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Guatemala: Huehuetenango

National Disaster Preparedness Baseline Assessment –
Department Profile

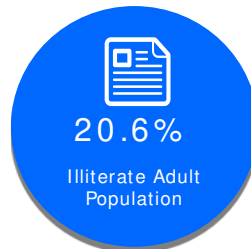
Department: Huehuetenango



Department Capital: Huehuetenango

Area: 7,403 km²

Huehuetenango is located in the western highlands region of Guatemala and borders Mexico both to the north and west. Huehuetenango has the most ethnically diverse populations with many of the local Mayan groups speaking their own languages.



Municipality	Population
Santa Cruz Barillas	177,354
Huehuetenango	123,918
Chiantla	107,555
Cuilco	64,234
Aguacatán	58,523
Soloma	56,748
Santa Eulalia	55,194
Nentón	52,133
San Idelfonso Ixtahuacán	49,581
Jacaltenango	48,667
La Democracia	47,535
San Mateo Ixtatán	43,750
La Libertad	42,237
Todos Santos Cuchumatán	39,049
San Pedro Necta	36,837
San Sebastián Huehuetenango	32,693
San Juan Ixcoy	30,782
Colotenango	28,454
San Sebastián Coatán	27,465
San Miguel Acatán	26,719
Malacatancito	23,513
Unión Cantinil	21,414
San Antonio Huista	20,617
Concepción	19,558
Santa Bárbara	17,811
San Juan Atitán	16,261



Multi-Hazard Risk Rank:
Moderate (10 of 22)

Lack of Resilience Rank:
High (6 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		High		Moderate		Moderate		Very Low	
Score	Rank (of 22)	Score	Rank (of 22)	Score	Rank (of 22)	Score	Rank (of 22)	Score	Rank (of 22)
0.541	10	0.575	6	0.471	12	0.466	11	0.316	19

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Multi-Hazard Exposure (MHE)

Multi-Hazard Exposure¹ Rank: 12 of 22 Departments (Score: 0.471)

Table 2. Estimated ambient population² exposed to each hazard



46%

507,526 People

Cyclone



100%

1,107,116 People

Earthquake



1%

12,651 People

Volcano



3%

37,896 People

Flood



26%

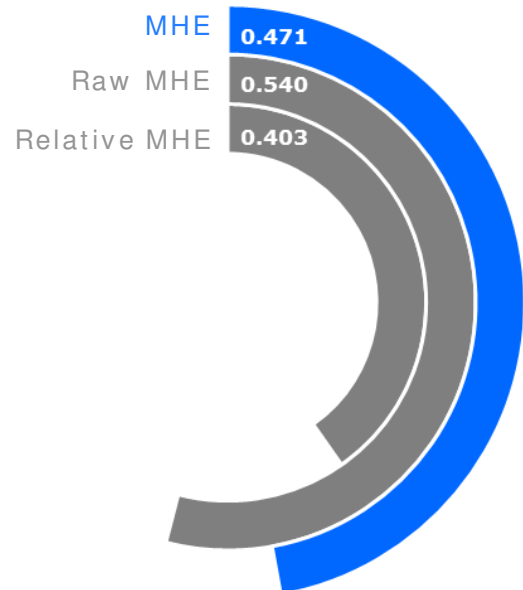
284,851 People

Landslide

Save the Children

Save the Children opened its offices in Guatemala in 1999. Save the Children works alongside community and national stakeholders to increase access to quality early-child development and bilingual, multicultural education across almost 80 communities in the departments of Quiché, Huehuetenango, and Sololá. Save the Children promotes early childhood-development training for parents and activities for teachers, targeted school health and nutrition strategies for creating healthier learning environments, youth financial literacy, and the promotion of learner-centered teaching methodologies that ease children's transitions to formal education, while celebrating their cultural heritage and individual learning styles.

<http://www.savethechildren.org/site/c.8rKLIXMGIpI4E/b.6151425/>



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: 11 of 22 Departments (Score: 0.466) Vulnerability in Huehuetenango is primarily driven by Information Access Vulnerability, Economic Constraints, and Clean Water Vulnerability. The bar chart on the right indicates the socioeconomic themes contributing to the department's overall Vulnerability score.

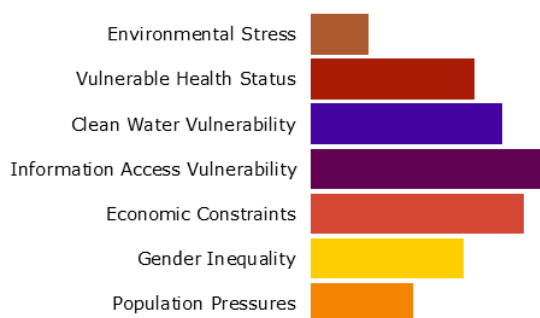









Table 3. Component scores for each Vulnerability sub-component

	Environmental Stress	32.9% Province at Drought Risk	2.6% Annual Forest Change					
	Vulnerable Health Status	49 Infant Mortality Rate	218.8 Maternal Mortality Ratio	0.4% Acute Malnutrition	1.02% Population Disabled	13.4 TB Incidence	2.4 Dengue Prevalence	6.2 Malaria Prevalence
	Clean Water Vulnerability	78.9% Households with Access to Improved Water	37.3% Households with Access to Improved Sanitation					
	Information Access Vulnerability	20.6% Adult Illiteracy	4.2 Average Years of Schooling	81.4% Primary School Enrollment	3.4% Households with Internet	25.5% Households with Cable TV	69.7% Households with Radio	57.5% Speak Indigenous Language
	Economic Constraints	0.86 Economic Dependency Ratio	73.8% Population in Poverty	0.49 GINI Coefficient				
	Gender Inequality	40.0% Female Seats in Congress	0.12 Ratio of Female to Male Secondary Education Enrollment	0.15 Ratio of Female to Male Economic Activity				
	Population Pressures	3.8% Average Annual Population Change	0.7% Average Annual Urban Population Change	33.5% 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: 19 of 22 Departments (Score: 0.316) Huehuetenango displays a very low level of Coping Capacity, which is attributable to very low Economic Capacity and Infrastructure Capacity. The bar chart on the right indicates the socioeconomic themes contributing to the department's overall Coping Capacity score.

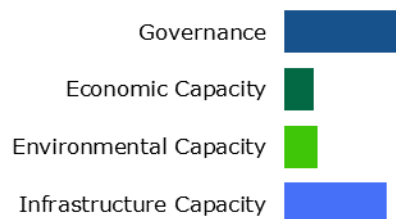


Table 4. Component scores for each Coping Capacity sub-component

	Governance	112.3 Crime Victims per 100K	14.6% Households with Garbage Collection			
	Economic Capacity	\$467.9 Remittances per Capita (USD)	3.4 Businesses per 1,000 Persons	4,113.4 GDP per Capita (Quetzales)		
	Environmental Capacity	1.1% Protected Land	1.4% Reforested Area			
	Infrastructure Capacity					
	Health Care Capacity	7.6 Hospital Beds per 10,000 Persons	1.7 Nurses per 10,000 Persons	1.6 Physicians per 10,000 Persons	34.0 km Average Distance to Nearest Hospital	93.1% Children Completed Immunization Schedule
	Communications Capacity	4.2% Households with Access to Fixed Phone Line	81.5% Households with Access to Mobile Phone	93.7% Households with Access to Electricity		
	Transportation Capacity	36.1 km Average Distance to Nearest Port or Airport	16.6 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: 6 of 22 Departments (Score: 0.575)

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

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



Information
Access
Vulnerability



Economic
Constraints



Economic
Capacity

Multi-Hazard Risk (MHR)

Multi-Hazard Risk⁶ Rank: 10 of 22 Departments (Score: 0.541)

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

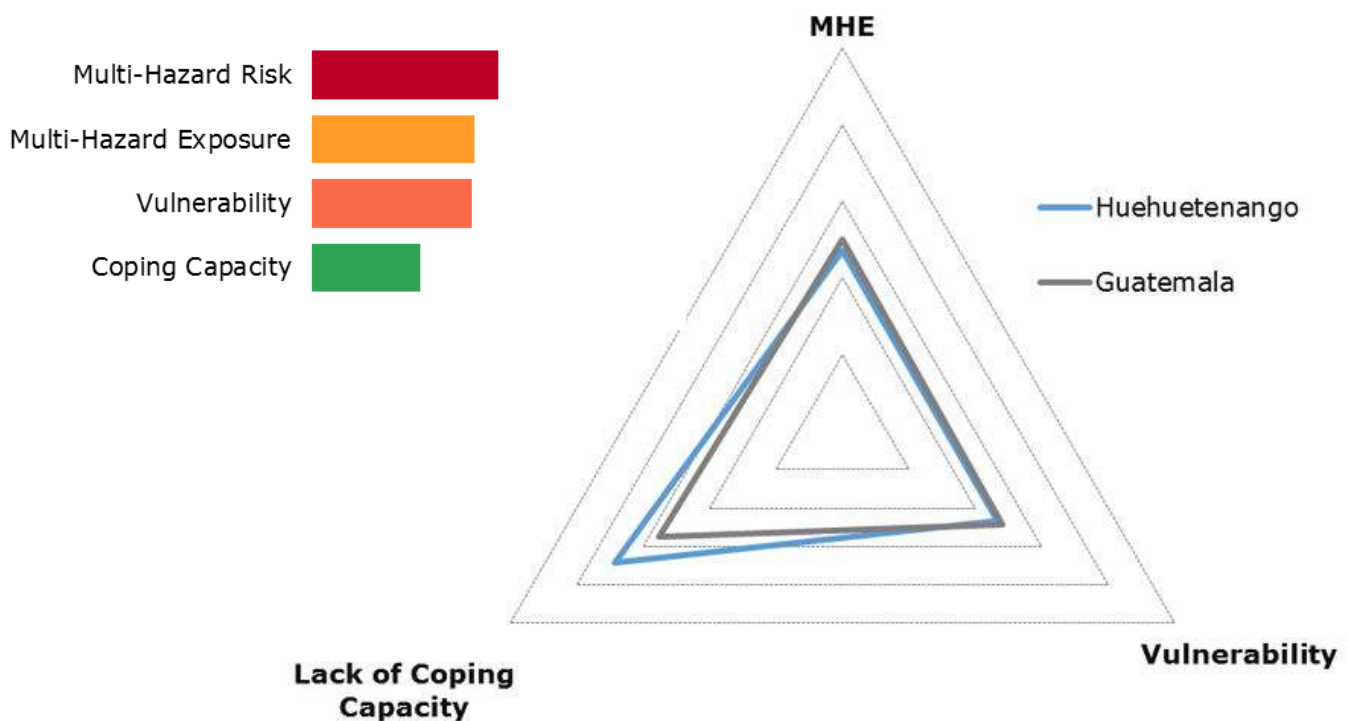


Figure 1. Department Multi-Hazard Risk component scores compared to overall average country scores

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



Low environmental stress

Ranked 21 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.



Low population pressure

Ranked 18 of 22 departments, limited population change allows disaster managers to form accurate evacuation, sheltering, and resource plans.

Recommendations

01

Invest in communication infrastructure

Increase access to communications for the population through investments in infrastructure and education. By increasing citizen access to information, disaster managers can provide disaster-related information to a greater percentage of the population.

02

Increase economic opportunity

Investment in business development and public education to increase economic capacity.





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