusade for Nutrition<sup>4</sup> unites all sectors of the country to improve the nutrition of families, with emphasis on the poorest and most marginalised.

### Socio-economic Profile

Guatemala's economy is influenced by the impact of the pandemic and the global effects of the Ukraine-Russia conflict.

While Guatemala was one of the Latin American countries with the best macroeconomic performance during the pandemic (2020-2021), people living in poverty and women still struggle to recover their previous income and working conditions.<sup>5</sup> In 2021, Guatemala dropped in the Human Development Index for the second year in a row, falling to levels not seen since 2013.<sup>6</sup>

The war in Ukraine has led to increases in fuel, food and fertiliser prices, affecting food security and the purchasing power of the most vulnerable groups.

The increase in basic grain prices reached the highest in the last 15 years and is expected to continue in 2023 amid rising inflation. The prices of maize, beans and rice increased by 22 to 30 per cent in the last year. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is considerably higher in areas with higher poverty rates such as Las Verapaces, Huehuetenango and Quiché, widening the needs gap even further. Guatemala has the most expensive Basic Food Basket (BFB) in Latin America, approximately \$425 as of July 2022.<sup>7</sup>

The price of regular gasoline and diesel increased from US\$3.41 in 2021 to \$5.05 in mid-2022. The price of liquefied petroleum gas rose by 15 per cent in the same period (44 per cent of Guatemalan households use this fuel for cooking).<sup>8</sup>

3 Government of Guatemala, 2020. Política General de Gobierno 2020 - 2024. <https://www.segeplan.gob.gt/nportal/index.php/biblioteca-documental/library-documents/file/1474-pgg-2020>

4 Government of Guatemala, 2020. Gran Cruzada Nacional por la Nutrición. <https://totonicaplan.sidesan.org.gt/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Gran-Cruzada-Nacional-por-la-Nutricion.pdf>

5 UNDP, 2022. "Challenges and opportunities for Guatemala: towards an agenda for the future. La celeridad del cambio, una mirada territorial del desarrollo humano 2002 - 2019". <https://www.undp.org/es/guatemala/publications/informe-nacional-de-desarrollo-humano-desafios-y-oportunidades-para-guatemala-hacia-una-agenda-de-futuro-la-celeridad-del>

6 UNDP, 2022. Human Development Index 2022 <https://hdr.undp.org/data-center/specific-country-data#/countries/GTM>

7 [2] ENEI 1-2021. <https://www.ine.gob.gt/ine/tablero-enei/>

8 Census 2018



The price of fertilisers and agricultural supplies has also increased. The cost of producing 0.7 hectares of rice has risen from \$455 to \$1,040 and the cost of a bag of urea fertiliser has risen from \$32 six months ago to \$64 at present.<sup>9</sup>

Furthermore, around 70 per cent of the population works in the informal economy<sup>10</sup> (38 per cent women) with low wages, precarious employment and marked differences between urban and rural areas.

These factors have led to protests and social unrest. Between 39 and 72 per cent of citizens perceive that the cost of living is much higher than it was four months ago has increased significantly between January 2021 and May 2022. This perception is higher among women.

Remittances sent by Guatemalan migrants from the United States continue a historic growth since the third quarter of 2020, representing 17.8 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2021 and are expected to increase further in 2022. Between January and August 2022, remittances increased by 21 per cent over the same period in 2021.<sup>11</sup>

## Cultural Elements

Guatemala is a multicultural country, with 41.7 per cent Mayan, 1.8 per cent Xinca and 0.3 per cent Garifuna, Afro-descendant, Creole/Afro mestizo populations (National Statistics Institute, Instituto Nacional de Estadística, INE 2018). There are some 25 indigenous languages. Populations in the departments most affected by recent disasters and humanitarian crises (Izabal, Quiché, Huehuetenango, Peten, Zacapa, Chiquimula and Alta Verapaz) share characteristics of rurality, indigenous population, low-income levels and the highest poverty rates, above the national average.

## Gender Inequality

Women and girls in Guatemala experience additional barriers to accessing differentiated and quality services. According to UN Women and CARE's 2021 Rapid Gender Analysis, women continue to be affected by the loss of social, economic and political autonomy. For them, unpaid family care work and reproductive labour have increased by up to 17.8 per cent, deepening gender inequalities in access to paid work, social protection and income-generating opportunities, jeopardising progress on their development agenda.

Of the country's nine million women, only 2.3 million are working or looking for work.<sup>12</sup> This participation (36.9 per cent) is significantly lower than that of men (84.3 per cent). In 2021, the median income for men was \$316 and for women \$232.<sup>13</sup>

## Demographic Overview

Guatemala has a population of 17,357,886 inhabitants<sup>14</sup> (49.2 per cent male and 50.8 per cent female). The population is relatively young (61 per cent are between 15 and 64 years old). Life expectancy has increased, currently at 72 years for men and 77 years for women.<sup>15</sup>

More than 50 per cent of the population lives in large and medium-sized cities. In Guatemala's metropolitan area, some 600,000 people live in slums that are vulnerable to earthquakes, landslides and floods.<sup>16</sup>

Forty-four per cent of people self-identify as indigenous. Development indicators for these groups, especially for women, are below national averages.

<sup>9</sup> Guatemalan Rice Association (ArrozGua)

<sup>10</sup> ENEI 1-2021. <https://www.ine.gob.gt/ine/tablero-enei/>

<sup>11</sup> BANGUAT, 2022. <http://www.banguat.gob.gt/es/page/anos-2002-2022>

<sup>12</sup> Labour Market Observatory of the General Directorate of Employment of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security.

<sup>13</sup> National Survey of Employment and Income 2021

<sup>14</sup> National Institute of Statistics (INE). National Projections 1950-2050. <https://www.ine.gob.gt/ine/proyecciones/>

<sup>15</sup> World Bank. Life expectancy at birth, Guatemala. <https://datos.bancomundial.org/indicador/SP.DYN.LE00.IN?locations=GT>

<sup>16</sup> <https://guatemala.techo.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/2022/02/Censo-de-Asentamientos-2021-TECHO-Guatemala.pdf>

## Human Mobility

Guatemala is a country of origin, transit, destination and return of persons, including refugees and asylum seekers, returnees and persons in transit, many of them with specific protection needs.

According to UNHCR,<sup>17</sup> there are more than 160,000 Guatemalan applicants for refugee status in the world, making it the sixth nationality with the most pending applications. In the US, Guatemalans account for 12 per cent of asylum seekers.

On the other hand, as of June 2022, Guatemala had registered 634 refugees and 1,601 asylum seekers<sup>18</sup> who still face barriers in accessing personal documentation, housing and social protection programmes.

Since January 2021, US Customs and Border Protection has detained more than 870,000 people from Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua who had crossed international borders to escape rising levels of violence and seeking to meet their basic needs.

Since 2021, 63,000 Guatemalans have returned by air and 143,000 by land from the US and Mexico.<sup>19</sup> The number of Guatemalan returnees has doubled from 19,000 in the first five months of 2021 to 41,000 in the same period in 2022.<sup>20</sup>

According to the 2018 Census, most Guatemalans in a situation of human mobility are young men, however, in recent years, there has been an increase in the number of young women. Between 2002 and 2016, the majority were between 20-24 years old and in 2017 and 2018 the majority were women between 15 and 19 years old.

The new 2016 Migration Code guarantees equality in living conditions, access to public services of security, health, education and work throughout the country, housing and other services needed to fulfil their needs.

## Violence and the Security Environment

The population in Guatemala is exposed to different forms of violence, including transnational and local organised crime, territorial disputes and high levels of gender-based violence (GBV).

Territorial disputes led the government to declare a state of siege in two regions of the western highlands: in the municipalities of Nahuuala and Santa Catarina Ixtahuacan (Solola), due to an armed confrontation that resulted in 13 deaths (December 2021) and in the municipalities of Tajumulco and Ixchiguan (San Marcos) due to violence between security forces and local groups (June 2022).

## Gender-Based Violence

Despite a strong legal framework and specialised agencies to address violence against women, challenges persist in the provision of essential services for survivors of violence (weak multi-sectoral coordination and response, scarce resources, low level of decentralisation, and low ethnic, cultural and linguistic relevance in the provision of these services). In addition, impunity levels are high: only five per cent of reports of violence against women are sanctioned (INE 2019).

GBV is an alarming problem, especially in the most disadvantaged population groups (indigenous women, people on the move and people with disabilities). GBV has been perpetuated as a social norm and a tool for subordination and control of the lives and bodies of women, girls and adolescents.

Women and girls are exposed to different forms of GBV: domestic violence, sexual harassment, sexual violence, early pregnancy or trafficking of women and girls from ethnic or religious minorities.

According to official birth data published by INE in 2020, at least 1,578 girls under the age of 15 and

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics>

<sup>18</sup> UNHCR, according to data from the Guatemalan Migration Institute

<sup>19</sup> Ibid

<sup>20</sup> IGM, 2022. <https://igm.gob.gt/consolidado-de-guatemaltecos-retornados-2018-2021/>

60,410 adolescents aged 15-19 were mothers. In addition to being a violation of the human rights of children and adolescents, early and forced child marriages and unions deepen gender inequalities.

## Infrastructure

Public investment in infrastructure (less than one per cent of GDP) is one of the lowest in Latin America, impacting the poorest households (IMF 2017). While electricity reaches 88.14 per cent of the territory,<sup>21</sup> the departments of Quiché, Izabal, Baja Verapaz, Peten and Alta Verapaz are below the national average of 80 per cent. Alta Verapaz, Peten and Baja Verapaz show the lowest rates (50, 72 and 77 per cent). This lower percentage of coverage is linked to social conflict and ungovernability in opposition to hydroelectric projects.

The General Road Infrastructure Law is currently under discussion in Congress to expand the road network from the current 17,440 kilometres to 37,951 kilometres. This will improve road infrastructure coverage and will increase the country's competitiveness and productivity.<sup>22</sup>

## Environmental Profile

In Guatemala, environmental deterioration is contributing to the recurrence and magnitude of potentially negative natural phenomena: deforestation, water infiltration in soil accelerating landslides, forest fires that damage the soil and generate landslides during the rainy season, and wastes in streams and bodies of water that generate floods and river overflows and block sewage systems in urban and peri-urban areas. The excessive change in land use for housing construction, industrial and intensive agricultural zones without adequate territorial planning is altering ecosystems and unbalancing the country's delicate natural dynamics. These underlying factors contribute to the occurrence of disasters, conflict and environmental degradation. While drafting this HNO,

Tropical Storms Julia and Lisa impacted areas that had already been affected by Hurricanes Eta and Iota in 2020. The National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction (CONRED) statistics for the 2022 rainy season show 6.1 million people affected, 67 deaths, 14,000 people in shelters and more than 25,000 houses damaged, as well as impacts in roads, bridges, schools and health centres.

Climate change presupposes a new dynamic in terms of vulnerabilities and risks. According to expert projections, natural phenomena, mainly meteorological, will become increasingly extreme and recurrent.<sup>23</sup> Drought and crop losses in the Dry Corridor area will continue and tropical storms, hurricanes and rains are increasing in intensity and affect the country every year. In 2020, historical records were set for the occurrence and severity of hurricanes in the Caribbean. Overall, the main climate change indicators are increasing in Guatemala.

CONRED estimates that between 2008 and 2022 there were 14 extreme events that caused 13,363 incidents, with 11.5 million people affected, 425 deaths, as well as damage to 44,781 homes, 3,094 stretches of road and 2,478 schools.<sup>24</sup>

## Social Protection Systems and Access to Services

Social protection in Guatemala has made significant progress in the last two decades. Conditional cash transfers serve the population in vulnerable conditions to access health and education services, among others. In response to the socio-economic aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and the 2021 hurricane season, the government implemented temporary cash transfers such as the "Bono Familia" (Family Voucher), stipends for actions and food assistance.

21 <https://mem.gob.gt/que-hacemos/area-energetica/electrificacion-rural/informacion-general-er/>

22 <https://www.fundesa.org.gt/comisiones/fortalecimiento-institucional/ley-general-de-infraestructura-vial>

23 Environmental Defense Fund and United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), among others.

24 <https://reliefweb.int/report/guatemala/el-antes-durante-y-despues-de-la-gestion-de-desastres-en-guatemala> and supplemented with statistics 2021-2022





GUARAQUICHE, DEPARTMENT OF CHIQUIMULA, GUATEMALA

Photo: OCHA/Vincent Tremeau

## 1.2

# Shocks and Impacts of the Crisis

### Food and Nutrition Insecurity

#### Malnutrition

Children in Guatemala are facing a grave rate of malnutrition - 46.5 per cent of children suffer from chronic malnutrition (one in two). Guatemala ranks first in Latin America and sixth in the world in cases of child malnutrition. The main causes of infant mortality are pneumonia and acute diarrhoeal diseases and 54 per cent of these diseases are associated with some degree of malnutrition.

Malnutrition perpetuates the cycle of poverty and encourages school dropout as it decreases the ability to concentrate due to poor brain development. It is estimated that Guatemala loses more than \$3 billion annually due to malnutrition as children who suffer from it see their futures and opportunities for education or employment cut short.<sup>25</sup>

According to the National Food and Nutrition Security Information System (SIINSAN for its acronym in Spanish), in epidemiological week 36 (4-10 September 2022), 15,566 cases of acute malnutrition in children under five years of age and 32 deaths were reported.<sup>26</sup> In the same period in 2020 and 2021, 19,615 and 16,721 cases were reported respectively (50 deaths in 2020 and 61 in 2021). In other words, on average every day, 55 children in Guatemala experience acute malnutrition, exponentially increasing the likelihood of death.

#### Food Security

The COVID-19 pandemic, the Ukraine-Russia conflict, cumulative drought, crop failures and socio-environmental shocks have affected livelihoods and

food production and led to a significant deterioration in food security. In 2022, the number of people in need of food assistance in Guatemala rose to 4.6 million for the period between June to September and this figure is expected to remain for 2023.<sup>27</sup>

The cost of the Basic Food Basket, the most expensive in Latin America, has increased from 3.5 per cent in March 2021 to 6.4 per cent in the same month in 2022, which would affect access to food consumption mainly for populations that depend on purchasing food and already report limited market access due to lack of money.

Among the most affected populations are smallholder and subsistence farmers, whose reserves have been depleted and their investment capacity for the next harvest season diminished by the high cost of supplies, fertilisers and fuel. Small-scale farmers are unable to purchase fertilisers and agricultural supplies due to the high costs and therefore continue to obtain low yields in their basic grain harvests. Communities in Chiquimula, affected by food insecurity in the Dry Corridor, reported that they were not able to achieve a favourable harvest in 2022 due to the high price of fertilisers.

Small informal merchants have also found it difficult to sell their products due to the increase in fuel prices and transport costs.

The increase in fuel prices has also led to higher food and raw material prices and reduced sources of employment, forcing many households to use crisis and emergency response strategies to address food

25 UNICEF <https://www.unicef.es/noticia/en-guatemala-el-498-de-los-ninos-sufre-desnutricion-cronica-maria-claudia-santizo-oficial>

26 <https://portal.siinsan.gob.gt/desnutricion-aguda>

27 SESAN, PROGRESAN/SICA, 2022. Report of the IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis, Guatemala. March 2022 - February 2023. [https://www.sica.int/documentos/informe-del-analisis-de-inseguridad-alimentaria-aguda-de-la-cif-guatemala-marzo-2022-febrero-2023\\_1\\_130111.html](https://www.sica.int/documentos/informe-del-analisis-de-inseguridad-alimentaria-aguda-de-la-cif-guatemala-marzo-2022-febrero-2023_1_130111.html)



shortages, such as selling assets (domestic animals, work tools) and using their meagre savings.

The World Food Programme's Food Security Survey (WFP 2022) highlights that:

- Twenty eight per cent of the population report limited and deficient food consumption. Foods high in protein, vitamin A and iron are consumed only once or twice a week. There is a national average gap of 14 per cent in the consumption of foods rich in vitamin A and protein, to the detriment of the indigenous population compared to the non-indigenous population, which compromises children's intellectual development and immune system. Eighteen per cent of breastfeeding and pregnant women reported not having consumed iron-rich foods.
- Food consumption is closely linked to household income. At the national level, the average monthly income of men and women was \$190 and \$130 respectively, putting women at a disadvantage in terms of access to the labour market, obtaining lower wages and performing household chores that constitute hours of unpaid work. The average household income (\$170) is not enough to cover the BFB, which was estimated at \$425 in July 2022 (INE).
- Eighty-one per cent of households are in one of the food insecurity categories - higher in rural areas (83.15 per cent) than in urban areas (74.4 per cent) - higher among the indigenous population (86 per cent) compared to the non-indigenous population (77 per cent) and higher in households where the decision-makers have a primary level of education (82 per cent) compared to those with a basic level of education (76 per cent).

### **Rainy Season and its Impact on Food Security**

The torrential rains in 2021 and 2022 affected 7.6 million people (44 per cent of the population), including 103 deaths, 58 people injured, 78,877 evacuated and 14,757 people in shelters. It has also been reported that 36,236 houses were affected, of which 1,775 suffered severe damage.<sup>28</sup>

Some national roads that serve as access to the metropolitan area suffered collapses and sinkholes that limited the passage of commercial and private transport. The hole that formed at kilometre 15.5 of the Pacific highway, in the jurisdiction of Villa Nueva, seriously affected traffic accessing the capital from the south.

The rains also damaged and destroyed crops and harvests that form a critical part of the livelihoods of many families already facing economic hardship due to the COVID pandemic.

Guatemala has lost an estimated 119,913 hectares of crops, affecting the livelihoods and food security of 267,000 families due to tropical storms.

In early October, Hurricane Julia hit Guatemala. The Council of Ministers declared a 30-day state of calamity to safeguard the lives of the population. Due to the rainy season, the territory already had a high percentage of humidity in the soil when the rains from Hurricane Julia drenched the country causing flooding, landslides and damage to roads and bridges. As of 11 October, there were

606,184 people affected and more than 6,000 people in shelters. The most affected departments are Izabal, Alta Verapaz, Huehuetenango, Quiché, Peten, Zacapa and Suchitepequez. Some of the areas were the same previously affected by Hurricanes Eta and Iota in 2020.

Hurricane Julia has also affected some 153 schools, mostly in the department of Izabal, and flooding has damaged crops in 268 municipalities, with 250 families and 147,000 hectares affected, in addition to losses in productive infrastructure in different departments.<sup>29</sup>

These impacts have deepened the vulnerabilities already caused or exacerbated by the aftermath of the pandemic, which already challenged production, livelihoods and access to food.

<sup>28</sup> CONRED Statistics. Rainy seasons 2021 and 2022

<sup>29</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/guatemala/guatemala-ciclon-tropical-julia-informe-de-situacion-no-01-al-11-de-octubre-2022>

Among the affected populations are people living in the Dry Corridor, already suffering from several years of intense droughts in 2014, 2015 and 2018. It is estimated that from October 2022 to February 2023 some 3.4 million people will be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and some 100,000 in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) – which means that one in five people in Guatemala will have critical limitation to access food.<sup>30</sup>

Agricultural and economic losses have disproportionately impacted women, particularly rural women producers, through total and/or partial loss of livelihoods and the reduction in income, access to financial services, and physical and socio-economic autonomy. The Rapid Gender Analysis shows that 50 per cent of the women surveyed were not certain that they would have food - either because they lost their grains and crops or had no money, which highlights the gender gaps in terms of food security. This situation may increase the control of affected territories by illegal groups and the associated violence and protection risks for the population, especially women and youth.

### Impact of Human Mobility

The period under review for the HNO has experienced an increase in the number of returns and people on the move (mixed movements).

The number of returnees from Mexico and the United States has doubled - between January and May 2022, 41,179 returnees were registered compared to 19,644 in the same period in 2021. The largest numbers of returnees live in the departments of Huehuetenango (4,944) and San Marcos (4,600).<sup>31</sup> Since 2021, 63,000 Guatemalans have returned by air and 143,000 by land from the US. and Mexico.<sup>32</sup>

Regarding children, almost 11,000 unaccompanied and separated children and adolescents have been returned from the United States and Mexico between January 2021 and May 2022 (IGM). In addition,

the Social Welfare Secretariat reports that 7,840 unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents were forcibly returned to Guatemala in 2021, 73.8 per cent more than in 2020. Fifty-nine per cent of these people identify as Mayan. The displacement of children and adolescents can be a negative coping mechanism to escape from situations of violence.

In 2021, Guatemala was the country with the third highest number of people on the move (mixed flows) in the region (311,814 people).

According to the results of the IOM Livelihoods Survey of Households Displaced by Storms in Alta Verapaz and Huehuetenango, 15 per cent of households surveyed had a member who had either migrated or attempted to migrate in the past five years.

People on the move face multiple protection risks in the country of origin, during transit and in the country of destination, associated with a lack of information and irregular movements, as well as discrimination and xenophobia.

Women, girls and LGBTIQ+ people on the move are at higher risk of sexual violence and other forms of GBV. Young men and boys have a high exposure to recruitment into organised crime.<sup>33</sup>

Children who are refugees, asylum seekers, in transit, deported and in need of protection face additional risks and vulnerabilities due to the irregular migratory situation of the family, lack of knowledge of political, economic and social dynamics, as well as the need for employment and economic resources within the family nucleus. Unaccompanied children and adolescents are more exposed to risks of sexual exploitation, labour exploitation and other forms of violence.

Other protection risks derive from situations of indebtedness that people face due to a lack of access to economic resources for their subsistence

30 SESAN, PROGRESA/SICA, 2022. Report of the IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis, Guatemala. March 2022 - February 2023.

[https://www.sica.int/documentos/informe-del-analisis-de-inseguridad-alimentaria-aguda-de-la-cif-guatemala-marzo-2022-febrero-2023\\_1\\_130111.html](https://www.sica.int/documentos/informe-del-analisis-de-inseguridad-alimentaria-aguda-de-la-cif-guatemala-marzo-2022-febrero-2023_1_130111.html)

31 IOM Guatemala <https://mic.iom.int/webntmi/guatemala-3/>

32 UNHCR, according to data from the Guatemalan Migration Institute.

33 [https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/Slavery/SR/ReportHRC48/States/Guatemala-es\\_1.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/Slavery/SR/ReportHRC48/States/Guatemala-es_1.pdf)



or resorting to human trafficking networks to cross borders. Likewise, severe mental and physical health problems are reported due to traumatic experiences during transit, family disintegration and the breakdown of the social fabric, as well as the increase in the informal economy to cover debts.

People on the move leave their communities and their families, leaving a vacuum at home and generating loss of contact, loss of labour force and psychological impact among families.

Migrant women are separated from their children, who are left under the responsibility of maternal grandmothers and/or in-laws. This involves providing for the daily sustenance of children from the destination country and generates pressures to send remittances to their family.<sup>34</sup>

### **Remaining Impacts of Hurricanes Eta and Iota**

The Rapid Gender Analysis of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and Hurricanes Eta and Iota shows that women were and continue to be affected by the loss of social, economic and political autonomy, increasing unpaid family care work and reproductive labour by up to 17.8 per cent. These impacts have deepened gender inequalities in access to paid work, health services, including sexual and reproductive health (SRH), education, labour participation, social protection and income-generating opportunities, jeopardising the gains made until a few years ago.

Women who lost their homes, household items and livelihoods due to the impact of adverse natural events find themselves in a scenario of overlapping crises. Humanitarian assistance actions undertaken to date in housing recovery are still far from being a timely response. Shelter recovery is a driving force for affected people to regain their security, privacy, livelihoods, reduce disease and improve their health and food security

### **Impacts of Violence on Women, Children and Adolescents**

According to the Women's Observatory of the Public Prosecutor's Office, in 2021 the crime of violence against women and children was the most committed crime in Guatemala. The rate of women victims of violent crimes was 728, 693 and 770 per 100,000 women in 2019, 2020 and 2021 respectively.<sup>35</sup>

As of June 2022, 42,878 complaints of violence against women and children have been registered (92,733 complaints in 2021).<sup>36</sup>

In 2021 there were 545 femicides (more than one woman per day).<sup>37</sup> According to the National Institute of Forensic Sciences (INACIF)<sup>38</sup>, femicide increased by 28.5 percent compared to 2020, with higher proportions among young women with no access to education and among indigenous women. The female-to-male homicide ratio has also increased from 30 per cent in 2019 to 39 per cent in 2021.

Disappearances have also increased, especially in the departments of Guatemala, Chimaltenango, Escuintla and Peten. The Public Prosecutor's Office reports 2,149 women missing in 2021. Of every 10 persons missing in 2021, six were women, a trend that continues in the period from January to April 2022.

### **Humanitarian Access**

The rains in 2021 and 2022 have caused many landslides that affected communities, road networks and other vital infrastructure. According to CONRED's Incident Database (SISMICEDE), 965 landslides, 76 mudflows in volcanic areas, 192 sinkholes and 146 landslides were reported.

Also affected were 783 stretches of road (11 destroyed), 40 bridges (5 destroyed), 37 schools, 10 sewage networks and five water pipelines networks.<sup>39</sup>

34 [https://guatemala.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pubpdf/Resumen%20ejecutivo%20Normalizaci%C3%B3n%20y%20silencio\\_0.pdf](https://guatemala.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pubpdf/Resumen%20ejecutivo%20Normalizaci%C3%B3n%20y%20silencio_0.pdf)

35 INFOSEGURA, UNDP and USAID, 2022. "Guatemala: violence against women throughout the life cycle". <https://infosegura.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/VCN-GUATEMALA2021-ESP.pdf>

36 Women's Observatory 2021

37 Public Prosecutor's Office

38 <https://www.inacif.gob.gt/index.php/datos-numericos/informacion-anual>

39 Analysis by Manuel Motta based on SISMICEDE data


As of 11 October 2022, in the aftermath of Hurricane Julia, 84 roads were damaged and some communities were cut off.

#### RETURNEES PER YEAR

2018	8,189	
2019	8,338	
2020	2,979	
2021	4,012	
2022 Al mes de agosto	7,051	






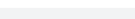
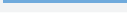
Source: IOM

#### RAINY SEASON BY YEAR, PEOPLE AFFECTED

2018	840,932	
2019	1M	
2020	4M	
2021	1.5M	
2022	6.1M	

Source: CONRED

#### CASES OF ACUTE MALNUTRITION

2016	13,418	
2017	12,430	
2018	12,382	
2019	15,395	
2020	27,913	
2021	22,040	
2022	20,806	

Source: SIINSAN

## 1.3

## Scope of Analysis

The humanitarian needs analysis covered the entire country with 22 departments and 340 municipalities and a population of 17.3 million people.<sup>40</sup> The results show three relevant shocks: food and nutrition insecurity, human mobility, the aftermath of Eta/Iota and impacts of rainy seasons in 2021 and 2022. The affected population reaches 6.4 million people and the total number of people in humanitarian need (PiN) is 5 million.

The areas with the highest rates of acute malnutrition include the eastern region (Chiquimula, Santa Rosa, and Jalapa), a strip of the western region (Alta Verapaz, Quiché, Huehuetenango and San Marcos) and a sector on the Pacific coast (Escuintla and Suchitepequez), as well as Izabal (Caribbean) and the northern department of Peten. These regions include a sizeable ethnic population - Xinka, Chorti, Maya and Garifuna - and coincide with the food insecurity belts that include communities and families in IPC Phases 3 and 4 in Izabal, Alta Verapaz, Quiché, Huehuetenango, Totonicapán and Peten.

In the case of protection risks, both for populations in human mobility and for groups of women, children and adolescents and LGBTIQ+ people who suffer from different types of violence, there is no clear distribution trend. Although there is a high concentration of municipalities with severity in the northern zone (Izabal, Peten, Alta Verapaz, Quiché and Huehuetenango), there are also groups of municipalities with high severity in the rest of the country.

Populations requiring emergency health services are also located in the same belt, especially in Izabal, Alta Verapaz and Peten.

<sup>40</sup> Population projections by the National Institute of Statistics based on the results of the 2018 Population Census.

# 1.4

## Humanitarian Conditions and Severity of Needs

CHILDREN UNDER 5 WITH MALNUTRITION (PIN)	INDIGENOUS, RURAL FAMILIES WITH FOOD AND NUTRITIONAL INSECURITY (PIN)	PEOPLE ON THE MOVE (MIXED FLOWS) (PIN) JANUARY - AUGUST 2022	PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES (PIN)	COMMUNITIES OR FAMILIES WITH HOUSING AND/OR COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS (PIN)
17k	460k	68.7k <small>Δ 116.7% variation compared to the same period of the previous year</small>	521k	19k

### Intersectoral Severity of Needs

Historically, natural hydro-meteorological and geological phenomena have triggered disasters in large areas of Guatemala. In the last decade, food and nutrition insecurity has increased in certain regions, starting in the eastern part of the Dry Corridor and expanding to almost two thirds of the country. This crisis is caused not only by droughts, attributed to climate change, but also by other socio-economic variables.

Human mobility, in all its forms, has considerably increased the impact on populations still recovering. The COVID-19 pandemic was the catalyst that not only generated a major impact on health but also unbalanced the delicate dynamics of the country's economy and informal employment, generating specific pockets with greater impact.

Guatemala is experiencing a complex humanitarian crisis generated by overlapping shocks and impacts, both sudden and slow-onset, short and long-term, affecting almost a third of the country's population.

### Physical and Mental Wellbeing

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly disrupted the education system. Depending on the region, schools were closed between March 2020 and March 2022. There are no documents quantifying school closures, although it was not until 2022 that the situation started to normalise at the national level.

Schools are one of the most effective spaces to ensure the comprehensive wellbeing of children, their families and communities.

The closures led to an increase in reproductive labour and family care work for women, with more hours spent on childcare and housework.

In addition, lack of access to health and nutrition services has hindered access to essential services and reduced support for families to adopt appropriate practices for infant and young child nutrition, breastfeeding and complementary feeding. Routine immunisation and micronutrient supplementation, especially for pregnant and breastfeeding women, has also been affected, putting lives at risk at the time of delivery and postpartum.



In this context, young children living in inadequate housing and in rural areas with minimal access to health services are the most vulnerable. In Guatemala, malnutrition levels are a result of loss of crops, unemployment and income losses, which cause a decrease in the availability and access to food, affecting their physical and mental well-being.

## Living Conditions

Although the lean season in Central America is coming to an end (the seasonal hunger period runs from March to August), high prices will continue to cause stress on poor households in the Dry Corridor and Alta Verapaz, which had to rely on food purchases longer than normal this year. Although some households will see seasonal improvements, the income that could be generated during the upcoming season of high labour demand is not expected to be sufficient to improve outcomes. As a result, very poor households will remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) until January 2023. Elsewhere in the region, poor rural and urban households will experience improved food security conditions due to near-average first and postharvest yields, job opportunities in cash crops and general economic recovery, and will therefore be classified as Stressed (IPC Phase 2). However, some population centres, both rural and urban, will be facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) results due to high prices and previous shocks.<sup>41</sup>

The COVID-19 pandemic affected livelihoods by increasing the unemployment rate with consequent reductions or loss of income,<sup>42</sup> with a more pronounced effect on the poorest and most vulnerable. Farming families, informal and agricultural workers, especially those in the Dry Corridor,<sup>43</sup> have suffered severe economic impacts from the pandemic. Farming households have had difficulty accessing supplies, reducing their production capacity for self-consumption and trade and increasing their food

insecurity. In general, the socio-economic impacts have been disproportionately felt by women heads of households, children and adolescents, as indicated by the Rapid Gender Analysis.<sup>44</sup>

As for people on the move, according to the High Frequency Survey 2021 (UNHCR), both refugees and asylum seekers as well as vulnerable Guatemalans and people in transit to third countries were exposed to multiple protection risks such as violence, human trafficking criminal networks and smuggling for labour and sexual exploitation, threats and intimidation, bribes, mistreatment and robbery. Refugee claimants and refugees also face barriers to accessing their rights: documentation, education, lack of information and access to connectivity and labour inclusion (of those who were able to work, only 35 per cent had a formal employment).

## Coping Mechanisms

According to the Food Security Survey (WFP 2022), 51 percent of households have used food-based coping strategies (two out of three households reduced the number and size of meals per day). In 80 per cent of these households, women and children ate the fewest meals and the least amount of food per day.

The use of livelihood-based coping strategies has also been a way of temporarily alleviating hunger in 63 per cent of the households interviewed. This includes the sale of assets used in the household, agricultural production and static assets (land, houses, etc.). Of these households, 28 per cent reduced their expenditure on food purchases or bought it on credit, nine per cent sold their productive assets and 11 per cent reduced their expenditure on health. It is worth noting that seven per cent of households have taken children out of school to work, increasing the levels of school drop-out, and reducing access to school meals and preventive health programmes.

41 <https://fews.net/central-america-and-caribbean/key-message-update/september-2022>

42 OCHA, 2021. Humanitarian Needs Overview. [https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/20200616\\_HNO\\_CENTROAMERICA%20ADDENDUM.pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/20200616_HNO_CENTROAMERICA%20ADDENDUM.pdf)

43 The Central American Dry Corridor is a zone of dry tropical forest on the Pacific slope of Central America stretching from the Pacific coast of Chiapas (Mexico) to western Costa Rica and the western provinces of Panama, but where the countries most vulnerable and exposed to climatic events are Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua. <https://boletinesredlac.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/BOLETIN-REDLAC-13-FINAL-04032021.pdf>

44 UN WOMEN, 2020. Rapid Gender Analysis. [https://lac.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Field%20Office%20Americas/Documentos/Publications/2020/05/\\_LAC%20Report\\_Spanish%20Final%20Jun2-compressed.pdf](https://lac.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Field%20Office%20Americas/Documentos/Publications/2020/05/_LAC%20Report_Spanish%20Final%20Jun2-compressed.pdf)

Given the high price of agricultural supplies, farmers have had to adjust their plans for different crop cycles. Subsistence farmers, in particular, have to make a choice between using

less fertiliser, buying low-quality fertiliser, reducing the area cultivated or not sowing at all. These decisions have affected the production and availability of staple grains from their own harvest.

In the case of malnutrition, households are using coping strategies such as cutting back on health and nutrition expenditures and a minimal diet consisting basically of maize, sugar and some herbs, among others in minimal quantities or frequencies. More than 80 per cent of households report relying on less expensive foods, which are generally of low nutritional value, and 50 per cent limit portion size.

It is important to highlight the coping mechanisms of the population in human mobility. Many people had to adopt negative coping mechanisms such as cutting down on food (20 per cent), collecting food scraps (17 per cent), begging (13 per cent) or survival sex (1 per cent) (UNHCR High Frequency Survey 2021).

## Severity and Underlying Factors

Hurricanes Eta and Iota in late 2020 intensified acute food insecurity in populations still suffering from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in terms of loss of livelihoods and several years of crop failures in the Dry Corridor. The impact on road infrastructure and the reduction in production affected trade flows, which also contributed to price increases and reduced vulnerable households' food purchasing capacity in 2021.

FEWS NET reported in mid-2021 that, despite increased remittance inflows from the United States and the recovery of economic activities, poor and very poor households, especially in the Dry Corridor, faced increased food and transport costs, as well as reduced employment opportunities.

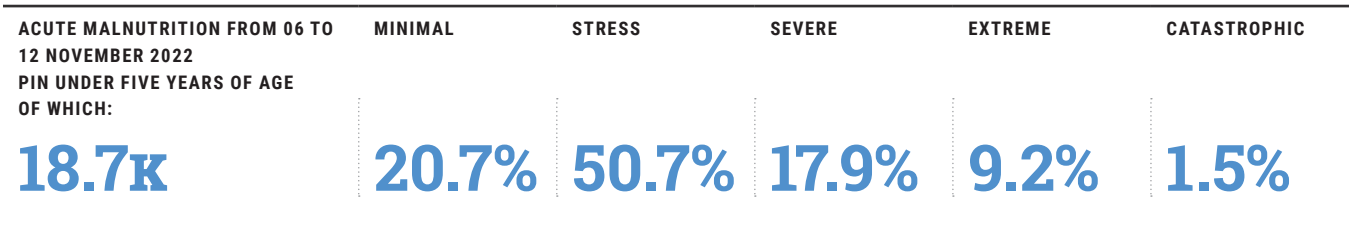
The Global Nutrition Report 2021 adds that lack of access to health and nutrition services prevents food-insecure households from implementing appropriate actions for feeding their children and families, especially breastfeeding and complementary feeding.<sup>45</sup>

In addition to the structural drivers that cause a large part of the population to suffer from malnutrition are: climate change, the remaining impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy, and the international armed conflict and its impact on prices. All these factors have resulted in reduced food intake and increased risk of infections, leading to acute malnutrition and increased risk of death, particularly for the most vulnerable from a nutrition standpoint: children under five years of age, especially those under two years of age, and pregnant and nursing women.

<sup>45</sup> Global Nutrition Report. <https://globalnutritionreport.org/reports/2021-global-nutrition-report/>

# Population Group #1

## Children Under Five Affected by Chronic and Acute Malnutrition



The most vulnerable group impacted by the malnutrition crisis in Guatemala is children under five, due to deficient food intake that does not meet the requirements for adequate growth and development, and in many cases, survival. The youngest children, living in inadequate housing and in rural areas with the least access to health services are the most vulnerable. Children with disabilities need special care to prevent death in a humanitarian context. The main goal is to ensure that no child dies from acute malnutrition by increasing access to treatment through early identification, including medical care for mothers.

Among the PiN for nutrition, 444,389 children under five years were identified including 40,334 with disabilities.

Acute malnutrition is usually used as an indicator for the severity of a food insecurity crisis. Children with acute malnutrition have severely altered physiology

and metabolism and are at increased risk of death from their condition. Severe acute malnutrition increases the risk of under-five mortality by up to nine times. In a context such as that of Guatemala, where chronic malnutrition affects half of all children (in some areas the number rises to eight out of 10), this risk is even higher.

Similarly, it is essential to care for women of childbearing age, but with special emphasis on pregnant and breastfeeding women, as well as underage mothers, with an increased vulnerability in having to care for their children and themselves at the same time. Between 2020 and 2022, 176,914 girls aged 10-19 became mothers. During these periods, they are more vulnerable to being underweight, and suffering from malnutrition, anaemia and other deficiencies because their attention is on their children and they often forget their own well-being.

## Population Group #2

### Indigenous, Rural Families, Particularly Women, Experiencing Food Insecurity (with cases of child malnutrition)

TOTAL POPULATION	MINIMUM	STRESS	SEVERE	EXTREME	CATASTROPHIC
4.6k	---	44.6%	55.4%	---	---

Indigenous and rural women who are suffering from a loss of assets, housing, lack of access to health services, lack of legal certainty of land, lack of economic autonomy, and telephone coverage are exposed to violence, exclusion from spaces of participation and decision-making. Their geographical location, lack of transport and poverty limit their access to comprehensive care services and alternative means of filing complaints. Women and adolescent girls in family care, caring for the elderly and with no income of their own are also particularly vulnerable.

Generally, because of the gender-based division of labour, women and men have unequal access to resources and decision-making power - women are more vulnerable to climate change and its effects and have more limited possibilities to react. It has also been documented that, in situations of socio-natural shocks, the majority of victims are often women due to reduced mobility and their role as caregivers for children, the sick and the elderly, which means that women try to protect family members before saving themselves.<sup>46</sup>

In addition to widespread violence and poverty, women have been increasingly affected by the socio-economic impacts of disasters and the consequences of food and nutrition insecurity. Women with malnutrition are more likely to become ill during pregnancy and are at increased risk of premature birth, miscarriage, stillbirth and even death. They are also more likely to contract infections, experience weakness and have lower productivity. Women with micronutrient deficiencies are at increased risk of dying during childbirth, giving birth to a low birth weight or cognitively impaired infant, and affecting the health and development of breastfed infants.<sup>47</sup> In resource-poor settings, young children who are not breastfed are more likely to die from pneumonia and diarrhoea than those who are breastfed.<sup>48</sup> Children with micronutrient deficiencies are at increased risk of death from infectious diseases and impaired physical and mental development. Children with acute malnutrition, particularly the severe malnutrition, are up to nine times more likely to die than children who are not malnourished.<sup>49</sup>

46 Christian AID, June 2019. "Climate Migrations in the Central American Dry Corridor Integrating a Gender Perspective." <https://migracionesclimaticas.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/2019-climate-migrations-InspirAction.pdf>

47 University of the Republic of Uruguay, 2010. "Malnutrition in pregnancy and gestational and newborn complications". [https://www.colibri.udelar.edu.uy/jspui/bitstream/20.500.12008/18852/1/MCII\\_2015\\_G21.pdf.pdf](https://www.colibri.udelar.edu.uy/jspui/bitstream/20.500.12008/18852/1/MCII_2015_G21.pdf.pdf)

48 Maternal and Child Undernutrition Study Group, 2008. "Global and regional exposures and health consequences". *Lancet*, 371:243- 60.

49 Black RE, Allen LH, Bhutta ZA, Caulfield LE, de Onis M, Ezzati M, Mathers C, Rivera J. Ob. Cit.



## Population Group #3

### People on the Move, Including Children and LGBTIQ+ Persons

#### Returnees January - August 2022

TOTAL POPULATION	MEN	WOMEN	BOYS	GIRLS
<b>69K</b>	<b>73.4%</b>	<b>26.6%</b>	<b>60.7%</b>	<b>39.3%</b>

People on the move include asylum seekers, refugees, persons in mixed movements in transit and Guatemalan persons who have moved within or outside Guatemala. All profiles are represented, with an increase in the number of single women, families, unaccompanied minors and youth, and LGBTIQ+ persons. There are many humanitarian needs required to mitigate protection risks, including rights violations by criminal networks, challenges to access the destination country and the refugee status determination system, counselling services and humanitarian support.

LGBTIQ+ persons on the move are at higher risk of sexual and gender-based violence. Young men and boys have a high exposure to being victims of recruitment by organised crime. The perceived risk of violence against women is relevant throughout the entire cycle of human mobility although the risk is highest among adolescents and youth.

Refugees and migrants with disabilities face two types of invisibility. On the one hand, people with disabilities are often forgotten in society (buildings, streets, public spaces and services are not designed to be universally accessible, nor are reasonable accommodations made to guarantee equal access to rights, and when they do exist, these are tainted with strangeness, fear or pity).

Refugees and migrants also live in a contradiction: they move from a state of invisibility -not being considered as subjects of rights - to the unpredictability of being seen by the media and public opinion as a threat to social order.

Many women and girls on the move face loss of livelihoods and economic autonomy, barriers to accessing rights such as health, work, education, protection, information and justice, as well as specific manifestations of gender-based violence (sexual, physical and psychological) both in transit and at destinations. This aggression is aggravated by factors that increase vulnerability and risk of GBV (such as lack of support networks and basic social services and irregular migration status and lack of documentation), which limits their access to state protection and access to essential services in cases of violence.<sup>50</sup>

Children and adolescents in vulnerable conditions (especially migrants, refugees, children with disabilities, indigenous children and children at risk of exclusion)<sup>51</sup> belong to households that have suffered a decrease of income and are exposed to school dropout and may fall into negative coping mechanisms such as child labour, early marriages, unaccompanied human mobility and other activities such as recruitment by gangs and survival sex. According to the survey conducted by the Pastoral de Movilidad Humana

<sup>50</sup> Infosegura- UNDP/RBLAC, 2020. "The Hidden Face of Insecurity: Violence Against Women in Central America and the Dominican Republic". <https://infosegura.org/la-cara-escondida/assets/VCM.pdf>

<sup>51</sup> OCHA, 2020. Humanitarian Needs Overview: El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, Addendum: Impact of Covid-19. [https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/20200616\\_HNO\\_CENTROAMERICA%20ADDENDUM.pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/20200616_HNO_CENTROAMERICA%20ADDENDUM.pdf)

(Human Mobility Pastoral), with the support of the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), of 552 minors, the greatest perceived risks are adverse environmental conditions, addiction to drugs or alcohol, recruitment by criminal groups, exploitation, bullying, malnutrition and sexual exploitation.<sup>52</sup>



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Photo: OCHA / Vincent Tremeau

<sup>52</sup> <https://app.powerbi.com/w?r=eyJrIjoIn2Q0MWUwNGItNDJkMS00OWZhLWlwZDQtMzhjMTg0ODhjYzZjIiwidCI6IjJhMjEyMjQxLTg5OWMtNDc1Mi1iZDMzLTUxZW-FjM2M1ODJkNSIsImMiOiJh9>

## Population Group #4

### People with Disabilities

TOTAL POPULATION	MINIMUM	STRESS	SEVERE	EXTREME	CATASTROPHIC
521k	---	124k	332k	64k	---

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has estimated that persons with disabilities represent 15 percent of the global population. In Guatemala, they make up 12 per cent of the population (56 per cent men and 44 per cent women). Children and older persons represent 29 per cent, while youth and adults comprise 71 per cent. In all cases, the social approach to disability promoted by the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is based on the premise that disability is not, in itself, a specific need for protection, nor a situation of risk or vulnerability, but rather, when interacting with threats and barriers, accentuates exposure to risks.<sup>53</sup>

These people are often among the poorest and tend to face constraints in terms of access to education and training, health care, employment, physical and financial assets, and opportunities for social integration. These constraints expose them to disproportionate risks in disaster and emergency situations, given their lack of accessibility in evacuation and disaster response efforts.<sup>54</sup>

According to data from the National Disability Survey (ENDIS 2016), out of 13,073 people surveyed, 10.2 per cent have some condition of disability. It was also found that people with disabilities were 1.5 times more likely to be in the poorest quintile. In addition,

disability generates losses in the country's gross domestic product of up to six per cent, according to the World Bank.<sup>55</sup>

Adults with disabilities have fewer opportunities to have a stable income. According to the 2016 DHS, adults with disabilities were less likely to report working occasionally or year-round compared to adults without disabilities.<sup>56</sup> By age group, people aged 35-49 and over 65 with a disability were less likely to have worked.

Deprivation, lack of access to safety nets, limited livelihoods, infrastructural barriers, profound isolation, poor quality of life and ownership of few household assets are common realities that affect persons with disabilities, especially in rural areas.<sup>57</sup> Persons with disabilities face multiple barriers in accessing services and humanitarian assistance. In the context of disasters and crises, the discrimination they face is often exacerbated and their participation is reduced, resulting in inequitable access to humanitarian information and assistance.<sup>58</sup>

<sup>53</sup> Danish Refugee Council, 2022. "Invisible within the invisible: the situation of physically and sensory disabled refugees and migrants from Latin America".

<sup>54</sup> ILO, 2020. "Central American Dry Corridor: An exploratory view on the context, rationale and potential for a job creation strategy in Guatemala and Honduras".

[https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_emp/---ifp\\_skills/documents/publication/wcms\\_744898.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---ifp_skills/documents/publication/wcms_744898.pdf)

<sup>55</sup> INE, 2016. II National Survey on Disability in Guatemala. <https://www.unicef.org/guatemala/media/461/file/ENDIS%202016.pdf>

<sup>56</sup> Ibid.

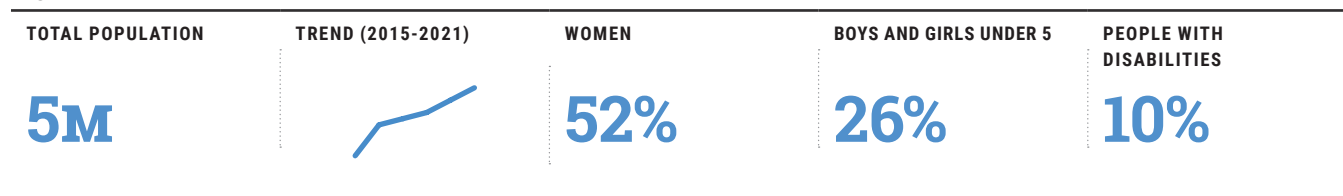
<sup>57</sup> Ibid.

<sup>58</sup> OCHA, 2021. HNO 2021.

# 1.5

## Number of People in Need

### Figures in 2022



### Severity of cross-sectoral needs and estimated number of people in need

#### PIN by severity level and departmental location

PCOD1	DEPARTMENT	SEV 1	SEV 2	SEV 3	SEV 4	SEV 5	TOTAL PIN
GT01	Guatemala	0	634,690	117,196	0	0	751,886
GT02	El Progreso	0	38,220	2,872	0	0	41,092
GT03	Sacatepequez	0	76,448	0	0	0	76,448
GT04	Chimaltenango	0	189,806	0	189,806	0	189,806
GT05	Escuintla	0	93,136	77,632	0	0	170,768
GT06	Santa Rosa	0	52,460	42,402	0	0	94,862
GT07	Solola	0	0	144,334	0	0	144,334
GT08	Totonicapan	0	0	170,321	0	0	170,321
GT09	Quetzaltenango	0	0	258,497	0	0	258,497
GT10	Suchitepequez	0	46,084	103,385	0	0	149,469
GT11	Retalhuleu	0	16,970	56,823	0	0	73,793
GT12	San Marcos	0	0	337,734	0	0	337,734
GT13	Huehuetenango	0	0	438,391	32,465	0	470,856
GT14	Quiche	0	0	363,546	0	0	363,546
GT15	Baja Verapaz	0	0	105,134	0	0	105,134
GT16	Alta Verapaz	0	0	576,876	68,276	0	645,152
GT17	Peten	0	0	204,397	37,571	0	241,968
GT18	Izabal	0	0	0	279,874	0	279,874
GT19	Zacapa	0	0	71,033	0	0	71,033
GT20	Chiquimula	0	0	152,747	36,115	0	188,862
GT21	Jalapa	0	33,261	60,015	0	0	93,276
GT22	Jutiapa	0	61,257	39,203	0	0	100,460
	Total		1,242,332	3,322,538	644,107		5,019,171



The largest number of people in humanitarian need were quantified within the food and nutrition insecurity crisis. According to the IPC, 4.1 million people are in Phase 3 (Crisis) and 500,000 people in Phase 4 (Emergency); all of them require urgent response action with food assistance. With the exception of Jutiapa, Guatemala, Sacatepequez and Retalhuleu, the remaining 18 departments have a high proportion of their population in food insecurity (IPC Phases 3 and 4). The highest proportion in Phase 3, according to the total population of the department, is found in Alta Verapaz, Izabal and Petén (30 per cent), Totonicapán (29 per cent), Quiché and Huehuetenango (28 per cent). The highest proportions in Phase 4 are also found in Alta Verapaz, Izabal and Petén (6 per cent), Chiquimula, Huehuetenango, Quiché and Totonicapán (5 per cent).

The Protection Sector identifies 2,586,218 people in need throughout the country. This figure includes PiN due to GBV (871,323 persons) and PiN of Child Protection (643,587 persons). Data from the National Civil Police were included in this analysis, including: 2,844 victims of homicides in 2021 and the rate of extortion (88.6/100,000 inhabitants), 545 victims of femicide, some 60,261 victims of different forms of violence against women and 2,149 missing women. This data was provided by the Public Prosecutor's Office for 2021. Some 870,000 people from Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua were identified at the southern border of the United States and it is considered that a large majority would have passed through Guatemalan territory. According to the IGM, some 1,054 people applied for refugee status in 2021.



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Photo: OCHA/Vincent Treméau



## Part 2:

# Risk Analysis and Situation and Needs Monitoring

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Photo: OCHA / Vincent Tremeau



## 2.1

# Risk Analysis

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The potential risks and influences on the humanitarian needs facing vulnerable populations in 2023 are:

- The instability of prices and availability of supplies and food that continues to be caused by the war between Russia and Ukraine,
- The extreme changes in climate as a result of climate change,
- Socio-economic conditions in the region,
- Protection risks linked to lack of service provision or external factors.

These factors can contribute to increased violence, protection needs and result in increased internal and external human mobility.

According to the Index for Risk Management (INFORM) indicators, Guatemala has a total index of 5.1 (high), which places it at 35 out of 190 countries. The INFORM index considers the exposure of the population to hazards and threats, the vulnerability levels of the population and systems, and the coping and response capacity. The indicators with the highest scores for Guatemala are its vulnerability levels.

The country is exposed to disasters related to dry weather and water shortages in the dry season (forest fires, drought, crop failures) and to disasters related to the rainy season (hurricanes, floods, landslides and subsidence, among others).

According to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Central America has a high probability of continuing to be impacted by drought conditions as well as hurricanes. The 2021 Atlantic hurricane season

was very active, with 21 named storms (well above the 1981-2010 average of 14), including seven hurricanes - of which four were major hurricanes. One of the main impacts of hurricanes in Guatemala is the increase in heavy rainfall, which triggers extensive flooding, landslides and mudflows.<sup>59</sup>

Furthermore, the yearly increase in the number of returnees, including children and mixed flows in the region, suggests an increase in risks and protection needs. The number of returns increased from 19,644 in the first five months of 2021 to 41,179 in the same period in 2022.<sup>60</sup> According to data from the Secretariat of Social Welfare, 7,840 unaccompanied migrant children were forcibly returned to Guatemala in 2021, 73.8 per cent more than in 2020.

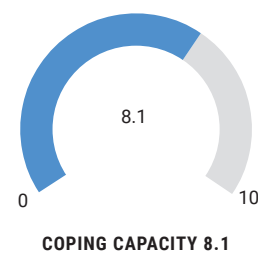
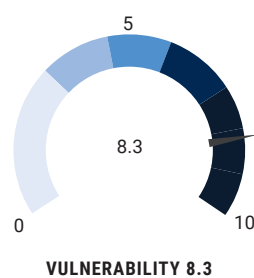
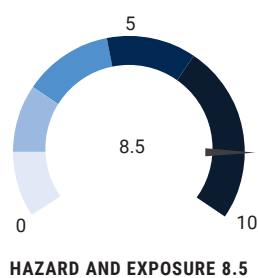
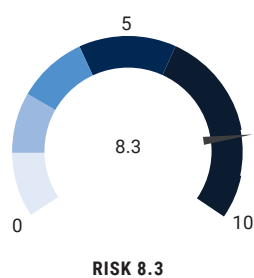
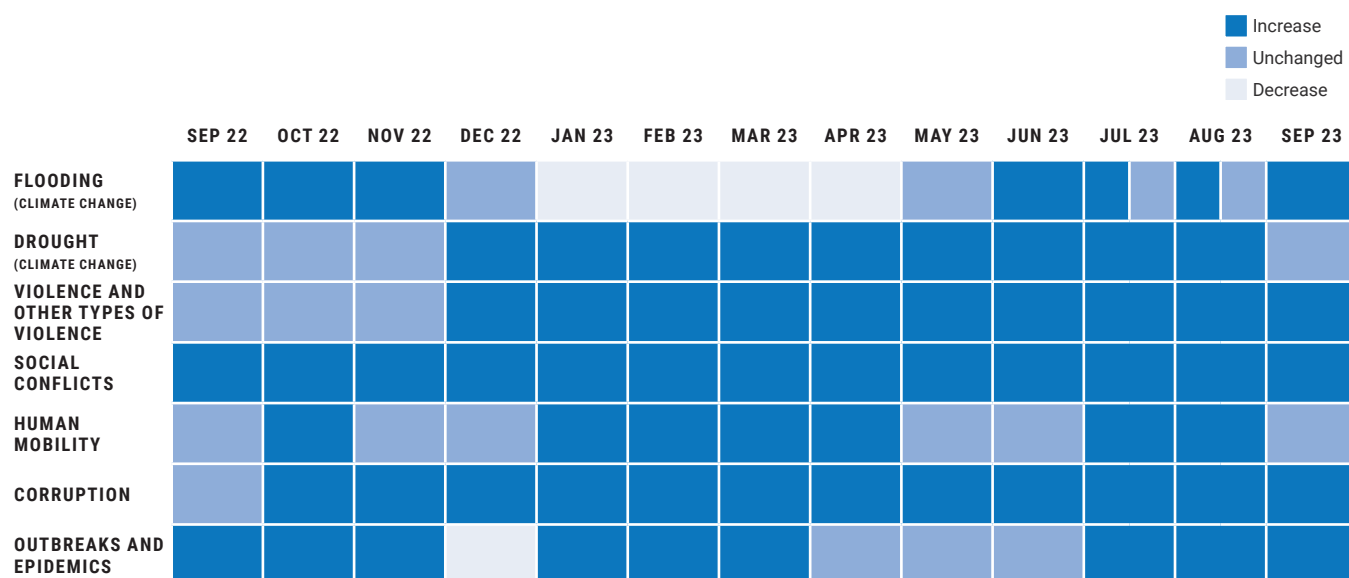
Returnees face several challenges including the inability to obtain employment, rebuild their lives and also discrimination, which exacerbates psychological stress. The lack of structures and processes to assist in reintegration contribute to further isolation. Those who return by choice or through deportation are again faced with a worse situation than when they left, having lost their livelihoods and property and often aggravating food insecurity.

In 2021, Guatemala was the country with the third highest number of people on the move (mixed flows) in the region (311,814 people). There was a continual increase of people in extra-regional mobility through Guatemala heading north from the Caribbean, South America, Africa and Asia, according to the IGM and the National Civil Police, based on border patrolling in the country's migration corridors, mainly along the borders of San Marcos, Huehuetenango and Peten.

59 WMO, 2021. "State of the Climate in Latin America and the Caribbean". [https://library.wmo.int/index.php?lvl=notice\\_display&id=22105#.YzxiFnbMKM-](https://library.wmo.int/index.php?lvl=notice_display&id=22105#.YzxiFnbMKM-)

60 IOM Guatemala. <https://mic.iom.int/webntmi/guatemala-3/>

The Joint Humanitarian Needs Analysis Workshop in Guatemala, held with the Humanitarian Country Team on 30 August 2022, also identified violence, human conflict, outbreaks and epidemics, and corruption as risk factors. Drought, violence, social conflict and corruption are the perceived risks on the rise. The seasonal timing of these risks is shown below.





## Anticipated Evolution of Needs

The International Monetary Fund's 2022 annual report, "One Crisis After Another", on the needs of populations, indicates that we live in a world that is more prone to shocks since economic risks, geopolitical tensions, poverty and inequality have increased significantly. In many countries, inflation has risen sharply due to higher energy, fuel, food and commodity prices, labour shortages and disruptions in supply chains. Furthermore, the world is also facing overwhelming forces of long-term change, particularly in relation to the effects of climate change and the digital revolution.

In Guatemala, for the first time since food insecurity conditions have been assessed, the threshold of four million people in need has been exceeded. In this period of analysis, the number of food and nutritionally insecure people is 4.6 million (IPC Phases 3 and 4). This sharp increase is interpreted as the superimposition of recurrent factors such as crop failures due to extreme weather (either drought or flood) and insufficient economic income with additional compounding factors such as economic recovery and food and fertiliser price increases imposed by the war between Russia and Ukraine. While some specific populations may recover in the coming months due to income from the coffee harvest or from

harvesting "secondary" crops, needs will persist for the majority of this population through 2023. These conditions imply not only food assistance, but also an increase in cases of acute malnutrition and maternal and infant deaths.

Regarding human mobility, the main indicators suggest that mixed flows through Guatemalan territory will continue, with the risk of increasing. The number of returnees from Mexico and the United States increases, including a dramatic number of accompanied and unaccompanied children and adolescents. The number of persons assisted through the National Protection Network is increasing, as well as the number of persons in need of international protection. The number of persons in transit of extra-regional and extra-continental nationalities, including South Americans, Caribbeans and Africans, is also increasing.

Some needs related to the impact of Hurricanes Eta and Iota, at the end of 2020, remain, mainly those related to the rehabilitation and refurbishment of houses, agricultural livelihoods, schools and health centres. The rainy season in 2022 has increased some of these needs not only in the departments of Izabal, Alta Verapaz, Quiché, Huehuetenango and southern Peten but also in other areas of the country.

## 2.2

# Situation and Needs Monitoring

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Food and nutrition security conditions will be monitored through mechanisms that are part of the Sectoral Early Warning System, which includes the FNS Forecast Table and the FNS Forecast Report (coordinated by the Secretariat of Food and Nutrition Security, SESAN); the Bulletin of the Crop Monitoring System coordinated by the Ministry of Agriculture (MAGA) and the Epidemiological Situation of Acute Malnutrition (moderate and severe) led by the Ministry of Health (MSPAS). This information is available through the National Information System for Food and Nutrition Security (SIINSAN). From the FNS Sector, WFP will continue to coordinate with SESAN to carry out Food Security Assessment (FSSA) as required.

Risk factors to monitor include climate forecasts, national and international trends in food prices (mainly black beans and white maize), the cost of the BFB, fuels (including domestic propane gas) and fertilisers. In addition, the availability of employment opportunities, the demand for employment (whether agricultural or non-agricultural, temporary or permanent), and compliance with government social assistance programmes should be monitored.

Human mobility and protection conditions will be monitored through the Protection Network, community

protection networks and departmental gender groups, taking into account the articulation of these mechanisms with municipal, departmental and national entities with protection mandates. It will also be important to strengthen monitoring at strategic border points, for example in the Centre for the Care of Migrants and Refugees (CAPMIRs). Information will also be shared at the regional level through the Protection Sector and REDLAC's sub-sectors and at a sub-regional level between the Humanitarian Teams of Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras.

With regards to GBV, constant monitoring will continue through indicators from reports of different types of violence against children and women, cases of pregnancies in groups of girls and adolescents, and accompaniment with institutions that register and attend to cases of violence.

The Humanitarian Country Team in Guatemala, mainly through the Technical Group on Information Management (TGIM) co-led by OCHA and Oxfam, will maintain a constant and rigorous monitoring of the indicators used by the participating sectors of the HNO, as well as information from CONRED, climate websites and specialised bulletins from all sectors.



## Indicators for Monitoring Humanitarian Conditions

#	INDICATORS	SECTOR	SOURCE
01	Integrated Phase Classification of Food Safety, IPC	Food and Nutrition Security (FNS)	SESAN, PROGRESAN/SICA, 2022, Report March 2022
02	Number of people facing protection risks	Protection	Indicators used in the Protection cluster's PAU analysis
03	Vulnerable population groups with limited access to services	Protection	Indicators used in the Protection cluster's PAU analysis
04	# of non-displaced people living in violence-affected areas	Protection	Indicators used in the Protection cluster's PAU analysis
05	Access to/availability of the four basic child protection services	Child Protection	Indicators used in the Protection cluster's PAU analysis
06	Presence/prevalence of accompanied and separated children	Child Protection	Indicators used in the Protection cluster's PAU analysis
07	Presence/prevalence of child labour	Child Protection	Indicators used in the Protection cluster's PAU analysis
08	Availability of basic GBV services	GBV	Indicators used in the Protection cluster's PAU analysis
09	# of GBV risk factors by location	GBV	Indicators used in the Protection cluster's PAU analysis
10	GBV crime rate in relation to women-led households	GBV	Public Prosecutor's Office and Population Census 2018
11	Number of children under 5 years with global acute malnutrition (moderate + severe)	Nutrition	Ministry of Health's Epidemiological Week on Acute Malnutrition
12	Number of children under 5 years of age with severe acute malnutrition	Nutrition	Ministry of Health's Epidemiological Week on Acute Malnutrition
13	% of women of child-bearing age in need of contraception (15%) and basic and essential obstetric care (3.5%) in population with difficulties in accessing the first and second level of care.	Health	SIGSA/MSPAS
14	% of people unable to access health care when they need it	Health	SIGSA/MSPAS
15	% of people without access to an improved water facility	WASH	Population Census 2018; INFORM 2021; HNO/HRP 2021-2022.
16	% of population in need of temporary emergency shelter by municipality (according to availability and disaster risk in the municipality)	Temporary Accommodation	CONRED (list of shelters), INE 2022 projections, INFORM (exposure and risk)
17	% of people sheltered by disasters of socio-natural origin or human mobility by municipality	Temporary Accommodation	National Protection Network 2022; shelter database CONRED, UNHCR
18	% of returnees in need of temporary shelter by municipality	Temporary Accommodation	IGM, SBS, IOM
19	% of enrolled students without access to water and sanitation facilities by municipality	Education	Ministry of Education (MINEDUC)
20	Households/families with damaged dwellings attributed to the disaster by damage category	Early Recovery	Rapid Damage Assessment Report Card in housing SE-CONRED/UNDP

## Part 3:

# Sectoral Analysis\*

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\*The PiN estimates reflected in this section are based on the results of sectoral analyses and may differ from those presented in previous sections.

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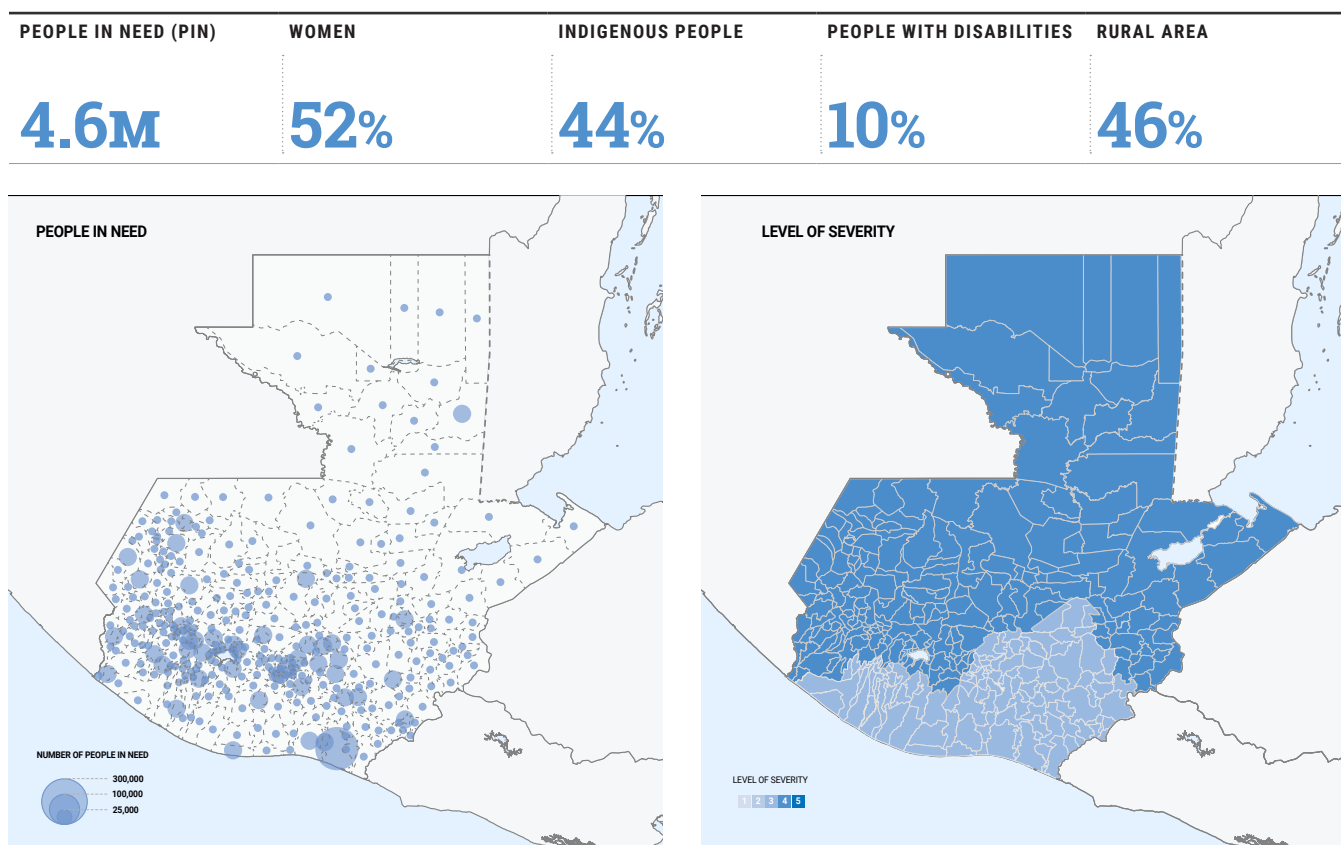
**Photo:** OCHA / Vincent Tremeau





### 3.1

## Food and Nutrition Security Sector



According to the first IPC projection period (June to September 2022), 4.6 million people are in Phase 3 or worse,<sup>61</sup> and have humanitarian needs. Contextual shocks, the impacts associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and socio-natural shocks have affected certain population groups who are moderately and severely food insecure living in the Dry Corridor region and are considered by INFORM to be at high risk. These groups suffer a deterioration in living standards and an impact on their physical and mental well-being, which increases their search for negative coping mechanisms.

### Humanitarian Needs Analysis

The humanitarian situation in Guatemala, largely determined by the recent impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ukraine-Russia conflict and climatic events, has affected livelihoods and food production and caused a significant deterioration in food security. Of the 22 departments, 18 are in Phase 3 and 4 in Phase 2, equivalent to approximately 3.7 million and 900,000 people respectively.

61 SESAN, PROGRESAN/SICA. IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis, March 2022-February 2023. Published in May 2022.

## JIAF Analysis of the Severity of Needs at Department Level

DEPARTMENT	SEVERITY	DEPARTMENT	SEVERITY
Alta Verapaz	3 (Severe)	Peten	3 (Severe)
Baja Verapaz	3 (Severe)	Quetzaltenango	3 (Severe)
Chimaltenango	3 (Severe)	Quiche	3 (Severe)
Chiquimula	3 (Severe)	Retalhuleu	2 (Stress)
El Progreso	2 (Stress)	Sacatepequez	2 (Stress)
Escuintla	2 (Stress) 3 (Severe)	San Marcos	3 (Severe)
Guatemala	2 (Stress)	Santa Rosa	2 (Stress)
Huehuetenango	3 (Severe)	Solola	3 (Severe)
Izabal	3 (Severe)	Suchitepequez	2 (Stress)
Jalapa	3 (Severe)	Totonicapan	3 (Severe)
Jutiapa	2 (Stress)	Zacapa	3 (Severe)

According to the Food Security Survey (WFP 2022): i) 28 per cent of households report limited and poor food consumption; ii) 63 per cent report using livelihood coping strategies; and iii) 51 per cent report using food-based coping strategies.

### Projection of Needs

The current number of PiN is expected to be the same during 2023 for the following reasons:

- Rising fuel prices have led to higher food and commodity prices and reduced sources of employment, forcing many households to use crisis and emergency response strategies to address food shortages, such as selling assets and using their savings.
- The increase in food prices and in particular basic grains has been the highest in the last 15 years and is expected to continue in 2023, against a backdrop of rising inflation and rising BFB costs.
- The Ukraine-Russia conflict has caused the price of fertilisers and agricultural supplies to rise significantly, limiting access for small farmers and thus lower yields in basic grains.
- Weather events, such as prolonged heat waves and extreme rainfall, will continue to affect smallholder staple grain production.

### Overview of the affected population

The most affected food insecure populations are those in Crisis or Emergency (IPC Phases 3 and 4). Particularly affected groups include smallholder and subsistence farmers, who have lost their crops due to the impact of climatic hazards (drought and floods) and have also seen their ability to invest for the next harvest diminished by the high cost of supplies and fuel; and small-scale informal merchants who have had difficulty selling their products due to rising fuel prices. The most vulnerable segments of these populations include women of childbearing age, nursing and pregnant women; children under the age of five; adults over 65; and people living with disabilities or chronic illnesses.

### Monitoring

Information from the IPC's Acute Food Insecurity analysis was used to calculate PiN. This analysis will continue to be carried out annually to measure the evolution of the needs of the most vulnerable groups, the number of people in need or the emergence of new groups and sub-groups requiring humanitarian assistance. In addition to the IPC, the following reference indicators will be used to provide

immediate insight into the food security status of vulnerable populations:

- Food consumption score
- Consumption-based coping strategies index
- Livelihoods Coping Strategies
- Proportion of expenditure in food consumption
- Food Security Index

## Indicator

#	INDICATOR	SECTOR	SOURCE
01	Integrated Phase Classification of Food Safety, IPC	Food and Nutrition Security (FNS)	SESAN, PROGRESAN/SICA, 2022, March 2022 Report

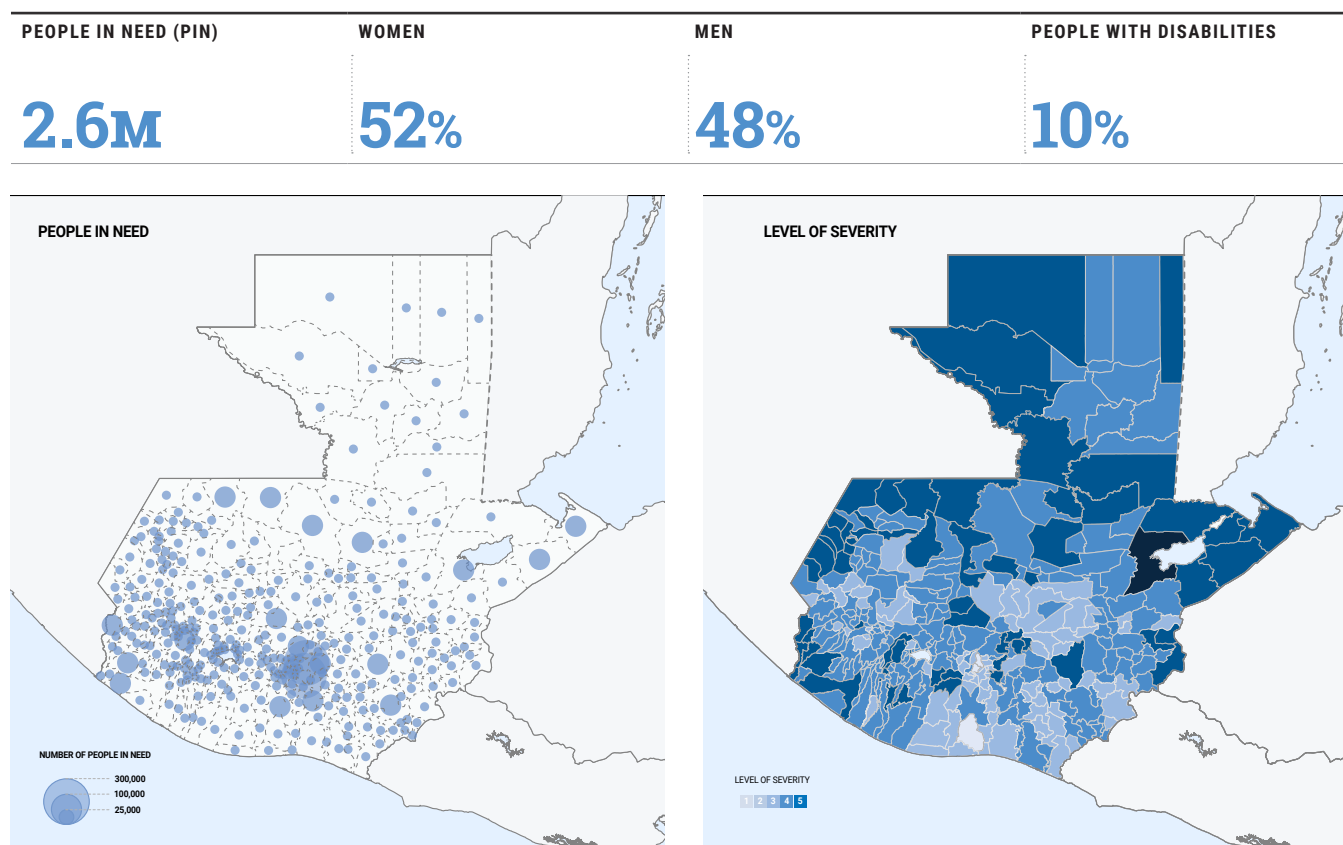


TALQUEZAL, JOCOTAN, DEPARTMENT OF CHIQUIMULA, GUATEMALA

Photo: OCHA/Vincent Treméau



## 3.2 Protection Sector



### Humanitarian Needs Analysis

Given the protection risks in Guatemala: 1) violation of rights of persons in human mobility; 2) use and exploitation of children and adolescents; 3) GBV; 4) limited supply of and access to specialised, differentiated and quality services - the humanitarian needs highlighted include:

Specialised, differentiated and quality services: the human response resources are in areas far from the population in need. This further exacerbates the impact of violence and socio-natural disasters on the most vulnerable populations, especially women, children and adolescents and people on the move.

Lack of educational opportunities: unequal distribution of household responsibilities in a context of poverty puts children and adolescents at greater risk of dropping out of school and of recruitment, use and sexual violence by gangs, human mobility (in or upon leaving Guatemala) and disappearances, with impacts on their mental health.

Women, girls and LGBTIQ+ persons, including those in human mobility, are exposed to several forms of GBV, such as sexual harassment and violence, early pregnancy and human trafficking at national level.

People on the move face multiple protection risks (in the country of origin, transit and destination) associated with lack of information and irregular movements, as well as discrimination and xenophobia.

In addition, the capacity of authorities to respond, protect, care for and assist these populations may be limited. People in mixed flows continue to cross Guatemala daily northbound, facing protection risks, including rights violations by criminal networks, challenges in accessing territory, the refugee status determination process, counselling services and humanitarian support. Barriers to the economic inclusion of refugees and asylum seekers in relation to health services, education, employment and social security also persist.

Guatemalans continue to flee violence in the country, representing the sixth nationality with the highest number of pending refugee applications in the world. This illustrates the level of risks that push individuals and families to move across borders. Guatemalans also move within the country to seek protection for the same reasons.

As well, during the first half of 2022, some 41,000 people were returned from the United States and Mexico, including children unaccompanied or separated from their families. Returnees remain exposed to the same protection risks that forced them to leave Guatemala, further exacerbated by situations of indebtedness and discrimination within their communities that undermine their reintegration.

These situations create immediate humanitarian needs and the need to mitigate protection risks and negative coping mechanisms, as well as strengthen available services to prevent and respond more structurally to human rights violations.

The increase in PiN compared to previous years is explained by different reasons. First, an analysis with national coverage was carried out in 2022 (compared to coverage of around 50 per cent in 2021). Second, the phenomenon of human mobility has been exacerbated in the country and in the sub-region in recent years.

### **Projection of Needs**

The economic crisis, resulting from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine, will fuel situations of inequality, poverty and violence at all levels. If we add the effects of disasters resulting from socio-natural events and political instability in the countries of the sub-region, protection risks and human mobility in all its manifestations will increase in Guatemala. Priorities will be to reduce protection risks, develop adequate contingency plans, provide inclusive and accessible quality services to prevent and respond to human rights violations and orient people through closer efforts with national and local authorities. A short-term response to the humanitarian needs of people on the move will be needed, but also policies to provide long-term solutions to avoid multiple movements and the risks associated with them. The mobilisation of all actors - humanitarian and development - from the community to the state, including civil society actors and international organisations, will be necessary. Ensuring the mainstreaming of protection in a cross-sectoral manner will be key to strengthening the monitoring of overlapping crises at a more localised level, the reduction of risk exposure and a more comprehensive response.

### 3.2.1

## Subsector Gender-Based Violence (GBV)



PEOPLE IN NEED (PIN)	GIRLS	PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
887k	52%	10%

### Humanitarian Needs

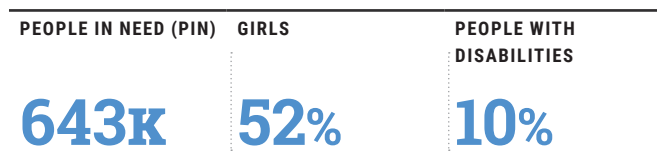
The inequalities and discrimination historically faced by women and girls are heightened in emergency contexts and increase the risks of loss of autonomy and economic independence. These risks include lack of access to information on protection, increased unpaid and care work, domestic violence, physical and sexual violence, exploitation, human trafficking, early unions and other types of GBV, both in the family/ private and public spheres. Rural and more remote areas of the country present greater challenges in accessing essential services for people at risk and survivors of violence, and it is necessary to strengthen prevention and comprehensive care, mainly focused on essential services: comprehensive management of cases of violence; individual psychosocial support; clinical management of rape cases; medical services

for cases of physical violence, mental health and access to prophylaxis for victims of sexual abuse; SRH services; menstrual hygiene kits; information on mechanisms to access care; as well as remote, culturally relevant and adapted services for people in greater vulnerability.

In the territories where gangs operate, GBV, especially sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls, is naturalised, as is the recruitment of girls to perform tasks for the gangs. It is reported that gangs sometimes force women and girls into prostitution. Women and girls who are forced to join gangs face increased protection risks as they become targets of rival gangs, being abused, raped and killed by gangs. These same risks can occur when they try to leave the gang to which they were linked or affiliated, including by rejecting sexual advances of a gang member.

### 3.2.2

## Child Protection Subsector



### Humanitarian Needs

The Child Protection Subsector focuses its attention on boys, girls, adolescents and primary caregivers involved in humanitarian crises, whether derived from shocks of natural origin or caused by social conflict. According to data from the Public Prosecutor's Office, in 2021, 64 per cent of the complaints correspond to crimes committed against girls and female adolescents. In addition, one in four crimes committed against children corresponds to sexual violence (6,965 in 2021). In addition, 377 deaths of boys and girls by bladed weapons and firearms were recorded. Finally, 14,680 boys and girls were recorded as victims of abuse, of which six out of 10 victims were female children and adolescents (8,616). The departments with the highest incidence of child victims of violence are Guatemala (5,650), Escuintla (2,201), Alta Verapaz (2,137), Huehuetenango (1,902), Retal (1,902) and Huehuetenango (1,902). (1,902), Retalhuleu (1,759), San Marcos (1,592) and Suchitepequez (1,346).

Flows of people on the move are a latent challenge for the protection of boys, girls and adolescents. From January to August 2022, there were 5,566 unaccompanied children and 7,813 accompanied children in family units returning from the United States

and Mexico (13,379 children in total - IGM). According to the Ministry of Social Welfare,<sup>62</sup> the largest proportion of boys, girls and adolescents leaving the country are from indigenous Mayan populations. From January to August 2022, 65 per cent of unaccompanied child returnees are indigenous (IGM). Forty per cent of returned children and adolescents are female children and adolescents (5,272).<sup>63</sup>

According to the survey conducted by Pastoral de Movilidad Humana (PMH) together with the Danish Refugee Council, with the participation of 1,214 families (2,133 people),<sup>64</sup> the immediate needs of people in transit include, from highest to lowest priority, shelter, food, water, hygiene products, money, clothes, shoes, telephone and internet.

Finally, the analysis highlights the systematic decrease in the availability of child protection services in Guatemala. According to the Ministry of Public Health,<sup>65</sup> of the 6,965 cases of child victims of sexual violence registered with the Public Prosecutor's Office, only 3,692 were attended to by the health system at its different levels of care. One out of every two child victims of sexual violence can access the health system.

<sup>62</sup> Social Welfare Secretariat Report, 2022.

<sup>63</sup> Guatemalan Migration Institute, GUATEMALTECOS-RETORNADOS-VIA-AEREA-ESTADOS-UNIDOS-SEPTIEMBRE-16-2022.pdf (igm.gob.gt)

<sup>64</sup> <https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoib2Q0MWUwNGltNDJkMS00OWZhLWlwZDQtMzhjMTg0ODhjYzZjliwidCI6IjJhMjE5MjQxLTg5OWMtNjE0MTIiZDMzLTUu-xZWJjM2M1ODJkNSIsImMiOjI9>

<sup>65</sup> SIGSA, Ministry of Health, 2021.

## Affected Population

Population groups with humanitarian needs in the Protection Sector include women, boys, girls and adolescents, LGBTIQ+ persons, indigenous persons, Afro-descendants, persons with disabilities, and persons with other specific protection needs, including in all these categories persons in human mobility.

Population groups with humanitarian needs in protection from GBV include women, girls and adolescents exposed to some form of GBV throughout the country, especially those regions impacted by socio-natural disasters, human mobility and food insecurity.

## Monitoring

Monitoring of the humanitarian and protection situation will be carried out through community protection networks and their articulation with municipal, departmental and national entities with a protection mandate. Support is also provided at the regional level by the Regional Protection Sector and REDLAC sub-sectors.

People on the move will also be monitored through the Centres for Attention to Migrants and Refugees (CAPMIRs) at border points.

GBV will be monitored by tracking reporting indicators for different types of violence against children and women and cases of pregnancies. Institutions will be supported to expand the recording and analysis of disaggregated information on cases of violence, including specialised surveys such as the Maternal and Child Health Survey (ENSMI) and the Violence Against Women Survey.

Children will be monitored with data from the main national sources available (Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance) together with reports from the Social Welfare Secretariat and the Public Prosecutor's Office's register of complaints. In addition, data from the Guatemalan Migration Institute on unaccompanied and returned children and adolescents will be monitored.

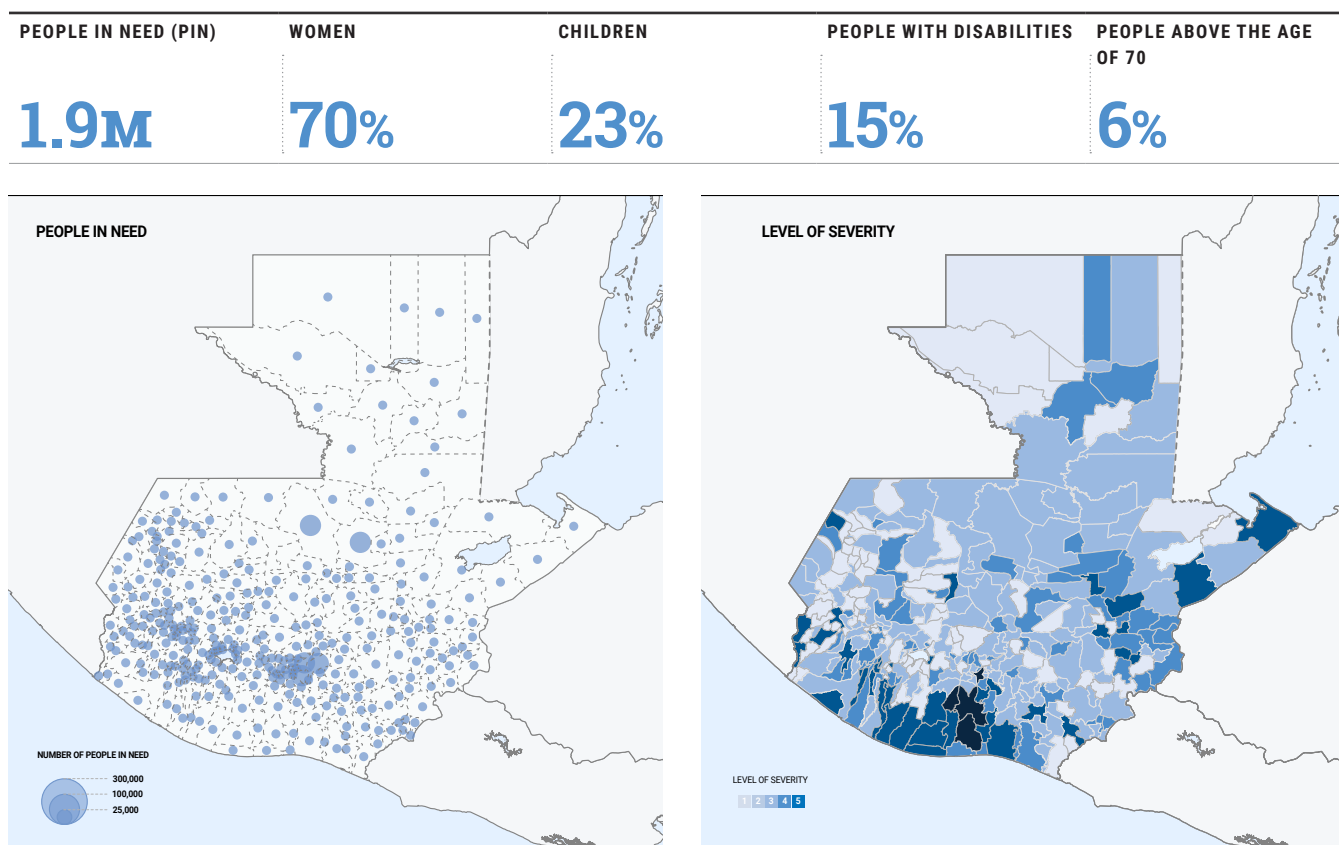
## Indicators

#	INDICATORS	SECTOR	SOURCE
01	Number of people facing protection risks	Protection	Indicators used in the Protection cluster PAU analysis
02	Vulnerable population groups with limited access to services	Protection	Indicators used in the Protection cluster PAU analysis
03	# of non-displaced people living in violence-affected areas	Protection	Indicators used in the Protection cluster PAU analysis
04	Access to/availability of all four basic child protection services	Child Protection	
05	Presence/prevalence of unaccompanied and separated children	Child Protection	
06	Presence/prevalence of child labour	Child Protection	
07	Availability of basic GBV services	GBV	
08	# of GBV risk factors by location	GBV	
09	GBV offence rate in relation to female-headed households	GBV	Public Prosecutor's Office and Population Census 2018



### 3.3

## Nutrition



Nutrition is the fundamental basis of human life and during an emergency, if not adequately and immediately addressed, the lives of thousands of people are at risk. Acute malnutrition is the most evident manifestation of poor nutrition and if not identified and treated in a timely manner, especially in children under five years of age, the affected child may die. In a humanitarian situation, the prevention of nutritional deterioration is as important as its treatment as the loss of life depends on it.

### Humanitarian Needs Analysis

The nutritional situation in Guatemala has deteriorated more significantly since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, as many families lost their livelihoods and had to make drastic changes in their eating, such

as reducing the number of meals per day, reducing the amount of food eaten and changing the quality of food, opting for cheaper and less nutritious food. Furthermore, there has been an increase in the price of basic grains and oil as a result of the Russia-Ukraine war.

The Nutrition Sector carries out a monthly analysis of the prevalence of acute malnutrition in children under five who use the Ministry of Health's Service Network. This analysis shows a concerning situation that, although the number of children affected by acute malnutrition has decreased compared to 2021, severe acute malnutrition has increased by five per cent since the beginning of 2022. In theory in 2022, more families had employment and income and yet Guatemalan children are at risk of death. In this analysis, the

Ministry of Health has also identified that, in the absence of an effective primary healthcare system, these figures are likely to be underestimated due to limitations in reaching rural and vulnerable populations. Deteriorating roads following a severe rainy season and the high cost of public transport have further limited access to health services.

More staff are needed to form mobile teams (with one nutritionist, three assistant nurses, a driver and a vehicle for each team) to support health staff and serve the most vulnerable populations and families. In addition, anthropometric equipment and first-line supplies are needed to treat acute malnutrition at the community level, such as ready-to-use therapeutic formulas, multivitamins and mineral supplements in sprinkles, vitamin A, deworming drugs and supplements for women such as Incaparina (high protein food supplement), sugar and oil to prepare homemade formulas to help them recover their nutritional status. Educational materials are also needed for quality nutritional counselling so that the practices will continue when the mobile teams or brigades visit other communities.

There is a need for specialized therapeutic formulas for cases of complications and the child is referred the hospital for specialised treatment, (Formula F-75 and F-100 should be available for hospital use only). It is very important to build capacities in the community so that leaders have the necessary skills to follow up on cases of acute malnutrition. This will allow them to better orient their community and alert the nearest health service when there is a new case - recognising the danger signs and acting in a timely manner to save lives.

### **Overview of the affected population**

The most affected population is in 44 municipalities (12.9 per cent of the country) in 11 departments (52 per cent of the total). The priority population is children under five years of age, women of childbearing

age, especially pregnant and breastfeeding women, as well as girls who are mothers and people above the age of 70.

### **Projection of Needs**

The nutritional outlook is not encouraging. The combined effects of the Ukraine-Russia conflict, climate change (including unresolved consequences of the effects of Hurricanes Eta and Iota) and the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic are exacerbating a food and nutrition crisis never seen before. According to SESAN data, food insecurity worsened this year, increasing the affected population by one million, and the global outlook does not predict an improvement in the context, but rather sees an upward trend. Every week, severe acute malnutrition increases in the range of 150-200 cases and puts children's lives at risk if not treated in a timely manner.

Although in the last quarter of the year there is a downward trend in cases of acute malnutrition, in previous years there has been an increase at the beginning of the year, then it stabilises due to the supply of agricultural employment and increases again in the second quarter when seasonal hunger sets in and food reserves are depleted.

### **Monitoring**

Monitoring will be carried out through the Ministry of Health (Epidemiological Weeks of Acute Malnutrition) and records from teams or brigades, provided they exist. The main indicators for monitoring are the number of cases of global acute malnutrition (moderate and severe), with special emphasis on the number of cases of severe acute malnutrition. Monitoring will be complemented with other available indicators such as the prevalence of anaemia, breastfeeding, micronutrient supplementation coverage, etc. The main objective is to ensure that no child dies from malnutrition.

## Indicators

#	INDICATORS	SECTOR	SOURCE
01	Number of children under 5 years of age with global acute malnutrition (moderate + severe)	Nutrition	Ministry of Health's Epidemiological Week on Acute Malnutrition
02	Number of children under 5 years of age with severe acute malnutrition	Nutrition	Ministry of Health's Epidemiological Week on Acute Malnutrition



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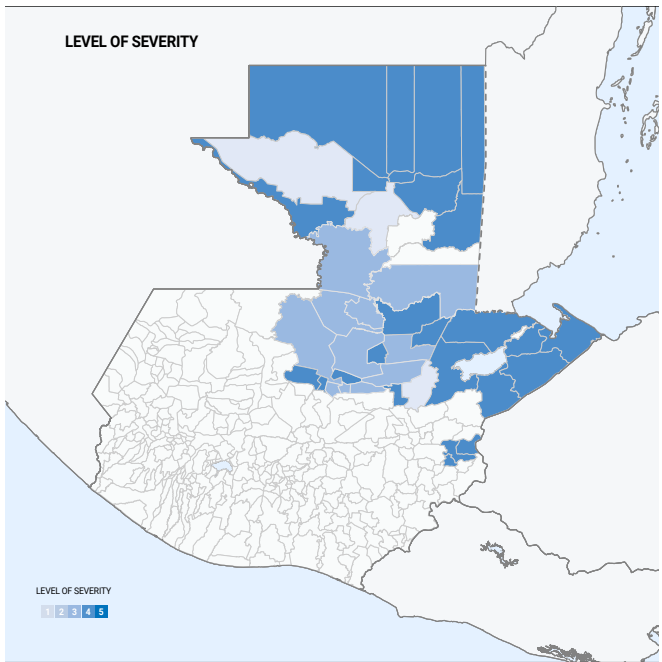
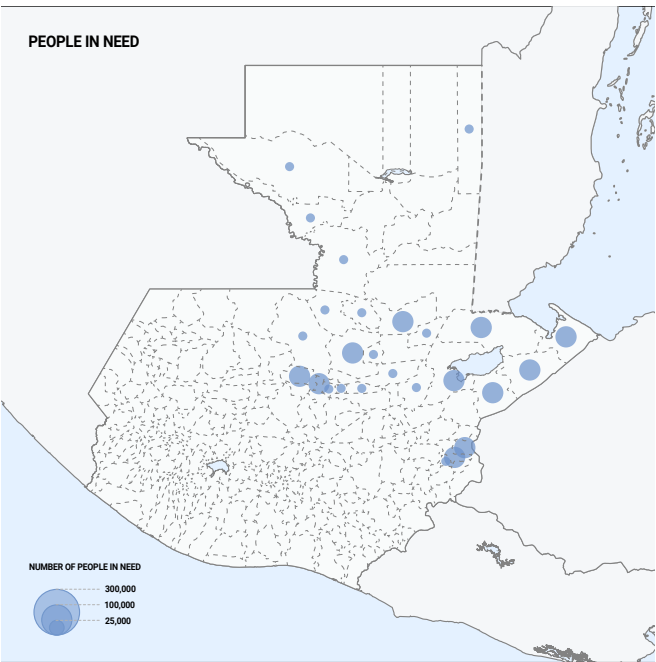
Photo: OCHA/Vincent Tremeau

### 3.4

## Health sector



PEOPLE IN NEED (PIN)	WOMEN	WOMEN OF CHILDBEARING AGE	PREGNANT WOMEN	CHILDREN	PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
735k	51%	25%	7%	34%	9.5%



### Humanitarian Needs Analysis

During 2020 and 2021, measures to contain the COVID-19 pandemic, the damage caused by Hurricanes Eta and Iota, and the recent effects of the rainy season impacted health services delivery disproportionately and on different scales. Containment measures, fear of infection and the suspension of certain hospital services<sup>66</sup> led to a 63 per cent drop in consultations. Women no longer had access to contraceptives in public services and there was also a 58 per cent decrease in family planning services; first antenatal care consultation (14 per cent); institutional delivery care (10.8 per cent); and teenage pregnancies increased by 61 per cent. Preliminary data from the

Ministry of Health (2022) show a national maternal death rate of 105 per 100,000 live births. Seven departments are above this average: Santa Rosa (211), Huehuetenango (160), El Progreso (150), Izabal (140), Peten (131), Chiquimula (114) and Alta Verapaz (113).

Interruptions in health services have serious consequences for the most vulnerable groups, such as the elderly and people with chronic diseases or disabilities.

Hurricanes Eta and Iota severely damaged the health infrastructure of nine departments and 13 health directorates. To date, 63 facilities have been rehabilitated (24.61 per cent of the total damaged

66 Rapid Gender Analysis

facilities) and eight facilities have recently started rehabilitation (3.13 per cent). For another 105 facilities (41.02 per cent) financial resources are being sought and for 89 (31.25 per cent) no source of funding has yet been found. This means that 76.65 per cent of the facilities have not yet been rehabilitated.

Recent epidemiological surveillance data on arboviruses (week 29 of 2022) indicate an increase in dengue cases compared to 2021 (from 1,378 to 3,463 cases). Twelve health areas exceed the national incidence of dengue (20 x 100,000 inhabitants), with the highest risk in the most affected areas the departments of Quetzaltenango (103.6), Zacapa (88.9), Southwestern Peten (76.8), South-eastern Peten (46.1), Baja Verapaz (45.1), Suchitepequez (35.7), Escuintla /27.8), Peten Norte (27), Retalhuleu (25.9%), Santa Rosa (21.5), Alta Verapaz (21.1) and Chiquimula (21.0). Seventeen cases of severe dengue have been confirmed (with seven deaths) and circulation of the four serotypes of the virus has been identified. In the departments of Alta Verapaz, Izabal, Chiquimula and Peten, which were impacted by Eta and Iota, the number of cases with positivity has doubled or tripled from 26.1 per cent to 49.4 per cent and two to four of the existing serotypes have been found.

Native populations have been identified as a vulnerable group (33.49 per cent of the PiN). Of these, 81 per cent of the PiN in Alta Verapaz are indigenous and between 77 per cent and 98 per cent are ladinos from the departments of Izabal, Chiquimula and Peten. This population is poor or extremely poor. It also includes people living in isolated border areas, pregnant adolescent women (10-19 years old), children under five, chronically ill people, older adults and people with disabilities living in areas of poverty and extreme poverty.

This population corresponds to the healthcare coverage of five health areas, 26 municipal health districts and 99 first and second-level healthcare posts and centres, the latter with limited capacities to guarantee continuity in the provision of services.

## Projection of Needs

The recent history of health emergencies and disasters has shown the importance of countries being prepared and able to provide health care quickly given a disproportionate increase in patients with an infectious profile, post-traumatic stress from disasters, loss of essential services and the experiences in shelters, including GBV and sexual violence.

The resolution of the humanitarian crisis still experienced by the inhabitants of the territories identified by the health sector requires comprehensive and differentiated public health interventions that guarantee the right to health, the continuum of care and therefore access to dignified services. To this end, it is essential to support the rehabilitation and equipping of health infrastructure, especially at the first and second levels of care; guarantee the provision of medicines, supplies and materials; improve the cold chain; strengthen the capacity and quality of extra- and intramural care, especially for the care of vulnerable groups; recover epidemiological surveillance of existing and potentially emerging pathogens with epidemic or pandemic potential; and improve community capacities, strengthen local work teams and provide them with tools to recover regular programmes, vaccination coverage, monitoring of nutritional status, growth and SRH.

## Overview of the affected population

The Health Sector identifies 735,530 persons in need (PiN), of whom 183,883 are women of childbearing age (10-49 years); of these, 27,582 will need contraceptive services; 25,744 will be pregnant; 3,862 may have complications and 1,287 will need specialised care. Some 3,678 women are projected to be victims of sexual violence and GBV, as well as 253,584 children and 73,553 persons with disabilities<sup>67</sup>. The prioritised area includes the municipalities of Chahal, Coban, Fray Bartolome de las Casas, Lanquin, Panzos, Raxruha, San Cristobal Verapaz, San Pedro Carcha, Santa Cruz Verapaz, Senahu, Tactic, Tamahu and Tucuru, in Alta Verapaz; the municipalities of Camotan, Jocotan and

<sup>67</sup> Projections based on indices in the departments of Alta Verapaz, Chiquimula, Izabal and Peten



San Juan Ermita in Chiquimula; El Estor, Livingston, Los Amates, Morales and Puerto Barrios in Izabal; and La Libertad, Las Cruces, Melchor de Mencos and Sayaxche in Petén.

## Monitoring

The monitoring system for risk management includes two phases: determining hazards and assessing their risk, with the STAR tool; and the second, the epidemiological surveillance system that generates national, subnational and local information through bulletins and situation rooms on risks and damage to health. The information is systematically disseminated to the Technical Council of the ministerial office, health areas and, in the case of the Health Sector, in humanitarian crises.

## Indicators

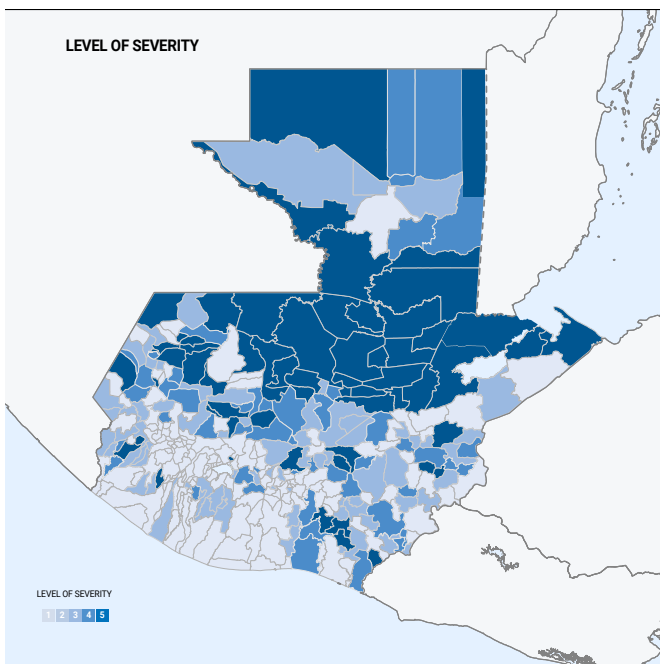
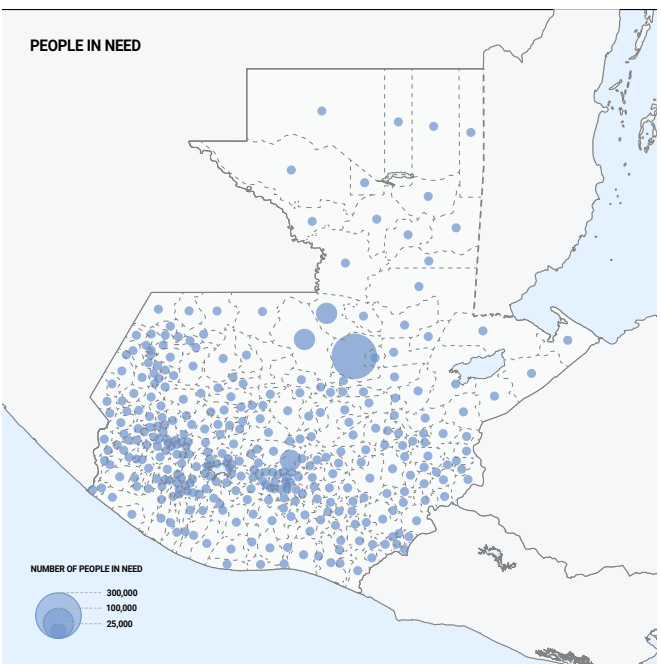
#	INDICATORS	SECTOR	SOURCE
01	% of women of childbearing age in need of contraception (15%) and basic and essential obstetric care (3.5%) in the population with difficult access to first and second level of care.	Health	SIGSA/MSPAS
02	% of people unable to access health care when needed	Health	SIGSA/MSPAS

# 3.5

## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Sector



PEOPLE IN NEED (PIN)	WOMEN	CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS	PEOPLE ABOVE THE AGE OF 70
723k	51%	40%	5.5%



### Humanitarian Needs Analysis

The lack of access to adequate water for consumption is an indicator present in relevant analyses (such as the INFORM risk index or INE's population surveys) and affects the population in areas with the highest poverty and vulnerability to disasters in Guatemala. The provision of water supply and sanitation services is not properly equipped to guarantee these services, as only one-third of municipalities at the national level have a municipal structure such as a Municipal Water and Sanitation Office or another type of agency that guarantees, plans and implements these services both in times of emergency and in times of development.

Lack of access to WASH services results in 5.5 times more money being spent on curative care which could

be avoided by investing a portion of that money in WASH services (\$5.5 can be avoided by investing \$1 in WASH). This consideration in the process would mitigate and reduce the incidence of disasters and demonstrates the importance of the triple nexus.

Climate vulnerability in certain areas of Guatemala and Central America reduces people's capacity to sustain themselves by farming their land. In the absence of the development of on-site resilience strategies, people move or migrate to urban areas where they believe they can find the basic services they lack in their communities.

The rural population, given the lack of infrastructure that responds to health and educational needs and the difficulty of living or studying in an appropriate

environment, migrates to the nearest towns, generating greater pressure on WASH and other services in urban and peri-urban areas, with poor territorial planning that affects these services, as has been experienced with sewerage in several metropolitan areas of Guatemala and its municipalities in recent years.

## Projection of Needs

Given the increased pressure on WASH services in urban and peri-urban areas, it is necessary to: strengthen municipal capacities to address climate change through planning and risk mitigation; implement water treatment mechanisms; use water storage technologies in places with a lack of sources; promote rational use in households and communities through the implementation of alternatives agreed with the communities, such as the use of water meters and implementing tariffs, among others - that also promote

sustainability; implement actions related to behavioural change to eliminate open defecation; promote the practice of hygienic habits and water treatment; and establish, strengthen and accompany municipal administrative structures to favour planning, land-use regulations and creating appropriate policies.

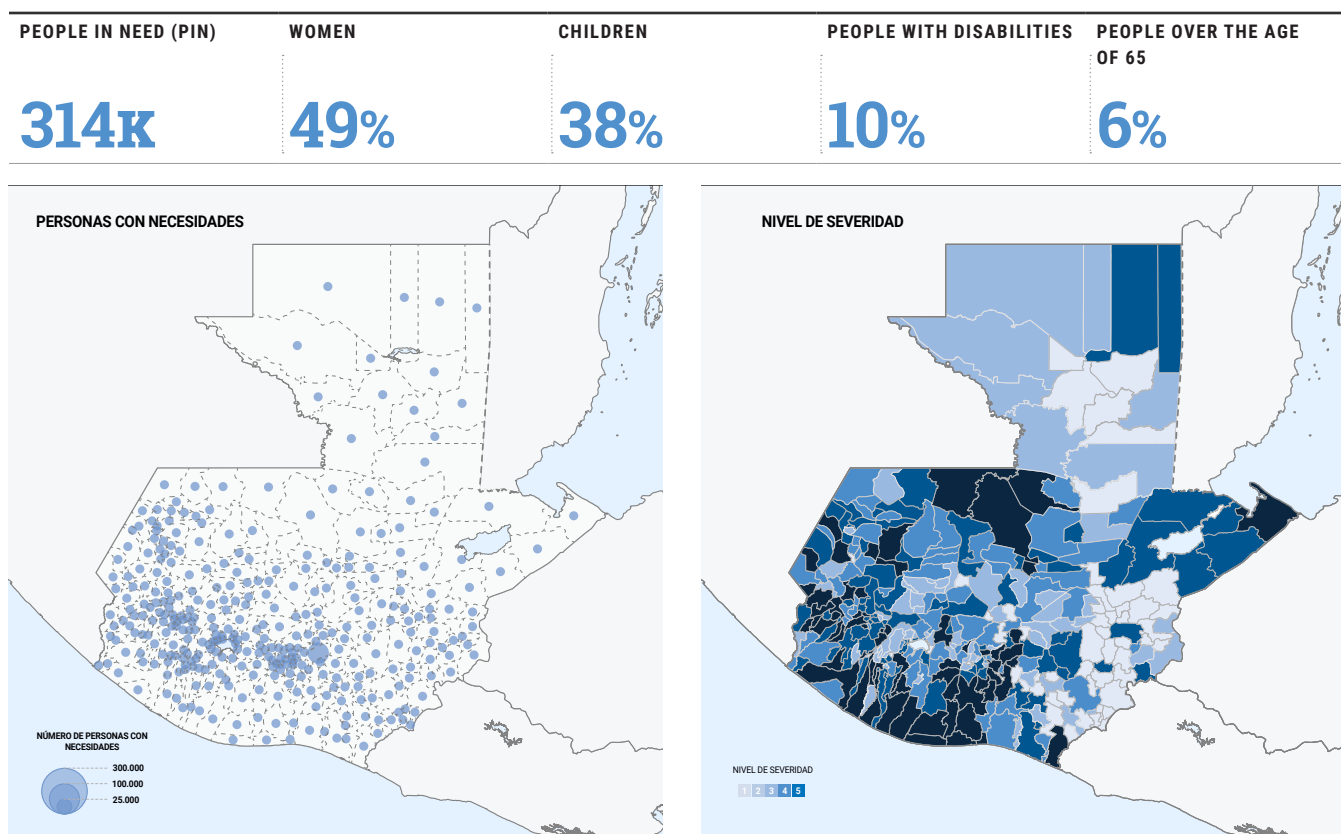
## Monitoring

To adequately monitor the status of the indicator, information will be collected from the Water Quality Monitoring Information System (SIVIAGUA) from the Ministry of Health, from information systems of organisations using different platforms (AKVO FLOW or KOBO), as well as from the municipality systems working on water issues and with coverage in vulnerable areas. Information will be shared through mechanisms to be agreed upon in the inter-cluster for monitoring indicators with other sectors.

## Indicator

#	INDICATOR	SECTOR	SOURCE
01	% of people without access to an improved water facility	WASH	Population Census 2018; INFORM 2021; HNO/HRP 2021-2022.

## 3.6 Temporary shelter sector



In Guatemala, humanitarian assistance needs are intensified when there is a convergence of several factors: disasters caused by rains, landslides, floods, volcanic eruptions, precarious housing, poverty or human mobility in all its forms. Regarding mixed flows, the number of people on the move has increased significantly. While official data is limited, civil society organisations reported assisting more than 53,000 people in 2021 and 145,884 people in 2022.

### Humanitarian Needs Analysis

Given the dynamics of human mobility in Guatemala as a country of origin, transit, destination and return of migration, the capacity for temporary accommodation in shelters in many cases exceeds the needs and more and better infrastructure is required to meet

these challenges. Typically, the spaces that are set up as temporary shelters are usually public buildings or facilities designed for other purposes, such as community halls, churches and educational facilities; this poses the challenge of meeting minimum standards of habitability and puts children's right to education at risk.

Along with the limited physical availability of adequate sites for temporary shelter, the provision of services within shelters is also a challenge (psychosocial care, protection from violence, pre-hospital care and education, among others, are limited or non-existent). The management and coordination of temporary shelters are essential since an adequate level of management (trained staff, provision of services, differentiated attention for different population groups and accessibility, among others) contributes

to the well-being and dignity of people in shelters. Protection risks increase in shelters with over-capacity and without adequate provision of food, water and other supplies.

In 2022, temporary shelter needs were identified for populations that had to move internally due to climate related situations. The ten municipalities that require greater attention due to the availability and risk of suffering a disaster are Guatemala, Mixco, Villa Nueva, Coban, Escuintla, Villa Canales, Amatitlan, Huehuetenango and Chimaltenango.

When considering shelter needs arising from socio-natural shocks and human mobility, the ten municipalities that require the most attention due to their severity are Chiquimula, Panzos, Morales, Puerto Barrios, Flores, Los Amates, San Cristóbal Verapaz, Sayaxche, Santa Catalina La Tinta and San Miguel Uspantan.

Furthermore, 10 per cent of returnees need temporary shelter upon arrival in the country due to uprooting or lack of a family network to receive them. Fifteen municipalities stand out in this group with high severity: Malacatan, Retalhuleu, San Marcos, Mazatenango, Concepción Tutuapa, Comitancillo, Tacana, Tiquisate, Colotenango, San Miguel Acatan, Jalapa, Jutiapa, Huehuetenango, Quetzaltenango and Coatepeque.

### **Overview of the affected population**

The most affected population is found in the departments of Guatemala, Escuintla, Alta Verapaz, Izabal, Chiquimula, Huehuetenango, Quiche, San Marcos and Peten. The population that has suffered due to disasters or violence is prioritised as well as persons in conditions of human mobility, including persons in transit, returnees, asylum seekers, and stranded migrants, with special attention to family units and accompanied and unaccompanied children and adolescents.

### **Projection of Needs**

The underlying drivers of human mobility and hence the need to access temporary shelter are projected to increase in severity. These factors include the effects of climate change on livelihoods, increasingly recurrent adverse weather events, the residual impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy and jobs, and violence. These factors will prompt many people to leave their place of origin to seek opportunities elsewhere. In addition, there is an increase in the transit migration of extra-continental populations, which is expected to continue to rise.

### **Monitoring**

Although data is often limited, human mobility monitoring will be carried out through the official records of the Guatemalan Migration Institute (for the returnee population) and through the extensive network of civil society organisations working along migration routes in the country. In addition, IOM and UNHCR, through the coordination of their offices in northern Central America, monitor migration flows from southern countries.



## Indicators

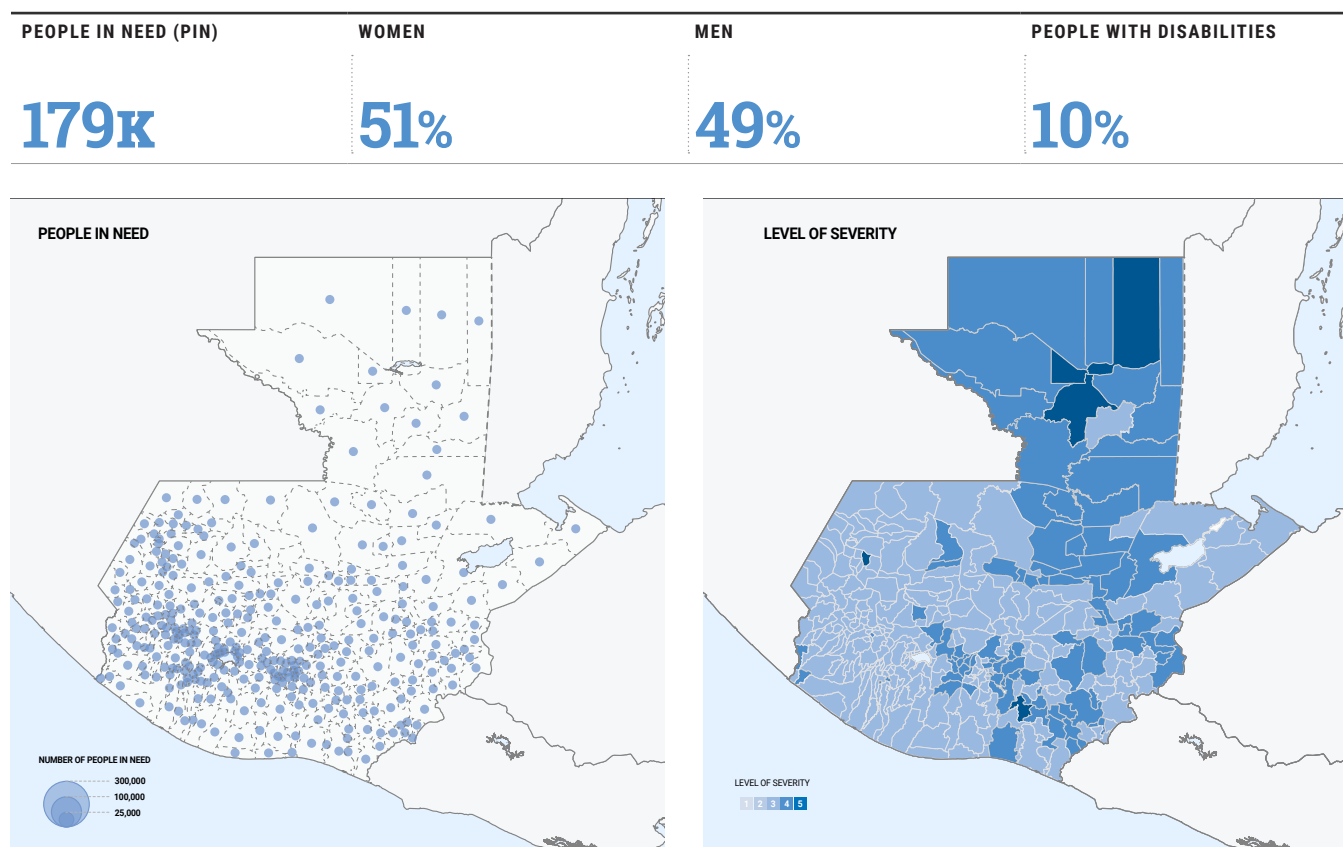
#	INDICATORS	SECTOR	SOURCE
01	% of population in need of temporary emergency shelter by municipality (according to availability and disaster risk in the municipality)	Temporary shelters	CONRED (list of shelters), INE 2022 projections, INFORM (exposure and risk)
02	% of people sheltered by socio-natural disasters or human mobility by municipality	Temporary shelters	National Protection Network 2022; shelter database CONRED, UNHCR
03	% of returnees in need of temporary shelter by municipality	Temporary shelters	IGM, SBS, IOM



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Photo: OCHA/Vincent Tremeau

## 3.7 Education Sector



### Humanitarian Needs Analysis

In Guatemala, public education centres represent a determining factor for equality, security, participation, integration and improvement of the living conditions of the educational community, especially for children from the most disadvantaged sectors.

Education, as an inherent right, is also a relevant sector within the humanitarian response, providing physical, cognitive and psychosocial protection to boys, girls and adolescents impacted or affected by socio-natural or anthropogenic disasters, pandemics or conflict-related crises. In emergency or disaster contexts, ensuring education contributes to the protection of children saves lives by providing safe learning spaces.

In Guatemala, fragile school infrastructure and little or no emergency preparedness at the community level remain a major challenge. Investments in school infrastructure and the education sector are, in most cases, insufficient, limiting the quality and relevance of the education provided and the quality of the emergency response.

Inadequate school infrastructure further increases insecurity and exposes students to danger, especially in pre-primary, primary and basic education. More and more children, including children with disabilities, refugees, migrants and indigenous children, become vulnerable and often do not continue their studies.

Many public schools in the country require improvements to enable a safe return to school

following the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing damage caused by natural, social and anthropogenic disasters. Given that there are insufficient resources for virtual or hybrid education, a safe return to schools is vital to continue the education of children and adolescents in Guatemala and to avoid school dropouts.

Needs include education centres that contain access to water and sanitation facilities to limit the spread of the viruses and provide hygiene, safety and health, especially for the youngest children.

The PiN results show latent needs in the north-western and central regions and in Peten. The severity in these areas is level 3 and 4, notwithstanding the overall need at the national level. These places need immediate support due to their territorial extension, limited access to educational facilities and poverty, which are underlying factors that have deteriorated most of the educational centres for years. Although there are investment allocations for refurbishment, they are insufficient for schools to have the minimum conditions for a safe return, including dignified places with water, sanitation and hygiene within the schools, leaving no children and adolescents behind.

### Overview of the affected population

Educational centres in Guatemala, mainly those included in this analysis, do not have adequate WASH conditions for children and adolescents to return safely to school, which directly affects enrolled students and can be a factor in school dropout.

Through the JIAF matrix exercise, it was detected that the north-western, central and Peten regions have the highest degree of severity (level 3 and 4) for a total of 89 municipalities out of 340 in the country. Another 249 municipalities present level 2 severity, indicating that almost all municipalities in Guatemala have educational establishments with a lack or deterioration of water and sanitation facilities.

These data are worrying since a total of 178,674 children and adolescents in pre-elementary, elementary

and basic education, with level 3 severity, do not have water and sanitation facilities in their schools that would allow them to receive a dignified and safe education.

### Projection of Needs

The reopening of schools is an urgent priority at the national level to halt and reverse learning loss. The Guatemalan education system needs support to be resilient and efficient once schools are reopened, with decent educational centres, with adequate conditions for new quality learning focused on the rights of children and adolescents. To this end, it is necessary to:

Support safe return to school initiatives led by the Ministry of Education, through multi-sectoral activities, including the improvement and/or construction of infrastructure in water, sanitation and hygiene systems including sanitary devices, within school environments to enable educational services to function safely when reopening.

Strengthen the commitment of the educational community in the framework of the proper use and maintenance of water and hygiene services by developing informative programmes that enable in-person education.

Strengthen inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms, humanitarian coordination and activation of the Emergency Education Cluster to promote safe educational environments with the minimum water, sanitation and hygiene conditions for a safe return, following the protocols established by ministerial authorities.

### Monitoring

The percentage of enrolled students without access to water and sanitation services per municipality will be monitored to verify progress and results in improving the quality of life, health and learning of children and adolescents, mainly in municipalities with high severity. The aim is to obtain the largest number of educational



facilities with WASH services in the country that allow for a safe return to school. Follow-up and monitoring will be done through statistical records and information from the Ministry of Education.

**Indicator**

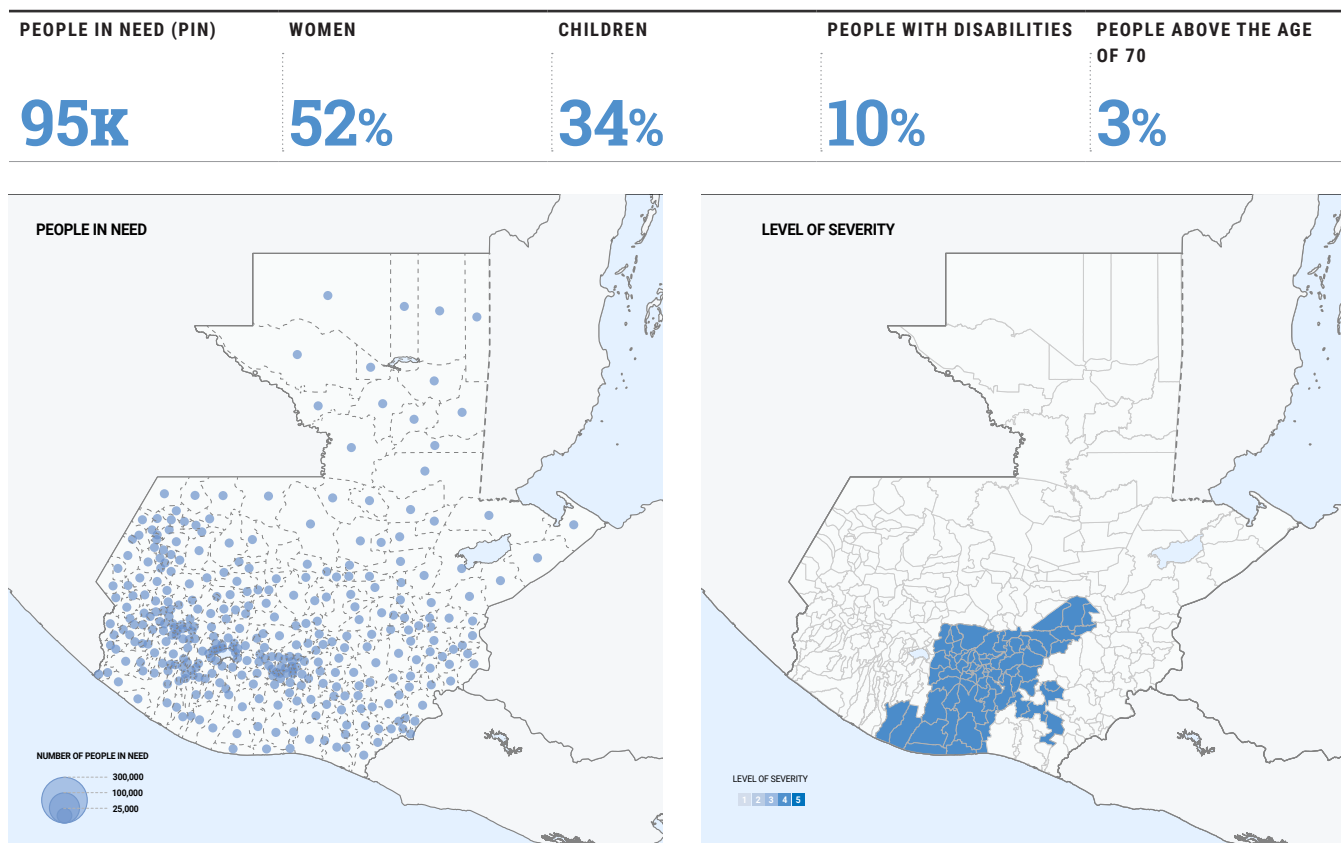
#	INDICATOR	SECTOR	SOURCE
01	% of enrolled students without access to water and sanitation facilities by municipality	Education	Ministry of Education (MINEDUC)



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Photo: OCHA/Vincent Tremeau

## 3.8 Early Recovery Sector



The impacts of disasters by natural hazards have highlighted the importance of humanitarian shelter assistance. Humanitarian shelter responses are increasingly necessary, as the lack of a safe living environment contributes to: i) reducing the effectiveness of humanitarian assistance due to the high mobility and dispersion of affected people in search of shelter; ii) further eroding the quality of life of affected people; iii) generating new risks that require additional humanitarian investment to save lives.

### Humanitarian Needs Analysis

The humanitarian assistance actions undertaken to date in terms of housing for people affected by disasters in 2021 and 2022 have not been sufficient. The country's most vulnerable populations are

immersed in a series of impacts due to the frequency and severity of disasters generated by natural events and overlapping crises. Some 95,424 people have lost their homes in critical conditions due to the lack of timely assistance to provide them with decent shelter and the recovery of a safe living environment. These families have been suffering deprivations of their right to humanitarian assistance related to protection, security and to live in dignity. For many of these families, returning to their places of origin is not a safe option, as these are in areas prone to risks, a situation that has led families to stay with relatives or neighbours, creating conditions of overcrowding and erosion of the family fabric and their quality of life.

Providing shelter-related humanitarian assistance in a timely manner can be life-saving in the post-crisis



recovery phase, as it provides protection from weather conditions and is a key pillar in promoting health, dignity, security and access to livelihoods.

The sector's activities require a comprehensive people-centred approach, including physical recovery of housing and other assistance measures to ensure minimum living standards for people affected by disasters.

### Projection of Needs

If the identified needs are not addressed, the situation of these 95,424 people may deteriorate, and they will be forced to return to their places of origin with the risks that this entails or improvise vulnerable places of accommodation lacking habitability conditions. This will create a critical scenario due to the levels of exposure to life-threatening hazards associated with heavy and continuous rains. Therefore, medium-term humanitarian assistance will continue to be a priority for shelter recovery and repair of damaged houses.

### Monitoring

The indicator "Rate of people with damaged housing attributed to recent disasters (2 years) by damage category" has been defined for monitoring, which will be provided in the Recovery Sector at the national level, specifically in the Housing working group in close coordination with the Coordinating Systems for Disaster Reduction (CONRED). This will allow making it possible to establish the evolution of the situation. The Executive Secretariat of the National Coordinating Agency for Disaster Reduction will lead periodic meetings to analyse the results of the humanitarian assessments in the sector and determine the evolution of the situation.

### Indicator

#	INDICATOR	SECTOR	SOURCE
01	Households/families with damaged dwellings attributed to the disaster by damage category	Early Recovery	Rapid Housing Damage Assessment Form SE-CONRED/PNUD

## Part 4:

# Annexes

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Photo: OCHA / Vincent Tremeau



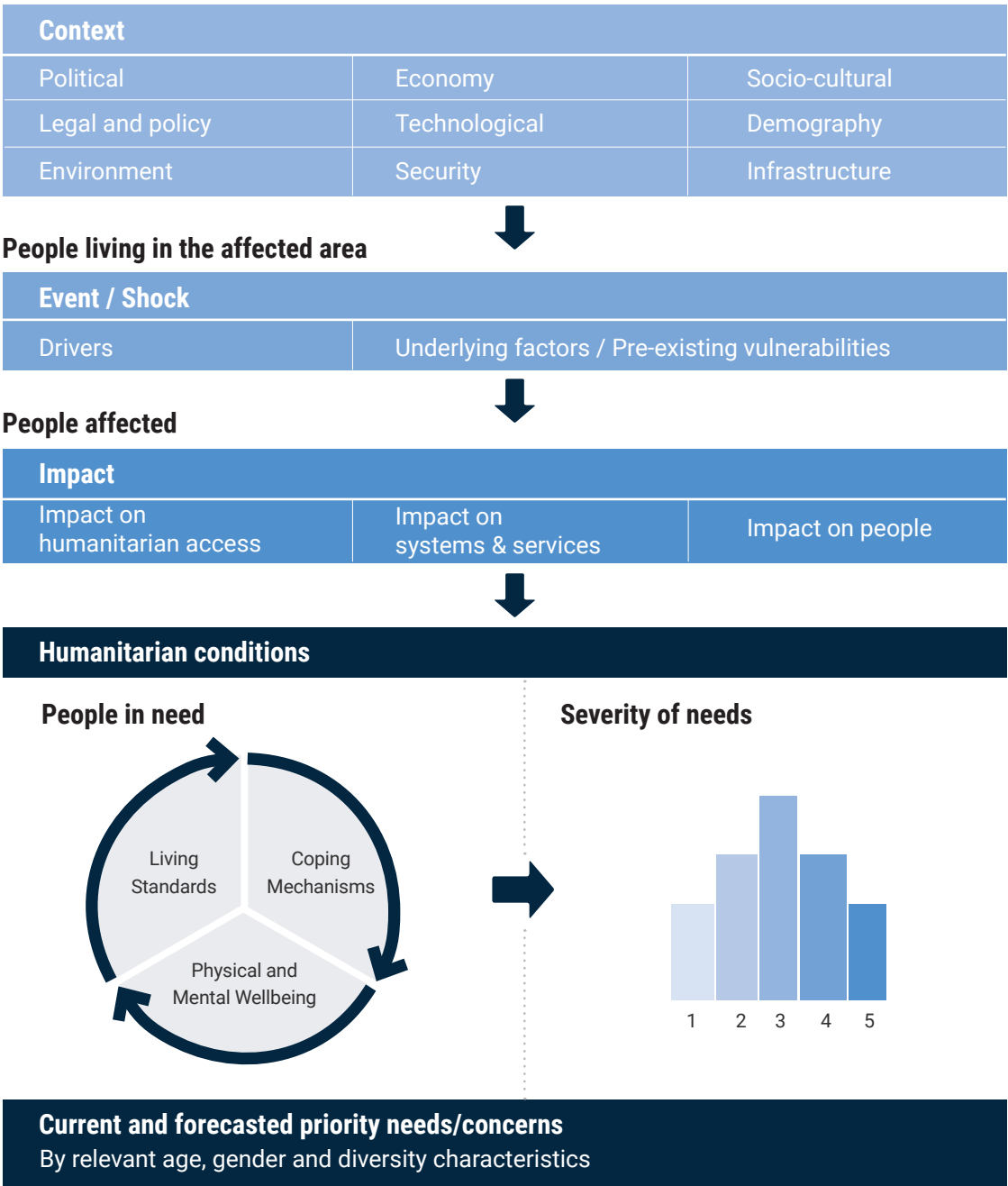


# 4.1

## Methodology

The number of people in cross-sectoral need for the Humanitarian Needs Overview 2022 was calculated using the Joint Intersectoral Analysis Framework (JIAF), a global methodology in which events or shocks that affect humanitarian conditions in the population

are analysed from three pillars: i. Living standards, ii. Living Standards, ii. Coping Mechanisms and iii. Physical and Mental Well-being.



## JIAF Severity Scale

SEVERITY PHASE	KEY REFERENCE RESULT	POTENTIAL RESPONSE OBJECTIVES
1	None/Minimal Acceptable standards of living (taking into account the context): possibility of having some signs of deterioration and/or inadequate basic social services, possible needs for strengthening the legal framework. Ability to meet all basic needs without adopting unsustainable coping mechanisms (such as asset erosion/depletion). No or minimal/low risk of impact on physical and mental well-being.	Building resilience Supporting disaster risk reduction
2	Stress Stressed living standards, leading to the adoption of coping strategies (which reduce the ability to protect or invest in livelihoods). Inability to meet some basic needs without adopting coping mechanisms that are stressed, unsustainable and/or reversible in the short term. Minimal impact on physical and mental well-being (stressed physical and mental well-being) in general. Potential for some localised/targeted incidents of violence (including human rights violations).	Supporting disaster risk reduction Protecting livelihoods
3	Severe Degradation of living standards (from usual/typical), leading to the adoption of negative coping mechanisms with the threat of irreversible damage (such as accelerated erosion/asset depletion). Reduced access/availability of social/basic goods and services. Inability to meet some basic needs without adopting crisis/emergency coping mechanisms - irreversible in the short/medium term. Degradation of physical and mental well-being. Physical and mental damage resulting in loss of dignity.	Protect livelihoods Preventing and mitigating the risk of extreme deterioration of humanitarian conditions
4	Extreme Collapse of living standards, with survival based on humanitarian assistance and/or extreme and irreversible long-term coping strategies. Extreme loss/liquidation of livelihood assets leading to severe short-term deprivation/needs. Severe and widespread human rights violations. Presence of irreversible damage and increased mortality.	Saving lives and livelihoods
5	Catastrophic Total collapse of living standards. Near total exhaustion of coping options. Coping mechanisms of last resort/exhausted. Mass mortality (CDR, U5DR) and/or irreversible damage. Widespread irreversible physical and mental harm resulting in excess mortality. Widespread and severe human rights violations.	Reverse/Prevent mass death and/or total collapse of livelihood



## Food Security and Nutrition Sector

### Food Security

The food security analysis was based on the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, IPC. In this analysis, the results are grouped into five phases depending on the severity of the degree of food insecurity.



**4.6 M or 26% of the population analysed (17.4)**

#### Persons in IPC Phase 3 or above REQUIRE URGENT ACTION

Phase 5	0 persons Catastrophic
Phase 4	0.5 M People in Emergency
Phase 3	4.0 M People in Crisis
Phase 2	7.1 M people in under Stress
Phase 1	5.6 M None/Minimal phase

### Nutrition

The following steps, agreed with the Nutrition Sector, were taken to determine the persons in need:

The indicator "global malnutrition" was selected as representative of the nutritional situation, with disaggregation at municipal level and recent information. This indicator is presented each week in the Ministry of Health (Epidemiological Week of Acute Malnutrition of the Ministry of Health) information system and refers to children under five years of age identified by health services with acute malnutrition. The week taken as the basis for the PiN calculation was the week in force at the time (epidemiological week 30, as of 30 July 2022). An initial selection was made of municipalities with 50 or more children under five years of age with acute malnutrition. Under this criterion, 19 departments and 73 municipalities were identified.

Subsequently, the acute malnutrition rate per 10,000 inhabitants was determined. This data is also provided by the Ministry of Health by municipality, and the average rate at the national level was verified; from there the cut-off points were presented to define severity and under this criterion, the following severities were assigned (with an average of 75):

Severity 1: <35

Severity 2: 36-74

Severity 3: 75-139

Severity 4: 140-270

Severity 5: >270

Using severities 3, 4 and 5, 16 departments and 56 municipalities were selected.

To further define the population in need and given that the Nutrition Sector had been analysing the evolution of severe acute malnutrition (which is the main concern for the deterioration of the nutritional status of children), it was decided as a final step to corroborate the percentage of severe acute malnutrition in the selected departments. Thus, the departments that had severe acute malnutrition higher than 25 per cent of the global acute malnutrition cases were selected. Hence, 11 departments and 44 municipalities were selected.

The selected departments are Escuintla, Suchitepequez, Izabal, Chiquimula, Alta Verapaz, El Quiche, San Marcos, Huehuetenango, Santa Rosa, Jalapa and Peten.

### Protection Sector

The Protection Analytical Framework (PAF) methodology was used for the protection analysis. Eight indicators were used to analyse the protection situation in the country, including child protection and protection from GBV.

For the first set of indicators, an analysis of secondary sources of information from government institutions, human rights and UN agencies, NGOs and civil society organisations was conducted. For another group of indicators for which no secondary information was available, primary information was collected through a methodology of consultation with experts, covering 208 municipalities in 13 departments.

With the results of both methodologies, a severity index of the protection situation was established for each of the 340 municipalities. This index was used to calculate the population in need in each municipality.

## WASH Sector

The data source for the WASH Sector's "% of people without access to an improved water facility" indicator comes from the population census for Guatemala (2018). This indicator measures the quality of access to improved water facilities at the municipal level. The sector then prioritized based on people whose main source of water is an unimproved source (rainwater, river, lake, spring, creeks, water tankers or barrels). The sector prioritized the PiN by considering municipalities at severity 4 according to the JIAF methodology, being those that have 7 per cent or more of their total population with these conditions of access to water sources. The PiN calculation is equivalent to 722,812 people in 60 municipalities.



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## 4.2

# Information gaps and limitations

Guatemala is divided into 22 departments and 340 municipalities. In many cases, the municipalities have specific and distinctive socio-cultural characteristics and contexts, present difficulties of access and have little institutional presence, so having updated information and official statistics for all indicators is a challenge and having the necessary disaggregation to characterise the municipalities is even more complex. For this reason, the sectoral analyses carried out are an interpretation that is partly quantitative but also has a high content of expert judgement regarding the vulnerable population.

The results of the Protection Sector, for example, are an interpretation that aims to analyse the situation in the country both quantitatively and qualitatively. Therefore, the severity and PiN should not be taken

as statistical values, as they are estimates made by the inter-agency and multidisciplinary team in charge of the analysis to facilitate an efficient humanitarian response that prioritises the regions of the country where the situation and protection needs are a priority.

The nutrition data had the advantage of having recently updated information from the Ministry of Health, through the Epidemiological Week of Acute Malnutrition report. The only limitation identified is that severe acute malnutrition is only reported by department, not by municipality. It would also have been very beneficial to have the other JIAF indicators by municipality and recent measurement. Considering that the other indicators do not exist, they could not be used for the PiN calculation, but they contribute to understanding the context.



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Photo: OCHA / Vincent Tremeau

## 4.3

## Acronyms

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<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	<b>INE</b>	National Institute of Statistics
<b>CAP</b>	Council for Protection and Care	<b>INFORM</b>	Index for Risk Management
<b>CAPMIRs</b>	Centre for the Care of Migrants and Refugees	<b>JIAF</b>	Joint Intersectoral Analysis Framework
<b>BFB</b>	Basic Food Basket	<b>LGBTIQ+</b>	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Transvestite, Intersex, Queer and other identities
<b>IPC</b>	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification	<b>MAGA</b>	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food
<b>CONRED</b>	Guatemalan Coordinating Agency for Disaster Reduction	<b>MSPAS</b>	Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare
<b>CPI</b>	Consumer Price Index	<b>NRC</b>	Norwegian Refugee Council
<b>DRC</b>	Danish Refugee Council	<b>OCHA</b>	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
<b>HCT</b>	Humanitarian Country Team	<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration
<b>ENDIS</b>	National Disability Survey	<b>WMO</b>	World Meteorological Organization
<b>ENSMI</b>	Maternal and Child Health Survey	<b>PAHO/WHO</b>	Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization
<b>FEWS NET</b>	Famine Early Warning Systems Network	<b>PSEA</b>	Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product	<b>PIN</b>	People in Need
<b>GTMI</b>	Information Management Technical Group	<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme
<b>HNO</b>	Humanitarian Needs Overview	<b>PMH</b>	Pastoral de Movilidad Humana
<b>IASC</b>	Inter-Agency Standing Committee	<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>IGM</b>	Guatemalan Migration Institute	<b>REDLAC</b>	Regional Group on Risks, Emergencies and Disasters in Latin America and the Caribbean
<b>INACIF</b>	Instituto Nacional de Ciencias Forenses		



<b>SESAN</b>	Secretariat of Food and Nutrition Security
<b>SIGSA</b>	Ministry of Health's Data System
<b>SIINSAN</b>	Guatemala's National Food and Nutrition Security Information System
<b>SISMICEDE</b>	CONRED's database on events
<b>SIVIAGUA</b>	Water Quality Monitoring Information System
<b>SRH</b>	Sexual and Reproductive Health
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<b>GBV</b>	Gender-Based Violence
<b>WASH</b>	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene



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Photo: OCHA / Vincent Tremeau

**HUMANITARIAN NEEDS  
OVERVIEW**  
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