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 (Feminicide 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.

Operational Updates

- In May 2022, WFP supported 635 young people at risk of social violence and irregular migration, pregnant and lactating women and girls, and children with food assistance to cover their immediate needs.
- WFP started the second edition of the digital skills certification. This initiative aims to train 50 young migrant returnees by 2022, helping them generate alternative livelihoods, improve their food security, and support peace building.
- Up to May, WFP has supported 2,000 people (70 percent women) through early recovery actions, such as establishing community gardens, poultry farms, and water-harvesting systems.
- So far in 2022, WFP has supported with weather microinsurance, 1,200 people (40 percent women) vulnerable to climate risks, especially subsistence smallholder farmers. This initiative aims to improve food security and income of the beneficiaries.
- WFP delivered an e-commerce training to 35 employees (40 percent women) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock and other partner organizations, and agricultural producers. This initiative seeks to strengthen capacities and create channels for the sale of fruits and vegetables.
- WFP supported women entrepreneurs to generate income through the production and marketing of nutritious sorghum products.
- WFP continues to provide on-demand cash transfer services to national and international non-governmental organizations to meet the essential needs of vulnerable populations in 10 out of 14 departments.
- WFP reviewed and updated the minimum emergency preparedness actions plan and held a training session for first responders to prepare for the hurricane season, which starts in June and is forecasted to be above average.

In Numbers

USD 27,200 of cash-based transfers made*
USD 6.9 m six months (June-November 2022) net funding requirements, representing 46% of the total
635 people assisted* in May 2022

*Preliminary numbers

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WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2017-2022)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>108.1 m</td>
<td>62 m</td>
<td>6.9 m</td>
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**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 5:** 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 6:** 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 7:** 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**

- From February to April 2022, WFP assisted 2,800 beneficiaries with cash-based transfers in the paracentral and eastern zones of the country. The results of the final assessment showed that beneficiaries primarily used the transfers to purchase food. More so, all beneficiaries reached an acceptable food consumption score, and 85 percent of families accessed a diversified diet (16 percent increase compared to the baseline). There is also evidence of an increased consumption of essential nutrients such as protein, vitamin A and heme-iron.

**Challenges**

- There is concern about the effects of the Ukraine crisis on the country, particularly, in relation to the cost of food and basic needs for the most vulnerable.

**Donors**

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