



Country Sheet

Guatemala





HI Team and intervention areas

HI LATAM is exploring possible intervention in Guatemala. There are no HI staff in the country now and no local registration. A consultancy based in Honduras is underway for one year to support technical assistance activities and identify opportunities for possible future intervention. HI is providing a technical support on disability inclusion to a consortium in three countries in the region, including Honduras, Guatemala & El Salvador.

General data of the country

a) General data

DATA	Guatemala	Honduras	Belgium
Population	17.35	10.43	11.7
IHDI	0.460	0.479	0.874
Gender-related Development Index	0.917	0.960	0.978
Maternal mortality	96	72	5
GINI Index	48.3	48.2	26
Population within UNHCR mandate	555.281	440.339	195.883
INFORM Index	5.1	5.1	1.7
Fragile State Index	77.3	79.6	31.4
Population covered by at least one social protection benefit (%)	13.3	26.6	100
Net official development assistance received	511.3	617	0



b) Humanitarian law instruments ratified by the country

Humanitarian law instruments	Status
Mine Ban Treaty	Signed 12/03/1997
Convention on Cluster Munitions	Signed: 3 December 2008 Ratified: 3 November 2010
UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed on 30/03/2007 and ratified on 7/4/2009

c) Geopolitical analysis

In Guatemala, 5 million people have humanitarian needs, with the highest numbers in the food security, protection and nutrition sectors. According to the UN Humanitarian Response Plan 2023, in 2022, the humanitarian needs of vulnerable people in Guatemala occurred in a complex context, influenced by the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic impacts of the war between Russia and Ukraine. Both factors have had a substantial impact on the dynamics of life in the country as rising prices for food, fuel and fertilizers are inhibiting full recovery.

Food assistance needs are at a record high: some 4.6 million people are food insecure and need immediate attention. In addition, some 1.9 million people have humanitarian needs related to acute malnutrition, including children under five, pregnant women and those of childbearing age, older persons and persons with disabilities. Guatemala is also a country of origin, transit, destination and return of people, refugees and applicants for refugee status, many of whom have specific protection needs.

The country has also faced some changes in the political, legal, institutional, security and governance landscape, as well as the occurrence of new extreme weather events. In the 2022 rainy season, tropical storms Julia and Lisa impacted areas already affected by storms Eta and Iota in 2020.

In this context, people with disabilities in Guatemala and their families are in a situation of complex vulnerability. Data shows they have less access to education, economic inclusion and are more likely to be poor and suffer from severe health problems.



Summary of HI presence in the country

2010-2011: Closing of the Central America program and systematization of experience. This program covered Nicaragua, Honduras and El Salvador, but not Guatemala, where HI has never had any projects.

2020: Decision to explore a possible new HI intervention in Central America (StratOp LATAM 2020-2024) including Guatemala, in a context of growing humanitarian needs.

2021-2022: desk review and exploratory missions by the LATAM regional team.

January 2023: Start of technical assistance on inclusion in the framework of a consortium in Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador (ECHO).

June 2023: Start of a local consultancy to support the development of HI mission in Central America, based in Honduras.



Overview on ongoing projects

Sectors where HI conducts projects and focus on beneficiaries and operational partnerships

Project title & main sector(s) of intervention	Main activities	Beneficiaries	Partner(s)	Location	Project start and end dates	Donors who finance the project
Humanitarian response to the needs of the most vulnerable populations affected by rising food prices and recurrent disasters in the Central American Dry Corridor. Inclusive Humanitarian Action	HI: Technical assistance to mainstream disability inclusion in the consortium project.	Communities and households with the highest food needs	Norwegian Refugee Council, Action Against Hunger, Doctors of the World	Dry Corredor of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras	01.2023 – 12.2024	European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (ECHO)



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