



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP El Salvador Country Brief May 2023



Participants to Gastro-Lab ©WFP Photo

Operational Context

El Salvador has a population of 6.3 million. In 2023 the economy is expected to grow by 2.3 percent. Meanwhile, inflation persists, reaching 4.41 percent by May 2023. The fiscal deficit rose to 2.5 percent of the GDP, and the debt exceeds 90 percent. Food production represents only 5 percent of the GDP, relying heavily on imports and remittances (4.8 percent of the GDP). Further, 27 percent of families live in multidimensional poverty with multiple disadvantages (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). The high probability of the El Niño phenomenon for 2023 may result in prolonged periods without sufficient rainfall, leading to unfavorable conditions for an optimal harvest. Drought will directly impact the production of basic grains and put household food stocks at risk of depletion, negatively affecting smallholder farmers' incomes and dietary diversity. This is one of the causes that increase malnutrition among children aged 6-59 months (10 percent stunted).

WFP has been present in El Salvador since 1971.



Population: **6.3 million**

2022 Human Development Index: **125 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

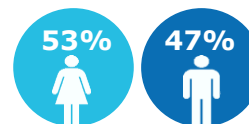
Chronic malnutrition: **14% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

USD 360,720 cash-based transfers made*

USD 10.4 m six months (June-November 2023) net funding requirements, representing 59 percent of total

12,024 people assisted*
in MAY 2023



*Preliminary numbers

Operational Updates

- From 19 to 26 May, WFP provided emergency assistance through cash-based transfers (CBT) of USD 120 per household reaching 12,024 beneficiaries (53 percent women) affected by climate hazards and global economic crises in San Miguel and La Unión to cover their immediate food needs for three months (May-July 2023).
- WFP trained 50 young people from the gastronomic certification programme (Gastro-Lab) in La Unión on soft skills, gastronomy and prevention of sexual harassment and abuse. These training sessions aimed to improve their interpersonal skills, job performance, self-esteem, and autonomy.
- On 16 May, WFP organized a job opportunity fair for the Gastro-Lab participants in La Unión, with the participation of the Ministry of Tourism and 17 private tourism and gastronomic companies. Forty-three young people have been employed as interns for six weeks.
- On 26 May, 77 young participants in the Gastro-Lab from La Libertad and Santa Ana departments graduated. They learned to cook, nutrition, food safety, customer service, personal development, and citizenship. This initiative contributes to employability, economic revitalization, and nutritious local cuisine.
- In May, WFP signed a contract with the non-governmental organization EDUCO to deliver CBT until April 2024. This is to provide humanitarian assistance and protection to children, adolescents, women, and families affected by forced displacement, migration and other forms of violence nationwide.

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Country Strategic Plan (2022-2027)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
134.1 m	23.3 m	10.4 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:

- Provide immediate nutrition-sensitive food assistance to crisis-affected populations to meet their essential needs and facilitate relief and early recovery.
- 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:

- 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.
- Strengthen the production, management, and marketing capacities of urban and rural.
- 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:

- 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:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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

- On 5 May, WFP completed monthly price monitoring nationwide. This exercise aimed to track price variation at the retail and wholesale level and to understand the availability and seasonality of staple foods, such as basic grains, oils, fruits, vegetables, and meats. The results showed that the price of red beans increased by 30 percent, while maize and eggs have increased by 11 percent compared to May 2022.
- On 29 May, WFP started the National Food Security Survey (ENSAN) 2023 to identify the quality and diversity of the diet consumed by households nationwide. It also aims to inquire about families' coping strategies to meet their food needs. WFP plans to present the results in late July, providing evidence on food security and nutrition and informing decisions amid the global food crisis.

Challenges

- According to the National Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, there is an 82 percent chance that the El Niño phenomenon will impact the country by July 2023. Rainfall deficit affects the country's agricultural and fisheries production, mainly affecting subsistence farming families and aggravating food insecurity risk.

Donors

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