WFP El Salvador
Country Brief
February 2021

In Numbers

684,000 food insecure people

2.2 million people at risk of food insecurity

USD 12.1 million net funding requirements for the next six months

9,215 people assisted

February 2021

53% 47%

Operational Updates

• WFP continued emergency response assistance for over 5,000 people affected by COVID-19, tropical storms and hurricanes, through the delivery of USD 100 monthly cash transfers. This effort is carried out along with cooperating partner such as EDUCO, World Vision and Plan international.

• WFP provided technical support to the Water Commissioner Office to strengthen project planning for future developments, such as the adaptation project that is expected to be executed along with Honduras Government and the FAO and UNICEF in the Goascorán river basin. This initiative aims to develop the communities settled in the river basin area carrying out climate adaptation activities to strengthen resilience capacity. The implementation of this project could benefit over 186,000 persons in El Salvador.

• WFP and MINEDUCYT finalized a joint work plan for that aims to strengthen the national School Feeding Programme. This effort is focused on providing technical assistance to the Government in food basket design, supply chain coordination and effective programme monitoring.

• WFP’s supply chain unit provided logistic support to the Ministry of Education to deliver raw food from warehouses to schools and then ultimately to households to be prepared and eaten. This initiative looks to efficiently adapt logistic processes in the new context of COVID-19 pandemic to continue reaching the most needed.

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 as 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.

Population: 6.6 million

2020 Human Development Index: 121 out of 189

Income Level: Lower middle

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

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Country Director: Jaakko Valli (Interim)
WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
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<tr>
<td>88.5 million</td>
<td>36.0 million</td>
<td>12.1 million</td>
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**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 improved 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 Livestock and the National Centre for Agriculture and Forestry Technology.
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. Enhance government capacity to assist the population in adapting to climate change.
7. Empower food-insecure 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 subnational levels.
11. Share best practices and knowledge through South-South and triangular cooperation and the SUN Business Network.

**Monitoring**
- WFP and the World Bank are conducting an assessment to determine the impact of cash-based transfers (CBT) in emergencies are a platform for women’s empowerment. Impact-evaluation baseline data collection has begun and ongoing with 1,500 families to be surveyed. These families are scattered around 75 communities, which come from 13 different municipalities of the country.

**Challenges**
- The upcoming legislative and municipal elections may impact coordination with local governments and may cause delays in project implementation during the first early 2021.

**“The House of Gold”**

Even admit the COVID-19 pandemic, Cristino, Germán and Petronilo do not give up their commitment and willingness to change their lives. They foster a community agricultural project in Cacaopera municipality in the Department of Morazán. Even though their community is located in the dry corridor, frequently impacted by climate shocks such as droughts and floods, they crop during the whole year using cutting edge technology. In addition, as a behavioural change in the community, they motivate the participation of women and youth in the project.

In 2018, Cristino and his team were supported by WFP, they learned cropping technics, received tools and the installation of a greenhouse that works using hydroponics and renewable energy. This method reduces the impact of pests, plant diseases and heavy rains. The greenhouse helps them to overcome the big challenges they had to crop such as lack of land and a constant source of water to irrigate crops. Now they produce green peppers, cucumbers and tomatoes, that are traded in the local market, earning higher incomes as an association and reducing transport cost. Thanks to the “House of Gold” as Cristino named the greenhouse, the families of this community are benefit with vegetable to consume and trade. To read the complete history click here.

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