



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

In Guatemala, converging crises linked to poverty, extreme climate events and the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic have led to an unprecedented increase in humanitarian needs, particularly affecting the most vulnerable people such as indigenous communities, women, children and adolescents, internally displaced people (IDPs) and people living with disabilities.

Objectives

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is working with partners in the Food Security Sector to:

- Strengthen the resilience of affected people and the linkages between humanitarian and development actions.
- Restore the food security and livelihoods of vulnerable farming families.

Activities



Strengthen agricultural livelihoods

cash+ | agricultural kits (amaranth, cassava, chiplin, sweet potato and vegetable seeds) to restore and diversify production | poultry and pigs | fish fingerlings | construction/rehabilitation of fish ponds, infrastructures (greenhouses, mesh houses, etc.) and drip irrigation systems for the production of vegetables and fruits | good agricultural practices | climate change adaptation through training of local authorities, staff from the Ministry of Agriculture, municipal governments, the Food and Nutrition Security Secretariat, the National Coordinator for Disaster Risk Reduction, and national and international non-governmental organizations | systems for harvesting rainwater | soil restoration



Guatemala

Humanitarian Response Plan 2021–2022



to assist
286 000 people
(55 000 households)



FAO requires
USD 16.6 million

- USD 1.7 million for 2021
- USD 14.9 million for 2022

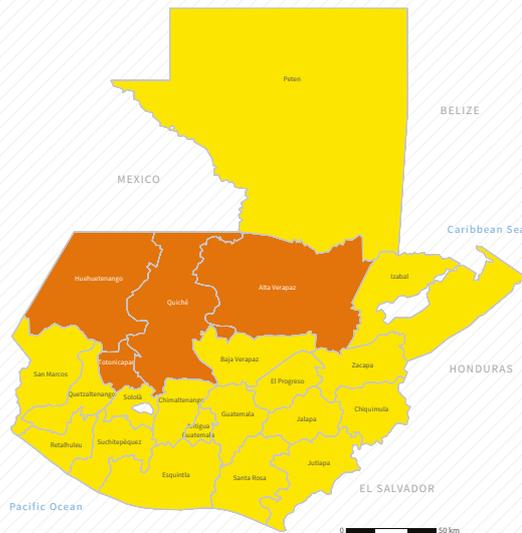


period
**August 2021–
December 2022**

Rapidly restoring the agriculture-based livelihoods of affected households will contribute to sustainably improve their food security while reducing the adoption of negative coping mechanisms.



Projected acute food insecurity situation (September 2021–January 2022)



Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)



Source: IPC. 2021. *Guatemala: Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Snapshot, May 2021–January 2022*. [online]. Rome, Italy. [Cited 16 September 2021]. http://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC_Guatemala_AcuteFoodInsecurity_2021May2022Jan_Snapshot_English.pdf | Map conforms to UN. 2014. Map No. 3834, Rev. 3.

Situation analysis



2.5 million people projected to be in high acute food insecurity (IPC, September 2021–January 2022)



47% of children under five affected by chronic undernutrition, the highest rate in Latin America and the Caribbean



50.1% of the population live in poverty



137 000 ha of cropland damaged or destroyed by Hurricanes Eta and Iota



242 000 IDPs

Impact on food security

In 2020, Guatemala experienced severe climatic events, increased poverty and lack of access to basic services due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. This is significantly impacting populations already facing chronic food insecurity and malnutrition. During the last decade, the country faced a considerable increase in the recurrence and magnitude of disasters and humanitarian crises. Food insecurity is now not only affecting vulnerable households in the Dry Corridor but also poor families in the central-western highlands, particularly indigenous communities engaged in subsistence farming and day-labourers. Migration flows are also triggering increased humanitarian needs, both within the country as well as along the Guatemala-Mexico migration corridor and on the southern border of the United States of America.

Mobility restrictions and market closures adopted as part of the measures to contain COVID-19 have adversely affected households' food production and marketing, particularly due to limited availability and increased prices of inputs,

as well as lack of transportation. Furthermore, since the beginning of the pandemic, many households have had to reduce or eliminate the consumption of meat, milk or fruits, affecting their diets; these have been replaced by maize, beans and herbs, which were usually used as food reserves.

Finally, Hurricanes Eta and Iota damaged and destroyed homes, community infrastructure, animals and thousands of hectares of cropland which were critical to the livelihoods of 204 000 already facing economic difficulties due to the pandemic and previous crises such as a series of prolonged drought in recent years.

Providing affected communities with timely agricultural support is essential to quickly allow them to resume production activities and strengthen their resilience to future shocks.

Contact

FAO Representation in Guatemala
FAO-GT@fao.org | @FAOGuatemala
Guatemala City, Guatemala

FAO Office of Emergencies and Resilience
OER-Director@fao.org | fao.org/emergencies
Rome, Italy

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