



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Guatemala

Humanitarian Response
Plan 2024

In Guatemala, the high cost of the basic food basket hinders households' ability to access food and leads to increased adoption of negative coping mechanisms, such as selling productive assets or depleting seed reserves to meet basic food needs. **As a result, nearly one in six people, mainly vulnerable farmers, are likely to experience acute food insecurity.**

Supporting their food production is essential to the humanitarian response and is cost-effective. For example, every US dollar invested in agricultural support enables a family to produce staple food worth nearly six times the cost of the seed package received.



TO ASSIST
213 710 people



FAO REQUIRES
USD 12.6 million



JANUARY–DECEMBER
2024



What investments in agriculture can achieve

USD 150 =

With a poultry-raising package, a household can produce around 72 eggs per week worth USD 14.40 on the local market.

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Enable a family to regularly consume protein and sell eggs throughout the year

USD 90 =

Through the provision of seeds, each household can cultivate 1.25 ha of land and produce an estimated 0.5 tonne of maize and 0.25 tonne of beans, worth USD 520 on the local market.

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Support a family of 5 to produce enough staple food for 4 months

USD 40 =

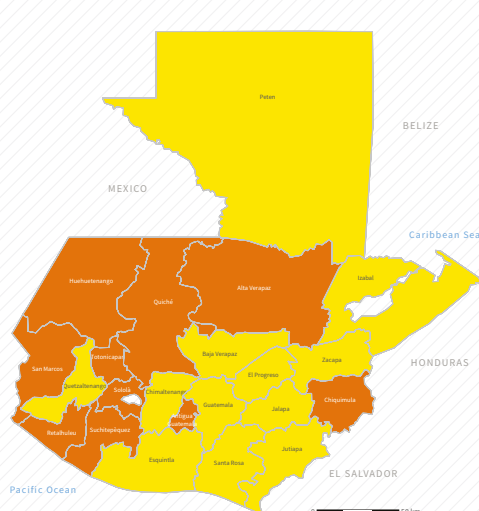
A market gardening kit enables a household to produce 6 types of vegetables (amaranth, chipilín, herbs, onion, radish and tomato) ready for consumption in 6-8 weeks, worth around USD 60/month on the local market.

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Allow quick access to nutritious food and to generate income

Projected acute food insecurity situation (September 2023–February 2024)



Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)

- | | |
|--------------|---------------------|
| 1 – Minimal | 4 – Emergency |
| 2 – Stressed | 5 – Famine |
| 3 – Crisis | Inadequate evidence |

Source: IPC. 2023. *Guatemala: Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Snapshot, March 2023–February 2024*. Guatemala City, Guatemala. https://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC_Guatemala_Acute_Food_Insecurity_Mar2023Feb2024_Snapshot_English.pdf

Urgency of humanitarian agricultural assistance

In Guatemala's Dry Corridor, crop losses due to drought have been recurrent, while increased intensity and frequency of tropical storms, hurricanes and rains affect the rest of the country every year. In 2023, the impact of climate extremes was exacerbated by the effects of the El Niño phenomenon, consistently undermining food security and increasing humanitarian needs in the country. More specifically, drought conditions in March–August 2023 resulted in the reduction of small-scale farmers' basic grain reserves. The prices of staple food, fuel and inputs such as fertilizers, have also significantly increased, hindering farmers' abilities to engage in agricultural activities, resulting in lower yields and limited availability of food for the most vulnerable. High levels of acute food insecurity have been registered not only in the municipalities of the Dry Corridor but also in other parts of the country, mainly those affected by extreme poverty, social tensions and lack of land for cultivation.

In 2024, climate extremes are expected to persist further impacting the food security of already vulnerable populations. Restoring farmers' means of production is crucial to quickly improve access to food for their families and the wider community.

Coordination

As co-leads of the Food Security Working Group in Guatemala, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme work closely with local and international partners, in collaboration with government counterparts, to ensure a needs-based, coordinated and effective response.

Drivers of food insecurity

- High food prices
- Depletion of food reserves
- Climate extremes

Key facts

Country population: **18.09 million**



3.1 million people likely to experience high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above)



46.5% of all children in the country face chronic malnutrition – the highest rate in Latin America and the sixth worldwide



22-30% increase in the price of beans, maize and rice in 2023



75% of the population live in areas with high exposure to climate hazards such as floods, drought and landslides



USD 1.20 out of 100 in humanitarian assistance to food sectors went to support agriculture and livelihoods (2016-2022)

In 2023, FAO reached over 16 900 farming families with support for vegetable production, coffee production management and technical assistance to ensure sustainable production and encourage women’s participation in agricultural activities. An additional 9 611 families, mainly female-headed, benefited from FAO’s initiatives to increase availability of and access to healthy food through the promotion of sustainable agrifood systems. These families successfully applied good crop management practices for the cultivation of beans, cassava, maize, sweet potato, local herbs and fruit trees.



FAO priorities

Priority	Type of assistance to be provided/ content of assistance package	Cost per household (USD)	Number of beneficiary households	Total cost (USD)	Funds needed by	Planned implementation period
Improve basic grain production	10 kg of certified maize seed and 10 kg of certified black bean seed	89	41 098	3 657 722	April	May–July
Promote and protect poultry production	12 laying hens and 50 kg of feed concentrate	150	21 188	3 178 200	May	June
	Community livestock kits for vaccination (vaccines, cooler, dry ice, syringes) against Newcastle, avian bronchitis, avian cholera and Gumboro diseases	266.05	2 000	532 100	April	May
Improve availability of and access to food through vegetable production support	450 g of vegetable seeds (amaranth, chipilín, herbs, onion, radish and tomato)	40	41 098	1 643 920		May–June
Improve access to water for irrigation	Material for the construction of rainwater harvesting systems (15 000-litre capacity per household)	650	5 560	3 614 000		

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