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## WASH RESPONSE TO CLIMATIC EVENTS IN PRIORITIZED MUNICIPALITIES OF ALTA VERAPAZ AND CHIQUIMULA

### CONTEXT

The project “**Emergency Response in Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) in Response to Climate Events in Priority Municipalities of Alta Verapaz and Chiquimula,**” funded through the Regional Humanitarian Fund for Latin America and the Caribbean (RHPF LAC), coordinated by OCHA, and implemented by HELVETAS in partnership with UNICEF, is part of a multisectoral humanitarian response aimed at addressing the impacts of recurring climate shocks in Guatemala. The project operates in the municipalities of Santa Catalina La Tinta, Panzós, San Pablo Tamahú, San Miguel Tucurú, San Antonio Senahú, and San Cristóbal Verapaz in the department of Alta Verapaz, and San Jacinto, Esquipulas, and San José la Arada in the department of Chiquimula.

The project is implemented as part of an integrated WASH-Nutrition response, aimed at saving lives, reducing the risk of waterborne diseases and contributing to the prevention of acute malnutrition in vulnerable populations, especially in rural and hard-to-reach areas.

Priority is given to the most vulnerable communities identified by the Municipal Commission for Food and Nutritional Security (COMUSAN) and the Departmental Commission for Food and Nutritional Security (CODESAN), and integrates community capacity building through the Sustainable Total Sanitation and Hygiene (SAHTOSO) methodology, rehabilitation of community water systems, construction of rainwater harvesting systems, improvement of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services in health facilities and delivery of water filters at the family level.

The main activities of the WASH component include:

- Promotion of hygiene practices and behaviour change at the community level,
- Provision and distribution of inputs for access to safe water at the family level,
- Rehabilitation of WASH services in communities and health posts, and
- Actions to support community water management, in coordination with institutional actors and local structures.

**GENERAL OBJECTIVE:** To provide an integrated WASH and Nutrition response, aimed at saving lives, reducing the risk of waterborne diseases and contributing to the prevention of acute malnutrition in vulnerable populations, especially in rural and hard-to-reach areas.

**SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:**

- Promote hygiene practices and behavior change at the community level.
- Provide and distribute supplies for access to safe water at the family level.
- Rehabilitate WASH services in communities and health posts.

**LINES OF INTERVENTION**

- 1. Community Capacity Building and Behavior Change (SAHTOSO Methodology):** Awareness-raising processes and technical support for SAHTOSO community committees (formed on the existing organizational structure), with emphasis on women's participation and inclusion of people with disabilities.
- 2. Rehabilitation of community water systems:** It includes rainwater harvesting, technical evaluations, infrastructure improvements and training for the Water and Sanitation Commissions (CAS) in operation and maintenance (OM), seeking to guarantee the functionality and sustainability of the solutions.
- 3. Rehabilitation of WASH services in health facilities:** It begins with technical assessments of conditions and gaps using the WASH-FIT tool, followed by proposals for the design and improvements of climate-resilient infrastructure, in coordination with PAHO/WHO.
- 4. Distribution of water filters at the family level:** UNICEF provides EcoFiltros; HELVETAS is in charge of distribution logistics, training in use and maintenance, and adoption monitoring in the beneficiary households.
- 5. Transversal axes present in all lines:** Accountability to affected populations, with channels of information and community feedback; Protection from gender-based violence; and Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.

**FAST FACTS**

|                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Geographical location:</b>            | Santa Catalina La Tinta, Panzós, San Pablo Tamahú, San Miguel Tucurú, San Antonio Senahú and San Cristóbal Verapaz of Alta Verapaz department; and Municipalities of San Jacinto, Esquipulas and San José la Arada of the department of Chiquimula. |
| <b>Periodo de implementación:</b>        | start: 05/06/2026<br>end: 30/11/2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Donante:</b>                          | UNICEF and the United Nations Office for Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), through the Regional Humanitarian Fund for Latin America and the Caribbean (RHPP LAC).                                                                                        |
| <b>Actores y socios de coordinación:</b> | MSPAS, SESAN, Municipalities, Water Committees, SAHTOSO Committees.                                                                                                                                                                                 |

## EXPECTED RESULTS AND GOALS

| Indicator                                                                                                                                                | WASH Strategy                                                                            | Goal                   | Strategy                                                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Number of people with access to sufficient and safe water for drinking, cooking and/or personal hygiene, according to the standard agreed for the sector | a. Rehabilitation of Community Water Systems (SAP and SCALL).<br>b. Delivery of filters. | 46.000 people          | 1) 2 Community Water Systems - SAP rehabilitated per municipality.<br>2) 8 Rainwater Harvesting Systems - SCALL per municipality.<br>3) 785 EcoFilters per municipality. |
| Number of community sanitation facilities (e.g. latrines) and/or community bathing facilities built or rehabilitated.                                    | a. Rehabilitation of WASH services in health facilities.                                 | 18 properties          | 1) 2 health facilities per municipality.                                                                                                                                 |
| Number of domestic sanitation facilities (e.g. latrines) and/or domestic toilet facilities built or rehabilitated.                                       | a. Community WASH training in emergency situations (sanitation facilities)               | 450 home installations | 1) 450 homes with self-built toilets and sinks.                                                                                                                          |
| Number of people reached through regular hygiene promotion sessions.                                                                                     | a. Community WASH Training in Emergency Situations – SAHTOSO Methodology                 | 33.750 people          | 1) 90 communities with intervention.                                                                                                                                     |
| Number of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) kits distributed.                                                                                         | a. Delivery of hygiene kits                                                              | 3.500 kits             | 1) 388 kits delivered per municipality.                                                                                                                                  |



More information at:

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