Operational Updates

• WFP provided emergency food assistance to 23,756 beneficiaries (53 percent women) affected by climate hazards and global economic crises in the departments of Usulután, San Miguel and La Unión. To cover food needs, WFP delivered a monthly cash-based transfer (CBT) of USD 120 per household.

• On 20 July, WFP graduated 46 young participants from the gastronomic certification programme (Gastro-Lab) in the Department of La Unión. The participants learned to cook, nutrition, food safety, customer service, and personal development. They also made internships to get job experience. This initiative contributes to employability, economic revitalisation, and nutritious local cuisine. From 14 to 15 July, WFP organized the second boot camp in the Department of La Unión, selecting up to date 100 young people for the next Gastro-Lab programme.

• WFP supported 124 smallholder farmers in preparing organic fertilizer (bocashi and bioles) for vegetable gardening in the Department of La Unión. WFP contributed to not harming health and the environment while reducing fertilizer costs by using locally available materials.

• WFP supported 34 smallholder farmers in the Department of La Unión in four community committees (planning, sowing, production and crop sales) to evaluate and reach consensus on community decisions.

• WFP distributed CBT (USD 16,145) on behalf of the non-governmental organization EDUCO to 240 beneficiaries affected by forced displacement and migration or violence nationwide.

In Numbers

USD 752,837 cash-based transfers made*
USD 10.2 m six months (August 2023 - January 2024) net funding requirements, representing 66 percent of total

24,498 people assisted* in JULY 2023

*Preliminary numbers

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 3.8 percent by June 2023. The fiscal deficit rose to 2.5 percent of GDP, and the debt exceeded 90 percent. Food production represents only 5 percent of the GDP, relying heavily on food imports and remittances (5.2 percent of the GDP). Further, 26 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 El Niño phenomenon is causing prolonged periods without sufficient rainfall. On 26 July, the Ministry of Agriculture reported 12 consecutive dry days, and the soil moisture showed an extreme deficit condition, mainly in the east of the country. Simultaneously, the Ministry of Environment (MARN) expect heavy rainfall and potential flooding mainly in the central and western part of the country. Climate variability will directly impact the production of basic grains and put household food stocks at risk of depletion. This negatively affects smallholder farmers’ incomes and dietary diversity and 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.

Contact Info: Claudia Rodriguez (claudia.rodriguez@wfp.org)
Country Director: Riaz Lodhi
Further information: WFP El Salvador
## WFP Country Strategy

**Country Strategic Plan (2022-2027)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirement (in USD) as of June 2023</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD) as of June 2023</th>
<th>Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>133 m</td>
<td>28.8 m</td>
<td>10.2 m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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.
5. 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

- On 27 June, WFP conducted a post-distribution monitoring exercise in the Municipality of Berlin to explore the cash withdrawal experience and the beneficiaries' knowledge and perception of the project and to measure WFP's cross-cutting indicators (gender, accountability and protection). The main uses of assistance have been for purchasing food, personal hygiene products, health expenses and payment of utilities (water, energy and telephony).

- WFP conducted a baseline survey in the Department of Usulután with 400 beneficiaries of the Anticipatory Action project. The objective was to assess the current food security situation, climate resilience capacity, and access to climate information of households at risk of impact by heavy rainfall during hurricane season. The survey showed that 98 percent of surveyed do not have microinsurance coverage for their productive activities, and 31 percent are unaware of the microinsurance benefits. In addition, 75 percent of participants have access to climate information mainly through radio, newspapers, and TV.

- On 10 July, WFP presented the results of the price monitoring conducted in June. The results showed significant differences in the prices within community markets. Prices of food increased up to 30 percent through the supply chain.

### Challenges

- The El Niño phenomenon, which has a 95 percent chance of maintaining and further strengthening by December and January 2024. This scenario could worsen the negative impact on agricultural production and put more households at risk of food insecurity due to recurring climate shocks and higher-than-average staple food prices.

### Donors

Canada, European Commission (DG ECHO), El Salvador, Switzerland, United States of America (the), and private donors.

Additional support has been provided by the Adaptation Fund.