



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP El Salvador Country Brief July 2019



## 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 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 indicate a homicide rate of 60 per 100,000 inhabitants (OSAC, 2018). Criminality directly impacts social development and economic growth, representing one of the significant 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**

2018 Human Development Index:  
**121 out of 189**

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

**50,000** people food insecure

**250,000** people highly vulnerable to food insecurity

**USD 10.8 m** six months net funding requirements

## Operational Updates

- WFP, UNHCR and Plan International have been assisting 400 food-insecure households. The intervention relies on UNHCR's approach and three community protection systems have been developed to identify victims of violence. This joint effort ensures integrated assistance to highly vulnerable families.
- WFP supported 1145 families of smallholder farmers and casual workers affected by 2018 drought emergency in the dry corridor with conditional cash-based transfers. The assistance finalized in July its first phase. The next phase will last for three months and includes technical assistance and follow-up to the community assets created.
- During 2018, WFP provided technical assistance to the government for the design of a comprehensive response using the social protection system to support the families affected by the protracted drought for the third consecutive year. The response included the vertical and horizontal expansions of the national social protection programmes in the Dry Corridor. This experience was systematized by Oxford Policy Management and can be found [here](#). WFP also supported the update of the single registry database in the Dry Corridor and started the process for digitizing it.
- WFP and its government partner PTA (Technological Agroindustry Park, a government institution in charge of food technologies), are working on a funding proposal for the scale-up of bio-fortified beverage production. These fortified beverages, made from corn and sorghum, are used in the National School Feeding and Health Programme.

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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)
<b>88.5 m</b>	<b>18.4 m</b>	<b>10.8 m</b>

**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 to 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 sub-national 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 the national level using machine learning techniques for data analysis and chat box to share and gather information. The proposal includes the analysis of data from weather stations, satellite information, forecast maps and the network of 600 municipal surveillance staff.

**Challenges**

**Funding**

- Activities to strengthen the production, management and marketing capacity of food-insecure smallholder farmer and their organization have limited funding for 2019.
- Activities to promote access to effective, productive and nutrition-sensitive social protection (Strategic outcome 1) has been suspended due to lack of resources and require immediate funding.

**Social instability and Political Scenario**

- Migrant caravans formed by men, women and children from vulnerable rural and urban areas have continued to depart to U.S. Populations are fleeing poverty, social insecurity and political instability.
- Andrew Stanhope, WFP Representative in El Salvador, met with the new Government to reaffirm WFP’s commitment to collectively strengthen the food security of the most vulnerable Salvadorans.

**2019 Donors**

Governments and Common Funds:  
 Canada, European Union (EuropeAid), Republic of Korea (KOICA), Swedish cooperation (Sida), UK aid, Germany cooperation.

Private Sector and Foundations:  
 Astellas USA Foundation, local private companies (including McCormick, La Fabril, Arrocera San Francisco, Super Selectos, Alas Doradas, and Unilever).