

**Better solutions.  
Fewer disasters.  
Safer world.**



# Guatemala: Escuintla

**National Disaster Preparedness Baseline Assessment –  
Department Profile**

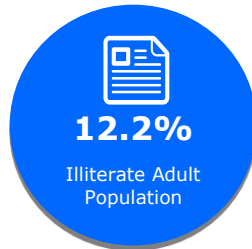
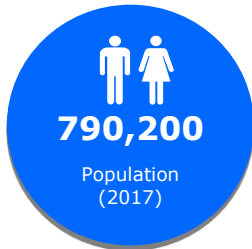
**Department: Escuintla**



Department Capital: Escuintla

Area: 4,384 km<sup>2</sup>

Escuintla is located in southern Guatemala, south of Guatemala City. Escuintla borders the Pacific Ocean to the south and has the country's longest maritime border. The major products are sugar cane, cattle, seafood, and tobacco. Escuintla produces over 40% of the country's Gross Domestic Product.



**Municipality**

- Escuintla
- Santa Lucía Cotzumalguapa
- Palín
- La Gomera
- Nueva Concepción
- Tiquizate
- San José
- Masagua
- La Democracia
- Siquinalá
- Guanagazapa
- San Vicente Pacaya
- Iztapa

**Population**

- 165,922
- 149,043
- 72,676
- 64,931
- 63,806
- 62,411
- 55,611
- 50,340
- 28,445
- 26,895
- 19,337
- 18,859
- 11,922



**Multi-Hazard Risk Rank: High (6 of 22)**

**Lack of Resilience Rank: Moderate (12 of 22)**

**RVA Component Scores**

Table 1. Department scores and ranks (compared across departments) for each index

Multi-Hazard Risk		Lack of Resilience		Multi-Hazard Exposure		Vulnerability		Coping Capacity	
High		Moderate		High		Low		Low	
Score	Rank (of 22)	Score	Rank (of 22)	Score	Rank (of 22)	Score	Rank (of 22)	Score	Rank (of 22)
0.563	6	0.508	12	0.674	7	0.412	17	0.397	16

## Multi-Hazard Exposure (MHE)

**Multi-Hazard Exposure<sup>1</sup> Rank: 7 of 22 Departments (Score: 0.674)**

Table 2. Estimated ambient population<sup>2</sup> exposed to each hazard



Cyclone

**100%**

**705,665 People**



Earthquake

**100%**

**705,665 People**



Volcano

**40%**

**283,563 People**



Flood

**38%**

**269,566 People**



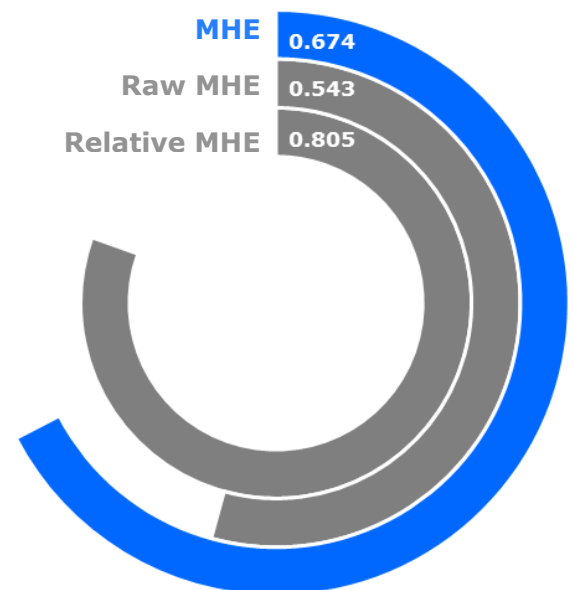
Landslide

**1%**

**3,946 People**

### USSOUTHCOM-Built EOC and Warehouse

United States Southern Command, in cooperation with CONRED, recently financed and built a new EOC and storage warehouse in Escuintla Department using Humanitarian Assistance Program funds. The structure, consisting of offices, a small room EOC, and thousands of square feet of warehouse space, is occupied daily by personnel from la Coordinadora Departamental para la Reducción de Desastres (CODRED) for Escuintla.



<sup>1</sup> Multi-Hazard Exposure: Average exposure of the population to hazards.

<sup>2</sup> Ambient Population: 24-hour average estimate of the population in each department. Ambient population typically differs from census population.

## Vulnerability (V)

**Vulnerability<sup>3</sup> Rank: 17 of 22 Departments (Score: 0.412)** Vulnerability in Escuintla is primarily driven by Vulnerable Health Status and Clean Water Vulnerability. The bar chart on the right indicates the socioeconomic themes contributing to the department's overall Vulnerability score.

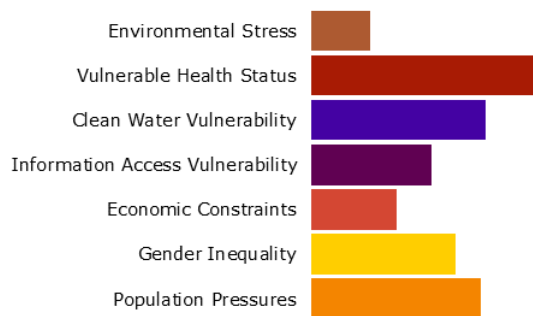









Table 3. Component scores for each Vulnerability sub-component

	<b>Environmental Stress</b>	<b>27.2%</b> Province at Drought Risk	<b>2.1%</b> Annual Forest Change					
	<b>Vulnerable Health Status</b>	<b>26</b> Infant Mortality Rate	<b>229.3</b> Maternal Mortality Ratio	<b>1.1%</b> Acute Malnutrition	<b>3.4%</b> Population Disabled	<b>56.0</b> TB Incidence	<b>33.2</b> Dengue Prevalence	<b>10.2</b> Malaria Prevalence
	<b>Clean Water Vulnerability</b>	<b>57.2%</b> Households with Access to Improved Water	<b>71.8%</b> Households with Access to Improved Sanitation					
	<b>Information Access Vulnerability</b>	<b>12.2%</b> Adult Illiteracy	<b>5.7</b> Average Years of Schooling	<b>87.1%</b> Primary School Enrollment	<b>3.4%</b> Households with Internet	<b>48.6%</b> Households with Cable TV	<b>78.0%</b> Households with Radio	<b>7.4%</b> Speak Indigenous Language
	<b>Economic Constraints</b>	<b>0.67</b> Economic Dependency Ratio	<b>52.9%</b> Population in Poverty	<b>0.42</b> GINI Coefficient				
	<b>Gender Inequality</b>	<b>16.7%</b> Female Seats in Congress	<b>0.02</b> Ratio of Female to Male Secondary Education Enrollment	<b>0.20</b> Ratio of Female to Male Economic Activity				
	<b>Population Pressures</b>	<b>3.2%</b> Average Annual Population Change	<b>2.6%</b> Average Annual Urban Population Change	<b>48.6%</b> Food Insecurity				

<sup>3</sup> **Vulnerability:** The socioeconomic conditions that are associated with the susceptibility to disruptions in a country's normal functions.

## Coping Capacity (CC)

**Coping Capacity<sup>4</sup> Rank: 16 of 22 Departments (Score: 0.397)** Escuintla displays a low level of Coping Capacity, which is attributable to low Governance and Environmental Capacity. The bar chart on the right indicates the socioeconomic themes contributing to the department’s overall Coping Capacity score.

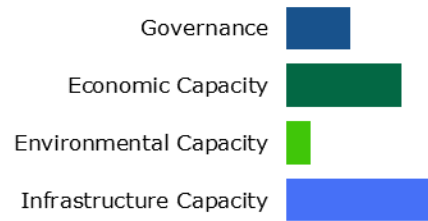


Table 4. Component scores for each Coping Capacity sub-component

	<b>Governance</b>	<b>566.1</b> Crime Victims per 100K	<b>17.0%</b> Households with Garbage Collection			
	<b>Economic Capacity</b>	<b>\$454.7</b> Remittances per Capita (USD)	<b>13 .0</b> Businesses per 1,000 Persons	<b>13,414</b> GDP per Capita (Quetzales)		
	<b>Environmental Capacity</b>	<b>1.9%</b> Protected Land	<b>0.7%</b> Reforested Area			
	<b>Infrastructure Capacity</b>					
	<b>Health Care Capacity</b>	<b>4.6</b> Hospital Beds per 10,000 Persons	<b>8.7</b> Nurses per 10,000 Persons	<b>6.8</b> Physicians per 10,000 Persons	<b>25.1 km</b> Average Distance to Nearest Hospital	<b>91.5%</b> Children Completed Immunization Schedule
	<b>Communications Capacity</b>	<b>6.5%</b> Households with Access to Fixed Phone Line	<b>87.8%</b> Households with Access to Mobile Phone	<b>97.0%</b> Households with Access to Electricity		
	<b>Transportation Capacity</b>	<b>35.0 km</b> Average Distance to Nearest Port or Airport	<b>20.6 km</b> Total Length of Road per 100 km <sup>2</sup> (area)			

<sup>4</sup> Coping Capacity: The systems, means, and abilities of a country to absorb and respond to events that could potentially disrupt normal function.

## Lack of Resilience (LR)

**Lack of Resilience<sup>5</sup> Rank: 12 of 22 Departments (Score: 0.508)**

Escuintla's score and ranking are due to low Vulnerability combined with low Coping Capacity scores.

Table 5. The 3 thematic areas with the weakest relative scores



**Vulnerable Health Status**



**Environmental Capacity**



**Clean Water Vulnerability**

## Multi-Hazard Risk (MHR)

**Multi-Hazard Risk<sup>6</sup> Rank: 6 of 22 Departments (Score: 0.563)**

Escuintla's score and ranking are due to low Vulnerability, high Multi-Hazard Exposure combined with low Coping Capacity scores.

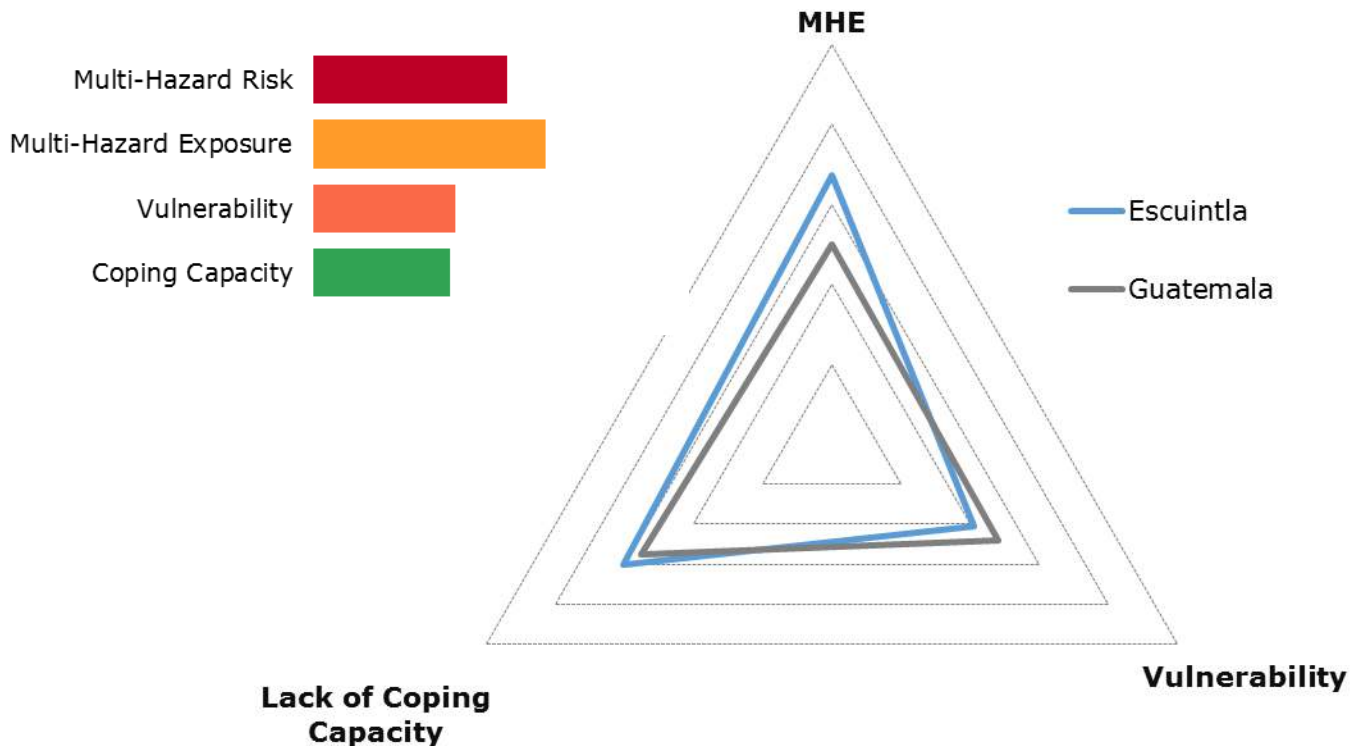


Figure 1. Department Multi-Hazard Risk component scores compared to overall average country scores

<sup>5</sup> **Lack of Resilience:** The susceptibility to impact from the short-term inability to absorb, respond to, and recover from disruptions to a country's normal function. This index provides a hazard-independent look at current socioeconomic conditions.

<sup>6</sup> **Multi-Hazard Risk:** The likelihood of losses or disruptions to a country's normal function due to interaction between multi-hazard exposure, socioeconomic vulnerability, and coping capacity.

## Successes



### Low economic constraints

Ranked 21 of 22 departments, low economic constraints indicate that Escuintla may be able to invest in additional mitigation and preparedness measures at the local and community level.



### Low gender inequality

Ranked 21 of 22 departments, low gender inequality indicates that vulnerable populations are more likely to have their needs met under 'normal' conditions and may be less susceptible during times of disaster.



### High overall infrastructure capacity

Ranked 4 of 22 departments, well developed infrastructure – communication, health care, transportation - facilitates the exchange of information, and physical distribution of goods and services to the population.

## Recommendations

01

### Increase environmental programs

Invest in programs to provide protection for the environment, including protected lands and reforestation projects, to increase the ability of the environment to recover after a disaster.

02

### Invest in family and child services

Provide early health education programs and access to health care, especially for new mothers and infants to increase resilience to injury, disease, and stress associated with disasters.



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