



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Guatemala Country Brief September 2021



## Operational Context

Guatemala is a multicultural country with 40 percent of inhabitants being indigenous Mayan. Despite its middle-income status, two-thirds of its population lives on less than USD2 per day, and among indigenous people, poverty averages 79 percent, with 40 percent living in extreme poverty, with the highest gender inequality index in the region. Highly correlated to poverty, stunting in children aged 6-59 months is among the highest in the world and the highest in the region.

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

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

WFP has been present in Guatemala since 1984.



Population: **16.9 million**

2018 Human Development Index: **126 out of 189**

Income Level: **Middle**

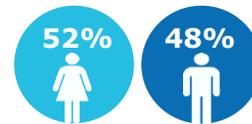
Chronic malnutrition: **46.5% of children between 6-59 months**

## In Numbers

**USD 2.4 m** cash-based transfers made

**USD 4.6 m** six-months (October 2021 – March 2022) net funding requirements, representing 77% of total

**84,500 people assisted**  
in SEPTEMBER 2021



## Operational Updates

- As part of its emergency response, WFP continued the distribution of unconditional cash-based transfers in 7 departments across the country. In September, over 84,500 beneficiaries (16,904 households) received assistance as part of the response to seasonal hunger period (June-September).
- WFP and UNAIDS provided a joint presentation to local authorities on the implementation of food assistance activities in support of people living with HIV. This programme is being implemented by WFP and funded by UNAIDS.
- As part of Joint Programme with FAO and IFAD *Linking family farming to the School-Feeding Program*, WFP started capacity strengthening of government personnel in Alta Verapaz.
- WFP and its partners inaugurated the first module of the *Management of the School-Feeding Programme* workshop. This workshop will provide capacity strengthening to 60 staff of the Ministry of Education, who will receive a diploma of completion upon finishing four modules of training.
- WFP delivered COVID-19 protective equipment (hand sanitizer and facemasks) in over 28 schools across the country.
- On 29 September, WFP convened the Steering Committee for the European Union funded Pro-Resilience project, being implemented in the Dry Corridor. The Minister of Agriculture, the Secretary of Food Security and Nutrition, as well as representatives of the European Union, UNICEF and WHO participated in the first presentation of the project operational progress.

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Country Strategic Plan (2021-2024)		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
166.4 m	43.2 m	4.6 m

**Strategic Result 1:** Everyone has access to food

**Strategic Outcome #1:** Crisis-affected populations in Guatemala are able to meet their essential needs during and in the aftermath of crises.  
**Focus area:** Crisis response

- Activities:**
- Provide direct nutrition and gender responsive assistance to crisis-affected populations

**Strategic Result 2:** No one suffers from malnutrition

**Strategic Outcome #2:** Vulnerable populations in targeted areas have access to comprehensive services and programmes that promote healthy diets by 2024.  
**Focus area:** Resilience building

- Activities:**
- Strengthen national and local capacities in nutrition and healthy diets promotion for vulnerable population

**Strategic Result 4:** Food Systems are sustainable

**Strategic Outcome #3:** Rural vulnerable populations and local institutions engage in nutrition and gender-sensitive, sustainable and climate-resilient food systems throughout the year.  
**Focus area:** Resilience building

- Activities:**
- Strengthen capacities of institutions responsible for school feeding, school communities and smallholder farmers
  - Provide training, equipment, cash-based transfers and technical assistance to vulnerable smallholder farmers, communities, cooperatives and local institutions

**Strategic Result 5:** Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs

**Strategic Outcome #4:** National institutions have strengthened capacities and improve their coordination to manage an integrated social protection system by 2024.  
**Focus area:** Resilience building

- Activities:**
- Provide technical assistance at policy and operational level to social protection institutions
  - Provide technical assistance to national and subnational institutions of the emergency preparedness and response system.

**Strategic Result 8:** Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology strengthen global partnership support to country efforts to achieve the SDGs

**Strategic Outcome #5:** National partners have access to efficient services and technical assistance throughout the year.  
**Focus area:** Resilience building

- Activities:**
- Provide food procurement services to national institutions and other partners

As part of its resilience building activities, WFP and its partners in the field distributed biofortified seeds to 5,800 smallholder farmers in the Dry Corridor. These climate resilient seeds aim to support smallholders to commercialize the surplus of their harvest.

**Monitoring**

- As part of its emergency food assistance in Quiché, WFP trained local partners and government counterparts in the use of the mobile application (MODA) for the identification and registration of households.
- WFP started the post-distribution monitoring for its emergency response activities countrywide. Data collection is ongoing, with findings to be shared by the end of October.
- WFP is collecting the baseline data at household level for the Pro-Resilience project financed by the European Union, the field phase will end the first week of October.

**Challenges**

- Most of WFP programmatic areas show a high level of COVID-19 contagion (classified as orange or red by the Government of Guatemala). WFP has adapted its programme activities to comply with government implemented measures limiting activities convening large groups of people.

**Donors**

Canada, European Union, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, United States, Spain.