



## Project Brief

### Agriculture

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#### Contact Information

Economic Growth Office  
Km. 6.5 Final Boulevard Los Próceres  
Santa Catarina Pinula, Guatemala  
Tel: (502) 2422-4314



#### Situation Analysis

In Guatemala, 59.3%<sup>1</sup> of the population lives in poverty and 23.4% lives in extreme poverty<sup>2</sup>. Half of all children under five are chronically malnourished, the worst level of malnutrition in the Western Hemisphere. In the Western Highlands, where the majority of the population is indigenous, the statistics are even more alarming. The poverty rate reaches 76% and extreme poverty is at 35.3%.<sup>3</sup> The chronic malnutrition rate for children under five is 67%. Food security is of grave concern. Primary reasons for such high levels of chronic malnutrition are families lack resources to produce or buy nutritious food, and knowledge of nutritious diets for children.

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 agriculture exports in Central America, such as snow peas, green beans, mini-vegetables, and fruits, all which have grown over the past ten years benefitting smallholder farmers.

#### USAID Response

USAID's agriculture efforts are part of the Western Highlands Integrated Program (WHIP), which focuses on reducing chronic malnutrition and food insecurity through the implementation of three Presidential Initiatives – Feed the Future, the Global Health Initiative, and the Global Climate Change Initiative. Following a wave of migration to the United States by the tens of thousands of unaccompanied children in 2014, USAID/Guatemala, through these programs is addressing the lack of social, educational, and economic opportunity, and insecurity, the main underlying causes of migration from Guatemala.

WHIP seeks to achieve sustainable rural development through a parallel focus on agriculture, economic development, health care, education, nutrition, adaptation to the impacts of climate change, local governance, and gender equity. The program works in 30 municipalities and more than 2,500 communities in Guatemala's Western Highlands that suffer from the highest rates of poverty and chronic malnutrition, yet have the potential for economic growth. USAID collaborates with Guatemalan officials and leaders at the community, municipal, departmental, and regional levels to achieve shared goals, especially under Guatemala's national strategy to prevent chronic malnutrition.

In the agriculture sector, USAID works with smallholder farmers to improve crop production, increase incomes, link them to markets, and support agricultural policies.

- USAID introduces farmers to new agricultural production technologies. USAID works to increase rural employment through the expansion of labor-intensive crops, such as snow peas, green beans, and coffee, and diversification to other agricultural and handicraft products to increase farmers' incomes

<sup>1</sup> 2014 National Life Conditions Survey <https://www.ine.gob.gt/sistema/uploads/2015/12/11/vjNVdb4IZswOj0ZtuivPlcaAXet8LZqZ.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid<sup>1</sup>.

including those of women. Activities focus on gender equity and closing gender gaps in the agriculture sector.

- USAID helps strengthen access to markets and market information, such as prices and demand, for small-scale farmers. USAID helps farmers' groups improve strategic plans, management practices, business and marketing, financial systems, and access to credit.
- USAID invests in improved productivity of staple foods, such as corn and beans, which reduces the risk associated with shifting from subsistence farming to commercial production. USAID trains rural households on low-pressure drip irrigation, conservation agriculture practices, and rainwater harvesting systems and helps them access financing to purchase drip irrigation systems. Building resilience includes strengthening local government ability to provide basic services and foster economic growth. USAID's agriculture activities support citizen participation in community organizations and Municipal Development Councils to ensure farmers' needs and concerns are addressed.
- USAID works with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to establish and strengthen agricultural trade policy to support food security, and provide training on agricultural export regulations. We also work with the Peace Corps to improve food security in Guatemala's rural Western Highland communities.

### Major Results and Accomplishments

- **Increased sales** – In FY 2015, the value of total sales attributed to USAID/Guatemala interventions in the coffee sector was \$25.8 million, an increase of nine percent from FY 2014. In the horticulture value chain, the value of total sales increased from \$4.5 million in FY 2014 to \$6.1 million in FY 2015, an increase of 35 percent.
- **Employment generation** – Promoting horticulture and coffee as profitable value chains, USAID helped create 13,540 new jobs in FY 2015, a 27 percent increase from 2014.
- **Reduced chronic malnutrition** – USAID provided training on food security and nutrition to members of small-scale agriculture producer groups, established home and school gardens, and promoted higher protein consumption through higher-yielding bean varieties and small animal husbandry. As a result, 4,497 rural households improved their nutrition behaviors by diversifying their diets and improving their hygiene behaviors in FY 2015.

### Current Implementing Partners (Feed the Future Initiative)

Project Name	Implementing Partner	Duration
Taking an Innovative Approach to Food Security and Trade	National Cooperative Business Association (NCBA)/Cooperative League of the United States (CLUA) International	April 28, 2014 – September 30, 2018
Sustainable Water Management in the Cuchumatanes	Fundación para el Desarrollo y la Conservación (FUNDAECO)	July 30, 2013 – July 29, 2016
Buena Milpa	International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center	January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2018
MasFrijol	Michigan State University	March 26, 2014 – March 25, 2018
Monitoring and Evaluation Project	DevTech Systems	January 17, 2013 – September 30, 2017
Rural Value Chains Project	National Coffee Association (ANACAFE)	May 31, 2012 – May 30, 2017
Rural Value Chains Project	Guatemalan Exporters' Association (AGEXPORT)	May 23, 2012 – May 22, 2017
Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance (FANTA) III	FHI 360	January 1, 2012 – January 1, 2017
Impact Evaluation of the Government of Guatemala Zero Hunger Pact	International Food Policy and Research Institute	September 30, 2011 – September 30, 2016
Support for the Rural Development Agenda	Social Impact	December 31, 2016
Feed the Future Partnering for Innovation Program	FINTRAC, Inc.	June 1, 2015 – July 31, 2017
Global Food Security PAPA & Small Project Assistance Program	U.S. Peace Corps	July 28, 2011 – September 31, 2017
Promoting Food Security and Trade	U.S. Department of Agriculture	May 4, 2011 –

Integration through Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards and Other Agriculture-related Capacity Building		May 3, 2016
Broader Access to Financial Markets and Services (Development Credit Authority - Loan Portfolio Guarantee Facility)	BANRURAL	September 29, 2006 – September 28, 2016
MasRiego	University of California, Davis	July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2018