



World Food Programme

WFP El Salvador Country Brief

August 2022

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



Young men and women received their certificate in gastronomy - ©WFP Photo

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 2.9 percent in 2022. However, challenges persist. The fiscal deficit is 4.4 percent, and the debt is 91.8 percent of GDP. 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). From August to October, the probability of NIÑA remains above 60 percent, expecting accumulated rainfall above average (887 mm), causing floods affecting the basic grains 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: **6.3 million**

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

Income Level: **Lower middle**

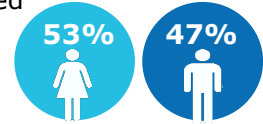
Chronic malnutrition: **14% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

USD 265,700 delivered as cash-based transfers*

USD 5.7 m six months (September 2022 - February 2023) net funding requirements, representing 43% of the total

10,628 people assisted* in August 2022



*Preliminary figures

Operational Updates

- WFP provided food assistance to 10,628 people (53 percent women) affected by multiple emergencies in the departments of Morazán and La Unión. Each family received a cash transfer of USD 100 each month, contributing to its food security and supporting the local market.
- WFP graduated 47 young participants in the Gastro-Lab certification programme in the department of La Libertad. The participants were trained in cooking, nutrition, food safety, customer service, personal development, and citizenship. This initiative contributes to employability, economic revitalization, and nutritious local cuisine.
- Through the Community Feedback Mechanism, WFP responded to 90 tickets received from beneficiaries (68 percent submitted by women). Most of the queries were about cash distribution locations, date, and time.
- On August 26, WFP Innovation Accelerator in Munich approved the "kitchen-in-a-box" presented by WFP El Salvador. The country office received USD 50,000 to pilot this project to supply schools with adaptable, easy-to-maintain "kitchens in a box" made from used shipping containers to serve healthy meals.
- WFP commemorated World Breastfeeding Week by sharing awareness-raising messages through its social media channels. WFP emphasized the benefits of good child nutrition for better physical and cognitive development and protection from disease and death. This effort contributes to early child development under the "Grow together" policy launched by the Government.

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Country Strategic Plan (2022-2027)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
133 m	15.4 m	5.7 m

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

- Results from a baseline survey carried out show that among 1,500 WFP beneficiaries, intra-household gender inequality is prevalent, more so, nearly half of the women (48 percent) said they had suffered abuse. Thus, the country office has delivered printed material to raise awareness on gender-based violence to WFP food assistance beneficiaries and trained WFP staff to mainstream gender perspective in activities.

Challenges

- There is concern about the sustained increase in the cost of food and basic needs for the most vulnerable people. The interannual variation of the basic food basket cost increased by 23 percent in rural areas and 18 percent in urban areas, compared to July 2021; and inflation increased by 18 percent, from January to July, and it is forecasted that it will continue to rise.

Donors

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