WFP El Salvador Country Brief
January 2021

Operational Context
El Salvador is the most densely populated country in the Americas with a population of 6.6 million. The country reported a GDP contracted by 8.7 percent in 2020, due to the impact of COVID-19 outbreak. The country closed 2020 with a public debt of 89 percent of GDP. The weak economic competitiveness has deteriorated (WB rank 91). The economy is highly dependent on remittances (20 percent of GDP). Food production represents only 5 percent of GDP and the country relies heavily on food imports from neighbouring countries. 30 percent of the families live in multidimensional poverty, presenting multiple disadvantages at the same time, such us poor health or malnutrition, poor quality of work or little schooling.

Recurrent and adverse weather conditions limit the efforts to reduce poverty and food insecurity. This phenomenon is increasing over time and has disastrous consequences on production of basic grains 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 30th in the Global Climate Risk Index (Germanwatch, 2020).

In 2020, El Salvador reports a drop in the rates of homicide (23 per 100,000 inhabitants) and femicide (2 per 100,000 women) compared with 2019. The possible reasons of the decrease are the security plan of the Government. However, control measurements to contain the COVID-19 outbreak such as lockdown negatively impacted femicide rate. These statistics have to be monitored due to their importance in social development and economic growth.

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

WFP has been present in El Salvador since 1969.

In Numbers

| 684,000 | food insecure people |
| 2.2 million | people at risk of food insecurity |
| USD 15.3 million | net funding requirements for the next six months |
| 3,435 | people assisted |

In January 2021

53% women
47% men

Operational Updates

- On 19 January, the El Salvador Government signed a cooperation agreement with WFP for using its Unique Participant Registration Platform as a beneficiary targeting tool for Social Protection Programmes. Under this framework, WFP will support the Government to complete the registration of all Salvadoran families on this platform to reach nationwide coverage, as well as to update information of the families already registered.

- WFP and Asociación Caminamos carried out the second delivery of food assistance to persons with disabilities, benefitting more than 2,000 people with food packages and over 1,000 people with cash-based transfers. Each participant was consulted to determine the most suitable transfer modality as WFP’s commitment to the protection & accountability to affected populations.

- WFP received approval of the proposal presented for the continuity of the ‘Peace Building Toward Migrant Youth Project’ aiming to support the development of Gastronomy and Art certifications as well as youth entrepreneurship initiatives. This year, WFP expect to launch a certification training in digital skills.

- WFP, in coordination with FAO and UNICEF, provided technical assistance to the Government to build the national workplan for developing water initiatives in 2021, including the technical support for “Lempa One” project that implements Food for Assets (FFA) activities at a community level.

- This month, WFP delivered equipment to the Government with the purpose of establishing a quality control laboratory for grains and flour and provided training to its personnel on detection of toxins in grains, as part of the project to expand the production of “Biofortik” beverage to be delivered to students registered in public schools.
WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

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<th>Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition</th>
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<td><strong>Strategic Result 3: Smallholders have improved food security and nutrition through improve productivity and incomes.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Strategic Result 4: Food systems are sustainable</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Strategic Result 5: Developing countries have strengthened capacities to implement the SDGs.</strong></td>
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**Monitoring**
- The data collection phase of the evaluation of the Country Strategy Plan (2017-2021) was finalized. Preliminary findings were presented. First evaluation report is expected in early March.

**Challenges**
- Awaiting confirmation of nutrition project fundraising proposals presented to donors in order to cover required resources to implement activities.
- The upcoming legislative and municipal elections may impact coordination with local governments and may cause delays in project implementation during the first early 2021.

**Feeding the future of childhood**

Lady lives in a small house in a neighborhood in the department of Usulután, along with her husband and their two children, Mateo, five years old, and Gerson, one year old.

Both Lady and her husband sell fruits, but tropical storms have destroyed their livelihood.

Lady knows that the health and nutrition of her children is a priority, which is why she participates in the “Nutrimos” programme in El Salvador, an initiative of WFP through Salvadoran Foundation for Health and Human Development.

Thanks to the help of Nutrimos El Salvador, Lady received a fortified food package for Gerson’s diet. These fortified cereals are a mixture of corn flour and soy fortified with nutritional vitamins and minerals. This promotes growth, strengthens immune systems and provides necessary energy for activities.

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**Donors**