



OCHA

# GUATEMALA

## HUMANITARIAN NEEDS AND RESPONSE PLAN SUMMARY 2024

Photo: OCHA/Diana Arroyo



**5.3M**

PEOPLE IN NEED



**2.5M**

PEOPLE TARGETED



**\$125M**

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

### Needs

In Guatemala, food insecurity, acute malnutrition in children under age 5 and increased flows of migrants and refugees are major humanitarian concerns. About **5.3 million people need humanitarian assistance**, which includes food, emergency medical services, acute malnutrition response, access to safe water and sanitation, shelter, and protection assistance. This assistance also involves providing information and referral mechanisms for cases of violence, including gender-based violence. In 2023, the number of people in need of assistance rose by 300,000 compared to 2022.

From March to August 2023, food security worsened due to drought, which led to a decrease in small-scale farmers' basic grain reserves and an increase in seasonal prices. El Niño conditions, which are likely to continue into 2024, are making these needs worse. This could greatly reduce the harvest of staple grains in the first agricultural cycle, a critical issue in the western highlands, where food insecurity is most severe. A poor harvest would also mean fewer jobs and lower wages for day laborers who rely on this income.

The rising number of children suffering from malnutrition in Guatemala is alarming. The country has the highest rate of child malnutrition in Latin America and is sixth worldwide. Nearly half of all children (46.5 per cent) face chronic malnutrition. As of week 27 in 2023, there were 14,626 cases of acute malnutrition, a 28 per cent increase from the same period in 2022. Of the severe malnutrition cases in 2023, 22 per cent (3,850 children) are severe acute malnutrition cases.

Due to its location near Mexico and the United States, Guatemala is a hub for people on the move, including refugees and asylum seekers.

In 2024, Guatemala will continue to grapple with economic and social inequality, environmental shocks, and political unrest. The number of people needing protection is expected to reach 3 million, driven by increased displacement within and across borders and the humanitarian impacts of violence and organized crime.

### Response

The Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2024 seeks to **meet the urgent needs of 2.5 million people**, or about 47 per cent of the 5.3 million in need. This target is based on priorities related to food insecurity and people on the move, the most critical crises currently taking place in Guatemala. These priorities take into account the current situation and the capacities of humanitarian organizations operating in the country.

The plan, **which requires US\$125 million in funding**, features activities designed to complement ongoing development projects and Government efforts, following an in-depth analysis of humanitarian partners' current interventions. This requirement is \$1 million less than the HRP 2023, a reduction in line with the global shift towards a more disciplined focus on urgent needs for a more efficient response. Changes from the HRP 2023 also follow a transition to updated joint analysis frameworks.

Disaster-affected areas, especially mountainous, remote, or flood-prone regions, pose significant logistical challenges and can delay the delivery of humanitarian aid. Additionally, in the current political climate, protests and blockades on major roads in the country may also potentially present major challenges.

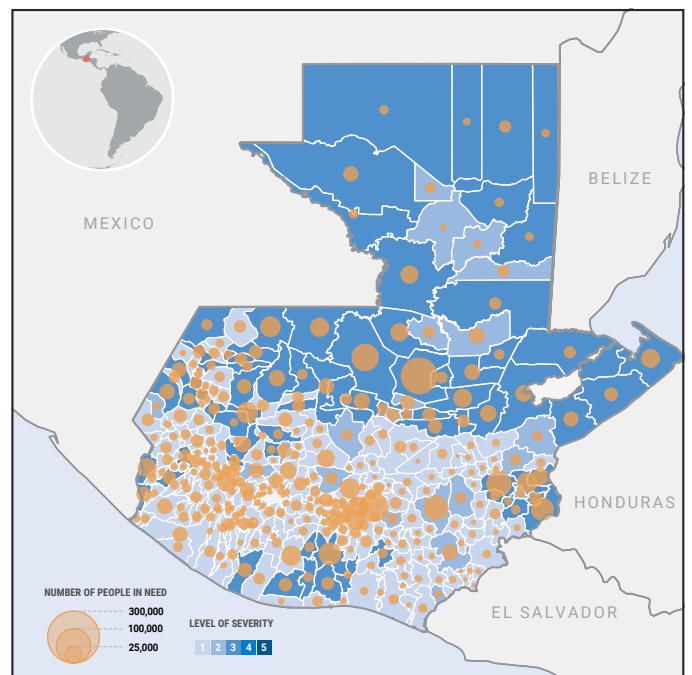




Photo: WFP

### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1

Respond to humanitarian needs and save the lives of populations severely affected by food and nutritional insecurity and people on the move through a human rights approach, an intersectoral perspective, differentiated by age, gender and diversity, and with cultural and linguistic relevance.

### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2

Complement humanitarian response with actions that increase affected people's protection, resilience and empowerment, facilitating recovery to contribute to sustainable development.

## PEOPLE IN NEED & PEOPLE TARGETED / REQUIREMENTS (US\$) BY SECTOR

Sector/sub-sector	People in need & targeted		Requirements (US\$)
Food Security	4.3M	641k	\$41.2M
Protection	2.9M	810k	\$34.4M
- GBV*	1.2M	172k	\$3.8M
- Child Protection*	1.1M	360k	\$13.0M
Nutrition	1.7M	680k	\$7.3M
WASH	1.0M	596k	\$4.4M
Health & SRH	761k	304k	\$5.8M
Education	554k	220k	\$6.0M
Shelter/CCCM	222k	110k	\$9.1M
Coordination	-	-	\$447k

\* sub-sector

## TRENDS

**+300K**  
PEOPLE IN NEED COMPARED TO 2023

**+200K**  
PEOPLE TARGETED COMPARED TO 2023

**-\$1.0M**  
REQUIRED (US\$) COMPARED TO 2023

Humanitarian Programme Cycle	People in need & targeted		Requirements (US\$)
2021-2022	3.8M	1.7M	\$56.3M
(2022)	-	-	\$153M
2023	5.0M	2.3M	\$126M
2024	5.3M	2.5M	\$125M