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Guatemala: Suchitupéquez

National Disaster Preparedness Baseline Assessment –
Department Profile

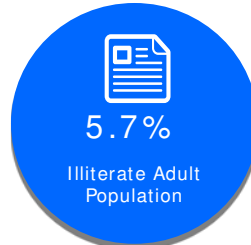
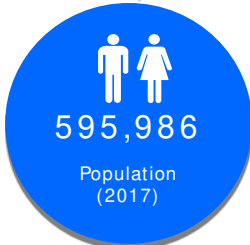
Department: Suchitepéquez



Department Capital: Mazatenango

Area: 2,510 km²

Suchitepéquez is in southwestern Guatemala, with a small coastline along the Pacific Ocean. The main agricultural crops in the department are sugar cane, rubber, corn, beans, bananas, and plantains.



Municipality

Mazatenango	109,774
Cuyotenango	59,360
San Antonio Suchitepéquez	56,784
Chicacao	56,018
Patulul	48,025
Santo Domingo Suchitepéquez	38,015
Santa Bárbara	26,628
San Bernardino	24,258
Samayac	23,670
Rio Bravo	22,462
San Pablo Jocopilas	22,001
San Francisco Zapotitlán	21,225
Santo Tomás la Unión	13,649
San Lorenzo	13,607
San Juan Bautista	12,631
Pueblo Nuevo	12,490
San José el Idolo	10,109
San Miguel Panán	9,176
Zunilito	9,060
San Gabriel	7,047

Population



Multi-Hazard Risk Rank:
Moderate (11 of 22)

Lack of Resilience Rank:
Moderate (10 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		Moderate		Low		Low	
Score	Rank (of 22)	Score	Rank (of 22)	Score	Rank (of 22)	Score	Rank (of 22)	Score	Rank (of 22)
0.539	11	0.519	10	0.580	11	0.434	15	0.397	15

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Multi-Hazard Exposure (MHE)

Multi-Hazard Exposure¹ Rank: 11 of 22 Departments (Score: 0.580)

Table 2. Estimated ambient population² exposed to each hazard



Cyclone

100%

527,143
People



Earthquake

100%

527,143
People



Volcano

40%

210,952
People



Flood

18%

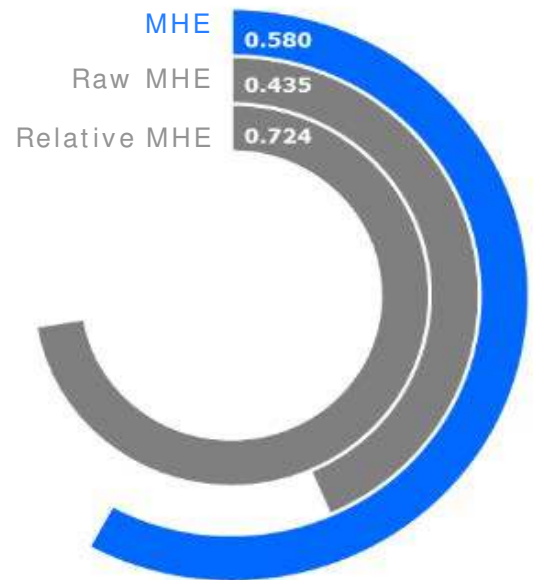
95,065
People



Landslide

< 1%

1,700
People



Chocolá

Chocolá dates to the late Pre-Classic (400BC to 200AD) period. It has over 100 structures, including large palaces, a ball field, and pottery workshops. Over 3,000 objects have been found, including pots, altars, sculpted monuments, and very delicate manufacturing ceramic figurines. Suchitepéquez produces some of the best quality cocoa in the country. Mayan culture used cocoa nuts as currency. This knowledge has led to the conjecture that an early development of such magnitude and complexity was due to the intensive cultivation of cocoa for its commercialization. A small museum dedicated to the history of cocoa is located in the modern village of Chocolá.

http://www.turansa.com/paginas/guatemala_departments/suchitepequez.htm

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: 15 of 22 Departments (Score: 0.434) Vulnerability in Suchitepéquez is primarily driven by Vulnerable Health Status, Gender Inequality, and Economic Constraints. The bar chart on the right indicates the socioeconomic themes contributing to the department's overall Vulnerability score.

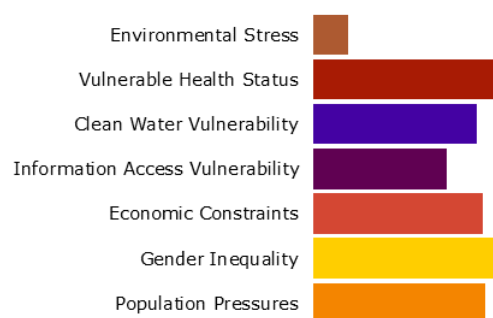









Table 3. Component scores for each Vulnerability sub-component

	Environmental Stress	20.8% Province at Drought Risk	2.7% Annual Forest Change					
	Vulnerable Health Status	28 Infant Mortality Rate	94.1 Maternal Mortality Ratio	1.1% Acute Malnutrition	2.3% Population Disabled	41.2 TB Incidence	12.8 Dengue Prevalence	13.8 Malaria Prevalence
	Clean Water Vulnerability	69.3% Households with Access to Improved Water	60.7% Households with Access to Improved Sanitation					
	Information Access Vulnerability	5.67% Adult Illiteracy	5.0 Average Years of Schooling	82.8% Primary School Enrollment	4.3% Households with Internet	50.1% Households with Cable TV	75.8% Households with Radio	23.4% Speak Indigenous Language
	Economic Constraints	0.82 Economic Dependency Ratio	63.8% Population in Poverty	0.47 GINI Coefficient				
	Gender Inequality	20.0% Female Seats in Congress	0.11 Ratio of Female to Male Secondary Education Enrollment	0.12 Ratio of Female to Male Economic Activity				
	Population Pressures	3.1% Average Annual Population Change	0.3% Average Annual Urban Population Change	59.0% 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: 15 of 22 Departments (Score: 0.397) Suchitepéquez displays a very low level of Coping Capacity, which is attributable to very low Governance, Economic Capacity, and Infrastructure Capacity. The bar chart on the right indicates the socioeconomic themes contributing to the department's overall Coping Capacity score.

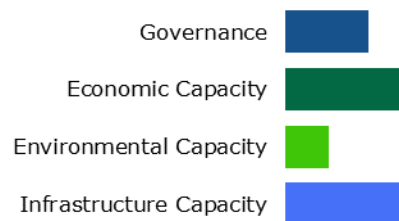









Table 4. Component scores for each Coping Capacity sub-component

	Governance	304.9 Crime Victims per 100K	10.1% Households with Garbage Collection				
	Economic Capacity	\$462.4 Remittances per Capita (USD)	13.6 Businesses per 1,000 persons	13,367 GDP per Capita (Quetzales)			
	Environmental Capacity	5.5% Protected Land	0.3% Reforested Area				
	Infrastructure Capacity						
	Health Care Capacity	10.3 Hospital Beds per 10,000 Persons	7.1 Nurses per 10,000 Persons	4.1 Physicians per 10,000 Persons	19.3 km Average Distance to Nearest Hospital	90.3% Children Completed Immunization Schedule	
	Communications Capacity	3.9% Households with Access to Fixed Phone Line	83.3% Households with Access to Mobile Phone	90.7% Households with Access to Electricity			
	Transportation Capacity	27.7 km Average Distance to Nearest Port or Airport	23.9 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: 10 of 22 Departments (Score: 0.519)

Suchitepéquez'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



Governance



Gender Inequality

Multi-Hazard Risk (MHR)

Multi-Hazard Risk⁶ Rank: 11 of 22 Departments (Score: 0.539)

Suchitepéquez's score and ranking are due to low Vulnerability, moderate Multi-Hazard Exposure, and low Coping Capacity scores.

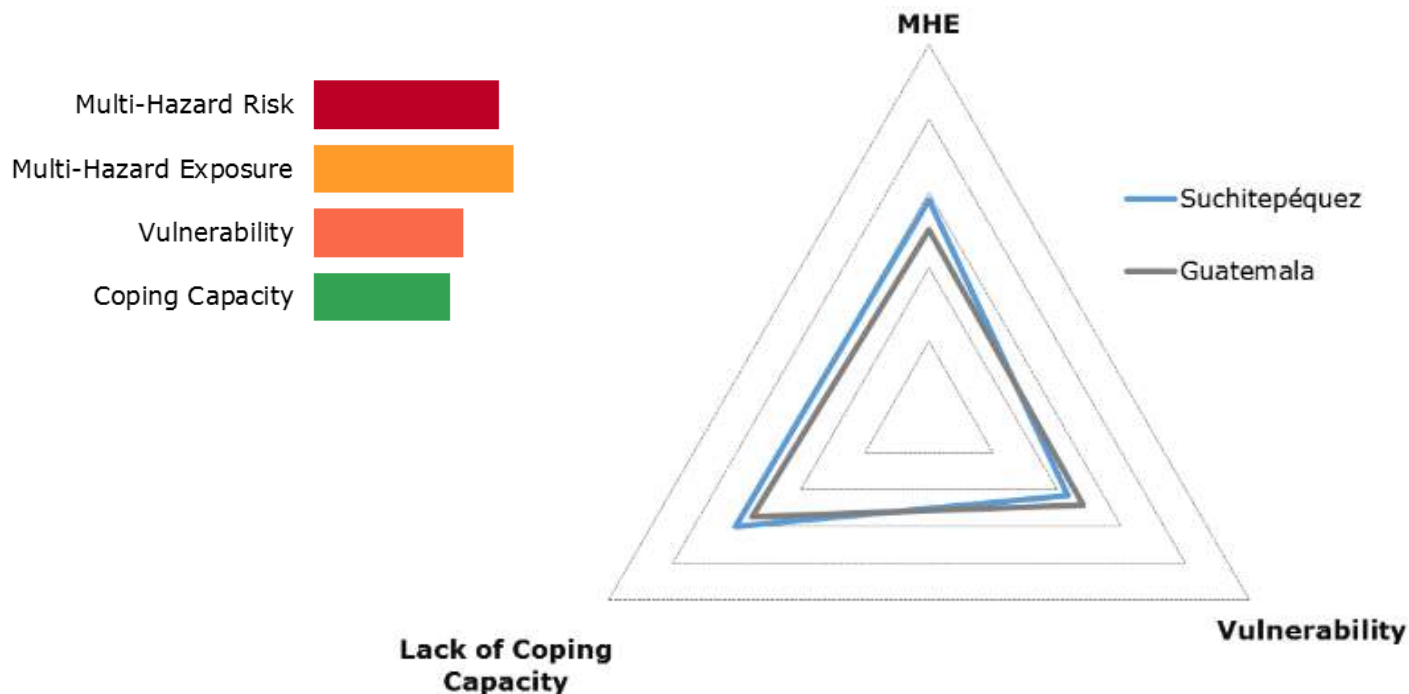


Figure 1. Department Multi-Hazard Risk component scores compared to overall average country scores

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



Lowest environmental stress

Ranked 22 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.



High information access

High information access indicates that the population has an increased ability to access and comprehend disaster-related information before, during, and after events.

Recommendations

01

Invest access to health care

Through education, facility construction, and traveling care programs, increase the citizens' ability to access health-related information and physical care, especially for new/expectant mothers and young children.

02

Increase government services

Investments in public services such as garbage collection, fire, and police will increase coping capacity and the department's ability to handle crises.

03

Provide opportunities for women

Public education and awareness programs, as well as increased business and political opportunities that focus on advancing the role of women in the workplace and the society, will improve resilience and decrease vulnerability.



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