



WFP El Salvador Country Brief

May 2021

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



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 87 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.

The country ranks 30th in the Global Climate Risk Index (Germanwatch, 2020). 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 (14 percent stunted). On the other hand, 30 percent of first graders are overweight or obese.

In 2021, El Salvador reports a drop of 68 percent in the rates of homicide (7 per 100,000 inhabitants) meanwhile the femicide rate increase 88 percent (6 per 100,000 women). 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 (67 percent of feminicides were perpetrated during lockdown).

WFP El Salvador supports the national 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**

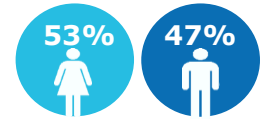
In Numbers

985,000 food insecure people

2.4 million people at risk of food insecurity

USD 11.3 million six months net funding requirements

14,060 people assisted in May 2021



Operational Updates

- WFP provided food assistance to 14,060 people (7,451 women) affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and multiple climate shocks. This initiative included monthly transfers of USD 100 per household to cover basic food needs for a three-month period; as well as support for the creation of 100 community gardens in seven eastern municipalities as part of early recovery actions.
- WFP, together with the Ministry of Education, completed the adaptation and equipping of the biofortified beverage production plant. This will support scaling up operations to reach 500,000 students this year (67 percent more) through the national school feeding programme.
- WFP, along with the International Committee of the Red Cross, carried out sessions to learn how to adapt trainings to people with visual disabilities, thus contributing to social inclusion in programme implementation. Organizations such as Ciudad Mujer, the National Council for People with Disabilities Inclusion, OXFAM and the Foundation for Agricultural Technological Innovation actively participated in the sessions. This is part of WFP's continuous intentions to better take needs of vulnerable populations into account.
- WFP and the National Civil Protection inaugurated a renovated Crisis Room in San Salvador. WFP modernized and upgraded the telecommunications system and technological equipment, improving the government's capacity to monitor rapid-onset emergencies and make timely decisions in close coordination with other national authorities. In addition, five drones were handed over to identify damages in remote locations with limited access.
- The Secretary for Innovation of the Office of the President approved the work plan presented by WFP to support the Government in strengthening the national registry system for social programmes information. The proposal aims at strengthening the participant registration platform, updating information and registry of more Salvadoran households in the platform, and generating key decision-making information.

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Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
99.3 million	47.9 million	11.3 million

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

Donors

ADM, Canada Global Affairs, European Union, German Federal Foreign Office, Government of El Salvador, Italian agency for development cooperation, KOICA, Latter-Day Saints Foundation, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, USAID Bureau of Humanitarian Aid.

Monitoring

- WFP completed the data collection phase of the Central America Migration Study, which includes surveys with the population, interviews with key actors and focus groups discussions with community leaders and returnees. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Health, The National Board of Food Security and Nutrition, the Ministry of Governance, the National Civil Protection and the Ministry of Justice and Public Security participated in this phase. The purpose of this study is to understand the complex nexus between food security, impacts of COVID-19 and human mobility in Central America.

Gender

- WFP formed a gender results network that includes focal points from each team of the country office. The purpose is to implement the Gender Transformation Programme in the whole WFP's operations in order to enhance the quality of programmes, as well as strengthen attention to gender specific topics in WFP's work.

Challenges

- Food insecurity in El Salvador has increased as a result of the economic crisis caused by COVID-19 pandemic.

A woman who has never given up

I am Mirna Martínez. At the age of 6, I was diagnosed with Homeopathic Rheumatoid Arthritis. I became a wheelchair user 4 years later and due to my disability, my education was home-based. When I completed my high school, I decided to study information technology systems engineering but due to the lack of accessibility, I had to abandon it. The physical barriers, which one day prevented me from being a professional were the ones that led me into becoming the entrepreneur that I am now. Thanks to the cooking lessons of my mother, now I have a small food entrepreneurship in which, with the help of God, and the support of my husband we have managed to run. However, due to the pandemic we had to close it. During this hard period of not having an income, I received a three-month food assistance from World Food Programme and its partner Asociación Caminamos. The assistance contained a diverse range of products that helped me and my family a lot. As a woman with a disability, people assume that I would give up because I could not be part of a regular academic education, but I have proven them wrong.