WFP El Salvador
Country Brief
November 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 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 often affect crops limiting 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 (Femicide and homicide rates per 100,000 people in 2022: 0.8 and 9.5).

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 219,200 delivered as cash-based transfers*

USD 15.3 m six months (December 2022 - May 2023) net funding requirements, representing 85 percent of the total

4,848 people assisted* in November 2022

*Preliminary numbers

Operational Updates

- WFP provided food assistance through cash transfers in the departments of Morazán and La Unión to 4,500 beneficiaries (53 percent women) affected by the effects of multiple crises in the country and, to a greater extent, by Tropical Storm Julia.

- WFP trained 2,500 beneficiaries (65 percent women) on soil and water conservation, vegetable gardening, biofertilizers preparation, poultry farming, and nutrition in the departments of La Unión and Morazán as part of its emergency response and early recovery activities. This assistance aims to restore smallholder farmers’ productive assets and help them access food.

- On 24 November, WFP and the Government of El Salvador inaugurated in the department of La Unión the country’s third “Gastro-Lab vocational training centre.” Gastro-Lab’s certification creates opportunities for gastronomic training, fosters employability and entrepreneurship, and promotes healthy eating.

- WFP responded to 179 tickets received from beneficiaries (78 percent submitted by women) through the community feedback mechanism guaranteeing the rights of the participants to access information, reports and receive feedback. The participants mainly requested information about the location, date, and time of cash distributions.

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Population: 6.3 million
2022 Human Development Index: 125 out of 189
Income Level: Lower middle
Chronic malnutrition: 14% of children between 6-59 months
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>133 m</td>
<td>15.6 m</td>
<td>15.3 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 conducted the National Food Security Survey 2022. The survey will contribute to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification 2022 analysis by the Government’s National Food Security and Nutrition Council. WFP surveyed 3,200 households in 70 municipalities of the country. The results showed that 21 percent of the surveyed households, which depend on agriculture for food, did not sow in 2022 due to the high cost of agricultural inputs. Also, 31 percent reported crop losses, mainly due to Tropical Storm Julia. Furthermore, 54 percent declared they had already exhausted their food stocks.

- WFP conducted a price survey in the country’s main markets in 2022. The results revealed that staple grains and vegetable prices have increased. Among basic grains, maize increased by 21 percent and beans by 16 percent. Regarding vegetables, tomatoes increased by 87 percent, green chilli by 70 percent, onions by 25 percent, and potatoes by 24 percent.

**Challenges**

- There is concern about the sustained increase in the cost of food and basic needs for the most vulnerable continues. The basic food basket price increased 17 percent in rural areas and 12 percent in urban areas since this year began. Inflation has an annual variation of 7.5 percent, which is forecasted to continue to rise.

**Impact of Limited Funding**

- WFP requires USD 13.3 million over the next six months (from December 2022 to May 2023) to provide life-saving assistance under its crisis response to support 27,000 households affected by the prolonged effects of the pandemic and climate emergencies.

**Donors**

Canada, El Salvador, Germany, Switzerland, United States of America, and private donors.