

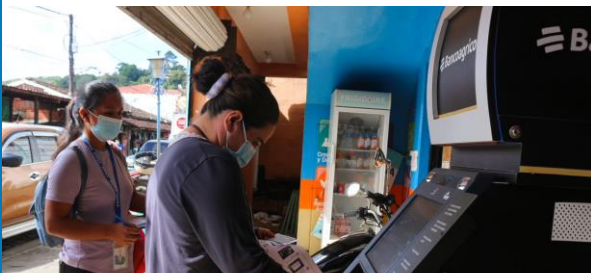


World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP El Salvador Country Brief

August 2021



Operational Context

El Salvador is the most densely populated country in the Americas. It has a population of 6.4 million. In 2020, its economy was seriously impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak, reporting a GDP contracted by 8.7 percent, and the public debt represented 87 percent of GDP. In 2021, An economic growth of 4.1 percent is expected. Even with this improvement, the economy still presents a deteriorated competitiveness (WB rank 91). The economy is highly dependent on remittances (20 percent of GDP). Food production represents only 5 percent of GDP. The country relies heavily on food imports from neighboring countries. Further, 27 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 28th in the Global Climate Risk Index (Germanwatch, 2021). 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 depletion of the food stocks on at household level; decrease in dietary diversity; and an increase cases in malnutrition among children under five-year-old (14 percent stunted). On the other hand, 30 percent of first graders are overweight or obese.

The government of El Salvador continues implementing the security plan to contain the violence in the country. Despite this effort, the projected homicide and femicide rates for 2021, 35.6 and 5.1 per 100,000 inhabitants respectively, are above the global average (9.9 and 2.3 per 100,000 inhabitants).

WFP El Salvador supports the national capacity development 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 to climate change.

WFP has been present in El Salvador since 1969.



Population: **6.4 million**

2020 Human Development Index: **121 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

In Numbers

1.0 m food insecure people

2.5 m people at risk of food insecurity

US\$ 5.4 m six months (September 2021-February 2022) net funding requirements

37,635 people assisted in AUGUST 2021

54%



46%



145,000 people assisted from January to August

Operational Updates

- WFP distributed cash to 33,995 people affected by multiple emergencies. The assistance also includes early recovery actions such as installing drip-irrigation systems, establishing community gardens and poultry farms, and training on nutrition and gender matters.
- WFP prepared a concept note to support the economic reactivation of vulnerable families with support for small business, vocational training, and placement to formal jobs. The intended beneficiaries are 520 people in urban and peri-urban areas of the country.
- WFP and the Business Foundation for Social Action launched the SUN Business Network for Nutrition that will contribute to the transformation of the Salvadoran food system through advocating for increasing the availability, access, and affordability of safe, diverse, and nutritious locally produced food for all people. The network contributes to raising awareness of the importance and impact of investing in preventing and reducing malnutrition.
- As part of the SUN Business Network, a digital campaign was launch on social network, reaching 688,300 viewers.
- WFP trained 556 employees of the Government and NGO partners, strengthening their skills in using a digital survey methodology to gather information on the most vulnerable families in 30 municipalities, contributing to their incorporation into the national social protection programmes.
- WFP continues the remodelling of its offices for the safe return of its personnel. Phase two is currently underway, resulting in 27 percent of staff returning to presential work.

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Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/el-salvador

Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
99.3 m	47.9 m	5.4 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 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.

Monitoring

- WFP gathered the results of baseline surveys of the population who are receiving three-month food assistance. Findings revealed that 63 percent of families resort to crisis coping strategies such as reducing healthcare expenses and selling their productive assets. Meanwhile, 10 percent of families use emergency livelihood strategies such as interrupting or limiting children's access to education, begging, migration of family members, or sale of family property. WFP's support is crucial to reduce the number of families using coping strategies.

Challenges

- El Salvador is experiencing a 13 percent increase in COVID-19 cases compared to July. WFP continues monitoring and implementing sanitary measures to protect beneficiaries and staff.

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's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA).