



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP El Salvador Country Brief August 2018



## Operational Context

El Salvador has 6.4 million people and is the most densely populated country in the Americas. The country suffers from low economic growth (2.3%), high and rising public debt (70% of GDP), political polarization, criminality and competitiveness weaknesses (WB rank 73). The economy is highly dependent on remittances (17% of GDP) and food production represents 6 percent of GDP. 33 percent of households live in multidimensional poverty and on average 65 percent of their income is committed to food purchase.

El Salvador's recurrent droughts limit progress in addressing poverty and food insecurity. This phenomenon is increasing over time and has disastrous consequences on the basic grain production (maize and beans) of subsistence smallholder farmers living in rural communities. The reduction in agricultural production can lead to the depletion of food stocks, decreasing dietary diversity, while increasing cases of malnutrition in children under five of the most vulnerable urban and rural population. The country ranks 15<sup>th</sup> in the Global Climate Risk Index (Germanwatch, 2017).

El Salvador continues to have one of the highest homicide rates in the Latin American region. Crime statistics indicates a homicide rate of 60 per 100,000 inhabitants (OSAC 2018). Criminality directly impact social development and the economic growth, representing one of the major challenges of the Salvadoran government and its population.

WFP El Salvador strengthens government capacity with the objectives to: i) improve the social protection of vulnerable groups through food security and nutrition interventions; ii) mitigate natural disaster risks and social crisis impact and iii) strengthen small farmers climate adaptation including access to markets.

Population: **6.4 million**

2016 Human Development Index:  
**117 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **14% of children  
between 6-59 months**

Homicide rate:  
**60/100,000 inhabitants**

Multidimensional Poverty Rate: **33%**

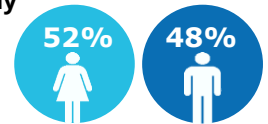
## In Numbers

**190,320** people food insecure

**532,095** people highly vulnerable at risk to food insecurity

**USD 7.7** million net funding requirements for the next 6 months (Aug. 2018 – Jan. 2019)

**17,765** people assisted in July



## Operational Updates

- On 24 July 2018, the General Directorate of Civil Protection issued an orange alert for the severe drought in 12 of 14 departments in El Salvador and a red alert for 143 of 262 municipalities. According to the Government, 61,157 hectares of grains were affected, representing a production loss of 2 million quintals of grains and an economic impact of USD 42.3 million.
- An Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) is being conducted from 5-21 September, to estimate the impact of drought on food security and nutrition. The assessment is led by WFP in collaboration with UNICEF, the National Council for Food and Nutritional Security and the Ministry of Agriculture.
- On 15 August, the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Lina Pohl, and the WFP Country Director, Andrew Stanhope, inaugurated the renovated Natural Hazards Monitoring Centre. The Centre has been equipped with several full HD monitors, high performance computers and software to monitor precipitation, air quality and temperatures, as well as river, oceanic and volcanic activities. The new facilities facilitate improved analysis by providing timely and accurate information on the most important hazards monitored.
- WFP trained 23 female and male community leaders in gender-sensitive climate change and environmental risk management. The two-week regional event was held at the Zamorano University in Honduras, one of the most prestigious educational institutions in Central America. The participants will form a community-based technical team to promote and support resilience building activities in the Dry Corridor of eastern El Salvador.

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Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/el-salvador](http://www.wfp.org/countries/el-salvador)



Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
88.5 m	11.08 M	7.7 m

**Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition**

**Strategic Outcome 1:** The most vulnerable households have access to effective, productive and nutrition-sensitive social protection by 2021  
**Focus area:** Root causes

- Activities:**
1. Provide technical assistance to the social protection system
  2. Complement government transfers to pregnant and lactating women, and children under 2
  3. Support government transfers to adolescents and young women and men.

**Strategic Result 3: Smallholders have improved food security and nutrition through improve productivity and incomes.**

**Strategic Outcome 2:** Food-insecure smallholder farmers and their organizations in El Salvador sustainably increase their productivity and income by 2021.  
**Focus area:** Resilience Building.

- Activities:**
4. Provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Agriculture and its agricultural extension body CENTA.
  5. Strengthen the production, management and marketing capacities of food-insecure smallholder farmers and their organizations.

**Strategic Result 4: Food systems are sustainable**

**Strategic Outcome 3:** Targeted populations and communities in the most food-insecure areas have increased resilience to climate change by 2021  
**Focus area:** Resilience Building.

- Activities:**
6. Support government capacity to assist the population in adapting to climate change.
  7. Empower smallholder farmers to adopt improved, sustainable agricultural practices.

**Strategic Result 4: Everyone has access to food**

**Strategic Outcome 4:** Targeted people affected by rapid- and slow-onset disasters have access to food all year.  
**Focus area:** Crisis Response

- Activities:**
8. Provide technical assistance to government institutions to strengthen emergency preparedness and response, including early warning and monitoring and evaluation systems for food security and nutrition.
  9. Complement government transfers to the most vulnerable households affected by disasters to facilitate relief and early recovery

**Strategic Result 5: Developing countries have strengthened capacities to implement the SDGs.**

**Strategic Outcome 5:** National and subnational institutions have strengthened capacity to manage food security and nutrition policies and programmes by 2021.  
**Focus area:** Root Causes

- Activities:**
10. Strengthen the capacity of CONASAN at the national and subnational levels.
  11. Share best practices and knowledge through South-South and triangular cooperation and the SUN Business Network

**Monitoring innovation**

- The Monitoring and Evaluation unit is designing a complaints and feedback mechanism to support all WFP activities under the Country Strategic Plan. People assisted will have the possibility to communicate with WFP dedicated staff using SMS, calls and WhatsApp. The system will generate a customized report for each WFP unit and activity manager. Building a mechanism for the entire operation is a logistical challenge, yet it leads to cost effective and efficient implementation and transparency of assistance in targeted communities.

**Challenges**

**Funding**

- WFP requires USD 16 million to cover three-month assistance for 50,000 subsistence farmers most affected by the drought.
- Short and long-term funding constraints limit the full implementation of the Country Strategic Plan.
- Activities to promote access to effective, productive and nutrition-sensitive social protection (Strategic outcome 1) have been suspended due to lack of resources.

**Social insecurity and violence**

- Insecurity remains a major concern for WFP activities in the rural areas. Populations in these high-risk areas are living in extreme poverty and vulnerability. The number of incidents related to gang activities has increased throughout the year. These events have blocked several planned activities and may put in danger both assisted populations and WFP staff. Preventive measures, such as maintaining close communication with local authorities and beneficiaries, have become necessary when visiting the communities. The adequate protection of beneficiaries and WFP staff may significantly increase operational costs.

**2018 Donors**

Governments and Common Funds: Canada, European Union (EuropeAid), Republic of Korea (KOICA), WFP multilateral funds (funded by Germany and United Kingdom).

Private Sector and Foundations: Astellas USA Foundation, local private companies (including McCormick, La Fabril, Arrocería San Francisco, Unilever).