



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP El Salvador Country Brief October 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 causes a risk of 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 15th 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%**

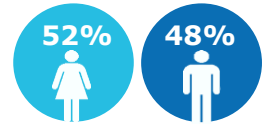
In Numbers

60,000 people food insecure

210,000 people highly vulnerable at risk to food insecurity

USD 1.4 million net funding requirements for the next 6 months (Nov. 2018 – Apr. 2019)

12,000 people assisted in October



Operational Updates

- The Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) conducted in October revealed 12 thousand families of smallholder farmers are food insecure. Even though the food consumption for all surveyed families is stable, their diet is highly dependent on maize and beans, and on the high use of livelihoods coping strategies to sustain family income. Food reserves of maize reported to have an average duration of three months (December-January) and the local production of beans was severely affected by heavy rainfall in late October. If the local production of maize and beans is low at the end of year, the new scenario could bring 42 thousand families to food insecurity.
- In October, WFP prepared a workshop with government institutions to analyse EFSA results. In the event, representatives from the National Food Security Technical Committee (COTSAN) along with UNICEF and FAO concluded on the most relevant results of the evaluation. After the workshop, WFP prepared a factsheet and presented the results of the evaluation in several meetings with other government partners.
- October 22th, ambassadors and enterprises part of the national marketing concept "Marca País" joined to WFP effort to promote Gastromotiva programme, which transforms socially vulnerable youth talents through free professional formation in the Food and Beverage sector. Marca País have many prominent national and international enterprises of Salvadorians in sectors such as gastronomy, science, art, culture, entrepreneurship, fashion, among others. This alliance opens new opportunities for scaling up the programme at national level.
- In this period, WFP established an important alliance with the University of El Salvador (UES). This agreement will join the technical capacity of WFP in and the academic knowledge of the university to strength the capacities of its students. WFP will make available internships, conferences in resilience, food security, nutrition and access to markets; and will also support researches and dissertations addressing solutions to food insecurity and other related topics.

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Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
88.5 m	11.2 m	1.4 m

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 1 (SO1): 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 (SO2): 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 (SO3): 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 (SO4): 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 (SO5): 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

- WFP El Salvador is working with the Ministry of National Resources and Environment in a new proposal to monitor food security at national level using machine learning techniques for data analysis and chat box to share and gather information from the public. The proposal includes the analysis of data from weather stations, satellite information, forecast maps and the network of 600 municipal surveillance staff. WFP will promote this project as early warning system and food security monitoring for areas vulnerable to disasters.

Challenges

Funding

- WFP requires USD 16 million to cover three-months assistance for 50,000 government prioritized subsistence farmers most affected by the drought.
- Short and long-term funding constraints limit the full implementation of the Country Strategic plan. The shortfall for the next six months is estimated at USD 5.2 million.
- Activities to promote access to effective, productive and nutrition-sensitive social protection (Strategic outcome 1) have been suspended due to lack of resources and require immediate funding.

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.
- New migrant caravans formed by men, women and children of vulnerable rural and urban areas have continued to depart to U.S. Fleeing away of poverty, social insecurity and political instability represents the main objective of this population.

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).