

Guatemala: Zero Hunger Plan

The implementation of the Strategic Plan for Food Security and Nutrition (PESAN) (2012-2016) was solidified as a national priority when in 2012 –as part of the “National Agenda for Change” of President Otto Perez Molina- a National Zero Hunger Pact was launched with the objective of reducing by 10% chronic malnutrition in children under five by the end of the Presidential tenure in 2015.

Operationalized into a Zero Hunger Plan for the period 2012-2016, it is a comprehensive governmental strategy for chronic child malnutrition, for acute malnutrition, for micronutrient deficiency and food insecurity for children under age of five in the country, with a focus on children under age two. The Plan prioritizes 166 municipalities in the country with the highest prevalence of chronic malnutrition. In 2012, the main components of the ENRDC have been integrated into the Zero Hunger Plan.

The Plan also aims at preventing and mitigating seasonal hunger and reducing child, women and elderly mortality caused by acute malnutrition. In order to achieve this second objective the Plan is initially focalizing efforts in 213 municipalities with highest acute malnutrition rates. The Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition is coordinating all relevant ministries to ensure fine-tuning of respective programs into a more coordinated approach. The Zero Hunger Plan is the political and operational realization of the PESAN 2012-2016 under the tenure of the President Molina and was prepared by taking into account the ENRDC 2006-2016. Sub-regional food security strategies such the PLANOCC (Food Security Plan for the Western Region) are integrated into the Zero Hunger Plan.

The Zero Hunger Plan contemplates five direct components:

- (i) Provision of basic services in health and nutrition
- (ii) Promotion of exclusive breastfeeding and complementary feeding
- (iii) Food and nutrition education
- (iv) Provision of fortified food (including supplementary fortified foods)
- (v) Social protection measures for the most vulnerable (food-for-work; food assistance; public canteen etc.).

Additionally the Zero Hunger Plan includes six components for longer-term sustainability:

- (i) Improvement of income generation opportunities for families
- (ii) Water and sanitation
- (iii) Strengthening of local governance for food and nutrition security
- (iv) Healthy schools
- (v) Healthy households
- (vi) Women’s education

The Plan also considers the following transversal axes of action:

- (i) Intra- and inter-institutional coordination
- (ii) Communication for Food and Nutrition Security
- (iii) Community participation
- (iv) Gender equality and inter-culturality
- (v) Food Security and Nutrition information systems
- (vi) Monitoring & Evaluation system

The Zero Hunger Plan has now been presented to finance departments of all line ministries in an effort to secure their focused consideration when budgeting and planning results for improved nutrition.

The Zero Hunger Plan is also attracting support from external partners. In October at the 2012 Clinton Global Initiative annual meeting in New York, Guatemalan Government leaders, the Executive Director of the World Food Program, and representatives from the United Nations and civil society organizations came together to announce a new partnership seeking to support the Zero Hunger Plan. World Vision has since committed US\$ 1 million in funding while in November 2012 the Inter-American Development Bank committed US\$ 280,000 over two years to contribute to improving the outcomes of major government interventions in preventative nutrition in the first thousand days of life within the framework of the Zero Hunger Plan. The Inter-American Development Bank has also committed to supporting the country's social protection programs through the provision of technical assistance, analysis, design and operational processes.