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Fewer disasters.
Safer world.



Guatemala: Retalhuleu

Image: Google

National Disaster Preparedness Baseline Assessment –
Department Profile

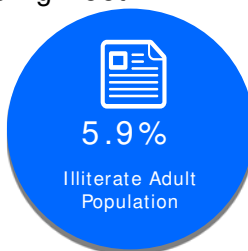
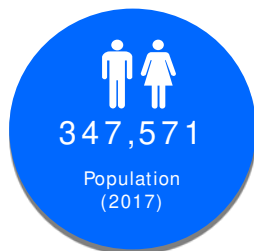
Department: Retalhuleu



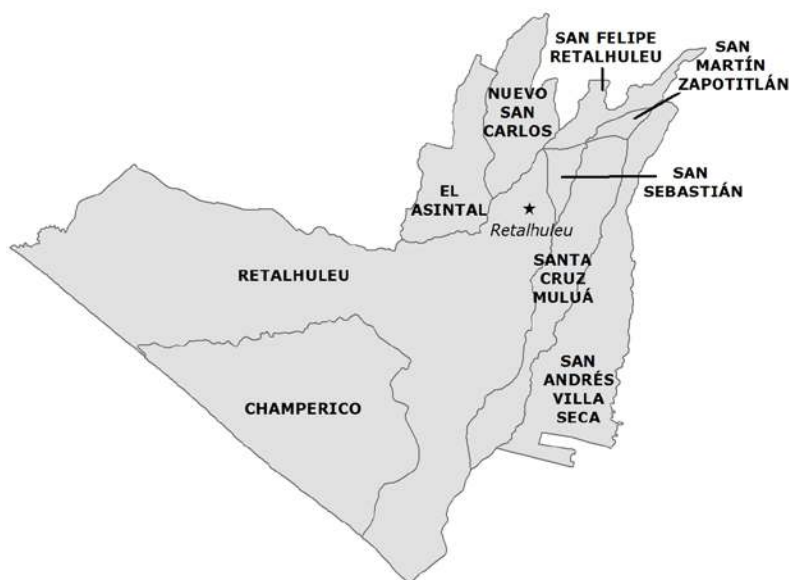
Department Capital: Retalhuleu

Area: 1,856 km²

Retalhuleu is located in southwestern Guatemala, bordering the Pacific Ocean. The capital city and its surrounding areas are home to coffee and sugarcane plantations, bee farms, livestock and numerous grains. The port of Champerico serves as the main port for Guatemala's shrimping fleet.



Municipality	Population
Retalhuleu	94,658
El Asintal	47,038
San Andrés Villa Seca	41,449
Champerico	40,827
Nuevo San Carlos	34,206
San Sebastián	31,932
San Felipe	29,566
Santa Cruz Muluá	14,525
San Martín Zapotitlán	13,370



Multi-Hazard Risk Rank:
Moderate (9 of 22)

Lack of Resilience Rank:
Moderate (14 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	
Moderate		Moderate		High		Low		Moderate	
Score	Rank (of 22)	Score	Rank (of 22)	Score	Rank (of 22)	Score	Rank (of 22)	Score	Rank (of 22)
0.546	9	0.497	14	0.643	8	0.411	18	0.418	12

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Multi-Hazard Exposure (MHE)

Multi-Hazard Exposure¹ Rank: 8 of 22 Departments (Score: 0.643)

Table 2. Estimated ambient population² exposed to each hazard



Cyclone

100%

314,872 People



Earthquake

100%

314,872 People



Volcano

98%

308,984 People



Flood

16%

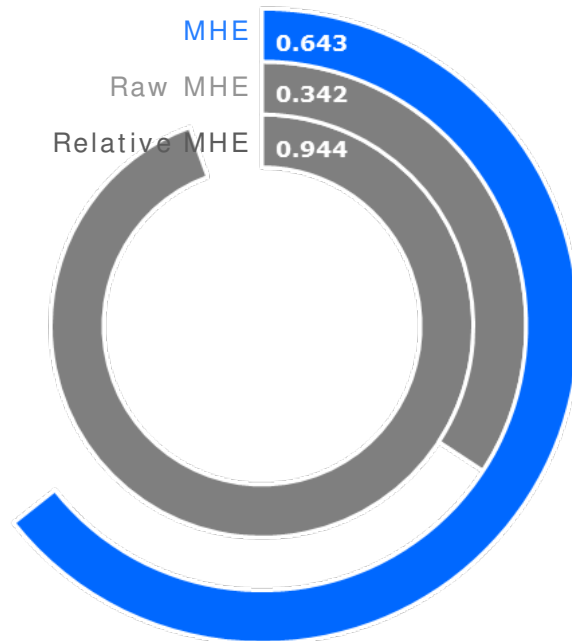
51,890 People



Landslide

< 1%

398 People



¹ Multi-Hazard Exposure: Average exposure of the population to hazards.

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

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Vulnerability (V)

Vulnerability³ Rank: 18 of 22 Departments (Score: 0.411) Vulnerability in Retalhuleu is primarily driven by Clean Water Vulnerability and Vulnerable Health Status. The bar chart on the right indicates the socioeconomic themes contributing to the department's overall Vulnerability score.

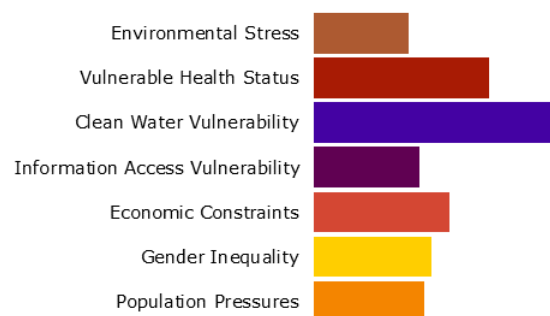









Table 3. Component scores for each Vulnerability sub-component

	Environmental Stress	38.6% Province at Drought Risk	1.4% Annual Forest Change					
	Vulnerable Health Status	8 Infant Mortality Rate	57.3 Maternal Mortality Ratio	1.1% Acute Malnutrition	4.11% Population Disabled	16.9 TB Incidence	33.4 Dengue Prevalence	23.5 Malaria Prevalence
	Clean Water Vulnerability	57.0% Households with Access to Improved Water	43.9% Households with Access to Improved Sanitation					
	Information Access Vulnerability	5.9% Adult Illiteracy	5.7 Average Years of Schooling	86.1% Primary School Enrollment	6.0% Households with Internet	48.1% Households with Cable TV	78.0% Households with Radio	15.7% Speak Indigenous Language
	Economic Constraints	0.78 Economic Dependency Ratio	56.1% Population in Poverty	0.46 GINI Coefficient				
	Gender Inequality	33.3% Female Seats in Congress	0.09 Ratio of Female to Male Secondary Education Enrollment	0.08 Ratio of Female to Male Economic Activity				
	Population Pressures	2.9% Average Annual Population Change	0.1% Average Annual Urban Population Change	45.7% Food Insecurity				

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

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Coping Capacity (CC)

Coping Capacity⁴ Rank: 12 of 22 Departments (Score: 0.418) Retalhuleu displays a very low Environmental Capacity and moderate Governance and Infrastructure Capacity. The bar chart on the right indicates the socioeconomic themes contributing to the department's overall Coping Capacity score.

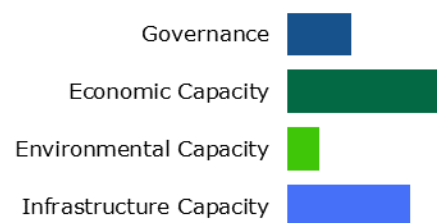


Table 4. Component scores for each Coping Capacity sub-component

	Governance	295.8 Crime Victims per 100K	7.0% Households with Garbage Collection				
	Economic Capacity	\$509.5 Remittances per Capita (USD)	45.9 Businesses per 1,000 persons	11,400 GDP per Capita (Quetzales)			
	Environmental Capacity	1.1% Protected Land	1.4% Reforested Area				
	Infrastructure Capacity						
	Health Care Capacity	22.5 Hospital Beds per 10,000 Persons	4.0 Nurses per 10,000 Persons	2.8 Physicians per 10,000 Persons	21.3 km Average Distance to Nearest Hospital	86.1% Children Completed Immunization Schedule	
	Communications Capacity	6.0% Households with Access to Fixed Phone Line	86.0% Households with Access to Mobile Phone	94.8% Households with Access to Electricity			
	Transportation Capacity	19.7 km Average Distance to Nearest Port or Airport	19.8 km Total Length of Road per 100 km ² (area)				

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

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Lack of Resilience (LR)

Lack of Resilience⁵ Rank: 14 of 22 Departments (Score: 0.497)

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

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



Clean Water
Vulnerability



Vulnerable
Health Status



Governance

Multi-Hazard Risk (MHR)

Multi-Hazard Risk⁶ Rank: 9 of 22 Departments (Score: 0.546)

Retalhuleu's score and ranking are due to high Multi-Hazard Exposure combined with low vulnerability and moderate Coping Capacity scores.

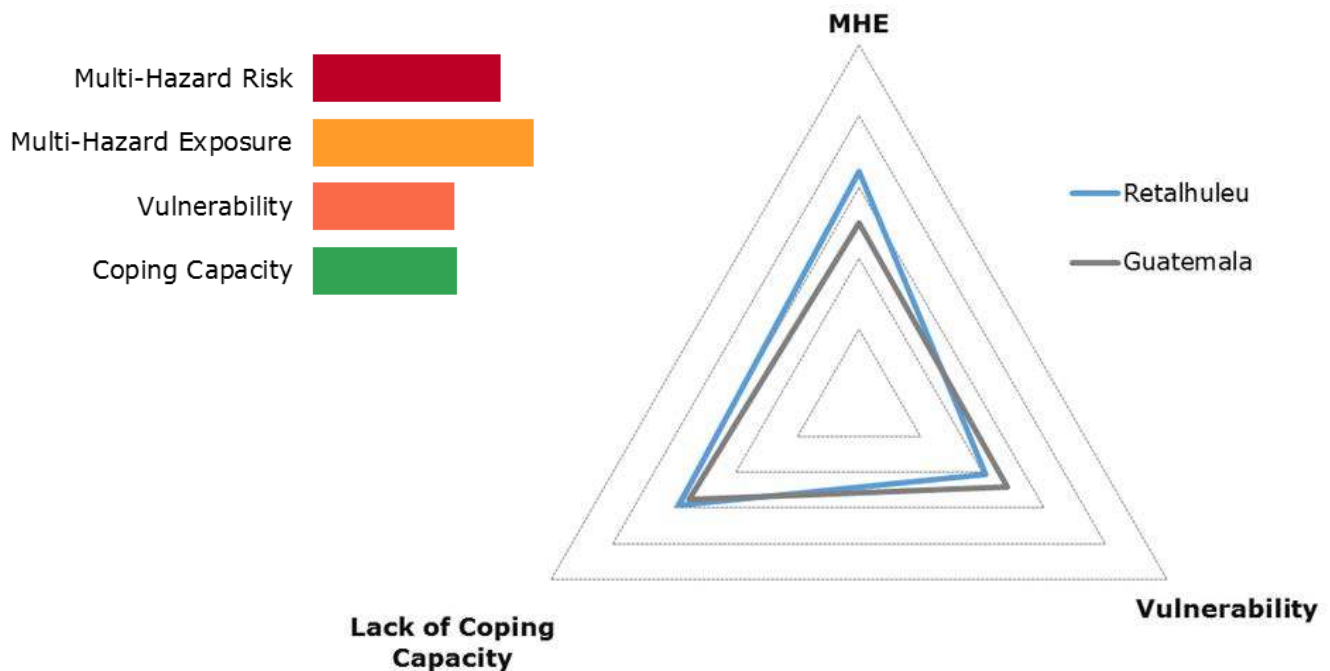


Figure 1. Department Multi-Hazard Risk component scores compared to overall average country scores

⁵ **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.

⁶ **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 18 of 22 departments, low economic constraints indicate an increased ability to invest in mitigation and preparedness measures at the individual, household, and department level.



Low gender inequality

Ranked 20 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.



Low environmental stress

Ranked 18 of 22 departments, low environmental stress indicates that natural resources and agriculture will be more resilient to the effects of a disaster and may recover faster.

Recommendations

01

Invest in water infrastructure

Increased availability of clean water sources and proper sanitation services will decrease vulnerability and allow for quicker recovery in the event of disaster.

02

Increased governance

Similar to clean water, investments in government services such as garbage collection and increased police presence can increase coping capacity by bringing stability to the department.

03

Increase health education

Provide health-education services for the population, especially new mothers and other special needs populations, to increase resilience.



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