In Numbers

USD 1.3 m delivered as cash-based transfers*

USD 14.2 m six months (November 2022 - April 2023) net funding requirements, representing 83% of the total

101,608 people assisted* in October 2022

*Preliminary numbers

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 2.4 percent in 2022 and 2.0 percent in 2023. However, challenges persist. The fiscal deficit is 4.5 percent of GDP, and the debt is beyond 90 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). The hurricane season (June to November) has been above average; this has caused flooding, and landslides, affecting the basic grains production and other crops of smallholder farmers. This situation caused 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 the main reasons of migration for Salvadorans (Feminicide 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.

Operational Updates

- WFP provided food assistance through cash transfers to 99,224 beneficiaries affected by the effects of the sanitary and climate crises in the country, including Tropical Storm Julia. WFP provided USD 100 per household to cover their food needs for up to three months.

- On 6 October, WFP and the Ministry of Tourism inaugurated a new Gastro-Lab vocational training center in the west of the country to equip youth with gastronomic skills to work as kitchen assistants in the private sector.

- WFP organized a training conducted by Chef Arnaud Guerpillon from an international culinary institute and addressed 25 young participants from Gastro-Lab Santa Ana. The chef taught young participants about non-traditional culinary techniques.

- On 18 October, WFP received approval from the Adaptation Fund for a regional project for El Salvador and Honduras to strengthen the resilience of climate-vulnerable communities in the Goascorán river basin. This project aims to benefit 327,000 inhabitants of both countries and is expected to start in the first quarter of 2023.

- WFP conducted training of trainers for women technicians of the Ministry of Health on healthy food and nutrition practices. The purpose is to transfer skills to health personnel and address the food and nutrition of people living with HIV.

- WFP supported the Ministry of Health in designing the Healthy Life Plan for 2023-2024. This plan aims to provide integral and inclusive health attention and promote health-protective conduct and behaviours among Salvadorians. WFP contributed to strengthening institutional capacity and social protection system.
### 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 conducted an Emergency Food Security Assessment within 72 hours of Tropical Storm Julia’s impact, which estimated that 430,000 people are food insecure in the areas affected by heavy rainfall, which include the departments of Cabañas, La Unión, Morazán and San Miguel.
- From 26 September to 7 October, WFP conducted a market assessment to guide feasible interventions. The preliminary results revealed that the country has functional markets with an assortment of essential goods. However, there are shortages in non-cereal foods such as meats, vegetables and fats.
- WFP assessment of Gastro-lab in 2021/2022 revealed that 79 percent of the young participants found the working environment adequate; 90 percent of the companies considered that the knowledge acquired during the training was very useful; 83 percent of the companies would hire the young participants permanently.
- WFP launched the National Food Security Survey 2022. The data collected through this survey will contribute to the 2022 acute food security analysis by the Government’s National Food Security and Nutrition Council.

### Challenges
- There is concern about the sustained increase in the cost of food and basic needs as an effect of Ukraine and the global food crises in the country. The basic food basket price increased by 18 percent in rural areas and 16 percent in urban areas compared to October 2021.

### Impact of Limited Funding
- WFP requires USD 11.9 million over the next six months (from November 2022 to April 2023) to provide life-saving assistance under its crisis response to support 24,600 households affected by the protracted effects of the pandemic and climate emergencies.

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