



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP El Salvador Country Brief June 2022



Operational Context

El Salvador has a population of 6.3 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 efforts on reduction of 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 could have severe consequences on the basic grain production of smallholder farmers. This situation causes a risk of depletion of household food stocks, a decrease in dietary diversity, and increase in malnutrition among children under five (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 of migration for Salvadorans (Femicide and homicide rates per 100,000 people in 2021: 2 and 18).

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**

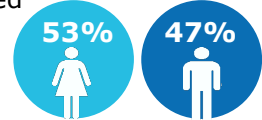
Chronic malnutrition: **14% of children
between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

USD 665,886 of cash-based transfers made*

USD 5.7 m six months (July - December 2022) net funding requirements, representing 42% of the total

25,305 people assisted*
in June 2022



*Preliminary numbers

Operational Updates

- The WFP Executive Board approved the country strategic plan 2022-2027. WFP designed this Strategic Plan through a participatory process with the Government, United Nations agencies, and other partners. Over the next five years, the aim is to strengthen food and nutrition security, contribute to sustainable food systems and promote employment opportunities for youth at risk of irregular migration.
- WFP distributed cash to 14,000 people (62 percent women) affected by multiple emergencies. The assistance supports them to cover immediate food needs.
- WFP strengthened the early warning system of San Salvador by equipping the Directorate General of Civil Protection with a video surveillance system. The system allows activating immediate response protocols in the event of increased water flows during heavy rainfalls. This emergency preparedness effort benefits over 28,000 people in the urban area.
- WFP strengthened the capacity of the 14 staff members of the Gender Result Network. This net is an institutional mechanism that aims to facilitate the integration of gender equality into WFP's operation. The training focused on the objectives of the 2022 gender policy: (1) achieving equitable access to food security and nutrition; (2) addressing the root causes of gender inequalities; and (3) advancing the economic empowerment of women and girls.

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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	61.2 m	5.7 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 conducted the post-monitoring survey among the young population served with food assistance in the Departments of La Libertad and San Salvador. The survey aims to reveal the value, use, acceptability and quality of the assistance provided. This exercise includes beneficiary perceptions regarding crosscutting indicators such as gender, protection and accountability to affected populations. The results are expected to be presented by the end of August 2022.

Challenges

- WFP monitoring reveals an increase in the prices of food and fertilizers due to the effects of the Ukraine crisis. Up to June 2022, the basic food basket price, rural and urban, increased by 10 percent. WFP provided household food assistance worth USD 120 per month, which covered 75 percent of the basic rural food basket. However, due to prices increase, the amount of assistance covers only 70 percent. WFP continues monitoring the situation to anticipate actions to mitigate the impact on food security and nutrition.

Donors

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