



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

# WFP El Salvador Country Brief November 2023



Gastro-Lab beneficiaries receiving their certification diploma at the programme graduation Unión - ©WFP Photo

## Operational Context

El Salvador has a population of 6.3 million. In 2023, the economy is expected to grow at the rate of 2.3 percent. Although, the rural basic food basket had slight variations, inflation remained unchanged at 3 percent. The fiscal deficit reached 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 (24.5 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 of insufficient rainfall, leading to unfavorable conditions for an optimal harvest.

Simultaneously, heavy rainfalls affected mainly the coastal area of the country. Climate variability impacts the production of basic grains and puts household food stocks at risk of depletion, negatively affecting smallholder farmers' income and dietary diversity. This is one of the factors 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**

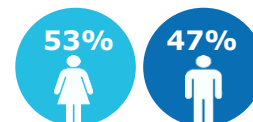
## In Numbers

**USD 830,520** cash-based transfers made\*

**USD 16.4 m** six months (December 2023 – May 2024) net funding requirements, representing 83 percent of total

**469,334 people** assisted\*

In NOVEMBER 2023



\*Preliminary numbers

## Operational Updates

- In November, WFP assisted 13,208 food-insecure people (53 percent women) affected by climate-related disasters and the global economic crisis in the departments of Usulután and La Paz by delivering a USD 120 monthly transfer per household to cover their immediate food needs for three months.
- WFP has successfully completed its gastronomic certification programme, Gastro-Lab, in the departments of La Libertad, Santa Ana, and La Unión. A total of 240 young people have graduated from the programme. WFP also collaborated with the private sector to organize an opportunity fair, which provided a platform for the participants of the last three Gastro-Labs to find job opportunities in the labour market. Thanks to the fairs 52 youngsters (67 percent women) were hired.
- WFP trained 500 beneficiaries in vegetable production, costing for their sale in the local markets, post-harvest management of basic grains, biofertilizer (*bokashi* and *boils*), and installation and maintenance of drip irrigation and water harvesting systems. Also, 25 silos to 100 beneficiaries in the Department of La Unión to store their crops for up to 9 months.
- WFP completed the technical training of 561 people in the Departments of La Unión in vegetable gardening and installation, usage, and maintenance of irrigation systems. WFP also established two community poultry farms (200 chickens each), two agricultural macro-tunnels, and two warehouses in the same department.

## Country Strategic Plan (2022-2027)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>134.1 m</b>	<b>30.3 m</b>	<b>16.4 m</b>

### 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 communities.
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:

6. 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:

7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.

- WFP trained 90 sorghum producers to prepare snacks with sorghum flour and other related products in the Department of La Unión. This project aims to improve the food security of small sorghum producers through capacity strengthening and the inclusion of sorghum production into local food systems.

## Monitoring

- WFP and the humanitarian country team conducted a rapid impact assessment to identify food security concerning issues, agricultural losses, and damages in response to Tropical Storm Pilar, which caused heavy rainfall between 29 October and 1 November in the country.
- From 8 to 10 November, WFP, FAO, and OXFAM collected information mainly across the coastal areas which have been mostly affected by Tropical Storm Pilar. The results showed that households are resorting to coping strategies for food consumption, such as decreasing portion sizes and the number of daily meals. Moreover, according to the assessment, it is expected the so-called seasonal hunger period (Abril to August) will be increasingly severe. The assessment also revealed that 2,500 households are in need of food assistance, 1,000 households need support to reinforce livelihoods and at least 10 communities require technical assistance for the recovery and sanitization of community water systems.

## Donors

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