

# EU Food Facility Fact Sheet



## Guatemala

**Roughly €6.3 million (\$8.9 million) in European Union Food Facility assistance has supported the World Food Programme's efforts in Guatemala to fight hunger, poverty and one of the world's highest malnutrition rates. The funding has helped improve agricultural production, develop income-generating activities and boost nutrition levels of 24,000 of the most vulnerable families in five of Guatemala's poorest departments.**

### Achievements

EU funds have helped WFP realize three broad objectives in this Central American nation as part of a joint programme with other United Nations Agencies and the Guatemalan government.

Working through farmers' organizations in the northern departments of Alta Verapaz and El Quiché, WFP has helped 6,000 small farmers begin moving from subsistence to profitability through improved crop production, storage and marketing. Under WFP's Purchase for Progress (P4P) initiative, more than 3,700 farmers have also received grain silos to better store their harvests.

Not only has WFP helped connect farmers to buyers, but it has also purchased nearly 5,550 metric tons of their maize to use in a fortified food blend (Vitcereal) for 34,400 pregnant women and nursing mothers and 100,000 children in a bid to reduce high rates of malnutrition.

Nearly 13,300 families have received WFP food for participating in such training and work activities as reforestation, livestock raising and sustainable agricultural practices like

zero tillage, which increases the amount of water and organic matter in the soil.

Altogether, WFP has distributed nearly 5,700 metric tons of food to rural residents engaged in training and work activities.



### Background

The food price crisis, coupled with flooding and drought in recent years, has deepened already worrying poverty and malnutrition rates in Guatemala, which imports much of the petroleum and grains it uses.

Malnutrition affects almost half of all Guatemalan children under five; in some rural areas, an alarming seven out of ten children are malnourished. For most Guatemalans, food is a major

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### Quick Facts

#### EU FOOD FACILITY FUNDING

€6.3 million (\$8.9 million) between July 2009 and September 2011

#### GOALS

To increase harvests, reduce malnutrition, develop income-generating activities and mitigate the effects of droughts and floods on agricultural production.

#### BENEFICIARIES AND RESULTS

- 34,400 pregnant women, nursing mothers and 100,000 young children received nutritional supplements
- 13,300 subsistence farmers participated in Food-for-Work and Food-for-Training activities
- 6,000 small farmers enrolled in P4P
- Nearly 5,550 metric tons of maize purchased from small farmers under P4P

#### MAIN WFP ACTIVITIES

- Purchase for Progress (P4P)
- Food for Work and Food for Training
- Nutrition

#### PARTNERS

- Government of Guatemala (INDECA, SESAN, MSPAS)
- MAGA
- PRORURAL
- United Nations agencies (FAO, PAHO, UNICEF)

#### PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN FIVE DEPARTMENTS:

Alta Verapaz, Baja Verapaz, El Quiché, Jalapa, El Progreso.

investment, accounting for more than a third of average household expenditures and up to 70 percent in rural areas.

The food outlook for the country's poorest worsened in 2011, with the government declaring a national nutritional risk alert and a new report by the Inter-American Development Bank warning of further sharp increases in food prices.

Largely dependent on subsistence maize and bean farming, Guatemala's rural economy is also prone to droughts and floods. About 11 percent of its population living on less than one euro a day.

Overall, Guatemala is ranked 116th out of 169 countries listed in the United Nations Development Programme's 2010 Human Development Index.

### Story from the Field: Sustainable Farming in Guatemala's Heartland

EL QUICHÉ, Guatemala – For Guatemala's indigenous farmers, the land has long been the main source of food and life. But a mix of factors – lack of opportunities, adverse weather and population pressures on natural resources, to name a few – has kept many communities here mired in poverty.

That is the case of elderly farming couple Juan Us and Maria Tum, whose ancestors have grown maize and beans for generations in the country's mountainous heartland, northwest of the capital Guatemala city.

But this year is different. Us and Tum will harvest their first peaches from trees fertilized with home-made compost. Their maize crop is flourishing, partly thanks to a new understanding of sustainable agricultural practices.

The couple counts among more than 24,000 Guatemalan families who are

learning more productive, diversified and sustainable ways to farm.

Developed by WFP and FAO with government support, the agricultural training programmes are part of a larger, EU-funded effort to improve the health, nutrition and livelihoods of tens of thousands of Guatemalans.



**Juan Us and Maria Tum are farming more sustainably.**



**World Food Programme**

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