



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP El Salvador Country Brief October 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 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 16th 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%**

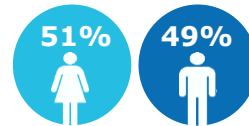
In Numbers

50,000 people food insecure

250,000 people highly vulnerable to food insecurity

USD 8.7 m. six months net funding requirements

19,000 people assisted



Operational Updates

- The Executive Director of the United Nations World Food Program (WFP), David Beasley, recently visited El Salvador to participate in the Regional Meeting of Directors of Latin American and Caribbean Countries, where he shared his vision on strategic alliances. Regional Director, Miguel Barreto, communicated the WFP's priorities and strategy for the region to reach Zero Hunger by 2030. Country Directors shared their experiences, and with the government and partners.
- WFP and ECLAC presented the results of the double burden of malnutrition study, which reflect an annual cost of 10 percent of El Salvador PIB. This effort was made along with the Government, through the Ministry of Health (MINSAL), and with the support of the Institute of Nutrition of Central America and Panama (INCAP). These results provide key information to the government and national actors for decision making.
- The Cash-Based Transfers and Gender Impact Evaluation aims to understand the extent to which women's empowerment and gender equality can be achieved.
- WFP presented the funding proposal for the scale-up production of the bio-fortified beverage to the Emerging Donor Matching Fund (EDMF) to complement the funds required for its execution. WFP is awaiting the response and resolution of EDMF.
- Ended four months of the "Let's Feed Your Future" campaign where the private sector was the main donor to invest in malnutrition in El Salvador. The funds raised will provide 120,000 rations of fortified cereal to attend household participant in the Nutrimos Project that is part of The Childhood Care Programmes implemented by the Government of El Salvador.

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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	19 m	8.7 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, an 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 agricultur 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

- The Beneficiary Feedback Mechanism continues its progress for the rollout in November.

-The logo and slogan of the communication strategy is approved: "WFP listens and answers you."



- The hotline service is now operational, available with all telephone companies in the country.

-The automated management system is developed and ready to receive and manage cases efficiently.

Challenges

Funding

- Activities to promote access to adequate, productive and nutrition-sensitive social protection have been suspended due to the lack of funding. USD 50,000 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, Arrocera San Francisco, Super Selectos, Alas Doradas, and Unilever).