



Feed the Future Country Fact Sheet

Online Version: <https://www.feedthefuture.gov/country/guatemala>

COUNTRY PROFILE				
 Guatemala				
In Guatemala, Feed the Future is targeting investments in specific regions for maximum impact. These statistics reflect the realities of Guatemala and the results of Feed the Future's work there.				
POPULATION	POVERTY	STUNTING	RURAL	GDP
1.5	5.9	67.4	49	4.2
Million	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Number of people who live in Feed the Future target regions in Guatemala	Percentage of population living in poverty in Feed the Future target regions	Percentage of children under 5 suffering from stunting in Feed the Future target regions	Percentage of population living in rural Guatemala (World Bank, 2014)	Annual GDP growth. Agriculture accounts for 11.5% of added value (World Bank, 2014)
FARMERS	SALES	NUTRITION	LAND	INVESTMENT
35.3	\$11	220	8.89	\$2.5
Thousand	Million	Thousand	Thousand	Million
Producers using improved technologies & skills with Feed the Future's help in FY14	New income earned by Feed the Future farmers in FY14 from agricultural product sales	Children under 5 reached with nutrition help in FY14 across Guatemala	Hectares tended with improved technologies or management practices in FY14	New private investment leveraged by Feed the Future in FY14

Approach

Food security is a pressing concern in Guatemala, especially when it comes to children. Half of all children under 5 in this Central American country are chronically malnourished—the worst level of malnutrition in the Western Hemisphere.

The statistics are even more alarming in the Western Highlands of the country, where the majority of the population is indigenous: Chronic malnutrition among young children is 67 percent in Feed the Future target regions ([Western Highlands Integrated Program Baseline Survey, 2013](#)). One of the primary reasons Guatemala faces such high levels of chronic malnutrition is that families lack resources to produce or buy foods that meet nutritional needs. Families also lack information on healthy feeding practices for infants and children.

Despite these challenges, Guatemala has tremendous potential for expanding its agricultural production, which would lead to rural economic growth, job creation and poverty alleviation. Guatemala is recognized as a leader in non-traditional agricultural exports in Central America, such as snow peas, green beans, baby/mini-vegetables and fruits, whose production has grown exponentially over the past 10 years, benefitting smallholder farmers.

Support for horticulture and coffee production by smallholder farmers is an essential starting point for alleviating poverty in Guatemala, as the earnings from these activities stimulate growth and job creation in the entire economy. Understanding that increased incomes don't always translate into improved nutrition, Feed the Future implements behavior change communication activities to promote feeding and hygiene practices that improve child health.

Strategy

Goal: Reduce the prevalence of poverty in the areas where Feed the Future works in Guatemala by 15 percent.

2013 Baseline: 5.9 percent

2017 Target: 5.0 percent

Goal: Reduce the prevalence of stunting in children under 5 years old in the areas where Feed the Future works in Guatemala by 12 percent.

2013 Baseline: 67.4 percent

2017 Target: 59.3 percent

To achieve its goals, Feed the Future is making key investments to:

- Strengthen market-led agricultural development
- Prevent and treat chronic malnutrition
- Improve access to food and health services
- Improve nutritional status, especially of women and children

Feed the Future is focusing its efforts in targeted value chains and regions to maximize impact.

Value Chains

- Coffee
- Horticulture
- Handicrafts

Target Regions

30 municipalities in five departments of the Western Highlands:

- Totonicapán
- San Marcos
- Huehuetenango
- Quetzaltenango
- Quiché

Program Highlights

Integrated Approach. The U.S. Government collaboratively implements programs, including three presidential initiatives, to reduce poverty and chronic undernutrition in the Western Highlands region of Guatemala. The U.S. Government works closely with the Government of Guatemala at the municipal, departmental and regional levels, as well as with other donors and municipal and community organizations, to ensure sustainability, foster synergies and achieve shared goals for rural development.

Building on previous successes that reduced chronic malnutrition, the Western Highlands Integrated Program is based on actions defined in Guatemala's national plan to address undernutrition known as the Zero Hunger Pact. The program has a multi-sectoral focus, combining interventions in agriculture, health and nutrition, local governance, education, humanitarian assistance and adaptation to climate change. Partners recognize the role that the private sector can play and agree to seek opportunities for private investment in development-related activities.

Nutrition. Guatemala's high levels of chronic malnutrition are well known. The Government of Guatemala has prioritized reducing these levels through its Zero Hunger Pact. Interventions focus on the critical 1,000-day window from pregnancy to a child's second birthday, when good nutrition has lifelong implications for education achievement, poverty reduction and economic growth. With Feed the Future's support, community health workers, community leaders, indigenous citizen advocacy groups and women's groups are working together to improve healthy behaviors and reduce chronic malnutrition. Feed the Future is helping to increase families' access to micronutrient and vitamin A supplementation and clean water, improve treatment of childhood diarrhea, expand childhood growth monitoring and prenatal care, and teach families how to grow and prepare nutritious foods at home. Feed the Future also works at the national level to improve food fortification policies, educate leaders on the prevalence and effects of chronic undernutrition, and strengthen national food security statistic collection and monitoring and evaluation of the impact of nutrition interventions.

Gender Integration. In Guatemala, men historically control decision-making and political, social and economic resources. Feed the Future integrates gender into all of its activities to ensure that both men and women benefit from progress. Activities promote equity for women in the Guatemalan workforce and address barriers to participation, particularly for rural women. Nutrition education activities focus on reaching husbands, wives and mothers-in-law to ensure increased incomes are used to purchase a greater diversity of nutritious foods. Feed the Future is assessing how increased household income from women's participation in on- and off-farm jobs affects control and use of income. As part of its contributions to Feed the Future, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) continues to address the underlying gender-based constraints that limit healthy behavior change and demand for and use of health and family planning services.

Resilience. Poor, rural communities in Guatemala are highly vulnerable to natural disasters, climate change and resulting spikes in food insecurity. These communities often lack basic health and water and sanitation services as well as access to credit, which complicates their ability to recover from shocks. The U.S. Government works to increase the resilience of vulnerable communities and households in Guatemala by aligning local governance and [food assistance](#) resources with economic growth and health and nutrition programs. This effort includes investing in the capacity of local government to provide basic services and foster local economic growth, particularly expanding availability of safe water.

Coffee Rust Response. Feed the Future is supporting regional institutions to help countries like Guatemala respond to the current coffee rust outbreak. During the 2012–2013 harvest, coffee rust caused a 15 percent reduction, on average, in coffee yields. As part of Feed the Future, USAID is working with partners across sectors to develop new instruments to enable coffee roasters to invest more sustainably in coffee farms in Guatemala. These instruments help provide technical assistance to growers and ensure that they have access to the best agronomic and financial management practices. Additionally, USAID provided support to Guatemala's National Coffee Association (ANACAFE) to develop and establish a national early warning system and is helping the association strengthen its coffee rust monitoring and evaluation system too.

Scaling Innovation. Feed the Future in Guatemala is focusing on scaling the following proven technologies and practices to help smallholder farmers in the Western Highlands:

- Improved bean varieties to increase protein consumption and address low yields at high altitudes.
- Traceability technology to meet international requirements and improve smallholder access to export markets, including the United States.

Results

Results by the numbers

- More than **35,300 farmers and other producers** applied improved technologies and management practices for the first time last year with Feed the Future's help.
- Producers applied improved technologies and management practices on nearly **9,000 hectares** of land with Feed the Future's help last year.
- Feed the Future-supported farmers and producers increased the value of their agricultural product sales last year by more than **\$11.5 million**.
- Feed the Future leveraged nearly **\$2.55 million** in new private investment in food and agriculture in Guatemala.
- U.S. Government programs reached more than **220,500 children** under 5 years old to improve their nutrition.

Key achievements

- Feed the Future provided more than 8,000 families with improved local black bean seeds. Over the years, local black bean varieties had become less vigorous and healthy due to poor seed saving techniques. The new, improved varieties have shown as much as a fivefold yield increase and have created a lot of excitement among farmers. Feed the Future's MasFrijol project works with other USAID partners to distribute the seeds and provide training on health and nutrition. Best of all, the farmers don't just want to grow these seeds in order to sell the beans as a cash crop. Instead, the beans are used as an integral part of the local diet, providing a great boost to protein intake.
- Coffee farmers absorbed a huge loss in production over the last two years due to the fast spreading coffee rust fungus. Some farmers lost more than half of their coffee crop. USAID responded by providing access to new seedlings of both existing and new rust resistant varieties and supported brigades of workers with proper pesticide training to stop rust in its tracks. With the crisis winding down, prevention measures in place, and newly-planted young, vibrant trees, Guatemala expects to see an increase in production year over year in FY2015 and FY2016.
- Working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, USAID has trained thousands of smallholder farmers on how to properly use pesticides and grow popular export crops, such as snow peas and French beans. Through these trainings, the average number of pesticide applications per farmer per season has been reduced by as many as four applications—a savings to the

farmers and a reprieve to watersheds. In addition to improved pest control, Feed the Future programs have increased farmers' adoption of new technologies to increase productivity and improve the quality of their products, which resulted in a 19 percent increase in horticulture sales from 2013 to 2014.

- U.S. Government-provided nutrition interventions have reached 195,040 children under 5 out of an estimated total of 213,000 young children in the target region. Activities include pre- and post-natal care early in life, exclusive breastfeeding for the first 6 months, proper weaning strategies, vitamin supplements, vaccinations, treatment of anemia and diarrhea, and nutrition and family planning education.
- Feed the Future supported a new, national irrigation policy, which the Ministry of Agriculture adopted last year.

What you need to know about these results

These results reflect information from USAID, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Peace Corps, reported into Feed the Future's central monitoring system for FY2014. For more information on the indicators above, please view our [FY14 Feed the Future progress report](#). All dollar amounts are listed in U.S. dollars.

Opportunities

Western Guatemala has abundant natural resources that are ideal for horticulture and coffee production: rich, fertile soil; rainfall; and micro-climates. These resources and the region's ample labor force offer tremendous potential for further developing the horticulture and coffee sectors. The Government of Guatemala has designated food security as a top priority in the implementation of the Zero Hunger Pact, its national food security plan. To support this pact and its goals to reduce poverty and undernutrition, the U.S. Government is implementing a highly integrated, multi-sector program in 30 of the 166 Zero Hunger Pact municipalities. The program combines investments in agriculture, health and nutrition, local governance, food assistance, education, and environmental adaptation to climate change. Implementation has benefitted from cooperative relationships with the broad base of public, private and civil society actors supporting this pact.

Looking for opportunities to work in our Feed the Future countries? Visit the opportunities tabs on our [Research](#) and [Civil Society](#) pages.

If you're a [private sector](#) company interested in a partnership with Feed the Future agencies in the areas of food security and nutrition in Guatemala, use our [interactive online tool](#) to learn more, register your partnership ideas with us, and get connected to a partnership expert who can help address your interest.

Activities

Feed the Future supports the following programs, partnerships and organizations in Guatemala.

- Central America Agribusiness and Logistics Regional Program
- Coffee Rust Support
- Demographic and Health Survey (ENSMI) INCAP
- Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Collaborative Research on Grain Legumes (MasFrijol)
- Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Collaborative Research on Horticulture (MasRiego and Semillas de Esperanza)
- Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Collaborative Research on Integrated Pest Management
- Feed the Future Innovation Lab for the Reduction of Post Harvest Loss
- Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance III (FANTA)
- Food for Peace Programs: Food Security Focused on the First Thousand Days (SEGAMIL) and Western Highlands Program of Integrated Actions for Food Security and Nutrition (PAISANO)
- Food Security and Policy Effectiveness Sustainable Agriculture Regional Program
- Food Security Service Center (Policy bridge)
- Health Communication Capacity Collaborative
- Health and Education Policy Project (HPP)
- International Food Policy Research Institute research grant
- International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) maize-based farming systems (BuenaMilpa)
- Monitoring and Evaluation Program
- National Alliance Partnership Program
- Nexos Locales Local Governance Project
- Nutri-Salud

- Partnering for Innovation
- Peace Corps
- Quality Improvement in Health
- Regional Trade and Market Alliances Enabling Agricultural Trade Regional Program
- Rural Value Chains Project (AGEXPORT and Anacafe)
- Social Investment Fund
- Strengthening Partnerships, Results and Innovations in Nutrition Globally (SPRING) Project
- Sustainable Water Management in the Cuchumatanes
- Taking an Innovative Cooperative Approach to Food Security (MasProteina)
- USAID Deliver Project (DELIVER II)
- U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- USDA Mc-Govern Dole Food for Education Program
- USDA Support for Sanitary and Phytosanitary and Other Agriculture-Related Capacity Building to Promote Food Security and Trade Integration

Target Regions

Funding

