



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP El Salvador Country Brief November 2019

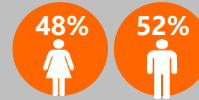
In Numbers

50,000 people food insecure

250,000 people highly vulnerable to food insecurity

US\$4.2 m six months funding needs

33,000 people assisted



WFP
SAYS
NO to
GENDER
BASED
VIOLENCE

Operational Context

El Salvador is the most densely populated country in the Americas, with a population of 6.4 million. The country has a moderate economic growth (annual GDP 2.3 percent), but suffers from a high, and rising, public debt (70 percent of GDP), high prevalence of crime and weak economic competitiveness (WB rank 73). The economy is highly dependent on remittances (17 percent of GDP). Food production represents only 6 percent of GDP, and the country relies heavily on food imports from neighbouring countries; 33 percent of the families live in multidimensional poverty.

Recurrent and adverse weather conditions (droughts and torrential rains) limit the efforts to reduce poverty and food insecurity. This phenomenon is increasing over time and has disastrous consequences on production of basic grains (maize and beans) by subsistence smallholder farmers living in rural communities. The reduction in agricultural production causes a risk of the depletion of food stocks on household-level; decreases dietary diversity; and increases cases of malnutrition among children under five-year-old, particularly impacting the most vulnerable urban and rural families. 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 Latin America. The homicide rate is 50 per 100,000 inhabitants (OSAC, 2019) and a femicide rate is 7 per 100,000 women (Gender Equality Observatory ECLAC 2019), both above of the global rates of 9.9 men and 2.3 women per 100,000 population (Global study on homicide by UNODC 2019). Crime directly impacts to social development and economic growth, representing one of the significant challenges of the Salvadoran government and its population.

WFP El Salvador supports the capacity of the government to i) improve the social protection of vulnerable groups through food and nutrition security interventions; ii) mitigate natural disaster risks, and iii) strengthen the ability of smallholder farmers to adapt with climate change.

Operational Updates

- In November, WFP delivered cash assistance to 1,756 families to cover their food and basic needs. USD 80 were distributed to subsistence farmers affected by the torrential rains in October in Ahuachapán Sonsonate, La Paz, San Vicente and Usulután departments. This project was coordinated with the Ministry of Governance and Territorial Development.
- WFP organized two job fairs as part of the Gastromotiva project for the youth graduating from the culinary training and 92 percent of the participants were hired in partner restaurants. Youth from poor and marginalized neighbourhoods, who are at risk of migration, receive vocational training to be linked with formal employment. To incentive participation, the participants received cash grants when attending the classes.
- The results of the study of the “Double Burden of Malnutrition” were disseminated with the Ministry of Health, focusing on technical and local level staff. The purpose is to sensitize and empower public workers to take timely action in their domain to address undernutrition, overweight and obesity.
- The ongoing Food and Nutrition Security Survey is collecting the information of 50,000 community women and men leaders, to monitor the situation among the fishers, daily labourers, cattle keepers and subsistence farmers. The survey is conducted at national level in coordination with the Ministry of Governance and Ministry of Health.
- WFP provided technical and financial support to train 75 local level environment observers in the coastal zone to create awareness of marine hazards, such as tsunamis, strengthening the citizen alert and response system. The observers trained are part of the Threat and Natural Resources Observatory that monitors the weather and natural conditions in the country.
- WFP carried out a field mission with multiple donors to show the results of resilience projects. Representatives of the United Kingdom, the European Union, Government of Spain, USAID and JICA, as well as the Vice Minister of Agriculture and Livestock attended the field trip.

Population: 6.4 million

2015 Human Development Index: 121 out of 189

Income Level: Lower middle

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

Contact info: Jaakko Valli, Deputy Country Director, jaakko.valli@wfp.org
Country Director: Andrew Stanhope

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	4.2 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 sub-national levels.
11. Share best practices and knowledge through South-South and triangular cooperation and the SUN Business Network

Monitoring

- The rollout of the Beneficiary Feedback Mechanism has been rescheduled to January 2020.
- WFP Country Office and Regional Bureau conducted the Mid-Term Review of its Country Strategy Plan (CSP) 2017-2021 to measure achievements and identify challenges, as well as reflect the coherence of the CSP design, considering changes in the context. The lessons learned will be considered for programme adjustment for the current CSP and contribute to the new CSP design in 2020.

Challenges

Funding

- Activities to promote access to adequate, productive and nutrition-sensitive social protection have been suspended due to the lack of funding. USD 25,000 are urgently required to assist at least to 3,000 women and children under two-years-old.

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).