



# WFP El Salvador

## Country Brief

November 2021

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



### 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 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, 15.9 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**

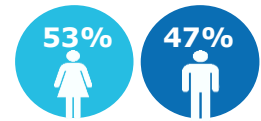
Chronic malnutrition: **14% of children between 6-59 months**

### In Numbers

**USD 1.3 m** of cash-based transfers made

**USD 4.1 m** six months (December 2021-May 2022) net funding requirements representing 46% of total

**39,255 people assisted** in NOVEMBER 2021



### Operational Updates

- WFP reached more than 39,000 people (53 percent women) affected by multiple emergencies through cash-based transfers contributing to this population covering its more immediate food needs.
- WFP signed a cooperation agreement with EDUCO to provide on demand cash transfer service to assist people affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, forced displacement and other forms of violence in the country.
- WFP strengthened the capacities of 36 technicians from Civil Protection, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock and Civil Aviation Authority through a specialised course in drone technology to collect and analyse information for risk and damage assessment, as part of the emergency response preparedness plan.
- WFP commissioned an emergency crisis management room at its office to support the United Nations Emergency Technical Team (UNETE), which has the ability to link with the National Civil Protection and the Hazards and Natural Resources Observatory through advanced video conferencing features facilitating informed and articulated decision making during emergency response.
- In early November, a mission from WFP's Security Division visited the El Salvador office to review the effectiveness of the security measures implemented in the country office and identify changes and risks in the current environment. The mission shared with the country office good practices and recommendations to ensure the safety and security of its personnel, operations, premises, and assets.
- WFP conducted the security awareness programme, mandatory training for all staff, focused on personal security, anti-crime measures and road and field mission safety.

## Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
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108.1 m

49.4 m

4.1 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.

### 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 completed a post-distribution monitoring survey addressed to the population affected by multiple emergencies located in 14 municipalities. Results are expected in early January 2022, evidencing the extent at which gender, protection and beneficiary accountability policies are being implemented, as well as improvement opportunities identified in the humanitarian assistance processes.
- WFP and the Organization of American States, in collaboration with the Inter-American Development Bank and the Migration Policy Institute presented the results of the migration study carried out in the Northern Central American countries where El Salvador is located. The study revealed that five out of ten Salvadorians have the desire to migrate, with a higher tendency among people food insecure under 35 years of age. This effort provides insight into the complex motivations and costs of migration that will help the government take informed decision to address this problematic.

## Gender

- WFP conducted two training sessions covering gender equality, human rights, and gender-based violence. Attendees were local and central government, NGO partners, community leaders and indigenous people.
- As part of the campaign to commemorate the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence, WFP coordinated a series of information and awareness-raising activities such as a talk on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, an art therapy session to identify violence types, and videos and messages shared with all staff.

## Challenges

- From 9 to 11 November, El Salvador experienced a spike in gang-attributed criminal violence, when 44 murders were recorded, almost the entire record of November last year. In San Miguel, two murders were known in communities where WFP assists vulnerable population. WFP continues to monitor and follow security recommendations when conducting its activities.

## Donors

Canada Global Affairs, European Union, German Federal Foreign Office, Government of El Salvador, Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), and Private donors.