



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP El Salvador Country Brief August 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 used to purchase food.

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 primary 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 16<sup>th</sup> in the Global Climate Risk Index (Germanwatch, 2019).

El Salvador continues to have one of the highest homicide and femicide rates in the Latin American region. Crime statistics indicate a homicide rate of 50 per 100,000 inhabitants (OSAC, 2019) and a femicide rate of 7 per 100,000 women (Gender Equality Observatory ECLAC 2019). 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: **50/100,000 inhabitants**

Multidimensional Poverty Rate: **33%**

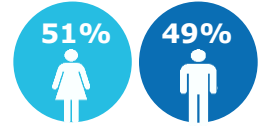
## In Numbers

**50,000** people food insecure

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

**USD 11.1 m.** six months net funding requirements

**16,000** people assisted in August 2019



## Operational Updates

- ConectArte Project, supported by WFP, continues to reinforce social cohesion and cultural identity through the first theatre play "Identities", as well as other activities.
- During the World Humanitarian Day, WFP participated in the ceremony where the Ministry of Governance and The General Direction of Civil Protection, Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, signed a commitment to save lives and contributing to the Letter of Understanding with the United Nations Country Team.
- The Ministry of Governance and Territorial Development is supporting the National Food Security and Nutrition Survey 2019, crucial to understand the effects of drought in the livelihoods of the most vulnerable population. Four regional workshops with representation from 14 departmental governments have been held to strengthen data collection capacities.
- WFP has trained over 1,000 smallholder farmer families in agroforestry and community asset creation. This activity is part of the second phase of climate change response that supports people affected by the 2018 drought that impacted the Dry Corridor of Central America.
- WFP and its government partner Technological Agroindustry Park (PTA) finalized the funding proposal for the scale-up production of the bio-fortified beverage. The proposal will be presented to the Ministry of Education in September and includes training in food safety and quality as well as the expansion of a bio-fortified beverage production plant, increasing the current coverage from 23 to 100 percent.

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## 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>18.5 m</b>	<b>11.1 m</b>

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

**Strategic Outcome 1 (SO1):** The most vulnerable households have access to adequate, 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 enhance 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 designed and developed a Beneficiary Feedback Mechanism (BFM) for beneficiaries to relay their concerns and suggestions to improve WFP's programmes. A well-functioning BFM is critical to increase the participation of beneficiaries in decision making and to enable WFP to monitor and improve the programme activities. This will increase the accountability and transparency of WFP vis-à-vis affected populations. BFM roll-out will take place in November.

## Challenges

### Funding

- Activities to promote access to adequate, productive and nutrition-sensitive social protection have been suspended due to the lack of funding. USD 100,000 are urgently required to assist at least to 3,000 women and children under two.

## 2019 Donors

Governments and Common Funds:  
 CERF (Central Emergency Response Fund), European Union (EuropeAid), Germany cooperation, Italian agency for development cooperation, Peacebuilding Fund, Republic of Korea (KOICA), UK aid, USAID.

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