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United Nations Population Fund

Country programme document for Guatemala

Proposed indicative UNFPA assistance:	$16.5 million: $5.5 million from regular resources and $11.0 million through co-financing modalities or other resources
Programme period:	4 years (2027-2030)
Cycle of assistance:	Ninth
Category:	Tier I
Alignment with the UNSDCF Cycle	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, 2026-2030

Note: The present document was processed in its entirety by UNFPA

I. Programme rationale

1. Guatemala is a multicultural, ethnically diverse nation, home to 23 distinct linguistic communities. While this diversity is a cornerstone of the national identity, it also mirrors the country's profound geographic and social fragmentation. This complexity is compounded by a rapid demographic transition: while total population reached 18.7 million in 2025, population growth is slowing due to a significant decline in the total fertility rate, from 5.6 children per woman in 1987 to 2.3 in 2025. This decline is uneven, as the total fertility rate for departments with predominant indigenous women remains higher, at approximately 3.1 children per woman (INE, 2020), reflecting disparities in realizing reproductive rights.

2. As Guatemala approaches replacement-level fertility (2.1) by 2030, its shifting age structure has opened a critical, 65-year window for a demographic dividend. With the working-age population (aged 15-64 years) now reaching 64 per cent, Guatemala has a time-sensitive opportunity to drive accelerated economic growth. However, the demographic dividend opportunities are constrained by persistent territorial, ethnic and gender inequalities. The high prevalence of adolescent pregnancy and gender-based violence (GBV) serves as a systemic drain on human capital development, curtailing the health, education and labour force participation of young women. Transforming this demographic shift into national prosperity requires immediate, scaled investment in youth-centred health, education and employment.

3. Despite its status as an upper middle-income country, Guatemala's macroeconomic stability contrasts sharply with its persistent inequality. Its Gini index (45.2 per cent) remains nearly ten points above the global average. This is exacerbated by historically low social investment, which stagnates at approximately 7.8 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (ECLAC, 2023) – well below the regional average. The 2023 Living Conditions Survey reveals a stark reality: 56 per cent of the population lives in poverty, with 16.2 per cent living in extreme poverty, remaining most acute for Indigenous peoples (29.8 per cent), rural residents (24.4 per cent), and women (16.6 per cent). While 10 per cent of the population reported functional difficulties in the 2018 Census, 61.9 per cent of these individuals remain outside the workforce. These structural challenges and climate-related risks drive significant human mobility, with 40,000 people annually leaving the country between 2012 and 2021 (UNDESA, 2024). Consequently, remittances have become a vital lifeline, reaching 19.1 per cent of the country's GDP in 2024 (World Bank, 2024). These sociodemographic and human mobility dynamics require updated subnational data and strategic territorial planning to ensure service delivery keeps pace with shifting demands.

4. While the country has demonstrated commitment to advance the four interconnected outcomes of the UNFPA strategic plan, 2026-2029, progress remains uneven. Guatemala has a progressive legislative framework, including earmarking 15 per cent of alcohol tax revenue for reproductive health (approx. $3 million annually); however, resources remain insufficient to guarantee universal health coverage, requiring an additional 3.6 per cent of GDP investment. The scale of the unmet need for family planning underscores the urgent requirement for targeted, "last-mile" investments to reach those furthest left behind. While the country awaits updated evidence from the 2025 Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), the latest survey (DHS 2014/15) reported an overall unmet need of 14 per cent, which spikes especially among adolescents aged 15-19 years (21.9 per cent), young women (43.2 per cent), and Indigenous women (38.9 per cent). Departments with high Indigenous populations report rates more than double the national average. Although contraceptive use increased substantially between 1987 and 2015 (from 23 per cent to 61 per cent), access to contraceptives and method choice remain critical issues. The public health system only supplies 60.7 per cent of reproductive health commodities, with high out-of-pocket expenditure (39.3 per cent). Use of modern contraception is limited (48.9 per cent) (DHS 2014/2015), with a strong preference for short-term methods – contraceptive pills (92 per cent) and male condoms (89 per cent) – and very low uptake of more effective long-acting options (1.5 per cent).

5. With an adolescent fertility rate of 64.8 live births per 1,000 women aged 15-19 years, Guatemala faces one of the highest rates in the region, making adolescent pregnancy a critical structural challenge. These births account for 18 per cent of the national total, exceeding 20 per cent in departments such as Izabal, Huehuetenango, Alta Verapaz, and Petén. Rural areas record higher rates (15.6 per cent) than urban centres (10.7 per cent). Adolescent pregnancy is often linked to early unions and sexual violence, with over half (50 per cent) of women reporting having had at least one child by the age of 20-24 (Census, 2018). While progress is visible among girls aged 15-19 years, adolescent fertility rates for girls aged 10-14 years remain stagnant. The drivers are distinct and require different approaches: for adolescents aged 15-19 years, pregnancy is mostly linked to limited access to contraceptives, particularly long-acting contraceptives, limited culturally-sensitive counselling, and social and gender norms that prioritize motherhood. In

contrast, pregnancies among girls aged 10-14 year are the result of sexual violence, exposing a severe protection gap that demands urgent intervention. Beyond the human cost, this situation represents an economic drain, costing the Guatemalan economy $203 million annually (0.28 per cent of GDP). To address this, the Government – with UNFPA support –updated the National Plan to Prevent Adolescent Pregnancy (PLANEA) in 2025.

6. Guatemala has achieved a historic low maternal mortality ratio of 85 deaths per 100,000 live births (2023), moving steadily toward the global Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target of 70 per 100,000 live births. However, averages mask profound inequalities driven by age, ethnicity and geography. The maternal mortality ratio is highest among indigenous women (131 per 100,000 live births) and women aged 40-44 years (353 per 100,000 live births). Maternal deaths are heavily concentrated in rural departments with predominantly Indigenous populations. Nearly half of all maternal deaths occur in just four departments (Alta Verapaz; Huehuetenango; Quiché; and San Marcos), primarily due to preventable causes: haemorrhage (57 per cent) and hypertensive disorders (23.8 per cent). These clinical outcomes are linked to delays in seeking, reaching and receiving adequate, respectful and culturally pertinent care, as well as low institutional delivery rates, particularly in Indigenous regions (50-60 per cent, compared to the national average of 76 per cent).

7. Guatemala continues to grapple with a crisis of pervasive violence against women and girls. According to the 2023 Violence against Women Survey, 49 per cent of women have experienced violence at least once in their lifetime; among young girls under the age of 19, this figure rises to 50 per cent; among Garifuna/Afrodescendant women to 74.5 per cent; and among women with disabilities to 56 per cent – with sexual violence being the most prevalent form (35 per cent). The human cost of this challenging situation is starkly visible in the 2025 vital statistics data: over 56,000 adolescent (aged 10-19 years) births were recorded, including nearly 2,000 births to children under the age of 15 – which stem directly from sexual violence. These figures are linked to a high prevalence of child marriage and early unions. The DHS 2014-15 reports that 29 per cent of women aged 20-24 years were married or in a union before the age of 18, a rate significantly exceeding regional averages. According to official reports, 212 femicides were recorded in 2024, with high levels of impunity (only 6 per cent of complaints resulted in a conviction). Vulnerability is higher in departments like Guatemala City, Alta Verapaz, Escuintla, and Huehuetenango, where violence intersects with insecurity and human mobility. Despite a robust legal and policy framework – anchored in the National Plan for the Prevention and Eradication of Violence against Women (PLANOVI) and the National Plan for the Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy (PLANEA) – a profound gap persists between policy and subnational implementation. There is a need to improve the availability of disaggregated data and interoperable systems on violence against women, as key drivers to prevent revictimization, and to enable a more comprehensive understanding of violence. Women still lack access to comprehensive GBV services, with only 49 sexual violence clinics existing nationwide, all centralized in departmental capitals; this creates a significant protection gap, especially for Indigenous girls and rural women who face intersecting discriminations rooted in patriarchal structures, racism, poverty and a lack of education, increasing their vulnerability to gender-based violence.

8. A fundamental barrier to equity is statistical invisibility, rooted in the limited availability of timely, disaggregated and inter-operable data to guide ‘leave no one behind’ (LNOB) policies and budgets; Garifuna and Afrodescendant populations are statistically underestimated due to racism and discrimination. While the 2018 Census was a landmark milestone, persistent gaps in data disaggregation, prospective analysis and system integration continue to hinder evidence-based planning and the monitoring of international commitments like the Montevideo Consensus. To bridge this gap, the National Statistics Office (INE) – with UNFPA support – has developed the National Strategy for Statistical Development to modernize the national statistical system. By integrating administrative records, surveys and censuses into a cohesive demographic intelligence ecosystem, Guatemala aims to strengthen inter-institutional governance across sectors and leverage digitalization and digital connectivity key drivers. This shift is paramount for operationalizing national frameworks – including K’atun 2032, PLANEA and the Youth Policy – ensuring that public policies and budgets effectively anticipate demographic shifts and reach the populations most in need.

9. The UNFPA country programme for 2027-2030 is aligned with two of the four strategic priorities of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for Guatemala, 2026-2030, specifically: priority 1 (strengthening democratic governance and the rule of law) and priority 2 (contributing to human development: fighting poverty and generating prosperity). UNFPA will leverage its comparative advantages, specifically: its capacity in data, demographic and prospective analysis; and its specialized knowledge in youth, sexual and reproductive health (SRH), GBV, human rights and a LNOB approach.

10. The new country programme is grounded in a synthesis of key achievements and critical lessons learned from various evaluative evidence of the previous programme cycle, including the midterm review and thematic evaluations, such as: (a) a *systemic approach*: UNFPA impact is maximized when it moves beyond isolated interventions to

integrating population dynamics, SRH and GBV priorities directly into State-led plans, budgets and inclusive public policies; (b) *the "local-to-national" feedback loop*: strengthening the State's capacity to implement national policies and plans at departmental and municipal levels, ensures that evidence-based local models are institutionalized into national public policy, effectively reaching those furthest left behind; (c) *sustainability through joint programming*: strengthening country office capacities in joint programming and diversified funding is vital to ensure sustainability, while also expanding its impact and catalytic role. Informed by these lessons, the new country programme has been strategically designed to be catalytic, shifting the operational model toward sustainable national systems and promoting a strengthened feedback loop from national policy to territorial implementation.

II. Programme priorities and partnerships

11. The proposed programme is informed by the broad, strategic consultations conducted for the UNSDCF 2026-2030 and further shaped by a dedicated consultation process with national institutions, civil society organizations, academia and cooperation partners. A central feature of these consultations was the inclusive engagement of civil society, ensuring the active participation and incorporation of perspectives from the women's movements, indigenous people groups, youth-led organizations, and representatives of organizations of persons with disabilities.

12. The country programme is strategically aligned to Guatemala's national priorities, as articulated in the National Development Plan "K'atun Nuestra Guatemala 2032", the General Government Plan for 2024-2028, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; the UNSDCF 2026-2030; the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), the Montevideo Consensus; and the UNFPA Strategic Plan, 2026-2029. By addressing the root causes of inequality, the programme contributes directly to SDGs 3, 4, 5, 10, 11 and 17, and ultimately to SDG 1. This synergy aims to unlock a triple dividend for Guatemala: enhanced social well-being; inclusive economic growth; and a resilient demographic future.

13. The country programme vision is to contribute to leveraging the demographic dividend through investment in human capital development as a primary driver for equitable economic growth and demographic resilience, ensuring that those furthest left behind – particularly women, young people, adolescents and girls from indigenous and rural communities – benefit from national progress. Central to this strategy is the use of demographic intelligence and foresight analysis to guide LNOB-focused public policies and investment, guaranteeing the progressive realization of human rights for these priority populations. By prioritizing upstream functions – such as high-level technical advisory and innovative financing – UNFPA will bridge the gap between national strategy and territorial implementation. The programme will target territories with the greatest disparities in the four UNFPA Strategic Plan outcomes, supporting territorial mechanisms—such as the *Development Council System (SISCODE), departmental* and municipal governments—consistent with the territorial planning approaches driven by the State.

14. The programme will be driven by the following context-specific acceleration approaches: (a) '*leave no one behind*': using intersectional lens and granular demographic data, the programme will contribute to the operationalization of the LNOB approach into the planning and budgeting system, reaching out the furthest left-behind populations – particularly Indigenous peoples, Afrodescendant populations and persons with disabilities; (b) *data*: UNFPA will transform the 2030 Census Round, specialized surveys and administrative records into high-impact investment cases and costing studies. By leveraging disaggregated evidence, the programme will foster targeted interventions and resource allocations necessary to reach the most at-risk girls and adolescents in their territories; (c) *innovation*: UNFPA will pioneer demographic modelling, spatial analysis and scenario planning, within a demographic ecosystem approach, to simulate policy outcomes and targeted interventions. These tools, combined with transformative communication, will influence systemic social change and unlock innovative financing mechanisms for at-risk youth, adolescents and women furthest left behind.

15. To amplify its scope and impact, the programme will strengthen strategic partnerships by galvanizing national and subnational actors and international cooperation around the four interconnected UNFPA strategic plan outcomes, guided by the LNOB principle. While continuing to partner with national and subnational institutions, UNFPA will also strengthen engagement with academia, scientific societies and civil society organizations to analyse population dynamics and to conduct investment cases and costing studies that demonstrate the high socio-economic return of investing in the human capital. UNFPA will deepen United Nations inter-agency coordination and leverage South-South and triangular cooperation to expand its programmatic impact and mobilize the specialized expertise and innovative financing required to address Guatemala's complex population dynamics.

16. The country programme vision will be achieved through three outputs that contribute to the vision in a synergic manner. The overall theory of change rests on the following premise: (a) if national and subnational institutions

strengthen their capacities to leverage a demographic intelligence ecosystem and drive evidence-based planning and budgeting (output 1), and (b) if institutional capacities are strengthened to implement multisectoral policy frameworks on maternal health, adolescent pregnancy prevention, youth empowerment, and gender-based violence prevention through increased territorial reach (output 2), and (c) if social and gender norms are progressively transformed to foster social cohesion and sustained peace (output 3), then Guatemala will accelerate the development of its human capital and will be able to secure the country's demographic dividend. This is based on the assumption that bridging the gap between data, fiscal allocation and rights-based policy and service delivery, Guatemala will strengthen anticipatory governance. This shift will create a resilient State architecture capable of reducing maternal mortality and adolescent pregnancy, ultimately fostering a more equitable and prosperous society, where no one is left behind.

A. Output 1. Strengthened national and subnational capacities to leverage a demographic intelligence ecosystem that is integrated into national and subnational planning and budgeting to ensure inclusive, efficient and anticipatory governance

17. This output contributes directly to the four interconnected UNFPA strategic plan outcomes, particularly outcome 4, as well as to UNSDCF Strategic Priority 1 (strengthening democratic governance and the rule of law), outcome 1.1 (public governance that guarantees human rights and is more efficient, inclusive, transparent, modern, evidence-based and aligned with demographic trends). The underlying theory of change posits that if national and subnational institutions integrate demographic intelligence and foresight models into the national planning system, budget formulation and territorial allocation, then the Government will strengthen anticipatory governance. This shift creates the institutional foundations for the long-term sustainability of public policy. By explicitly linking population dynamics to national and subnational planning, the programme ensures that Guatemala's financing architecture is structurally equipped to navigate the demographic transition while upholding the rights of those furthest left behind.

18. Key interventions include policy advice, technical assistance, coordination and knowledge management to contribute to:(a) *modernize the national statistical system*: strengthen national capacities for the generation, analysis and strategic use of population data as the cornerstone for human rights and social inclusion. This includes supporting the National Strategy for Statistical Development (ENDE) and leading the technical support for the 2030 Round of the Population and Housing Census, high-quality and disaggregated administrative data systems, and a suite of essential specialized surveys (e.g. on living conditions; gender-based violence; and youth), including data on human mobility, humanitarian preparedness, and violence against women, to ensure that those furthest left behind are visible in national evidence and statistics; (b) *demographic foresight and anticipatory governance:* contribute to country's analysis on demographic transition and its intersection with climate vulnerabilities, migration and rapid urbanization to guide anticipatory governance and subregional coordinated response by integrating advanced foresight analysis and tools (e.g., demographic resilience analyses, foresight models, demographic dividend analysis, National Transfer Accounts, among others) and georeferenced data into national and subnational planning, public policy and budgeting. This includes in-service capacity building for the progressive transfer of knowledge and the strengthening of institutional ownership mechanisms, budgetary sustainability, and national governing entities, particularly of the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Finance, the Secretariat of Planning and Programming of the Presidency (SEGEPLAN), and INE; (c) *link evidence-based policy advocacy:* strengthening inter-institutional coordination mechanisms and promoting inter-operable information systems to support the definition of an agreed set of territorial and equity-based prioritization criteria within the national planning and budgeting cycle, enabling a more coordinated, equitable and efficient response to the needs of the populations most in need.

B. Output 2. Strengthened national and subnational capacities for the design and scaled implementation of multisectoral, evidence-based and LNOB-focused public policy solutions that contribute to human capital development, with a primary focus on indigenous women, adolescents, youth and other furthest left-behind populations

19. This output directly contributes to the four interconnected UNFPA strategic plan outcomes, particularly outcomes 1, 2 and 3, as well as to UNSDCF Strategic Priority 2 (contributing to human development: fighting against poverty and generating prosperity), outcome 2.2 (increased access to social protection, including care, and inclusive public services). The theory of change posits that (a) if State capacities are strengthened to design, finance and territorialize public policies – informed by disaggregated population data and evidence, understanding of population dynamics and the meaningful participation of marginalized women and youth, and (b) if these policies, backed by robust investment cases and evidence of return on investment, prioritize the furthest behind populations and close

policy implementation gaps in sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, youth empowerment and GBV, then Guatemala will accelerate the reduction of adolescent pregnancy, maternal mortality and GBV, contributing to leverage Guatemala's demographic dividend through human capital development. Based on lessons learned from evaluative evidence, UNFPA will, in this cycle, pivot from a project-based to a strengthened normative and convener role, catalysing the implementation of key frameworks (e.g. PLANEA, Maternal Mortality Reduction Plan, National Youth Policy) and robust accountability mechanisms, enhancing joint programming with other United Nations organizations. By leveraging population analyses, disaggregated data and investment cases into national policy, planning and budgeting, UNFPA will contribute to ensure that national frameworks are structurally equipped to drive human capital development and demographic resilience in Guatemala.

20. Key interventions include: high-level advocacy and policy dialogue, knowledge management and the strengthening of multisectoral partnerships to contribute to: (a) *institutionalized and territorialized policies*: provide policy solutions, technical advice to strengthen inter-institutional coordination mechanisms and stewardship for the advancement the implementation and territorialization of intercultural, evidence-based policies for women, adolescents and youth, focusing on strengthening youth agency and empowerment, promoting their access to decent work and productive assets, focusing on territories with greater levels of poverty and exclusion, as well as addressing unintended adolescent pregnancy, and its linkages to early unions, gender-based and sexual violence and risks of maternal deaths; (b) *LNOB approach operationalized in plans and budgets*: strengthen the incorporation and operationalization of a LNOB approach in SRH, GBV and population policies, plans and programmes, at national and subnational levels, to address the intersecting forms of discrimination that affect the furthest left-behind populations, particularly women, youth, Indigenous populations, Afrodescendants, those living in rural areas, and people with disabilities, ensuring the meaningful participation of the furthest left-behind populations; (c) *investment cases and sustainable financing*: develop and implement innovative financing mechanisms by strengthening investment cases to improve SRH access and the exercise of reproductive rights , using socio-economic evidence (e.g., MILENA) to demonstrate the return on investment in women, adolescents and youth for increased and more efficient resource allocation; (d) *strengthened SRH and GBV services*: strengthen subnational health and GBV systems, by implementing norms and standards that ensure access to high-quality, culturally sensitive and inclusive SRH and GBV services, including in humanitarian settings, with a special emphasis on Indigenous and rural women, women with low education and adolescents, including those in human mobility; (e) *rights-holder agency and accountability*: strengthen advocacy and social oversight capacities of civil society and community-based organizations, particularly youth, Indigenous groups, people with disabilities and other furthest left-behind populations to foster enhanced implementation of public policies and international commitments, including the Montevideo Consensus and the voluntary ICPD national commitments.

C. Output 3. Strengthened national and subnational capacities of the State, civil society and the private sector to transform discriminatory social and gender norms and eliminate harmful practices, particularly affecting women, adolescents, youth and left-behind populations, fostering social cohesion and sustainable peace

21. This output contributes to the four UNFPA strategic plan outcomes and UNSDCF Strategic Priority 1 (strengthening democratic governance and the rule of law), outcome 1.3 (greater security, justice, and peace in an environment free from violence). Discriminatory gender and social norms that normalize GBV and harmful practices, particularly child marriage, early unions and adolescent pregnancies, are not only human rights violations but also primary barriers to social cohesion, economic development and stability, perpetuating a cycle of exclusion that undermines the rule of law and sustainable peace in Guatemala. By strengthening the national capacities to transform discriminatory social and gender norms, the programme seeks to strengthen social cohesion and build a culture of peace, where the agency of women and youth is recognized as a pillar of community resilience. The theory of change for this output posits that (a) if partnerships with government, civil society, other United Nations organizations and the private sector are strengthened to raise awareness and catalyse political will for social and gender norms transformation; and (b) if institutional leadership is strengthened to provide oversight and drive intersectoral coordination, and (c) if the agency of women, girls adolescents, and youth is fostered through community engagement, then the structural drivers of violence and exclusion will be transformed. This will result in a more resilient social fabric where women and youth exercise leadership and participate as key actors in development and peacebuilding efforts in Guatemala. The programme will adopt a socio-ecological approach and human rights-based, gender-transformative, inclusive lens to bolster national protection and prevention systems, as well as create an enabling environment for women and youth. It operates on the strategic premise that transforming social norms and addressing

implementation gaps are essential prerequisites for Guatemala's sustainable peace, development, and the fulfillment of human rights for those furthest left behind. Leveraging its leadership and specialized expertise in GBV, adolescent pregnancy prevention and girl-centred programming, the Guatemala country office is well positioned to accompany technical and political efforts toward systemic social and gender norm change.

22. Key interventions include advocacy, policy dialogue, technical assistance, coordination and partnerships to: (a) *strategic partnerships and coalition-building*: forge strategic coalitions with the Government, civil society, other United Nations organizations, academia and the private sector to catalyse national commitment towards transforming social and gender norms that underpin GBV, adolescent pregnancies and early unions; (b) *institutional leadership to change gender and social norms*: enhance technical and coordination capacities of national institutions to lead, monitor and scale up social and gender norm transformation through robust intersectoral platforms and evidence-based oversight; (c) *community-based and intersectoral programmes*: scale up and institutionalize community-based and intersectoral programmes, prioritizing indigenous adolescent girls and left-behind women most affected by intersectional discriminations, including racism, adolescents and youth through girl-centred and inclusive programming, including targeted programmes with men and boys to promote positive masculinities; (d) *social and behaviour change communication*: develop and scale up evidence-based social and behaviour change communication strategies that transform discriminatory social and gender norms, including racism, through multi-stakeholder engagement and data-driven monitoring and evaluation for sustainable and measurable impact; (e) *humanitarian-development-peace continuum*: strengthen the implementation of the youth and women, peace and security agendas, ensuring the leadership and meaningful participation of women and youth in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and social cohesion efforts, as an opportunity to harness the demographic dividend and contribute to the country's economic and social development.

III. Programme and risk management

23. UNFPA will implement the programme, working with governmental partners, applying the United Nations standard operating procedures, as well as its own programme and operational policies and procedures. It will facilitate participatory and joint planning, implementation and monitoring of policy and advisory engagement models, work plans with key partners, using a harmonized approach to cash transfers and other tools to manage financial risks. The last audit was conducted in 2014 and recommendations were addressed.

24. To implement the programme vision, the country office will undergo a strategic reorientation, aligning with the spirit of the UN 2.0, the UN80 Initiative and the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review. UNFPA Guatemala will advance its strategic shift towards high-level normative work, moving its operational model from a project-based focus to a more upstream approach, placing emphasis on policy dialogue, data-driven advocacy and a strengthened convening role. This model also allows the office to strengthen its capacity to share expertise and promote South-South and triangular cooperation.

25. The Guatemala country office has an agile and technically strong team and is able to accomplish the expected results in a changing scenario. The strategic shift towards a stronger normative and advisory role is supported by a plan to align internal office capacities to the expected programme outcomes. Capacities in demographic intelligence and foresight analysis, data-driven policy making and partnership building will be strengthened. A structured capacity development plan will equip staff with critical skills in prospective analysis, strategic financing, and policy advocacy and dialogue. This enables the UNFPA team to anticipate demographic shifts, engage non-traditional partners and effectively operationalize a normative, high-impact country programme.

26. A transformative partnership and resource mobilization strategy is foundational to this new approach. UNFPA will continue to deepen collaboration with national and subnational governments, consolidating South-South and triangular cooperation, partnerships with traditional sectors (e.g. health, education and social development), while elevating engagement with the ministries of finance and planning to strengthen the integration of ICPD priorities in national planning and budgeting frameworks. Strategic partnerships with civil society and community-based organizations will be strengthened to ensure local ownership, accountability and social oversight of policy implementation. To maximize impact, UNFPA will leverage joint United Nations programming (with UNDP, UNICEF, UN-Women, and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)) and foster alliances with academia and research centres. To ensure the sustainability of youth-led outcomes, the country office will strengthen the continuum between sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights and economic resilience. To ensure long-term sustainability, UNFPA will prioritize the diversification of its resource base, transitioning from traditional funding models toward a comprehensive 'funding and financing' approach. This includes engaging multilateral development

banks (e.g., the World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), International Monetary Fund, the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF), and Central Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE)), the private sector and other national and international organizations as programmatic or policy advocacy partners. The catalyst for this multi-stakeholder engagement will be the development of robust investment cases – leveraging tools like MILENA – that articulate the long-term social and economic returns of investing in sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, thereby unlocking new and sustainable financing for the ICPD agenda.

27. The programme operates within a dynamic and complex landscape. Key risks include: (a) weaknesses in inter-institutional coordination that may hinder the advancement of ICPD priorities; (b) potential regulatory setbacks and implementation gaps in policies related to human rights; (c) insufficient fiscal space, domestic resource allocations and public accountability for human capital development and social investment, within a volatile international cooperation landscape; and (d) escalating impacts of climate change.

28. To mitigate these risks, UNFPA will: (a) prioritize institutional stewardship by formalizing coordination mechanisms and institutionalizing evidence-based advocacy through multisectoral alliances; advocate for increased domestic allocations, improved spending efficiency and the diversification of funding sources; (b) support, in coordination with the United Nations country team, data and demographic analysis for regular risk assessments and emergency preparedness planning. UNFPA will harmonize country programme monitoring with the UNFPA enterprise risk management processes at the country level and maintain flexibility to re-programme funds, in consultation with the Government, ensuring a timely and effective response during crises, including through operational-level contingency plans.

29. This country programme document describes UNFPA contributions to national results and serves as the primary unit of accountability to the Executive Board for the alignment of results and resources allocated to the programme at the country level. The responsibilities of managers at all levels are described in the UNFPA operational and programme policies and procedures and the internal control framework.

IV. Monitoring and evaluation

30. UNFPA and the Government, under the guidance of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Secretariat of Planning and Programming of the Presidency (SEGEPLAN), will oversee the country programme, in accordance with UNFPA policies and procedures and results-based management and accountability frameworks, ensuring the active engagement of implementing partners, key stakeholders and left-behind groups.

31. UNFPA will actively participate in the monitoring and final evaluation of the UNSDCF. The country office will contribute to global inter-agency platforms, such as UN Info, to monitor and report on progress made on joint workplans. UNFPA will actively participate in the inter-agency groups of the United Nations system, which aim to ensure the effectiveness, transparency and accountability of joint programmes. This participation will facilitate a systematic exchange of knowledge and experiences among various agencies, enabling the harmonization of methodologies, the identification of best practices and the optimization of data utilization for informed decision-making.

32. The costed evaluation plan is aligned with the UNFPA Strategic Plan, 2026-2029, and the UNSDCF monitoring and evaluation plan for 2026-2030, as well as with the relevant indicators of the National Development Plan, Nuestra Guatemala 2032.

33. UNFPA will conduct a final evaluation of the country programme as well as evaluations of specific projects, with the aim of informing the design of future initiatives. Capacity-building sessions will be organized with national and local implementing partners and country office staff to develop their capacity to apply results-based management in planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

34. UNFPA will contribute to strengthening national monitoring and reporting capacities for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs (e.g., voluntary national reports), the Montevideo Consensus and the ICPD Programme of Action.

RESULTS AND RESOURCES FRAMEWORK FOR GUATEMALA (2027-2030)

NATIONAL PRIORITY: Institutional strengthening, security and justice; poverty reduction and social protection.

UNSDCF OUTCOMES: 1.1 By 2030, people – especially women, young people, and Indigenous peoples – benefit from public governance that guarantees their human rights and is more efficient, inclusive, transparent, modern, evidence-based and aligned with demographic trends, and that is grounded in institutions that strengthen democracy and ensure more legitimate and effective public policies.

RELATED UNFPA STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOME(S): 4. By 2029, adaptation to demographic change has strengthened the resilience of societies for current and future generations, while upholding individual rights and choices.

UNSDCF outcome indicators, baselines, targets	Country programme outputs	Output indicators, baselines and targets	Partner contributions	Indicative resources
UNSDCF Outcome indicator(s): ● Proportion of sustainable development indicators produced at the national level *Baseline: 69.3% (2026);* *Target: 75% (2030)* Related UNFPA Strategic Plan Outcome indicator(s): ● The country has a dedicated section on demographic change and its implications in national and/or sectoral development strategies *Baseline: No (2026);* *Target: Yes (2030)*	Output 1. Strengthened national and subnational capacities to leverage a demographic intelligence ecosystem that is integrated into national and subnational planning and budgeting to ensure inclusive, efficient, and anticipatory governance	● Number of national institutions supported by UNFPA that strengthened their capacities to produce and analyse disaggregated data by sex, age, ethnicity, disability and other relevant variables, within the framework of the National Strategy for Statistical Development and the 2030 Census Round *Baseline: 5 (2026); Target: 8 (2030)* ● Number of national and subnational institutions supported by UNFPA that integrated advanced foresight analysis and tools and georeferenced data into their planning, public policy and/or budgeting *Baseline: 2 (2026); Target:5 (2030)* ● Number of UNFPA-supported analysis and studies on the impact of demographic transition (low fertility, demographic dividend, ageing) and intersecting megatrends (climate change, migration, urbanization, and digitalization) on human capital development, to inform the design and implementation of inclusive, forward-looking and resilient plans, policies and programmes *Baseline: 4 (2026); Target: 8 (2030)* ● Number of UNFPA-supported information systems and administrative records strengthened to provide disaggregated data on violence against women, including structural determinants and intersectional discrimination *Baseline: 1 (2026); Target: 5 (2030)*	SEGEPLAN; INE; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Social Development; Ministry of Economy; Ministry of Finance; Executive Coordination Secretariat of the Presidency; civil society and community-based organizations; academia; UN organizations; private sector and international donors	$4.9 million ($1.9 million from regular resources and $3.0 million from other resources)

NATIONAL PRIORITY: Poverty Reduction and Social Protection; Access to Health Services; Institutional Strengthening, Security and Justice.

UNSDCF OUTCOMES: 2.2**:** By 2030, people—especially women, young people, and Indigenous Peoples—have increased access to social protection, including a care pillar, as well as to inclusive public services of higher quality, delivered in a timely manner, culturally appropriate, and with a territorial approach.

RELATED UNFPA STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOME(S): 1: By 2029, the reduction in the unmet need for family planning has accelerated; 2: By 2029, the reduction in preventable maternal deaths has accelerated; 3: By 2029, the reduction of gender-based violence and harmful practices has accelerated.

UNSDCF Outcome indicators: ● Proportion of total public expenditure on essential services (health, education and social protection) *Baseline:* 44.2% *(2024);* *Target:* 47.9% *(2032)* ● Proportion of young people (aged 15-30 years), disaggregated by sex, indigenous and rural-urban area *Baseline: 64.1% (2024);* *Target:* TBD (2030) Related UNFPA Strategic Plan Outcome indicator(s): ● Maternal mortality ratio *Baseline:* 85 per 100,000 live births *(2023);* *Target:* 70 per 100,000 live births (2030) ● Unmet need for family planning *Baseline*: 14%; *Target:* 10% ● Guatemala's national budget allocations –including for health, social protection, and infrastructure – are informed by population projections *Baseline*: No *(2026)*; *Target:* Yes *(2030)*	Output 2. Strengthened national and subnational capacities for the design and scaled implementation of multisectoral, evidence-based and LNOB-focused public policy solutions that contribute to human capital development, with a primary focus on indigenous women, adolescents, youth and other furthest left behind	● Number of national and subnational policies, legal frameworks, and strategies developed or implemented that address unintended adolescent pregnancy and youth agency and empowerment, and its linkages with early unions, GBV, and maternal health, with UNFPA support *Baseline: 2 (2026); Target: 7 (2030)* ● Number of quality and culturally sensitive SRH and GBV services, which are strengthened through UNFPA technical and advocacy support, to implement the norms, standards of professionalization frameworks in development and humanitarian settings, including indigenous and rural women, women with low education, and adolescents and women with disabilities *Baseline: 39 (2026); Target: 70 (2030)* ● Number of civil society and community-based organizations, particularly youth, indigenous, Afrodescendant, people with disabilities, and other furthest left-behind that advocate for an enhanced implementation of public policies and international commitments, including the Montevideo Consensus and ICPD *Baseline: 5 (2026); Target:10 (2030)* ● Number of key partners (national and subnational institutions, private sector, IFIs) supported by UNFPA that use socio-economic evidence and innovative financing mechanisms to increase investment in human capital development, particularly adolescent pregnancy prevention, maternal mortality reduction and adaptation to demographic change *Baseline: 1 (2026); Target:5 (2030)*	SEGEPLAN; Women's Presidential Secretary (SEPREM); Vice-presidential Secretary on Sexual Violence, Exploitation and Trafficking-SVET; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Social Development; Ministry of the Interior; Social Cabinet; civil society; UN organizations; private sector and international donors	$5.9 million ($1.9 million from regular resources and $4.0 million from other resources)
NATIONAL PRIORITY: Poverty reduction and social protection and security and justice and poverty reduction and social protection.				
UNSDCF OUTCOMES: 1.1 By 2030, people – especially women, young people, Indigenous peoples and human rights defenders – enjoy greater security, justice, and peace in an environment free from violence, particularly violence against women and girls				
RELATED UNFPA STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOME(S): 1. By 2029, the reduction in the unmet need for family planning has accelerated; 2. By 2029, the reduction in preventable maternal deaths has accelerated; 3. By 2029, the reduction of gender-based violence and harmful practices has accelerated; 4. By 2029, adaptation to demographic change has strengthened the resilience of societies for current and future generations, while upholding individual rights and choices				
UNSDCF outcome indicators, baselines, targets	**Country programme outputs**	**Output indicators, baselines and targets**	**Partner contributions**	**Indicative resources**
UNSDCF Outcome indicators: ● Prevalence of violence against women over their lifetime	Output 3. Strengthened national and subnational capacities of the state, civil society and private sector to transform discriminatory	● Number of strategic partnerships and coalitions with government, civil society, and/or the private sector, aimed to reduce GBV, adolescent pregnancies or early	SEGEPLAN; SEPREM; Indigenous Women's Rights Office; National Attorney's Office; Vice-presidential	$5.3 million ($1.3 million from regular resources and

Baseline: 51.2% (2023); *Target: TBD (2030)* <u>Related UNFPA Strategic Plan Outcome indicator(s)</u>: ● Percentage of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before: (a) age 15; and (b) age 18 *Baseline*: 19.8% (15-19 years), (2014/2015); *Target: 12%* (15-19 years) (2030) ● Maternal mortality ratio *Baseline:*85 per 100,000 live births (2024); *Target:* 70 per 100,000 live births (2030)	social and gender norms and eliminate harmful practices, particularly affecting women, adolescents, youth and left-behind populations, fostering social cohesion and sustainable peace	unions, by transforming gender and social norms *Baseline: 2 (2026); Target: 7 (2030)* ● Number of community-based programmes or social and behaviour change (SBCC) interventions implemented and/or scaled up with UNFPA support, aimed at transforming discriminatory social and gender norms that perpetuate child, early and forced unions and marriage and other harmful practices *Baseline:* 3 (2026); *Target:* 8 (2030) ● Number of prioritized municipal governments that incorporate in their plans and/or budgets actions aimed at transforming discriminatory social and gender norms, supported by UNFPA *Baseline:* 1 (2026); *Target*: 5 (2030)	Secretary on Sexual Violence; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Social Development; Executive Coordination Secretariat of the Presidency; CONAPREVI; Ministry of the Interior; civil society and community-based organizations; academia; UN organizations; private sector and international donors	$4.0 million from other resources)
Programme coordination and assistance				$0.4 million from regular resources