HEALTH EMERGENCIES

Health response to drought and outbreaks

With support from the Guatemala Humanitarian Fund, PAHO/WHO and MSPAS strengthened 48 health facilities and the measles response in four departments.



33
health facilities with repaired water systems

48
health facilities equipped with emergency medical kits

139,609
direct beneficiaries

01 WHY IT MATTERS

Drought and crop losses worsen malnutrition and increase the risk of outbreaks. Without water and supplies, health facilities cannot ensure continuity of care or prevent infections.

The response therefore focused on maintaining essential health services and containing outbreaks.

VIDEO
Access to safe water transforms health care

02 FOUR DEPARTMENTS, 15 MUNICIPALITIES

Alta Verapaz
Cahabón, Raxruhá, San Cristóbal Verapaz, Senahú and Tucurú · 42,684 direct beneficiaries.

Chiquimula
Esquipulas, Jocotán, Olopa, San Jacinto, San José La Arada and San Juan Ermita · 69,744 direct beneficiaries.

Quiché and Huehuetenango
Chajul, San Bartolomé Jocotenango and San Juan Cotzal (Quiché) and Chiantla (Huehuetenango) · 27,181 direct beneficiaries.

MSPAS, Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance · PAHO/WHO, Pan American Health Organization / World Health Organization.

Health response to drought and outbreaks

03 ACTIONS TAKEN

- **Water and sanitation:** repair of water systems in 33 low-complexity health facilities to ensure hygiene, prevent infections and maintain health care.
- **Health care and medical equipment:** medical equipment kits for 48 low- and medium-complexity health facilities to support care and surveillance.
- **Handwashing:** educational activities and materials to help children and communities learn and practice proper handwashing techniques.
- **Measles response:** health workers were trained to detect and respond to outbreaks. Microplanning and vaccination were supported through posters, banners and social media messages. Vehicles equipped with loudspeakers were provided to transport teams and share messages in communities, with vehicle movement tracking.
- **Community engagement and protection:** work with communities included accountability mechanisms and actions to prevent sexual misconduct.

1,920
health workers trained in surveillance and outbreak response

47,746
people at risk supported through measles vaccination efforts

91,863
primary care consultations



KEY MESSAGE

> *Timely response keeps health services open when they are needed most.*

04 MAINTAINING RESULTS

1. Maintain essential health services during future droughts.
2. Maintain outbreak preparedness and surveillance.
3. Preserve water and sanitation conditions in health facilities.
4. Continue coordinating actions with communities and local teams.