



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP El Salvador Country Brief April 2022



©WFP Photo: Gabriela Moreno / young graduates of gastronomy certification

Operational Context

El Salvador has a population of 6.4 million. Since 2020 its economy has been seriously impacted by COVID-19 and climate shocks. After a gradual recovery, the economy is expected to grow by 3.2 percent in 2022. However, challenges persist. The fiscal deficit is 4.5 percent of GDP, and the debt is 85.3 percent. Food production represents only 5 percent of GDP, relying heavily on food imports. Further, 27 percent of the families live in multidimensional poverty with multiple disadvantages at once (e.g., poor health or malnutrition, poor quality of work or little schooling).

Recurrent and adverse weather conditions limit the efforts to reduce poverty and food insecurity (rank 28th in the Global Climate Risk Index 2021). In July 2022, a moderate to severe weather drought period is expected (40 to 60 percent probability). The climate phenomena have disastrous consequences on the production of basic grains by subsistence smallholder farmers. This situation causes a risk of depletion of the food stocks at the household level, a decrease in dietary diversity, and an increase in the cases of malnutrition among children under five-year-old (14 percent stunted) and first graders (30 percent overweight or obese).

Crime and violence threaten social development and economic growth in El Salvador and are among the main reasons Salvadorans migrate (Femicide and homicide rates per 100,000 people in 2021: 2 and 18 percent).

WFP has been present in El Salvador since 1969, supporting the 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 producers to adapt to climate change.



Population: **6.4 million**

2020 Human Development Index: **124 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

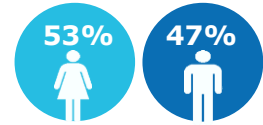
Chronic malnutrition: **14% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

USD 21.4 k of cash-based transfers made*

USD 16.5 m six months (May-October 2022) net funding requirements

985 people assisted* in April 2022



*Preliminary numbers

Operational Updates

- Under the Return and Reintegration Programme organized by WFP and the Government of El Salvador, 40 participants received a certificate of their new gastronomic skills. This programme contributes to income generation and employment as well as access to healthy food of young migrant returnees and those at risk of irregular migration.
- WFP reached 700 (69 percent women) food-insecure people affected by the pandemic and multiple climate shocks through cash-based transfers to meet their immediate food needs.
- WFP conducted a situational analysis on the use of time under the gender equity approach, considering the population that received food assistance and early recovery actions. The study reveals the population's workload (paid and unpaid work) and the distribution of domestic and care tasks for children, sick or dependent people.
- The WFP country strategic plan 2022-2027 scored four on the Gender and Age Marker (scale 0 to 4). This score indicates that the plan's design fully integrates a gender and age perspective throughout its operations and assistance activities.
- As part of the effort to develop actions to streamline gender equity, WFP's men staff have been trained on healthy masculinities. This initiative raised awareness of social norms and the underlying causes of gender inequalities to positively impact in workplace dynamics.

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Country Strategic Plan (2017-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
108.1 m	53.5 m	16.5 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 improved 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 conducted the end-term review of the population served through food assistance in the paracentral and eastern zone of the country. The review reveals the impact of assistance on the food insecurity situation among the programme participants. The results are expected to be finalized by the end of May 2022.

Donors

Canada, El Salvador, European Union, Germany, Italy, Republic of Korea (the), Switzerland, United States of America, and private donors.