



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP El Salvador Country Brief January 2023



Entrepreneurs received seed capital for their small business- ©WFP Photo

Operational Context

El Salvador has a population of 6.3 million. The conflict in Ukraine has caused persistent inflation. The inflation rate closed at 7.3 percent in 2022. Meanwhile, the economy grew by 2.6 percent in 2022 and is expected to grow by 1.6 percent in 2023. The fiscal deficit is 4.5 percent of GDP, and the debt exceeds 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 to reduce food insecurity (rank 28th, Global Climate Risk Index 2021). Extended periods of drought followed by heavy rains have disastrous effects on the production of basic grains. The reduction in agricultural output, worsened by farmers' inability to sow due to the high prices of inputs such as fertilisers (86 percent compared to 2021), causes a risk of depletion of food stocks at the family level, which negatively affects smallholder farmers' income, and dietary diversity. This is one of the causes that increase malnutrition among children aged 6-59 months (10 percent stunted).

Crime and violence threaten social development and economic growth and are the main reasons of migration for Salvadorans (Femicide and homicide rates per 100,000 people in 2022: 1.0 and 7.8).

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 WFP risks; and iii) strengthen the ability of producers to adapt to climate change.



Population: **6.3 million**

2022 Human Development Index:
125 out of 189

Income Level: **Lower middle**

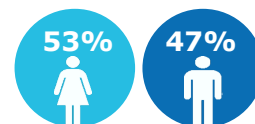
Chronic malnutrition: **14% of children
between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

USD 135,000 delivered as cash-based transfers*

USD 11.2 m six months (February 2023 - July 2023) net funding requirements, representing 57 percent of the total

2,300 people assisted*
in January 2023



*Preliminary numbers

Operational Updates

- WFP provided food assistance in the departments of Morazán and San Miguel through cash transfers to 2,300 beneficiaries (53 percent of women) including the population affected by Tropical Storm Julia and economically vulnerable young people.
- As part of its nutrition activities, WFP provided 35 entrepreneurs, including migrant returnees, with USD 42,000 in equipment and tools to start and manage small businesses in beekeeping, poultry farming, dairy production and gastronomy.
- WFP launched its Gastro-Lap certification programme in La Unión. The vocational training programme aims to train youngsters with gastronomic skills to work as kitchen assistants in the private sector.
- WFP carried out training for 192 small entrepreneurs on food safety and sanitation, healthy diets and marketing. The programme aims to improve the business management skills of Salvadorans for income generation and healthier and quality food services, contributing to healthy eating habits.

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Country Strategic Plan (2022-2027)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
132.9 m	21.3 m	11.2 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

- WFP monitored the progress in productive asset creation and conducted a series of interviews on assets' use and sustainability in eleven municipalities in the eastern region. The results showed that 100 percent of the beneficiaries plan to use their irrigation and water harvesting systems for poultry farming and community garden, 75 percent of the harvest in the community gardens is grown for consumption and 25 percent for trade. Likewise, 62 percent of the poultry is kept for breeding purposes, 30 percent for consumption and 8 percent for sale. Furthermore, the monitoring results found that the main challenge for the beneficiaries is the lack of funding to purchase agricultural inputs.

Donors

El Salvador, United States of America, and private donors.