

30 September 2025

1. Crisis overviewⁱ

3.3 / 5	2.2 million	1 million	\$100,6 million	16.8%
Inform severity index	People in need of humanitarian aid (HNRP 2025)	People targeted in the response plan (HNRP 2025)	Required to reach the target (HNRP 2025)	Of the required funding secured (FTS 2025)
25 MSEK	-	-	25 MSEK	
Initial allocation	Additional allocation	Flexible Funding	Total Sida funding 2025	

Guatemala continues to face two humanitarian crises, as highlighted in the country's Humanitarian Needs Overview 2025, food security and acute malnutrition, exacerbated by human mobility and climatic situations.

Guatemala's protracted humanitarian crisis worsened in 2023 due to the combined effects of tropical storms, hurricanes, the residual effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, violence and significant increases in prices of basic goods. While the situation improved during 2024, the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP) for Guatemala 2025 estimates that over 2 million people are still in need of humanitarian aid. Furthermore, the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) assessment indicate that 3 million people are currently facing crisis or emergency (IPC Phase 3 and 4).

Guatemala is among the countries most affected by natural hazards, particularly prolonged droughts and torrential rains. According to the Global Climate Risk Index, Guatemala ranks as the 10th most at-risk country for extreme weather events. These conditions sometimes hinder access to affected areas and can pose serious challenges for the delivery of humanitarian aid.

Violence in its various forms continues to impact the population, triggering internal displacement and migration. Guatemala serves as a country of origin, transit, destination, and return for migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. Along these dangerous migration routes, criminal groups are active, and most people on the move face abuse and harm.

2. Humanitarian needs & affected population

Following a period of political unrest, a new government took office in early 2024, bringing an end to months of protests, riots, and blockades triggered by anomalies in the electoral process. This transition has provided the stability needed to address the ongoing humanitarian crises.

Humanitarian needs marks the entire country, with the greatest proportion of people in need and targeted for response in the departments in the north-west, bordering Mexico and the capital city. The population groups that show the most severe and urgent humanitarian needs include indigenous and rural families, especially with women heads of household; children under 5 years of age and mixed flows of people in mobility situations including children and adolescents, as well as people of LGBTIQ+ diversity. Around 44 per cent of the population self-identify as indigenous and according to the 2024 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), these groups are generally more vulnerable as their development and humanitarian indicators are below national averages. Poverty affects 75 per cent of indigenous people, and 36 per cent of non-indigenous people. In addition, chronic malnutrition affects 58 per cent of indigenous people compared to 38 per cent of non-indigenous people.

The mixed flows of people in a situation of mobility (migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and returnees), peaked during 2023 and then began to decrease in 2024. In 2025 due to significant changes in regional, particular US, migratory policies the flow has shifted from northbound to southbound return flows, many of which unfolded under involuntary or high-risk conditions. Returned migrants to Guatemala increased at least 15 per cent during the first quarter of 2024, but has stabilized, and even reduced somewhat, in 2025.

An analysis by the Global Protection Cluster details the protection risks related to migration, these include violence, human trafficking and smuggling for labour and sexual exploitation, threats and intimidation, mistreatment, and robbery. The greatest need for multisectoral care for migrants is identified in Esquipulas (Agua Caliente border with Honduras) and in Ayutla (Tecún Umán border with Mexico). Women and children who remain behind when men migrate, face heightened protection risks and increased risk of food insecurity. Further, with less funding available fewer humanitarian teams can provide assistance and services to people in movement, particularly in border areas. This increases the vulnerability of refugees and migrants, exacerbating the severity of their situation and increasing their exposure to protection as well as other risks.

Widespread violence disproportionately affects women, girls and adolescents. According to data from Guatemala's Public Ministry, cases of homicides and disappearances of women remain high with little variation from the previous years. Women experience a disproportionately large deterioration in livelihoods, as they are more likely to work in the informal sector, which is heavily impacted by the crisis. Women and girls suffer gender-based violence by a variety of actors, including gangs, family members and security forces.

The HNRP 2025 estimates that there are more than 2.8 million people with protection needs in Guatemala. Approximately 58 per cent of people in need are women and 40 per cent are girls, boys and adolescents. The situation of violence and insecurity continues to impact thousands of people. The combined crisis of human mobility and food insecurity has led to a rise in acute malnutrition among children. According to the World Food Programme, nearly half of Guatemala's children under five are stunted. The food insecurity crisis demands ongoing attention, particularly to prevent harmful coping strategies. Likewise, the human mobility crisis requires sustained focus and stronger protection measures.

3. The humanitarian response

A Humanitarian Advisory Team (HAT) hosted by the UN Office of the Resident Coordinator is charged with the information management and coordination of the humanitarian action in Guatemala. The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) has 40 members from the UN, civil society, the Red Cross Movement and the government. The response is coordinated under eight so called sector groups, equivalent to clusters, including some local chapters at department level. These sector groups in most cases work closely with the corresponding public institutions.

The HCT publishes appeals and response plans annually, however, the HNRP for 2025 will be the last one for the current cycle of crisis. The 2025 HNRP aims to protect lives of people with critical humanitarian needs caused by climate events and human mobility, through humanitarian assistance grounded in human rights and protection, with an intersectoral, age-, gender-, and diversity-sensitive approach, and cultural and linguistic relevance. It also seeks to improve inclusive, timely access to essential services like water, education, and health.

As of September 2025 the HNRP was 16.8 per cent financed. Protection, including child protection and gender-based violence, is the sector receiving most support followed by food security, however both sectors remain severely underfunded. The global freeze and scale-back of US humanitarian funding announced in January 2025 is having major consequences on aid operations, and the HCT is adapting the response in light of the new funding landscape.

4. Sida's humanitarian allocation

This is Sida's second Humanitarian Crisis Analysis for Guatemala, and it marks Sida's phasing out of the crisis, motivated by the increase of humanitarian needs globally and the need to prioritize the most severe humanitarian contexts in Sida's allocation. Prioritised sectors are food security and nutrition, as well as protection. Given the moderate improvement of the food insecurity situation, Sida's support for 2025 places protection at the centre while contributing to address both the food insecurity and the human mobility crises.

Support to UNICEF through its HAC appeal will help address rising child malnutrition. Sida's support to partners' multi-sectoral country programmes enables adaptation to potential changes in food security and human mobility challenges in 2025.

Protection remains a priority, concerning both direct protection services and centrality of protection in all humanitarian action. The main target groups are people affected by violence in different forms, people on the move, including IDPs and deported returnees.

INITIAL ALLOCATION (SEK)		
PARTNER	SECTOR	INITIAL ALLOCATION
IRC	Protection, multi-purpose cash	6,000,000
NRC	Protection, Shelter, WASH, Education, FSL, ICLA	9,000,000
UNICEF	Child protection, Health, Nutrition, WASH, Education	10,000,000
TOTAL		25,000,000

ⁱ The 2025 initial allocation of humanitarian funding is based on Sida's humanitarian allocation analysis methodology. The analysis reflects the current humanitarian situation across crises and is being updated continuously with the latest available data. The information in the HCA is based on reports, data, and information from partner organisations and other entities, as well as observations from field visits and dialogue with partners.