



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP El Salvador

Country Brief

February 2024



Beneficiaries from the Early Recovery Programme working in their community garden in the department of San Vicente - ©WFP Photo

Operational Context

El Salvador has a population of 6.3 million. In 2024, the economy grew at a rate of 2.6 percent. Although the rural basic food basket slightly varied during the year, inflation remained at 1.2 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). For the April-June period, which coincides with the transition from the dry-rainy phase, the predominant phase is Neutral at 80 percent and extends through May to July. According to current forecasts for the second half of 2024, there is a 70 percent probability of a La Niña phenomenon. La Niña may affect the production of basic grains by the end of the first cycle and the sowing activities of the second cycle, which put household food stocks at risk of depletion, negatively affecting smallholder farmers' income and dietary diversity. This factor may 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**

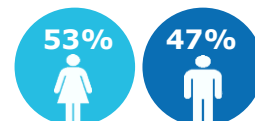
Chronic malnutrition: **14% of children
between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

USD 21,960 delivered as cash-based transfers*

USD 15 m six months (March 2024 - August 2024) net funding requirements, representing 74 percent of the total

724 people assisted*
in FEBRUARY 2024



*Preliminary numbers

Operational Updates

- WFP assisted 724 food-insecure people (53 percent women) affected by climate-related disasters and the global economic crisis in the department of San Vicente. WFP delivered a USD 120 monthly transfer per household to cover their immediate food needs for three months.
- WFP delivered 100 kits to produce organic fertilisers and trained 100 smallholder farmers on biofertiliser and organic compost preparation in the department of San Vicente. These kits benefited the participants of the early recovery programme, contributing to establish sustainable vegetable gardens and productive assets.
- WFP delivered 35 drip irrigation systems and strengthened the capacities of 500 smallholder farmers (33 percent women) in the department of Morazán on sustainable livelihood assets, including good feeding practices, costing for their sale in the local markets, pest control, installation, use and maintenance of irrigation systems as part of its resilience building programme.

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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	35.6 m	15.0 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 conducted a monitoring exercise with cooks at the Kitchen in a Box (KIAB) in the department of San Salvador. This monitoring exercise served to explore the functionality, scope and advantages of KIAB through in-depth interviews. As part of the preliminary results, participants showed appreciation for the utensils, tables and pressure cookers, because they make food preparation of fried rice and beans easier and faster.
- WFP conducted a post-distribution monitoring exercise among 6,500 micro-insurance beneficiaries in the departments of Morazán, La Unión, San Vicente, and La Paz. This exercise focused on the programme's participants' perception of the compensation payment for crop losses. Preliminary results showed that 97 percent of the beneficiaries are satisfied with the microinsurance programme.

Partnerships

- The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and the Swedish Embassy in Guatemala visit WFP's operations on the ground. The delegation witnessed the delivery of cash-based transfers in the department of La Paz and visited Gastro-Lab in the department of La Libertad. Beneficiaries shared testimonies of how WFP interventions have improved their living conditions. Consequently, Sweden confirmed a contribution of USD 1.7 million to emergency response.

Challenges

- Grain production for the 2022-2023 harvest period fell by 160,000 mt (9.8 percent of the expected harvest) due to the price of agrochemicals, droughts, storms and high temperatures. Low production has caused a rise in the prices of basic grains and is also impacting El Salvador's food sub-sector due to the lack of raw materials, which has forced it to turn to other countries in the region to supply the demand.

Donors

United States of America (the), Saudi Arabia and private donors.

Additional support has been provided by the Adaptation Fund.