RAPID FOOD INSECURITY ASSESSMENT SAN BARTOLOMÉ JOCOTENANGO, QUICHE

RESULTS

The survey was conducted in person within the thirty-three communities by technical staff from the Municipality of San Bartolomé Jocotenango, the Ministerio de Agricultura Ganadería y Alimentación [Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food] (MAGA), the Secretaría de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional [Secretariat of Food and Nutritional Security] (SESAN), the Centro de Atención Permanente [Center for Permanent Attention] (CAP), CARE Guatemala and TECHO, supported by community leaders.

The survey was conducted mostly among women (51%); in general terms, most of the households surveyed have not received any type of humanitarian aid (63%). In the case of the 61 families that have received some type of assistance, this consisted of food provided by the Ministry of Education to children enrolled in primary school. When asked if they had received family remittances from the United States, 100% indicated that they had not received them in the last three months.

FOOD CONSUMPTION

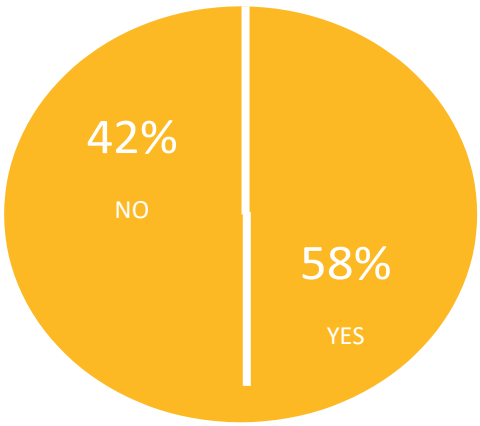
Household food access and practices could be known by asking about food consumption in the week prior to the survey. That is, the higher the food consumption score, the better the conditions of food access and availability.

Most families have an acceptable consumption of grains, cereals, and sugar. However, they have poor consumption in terms of a healthy and nutritious food diet, which increases the risk of food insecurity in the town of San Bartolomé Jocotenango, as well as child undernutrition.

	Days of the week							
TYPE OF FOOD	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Cereals and grains	4	13	3	3	2	4	4	132
Roots and tubers	13	57	35	35	10	6	1	6
Legumes, nuts and dried seeds	8	23	28	32	15	13	10	34
Dairy products	34	61	29	14	7	6	2	10
Meats	26	87	27	12	3	2	1	5
Fish/seafood	88	55	10	6	0	2	0	2
Eggs	5	23	38	27	16	16	3	35
Vegetables and greens	7	22	18	40	12	9	8	47

We also asked about the origin of the food they consume, 41% stated that they buy the products in the local market (cash), 21% buy them in the community's stores. In the case of cereals, grains, and legumes, 20% stated that they obtain them from their own production. On the other hand, 5% of the households surveyed have used credit to buy food, 2% have done work for food and 3% rely on the support of family or friends.

42% of the households surveyed do not have basic grains from the previous harvest, so they have to buy mainly corn, whose price per hundredweight ranges about Q250.00 - Q280.00. Out of the families that still have grain reserves (maize and beans), 26% have enough for less than 1 month, 25% of the households estimate that these will last from 1 to 3 months and 49% assure that they have maize and beans for a period longer than 3 months.



Does your family have maize and beans (basic grains) for household consumption from the previous harvest?

INCOME INFORMATION

Family income in Guatemala has been affected by unemployment, the effects of the COVID 19 pandemic and loss of livelihoods as a result of emergencies or disasters. This has reduced the purchasing power of families, especially women heads of household and rural, indigenous and low educated families.

The minimum wage, according to data from the Ministry of Labor, for agricultural activity is Q. 3122.55; non-agricultural activity Q. 3,209.24 and textile manufacturing Q. 2954.35.

When estimating the monthly income, we have an average of Q. 1,117.00 for men and Q. 488.00 for women. These data, as can be seen, are below the national average for people in the informal sector.

Household income comes from agricultural activities, jobs as a municipal employee and firewood sales. In addition, the gaps between the incomes of the

Women earn **56% less** than men

SURVIVAL STRATEGIES

To compensate for the lack of food, families have implemented survival strategies at the household level. These have been diverse due to the lack or loss of livelihoods, according to the results of the survey conducted 69% have looked for native or field foods before harvest time, 76.7% of the families have bought cheaper food, 30.6% have eaten less preferred foods and 21% have bought food on credit.

Among the measures considered severe, 38% have reduced the size of meals, 31% have reduced the number of meals per day, 22% have stopped eating to feed their children, 3.7% have gone entire days without eating and 2% have had to sell land to obtain money to cover household needs, including food.

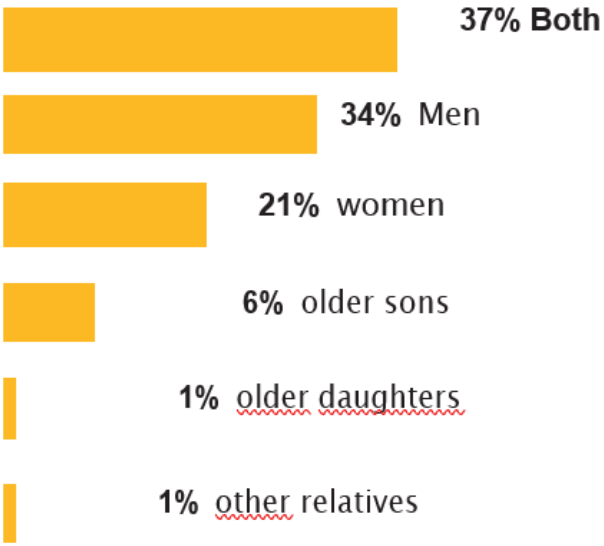
Also, 47% of the people surveyed stated that someone in the family has had to look for other jobs in order to have more money to buy food for the family.

Likewise, 42% indicated that they have spent their savings to buy food and 45% stated that at least one family member has gone to work outside the community.

GENDER AND FOOD SAFETY

Food security is a human right; however, the access and exercise of this right is conditioned by the productive and reproductive roles established by the society of the town of San Bartolomé Jocotenango. When asked about who sustains the household, 60% responded that this responsibility falls on the man, 11% indicated that it is the woman (single or widowed) and 12% expressed that it is the responsibility of both (man and woman).

The role of household provider determines, in the majority of households, the decision making regarding the use of money in the household. The information obtained is presented below.



As for who decides what food should be purchased for the household, 40% indicated that it is the women who assume this role, in 14% of the households it is the men who decide, and in 42% it is a decision made by both.

It is also important to recognize that the responsibilities of care and maintenance of the home fall on adult women, teenage women and girls.

CONCLUSIONS

1) The population of the town is mostly of indigenous descent, 86% of the people surveyed identified themselves as K'ich'e, which places them in conditions of inequality from the intersectional view of reality.

2) On average, households are made up of 5.68 members. 26% of the families have a child under 1 year old, and 19% have at least one person over 65 years old.

3) The illiteracy rate in the town is high, 63% of the people surveyed cannot read or write, a factor that increases the social and economic vulnerability of families.

4) 42% of the households surveyed do not have a reserve of basic grains from the last harvest. This forces them to buy corn in the market at a cost ranging from Q. 250.00 - Q. 280.00 per hundredweight.

5) Of the families surveyed, 93% have implemented at least some type of survival strategy in their household in the absence of food, the most common being crisis and stress strategies, especially the purchase of cheaper food, reducing the size and number of meals per day, adults stop eating to give food to children.