WFP El Salvador Country Brief
July 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.

In Numbers

USD 148,800 delivered as cash-based transfers*

USD 4.1 m six months (August 2022 - January 2023) net funding requirements, representing 30% of the total

3,720 people assisted* in July 2022

*Preliminary numbers

Operational Updates

- WFP presented the approved 2022-27 Country Strategic Plan to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The plan aims to strengthen food systems, promote employment opportunities for youth, improve nutrition, and provide timely humanitarian assistance.

- WFP provided food assistance to 3,720 people (53 percent women) affected by multiple emergencies in the departments of Morazán and La Unión. WFP supported this population through a cash transfer of USD 300 for three months, contributing to its food security and supporting the local market.

- As of July 2022, WFP supported with weather microinsurance 2,143 people (41 percent women), especially subsistence farming, and smallholder farmers vulnerable to climate risks. This initiative aims to improve the food security and income of the beneficiaries.

- WFP provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Local Development to narrow the gaps identified in the School Feeding and Health Programme (PASE, for its Spanish acronym) supply chain. The action plans formulated for the Ministries aim to strengthen institutional capacities in planning, procurement, warehousing, transportation, and reporting.

- WFP supported the Ministry of Education in reviewing and updating the PASE results framework. Twelve indicators were established to measure the programme results in food and nutrition education, local procurement, school feeding, healthy shops, school gardens, citizen participation and governance, contributing to informed decision-making.

- WFP participated in dialogues with the educational community on school feeding and nutrition. The purpose was to determine the roadmap and the country’s commitments for the next five years in preparation for the Transforming Education Summit in September 2022.

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Population: 6.3 million
Income Level: Lower middle
2020 Human Development Index: 124 out of 189
Chronic malnutrition: 14% of children between 6-59 months

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Transforming Education Summit in September
**WFP Country Strategy**

**Country Strategic Plan (2022-2027)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>132.9 m</td>
<td>15.0 m</td>
<td>4.1 m</td>
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**Strategic Result 1:** Everyone has access to food

**Strategic Outcome 1 (SO1):** SO1: People are better able to meet their urgent food and nutrition needs.

**Focus area:** Crisis Response

**Activities:**
1. Provide immediate nutrition-sensitive food assistance to crisis-affected populations to meet their essential needs and facilitate relief and early recovery.
2. Strengthen emergency preparedness and response capacity at the community and institutional levels.

**Strategic Result 2:** Food systems are sustainable

**Strategic Outcome 2 (SO2):** People have improved & sustainable livelihoods.

**Focus area:** Resilience Building

**Activities:**
3. Empower food-insecure communities to adopt improved and inclusive climate risk management and adaptation practices, as well as services to enhance production and resilience against shocks and stressors.
4. Strengthen the production, management, and marketing capacities of urban and rural.
9. Strengthen the national capacity to manage social protection programmes, to attend the most vulnerable population including school children through provision of food assistance.

**Strategic Result 3:** Developing countries have strengthened capacities to implement the SDGs.

**Strategic Outcome 3 (SO3):** National programmes & systems are strengthened.

**Focus area:** Root Causes

**Activities:**
5. Provide technical assistance to strengthen institutional capacity and social protection systems, enhancing inclusivity to meet the differentiated food and nutrition security needs of people and communities in conditions of vulnerability.

**Strategic Result 4:** Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology, strengthen global partnership support to country efforts to achieve the SDGs.

**Strategic Outcome 4 (SO4):** Humanitarian & development actors are more efficient & effective.

**Focus area:** Resilience Building

**Activities:**
6. Provide cash-based transfer platform services to government partners, United Nations agencies and national and international non-governmental organizations to meet the essential needs of targeted populations.
7. Provide food procurement services to government partners, United Nations agencies and national and international non-governmental organizations to meet the essential needs of targeted populations.
8. Provide logistics and non-food item procurement services to government partners, United Nations agencies and national and international non-governmental organizations for the delivery of social protection.

**Monitoring**

- WFP supported the National Food and Nutrition Security Council with information on the food insecurity situation in El Salvador through the provision of results of the computer-assisted telephone interviews during the last two months. In August, these inputs will be used to carry out the acute food insecurity analysis using the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification. The results will strengthen government decision-making processes, especially in prioritizing vulnerable populations with social programmes.

**Challenges**

- There is concern about the sustained increase in the cost of food and basic needs for the most vulnerable. The annual inflation rate in El Salvador accelerated for the second consecutive month to 7.8 percent in June compared with 7.5 percent in May. It was the highest reading since September 2008, mainly driven by the increasing food prices due to the Ukraine crisis.

**Donors**

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