



# WFP El Salvador Country Brief

October 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 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 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, 14.7 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**

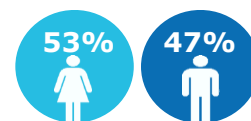
Chronic malnutrition: **14% of children between 6-59 months**

## In Numbers

**USD 1.0 m** of cash-based transfers made

**USD 3.9 m** six months (November 2021-April 2022) net funding requirements

**50,870 people assisted**  
in OCTOBER 2021



## Operational Updates

- On 16 October, WFP commemorated World Food Day by announcing support for around 60,000 people in 14 municipalities affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and natural disasters. The purpose of this cash assistance is to empower beneficiaries to select and purchase nutritious food and boost local economies. The programme includes soil and water conservation activities, community gardens establishment, and backyard poultry farming. Further, WFP trains beneficiaries on gender-based violence prevention.
- WFP distributed cash to 50,745 people (53 percent women) affected by multiple emergencies. The assistance supports them to cover immediate food needs.
- WFP trained 75 young women and men (72 percent women) to develop social and technical skills on gastronomy contributing to employability and social cohesion in the departments of La Libertad and San Salvador. WFP started delivering USD 100 monthly per participant for three months to support access to food.
- WFP led four dialogues with the private sector to raise awareness over the need to create employment opportunities for the returnee populations. This initiative aims to establish alliances with restaurants and hotels to foster job opportunities for young women and men assisted by the gastronomy certification programme.
- To strengthen emergency preparedness and response capacity, WFP participated in the national earthquake drill. WFP supported the Government with mobile warehouses and office set up, and evaluation of impacts with drones. WFP strengthened the coordination and leadership skills of 85 government officials (16 percent women), mainly from the shelter technical commission of the Directorate General of Civil Protection.

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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)
<b>108.1 m</b>	<b>48.8 m</b>	<b>3.9 m</b>

### 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.

### Strategic Result 8: Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology, strengthen global partnership support to country efforts to achieve the SDGs.

**Strategic Outcome 6 (SO6):** Government Partners, UN Agencies, international and national NGOs are supported cash transfer services and technical assistance to meet the essential needs of vulnerable populations. **Focus area:** *Crisis Response*

#### Activities:

12. Provide on-demand cash transfer services to government partners, UN Agencies, and national and international NGOs to meet essential needs of vulnerable population.

## Monitoring

- WFP, in coordination with the Ministry of Health, carried out over 1,000 surveys to diagnose the relevance of the Rural Health and Nutrition Centres in 22 municipalities in the country. The surveys were conducted among users, non-users, and local stakeholders. WFP also collected anthropometric data from 841 children enrolled in these centres. The diagnosis aims at understanding the value the centres add to the community and identifying the capacity strengthening needs.

## Gender

- WFP developed educational material about the joint responsibility for household chores and responsible parenthood and shared this material with assisted population.

## Challenges

- In October, confirmed cases of COVID-19 remained above 250 per day. Three confirmed cases were reported in a community assisted in San Miguel, leading to rescheduling a training session to prevent contagion. WFP and cooperating partners are maintaining their surveillance activities and health 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 (KOICA), Latter-Day Saint Charities, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, and USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA).