



World Food Programme

# WFP El Salvador Country Brief September 2021

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## Operational Context

El Salvador is the most densely populated country in the Americas. It has a population of 6.3 million. In 2020, its economy was seriously impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak, reporting a GDP contracted by 7.9 percent. In 2021, economic growth of 8.0 percent is expected. Even with this improvement, challenges persist, such as the need to advance reforms for fiscal sustainability. In 2020, the fiscal deficit was 9.2 percent of GDP, and debt was 91.8 percent. 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 neighbouring 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 at household level; decrease in dietary diversity; and an increase of 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, 17.0 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: **6.3 million**

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

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

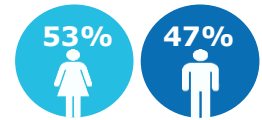
## In Numbers

**600,000** food insecure people

**2.9 m** people at risk of food insecurity

**USD 5.4 m** six months net funding requirements (October 2021 - March 2022) representing 15% of total

**54,000 people assisted** in SEPTEMBER 2021



## Operational Updates

- Since January to date, WFP has reached a total of 119,539 beneficiaries nationwide.
- WFP distributed cash to over 48,000 people (56 percent women) affected by multiple emergencies. The assistance contributes to ensuring this population has secure access to safe and nutritious food.
- WFP provided supplementary nutritious food to 1,000 pregnant and lactating women and children under two years of age as nutrition-sensitive action implemented during emergency response.
- As part of emergency preparedness, WFP trained 30 technicians (50 percent women) of the National Civil Protection first response technical team on emergencies and logistics management.
- WFP trained 200 personnel from government and NGO partners, strengthening skills in using a digital survey methodology to gather information on the most vulnerable families in 30 municipalities, contributing to their incorporation into national social protection programmes.
- WFP carried out two out of four training sessions on hygiene and food handling, benefiting 20 youth victims of violence and returnees (20 percent women) participating in the Digital Skills certification which aims to enhance employability. The training strengthens capacities on household food utilization.
- WFP included Western Union as part of its financial service providers as an option to deliver food assistance in case of a large-scale emergency
- As part of the 2022-2027 Country Strategic Plan under preparation and to be presented in EB.A 2022, WFP completed the theory of change and line of sight which illustrate the path to contribute to the zero-hunger goal. WFP presented the advances to the Government and donors who provided feedback to enrich the strategy and validate its alignment with national priorities.

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Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/el-salvador](http://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)
108.1 m	48.4 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.

## Gender

- WFP trained 29 staff members of six NGO partners, including complaint procedures and channels, on zero-tolerance policies against gender-based violence. NGOs will implement this policy and practices during the delivery of the "Humanitarian assistance, early recovery and capacity-strengthening to the Government in territories affected by multiple crises in 2020" project.
- WFP completed the baseline evaluation of the Gender Transformation Programme, with a preliminary result of 21 out of 39 points in compliance (54 percent). WFP is preparing an action plan to close the current gap, which will include the generation of knowledge products addressing issues of gender equality.

## Challenges

- El Salvador is experiencing an increase of 11 percent in COVID-19 cases compared to August, four consecutive months with an increasing trend. WFP and cooperating partners increased their surveillance activities and sanitary measures.

## Donors

ADM, Canada Global Affairs, European Union, German Federal Foreign Office, Government of El Salvador, Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, Korea International Cooperation Agency, Latter-Day Saints Foundation, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA).