



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP El Salvador Country Brief December 2019



## 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, in other words, multiple disadvantages at the same time, for example poor health or malnutrition, a lack of clean water or electricity, poor quality of work or little schooling.

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 the 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 at 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.

Population: **6.4 million**

2019 Human Development Index: **124 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

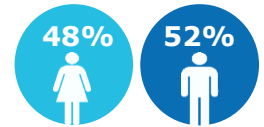
## In Numbers

**50,000** people food insecure

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

**USD 7 m** six months funding needs

**32,000** people assisted



## Operational Updates

- The World Food Program was awarded by the Ministry of Government and Territorial Development with the "Medal of Civil Protection" as a recognition for selfless service in disaster situations.
- As per the Government request and through the Ministry of Education, WFP prepared a triannual proposal to strengthen the school feeding programme, enhancing monitoring and evaluation. A letter of understanding will be signed.
- WFP participated in the exhibition "Feast of the senses Salvadoran gastronomy" organized by the Ministry of Culture. The government recognize WFP as an important partner for the rescue of local cuisine and to foster cultural identity through the Gastromotiva project.
- Nine macro tunnels were installed to protect and increase the quality yield of vegetable crop production to enhance the food security of the families in Cabañas Department, located in the dry corridor. This will increase the income of assisted families by selling the surplus of their production.
- The Global Coordinator of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) visited El Salvador within the framework of the Central American Integration System (SICA) and met with UN agencies, Ministry of Health and private sector. A roadmap was designed for the joint and coordinated work of the UN agencies and the Ministry of Health.

## 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>19 m</b>	<b>7 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, 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

- The Country Office started the Annual Country Review (ACR) 2019 to assess the performance of its operation throughout the year. This important process provides information on resources received, how they were executed, the degree to which overall objectives were met in the context of the Country Strategy Plan.
- The National Food Security Survey (ENSAN) finished the data collection of the National Livelihood Census with more than 75, 000 of families representing subsistence farmers and daily labourers of the most important livelihoods in the country. Preliminary results of the food security situation will be available the last week of January.

## Challenges

- The five-year plan of the Government has not been officially confirmed and therefore the priorities are not yet known for focusing projects.

## Funding

Due to lack of funding, activities to promote access to adequate, productive and nutrition-sensitive social protection have been suspended. USD 150,000 are urgently required for the next six months. Support to smallholders' associations to market access has been suspended and USD 500,000 are urgently needed for the next six months.

## 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).